

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE
CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE AND SPRO-CAS BETWEEN
AUGUST 1973 AND JANUARY 1974**

The Commission of Enquiry into Certain Organisations

At the beginning of the 1972 parliamentary session, the Prime Minister, Mr BJ Vorster, announced that he would set up a select parliamentary committee to investigate the affairs of NUSAS, the South African Institute of Race Relations, the University Christian Movement (now defunct) and the Christian Institute of Southern Africa. After the parliamentary session came to an end the Select Committee was changed into a parliamentary Commission of Enquiry. Its terms of reference were greatly widened. The Commission could now investigate any body or persons connected with or affiliated to any of the named organisations.

The Commission is generally referred to as the Schlabusch Commission, because its present chairman is Mr A.L. Schlabusch. The Commission has the power to subpoena witnesses and to interrogate them. All hearings are in secret.

From the start the United Party, although initially protesting against the terms of reference of the Commission, participated in the Commission. The Progressive Party refused to participate.

The following are the members of the Commission at present:

Mr J.J. Engelbrecht MP	(Nat)+
Mr L. le Grange MP (vice-chairman)	(Nat)
Mr L.G. Murray MP	(UP)
Mr D.J.L. Nel MP	(Nat)+
Mr A.L. Schlabusch MP (chairman)	(Nat)+
Mr W.M. Sutton MP	(UP)+
Mr S.J.N. Steyn MP	(now Nat)+
Mr H.J.D. van der Walt MP	(Nat)
Dr G. de V. Morrison MP	(Nat)
Mr Etienne Malan MP	(UP)

Those members marked + formed the sub-committee investigating the Christian Institute. The remaining members constitute the sub-committee investigating the South African Institute of Race Relations.

When the Commission first started it investigated NUSAS. Two interim reports have been issued on the activities of this organisation. Included in the first

2/... report was

report was a recommendation that urgent action be taken against eight individuals connected with MUSAS. The same day as the report was tabled these individuals were banned in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act.

The second interim report included findings on the investigation into the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre. As a result of this investigation Mr E. O'Leary, who ran the Personal Responsibility and Organisation Development (PROD) program, was deported after 13 years residence in South Africa. His wife and child left with him.

Up to the interim reports all witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the Commission complied and gave evidence, despite their strong objections to the nature of this enquiry. But thereafter the Christian Institute and Spro-cas staff indicated that as a matter of conscience they would have to refuse to testify before the Commission. They would however appear before the Commission in order that they could explain their reasons for not testifying.

The following events lead up to the present situation:

- August 1973: Subpoenas served on various Spro-cas and SAIRR staff
20/8/73: Mrs Ilona Kleinschmidt, a member of the Spro-cas staff, appears before the Commission, but refuses to testify (the sub committee investigating the SAIRR
27/8/73: Mr Clive Nettleton and Mr Dudley Horner of SAIRR, and Mr Peter Randall of Spro-cas refuse to testify
15/9/73: Various CI and Spro-cas staff subpoenaed to appear before the Schlebusch Commission
17/9/73: Students prevent members of the sub committee headed by Mr L. le Grange from entering the building of the SAIRR. After 2 hours there in loco, inspection can proceed
19/9/73: Ilona Kleinschmidt appears in court having been charged under the Commissions Act. She is found guilty and sentenced to R50 or 25 days. An appeal is lodged
22/9/73: A man, apparently beserk, breaks into the house of the O'Leary's. The house is extensively damaged and most furniture is destroyed. A car is also extensively damaged.
24/9/73: Dr Beyers Naude, Director of the CI; Rev Brian Brown, Administrative Director of the CI; Rev Roelf Meyer,

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- 25/9/73: The passport of Dr B Maudé is seized at Jan Smuts airport
- 25/9/73: Five Security Policemen search the Spro-oas offices in connection with a dossier on NUSAS
- 26/9/73: Police visit Spro-oas offices again
- 26/9/73: Mr Neville Curtis (former Spro-oas staff member and now banned as a result of the Schlegbusch interim report) is told he no longer needs to appear before the Schlegbusch Commission
- Fr Clive McBride, Anglican priest in Factreton, CT who was to appear before the Commission investigating the SAIRR, is told a few weeks earlier, that he no longer needs to appear before the Commission. Fr McBride has said that he would refuse to testify.
- 27/9/73: Mrs Dot Clewlishaw, former CI and Spro-oas staff member, appears before the Schlegbusch Commission and refuses to testify
- 28/9/73: Mr James Moulder, former CI staff member and now lecturer at Rhodes University (Philosophy Department) refuses to testify when he appears before the Schlegbusch Commission
- 28/9/73: Two Security Policemen seize the financial books of the Christian Institute on the orders of the Schlegbusch Commission. The passport of Rev Brian Brown is seized
- 28/9/73: Mr E O'Leary of Wilgespruit is given a deportation order. He is an Irish national
- 2/10/73: Spro-oas is visited by the Security Police for the third time. The investigation pertains to the NUSAS dossier
- Rev Theo Kotze's passport is seized in Cape Town

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The case of De Roelf Meyer is postponed to 20 March 1974
The case of Rev Brian Brown is postponed to 22 March 1974
The case of Rev Davis van Zyl is postponed to 26 March 1974
The case of Rev Theo Kotze to continue on 20 February 1974

21/1/74:

Judgement in the case of Horet Kleinschmidt is set for this day but is postponed to February 5 when a further postponement may be announced

Clive Nettleton and Dudley Horner appear in court for contravening the Commissions Act. The State asks for a postponement until April 1 and 2. The postponement is granted

25/2/74:

The Supreme Court will hear the appeal in the case of Dr Beyers Naude

New charges laid against Dr CBP Naude, Rev Davis van Zyl and Mr Peter Randall

State versus Ravan Press

28/11/73:

Dr Naude, Rev van Zyl and Mr Randall are charged under the Suppression of Communism Act for allegedly publishing statements by the former NUSAS leader, now banned, Paul Pretorius (banned after the first interim Schlegel Report)

Background to this case:

November 1972:

NUSAS approaches Spro-oes to compile and issue a dossier which is to be handed to first year students during early 1973. The subject: The Student/Police clashes in Cape Town and Johannesburg during 1972. NUSAS supplies the news cuttings that are to be used. The dossier includes an editorial over the name of Paul Pretorius, NUSAS President

February 14, 1973:

Ravan Press complete the printing of the dossier and it is dispatched by Spro-oes to the University of Cape Town, Rhodes University in Grahamstown and the University of Natal, Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Personal deliveries are made to the University of the Witwatersrand and the
?/....Johannesburg College of Education

Johannesburg College of Education. This is all administered in some hurry as the Universities opened during the latter part of February and the dossier is to be handed to first year students when they arrive

February 27, 1973: Paul Pretorius and 7 other NUSAS leaders are banned following the Schlegbusch Commission's call for "urgent action" against them

February 27, 1973: Ravan prints a new editorial, stating that due to the bannings, the original has to be covered over. The new editorial is pasted over the original. The remainder of the order for UCT is dispatched.

July, 1973: UCT return 900 copies of the dossier which arrived too late for distribution. These are left unpacked in the Spro-cas offices and are subsequently removed during September by the police.

July 3, 1973: Apparently a purchase is made by a member of the Security Police of a copy of the dossiers at the Spro-cas offices

September, 1973: The police investigate this matter and search or visit the Spro-cas offices on three occasions.

On the 28th September 1973 charges are laid against the three directors of Ravan Press. The accused are to appear before the Johannesburg Regional Magistrate on the 15 January 1974. This is the same day that Randall has to appear in Pretoria under the Commissions Act. The case against Ravan Press and its directors is remanded to 28 February 1974, and a provisional warrant of arrest issued against Randall.

The charges are that the three accused recorded or reproduced the utterances of a banned person in that the dossier contained an editorial over the name of Paul Pretorius, and two newspaper cuttings in which he is purported to be quoted. The section 11(g) bis of the Suppression of Communism Act under which they are charged carries a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Possible Further Charges Against Ravan Press

5/1/74: The printer of Ravan Press, Mr Billy Lazarus, is served with a subpoena to answer questions in court about the publication of various Spro-cas posters. The subpoena is issued after the 8/...printer refused

printer refused to volunteer this information. It appears from the subpoena that possible charges against Ravan Press under the Publications and Entertainments Act (Section 5 1a) are being investigated. This section covers publications which are indecent, obscene or offensive, blasphemous, contemptuous of any section of the population, harmful to relations between the different races or prejudicial to the safety of the state.

22/1/74:

Security Police officials visit the Ravan Press offices asking for a list of employees. This is not given to them as the Directors of Ravan are away for consultations about their other charges.

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