

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICEANNUAL REPORT : FEBRUARY 1976 to JANUARY 1977.F I G U R E S .

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Working days : 238
 Average number of interviews per day : 19,95
 Cases successfully closed : 197 (108 men and 89 Women)
 (19% of new files opened)

There were 1035 New Cases	which involved 1,800	Interviews
do 916 Continuing Cases	do 1,424	do
do 1134 Inquiries	do 1,232	do
<u>TOTAL 3085</u>	<u>TOTAL 4,456</u>	

A N A L Y S I S .

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	228	72	300
Issue of Reference Books	144	40	184
Residential Permits	255	64	319
Housing	59	194	253
Work Permits	95	157	252
Section 10 Qualifications	86	52	138
Foreigners (excluding Transkeians)	46	49	95
Contract Worker Problems	12	116	128
Unemployment Insurance	22	47	69
Pensions	15	46	61
Transkei Citizens (from November 1976)	22	7	29
Miscellaneous	55	290	345
Arising from disturbances :	1	18	19

N.B. 163 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together which only represents those cases where the husband qualifies for permanent urban residence and does not include all the migrant workers who spend their working lives effectively separated from their families.

The above figures do not include the large number of inquiries received daily by telephone and by post.

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICEFIGURES FOR MAY 1976

Working days: 20

Average number of interviews per day : 20,3

Cases successfully closed : 13 (8 men and 5 women)

There were 94 New Cases	which involved 169	Interviews
do 89 Continuing Cases	do 121	do
do <u>111</u> Inquiries	do <u>116</u>	do
TOTAL <u>294</u>	TOTAL <u>406</u>	

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	21	6	27
Issue of Reference Books	12	-	12
Residential Permits	24	6	30
Housing	4	22	26
Work Permits	14	17	31
Section 10 Qualifications	4	6	10
Foreigners	6	3	9
Contract Worker's Problems	4	15	19
Unemployment Insurance	1	3	4
Pensions	-	3	3
Miscellaneous	4	30	34

N.B. 14 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.FIGURES FOR JUNE 1976.

Working days : 22
 Average number of interviews per day : 18,18
 Cases successfully closed : 17 (6 men and 11 women)

There were 91 New Cases which involved 169 Interviews
 do 88 Continuing Cases do 128 do
 do 95 Inquiries do 103 do
 TOTAL 274 TOTAL 400 do

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	23	5	28
Issue of Reference Books	11	2	13
Residential Permits	21	6	27
Housing	6	20	26
Work Permits	7	15	22
Section 10 Qualifications	11	1	12
Foreigners	8	4	12
Contract Worker's Problems	3	8	11
Unemployment Insurance	2	3	5
Pensions	2	4	6
Miscellaneous	1	26	27
Arising from disturbances	-	1	1
Transkei Citizens	1	-	1

N.B. 16 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.FIGURES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1976.

Working day : 44
 Average number of interviews per day : 11,86
 Cases successfully closed : 30 (21 men and 9 women)

There were 133 New Cases	which involved 210 Interviews
do 127 Continuing Cases	do 179 do
do 127 Inquiries	do 134 do
<u>TOTAL 386</u>	<u>TOTAL 523</u>

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	35	10	45
Issue of Reference Books	21	5	26
Residential Permits	36	7	43
Housing	6	11	17
Work Permits	9	23	32
Section 10 Qualifications	15	9	24
Foreigners	4	9	13
Contract Worker's Problems	-	16	16
Unemployment Insurance	1	5	6
Pensions	1	1	2
Transkei Citizens	-	-	
Miscellaneous	5	31	36

N.B. 23 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1976.

Working days : 40

Average number of interviews per day : 15,2

Cases successfully closed : 23 (11 men and 12 Women)

There were 146 New Cases	which involved 253 Interviews
There were 118 Continuing Cases	do 199 do
There were 148 Inquiries	do 159 do
<u>TOTAL 412</u>	<u>TOTAL 611</u>

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	38	18	56
Issue of Reference Books	24	4	28
Residential Permits	35	11	46
Housing	8	16	24
Work Permits	7	13	20
Section 10 Qualifications	12	11	23
Foreigners	5	5	10
Contract Worker's Problems	-	9	9
Unemployment Insurance	4	9	13
Pensions	3	11	14
Transkei Citizens	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	10	41	51

N.B. 29 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1976 ANDJANUARY 1977.

Working days : 49

Average number of interviews per day : 19,65

Cases successfully closed : 34 (23 men and 11 women)

There were 230 New Cases	which involved 340 Interviews
do 183 Continuing Cases	do 307 do
do 285 Inquiries	do 316 do
<u>TOTAL 698</u>	<u>TOTAL 963</u>

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>INQUIRIES</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Ordered to leave the area	35	18	53
Issue of Reference Books	44	16	60
Residential Permits	45	14	59
Housing	9	41	50
Work Permits	15	21	36
Section 10 Qualifications	15	17	32
Foreigners (excluding Transkeians)	10	10	20
Contract Worker Problems	1	31	32
Unemployment Insurance	11	15	26
Pensions	6	19	25
Transkei Citizens	22	6	28
Miscellaneous	17	77	94

N.B. 15 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.

THE BLACK SASH
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1977.
JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT : FEBRUARY 1976 to JANUARY 1977.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Pass Laws have much wider implications than the control of the movement and residence of black people in the prescribed areas. They can be used for the political control of the whole black population and give the police force the ability to arrest people for pass law offences when there is no other charge which can possibly be brought against them. 1976 was a year of civil insurrection and black political protest and it is interesting to compare the figures in Parliament for people tried and convicted in the Fordsburg Bantu Affairs Commissioner's Court in 1975 and in 1976. The 1975 figures are published in the Parliamentary questions in Hansard of 9th April 1976 and the 1976 figures in Hansard of 10th February 1977.

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Persons tried at the Fordsburg Bantu Commissioner's Court at Fordsburg for offences relating to influx control and identity documents :	20,110	30,011
Persons Convicted :	19,725	11,702
Average daily number of cases heard :	95	129

Roughly ten thousand more people were arrested and sent for trial in 1976 but eight thousand less were convicted than in 1975

The number of people coming to the office during the last year dropped to 3085 involving 4456 interviews compared to the previous year's total of 4147 people with 5873 interviews. This is almost certainly due to the June disturbances. In May there was an average number of interviews each day of 20,3. In July and August this figure dropped to 11,86. It has risen progressively again until in February 1977 (the figures are not reflected in this report) we are seeing between 30 and 40 people almost every day and sometimes more. This is depressing. We can only look forward hopefully to the day when the service we offer becomes redundant because people no longer have to comply with restrictions on their freedom of movement and when they are no longer subjected to the total deprivation of their basic rights.

DEPENALISING THE PASS LAWS OR DEPERSONALISING PEOPLE.

In January this year the Viljoen Commission of Inquiry into the Penal System recommended that serious consideration be given to depenalising the pass laws. What has been the Government's response?

Section 3 of the recently published Bantu Laws Amendment Bill reads :

Section 10 of the Bantu (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act, 1945, is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection :

"(4) Any person who contravenes any provision of this section, or who remains in any area for a purpose other than that for which permission so to remain has been granted to him shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction/---

on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred rand or in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine".

This greatly increases the penalties to be imposed on black people who remain in a prescribed area without permission.

What this Government says is strictly for overseas consumption. What it actually does is to impose ever greater restrictions and controls on the black majority.

On the 15th February 1977 Mr. Cruywegen, Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs said "Administration boards have come to stay and there is no question of their demise. The object remains efficient administration and sympathetic service to the public".

The following cases illustrate the sympathetic service offered to the public by the West Rand Administration Board.

MR. N.S.B. was the registered tenant of a house in Soweto. His first wife died and the Superintendent told him to marry again or lose his house. He married a woman from the Louis Trichardt district on 27th January 1975. Nine days later she was ordered to leave Johannesburg within 72 hours and the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner subsequently disallowed her appeal.

(We think back to the time when we were accused of cynicism because of our lukewarm attitude to Dr. Koornhof's statement when he was Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration that qualified men could bring their brides to live with them in the prescribed areas provided the men had accommodation).

MRS. P.E.N has a 15 year old child who was born in Roodepoort in 1961. She married in 1965 and came to Johannesburg when the child was four years old. In 1971 she tried to have the child's name enumerated on her house permit. She obtained the child's birth certificate and the necessary transfer from Roodepoort. The investigation dragged on for five years and in September 1976 she was finally refused permission to have the child to live with her. No one has told her where he is supposed to live and who is to look after him.

KUKI and her brother are both still at school. Their names are on their grandmother's residential permit but their first reference books, newly issued, are correctly in their mother's surname. This name is different to their grandmother's surname so the Superintendent refuses to endorse their Reference books with permits to be in Johannesburg and has told them to "go away".

MR. A.M is a paraplegic who qualifies to remain in Alexandra Township in terms of Section 10(1)(b). He is cared for by his two aunts but the Township Manager refuses to give them permission to live with him in Alexandra because they are both registered in Johannesburg employment.

DAVID is 18 years old. He was born in Johannesburg and lived with his mother, who is a domestic worker, on the premises of her employer until 1966 when she sent him to live with her brother at Paul Roux. In 1970 the police told him to get out of Paul Roux and to go back where he came from. He came back and stayed with another uncle in Soweto. He has been ordered to leave Johannesburg within 72 hours.

MR. M.E.L has a job in Johannesburg as a clerk. The Labour Officer refuses to register him in his employment because "there are too many clerks in the city" He has no rights in terms of Section 10 so he will have to leave his job and go back to his home area just another one of the unemployed thousands.

MR. M.M.M. is another man whose life is in ruins because of the migrant labour Regulations. He first came to Johannesburg in 1958 but before he had obtained a 10(1)(b) qualification he was forced into the annual contract system when the law was changed in 1968. His wife and all his relatives are legally in Johannesburg but he has been endorsed out several times. He is supposed to register as a workseeker in his home area in the Potgietersrus district but has no means of ensuring that he will be recruited for a job in Johannesburg again.

MISS. D.M.M/---

MISS. D.M.M came to Johannesburg in 1950. She was registered in work here from 1958 to 1965 then moved to a job in Randburg where she stayed until 1973. She came back to Johannesburg in that year, was refused registration and endorsed out in October 1976.

SONIA AND BUTIKI are brother and sister who live in the Krugersdorp district on the farm where their father works. They are both registered as workseekers at the District Labour Bureau. Everytime they find jobs in Krugersdorp they are refused registration and endorsed out. They have been told they can work only "on the farms".

MR. G. T. has also been ordered to do "farm labour only". He was born and brought up in Johannesburg and worked legally here until 1974 when he made the disastrous mistake of believing what the Government said about freedom of movement within one Administration Board Area. He accepted a job in a nursery in the non-prescribed area of Krugersdorp and is now refused permission to work in Johannesburg again.

HOUSING.

"Sympathetic service" and "efficient administration" are foreign concepts to the West Rand Board in this most crucial area of its responsibility.

For years the Black Sash has warned of the critical shortage of housing in Soweto and the inevitable effects of overcrowding and insecurity on the stability of an urban population. During the past year Building Societies, Industry and Commerce, Architectural Schools, opposition political parties and employers have expressed their desire to assist in the provision of housing and their grave anxiety about the present situation.

It is almost two years since the Government first announced that leasehold title to houses was to be restored to black people in urban areas but since that time almost nothing has been done. Worse, not only have Government and WRAB done nothing constructive themselves but they are standing immovably between those who wish to help and the homeless people who urgently need houses.

Consider the facts :

X The official waiting list of houses only represents families who qualify to rent a house. It does not include thousands of families who are not accepted on to the list because there is no male head or because the male head has no Section 10(1)(a) or (b) qualification.

X In 1975 the waiting list in Soweto was 17,225 families.

X At the beginning of 1976 the Minister of Bantu Administration said in Parliament that reliable information on the waiting list was not available.

X In 1975 only 761 houses were built in Soweto.

X But on 30th June 1976 WRAB said there were 9892 families on the primary waiting list.

X In 1976 WRAB built 596 houses.

X In January 1977 WRAB said there were 10739 families on the primary list and that there is another list of 10 000 families whose male head was not born in Johannesburg. If WRAB has decided to separate those families where the male head qualifies as 10(1)(a) from those who are 10(1)(b), as this statement seems to imply, it is a matter for serious concern. There is nothing in the Regulations which distinguishes between the two groups and for the Board to arbitrarily remove half the families to another and secondary list is a gross injustice.

X WRAB'S total budget for 1976-1977 was R57 778 600 48% of WRAB'S income is raised from rents or rates paid by residents.

X WRAB'S expenditure on housing in 1976 - 1977 was R750 000

X Of this R750 000 R550 000 has been spent on providing hostel beds and only R200 000 on family housing.

X "Next year, unfortunately, we will have virtually nothing to spend on housing" - Manie Mulder, Chairman of WRAB.

X WRAB says it cannot sell the 50,000 houses in Soweto which were built by the Department of Community Development.

- X Community Development says the Boards have been free to sell the houses since August 1976.
- X For Community Development houses the sale price is from R950.
- X For WRAB houses the sale price was from R1419.
- X In February 1977 WRAB suddenly increased the price of a 4 roomed house from R1419 to R2 160 and of a 4-roomed house with inside toilet from R22 95 to R4 160.
- X The following week WRAB suspended all house sales.
- X WRAB expects individual purchasers to pay the full price in cash before a house is sold to them.

This is WRAB'S miserable record of bungling, inefficiency and unconcern. The re-introduction of leasehold title has not made any contribution to reducing the backlog of housing needs. All that is happening is that a few "lucky" families have been able to purchase a few newly built houses and a few other families who can afford to pay the purchase price in cash have been enabled to buy an existing house. Where these houses are not bought by the resident tenant the luckless family who was renting the house swells the number - who have to live in a room in someone else's house as lodgers.

We fear that the leasehold system is actually aggravating the general insecurity because the Board seems only too delighted to make a quick profit by selling a house at the expense of a monthly tenant who may have fallen foul of the Regulations by committing a technical infringement like carelessly allowing his wife to die.

Mr. Mulder says his Board is "not entirely happy" with the situation. If Mr. Mulder and his senior officials were, even occasionally, to come into contact with the ordinary people whose lives they control they would perhaps be as entirely unhappy and dissatisfied as the people are.

MR. D. M. is a married man who has been living lawfully in his uncle's house with his wife and two children. His uncle is old, was ill and fell into arrears with the rent. Mr. M. paid the arrears in full but on 6th December the whole family was told to be out of the house by 8th January. Mr. M. wept as he told us he had tried to appeal but the Superintendent told him it was no good to go on complaining because the house had already been sold.

MR. S. N. has been ordered to vacate his house on the grounds that he is "not fulfilling the conditions" under which it was allotted to him. When he first ~~ent~~ the house he signed a paper to say that he would accommodate his uncle's widow. She is mentally confused and a drunkard and keeps leaving the house for weeks on end. They keep going after her to bring her back and are quite prepared to go on looking after her but, short of locking her up, they cannot force her to remain in the house.

MR. F. B. gave up his house in Meadowlands in May 1976 in order to take over his father's house in Orlando West. This was done with the full knowledge of both Superintendents but the Orlando one did not issue the necessary residential permit immediately, then came June 16th and the resulting confusion. The father has been ordered to vacate his house with the whole family.

MRS. Q'S husband died in April 1976. In November she was ordered to leave the house where she lives with her daughter and grandchild.

TWO SISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES lived in their deceased parents' house in Dobsonville. This house was bought by their father long before the leasehold system was abolished in 1968. In November they were ordered to vacate and were told by the Superintendent that the house had been sold by WRAB and the money sent to their father's male heirs. They claim that officials made no preliminary approaches to them and that the first they knew of it was when they were told to get out.

MISS. D.V.M. with her three minor children, her dead children's four minor children and her stepfather were all thrown out of her dead mother's house. She has lived in the same house all her life.

These are only a handful of the people who have come to the Advice Office to seek assistance with housing problems. Hundreds have come just to ask if we can do nothing to speed things up as they have been on the waiting list for five or six years, sometimes even seven years. Hundreds of others come because

they do not qualify to get on the list and have no way in which they can provide secure and permanent shelter for their families. To these must be added all those who cannot get registered in work because they have no accommodation, those who cannot get a reference book because they have never been on a residential permit because their families were never able to have a house, those who are endorsed out for the same reason and those who are unable to get permits to reside in the prescribed area, also because their families never had permanent accommodation. The housing regulations and the shortage of houses also affects people in a multitude of other ways, as in the case of MR. R. N. who has a medical certificate stating he is 100% disabled. He qualifies to be in Johannesburg in terms of Section 10(1)(b) but when he applied for a disability pension he was told he could'nt have one as long as he continued to live in a hostel. So he moved out of the hostel and was unable to find lodgings because he had no money to pay for a room and he could'nt apply for a pension until he had accommodation and a lodger's permit. When he came to us in October he was completely destitute and was living in outside lavatories at night.

Unless more houses are built on a vast scale the restoration of leasehold ownership will do little to ameliorate the overcrowding.

LAW OR ADMINISTRATION ?

However, it is essential to understand that even were the Administration Boards to be both efficient and sympathetic the pass laws remain unjust, immoral, and discriminatory and the ultimate responsibility rests fair and square on the shoulders of the Government.

Like everyone else after 16th June we were saying "nothing will ever be the same again" As far as the pass laws are concerned and the disabilities which they inflict on all black people things are just the same, if not worse. It is frightening, as well as depressing, that there are absolutely no indications of any Government intention to relax the Laws and Regulations which oppress the whole black population and any hopes that the pass laws will be abolished altogether, or even that they will be phased out, are as remote as they ever were. Nor will the planned independence of the homelands, even if it is accomplished as planned, miraculously do away with the existing oppression and with the restrictions on freedom of movement or freedom to enjoy even the most basic of human rights. It makes little difference whether a person's permit to be where he is is stamped in a passport or in a reference book but it does make a good deal of difference to that person that he will in future be regarded as a foreign guest worker in the country of his birth.

TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE.

The independence of Transkei has brought a variety of new problems to the Advice Office. People have come to us for assistance in fighting the enforced deprivation of their South African citizenship and in great anxiety about their future security as permanent residents in the urban areas of the Republic.

The implications of the Status of Transkei Act are so serious for all Xhosa speaking people and for many who are South Sotho and the legal questions are so involved that this is dealt with in a separate paper, a copy of which is attached.

It is necessary to stress that the urban people affected are furiously angry and totally reject the concept of being made to swap future full participation in a common society for citizenship of a remote homeland which many have never seen and in which they have no interest.

THE 1976 DISTURBANCES.

The true number of people who approached us for help with problems arising out of the disturbances is not reflected in the attached figures. Many queries came by telephone from affected people and from employers and these are not recorded.

Cases fall into roughly five categories :

- i) Those who say that they themselves or relatives have been injured or disabled during police action while going about their lawful business and who wished to sue for compensation.
- ii) Those whose relatives, most commonly teenage children, had disappeared and who wished assistance in trying to trace them and in establishing whether they had been arrested.

iii) Relatives of/---

- iii) Relatives of people who were killed requiring financial assistance to pay for funerals and for the support of dependents where the deceased had been a breadwinner.
- iv) People who were discharged from their jobs because they participated either willingly or because they were afraid to come to town in the work boycotts.
- v) People whose relatives have been detained in terms of Section 6 of the Terrorism Act or who have been arrested and charged and are requiring Legal Aid and financial support for dependents.

There have been so many human tragedies, like the 20 year old widow whose husband was shot dead on his way to work one morning and the father who came to us on 17th January to say that his 22 year old son had disappeared on 17th June and all his efforts to find him at the mortuary, hospitals, police stations and prisons have failed.

There have also been additional problems for some who were in the process of trying to establish rights to live and work in Johannesburg in June, whose carefully collected documentary proofs were destroyed in the burning of Administration Board offices.

Some of our cases illustrate the generation gap which has been a result, in some families, of the determination of the student group to win a better future for themselves and of natural anxiety of their parents for the immediate physical safety of their children. Young SETHEMBILE needs his first reference book and is required to go with his father to make the application. His father refuses to assist him in any way because he insists that his son must not remain in Johannesburg but must go to a school in Transkei. SETHEMBILE says he will not go back to school.

LEON is a Coloured person who was expelled from his school in the Cape for starting a Students' Representative Council in March 1976. He has his J.C. and has been admitted to a school in Johannesburg to study for his matric, but he has been asked to produce his J.C. Certificate. His father refuses to send it because he wants LEON to do military training.

The symptoms of a disrupted society and the chaotic conditions of life which characterised Soweto even before June have increased dramatically since the disturbances.

Soweto is in crisis and while the private sector has at last begun to act positively, the West Rand Administration Board and the Government do nothing which even remotely begins to be a sufficient response to the seriousness of the situation.

The political conflict involved is of course, the most important and must be resolved at national level but, at the local level, the Boards are responsible for social conditions and pass law enforcement and it is ridiculous that such far-reaching powers of administration should be given to non-elected bodies which in no way represent the people they control and which must be financially self-supporting.

THE CILLIE COMMISSION.

The Black Sash gave evidence to the Commission of Inquiry into the Riots based on the knowledge we have gained of the pass laws through the work of the Advice Office. Copies of the Memorandum may be obtained from our Johannesburg office.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

As the unemployment rate has risen we have become more and more involved in the administration and practical functioning of the Unemployment Insurance Act both of which leave much to be desired. Details of our work in this field are obtainable in a separate paper from the Johannesburg office.

BUREAUCRACY/---

BUREAUCRACY.

As we have said often before bureaucratic fumbblings continue to create unnecessary hardship for individuals. We wonder why it should take a man from February 1974 to January 1977 to have his tax place corrected in his reference book and his right to remain in Johannesburg in terms of Section 10(1)(a) recognised or why a young girl who was endorsed out of Alexandra with her widowed mother and dumped in Vendaland some years ago should last year have been refused issue of her first reference book in Vendaland because she was born in Alexandra - a place where she is not allowed to remain.

People continue to waste hours of time standing in queues only to be told to come back with another document and then, when they bring the one requested, being told to fetch something else. They continue to waste months waiting for the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner to inform them of his decision in their appeals. All these things are the consequences of an impossible system and it is the system which must go. Increased efficiency and cosmetic changes would make no difference to the essential injustices which are basic to the pass laws.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

A large number of the successfully closed cases owe their satisfactory outcome to the generous and dedicated work of our legal adviser. He never fails to devote time and attention to any person's problem when we have come to a dead end in the Administrative procedures and he is always ready to help and guide us. The figures for successful cases are not comprehensive because many people never return to tell us when they are given the required permission and we only close a file when we have definite information.

We have tried various ways to ensure that people can tell us when their cases are concluded but none has been very effective.

STAFF.

Our secretary, Margaret Kirk, has continued to be invaluable in her willing and self-sacrificing readiness to work long hours in impossible conditions. We were sorry to lose Henriette Moabi after many years of working together in the middle of last year, but we are delighted that she is now working as Director of a community centre in Soweto.

Mabel Makgebutlane, Thakane Pholosi and Ingrid Kekane have been recently joined by Larica Lepita and all of them have contributed ably to the work of the Advice Office. We could not function without them.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to Ethne Meyer, who sorts and indexes all the Government Gazettes thus ensuring that we do not miss the promulgation of new Laws and Regulations.

Lastly we express our gratitude to all those Black Sash members who give so much of their time and concern to working in the Advice Office. It is often depressing work and always complicated and exacting.

I apologise for the fact that regular Advice Office Reports have not been circulated this year. The pressure of events has been such that it has proved impossible to produce monthly or even two-monthly reports. We have concentrated on producing readily digestible information for people in need such as a pamphlet on how to get Unemployment Insurance Benefits, a circular on how to get Legal Aid, and another one on how to set about tracing missing people. We have also assisted other organisations who are trying to provide information and teaching for the black community on every facet of life in this particular modern technological society.

The Memorandum on the Pass Laws and Influx Control published in its third edition in 1974, is now out of print. It is our hope that we will be able to reproduce it during the coming year but extensive re-writing will be required in the light of Transkei independence and the proposed independence of Baphuta-tswana at the end of 1977.

SHEENA DUNCAN
ADVICE OFFICE DIRECTOR.