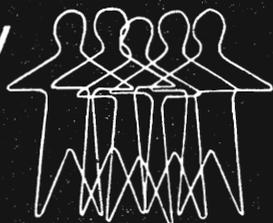


# The New African



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THE RADICAL REVIEW

VOLUME THREE NUMBER FOUR

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May 1964

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## Way to Work — a story

— Jacob Mokgolo

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THE NEW AFRICAN P.O. BOX 2068 CAPE TOWN

## The time they forgot Sharpeville

FUTURE HISTORIANS MAY RECORD that in 1964 there was no commemoration of Sharpeville in the Republic—the nearest was in Francistown, Bechuanaland, among PAC and other refugees-in-transit. The best historians may note that fear and repression were the reasons, not faithlessness with the Sharpeville dead.

It is also fear and repression that do most to give the impression that the South African crisis is past. Certainly the feverish atmosphere has been dispelled by the political death sentences, gaoling of thousands, and banning of hundreds, by torture and solitary confinement, with all the morale-crushing side-effects of Mr. Vorster's unenviable contribution to South African history. The crisis remains.

South West Africa remains the Achilles heel, its hour nearly come. Britain and the United States, furthermore, may be prepared to make sanctions work by the time the United Nations needs them to enforce its will over South West Africa, perhaps in 1966. Inside the country, the granting of even partial self-government to a million-and-a-half black Transkeians seems to fulfil the old saying: "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

Most certain of all is the eventual withdrawal of that tacit consent of the mass of the people by which the Afrikaner Nationalists rule South Africa. They give their consent by supplying their labour, on which every action of their rulers depends. Sooner or later, either before the other pressures begin to weaken the Government's power, or inspired by that weakening, the mass of the South African people will assert their will, and white supremacy will pass. Blood has flowed: tragically, it may flow again, if the rulers seek to use military force to stop the peaceful forces inexorably marking them down.

When it is over, Sharpeville will be commemorated again, not only for those who died and were maimed, but as the beginning of the road to a new South Africa based on non-racial democratic freedom. The time of writing will be regretted, if remembered, as the base of the trough, the time that Sharpeville was not commemorated.

## Another Raid

THE NEW AFRICAN office was raided again on 24 April, nearly seven weeks after its contents had been removed by Security Police. The second raid, which was also made on the home of an official of Insight Publications (Pty.) Ltd., resulted in the confiscation of over 2,000 copies of the 28 March issue, together with a circular letter accompanying each copy. These were awaiting dispatch as part of a sales promotion campaign.

The Security Police stated that they were investigating a charge of obscenity, arising out of the story "The Fugitives" by Can Themba, in the 28 March issue. It is not the normal function of the Security Police to investigate such charges. The timing of this raid immediately after a press report had dealt fully with the refusal of the police to return what was removed on 9 March, and with their failure to institute proceedings, seems also significant.

In view of these repeated assaults on *The New African* we ask readers in advance to bear with irregularity in their receipt of the magazine, and with irregularities in our handling of correspondence. Once again, we ask them to continue supporting us. We hope that they, like ourselves, are inspired rather than deterred by the attention we are receiving.