

INSIDE THE TRAP

A banned South African
comments on
his government's cry
of 'no interference'

as far back as 1911. Some compassionate white people seeing the plight of the dispossessed, witnessing the harsh treatment, often by individuals of the police force, by the judiciary acting under discriminating laws, sought to join in their struggle. During the last decade, under a phoney justice, whites and non-whites were banned, organisations were out-lawed, while a number of people who acted from an outraged conscience were effectively silenced. That was the reward for having worked for humanist ends.

Continually the already long list of banned people grows. Progressively are men of goodwill intimidated. More and more do the former outspoken daily papers slide through pressure into alignment with the racist government. The State-owned radio, the SABC, does its utmost to brain-wash and indoctrinate the listeners. Prejudice towards non-Europeans is customary and prevailing.

HOWEVER MUCH ONE DISLIKES interference from elsewhere, one becomes more and more convinced that the oppressed cannot help themselves any more. They are as helpless as the victims in the infamous prison camps during the heyday of Hitler's rise and fall. This is not understood by those who insist that the South African racial problems must be solved internally and locally.

A good man, an honest man, believing in the inevitability of the use of force and violence was sentenced to life imprisonment a few days ago. It produced a ripple on the tranquil South African scene. Then a student, like hundreds of others, was banned for a period of five years without any reasons being given. It produced another ripple and a little noise both signifying practically nothing. The Minister of Justice was challenged to bring the student to court and lay charges.

The Minister, knowing that he can lay no charge whatever, shied away, suggesting that the matter be raised in Parliament later this year. There, where an extremely weak so-called opposition and the lonely voice of Mrs Helen Suzman of the Progressive Party will be drowned in the called for division. The phalanx of Government puppets will justify the Minister in withholding

all reasons for the banning of the student. This horde of regimentated representatives of the electorate will be with us for five years. Anything may happen during these five years of life of the assembly of consentors. Even prison camps deep in one or other of the South African deserts have become feasible. No publication is allowed to report on prisons. If they do, then in a court of law it will be proven that the report was false.

AS TO THE COURTS OF JUSTICE consisting of highly trained legal persons, voices have recently been heard to say that the judges "interpret the Statutes with something less than a proper regard for the rights and liberties of the individual." It has been observed as well that "the political state of the country required them (the Judges) to align themselves with authority rather than with the individual."

This selfsame sentiment was expressed during the Nuremberg trials concerning the judges who upheld the inhuman State Laws in Germany before and during the last world war.

But how can force or violence solve the South African racial problem since it exists and rests within the minds of the majority of the electorate, who have been contaminated with the contagious racial prejudice that is injected into every child now at school?

There is no international and binding law that is valid or can force the South African Government into giving full education, freedom of movement within the Republic, and access of the coloured peoples to the labour market on an equal basis with all-comers. Sanctions, force and violence will only result in full support to the government by at least 95 per cent of the electorate, who even now denounce as communist all humanist and liberal concepts.

Yet something must quickly be done to bring home to the white citizens in South Africa that their conceptions are out of step with the rest of the world, that they still live in an early Victorian era, that their thinking, like their prisons, is completely outdated. ●

TIME AND AGAIN, we, those not agreeing with the government's apartheid policies, have been told that South Africa's problems, and especially the racial problems, must be solved only by the citizens of South Africa. That the solution must not be by a Martin Luther King or Kaunda, nor engineered in London, Moscow, or Washington.

When one realises that the "citizens of South Africa" are almost solely the white electorate, then the solving of the racial problems will be almost exclusively in favour of these selfsame voters and their dependents, while the coloured groups will be, as much as possible barred from economic advance and a broad educational system.

Continually it is asserted that no outside pressure or interference will be tolerated. This is in principle a sound concept since even a common householder can arrange for himself how to live within his own home. But should he abuse his authority as a responsible parent, then it becomes the duty of Social Services first to warn that parent or father and, if he fails to comply with the full force of the civil law, take away his authority over his children.

The coloured groups in South Africa, — whom white authority sees as its children — through their leaders, complained bitterly about the treatment meted out to them by the present and former government officials. They organised themselves