



THE REVEREND PITYANA

A PROFILE

The Reverend Barney Pityana, a Church of England cleric in Birmingham, has been appointed director of the World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism, based in Geneva.

His brief:

To advise the international Christian community on the appropriate responses to racial injustice.

According to friends, he saw it not just as a matter of solidarity work, but as a task of advising from a Christian point of view how conflict could be avoided.

Pityana has plenty of experience of injustice. He was one of the founder members of the Black Consciousness Movement in the late 1960's and early 1970's. In 1973 the leaders of the movement were all

served with banning orders. In Pityana's case, it confined him to the Magisterial district of Port Elizabeth; forbade him to meet more than one person at a time; and prohibited him from entering a factory, school, university, or newspaper office. Nothing he said could be quoted, and nothing he wrote could be published. "Publication" in effect meant a bar on showing anything he had put on paper could to a third person. The banning order made him a prisoner of his own whom from 6pm to 6am every night and from 6pm to 6am Monday every week.

The boers could not be satisfied by that alone. He was again detained in August 1977 and was held without trial for the whole year. His banning order expired, while he was in detention. On his release, a new one was is-

sued. This added a further restriction - it prevented him from practising as a lawyer or assisting in any legal work. He had completed a legal course degree by correspondence and had

on women, who Pityana says, suffer from double oppression because of their race and sex. We in the African National Congress-Department of Religious Affairs, hereby send our sincere



congratulations to the Pityanas on the noble appointment of Rev Barney Pityana as director of the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism. And we again charge you people's leaders to advise the Christians of the world on what to do in order to avoid the unfolding blood-bath in South Africa. The Bible tells us that there is nothing hidden that will not come out into light and be seen. Therefore, let us make it our task to expose the evilness of Apartheid which are now carried out under

the imposed State of Emergency. It is a well known factor that the aim of this state of Emergency is to give licence to the Apartheid perpetrators to suppress our people and main them without arousing the international community.

qualified as an attorney. He was not admitted to the profession because he was in detention.

He recalled the years of bannings by saying that he had to be his own policeman.

Barney Pityana and his wife - Dimza - and daughter - Loyizo - left South Africa in 1978. He studied theology at Kings College, London, and Rippon College in Cuddleston, Oxford, and was ordained a minister in 1981.

Barney's new post as a director of the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism will not however, be concentrated scely on the Apartheid state. He will be in charge of an office that focuses on the land rights of indigenous people in Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. It also scrutinizes the question of minorities in Europe and Asia, migrant workers, and has a programme