

# EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN for SOUTH AFRICA

339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012 PHONE: (212) 477-0066

6 May 1984

## **—For A Free Southern Africa—**

### N O T E S

The South African Prime Minister, P.W. Botha, is being publicly welcomed in polite society. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has invited the Pretorian leader to a 'working luncheon' in London on 2 June. South Africa's foreign minister Roelof F. (Pik) Botha is to accompany his chief. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the Federal Republic of Germany will host his South African counterpart in Bonn on 5/6 June. An FRG diplomat explains that 'it is better to talk with the South Africans than to isolate them', a rationale sure to be quoted on all sides of the Western world. Other European cities have been mentioned as possible stops on what Pretoria must regard as a triumphal tour, among them Lisbon, Brussels, Rome, Paris. A stop-over in Lusaka is contemplated and a visit to Israel quite likely.

The question hangs: Will Ronald Reagan ask Botha to the United States? The American president had Pik Botha in for a talk in the Oval Office a couple of years ago. There have been recurrent reports that P. W. Botha would come to the USA going back to 1978 - Jimmy Carter days. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance delivered a personal letter from Carter to the newly installed Pretorian prime minister extending an invitation to Washington provided Botha was instrumental in settling the matter of Rhodesia and of course the issue of Namibia. The first has worked out, not quite according to the Washington-Pretoria desires; the latter is at its most 'delicate' and the axis aren't about to let Namibia go the way of Zimbabwe. In December 1980, after Reagan's election, there was a flurry of talk about P.W. coming here. Again the following spring the talk grew; the State Department responded: 'We are not planning an invitation to Prime Minister Botha at this time'.

Will Ronald Reagan be foolhardy enough to invite the world's head racist to Washington in an election year? Or is he full of himself after having in one week seen the Chinese leadership and the Pope? Likely outcome: Reagan is due to be in Europe himself in June, visiting the Normandy beaches on the 40th anniversary of the 6 June D Day landings. He could readily meet with Botha at that time - in Paris, Versailles, on the beach!

\* \* \* \* \*

The Reagan administration moves closer to Pretoria all the time. It has submitted to the congress four bills on terrorism with implications reaching beyond protection against the rash of terroristic acts which plague the world. One bill would authorize the Secretary of State to designate foreign nations or groups engaged in 'acts or likely acts of international terrorism' harmful to the USA; his judgment could not be questioned by the courts or used as a defense in a prosecution. Secretary of State George Shultz has already indicated Iran, Syria, Libya and North Korea as evident candidates for a terror list. US officials in the past have used the word 'terrorism' in relation to Nicaragua, Cuba, Iraq and South Yemen. In the present growingly assertive mood of the US government southern Africa states and liberation movements are obvious targets for the putative proscription list. The African National Congress of South Africa and SWAPO of Namibia - engaged in military struggle against the Pretoria regime - are certain to be classified terroristic; that they fight the terror of the state won't count in Washington. The death of two US observers in a bomb explosion in northern Namibia was hastily laid at the door of SWAPO by Pretoria's proconsul in the occupied Territory. The US government has not contested this assertion. The Reagan bills provide 10-year prison terms for anyone giving 'support services' to any named international terrorist group'. Rewards up to \$500,000 are slated for Americans providing information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorist groups or conspiracies to commit terrorist acts.

\* \* \* \* \*

South Africa is more and more a land of the uprooted. Pretoria's relentless pursuit of apartheid is undiminished. With recent ceasefires and peace accords the regime will increase its program of upheaval of black South Africans. (Nevertheless Pretoria is boosting its military budget by 21% and police funding too). P. W. Botha's government basks in the light of Western approval, as witness his tour of Europe next month. Secure for the time being and with the stamp of 'civilization' on its papers, Pretoria can now devote fuller attention to the purification of South Africa by racial separation and gaining even greater mastery over the country.

The figures of three and a half million already moved and two million yet to be are by now familiar to close watchers of South Africa, with its total black population of over 24 million. But eight and a half million blacks have been stripped of their citizenship and belong, Pretoria decrees, to the 'independent' homelands of Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophutatswana. Other 'homelands' not yet granted 'independence' are slated for the same treatment, and on and on until all Africans are aliens in their own land.

The South African government has recently abandoned a bill named the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons bill; it has aroused a considerable row among elements of the white electorate. Now Pretoria has brought forth a new text which is aimed to accomplish the same results. The Aliens and Immigration Laws Amendment bill first of all defines an alien as a person who is not a South African citizen. Aliens entering the Republic of South Africa (i.e., the entire country minus the 'independent' bantustans) must have a permit to enter the country. A permanent residence permit can by law be issued only to a person who 'is likely to become readily assimilated with the European inhabitants' of South Africa - a qualification no black person can achieve in the land of apartheid.

The skilled organization of white women, the Black Sash, reports: 'There are many thousands of black people who were born in South Africa and who have lived in South Africa all their lives who are still foreigners. They have no claim to South African citizenship if both their parents were born in another country because their fathers have never had a right of permanent residence in South Africa even if they have been living and working lawfully in this country for decades.'

Children of white immigrants are automatically deemed citizens if they were born in South Africa - their fathers were granted permanent residence. The new law-to-be will deftly avoid racial designations almost totally but built into the system will be encouragement of white immigration and a harsher exclusion of black. All the whites must worry about is being drafted into the South African Defence Force.

The new legislation has built into it a devilish assurance of compliance. Blacks come to 'white' South Africa from the impoverished, overcrowded and barren 'homelands' because they must have jobs. Black migrants are & have been part and parcel of minority control for a couple of hundred years: white South Africa needs laborers for its mines, factories and businesses; blacks need food for themselves and their families. The new law will prohibit an employer from hiring or 'harbouring' an alien without a permit, the penalty for infraction being a fine of \$4,000 or 12 months imprisonment. For a person to give accommodation to someone without a permit results in a \$400 fine or six months in prison. No boss or landlord or friend is going to risk such draconian retribution. The apartheid regime cleverly will have them do its policing.

The Black Sash comments on Pretoria's stated intention not to use the new legislation against 'citizens' of the homelands. 'We are not reassured by these statements', says Black Sash president Sheena Duncan. 'There have been many broken promises in the past. The Law is not to be made into a matter of selective executive decision.'