

SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE OUTSIDE (Cont.)

of the civilised world, to retain the friendship and trust of the non-White peoples. If this occasionally results in her treading on the corns of European colonial powers, she is prepared to take that risk. She dare not let herself be associated too closely with colonialism if she wants to save another third of the world from going communist.

Here we are then in South Africa proclaiming ourselves part of the civilised camp, yet playing into the hands of communism by insisting on that by-product of colonialism, apartheid. No wonder we distress our friends.

America cannot dare to show any sympathy to our solution of the Colour problem. Internationally, as I have mentioned, she is committed to creating bonds of friendship and trust with Asians, Arabs and Africans. Internally she has set her face firmly against segregation. In the future the Coloured vote in America is going to exert increasing influence. Negroes, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans will constitute an important segment of the electorate that no party dare neglect.

As regards Europe, the colonial powers have seen the writing on the wall. They have lost Asia, and the African colonies are going fast. Within twenty-five years I doubt if there will be a White administrator north of Livingstone. There may be some loose external association between old colonies and European countries, but that will be all.

South Africa, somehow, has to live in this rapidly changing world. How can we hope to live with our policy of insulting our neighbours?

International Contacts Jeopardised

Without much foresight one can see what will happen. South Africa will find herself more and more embarrassed in the international exchanges

that are such an important part of modern life. Sport, culture, commerce, agriculture, hygiene, religion are all marked today by increasing international contacts. How long shall we be allowed to participate when the things we stand for are an affront to half the other participants? How can they bear our presence when they know that in South Africa politicians seriously propose that all mixed gatherings should be prohibited by law, and that opposition to restrictions on freedom of worship is termed blasphemous?

Perhaps we shall be brought to our senses when we find ourselves the pariah nation of the world—banned from football federations and Olympic Games, omitted from the list of invitations to international conferences for fear of a boycott by other nations, harbours closed to us, airports denied us, diplomatic representatives refused to us, investors and merchants avoiding us.

There have already been a few indications of what is to come.

As I said at the beginning of this article, I began answering questions about South Africa by explaining how difficult a colour bar problem is. Very soon I found that the explanations were occupying a smaller place in my mind and that two big realisations were growing bigger and bigger: firstly, how utterly incredible it is that civilised men in this age can formulate in rational terms a policy of discrimination, and secondly, how completely stupid it is to advocate apartheid in a world in which non-White nations are rapidly assuming a dominant position.

The difficulty of dissolving quickly the emotional blocks involved in our colour bar remains comprehensible. People understand that. But they see no sense in giving these emotions a pseudo-rational justification. They know, as we know only too well, that our own hope for the future consists in facing the facts and giving the leadership to our heads instead of our hearts.

Control Boards Have Cost Us Millions

(By permission of the "Sunday Times.")

THE taxpayer has been warned that he will have to make good the stupendous losses on foodstuffs exported by the control boards for the sole purpose of keeping up prices in the Union—in other words creating local inflation.

We are officially told that in five months of this year the Mealie Control Board lost £1,000,000.

Other losses by the other boards were £250,000 on butter and £35,000 on dried beans apart from the huge loss on exported eggs.

Citrus and deciduous fruits are beyond the pockets of 90 per cent. of the White population.

Meat is obtainable but at exorbitant prices, and South African sugar is dearer locally than it can be purchased overseas.

Tens of thousands of tons are exported annually.

The Government itself profits by hundreds of thousands of pounds every year on rice—a food which is universally consumed in this country.

What tremendous benefits would accrue to the mines, the Government, industry, commerce and all other employers, including farmers if these so-called surpluses were sold locally at reasonable but profitable prices.

Cost-of-living allowances throughout the Union would be substantially reduced, mines on the verge of closing would be given a new lease of life and the wealth of the nation enhanced.

The value of the £1 to purchase foodstuffs is worth less than 8s.

Inflation and high land values can be blamed on subsidies.—**HIGH EVERYTHING** (Maritzburg).