

BLACK SASH ACTIVITIES

ALL REGIONS of the Black Sash went into recess as usual over the Christmas holidays, but, also as usual, members held themselves in readiness for the various calls upon them which seem to be inevitable at this time of the year.

Since the Annual National Conference held in Johannesburg in October, 1963, all Regions have been active, but no full reports are at present available.

National President visits Cape Western.

Mrs. Sinclair visited Cape Western at the end of November, and attended **Cape Western All-Branches** meeting on December 2nd. She gave a resumé of her opening address to the National Conference, after which she and Mrs. Robb gave an account of the *Black Sash interview with Mr. de Wet Nel* and his advisers on the proposed **Bantu Laws Amendment Bill**.

Mrs. Sinclair was also able to attend Cape Western's **Annual Fête** on the 30th November, which was opened by **Mr. Hamilton Russell**, who spoke on the work of the Black Sash. The Fête raised the record sum of R1,476.81!

Campaign against 90-day detention.

The Black Sash and the National Council of Women, deeply disturbed about the application of the 90-day detention clause of the **General Law Amendment Act of 1963**, are planning a joint campaign to urge the repeal of this measure. To this end, a memorandum was drawn up, dividing the objections to the clause into two sections, legal and humanitarian; and a letter was addressed on December 6th to the Minister of Justice asking him to receive a deputation of the two organizations.

The letter read as follows:

"The Black Sash and the National Council of Women, representing a very large number of South African women, are deeply concerned about Section 17 of the General Law Amendment Act 1963, and its effect on the detainees and their families.

"We regard it as important that you should be informed of our viewpoint and ask you to receive a joint deputation from the National Council of Women and the Black Sash. We shall be grateful if you will grant this interview before you leave Pretoria for the 1964 Parliamentary Session."

The minister refused to receive the deputation, and the following reply was sent to the National President of the Black Sash by his Private Secretary:

"Leftist Organizations."

"I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Justice to inform you that he is well acquainted with your viewpoint as well as with the viewpoint of other leftist organizations in the country and that it is therefore not necessary to put your viewpoint to him, apart from the fact that the time factor will not allow an appointment.

"It is noted that you are deeply concerned about the effect of Section 17 on detainees and their families and although the Minister can readily understand that, he finds it strange indeed that your organization has never yet shown the same deep concern for the safety of the Republic and its people, White and non-White, who are or will be the victims or potential victims of anarchy and disruption should certain people or organizations have their way.

"My Minister therefore regrets that an interview will serve no useful purpose."

In a leading article, the "Star" comments on this discourteous refusal:

PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

By Bob Connolly



(Rand Daily Mail)

Ultimate Sin.

"To judge by their official behaviour, one would not always realize that South African Cabinet Ministers are the servants of the public, who sustain them materially and politically, and not their lords and masters. Too often, nowadays, Ministers delight in patronizing those who approach them and trying to score off them politically.

"The Minister of Justice's reply to the National Council of Women and Black Sash representations on the detention for questioning clause in the notrial act is the latest and most blatant example of arrogance and discourtesy which should have no place at this level of public life.

"Not content with brushing aside a request for an interview, Mr. Vorster first smears the two organizations as 'Leftist' and then goes on to imply that they are far less concerned about the safety of the Republic — a shocking and reprehensible reflection on the patriotism of respected bodies, the one with a long and honourable record of public service unrelated to politics, and the other a courageous and militant band of women with a conscience and a sensitivity for what is right which is often conspicuous by its absence in high places.

"But there it is; any body or person that dares question the infallibility of the Government must be rubbed out or discredited. Dissent has become the ultimate sin in the eyes of those who are (or were?) proud to call themselves 'kinders van die protes'."

The Black Sash and the National Council of Women, undeterred, are going ahead with their plan for an intensive campaign in 1964 against this obnoxious law.

Bantustans.

A public symposium sponsored by the Black Sash was held on the 19th November in the Rondebosch Town Hall on the subject: "Can Bantustans solve Black/White problems in South Africa?" Mrs. Petersen was in the Chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Jackie Beck, Mr. Leo Marquard and Mr. Leo Katzen.

Demonstrations.

A stand against beach apartheid in Simonstown was held on the 7th December, with two posters reading: "Apartheid is unjust," and "Let beaches be open to all". There were no incidents.

(Continued overleaf)

BLOTTED COPYBOOK
**'A MILLION MORE AFRICANS
IN URBAN AREAS FROM
1951 TO 1960'**
— OFFICIAL REPORT.



(Rand Daily Mail)

"The latest census figures should convince even the doubters that apartheid does not really exist in South Africa. The increase of non-Whites in the 'White areas' is enormous; and the trend will continue.

"Apart from the census figures, there is other evidence to show that, far from 'developing along separate lines,' South Africa is becoming more racially integrated than ever before. There is scarcely an industry or a commercial enterprise which could exist without non-White labour. This is true of Government operations as well as of those in the private sector.

"The Railways, the Post Office, the mines, the factories, the builders, the distributive trade—all are vitally dependent on the hundreds of thousands of non-Whites who provide by far the greater share of man-power. Traders, who live by what they can sell, depend equally on the non-White customers who buy their goods.

"These are the facts, and we do not quote them in order to taunt the Government with having failed to implement apartheid. We quote them in the hope that the Government, and the people, will realise that apartheid is a fiction and that, with the best will in the world, apartheid can never be put into effect. If that fact is appreciated, then the obvious result will be this: Instead of carrying on a policy that supposedly implements a non-existent apartheid, the Government would embark on a policy that was related to reality.

"The major cause of South Africa's racial difficulties is not apartheid so much as the Government's failure to acknowledge that apartheid has gone for ever and that we are a thoroughly multi-racial country."

(Sunday Times)

Bob Connolly

SASHES AND RASHES

NOTHING produces a Cabinet rash
Quicker than ladies who wear a black
sash.

There's something about that sombre band
That maddens the rulers of this fair land.

Mourn, if they must, a nation's plight —
But they might at least wear a sash that is
WHITE!

Molly Reinhardt.

In Johannesburg, a demonstration was held on December 3rd, against 90-day Detention. The posters read: "90 days + 90 days inquisition must cease," and "Solitary confinement is mental torture".

A deputation of fourteen members of Transvaal Region visited the Union Buildings in Pretoria on December 18th to lodge a protest against the treatment meted out to Indian women, whose orderly demonstration against Group Areas on Human Rights Day was dispersed by police and police dogs.

Human Rights Day Meeting.

A meeting sponsored jointly by the Black Sash, the Civil Rights League, the National Council of Women and the United Nations Association was held in Cape Town on December 10th, Human Rights Day. Dr. Albert Geysler gave a most stimulating address on "The Quality of Equality" to a large and appreciative audience.

Christmas Parties.

Just before Christmas a very successful multi-racial party was held in Mrs. Petersen's home in Cape Town, for friends of the Black Sash. Representatives from all walks of life and of all colours attended this function and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In Johannesburg, the work of 1963 was brought to a close with a multi-racial picnic in the grounds of Mrs. Fisher's home, the final meeting for the year of the Saturday Club. The previous meeting of the club had taken the form of an impromptu Mannequin Parade, which was much enjoyed by all.

Advice Offices.

The Advice Offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg remain as active as ever. The Athlone Advice Office in Cape Town dealt with 267 cases in November and 224 in December, an average of 13 and 16 cases per day.

The Transvaal Advice Office in Johannesburg has been particularly busy since the recess. A pathetic case being dealt with at present is that of a Nyusaland man who has been endorsed out of the Johannesburg area after 21 years' residence, despite the fact that he is in permanent employment here.

Press Publicity.

Letters and statements were sent to the Press by Cape Western Region during December on the subject of Beach Apartheid in Simonstown, Mr. Vorster's refusal to receive a deputation from the National Council of Women and the Black Sash on the 90-day detainees, and Christmas-time thoughts on colour discrimination.

Headquarters Region made statements on the 90-day detainees, the treatment of Indian women on Human Rights Day, and a comment on a leading article in the "Transvaler" regarding the disruption of family life. (Reported on elsewhere in this issue).

In November, an article headed "South African Protest", dealing with the work of the Black Sash, appeared in the "Christian Science Monitor".

BLACK SASH CROSSWORD PUZZLE — SOLUTION

Black Sash Slogan: (THE) CRIME APARTHEID (THE) PENALTY ISOLATION.

Across.—6, Archery—Arch'er-y. 7, Spear—S.(P.E.A.)R. 9, Amp—a M.P. 10, Pipedream. 12, A selfish act. 15, Yellow peril. 17, Bantustan—B(ant)us(tan). 19, S.A.P.—Pa's back. 21, Ethos—Anag. "so(o)the". 22, Sausage—S.A. usage.

Down.—1, Crime — A(meric)A. 2, Ohm — O.H.M.(S). 3, Drei—Anag. "ride". 4, Apartheid—Anag. "hated pair". 5, Balance—Bal(A.N.C.)e. 8, Retire. 11, Isolation. 13, Lowest—to West. 14, Penalty—Anag. 16, Langa. 18, Adam. 20, Asp—Anag. Sap.