

# contact

FOR UNITED NON-RACIAL ACTION

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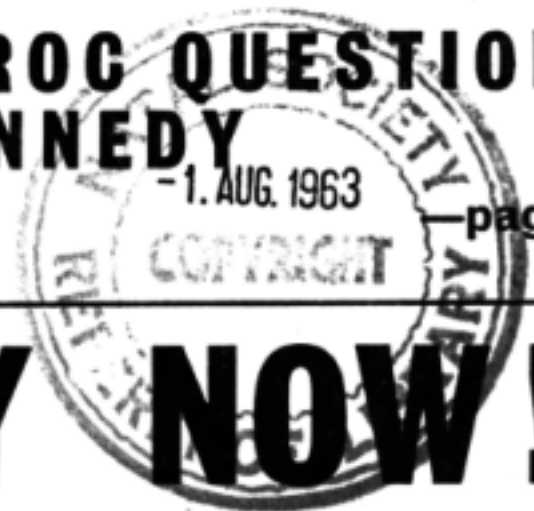
● **PASS LAW VICTIMS**

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KENNEDY**

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## SIBANYE — UNITY NOW!



*Above:*

**Defiance campaign meeting, Durban, 1952. In all South Africa, 8,557 "Defiers" were gaoled.**

*Right:*

**Bus boycotters trudge to work, Johannesburg, 1957. 45,000 from Alexandra alone.**

**AND 1960 P.A.C. anti-pass campaign — 1961 A.N.C. three-day stay-at-home.**

*When will united action for freedom come again?*

**W**HILE the liberatory movement in South Africa seeks to consolidate after the telling attacks launched on it by Minister of Justice Vorster, heartening news comes from outside, where — **UNITY IS ON THE WAY.**

Speaking at Dar es Salaam, leader of A.N.C. delegation Tennyson Makiwane called "for unity in action and not merely as a slogan".

● He told pressmen (writes *Contact's* correspondent): "We must prepare the ground for common action and united endeavour . . . A halt must immediately be called to the suicidal policy of inciting freedom fighters against one another instead of the enemy." Echoing the call for Common Action Fronts made by the Nine Nation Liberation Committee at Dar es Salaam this month, Makiwane, for the A.N.C., said: "For our part, we will encourage an atmosphere in which the work of forging unity can be genuinely started."

He invited all those involved in leading the struggle in South Africa, and leaders of the P.A.C. in particular, to join the A.N.C. in seeking a formula for co-ordinated action.

May the work prosper and bring us — **UNITY NOW!**



# NEW CONTACT TEAM



HEAD



MAJJA

In the tight tough new phase of South Africa's freedom struggle, *Contact* will play a new role as our last surviving freedom newspaper. With the departure of former editor Timothy Holmes for Northern Rhodesia, and former proprietor Patrick Duncan's move to the outside world, *Contact* has had—is having—a battle to do the mighty job demanded of it. Money is worse than scarce, agents are daily intimidated, even readers are growing afraid to buy the paper.

Our response? To try and make *Contact* a paper you *have* to buy if you are in the struggle. And to try and bring more and more thousands, who have so far left others to do the politicking, into the freedom struggle.

Two of the team who are fighting *Contact's* battle are pictured left. Above is the editor—successor to George Clay, Duncan and Holmes—Harold Head, who came to *Contact* from the *Evening Post*, Port Elizabeth (and to the *Evening Post* from being a *Contact* correspondent and agent in Pretoria, his home town, Johannesburg and then Cape Town).

Trained as a teacher, Harold ran a school hostel in Swaziland, before finding his way into journalism as a field where freedom could be fought for.

Working with business manager Joan Block is Hammington Majija (below) of Engcobo and Nyanga, who is better known as a politician in the Western Cape and Transkei than for his good work as *Contact's* circulation man. Also once a teacher, Majija taught in the Transkei and Southern Rhodesia after matriculating and training at Healdtown, where he schooled with both Paramount Chief Sabata and ex-Pan-Africanist Sobukwe.

## VIEWPOINT

### Our Task is Yours

**T**HERE is world-wide support for the cause of human rights. This year, a special committee was established at U.N. to keep watch over the tyranny of apartheid. A committee of nine African states has been formed to fight colonialism, race discrimination and inequality.

**But while these moves are being undertaken, what do we do in assisting to break our chains; in keeping up the morale of helpers abroad and inside Africa.**

*Contact* is a fortnightly which was born out of the tensions created by apartheid, and reports the other side of our freedom struggle—the side that our autocratic government does not wish to be reported.

We are one of the dwindling number of freedom newspapers in this country, and think it important that we continue in this work. *We therefore appeal to Contact agents (among the liberatory movement's greatest assets), not to allow themselves to be intimidated by the police.* *Contact* is a registered newspaper and there is no law whatever against selling it. Provided local bye-laws are obeyed it can be sold at bus queues, railway stations (as long as the confines of railway property is avoided), on street corners and in homes; during lunch-hour at work, or even in your own shop.

**It is to this task of helping keep alive the voice of freedom, that we ask you to stand fast—for the morale of those on our side.**

# contact

*an independent fortnightly working for non-racial democracy through united action against apartheid and all forms of totalitarianism and imperialism.*

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*Half for six months.*

Unless otherwise stated, headlines, sub-editing and political comment in this issue by H. Head and A. Tobias, both of 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town.

## Non-Racial Theatre Plans

By a Reporter

New Theatre Club, Cape Town's non-racial theatre group, will be presenting a play-reading of two plays, "The Swamp Dwellers" and "The Trials of Brother Jero", by the Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka, at the Nitra Hall, Mount Road, off Main Road, Mowbray, on Wednesday, July 31st, at 8.15 p.m. An introductory talk will be given, probably by Mr. Philip Segal, of the University of Cape Town, followed by a tape recording of a discussion during the Mbari conference recently held at Kampala, between Mr. Segal, Soyinka, John Pepper Clark and Neville Rubin.

Soyinka has been rated as the most promising playwright on the continent. Eight of his plays have been published, some of which are reviewed in the last issue of *The New African*. The two plays that will be read show the versatility of Soyinka and the problems which beset the modern African milieu.

## W. Pondo Heir



Chief Tutor Nyangelizwe Ndamase is the son and heir of a candidate for the Chief Ministership of the Transkei Bantustan, Paramount Chief Victor Poto, leader of the Transkei's West Pondos.

Chief Tutor has played a leading role in the moves leading to Bantustan, as one of the group campaigning for 'full Transkei independence under a modern democratic, non-racial constitution. With his father and brother, Chief Douglas Dywabasini Ndamase, Chief Tutor visited the United States under M.R.A. auspices several years ago.

## India cuts S.A. Air Link

NEW DELHI: The Government of India has decided to suspend their air link with Durban in furtherance of the United Nations resolution calling upon member countries to boycott South Africa for its apartheid policy.

Export of Indian films to South Africa—the only item at present permitted to be exported—will also be banned. Normal trade with South Africa was banned as far back as 1954. Some goods were, however, trickling down and steps are being taken to stop all such exports.

Air India International has a fairly big office in Durban and service brings in a revenue of nearly R100,000 a year. The annual revenue from export of films is about R40,000 a year. — [A.N.P.]

## Chief Matanzima Events

# MORE MONEY, POWERS FOR CHIEFS

From "Contact" Correspondent

UMTATA: While confusion reigns in the Transkei voters' registration, one member who does not have to be elected is already campaigning for the top job: among the 63 others who don't have to be elected either—the appointed chiefs. He is Chief Kaizer Matanzima, would-be Chief Minister, whose return to the contest for this post has surprised political observers here.

The first two points of his statement of "what I stand for" are:

⊙ the maintenance of chieftainship and granting of more powers to chiefs;

○ improvements of the salaries paid to chiefs, headmen and civil servants.

He also calls for their support because "had I not stood firm on this principle of retaining traditional leaders, you would not be members of parliament today", and "exclusion of the chiefs from parliament would easily lead to their extermination".

He states that "Liberals and Communists" would abolish the chieftainship. (Contact learns that abolition of traditional chieftainship as such is not Liberal policy.)

Chief Matanzima, besides listing the usual aims of improved education, economic development, increased powers, peace and racial harmony, says: "My educational qualifications (B.A. and Law certificates) enable me to face the Europeans (officials up to Cabinet Ministers) without any inferiority complex."

## Kennedy Questioned by San-roc

THE South African Non-Racial Open Committee for Olympic Sports (San-roc) has appealed to the President of the United States, Mr. J. F. Kennedy, to make clear his position on the issue of racialism in sport.

This is because of his connection with an American sports body, the Privateers Hockey Club, which is at present touring the country and playing against all-White teams before segregated audiences.

President Kennedy is one of seven honorary members of this sporting body.

San-roc's statement reads: "We hope that President Kennedy's apparent approval of this tour is due to his not being aware of its nature. We appeal to the President to clarify his position on the issue of racialism in sport.

"The issue is especially unfortunate as the President's association with this tour seems to conflict directly with his recent strong stand against all forms of racial discrimination."

The statement has also been sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, The Congress on Racial Equality, The International League for the Rights of Man, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. Martin Luther King is President.



A multiracial occasion, the ordination of Fr. Ambrose Duba at Kwazakele, is symbolized as this first African priest in P.E.'s Catholic Diocese blesses a group of nuns.

## Vorster Hits at Cape Men

CAPE TOWN: Mr. C. B. Nododile, Cape Organiser of the Liberal Party, was called before the Chief Magistrate, Mr. C. Wilman, here this month and warned "to refrain from activities which will further the aims of Communism".



Nododile

The warning to Mr. Nododile was issued on the instruction of Mr. B. J. Vorster, Minister of Justice.

As has happened in every instance of such 'warnings', Mr. Nododile was not told what he must stop doing.

Other victims of Minister of Justice Vorster's repression this month are 27-year-old schoolmaster Dr. Neville Alexander and two colleagues, Mr. Leslie van der Heyden, 25, and his sister Elizabeth, both teachers at Livingstone High School, detained under the 90-day clause of the 'No-Trial' Bill. Mr. van der Heyden (25), was one of two persons arrested with Dr. Alexander two weeks ago and later released, but was re-arrested a week later, shortly after the news broke of the move to arrest Dr. K. G. Abrahams, now resident at Rehoboth in South West Africa.

An alleged fourth detainee is a Kimberley teacher, Mr. Franke.

## From Paarl to Where?

# Endorsed out, but They Have No Place to Go

PAARL.—Elements conducive to discontent amongst the majority of South Africa's population, stick out like a sore thumb here. A particularly distressed group are 60 men and women who are derelict because they have no right to live here. They have been endorsed out of the area under the country's Pass laws, which say they are not entitled to live there.

But they have also found out they are not wanted (i.e. legally) where they were born, in the Transkei and Ciskei.

This has caused a great deal of hardship for the people who have been made to travel backwards and forwards seeking a place to live—in their own country—where they were born.

All these people have lived in Paarl for years.

But, says Paarl's Director of Bantu Affairs Mr. J. H. le Roux, this does not show in his records.

Mrs. Anna Pearce, with members of the S.A. Federation of Women, have compiled several files of people who, according to the country's obnoxious pass system, do in actual fact have the right to remain in Paarl.

● A typical case is that of Mr. and Mrs. Alven Nyalashe.

Mr. Nyalashe after losing his employment where he had been for more than ten years, found himself a

fugitive after he could not find other work during the stipulated time.

He was subsequently ordered to leave the area and return to his place of birth.

Should he be found to be in the area he is liable to a fine or imprisonment.

Mrs. Nyalashe is a sick woman and has two very young children to look



NYALASHE at home.

after who need special attention. However, in Paarl, if Mr. le Roux says go—one has to go.

Another victim, Mr. Koolmyn Kenyane, lived in Paarl for more than 20 years when he was endorsed out of the area and told to return to his place of birth at Indwe in the Ciskei. But because he owned no land there he was told that he was no longer considered as belonging to the community.

He then returned to Paarl where he is now living as a fugitive and has to support six children on R6 a month. A seventh child earns the same amount from doing odd jobs at great risk, as he too is unable to get his Pass fixed.

● Also adding to the seeds of discontent is the removal of 32 families in the De Villiers Row area near Huguenot.

Most of the people here—comprising about 250 people—have lived in the area for more than 20 years.

They first received notice to leave the area in 1961 and after a subsequent notice to do likewise but did not, they are now being summoned to appear in court for contravening a section of the Slum Clearance Act.

Being subject to the Pass laws, the main fear of the people is the fact that they do not wish to move to Langabuya.

## ON THE REEF

# SKILLED MEN ARE REFUGEES

By "Contact" Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG: A 55-year-old Government servant in Johannesburg, Mr. Titus Mabaso, is fighting for the right of his son, Amos, to live and work in Johannesburg.

In a petition addressed to the Chief Native Commissioner, Johannesburg, Mr. Mabaso said his son was "endorsed out" of Johannesburg, although the family had lived in Johannesburg since 1955.

Amos was told to go to Pretoria, where he was brought up and where he first started work.

Mr. Mabaso, who has been a public servant for the last 28 years, said his family would be broken up if his son had to live in Pretoria.

His son was a teacher, employed by the Bantu Education Department.

He had a teaching job in Johannesburg and lived at home, but lost it because his papers were not in order.

In his fight to keep his family intact Mr. Mabaso says: "This break-up of family life is making criminals out of law-abiding young men.

"My son is now a vagabond and a foreigner in the country of his birth."

He said when his son went to the Non-European Affairs Department of the Johannesburg City Council to have his papers put in order a junior clerk took his reference book, stamped it "endorsed out" and threw it back at him.

## NO HOPE FOR YOUNGSTERS

By a Reporter

**WHAT HAPPENS** to African youngsters who through lack of high schools and money leave school at Standard VI? In a country town like Graaff-Reinet, C.P. (population 17,000) "there is no way up the economic ladder for them" nothing but "an aimless and soul-destroying life", says the Non-European Welfare Liaison Committee of the National Council of Women, who did a survey there last year.

The survey found that 70% of boys and 75% of girls were still unemployed seven months after leaving Standard VI at the end of 1961. Employers avoided African labour because of labour bureau red tape. Two-thirds of the girls wanted to be nurses but the Midland Hospital is not allowed to employ Africans. (Graaff-Reinet is the home town of both millionaire tobacco-man Anton Rupert and Robben-Islander Robert Sobukwe.)



*Defending the rights of workers in the Western Cape are three women. This they accomplish regardless of intimidation by the Special Branch. All resident in Paarl, they are, from left: Miss Diana Hartogh, secretary of the Paarl Branch of the Food and Canning Workers' Union; Miss Lydia Kasi, general secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union (Cape Town), and Mrs. L. Abrahams, general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union in Cape Town. Miss Kasi (24), is at the moment being detained under the 90-day detention clause of the Vorster Act at Paarl.*

## Amnesty Plans

# Help for Detainees

**VICTIMS** of South Africa's 90-day detention law are to be assisted by Amnesty, the international organization formed in 1961 to mobilise public opinion in defence of men and women imprisoned because their ideas were unacceptable to their governments.

Working in co-operation with the Defence and Aid Fund in Cape town and elsewhere in South Africa, Amnesty is obtaining particulars of 90-day detainees and of the needs of their dependents. The scheme then is for Amnesty to arrange for three families abroad to "adopt" each detainee and his or her family, supplying them with food, clothing and other essentials.

This will mean that hundreds of people outside South Africa, apart from giving practical help, will also be encouraged to take a close personal interest in men and women suffering here because of their opposition to the Nationalist Government.

It may also take some of the heavy burden off the already-strained Defence and Aid Fund which, in Cape Town alone, has had to find legal and other assistance for more than 300 people arrested in political cases.

The Defence and Aid Fund is a

body which has never sought wide publicity for what is now regarded as its outstanding work in South Africa. It has two simple objects—to find legal representation for people charged with political offences and to compensate them if possible for some of the hardships they and their families may have to endure.

Like Amnesty, the D. and A. Fund is a young organisation formed to meet a very obvious need. Unfortunately, although it has functioned in Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and other centres, it has only been really strong in Johannesburg (its national headquarters) and in the Western Cape.

Mainly through the efforts of Canon John Collins and the organisation Christian Action in Britain, the Fund in South Africa has been financed sufficiently to enable it to do its work, although it would need four or five times its present income to look after all the thousands of South Africans now in gaol waiting

to be tried or detained without trial.

In the Transkei, for example, more than 170 people are known to be detained under the notorious Emergency Regulations there. What happens under these regulations is shown by the case of a young man, Mr. Lennox Nomtshongwana.

This young man's father called at the D. and A. Fund Office in Cape Town last month to say he had been told his son had been visited by police at the Sigcau High School in Kokstad where he was believed to have been studying. According to what he had heard, the police found he had some Liberal Party literature and copies of *Contact* in his possession. He was taken away and has not been heard of since.

At the request of his father the Fund asked a Transkei lawyer to find out if Mr. Nomtshongwana was being held under any charge or whether he was being detained under Emergency Proclamation No. 400. He wrote to the police who replied that they were unable to comment on the case. And so Mr. Nomtshongwana joins the dozens of others "lost" in gaols of the Transkei.

This young man is one of about 400 people now being detained without trial—under the 90-day law or Proclamation No. 400.

To arrange for the adoption of all of them will be a formidable task, but the record of Amnesty during the few years since it was started indicates that it may well be done.

## THE LONG VIEW

— by Peter Brown

# JOB RESERVATION

## — A Device for White Comfort



National Chairman of the  
Liberal Party of S.A.

**T**IME dulls the sharp significance of some of the Nationalists' worse laws—except for the anonymous South Africans whose lives the laws destroy. So it is with *job reservation*, one of the worst laws of them all.

Occasionally there is a press report about an investigation into the desirability of introducing job reservation into some industry. Occasionally there is a report of its application in some trade. As far as white South Africa is concerned the even tenor of its life remains unruffled, but for the unfortunate section of non-white South Africa to whom a particular "reservation" applies, it may mean the end of a whole way of life.

Job reservation has been rather more prominently in the news lately because even the Government's own Coloured Affairs Council has been moved to protest against the threat which it carries for the Coloured people. The protest hasn't had any effect but the fact that it was made at all is a sign of the insecurity the Act is creating. Already certain building trades in certain areas have been reserved for white people; Indian barmen in the main centres of Natal are being abolished; there has been a prolonged inquiry into the leather industry—an industry which employs large numbers of skilled non-White workers and has done so for years.

### TO THE BOTTOM

Job reservation can close off whole avenues of employment to non-white

people. It can deprive a man of a job he has worked up to over many years. It can take him off the top step of the ladder and put him on the bottom one—not to start climbing again, but to stay there for ever.

The Ministers who put these laws through Parliament and the people who ask for them to be put through Parliament are apparently quite indifferent to their effects on human beings. An Indian barman in Pietermaritzburg almost certainly has a family. He may have children at school or at university. He may have taken out an insurance policy, estimating what premium he can afford to pay, on the basis of the salary he receives. Suddenly one day he is no longer a barman. He must go back to being a waiter. He must no longer afford to keep a child at high school. He can no longer afford that insurance premium. He can no longer afford the instalments on his house. What happens to him? His whole life lies in ruins about him—and Afrikaner Nationalism doesn't care a fig.

### WHITE EMPLOYMENT

Job reservation is, of course, a device to protect white South Africans from unemployment and to see that the best jobs are kept for them. That was why it was originally passed, but it is probable that the Government now sees additional advantages in it. Job reservation can be used to cushion the effects of economic pressures from outside. It can be used to protect white South Africans and to pass the burden of such pressures on to non-white South Africans. The Government can also use the provisions of this law to boost its immigration drive and to keep white immigrants happy. If necessary it can remove non-white South Africans from their jobs in order to make those jobs available for white foreigners. It is as easy as that.

As a device to preserve the comforts of white supremacy job reservation is ingenious. As a contribution to civilised standards of Government it stinks.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Our first article (see previous issue) dealt with the policeman's right to ask the citizen's name and address. This week our lawyer replies to:—

### No. 2: WHAT DO I DO IF A POLICEMAN OR A DETECTIVE ASKS ME QUESTIONS?

Except for special rules under the Group Areas Act (of which I shall write later) you do not have to answer other questions asked by the police. This does not mean that you **SHOULD** not answer. Often the police ask questions because they are investigating a serious crime, and if you can help them with information, you may decide to assist them. If the police think that you can help them and you refuse to do so, they can bring you before a magistrate and then you must answer, unless the reply will incriminate you. If you do not answer the magistrate, he may send you to prison for eight days at a time until you do. You must also remember that if you are innocent, your reply to a question by a policeman who suspects you, may save you from arrest and trial.

If you should be arrested, no policeman may question you without warning you "according to Judge's Rules". The judges have said that the warning should be as follows:

"You are not obliged to say anything, but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence."

If you are in trouble, you or your family should consult an attorney.

BY A LAWYER

## GERHARD COHN

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Johannesburg

# MEETINGS BAN IN B.P.P.

By "Contact" Correspondent

FRANCISTOWN: The beginning of constitutional talks for Bechuanaland has been accompanied by an acceleration in the political tempo of the territory which has already claimed a number of "casualties" and led to the imposition of a ban on meetings.

Among the casualties the first was Mr. K. T. Motsete, President of the Bechuanaland People's Party, who touched off a wave of anger and attacks on his leadership among his followers by submitting unpopular proposals for a constitutional change.

I learn from reliable sources that Mr. Motsete has since withdrawn the objectionable document from the Government Secretary. The Party will now be able to submit proposals which have been approved by the majority group in the National Executive Committee and supported by rank and file.

Observers believe, however, that Mr. Motsete's fate as leader of the Party has been sealed by events of the past few weeks; that he cannot survive the wrath and disaffection among his followers which have followed in the wake of the constitutional talks.

## CONVICTIONS

Among other by-products of the present ruffled state of affairs were:

- The arrest, conviction and sentence to six months' imprisonment for incitement on 10th July of Stephen Solomon, leader of the Francistown branch of the B.P.P. Youth League;

- Arising from the proceedings at Mr. Solomon's case, Joseph Bavela, a member of the B.P.P.'s Francistown branch executive, was on 15th July convicted of perjury and sentenced to a fine of R50 or three months' imprisonment.

- On the same day, 15th July, an indefinite ban on meetings was imposed in Francistown by the District Commissioner, Mr. P. L. Steenkamp. The ban affects all assemblies of twelve or more persons for political or trade union purposes. Such meeting can now be held only with the permission of the African Authority and provided certain conditions are observed.

## DEMONSTRATION

There was a demonstration during the visit on 16th July of Sir Patrick Dean, United Kingdom's chief delegate at the United Nations, who was told in placards that the B.P.P. demanded a complete abrogation of the 1961 Bechuanaland Constitution.

About 800 demonstrators accompanied a four-man delegation, led by

Mr. P. G. Matante, Vice-President of the B.P.P., which told Sir Patrick that the wishes of the people of Bechuanaland were paramount and should not be flouted by the British Government.

Their demand was independence with the least possible delay. Sir Patrick replied that whatever the next step in constitutional advance, the final decision would be taken by the British Government.

## B.P.P.'s Ghana Envoy



Mr. G. J. Modikwe, B.P.P. envoy in Ghana, who was recently recalled, addressing a welcoming meeting in Francistown. About 1,000 heard him speak highly of Ghana's progress since independence.

## As Civil Servants Gable Butler

# BANDA MINISTERS REACT

By "Contact" Correspondent

BLANTYRE: Following the Rhodesian press stories of violence against Asians, the Nyasaland Settlers' and Residents' Association sent a telegram to Mr. R. A. Butler (the British Minister for Central African Affairs) calling on him to restore law and order in the territory. The European Civil Servants' Association, is also said to have sent a similar telegram to Mr. Butler.

Speaking in Nyasaland's Legislative Assembly on this point, Mr. Masanko Chipembere, Minister of Local Government, said that the Civil Servants should be grateful to the Prime Minister, Dr. Hastings Banda. He had given them fat salaries and big houses they never had in the United Kingdom. He advised that instead of sending insulting telegrams to Britain, they should send telegrams to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and to Mr. Butler "telling them how well Dr. Banda was running the country."

## FORGET PAST

And at a press conference, the Prime Minister himself said that he had always considered Civil Servants to be people of intelligence and possessing a calm and cool temperament. He added: "But I have been disappointed to see that they have allowed themselves to fall victims to panic and hysteria."

"This makes me sad," he continued, "because I have been trying my best to tell my people to forget the past. I have repeatedly said that not a single European will lose his job because he has a white skin. But after I have said that I get this form of the Civil Servants."

Mr. Kanyana Chiume, Minister of Education, Social Development and Information, said that a leopard cannot change its spots and that what had happened recently showed Europeans' true colours. "Nyasaland was an African's country," said Mr. Chiume, "and its leader had to be respected as he was in Ghana, America, United Kingdom, India and other countries."

"Civil Servants have shown gross discourtesy to send a telegram to Mr. Butler, by-passing the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Governor. If rudeness was characteristic of western civilisation, then it should go to the dogs."

## ASSURANCE

Sir Glyn Jones, the Governor of Nyasaland, gave an assurance that he and the Prime Minister will preserve law and order in the country. He called upon all races to exercise great circumspection during the ensuing days and weeks in all that they say and do. The Governor added that careless words and incidents—even if of comparatively minor nature—are sure to lead to exaggerated reports which "will injure us in the eyes of the world".

## Readers!

- This is your letter page.
- Short and topical please.

### Red Abstention

I READ in an English newspaper that exports to South Africa, by 56 nations who were maintaining economic relations with South Africa during the period January to October 1962, was as follows:

Exports, average per nation, of the Communist group was 0.6 per cent of the world total. Average per nation, including the Communist group, but excluding NATO group, was 0.7 per cent. The total for the NATO group was 69.1 per cent, including 29.7 per cent for the United Kingdom, 16.6 per cent for the United States, and 10.2 per cent for Federal Germany. But during the period January 1961 to October 1962, only one of these nations show a nil return for 1962. That nation is the Soviet Union, whose total for 1961 was 0.1 per cent

of the total for all nations involved.

I am no communist and will never advocate it. But isn't this part of the reason why the so-called more enlightened under-privileged classes here rather heed more attention to the East than to the West.

Ficksburg.

"Pro-Boycott"

### Denunciation only

AGAIN and again every country in the world has condemned apartheid.

In particular the leaders and governments of the Big Three—America, Russia and Britain—have made headlines with their denunciations of the evils imposed by the Nationalists in South Africa.

*But what have the Americans, the Russians and the British done to end apartheid.*

Do these governments realise that most South Africans are engaged in a struggle for liberation? The next South African government—the one chosen by the people—will remember the countries which were active in the overthrowing of apartheid, not the countries which have criticised the Nationalists on the one hand while

supporting them financially and militarily on the other.

W. Hamm

6 Van Brandis Street, Hamburg, Transvaal.

### Underpaid Man

I AM an underpaid man in the British protectorate of Bechuanaland. The work I do, I learnt here at the filling station where I'm employed in Lotbatsi.

My boss is a very rich man with many other businesses in Bechuanaland.

But the wages are very poor here at this filling station; the hours of labour long, about 11½ hours a day. Charges paid by Africans for services at the filling station are the same as what any other person or White man would pay, but the African workers' wages are held in suspension.

Whenever I've asked the manager here for an increment his reply has always been that I'm "uneducated". But it is surprising to see how this "uneducated" man carries out his duties where he has been for the past two years. Charles T. Mogale Lobatsi.

### Bessie Head Reviews

# THE FIRE NEXT TIME\*



MEN are drawn to band together to fight for a cause but that cause seldom, if ever, promotes the ideal of brotherly love. Bitterness, hatred, suffering or self interest may unite men of differing temperaments.

Seldom do they fight under the banner of love. A big cause of the cynicism of the West is that, being largely Christian, its people have tended to escape their own commitment to brotherly love by allowing the last word on the subject to a man who lived 2,000 years ago.

Love needs a constant and new affirmation if it is to survive; on the personal and intimate level, and the universal. Therefore the strength appeal of a writer like James Baldwin rests on his ability to give us this message of brotherly love, anew.

The year 1963 celebrates the hundred year emancipation of the Negro people in America from

slavery. Yet we have only to read our newspapers to know that the Negro people are not free. "... the country," says James Baldwin, "is celebrating one hundred years of freedom too soon. We (the Negro) cannot be free until they (the White American) are free... those innocents who believed that your imprisonment made them safe are losing their grasp of reality. But these men are your brothers—your lost, younger brothers. And if the word integration means anything, this is what it means: that we, with love, shall force our brothers to see themselves as they are, to cease fleeing from reality and begin to change it."

*The Fire Next Time* is two essays. The first is a moving letter by James Baldwin to his nephew and namesake "James" on the one hundredth anniversary of the emancipation. The second part is his personal struggle to achieve his manhood. It is a bitter, passionate and heart-rending indictment against White tyranny; the soul-destroying illusions that have become traditions wherever White men and Black men have been forced together.

"... White Americans find it difficult as White people elsewhere do to divest themselves of the notion that they are in possession of some intrinsic value that Black people need, or want... It is the Negro, of course, who is presumed to have become equal—an achievement that not only proves the comforting fact that perseverance has no colour but also overwhelmingly corroborates the White man's sense of his own value. Alas, this value can scarcely be corroborated in any way; there is certainly little enough in the White man's public or private life that one should desire to imitate. White men at the bottom of their hearts, know this. Therefore, a vast amount of the energy that goes into what we call the Negro problem is produced by the White man's profound desire not to be judged by those who are not White..."

The title of a book by James Baldwin is *Nobody Knows My Name*. He is a man; a writer whose name should be known.

\*By James Baldwin (*The Dial Press*).