

BLACK UPROOTING AND RELOCATION

Resolution of the Twelfth National Conference of the South African Council of Churches, Hammanskraal May 1980

commended to member Churches and Christian organisations and to concerned people everywhere, for study, prayer and appropriate action

The 1980 National Conference of the South African Council of Churches:

- 1 draws the attention of all local parishes and congregations to the July 1979 Hammanskraal conference resolution regarding the national crisis resulting from -
 - a dispossession of land when people are compulsorily removed and resettled in or near Bantustans;
 - b the government policy, illustrated in the Riekert Report, of deepening the division between urban and rural people and according privileges to a few at the expense of the many;
 - c the policy of removing South African citizenship from all blacks;
 - d economic and social policies which have reduced tens of thousands of people to extreme poverty, hunger to the point of starvation, and hopelessness; and have destroyed the fabric of both family and community life for the larger part of South Africa's people.
- 2 endorses the September 1979 resolution of the SACC National Executive concerning Justice for the Rural Poor

JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL POOR

Removal and 'resettlement'

While welcoming the de-racialising of the urban industrial 'core' and recognition of urban blacks, we must affirm that concessions do not compensate for the removal of South African citizenship from virtually all South African blacks and the more stringent exclusion from town of those who do not possess section 10 rights.

A huge majority of blacks constitute the rural poor, cut off from access to the common wealth built up by the people of South Africa during a century of mineral and industrial development; bearing too large a share of poverty and unemployment endemic in South Africa; their conditions aggravated by the continuing removal of one million blacks from 'white' areas to 'resettlement' areas in or alongside overpopulated 'homelands' in which people are already starving.

We reject 'constellations' that benefit the few at the cost of the many, and will go on working for economic justice and full human rights for all people in a unitary South Africa.

Church Responsibility

The Church of Jesus Christ, as a fellowship spanning all sectors of the South African population and binding them together in the bond of God's healing love, has a special opportunity and duty to care for the rural poor.

Therefore/..