

A video to help the next generation understand

By MOIRA LEVY

APARTHEID, Video documentary by Doxa Productions/Point du Jour. Available from Louise du Toit, telephone 021-246791.

YOU probably have heard it all before, but you can never be reminded often enough of the horror and misery that characterised the decades of apartheid. This video, a joint production by Doxa Productions of Cape Town and Point du Jour of Paris, is a timely reminder, in these days of negotiation and attempts at reconciliation, of a past steeped in oppression, cruelty and resistance.

When the time comes to explain to the next generation of the madness of the Group Areas Act, of the violence of forced removals, of the bannings, the detentions without trial, the assassinations, the unrestrained police and SADF incursions at home and further afield, this 120-minute documentary will hold its own as an invaluable record.

For one thing, the footage is extraordinary, much of it revealed for the first time. There is a short sequence from the Boer War, the first film ever made of war; a smiling and genial Verwoerd explains his policy of apartheid as simply "good neighbourliness"; a Bantu education classroom featuring a teacher showing a class of children how to wash a shirt, in preparation for their role as Verwoerd's hewers of wood and drawers of water; and clips secretly filmed by a witness of the 1950s Treason Trial.

It should be noted that visual impact may have taken priority over factual accuracy in places; for instance, a clip on Mandela's court appearance is described as his arrest and the UDF is identified as the Unified Democratic Front, this last particularly unforgivable as it accompanies a shot of a United Democratic Front poster. This video, shown on French national television earlier this year, takes you through the heady days of the unbannings and release of the Rivonia leaders. The narrator makes the point, and it couldn't be more appropriate, that if only the story ended there. But it doesn't and the video rolls on to its close, with harrowing depictions of the violence, the breakdowns in negotiations, the power-wranglings that form the backdrop to the continued poverty and misery.

Useful summary of positions on foreign investment

By JON BEVERLEY

ECONOMIC GROWTH & FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA compiled by Patrick Cull, Idasa 1992. R10 (incl VAT).

MEET Mr Johnny Ho. He is the amalgam of several Chinese businessmen I met in Newcastle recently who between them have ploughed R73-million into the town after being encouraged to set up there by the government's decentralisation benefits.

Why are they, a small sector of our foreign investors, happy there? One is that they have industrial peace, second is that they have domestic peace in the streets and their homes, and third they have become part of the community.

They have taught their workforce to use the machines that make clothing and shoes and the other goods, not because of some altruistic sentiment but because they have to meet sales contracts.

Why do I start a review of "Economic Growth & Foreign Investment in South Africa" in this way? Because I need to say that however laudable many of the sentiments expressed in the book may be, foreign investors have to weigh up the opportunity cost of coming here, or anywhere else.

And they will make their choice because they see a chance of a good return on their capital - not because they consider the masses require some quid pro quo because they have been denied opportunity.

But does South Africa really need foreign

capital? Probably much less than it needs investment in human capital. Winning countries are there because of a long determined period to educate, not only in the basic skills taught at school but in the talents needed to see and exploit the economic gaps.

The next forum of the kind which this book is based on must surely deal with this issue. We should not have to import clever people who will send their profits earned here "home".

The book is a compilation of contributions at the 1992 Forum on Investment Policy for a Post-Apartheid South Africa. One quarter is devoted to policy statements on the issues from four business bodies and six political entities. Cosatu, while not present, contributed its Investment Code.

Therein lies the value of the thin volume because no matter how you may disagree with their varied standpoints they are set out ready for debate.

Two economists, one an academic and speaking for the ANC, one in business, set out the need and prospects for foreign investment. Foreign views are provided by a World Bank consultant and a representative of the bi-national Chambers of Commerce Consultative Committee, and Dr Lin See Yan, of the Bank of Malaysia, tells of their success in that country. A number of appendices spell out the position of the churches and give a summary of tax and other rules concerning foreign investment.

Jon Beverley is finance editor of the *Natal Mercury*.

Letters

UN method helps reintegration

A recent *Democracy in Action* featured an explanation of the Model United Nations (MUNs) as a training tool for democracy.

I did want to correct one minor error in the report. Ms Devraun recommended that Idasa's Training Centre "host Africa's first MUN conference". In fact, there are two major MUN conferences for secondary school students on the continent of Africa - in Cairo and Nairobi.

To my knowledge, there is not a univer-

sity level conference regularly conducted in Africa and the first conference at this level could indeed be pioneered by Idasa as Ms Devraun's suggests.

James P Muldoon, Jr
UNA-USA, New York

Groot deurbraak

GRAAG wens ek Idasa geluk met die deurbraak om 13 jeugorganisasies byeen te bring. Die voorreg om die proses te kon beleef was ongelooflik en die ver wagtinge vir 'n spoedige nasionale ooreenkoms groot!

Weitz Botes
Welkom