## Indicator

## **Publications Control**

We reproduce below some of the reasons given by the Office of the Directorate of Publications for banning a pamphlet, and a publication.

The pamphlet, entitled <u>WHAT'S ON IN MODDERDAM</u> dealt with the destruction of the squatter camp at Modderdam Road, and in view of the massive criticism levelled at the State for its handling of the squatter issue in the Western Cape, it is interesting to note the total vindication of those actions by the Director of Publications.

- "1. The publication is issued by the Communities Commission of the UCT. It is in English and Xhosa, and is apparently intended for the students at UCT who are being subjected to this provocative type of language; as well as for the Xhosa and Coloured squatters who are illegally occupying a site at Modderdam.
- 2. The position at Modderdam is a delicate one, with the authorities doing their best to find an equitable solution. A pamphlet such as this only serves to inflame passions and hamper the government's task. Squatters are not a problem which is unique to South Africa. At present there are hundreds of thousands of squatters in the favellas of Rio de Janiero, in Lagos, Nigeria and in socialist Lisbon while every big Indian city has its shanty towns. To blame the existence of the camp solely on the authorities is to aggravate bitterness and frustration. The squatters are occupying the site illegally, and the government is acting within the law in trying to find alternative accommodation, and in returning illegal entrants to the homelands.

  3. Section 47 (2) (e): (a). The police are accused of calling the squatters thieves and murderers. There are no grounds for such an accusation, and the police realise that there are very many decent families at Modderdam.
- (b). The squatters are wrongly alleged to have been victima of the June 1976 attempts by the police to quell the disturbances started by agitators.
- (c). In the last paragraph the dangerous impression is created that the Government has bowed to pressure of persons breaking the law. Should the Government attempt to uphold and enforce the law, the pamphlet says that "we" would fully support the squatters.
- (d). The "we" are apparently the still immature youngsters at University. A pamphlet such as this can lead them to support the squatters actively in person, with the possibility of a confrontation with the police which could be disasterous for all concerned. Modderdam is not far from UCT. The persons putting out the pamphlet have acted irresponsibly. The pamphlet is prejudicial to the peace and good order under section 47 (2) (e).

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The publication found to be undesirable was <u>JUSTICE IN SA, INJUSTICE SA</u>.
The report by the Committee begins in Afrikaans, and switches to English midway. A note states that

"The chairman apologises for having switched languages in this report. It was done quite involuntarily, even absent-mindedly."

The nature of the report makes one wonder whether it was the change of language, or the report itself, to which the 'it' above refers. Extracts from the report are reproduced below.

- "1. Die publikasie word uitgegee deur die Students for Social Democracy, 'n radikale, ver-linkse sosialistiese student-organisasie aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad. In die uitgawe van 'Z', 'n publikasie van die SSD, van September 1976, word die siening gehuldig dat onluste sal voortduur selfs al word alle rassediskriminasie afgeskaf, want dan sal Wit en Swart nog nie gelyk wees nie en 'a more strictly economic based reason for rioting would exist'. As 'revolution' vir 'rioting' in hierdie sin sou vervang, is dit suiwer Marxisme.
- 2. Hierdie uitgawe gee voor om die polisie- en regstelsel in Suid-Afrika as arbitrer en wreed voor te stel, na aanleiding van sterfgevalle en beweerde aanrandings van persone wat deur die polisie aangehou word. Die blote opstel van 'n lys gevalle van beweerde aanrandings, is per se nie ongewens nie. Wat wel ongewens is, is wanneer voorgegee word dat marteling staatsbeleid is, en niks gedoen word om dit te verhoed nie. Dit is hier waar die publikasie o.a. die wet oortree. Voorbeelde volg.
- 3. .....(a). Die titel op die voorblad verbind geregtigheid in SA met ongeregtigheid.

- (e)......Op p.2 onderaan word die oordrewe stelling gemaak that 'Literally hundreds of allegations of torture have remained unanswered by the security police.' Die stelling word op p.7 herhaal 'Allegations of torture have been left unchallenged by those responsible' en dit word sonder meer aanvaar dat die polisie verantwoordelik was. Die volgende bewering op p.3 is

evidence' as is done on p.2 is an exaggeration. Such remarks are calculated to undermine the peace and good order and bring the administration of justice into contempt.........

- 4. The committee is of the opinion that it is not without significance that half the pages in the publication are taken up with only three trials, in each of which a militant or subversive organisation features prominently. In two of them the ANC is in the limelight and the reasonably careful documentation in these cases leaves the reader with the impression that the compilers are showing their approval of the criminal acts of ANC members. As regards the 'Comrades' of Cape Town's Black areas, the name of the organisation should give some indication of its nature and aims, despite the documents disclaimer. Justification for arson is sought in the sentence 'The explicit action of several Comrades in the burning of schools, rather than being the working of twisted logic, as the magistrate seemed to assume, may be regarded as a total rejection of Bantu Education, which, in its essence, serves to reinforce political injustice and political exploitation in this country.'...... 6. The factors indicated above make the publication prejudicial to the general welfare and the peace and good order and, insofar as they undermine and subvert the security of the State, also prejudicial to the safety of the Republic under section 47 (2) (e).
- 7. The publication is radically undesirable. From the introduction on p.1 it is clear that it is intended to serve a wider purpose than that of ordinary reading matter. It is intended and calculated to convince the reader that the police system is corrupt, and that torture is state policy. Unsophisticated students reading it may well be persuaded that the contents reflect the truth. and be led through it into support for subversive and revolutionary actions. The publication refers to itself as a 'document', indicating that one of its presumed purposes is to serve as a detailed record of torture to which persons seeking information can constantly have recourse. These aggravating factors have caused the Committee to decide that the possession of the publication should also be prohibited under section 9 (3).
- 8. A further aggravating factor is that the publication can be readily distributed in the Black townships."