

i.d.a.f. news notes

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"Let Us Climb Up"

Scores of public figures from around the world, many representing governments and various organizations, joined the congregation that thronged St. Paul's Cathedral on February 23 for the memorial service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Canon L. John Collins. The *London Times*, reporting the service, called Collins a "turbulent priest" whose "voice and features were familiar to the whole world." Perhaps what would have pleased Canon Collins most in the service was a rendering by an informal South African choir of the Lord's Prayer in Xhosa, followed by the freedom anthem of the South African people, "Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika."

The Most Reverend Trevor Huddleston, Archbishop of the Indian Ocean and Bishop of Mauritius, President of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement and an eminent figure in the anti-apartheid struggle for over thirty years, delivered the following sermon. Archbishop Huddleston has been selected by the IDAF Board of Trustees to succeed Canon Collins as the head of IDAF.

This Cathedral to which John Collins gave the greater part of his life—which he loved with such a steady flame of love, in whose shadow he lived with such joy and contentment for so long—is generally associated with great *national* events: with the days of

thanksgiving and the days of mourning, the days of rejoicing and the days of sorrow which—through the years—have marked the life of the nation itself. Its memorials, with few exceptions, are memorials to national heroes. Its aura is the aura of national greatness. It can even seem offensive to some if any service is held within its walls when there is the slightest questioning of the nation's pride.

And yet this pulpit stands here as a reminder to those who preach from it that they do so at their peril if, in what they proclaim, they forget that the sovereignty of God is the sovereignty of Truth itself: that "the word of God . . . cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword . . . it sifts the purposes and thoughts of the heart." Therefore I do not want to use this occasion as an opportunity for pious platitude, for fulsome tributes. Least of all to a man like John Collins, who so faithfully and so often used it to stir men's conscience throughout the nation and to remind them that their citizenship, their patriotism, belonged outside and far beyond the narrow limits of their own country, far beyond the too frequent banalities of established ecclesiastical convention and protocol. That if it were to reflect the truth that the Christian doctrine of creation proclaims, then it must assert that this is *God's world*; that *all* mankind is *God's family*: that peace and justice, truth and righteousness are not the private possession of one most favoured nation, a national church, but belong inalienably to all the peoples of the Earth.

What I am trying to express as the background to all else in this address is that here, today, we are remembering a man who, in all his public ministry dedicated himself to *world* issues and pleaded with his fellow countrymen to recognise before it was too late that "patriotism is not enough."

This Memorial Service, therefore, is more than a *national* occasion—as this great congregation proves—and in this regard alone it is a tribute to the man we come here to remember with respect and deep affection.

Having had the privilege of John's friendship and trust for nearly thirty years, it would be possible to say much about him at the personal level. But I feel that on this occasion I must speak primarily of the meaning of his life for the people of these turbulent post-war years. Turbulent, of course, as a result of the cataclysm of the Second World War; still turbulent because the issues that provoked that war—unbridled nationalism, ideological passion, sadistic racialism—are still with us. And, in addition, the scientific and technological advances in nuclear physics and in a thousand other subsidiary developments which have created the threat and the fear of universal destruction.

Was there ever a moment in history when the words of the prophet Micah, which you have just heard read, seemed less likely of fulfillment?



Trevor Huddleston receiving the Isitwalandwe (Hero) Award at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, South Africa: June 26, 1955.

continued on page 2

"Dis die Eiland—Hier julle gaan vrek."

Island in Chains by Indres Naidoo, Penguin Books, 278 pp.

Prison literature is by now a well-stocked genre, with its own great names—Solzhenitsyn, Dostoyevsky, Gramsci—as well as its minor classics by Jacobo Timerman, Henri Charriere and others. *Island in Chains* has much in common with the shelves of prison books that precede it. In its pages are accounts of humiliating searches, brutal warders, ingenious smugglers, political discussions and factional infighting, grinding labor in stone quarries, daring escape attempts, hunger strikes, and the continuing struggle to stay strong and sane and informed through years of boredom, isolation and cruelty. It requires a sharp



Indres Naidoo

observer to bring freshness to such familiar ingredients, and fortunately Indres Naidoo is such an observer. This is a man who remembers the brand name of the Robben Island razor blades (Solingham), the number of days it takes for seal meat to go bad (three), and the names of dozens of guards, prison doctors, security police and fellow convicts. As a result, his book is packed with anecdotes funny, chilling, angry and heartwarming. We see the prisoners cheering the Viet Cong at a rare showing of *The Green Berets*, the patient efforts of one man to make a saxophone out of cork, scrap tin and seaweed, and Naidoo's own struggle for the humble right to blow his nose. There are glimpses of celebrities too: Helen Suzman, Dennis Brutus, and Prime Minister Verwoerd's assassin, as well as Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu—constant sources of inspiration despite their confinement to the Island's isolation block. Kicked, whipped, beaten or insulted, the Islanders continue to fight for better conditions and even sometimes to relieve the general ugliness by organizing a choir or building a rock garden.

"This is the Island—Here you will die." These words, shouted in Afrikaans, were the first to greet Naidoo's boatload of convicts on their arrival. That Naidoo and some others did not in fact die but

survived, served out their sentences and reentered a South Africa changed by ten or twenty years of absence, is a testament to a physical and moral resistance honed by years of practice. Even on the brute physical level, Robben Islanders emerge as a tough lot. Naidoo tells of more than one murder attempt in which a prisoner was bludgeoned unconscious and left for dead, only to turn up alive and well the next day. Another prisoner, caught atop a slab of rock as it fell from a quarry wall, kept his balance and his nerve, jumping away at just the right instant so that the stone crashed to earth inches behind him. Mental discipline grew along with physical strength. The "politicals" would memorize the news items they were able to glean from hidden radios or stolen newspapers so as to pass them on in later conferences. Politics, history, current events were all passionately discussed and disputed. Only occasionally, as when a Bible was sacrificed to provide cigarette papers, did baser desires win out over the mind.

To judge from the kinds of stories he tells, from the number of conversations he recounts and the number of unofficial sports and political offices he held on the Island, Naidoo is a gregarious and optimistic man. He clearly relishes every instance of his comrades getting the better of their captors. But even allowing for this, and for the darker scenes he paints, it is obvious that Robben Island often failed in its intended purpose. Rather than breaking its prisoners, it was building them, concentrating their strength and fury. When Naidoo left the Island he was very likely a physically stronger man than when he arrived. Certainly he had received an unrivaled political education. The Island's guards probably knew this, and some may have recognized the danger this process posed to the regime. But Robben Island guards were the dregs of the South African prison system, and their warnings, if any, were unlikely to carry much weight with their superiors. If those superiors read this book they will know. The Island is a furnace, but those men it does not kill will emerge one day, like Shadrach in the Book of Daniel, inspired with a purpose from which all dross has been seared away.

Island in Chains is available in the US only from IDAF. To order, send \$4.50 plus 70¢ postage and handling per book to: IDAF, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138.

"Let Us Climb Up" continued from page 1

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation
nor ever again be trained for war,
And each man shall dwell under his own vine,
Under his own fig-tree undisturbed . . .
For the Lord of Hosts himself has spoken.

Well—has he? And if He has who is listening? Above all—who will act? Remembering the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, it is necessary first of all to remind ourselves that it is now a quarter of a century since those tremendous days when John began his Chairmanship of CND, and the Aldermaston marches and the Trafalgar Square rallies and all the rest first stirred and mobilised the people of this land to a realisation that *here* was a threat to *humanity* so vast and so unpredictable in its consequences that it must be met head-on. That it was not only a Christian or a pacifist or a radical momentum that was needed but an upsurge of human resistance which must be nothing less than universal. And it was John Collins who was in the vanguard of that campaign because he saw it in universal terms: it was what mattered to man *as man* that gave him the driving force, the eloquence and the steadfastness so

desperately needed. As A.J.P. Taylor has said: "He did far more work for CND than any other committee member. He was the only one who never despaired . . ."

When he visited South Africa in 1954, in spite of all that was done (and I was there and witnessed the attempt) to persuade John that the racist philosophy of apartheid was simply a transient phase of Afrikaner nationalism—the inevitable backlash of a history belonging solely to South Africa and nowhere else—he was not deceived. He was not deceived either by that kind of doubletalk and hypocrisy so greatly to the liking of British, American and European governments to this day: namely, that the evil of 'apartheid' can be overcome by diplomacy, the gentlemanly approach, the patient, if time-consuming, government-to-government 'rapprochements' involving huge investment, secret trade agreements in arms, and all the other squalid deals with which we are so sadly familiar. John saw apartheid for what it is! A total denial of human rights and human dignity, and an offence to God. And in the launching of Christian Action (of which he was the President from 1959 until his death) he forged a weapon with which to fight it on all fronts. I quote from his book *Faith under Fire*: "If I pray for peace, I must go out and try to *make* peace, if for justice I must set about the task of trying to see that

Southern Africa News Calendar

December 1982 and January 1983

1 December

South Africa—The International Press Institute called on Prime Minister P.W. Botha to drop proceedings against six journalists, editors and publishers who were to be tried in March under the new Protection of Information Act. The six were being prosecuted for revealing details of alleged activities of South African intelligence agents in the Seychelles. The Institute said they were responsible and reputable members of the profession and pointed out that the articles in question were written before the Act was introduced.

Namibia—The South African Defense Force (SADF) denied allegations by Amnesty International that political prisoners in Namibia were tortured. Amnesty International had also stated in a message to Prime Minister Botha that police and troops in Namibia had sweeping powers of arrest and that there was no protection for those seized.



Anthony Tsotsobe

Johannes Shabangu

David Moise

2 December

France—The European Economic Community (EEC) appealed to South Africa to save three ANC members whose final appeal against the death sentence had been rejected. The three—Anthony Tsotsobe, 27, Johannes Shabangu, 27, and David Moise, 23—were convicted of treason for their part in a number of armed attacks. Foreign Minister Claude Chaignon told the French Parliament that the EEC appeal was being made at France's instigation and was meant to remind South Africans of their responsibilities and their conscience.

continued from page 3

justice is done, if for forgiveness I must forgive, and if I pray "Thy kingdom come" then I must be ready to do anything in my power to try to ensure that God's will is done, not just in the church, not just within the context of private and personal relationships, but within the *whole of human society*."

It was out of Christian Action that, in 1964, the International Defence and Aid Fund came into being. And perhaps of all the activities associated with his name this should be regarded as his finest memorial. Its title alone expresses what it aims to be. *International*—bringing together *all* nations of goodwill who pledge themselves to fight for justice; for the *defence* of those who, living under tyranny, cannot defend themselves; for *aid* to those who, living in dire poverty as a consequence of that tyranny, have not the resources even to sustain the lives of their families, their children, their homeless, stateless relatives living in exile in the refugee camps of the world.

"Si monumentum requiris, respice," said the architect of this Cathedral. "If you seek a monument, look around you."

John's monument, and he is buried here, is not of stone, however magnificent, however it may point to the eternal verities.

His monument is the lives of hundreds of thousands, perhaps of millions, in Africa who have never seen him, but who, because of

Angola—The Ovambo tribe, the country's largest single ethnic group, has suffered greatly from fighting between the ruling MPLA government and the rebel UNITA (National Union for Angola's Total Independence). Ovambo villages have sustained heavy casualties. One villager said UNITA severely punished those who did not give them food. When UNITA entered a village, he said, it enrolled the boys, took the women, systematically killed the witch doctors and left the old people. He cited reprisal raids in which people's ears were cut off, UNITA emblems were carved on the chests of children, and one case in which 40 people were hacked to death.

South Africa—On the second day of a bus boycott in black townships around Durban, about 1500 workers in a shoe factory at the Pinetown industrial complex reportedly vented their anger by stoning and smashing the windows of buses. Police with firearms teargassed protesters and detained some. The commuters' anger was said to be directed at the Durban Transport Management Board, whose 12% fare increase caused the boycott. In 24 hours at least four bus drivers were known to have been injured, and 70 buses were damaged.

5 December

France—Breyten Breytenbach, the renowned Afrikaans-language poet imprisoned in South Africa in 1975 for subversion and support of the ANC, was released having served only seven years of his nine-year sentence. Breytenbach left for France, from whence he had entered South Africa in disguise and where his Vietnamese wife was still living. The French government said it had pressed for his release for several months. The BBC noted that it was very rare for political prisoners to be released before completing their sentences.

South Africa—Zindzi Mandela, 22, daughter of the imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, was to appear in court tomorrow on charges of forging a passport at a border post. [Charges were dropped on 7 December.] She was detained for several hours after a police raid on her Soweto home. The raid took place two days after Zindzi's mother Winnie Mandela left after a brief visit. Winnie Mandela, who is restricted by banning orders to the town of Brandfort in the Orange Free State, had been allowed to go to Johannesburg for a knee operation.

6 December

South Africa—Rogerio Chamusso, 32, also called Patrick Shange, was sentenced by the Pretoria Supreme Court to 24 years' imprisonment under the Terrorism Act. Chamusso was found guilty of receiving military training in Angola, of possessing limpet mines and of sabotaging an electricity substation.

him and his life's work, still live in *hope* of that day which surely must come soon when

The mountain of the Lord's house
shall be set over all other mountains
lifted high above the hills.
Peoples shall come streaming to it
And many nations shall say, Come,
Let us climb up

"Let us climb up": That is the message of John Collins' life which I hope we shall take with us out of this Cathedral today. "Let us climb up!"

It is a reminder that if we are to be worthy of him we must not be lulled to rest under some shady tree on the lower slopes. For if we do, we shall be betraying our trust.

Let me quote again from *Faith under Fire*: "Believing as I now do that the individual has no valid identity except as an integral part of the whole of humanity, that no human being is fully a person except in relationship with other persons, I have a strong conviction that you cannot properly serve God unless you endeavour to the best of your ability to serve man in community."

"Many nations shall say, Come!

Let us climb up!!"

7 December

Seychelles—A UN commission appointed to investigate the aborted 1981 coup in the Seychelles reported that the South African government had been involved. Arms and ammunition had been supplied by the South African Defense Force (SADF), the National Intelligence Service knew of the plan, and an elite South African commando unit took part in the coup attempt. The report said that if P.W. Botha and his government were unaware of South African complicity, this would indicate a remarkable lack of control by the South African government over its own agencies.

9 December

Mozambique—An MNR spokesman in Lisbon said the MNR was responsible for explosions at the oil depot at the port of Beira, which he said blew up at least half the storage tanks. The terminal, which supplies oil to central Mozambique and to Zimbabwe, was forced to shut down. The MNR spokesman said the sabotage was aimed partly at Zimbabwe for having sent troops to help in actions against MNR guerrillas.

South Africa—Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha said after yesterday's meeting of South African and Angolan officials, held on the Cape Verde islands, that further meetings would probably be held early next year to discuss a Namibian settlement. The Cape Verde meeting was the first between the two countries since 1975.

10 December

Lesotho—A period of official mourning was declared in the wake of an SADF raid at 1 AM yesterday on ANC residences in and around Maseru. General Constand Viljoen, head of the SADF, said 30 ANC members were killed, along with five women and two children killed in crossfire. Viljoen said the ANC had been planning a terrorist campaign in South Africa for the Christmas period and that the twelve targets of the attack had served as planning and control headquarters for terrorism. Radio Lesotho said the raid was carried out by several units between 1 and 2 AM and that victims were killed in their sleep by machine-gun and rifle fire. Some SADF members were evacuated by helicopter as late as 9 AM. The Lesotho government and the ANC said the homes attacked were those of refugees, not terrorists. The ANC called the raid a barbarous act, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) described it as sheer banditry, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he viewed it as a grave violation of the UN Charter and the territorial integrity of a UN member state.

South Africa—Government authorities slightly relaxed the banning orders recently renewed on Dr. Beyers Naude, thus enabling him for the first time in over five years to be in the presence of more than one person at a time. Naude, the director of the Christian Institute of South Africa until its suppression, will now be allowed to go to educational institutions, law courts and printing premises and to visit black, Coloured or Asian areas in Johannesburg. Naude still may not be quoted in the media and he cannot leave Johannesburg nor attend political or student meetings.

Swaziland—A bomb exploded outside a house occupied by eight ANC members in the industrial area of Manzini. The explosion came at a time when Swazi authorities have been urging the ANC to toe the line and not to launch attacks into South Africa from Swaziland. Several similar bombing incidents have occurred in the last couple of years in the Manzini area, where most of the country's political refugees live.

South Africa—Reports from US officials saying Cuba has increased its troop strength in Angola by 10,000 in recent months were met with little surprise. As long ago as last May Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha had said there were 30,000 Cubans in Angola, and spokesmen for the SADF have always considered there to be 26,000 or more there. The government recently expressed suspicion that Cuba might transfer some of its troops from Angola to Mozambique.

Cuba—Fidel Castro responded to a warning sounded by Mozambican authorities who expected an imminent attack by South African forces. In a statement to the nonaligned countries, Castro said, "The ANC deserve our strongest support." South Africa meanwhile warned Cuba to keep its troops out of Mozambique or face the consequences.

11 December

Ethiopia—The Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said independent Africa should never depart from its goal of ensuring respect for human rights for all. In a statement marking Human Rights Day the Secretariat listed South Africa's attacks against neighboring states, its occupation of Namibia and its system of apartheid as examples of human rights violations in Africa. It called on OAU member states to ratify the human rights charter approved by last year's OAU summit meeting in Nairobi, saying only 14 countries had so far done so.

12 December

South Africa—Imprisoned ANC leader Walter Sisulu, 70, was reportedly admitted to a hospital in Cape Town for a prostate-gland operation. Sisulu was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in March 1952 along with Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders.

13 December

South Africa—Nine whites were detained last week under the Internal Security Act, including Eugene Terlanche, 38, the leader of the extreme right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement. A police spokesperson said automatic weapons, ammunition, and explosives were found in sealed containers in various parts of the country. The Movement advocates white supremacy and its members often appear in black shirts and jackboots. Terlanche, reputedly a former bodyguard of Prime Minister Vorster, has delivered messages to P.W. Botha saying his group would use guns to halt "capitulation."

15 December

South Africa—Two transformers at an electricity substation serving the Coloured community of Johannesburg were blown up around 2 AM, plunging parts of the city into darkness. The explosion, which occurred on the eve of a national holiday celebrating a white victory in 1837 over Zulu tribesmen, caused damage estimated at R250,000.

United Nations—The UN Security Council voted a resolution demanding that South Africa pay full compensation to Lesotho for its raid on Maseru.

18 December

South Africa—Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha met with Mozambican officials on the South African side of the border. Mozambique had been accusing South Africa of building up its forces on the border and of harboring guerrillas who last week attacked an oil depot at Beira.

Swaziland—After three days of silence, the Swazi government commented on the detention of ANC refugees on 16 December. Original estimates had said 80 to 100 refugees were rounded up, but the Commissioner of Police was quoted yesterday as saying that "more or less" 25 had been detained. The arrests came shortly after South Africa's raid on ANC residences in Lesotho.

20 December

South Africa—Four former ANC members went into hiding following the assassination of ANC defector Bartholomew Hlapani at his Soweto home last week. Hlapani was shot by an unknown gunman armed with an AK-47 assault rifle. Police said an ANC group based in Mozambique was believed to be responsible, and that the killing was in retaliation for the SADF raid on Maseru. Hlapani and the four others travelled to the US in March to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism regarding Soviet influence in South African guerrilla movements.

South Africa—The ANC claimed responsibility for two explosions in an auxiliary building at the Koeberg nuclear power plant. A statement by the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) and the police said the explosions caused no structural damage to Koeberg's reactor #1, which is scheduled to begin operation in the next few months. Intruders penetrated the facility in May and in August, and in July a fire caused extensive damage. Critics have said the 1000-megawatt plant could cause 350,000 deaths in a disaster.

21 December

Swaziland—Twenty-seven ANC members and sympathizers were being held in a prison camp after having been detained and kept in cells. Swazi authorities said they were being held to protect them against a Maseru-type attack, but one detainee called the camp, which is about seven kilometers from the South African border, a death trap. The men were convinced the Swazi government wanted them to leave the country.

South Africa—The government denied reports that the US had expelled Dr. Daniel Opperman, First Secretary of the South African embassy in Washington, for spying. Newspaper reports said the US considered Opperman to be the head of South African intelligence in the US and to be involved in operations against groups opposed to South Africa.

23 December

South Africa—Family and friends of Dr. Neil Aggett, labor unions, the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), some usually pro-government newspapers, civil rights groups, and lawyers all expressed outrage at the inquest verdict which exonerated the South African police in Aggett's death. Aggett was found hanged in his cell in February 1982 after a 62-hour marathon interrogation. PFP spokesperson Harry Pitman called for a panel of judges to probe the deaths of prisoners, and opposition MP Helen Suzman said she would "raise hell" in Parliament. The *Citizen* newspaper attacked the system of detention without trial, saying, "Until the system is ended, we shall continue to carry the stigma of the deaths of people while they were held incommunicado and interrogated by police."



USA—Howard Wolpe, chair of the House Subcommittee on Africa, announced he would hold hearings on the Namibian independence negotiations. Wolpe said his Subcommittee was particularly concerned with South Africa's destabilizing efforts in Southern Africa. He cited the Lesotho raid, the continuing occupation of Angola and destabilization activities aimed at Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Speaking on constructive engagement, he said, "It is pretty evident that repression is on the increase and that apartheid has been consolidated rather than weakened."

29 December

South Africa—Auret van Heerden, a former political detainee who testified at the Neil Aggett inquest, filed a civil action against ten Security Police officers, claiming R65,000 (\$60,000) for assaults and torture he allegedly sustained during ten months in detention. Van Heerden, a former President of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), said he was deprived of sleep, subjected to electric shock, handcuffed, kicked, and made to stand for more than ten hours. He was released from detention last July without being charged.

30 December

South Africa—A Prison Department spokesperson said three black prisoners died of apparent heat exhaustion after having been transported more than 500 km. to work. The Commissioner of Prisons said the three men, described in some reports as common-law prisoners serving long sentences, might have died because of "irregular action" by prison employees. He said 44 other prisoners treated for heat exhaustion were all in satisfactory condition. Dr. Ntato Motlana of the Soweto Committee of Ten said he was shocked and outraged by the incident, and called on international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International to monitor the treatment of common-law as well as political prisoners in South Africa.

31 December

South Africa—The Magistrate's Court in Johannesburg was damaged and its main phone line cut in a bombing which police thought was the work of the ANC. A hole was blown in the west side of the building but no one was injured.

United Kingdom—Canon John Collins, one of Britain's most outspoken opponents of apartheid, died in London at the age of 77. A veteran socialist campaigner, Collins was for 33 years a canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, where he gave frequent political sermons supporting the liberation struggle in South Africa. Collins was the founder of Christian Action and the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, and was among the founders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He campaigned frequently for the ordination of women in the Church of England.



John Collins

United Kingdom—Commenting on the so-called "Swapogate" case in Britain, the *Rand Daily Mail* of Johannesburg said the South African ambassador to England was under pressure to withdraw after the dramatic trial at the Old Bailey linked his embassy to spying activities. South African agent Peter Castleton, 38, the paymaster of an operation to burgle and spy on black guerrilla groups, was jailed for four years and Edward Aspinall, 24, a professional burglar, was jailed for 18 months. The two had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to burgle the SWAPO, ANC and PAC offices and other premises in London, dishonest handling of stolen documents and possession of a can of tear gas. South African master spy Craig Williamson and Warrant Officer Joseph Clewe were named as co-conspirators. Earlier this month the British government asked Clewe to leave the country.

NEWS NOTES NEEDS YOUR HELP

This newsletter depends on its readers' generosity to continue its work: reporting on IDAF activities; gathering hard-to-obtain information on trials, detentions and current political events in Southern Africa; and printing articles on men and women who have devoted their lives to the cause of peace and freedom in the region.

Please help support this effort by mailing a contribution to *IDAF News Notes*, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138. Checks should be made out to IDAF News Notes. Gifts of at least \$8.00 (individuals) or \$18.00 (organizations) will ensure that you continue to receive our newsletter for one year.

All contributions to *News Notes* (and to IDAF's defense and aid work) are tax-deductible.

1 January

Guinea—Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang on his tour of Africa expressed Chinese support for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa. He said that China would never have political, economic or trade relations with South Africa, and he condemned what he called the American obstruction of Namibian independence by its support of South Africa's efforts to block the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

2 January

South Africa—Police said they detained Karabo Motlana, 22, the son of Dr. Ntato Motlana, leader of the Soweto Committee of Ten. Motlana was detained on 30 December when documents referring to the ANC were found in his car after he crossed into South Africa from Swaziland.

3 January

Swaziland—The government released 14 of 27 ANC members arrested by Swazi police last month and allowed them to leave the country. The ANC members were provided with UN passports and visas before crossing into Mozambique. The Swazi government has repeatedly stated it will not allow its country to be used as a base for attacks against neighboring countries.

4 January

South Africa—After an eight-hour debate, the Coloured Labor Party voted overwhelmingly to support the government's plan for constitutional reform. Zulu chief Gatsha Buthelezi had said that if Coloureds accepted the plan they would create an everlasting rift between themselves and the black community. Dr. Allan Boesak of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches said the view of Coloureds was mainly against the plan. Boesak has maintained that the Labor Party is irrelevant to the Coloured community today.

6 January

United Kingdom—A delegation from the British Trade Union Congress met with Foreign Minister Francis Pym and criticized the British government for its failure to provide an effective lead in taking measures to isolate South Africa. The Congress expressed concern over Britain's support of the recent \$1.1 billion loan to South Africa by the International Monetary Fund. The delegation also voiced concern about European firms operating in South Africa which were disregarding black trade union rights and the code on minimum wages.

Mozambique—The Beira oil pipeline was reportedly cut again last night at a point midway to Zimbabwe. The attack was the fourth on the pipeline since it came into operation early last year to help curb Zimbabwe's reliance on South Africa for fuel. A two-week supply of oil for Zimbabwe was said to have been in the pipeline when it was cut. News of the attack came shortly after Prime Minister Mugabe's office denied Zimbabwe had signed a fuel-supply agreement with South Africa.

Swaziland—Twenty-seven detained ANC members were reported to have voluntarily left for Mozambique. Four more ANC members were detained and 17 were still held in a detention camp. The Swazi government said police also arrested two illegal immigrants from South Africa in a pre-dawn raid on an old government house in Mbabane.

7 January

Namibia—Six white SADF troops were killed by a land mine yesterday and two others seriously injured. Gen. Constand Viljoen reacted angrily, saying SWAPO could expect no mercy if it continued to violate the peace while claiming to be interested in a peaceful settlement. The SADF has said it killed 1200 SWAPO guerrillas and lost only 80 troops in 1982. The death of the six SADF members was viewed as a sign of increasing SWAPO activity after a slackening reported late in the year.

8 January

South Africa—Police yesterday raided Winnie Mandela's place of banishment in the remote village of Brandfont in the Orange Free State, and confiscated books and documents while Mrs. Mandela was being visited by two white opposition MPs. Mrs. Mandela was given a summons for breaking her banning order. Police also quoted and photographed six of the black patients at the mobile health clinic which she runs. Mrs. Mandela was treating a patient in the house when the police arrived.



Winnie Mandela

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

IDAF plans to trim its mailing list in early 1983. If we have not received a donation, literature order, or kind word from you within the past year, we may stop sending you *News Notes*. Please let us hear from you. Exchanges of publications may be accepted in lieu of donations.

10 January

South Africa—The decision of the Coloured Labor Party to cooperate with the government's constitutional "reforms" has resulted in an irrevocable split and moves to establish a new party. Former Labor Party leader Norman Middleton supported the idea of a new party with the provision that it actively campaign against the reforms. Middleton said the Labor Party vote alienated the majority of Coloureds and Africans in the country as well as the progressive international community. Dr. Allan Boesak, the Coloured leader of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, declined to lead the new party because of prior commitments but offered it every possible support.

Tanzania—John Pokela, leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) planned to meet with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang when he arrived in Tanzania today. The PAC is seeking more military and financial aid from China in order to compete with the Soviet-supported ANC.

11 January

South Africa—The Bethelsdorp Coloured Management Committee, after growing pressure from white authorities, finally agreed to change the names of streets named after black leaders Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko. The streets were originally named in 1981.

USA—The Massachusetts House and Senate overrode Governor Edward King's veto of a bill to divest the state's pension fund of \$100 million in South African investments. The vote was 23 to 5 in the Senate and 132 to 2 in the House. The funds were to be reinvested inside Massachusetts.

12 January

South Africa—In a radio interview, Allister Sparks, former editor of the *Rand Daily Mail*, said South Africa was following the Rhodesian pattern in dealing with the press. Editors were giving up—some leaving their jobs, some being fired—and each departure added to the insecurity and fear of those remaining. Gov-

ernment threats, self-censorship, and the "minefield" of over a hundred laws regulating the press, have created more caution and fewer questions both in newspapers and in the community.

13 January

Zimbabwe—The American policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa came under severe attack at the African-American Institute conference. Clement Zablocki, chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee was hooted when he offered what were seen as South African explanations of the bantustan policy, saying it would help blacks gain sovereignty. Witness Mangwende, Foreign Minister of Zambia, and Johnny Makhatini of the ANC argued that the policy of constructive engagement was dragging the US into the quagmire of Southern Africa and that people of conscience in the US had an obligation to persuade the US government to change from its present role as an adversary of Africa and liberation.

Lesotho—RSA said the government has kept quiet about the airlifting of about 100 ANC members from Maseru to the Mozambican capital of Maputo, because it did not want to appear to be cracking down on the ANC. Reports said the airlift of at least six unscheduled flights was completed days before the UN Security Council delegation arrived in Maseru to assess damage caused by the SADF raid last month. The six-member delegation, led by Assistant Secretary General Farah of Somalia, was taken on an inspection of houses damaged in the raid and has held talks with several Cabinet ministers.

South Africa—The chairman of the National People's Party announced that the party's National Executive decided it would give the government's constitutional reforms a "fair try" provided the Indian community approved them in a referendum. The party further required a commitment from the government that the new arrangement would be a starting point for the acceptability of future constitutional arrangements which would include all sections of South Africa's multiracial community.

"FORGET NOT OUR SISTERS"

The slide presentation *Forget Not Our Sisters*, on the struggle of women in Southern Africa, is available for rental from IDAF. The rental fee is \$10.00 for those picking it up at our office, or \$15.00 if we mail or deliver it. *Forget Not Our Sisters* comes with a taped narration. Contact IDAF in Cambridge for further information.

14 January

Tanzania—Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said China would be willing to help the Front-Line States safeguard their security against any aggression by South Africa. He also said China opposed the linkage of the Cuban troop issue with Namibian independence.

Zimbabwe—Speaking at the African-American Institute conference, US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker said the US would abandon efforts to reach a settlement in Namibia if all of Africa wanted this. As he put it, "If all of Africa wants us to pick up our marbles and go home, we'll do so." Crocker met for 25 minutes with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma shortly after they expressed diametrically opposed views on Namibia. Shaking a finger at Crocker, Nujoma warned that the US was causing racial conflagration in Southern Africa.

15 January

Angola—A report from Lisbon said UNITA killed three nuns in an attack in central Angola on 15 December. A fourth nun was missing. UNITA announced recently that it would soon release two nuns captured in October. Archbishop Alexandre de Nascimento of Lubango and two other nuns captured at the same time had already been released.

SOUTH AFRICA ON SLIDES

Two new slide/tape presentations are now available from IDAF. *Amandla!* traces the history of white oppression and the black liberation struggle in South Africa. *Forget Not Our Sisters* focuses on the role of women in the struggle. (*Amandla!* is also available in filmstrip form.)

17 January

Swaziland—Seventeen exiled ANC members who were put into a special camp last month walked out on 14 January following a visit to the camp the previous day by South African journalists. The journalists, who attempted to take photos despite the prohibition of the Deputy Prime Minister's office, were arrested, interrogated, and released with a warning. Swazi authorities said the ANC members had been put in the camp for their own protection. Ten others have already agreed to leave Swaziland.

South Africa—A survey report on political attitudes in Soweto, drawn up by Johan Koornhof, son of Piet Koornhof, the Minister for black affairs, revealed particular dissatisfaction regarding property ownership and citizenship. The report said more than 84% of Sowetans totally rejected the government's bantustan policy and over 80% wanted to buy their own houses and property at once, something not permitted by the government. More than 60% of Sowetans listened to news bulletins and discussion programs every day, while more than 40% read a newspaper daily. Johan Koornhof said most Sowetans were better informed about events in South Africa than their white counterparts.

18 January

Namibia—Dirk Mudge, head of the South Africa-sponsored Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), officially resigned today as head of the Namibian Council of Ministers. The resignation—triggered by a dispute over whether the Day of the Vow, a South African holiday, should be celebrated in Namibia—was also caused by what Mudge called overbearing and humiliating treatment of him by South Africa. Mudge also objected to South African treatment of the National Assembly and Council of Ministers. The Council and Assembly were dissolved following Mudge's resignation. South Africa now takes over direct administration of the territory. The South African government was reportedly approaching members of the DTA and other parties with a view to forming a so-called Patriotic Front as an alternative to the DTA.

South Africa—Three black students—Vulindlela Mapekulo, Andrew Makone, and Mzwandile Nkosi—were brought to trial on charges under the Internal Security Act at Springs Regional Court in the Transvaal. The three were accused of distributing ANC funds as well as literature obtained from Botswana, and of making an ANC flag and teaching ANC principles and ideas to seven others. They were not charged with being actual ANC members and their defense lawyer argued that it was not an offense merely to strive for the same aims as the ANC.

USA—A previously unpublished staff report of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations said that direct Soviet interference was the least likely way the flow of strategic minerals from South Africa might be interrupted. The report said the flow of minerals would not be cut even if South Africa fell victim to a Marxist revolution. The Committee thought it somewhat more likely that the white government might impose an export embargo in response to international sanctions against it, but the report cited social breakdown in the country as the most likely potential cause for an interruption.

19 January

USA—Anthony Lewis said in the *New York Times* that Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe had been meeting secretly with ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo. According to Lewis, the two had met three times, most recently last Friday. Lewis said that the political turmoil and economic problems in Zimbabwe were not as bad as they seemed: "The country is at peace to an extent unimaginable four years ago, when 50 people a day were dying in the war."

20 January

South Africa—Two bantustan leaders, Gatsha Buthelezi of kwaZulu and Kaiser Matanzima of Transkei met last night for the first time in eight years, in a secret meeting near Durban. The two men committed themselves to unifying all black people in opposition to the government's constitutional proposals. They

reported working out a strategy whereby the "independent" bantustans would place insurmountable obstacles in Pretoria's path, while the others would continue to resist independence. Buthelezi and Matanzima agreed to fight for a federal-type government which would entrench democracy but preserve cultural and language differences.

21 January

People's Republic of China—SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma had talks with Chinese officials today, reportedly about aid to SWAPO. Diplomatic sources said the Chinese may supply weapons to SWAPO. There was some speculation that China would train guerrillas. On his recent African tour Premier Zhao Ziyang promised assistance to black nationalist groups including SWAPO. Zhao had said that China supported a settlement for Namibian independence regardless of the Cuban presence in Angola. In the past, China has tended to support guerrilla groups that were rivals of Soviet-backed guerrillas.

Swaziland—Six of the 17 leading ANC members who last week walked out of a Swazi camp had returned by early evening today. An anonymous phone call to a BBC correspondent said the ANC members still felt they were in danger at the camp. The caller said that cars with South African plates had been seen near the camp last week. There was speculation that the government would like to prevent a Maseru-style raid by letting the refugees apply for asylum outside the country.

South Africa—KwaNdebele became the latest bantustan to opt for Pretoria-style independence. The Deputy Minister for African affairs made the final plans known when he announced that the government had decided to consolidate the bantustan's scattered pieces of territory into one unit. Proposals called for an increase in kwaNdebele's area from 125,000 to 358,000 hectares. It was believed that legislation would be hurried through Parliament in March so that the official independence ceremony could take place before the end of the year. Most of kwaNdebele is bleak and dry, and large tankers daily carry water to most parts of the area. The "homeland" has half a million inhabitants but no hospitals. There are 88 schools for 75,000 pupils, and 51% of the teachers are grossly underqualified. The best-qualified Cabinet Minister has three years of secondary education, and the future Prime Minister has only seven years of primary education.

South Africa—One of two men seized from Mozambique by South Africa in January 1981 turned state's witness in a treason trial involving three ANC members. The men were captured after SADF commandos destroyed bases allegedly used by the ANC in Mozambique. Police said the two had long been released, but their families have not seen them. South African papers have not been allowed to print their names.

We enclose business-reply envelopes in *News Notes* for your convenience in ordering literature or sending donations. However, each envelope we receive costs us 38¢ in postage and handling fees. You can make your donation go farther by enclosing it in your own stamped envelope. Thank you.

24 January

South Africa—At a weekend gathering of Indian political leaders in Johannesburg, it was announced that a united democratic front would be formed to bring together black, white, Coloured and Indian opponents to the Prime Minister's plan for constitutional reform. It was also announced that the Transvaal Indian Congress, whose roots go back to Gandhi at the turn of the century, would be revived. Dr. Allan Boesak of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, who has emerged as the leading opponent of the reform proposals, said the Labor Party and the South African Indian Council had become the new junior partners in apartheid. Apartheid, he said, no longer had only a white face. The new front has already received support from Zulu chief Gatsha Buthelezi. The white PFP has also been asked to join the resistance.

27 January

Angola—The International Red Cross resumed relief activities in central Angola after UNITA attacks had caused them to be suspended for several months. UNITA leaders met with Red Cross officials earlier in January and gave guarantees that they would not hinder relief activities, and that they would respect the basic rules of humanitarian law with respect to armed conflict.

South Africa—One person was killed and several hurt by a bomb left in the government's Community Council offices in the black township of New Brighton near Port Elizabeth.

People's Republic of China—SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma said that China had agreed to continue military and other aid to SWAPO and the people of Namibia. The Chinese news agency said this was Nujoma's sixth visit to China but his first since 1978.

South Africa—Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha was quoted as saying that Cuba and the issue of Cuban troops in Angola were not on the agenda for talks between South Africa and Angola. Botha said, "That is for the Americans to work out."

TRIALS AND DETENTIONS ARE CONTINUING!

IDAF provides legal defense for political prisoners in Southern Africa, as well as food, clothing, and other humanitarian aid for their families.

Please help us in this work by mailing a contribution to IDAF, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, MA 02138. Checks should be made out to IDAF, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

28 January

South Africa—Parliament yesterday began a session expected to be dominated by debate on P.W. Botha's constitutional reform proposals. If Botha's reforms are enacted, this would be South Africa's last all-white Parliament.

Tanzania—Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe called for the SADCC to look into the creation of a multinational regional defense force to provide the Front-Line States with military security against South African aggression.

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South Africa—The government was severely embarrassed by the recent arrest for spying of Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, commander of the Simonstown naval base, and his wife. Simonstown is South Africa's most strategically sensitive port and the South African Navy's largest repair and construction facility. Commodore Gerhardt, a German-born South African, had certainly been privy to top-secret intelligence.

29 January

Angola—The Angolan government denied an agreement had been reached with South Africa regarding a border truce but said that the talks in December had been promising and encouraging.

Zimbabwe—Johnny Makhathini, the ANC representative at the UN, said at the African-American Institute conference that the ANC would intensify its actions against the South African regime. These actions would include civil disobedience, possible confrontations with security forces, and continuing attacks on installations. Makhathini reaffirmed the ANC's refusal to exact "an eye for an eye" by attacking civilians. He cited the recent attack on the Koeberg nuclear reactor as proof that the regime could not protect any target from ANC attack.

30 January

South Africa—A blast heard throughout the city took place at a court building in Pietermaritzburg, the third explosion in five days directed at installations and government buildings. Police suspected a bomb.

The preceding news items are based primarily on shortwave broadcasts by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Voice of America (VOA), and Radio South Africa (RSA). They are intended to supplement major news sources and are not exhaustive. Because radio reception is sometimes unclear, the spelling of all proper names cannot be guaranteed. Dates on items reflect date when event was reported.

Items relating to political trials and detentions appear in red.

For more comprehensive news about political prisoners in Southern Africa, please see our bimonthly publication *Focus*.

IDAF has three objectives:

- (1) to aid, defend and rehabilitate the victims of unjust legislation and oppressive and arbitrary procedures,
- (2) to support their families and dependents,
- (3) to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake.

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