

The trade names under which the drummers sell (or "shoot") their lines may differ. Substantially, all these models—again excepting the Liberal Party—are the same. Not one would pass the test, the only valid test, for political advance in South Africa.

The market, then, is still "wide open".

One day, acumen, "savvy" vision and common sense will reward those who—unlike the political drummers of the day—*believe* their eyes when their eyes tell them that the South African consumer market, for politics as much as for pots, pans or plastic toys, is an *indivisible* market.

With acknowledgements to "Indian Views".

HERE and THERE . . .

The Pietermaritzburg Arrests

by Chundra Gesa

THE participation of Violaine Junod and six other European Liberals in the Pietermaritzburg protest against passes for African women and their subsequent arrest with over 600 other women is one of the most important events affecting the Party in Natal. The effect on non-Europeans could without exaggeration be described as sensational. These people have demonstrated that not only are members of the Liberal Party prepared to denounce discriminatory legislation, and to share platforms with non-European political organisations, but that some of them are prepared to join forces in protest with those directly affected. Even if, as in this case, such participation results in inconvenience and danger of arrest.

These people have not only given themselves personal satisfaction (which was probably intended), but have done the Party no end of good. Talk among non-Europeans has been mainly of Miss Junod, though she was only one of 623. Which of course is a tribute to her personally but also, we can be sure, of tremendous publicity value to the Party.

A Lesson for South Africa

Events in Hungary have been in the headlines. World reaction to Soviet action there has been one of concern and sympathy for the Hungarians. But it is noteworthy, and not a little disturbing, that the average non-European in Durban has been quite unconcerned over the plight of the Hungarians. In contrast there was tremendous interest in Egypt: street-corner and bus conversation, for a time, was on little else but the invasion of Egypt. The question arises—why apathy over Hungary and anger over Egypt?

The reasons for this attitude probably are:

(a) The South African government has condemned Russia. It couldn't possibly be right. Therefore Russia could not be wrong.

(b) Russia is a Communist state. Communists have shown that whatever their faults, they are against colour discrimination. Anyone who is against the Colour Bar is a friend of the non-European. Therefore Russia could not be wrong.

(c) Britain and France attacked a non-European State. They are among the loudest in protesting against Russian intervention in Hungary. But they have not been noted for championing the cause of non-Whites in the Union. Therefore they must be wrong. (The rôle of the United States is lost sight of.)

(d) Almost all of the most respected non-European political leaders in the Union have been banned or listed under the Suppression of Communism Act. If the Government says they are Communists, then Communism cannot be such a bad thing. So why attack Russia?

This reasoning of mine may be an over-simplification, but I do not think so. That is why it is so worrying.