

326
PRESS - 1988

~~APRIL - MAY~~

APRIL - MAY

INDUSTRIAL AID CENTRE*

Address: Room 312, Trevor Building, Voortrekker Street, Vereeniging 1930

Phone:

(016) 22 1700

Vice-Chairman:

B.M. Sechaba

General Secretary:

Esau Ralitsele

Membership and Constituency:

Has a membership of people who cannot join trade unions.

Aims and Objectives:

Helps industrial and domestic workers with their problems.
Helps people who have influx control problems draft their affidavits.
Helps to initiate community projects.
Educates workers about their rights by running seminars.

Facilities and Resources:

Library: Yes, small library with diverse material relating to trade unionism and labour legislation.
Training Materials: Prepares educational materials on matters of interest to workers and carries out research on agreed matters of interest to workers.

Current Programme:

Educating workers about their rights by running seminars.

zine, *Cover*, in early May, aimed at the insurance industry

Insurance has spawned another new magazine, tentatively called *Insurance Times*, which will circulate to consumers. Produced by Datawrite Publishing and making use of new desktop technology, the magazine will be initially distributed through insurance companies to clients.

All this activity underlines recent market research into special-interest publishing indicating that SA, traditionally a large consumer of magazines, can support more titles if they are directed at clearly defined market sectors.

Advertisers and ad agencies, who welcome the surge in publications, say the strength of a magazine lies in its selectivity. They feel there is more potential than has yet been recognised in minority groups, whose lifestyles could be profitably exploited. ■

PUBLISHING

It's a mag world

A surge of activity in the magazine sector of the publishing industry looks set to continue well into the second half of the year.

Both major English newspaper groups are launching new magazines and at least two new independents are launching special-interest publications.

Times Media Limited (TML) produces its new glossy monthly business magazine *The Executive* in June. Modelled on America's *Fortune* and Britain's *Business*, it will contain in-depth analytical articles and is aimed at middle and upper management.

Argus comes out about the same time with a colour magazine in *The Sunday Star*, to compete directly with the opposition *Sunday Times Magazine*.

Penrose Holdings, which listed late last year, has formed a publishing division and has just launched the first of its new ventures — a colour glossy magazine, *Career Secretary*.

Editor Ana-Marie Valente says initial circulation will be 20 000 nationally, but that research has shown a potential market of 76 000-160 000 "depending on your definition of the position of secretary."

Penrose will launch a second colour maga-

Magazines ... plenty of scope for more



The National Party's Ideas of March in the recent by-elections culminating in the shattering defeat at Randfontein has sparked unprecedentedly sharp criticism in the Afrikaans press

In an editorial Beeld said bluntly that the CP's victories were due less to its achievements than to the rejection by Nationalists of their own party. How else asked Beeld could the huge majority at Randfontein be explained?

The reason for this rejection Beeld believed lay in the overall administration of the country and more especially the financial burden that an enormously expensive and top-heavy government structure placed on taxpayers' shoulders.

Beeld's own recent complaints on this score had drawn much public support, it said. But there had been no reaction from the government's side. The fact was that the government took little or no notice of the ordinary person's views. Its attitude was that it knew best and did not need to justify or explain its actions.

This image of self-satisfaction is fed by the excessive publicity that TV especially during the past year has been bestowing night after night on NP leaders. This has become too great for flesh and blood to bear and totally counter-productive.

Beeld's political columnist Lood underpinned the editorial with a blistering list of the "children" spawned

D/D 5/4/88

Reasons for the Randfontein defeat ⁽²⁴³⁾

JAMES McCLURG takes his weekly look at the Afrikaans Press

by the government. These included too much administration which saps the country's life blood, inflation, declining salaries and layer upon layer of government that made the ordinary person want to shout "stop the world I want to get off".

The NP said Lood had been in power so long that a charge sheet had accumulated against it. He described the succession of by-election defeats as the party's Ideas of March and spoke of emergency management without any marked evidence of a political vision.

In a milder but nevertheless critical comment Die Burger attributed the defeat at Randfontein to the low intensity of the NP's campaign. If the NP wanted peace to triumph in SA it must not be half-hearted in presenting its principles.

Commenting on the State President's decision to halt the murder trial of six soldiers in Windhoek, Beeld ascribed the protests of some legal experts — "the usual little bunch" — to their political aversion to the Government

But Beeld said the Government itself provided the ammunition these people used simply by neglecting or even refusing to inform the public about exceptional drastic actions like that taken in the case of the Windhoek Six.

This was not the first time such action had been taken under Article 103 of the Defence Act but that did not mean that the public should be left entirely in the dark.

Beeld said it had tried several times to obtain more information on the matter, but in vain. The Government ought as a matter of urgency, to take the public into its confidence.

Dawie political columnist of the Nasionale group has been looking at ways in which the Government might seek to escape out of its present dead end on the National Council it has proposed for political participation by blacks.

If black leaders persisted in rejecting formal negotiations, said Dawie, the Government might choose another option, even if this was

on a limited scale.

One such possibility is that the Government could continue to talk to those black leaders who are available for private discussions and eventually appoint some of them to executive positions.

"According to this theory, the Government would then be presented with an opportunity through its actions, including the co-option of blacks to make progress towards formal negotiations.

Dawie admitted that it would be difficult to gain legitimacy for such a step. "But a start has to be made somewhere. In this way at least a foundation could be laid.

Seven young Afrikaners

have given their views on post-apartheid South Africa in a book compiled by academics from Unisa and the University of Stellenbosch.

According to Freek Swart in Die Burger these young people have finally abandoned a racial approach to South Africa's problems without in the process forsaking their critical solidarity with fellow Afrikaners.

They believe that whites are increasingly coming to realise that the denial of political power to the black community is not only immoral but solidifies a black resistance that can no longer be ignored.

But these same whites are not prepared to see power shared in such a way that whites or more specifically Afrikaners lose control. The inevitable result is a radicalising of black resistance politics.

It is imperative, say the seven, that this contradiction in the whites' conception of power sharing be not only identified and acknowledged but also abandoned.

Paper gets second notice from Govt

A CAPE Town-based community newspaper, *South*, may be facing a three-month ban after it received a second notice from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, this week.

South is the second newspaper in South Africa to receive such a warning after the closure of the Roman Catholic Church weekly publication, *New Nation* whose editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, has been in detention for more than 470 days.

The threat comes after the Deputy Minister of Information Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, warned that more publications were being investigated.

Editor

The editor of *South*, Mr Rashid Seria said they received a second notice from the Minister on Tuesday morning. This followed a gazetted warning to the newspaper in December last year.

"We see this as an orchestrated attempt by the State to silence all dissenting voices. Our second warning follows the three-month ban imposed on *New Nation* and the restriction of several community organisations and individuals.

"Knowing full well that we may be banned we pledge ourselves to continue to report the news faithfully and responsibly. As a newspaper which believes the people have a right to know we can do no other.

He said the newspaper was consulting with its lawyers and would decide on how to further respond to the Minister.

Assault

The president of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa Mrs Sandra Nagfaal, yesterday said "We believe that the assault on *South* is an assault on press freedom."

She called on all people committed to the liberation of the country to stand by *South* in its hour of crisis.

The *Sowetan* has strongly protested against the action and said "An attack on one newspaper is not only an attack on all other papers, but diminishes the civil liberties of all the people of the country."

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Don't belittle SAP PW tells public, media

PRETORIA — The State President, Mr P W Botha, called on the public and media yesterday not to belittle the South African Police because discord could only weaken the force (234)

Addressing a parade here to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the police, Mr Botha said it was important that the security forces be united in their action — and equally important that the public be united in supporting the security forces

"No security service could perform its important task with confidence if discord and fragmentation prevail among the people they serve

"I wish to make an urgent appeal to all South Africans, the media, and members of the international media in particular, to refrain from so often casting suspicion on and belittling the actions of the South African Police" (243)

The SAP was not perfect, just as no human being was perfect, Mr Botha said

He added that the police were the first line of defence against the evil of international terrorism which afflicted large regions of the world

The ANC used violence to promote its aims and had devoted itself to cruel and callous outrages, he said. Adding that the murder of innocent people was an attempt to intimidate the masses into accepting a marxist system

"The recent car bomb in Krugersdorp is still fresh in our memories and a telling example of this"

Mr Botha presented 75th anniversary festival medals to several police generals, including the Commissioner of Police, General Hennie de Witt, and four police students representing the force's white, "coloured", Asian and black members —

Sapa

By THE EDITOR

South (243)
A CONSPIRACY of silence engineered and directed by the Nationalist government is slowly but surely gaining hold in our country.

SOUTH has refused to compromise the truth. But to the apartheid regime telling the truth is a crime. Especially if it involves exposing the evils of apartheid exploitation and brutal repression.

And for this reason we may soon be banned, becoming the second paper after New Nation to be shut down.

Last week we received from Home Affairs minister Stoffel Botha a final warning threatening closure of the paper. Botha claims we have systematically and repeatedly published material which promotes the banned African National Congress, legitimises violence, stirs up hatred against security force members, and brings the judicial order into disrepute.

Victims of apartheid

We reject these allegations. We know that nothing is further from the truth. Through its policy of illegalising normal and accepted practices, the Pretoria government is now preparing a case to shut another newspaper.

It is not SOUTH but the government's apartheid policies which have not only legitimised but also led to violence becoming a daily feature of life in our country.

It is the hundreds of thousands of people at events like funerals of victims of apartheid, who have through songs, flags, banners, and T-shirts, reduced the banning of the ANC to a de jure rather than a de facto measure. And this is something the all-powerful Nationalist government cannot accept.

With the latest restrictions placed on 18 organisations and unwarranted attacks on the church and its leaders, the government is in fact provoking a shift to violence by shutting avenues of non-violent

Your move, Stoffel

THE trustees of SOUTH, at a special meeting called to consider the latest warning of the Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha, reaffirmed their response to the first warning against our newspaper, issued in December last year.

At that time the trustees said in an open letter to Botha:

"It is true that your government is a white minority government which does not represent the majority in South Africa. It is true that South Africa is a racist oppressive society that needs to be fundamentally changed. It is true that our people are engaged in a struggle for freedom, justice and human dignity. It is true that the ANC is a force to be reckoned with.

"These are basic truths, Mr Minister, that SOUTH did not create, but that SOUTH must report to be true to itself."

The chairperson of SOUTH's trustees, Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, said this week: "We can do no other than reaffirm this stance.

"This newspaper has an obligation

to report the news of the day in a responsible manner. The editorial staff has done this with restraint and courage. We pledge our support to the Editor and his staff and again stress the need for SOUTH to address the political issues of our time fearlessly and without allowing itself to be intimidated by a Minister who is determined to silence all media that refuses to submit to his dictates.

SOUTH can do no other than inform its readers of the news which the government is determined to suppress."

Villa-Vicencio said Botha had already acted against the New Nation and there was "little doubt" that sooner or later he would act in a similar way against SOUTH.

"This newspaper will not, however, do his work for him.

"SOUTH will continue to report what the oppressed people have a right to know. It will not censor or restrain itself beyond what is already imposed on it by law. The initiative is now with the Minister," he said.

protest.

And it is the unsavoury task of defending apartheid that has stirred up hatred towards the security forces.

The banning of the New Nation and the impending closure of SOUTH and the swiftness with which the gentle executioner Stoffel Botha has acted, is designed to instill terror in the minds of newspaper proprietors and editors.

Now it is left to be seen how many proprietors, editors or journalists, or foreign correspondents for that matter, will raise their voices in protest or remain silent and be guilty of being a party to this conspiracy of silence.

Let us recall the words of Pastor Pieter Niemoller describing how the Nazis gained power:

"I stayed silent - and when (at last) they came for me, there was no one left to protest."

• See pages 2 & 7

STOFFEL BOTHA'S CLAIM THAT
THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE
GOVERNMENT WANTING TO
CONTROL WHAT PEOPLE MAY KNOW
IS ONCE MORE REVERSED BY HIS
LATEST THREAT TO SOUTH.

THE FAILURE OF THE STATE TO CHARGE OR
RELEASE OUR EDITOR ZWELAKHE SISULU
WHO HAS BEEN IN DETENTION FOR MORE
THAN 15 MONTHS ALSO DISPROVES THE
GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM TO DEMOCRATIC
RULE.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE REFUSAL OF
NEWSPAPERS LIKE SOUTH AND NEW NATION
TO BE PART OF A SILENT CONSPIRACY
AGAINST THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY
APARTHEID AMONG THE VOTELESS
MAJORITY, IS THE CAUSE OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S ACTION AGAINST US.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PAINFUL
SILENCE ENFORCED ON THE COUNTRY'S
VOTELESS MAJORITY WILL NEVER SOLVE
THE PRESENT CRISIS FACING THE
GOVERNMENT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS
PUBLISHING COMPANY AND NEW NATION
STAFF COMMEND THE RELENTLESS EFFORT
AND COURAGE OF SOUTH TOWARDS
BUILDING A NEW SOUTH AFRICA.

New
Nation

used page

The Sovietan newspaper takes this opportunity to place its support squarely behind SOUTH newspaper and its journalists who face the prospect of imminent closure by the government.

SOUTH is the second newspaper after New Nation which may be closed for three months by a government that has become desperate in its attempt to muzzle and finally control the press.

We protest strongly against this action, for an attack on one newspaper is not only an attack on all other papers, but diminishes the civil liberties of all the people of the country.

There is no doubt that after the second warning to SOUTH every other news media in the country, which fights for the right of freedom-loving people to get information on the country's events, is under serious threat.

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Sunk
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7-413/4/88

THE Government has warned SOUTH that it is considering taking action in terms of the Emergency Regulations against the paper for publishing subversive statements

In a letter hand-delivered to our offices last Thursday, the Minister of Home Affairs and Communications, Mr Stoffel Botha, accused SOUTH of promoting the "public image or esteem of inter alia the ANC and the PAC which are unlawful organisations in terms of the regulations"

This warning follows the gazetting of SOUTH'S first warning in December last year

The regulations, as amended in August 28 last year, allows the Minister to take "action" against any newspaper if in "his opinion" it contravenes the regulations

Lawyers acting for SOUTH have two weeks to make representations to the Minister. At the end of that period the Minister may gazette the warning

This will allow the Minister the option of either closing SOUTH for three months, or subjecting the newspaper to pre-publication censorship

The second warning to SOUTH follows the three-month banning imposed on New Nation last month

In last week's letter the Minister said he had studied three editions of SOUTH, 3-9 March 1988, 10-16 March 1988 and 17-23 March 1988

The following is an annexure to his letter.

(a) The article by the editor of SOUTH under the heading "Why the UDF can't be banned" in the issue of 3-9 March 1988 promotes the public image or esteem of an unlawful organisation to wit the ANC by giving positive publicity to this unlawful organisation

(b) The same article ("Why the UDF can't be banned") promotes or fans revolution or uprisings in the Republic by publicising the legitimatisation of the use of violence

(c) On the same page in the same issue 3-9 March 1988 the advert by the Cape Teachers' Professional Association stirs up or foments feelings of hatred or hostility in members of the public towards a security force by creating the impression that "there

Bid to ban SOUTH



Stoffel Botha

is no end to the brutality being meted out to children", that indiscriminate "shooting" of people is a normal activity of the police force and that police action in the course of their duty is condemnable

(d) The statement under the heading "Defiant spirit will not be curbed" in the issue 10-16 March 1988 promotes the public image or esteem of an unlawful organisation in so far as the ANC, also a self-confessed revolutionary organisation, is allowed to use your publication for its own propagandistic statement

(e) The report under the heading "Lift the curbs — clergy petition Vlok" in the issue 17-23 March 1988 promotes the public image or esteem of an unlawful organisation by depicting imprisoned leaders of the unlawful revolutionary ANC in a positive light inter alia by comparing them with Jesus Christ

(f) The report under the heading "Govt 'threat to safety'" in the same issue 17-23 March 1988 further promotes the public image

or esteem of an unlawful organisation to wit the ANC by projecting this revolutionary organisation in a positive light.

(g) The article "Double date with sorrow", in the issue 17-23 March 1988 promotes the public image or esteem of unlawful organisations to wit the ANC and PAC by creating the impression that the people (as opposed to a faction) of Sharpeville and sister townships still regard these unlawful organisations as "their voices"

(h) This same article ("Double date with sorrow") stirs up or foments feelings of hatred or hostility in members of the public towards the security forces by putting the security forces only in a negative historical perspective

(i) The advert by the United Women's Congress (p 5) in the same issue 17-23 March 1988 brings into disrepute the existing judicial order which is a mainstay of the public order, by attempting to create the impression that the woman to be hanged was unjustly (sic) sentenced to death merely because of her po-

litical opposition to the Government and not because of the fact that she was convicted and sentenced to death by an independent court of law for having participated in a violent capital offence

(j) Similarly the article under the heading "Over 40 on death row for political reasons" in the same issue 17-23 March 1988 brings into disrepute the existing judicial order which is a mainstay of the public order, by inter alia claiming that "(T)o remain silent make each of us a party to each judicial killing"

(k) The report under the heading "Govt is putting violence on agenda" in the issue 17-23 March 1988 promotes or fans revolution or uprisings in the Republic by publicising legitimatising comment on the use of violence

(l) The letter under the heading "Liberals at the forefront" in the issue 17-23 March 1988 promotes the public image or esteem of unlawful organisations to wit the ANC and PAC by giving positive publicity to these unlawful organisations

(m) The article under the heading "Who's who' changed her life" further promotes the public image or esteem of an unlawful organisation to wit the ANC by giving positive publicity to leaders (symbols) of this organisation

The Minister's letter ends with a special note "The reports in the issues referred to above are also subject to being considered jointly by me and with due regard being had to the cumulative effect thereof, in the process of ascertaining that they constitute a systematic or repeated publishing of matter or a systematic or repeated publishing of matter in a way which has or is calculated to have the effect contemplated by paragraph (a) of regulation 7A(1) and whether the said effect such systematic or repeated publishing has or is calculated to have, is causing a threat to the safety of the public or to the maintenance of public order or is causing a delay in the termination of the state of emergency as contemplated by regulation 7A(3)

Perpetual challenge of a free press

DID
2/4/88

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From Israel to Panama, from China to South Africa, journalists are facing official restrictions and sometimes physical violence as governments decide that a free press can be bad for their health

The problem is as old as the press itself, but has been highlighted in recent weeks by a series of incidents across the world in which authorities have tried to block media coverage, mostly of civil strife

The Israeli government clamped a three-day ban on coverage of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because of Palestinian demonstrations there to mark "Land Day"

In Panama City, police burst into a hotel and temporarily arrested at least 20 journalists who were about to attend a press conference by the opposition Civic Crusade

In China and the Soviet Union, authorities have this month barred foreign reporters from visiting areas of ethnic unrest, while in South Africa a 21-month-old state of emergency has stifled coverage of black protests

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists reported that last year 26 journalists were killed in 10 countries, including 11

Patrick Worsnip: London

in the Philippines, where government forces are fighting communist insurgents

The report said 59 others were assaulted and more than 185 arrested or kidnapped in nearly 600 incidents of press abuse. Both government and opposition forces were blamed

The power of the press, and especially television, to sway public opinion has made it a major factor in politics despite many journalists' claims to be neutral observers. Some military men believe the media can help to win or lose wars

The South African government considers its media clampdown has been decisive in quelling unrest in the black townships. The moral has not been lost on other governments even though most, including Israel, reject comparisons with South Africa

The Committee to Protect Journalists, a non-profit-making group founded by American journalists, says "To those who misuse power, or who try to gain or cling to power through force, a free press represents a perpetual challenge"

Actions against jour-

nalists tend to attract attention in countries which boast of liberal traditions. But in dozens of others the domestic media are under total state control and foreign journalists operate under tight restrictions, when they are allowed to operate at all

The Israeli news blackout on the occupied territories, the latest of a series of moves hampering coverage of the Palestinian uprising there, has aroused protests from the Foreign Press Association and criticism by Israeli journalists

Ari Rath, editor of the English-language Jerusalem Post, said "This is really going to harm Israel's image even more. People will draw parallels more and more with South Africa"

In Panama, after police had seized the film of photographers and cameramen and later accused reporters of collusion with the opposition, the military-backed government sought to apologise and blame their maltreatment on the confused situation

The two communist giants, the Soviet Union and China, have pursued similar policies of obstructing the media in

the face of unrest in outlying regions

Following demonstrations in Armenia last month and bloody ethnic clashes in neighbouring Azerbaijan, the Soviet authorities banned foreign reporters from travelling to either republic

China ordered foreign correspondents out of Tibet after anti-Chinese riots broke out there last October

Britain, which sees itself as a bastion of free speech, has not barred journalists from troubled Northern Ireland, but recently it forced the country's two main television networks to give police untransmitted film of two British soldiers being lynched by a mob

Independent Television News said Northern Ireland police invoked anti-terrorist regulations to obtain the footage and the British Broadcasting Corporation handed over the material after a news editor was threatened with arrest

The networks had opposed handing over the film of the March 19 incident because they feared for the safety of their crews — Sapa-RNS

THE MEDIA WORKER'S
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH
AFRICA, AN AFFILIATE OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE
UNIONS, PLEDGES THE SUPPORT
OF ALL ITS MEMBERS AND
WORKERS IN THE MEDIA
INDUSTRY TO SOUTH IN YOUR
HOUR OF CRISIS.

WE BELIEVE THE ASSAULT ON
SOUTH IS AN ASSAULT ON
PRESS FREEDOM. WE BELIEVE
AN ASSAULT ON PRESS
FREEDOM IS AN ASSAULT ON
THE DIGNITY OF MAN —
WHATEVER LITTLE OF IT IS STILL
LEFT IN THIS COUNTRY.

MWASA CALLS ON ALL
COMMITTED TO THE
LIBERATION OF OUR LAND, ON
ALL WHO BELIEVE IN THE
INDIVISIBILITY OF FREEDOM TO
LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN
AN EFFORT TO STOP THE
GOVERNMENT FROM SILENCING
THE VOICES OF THE OPPRESSED.

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
MWASA

Reports on Six 'shocking'

ACTING Chief Justice P J Rabie yesterday criticised local and international media reports on the "Sharpeville Six" as shocking and disgraceful.

Speaking at the opening of the National Bar Conference in Cape Town, he said untrue and scandalous allegations were increasingly appearing in newspapers and other publications.

Rabie said anyone who knew anything of SA's judicial system would reject certain remarks about it with scorn.

He quoted a London Times article that referred to the Sharpeville Six as "vic-

b/don HELEN CHAPPEL *243*

tims of a disgraceful piece of legal chicanery"

The article said "Such a judicial system hardly deserves the name. It is little more than a charade designed to deter and intimidate — terror tailored to the purposes of the State"

Certain local newspapers had published similar comment on the case, quoting a Wits University professor as

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Sharpeville Six reports shocking — Rabie

saying "The Appeal Court has widened the doctrines of criminal liability in response to evidence of township revolt"

In addition, a report by the US government on human rights issues alleged that hearings involving security legislation were sometimes held in inaccessible places to make it difficult for journalists and observers to attend

Similarly it was stated that the SA government attempted to ensure important cases involving security legislation were heard only by certain judges

Rabie said one could only surmise South Africans — and others who knew better — would hold such unfounded and scandalous allegations concerning the legal system in contempt

He also warned the legal profession to guard against bringing about changes which could lead to a lowering of stan-

b/don ← • From Page *243*
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dards
"And let no one say SA is a Third-World country and that we must, therefore, even if only to a certain extent, accept a lowering of standards. Damage caused in such a way cannot be rectified"

Before weighing up any fundamental changes to the legal system, there should first be a thorough study and consideration of the whole matter, he said

The topic related to a system which had been in existence for many years and the importance of the issue demanded calm, diligent consideration

Rabie said this was in the interests of the advocates' profession, attorneys' profession, the Bench and the public

PRESS BUILDING

Getting together

The merged publishing interests of the Argus and Robinson groups in Durban are to acquire a new headquarters

The company's titles include the *Natal Mercury* morning newspaper, the afternoon *Daily News* and the *Sunday Tribune*

Planning of the three-storey, 19 100 m² building on a 1,76 ha site, already purchased in Block AK near the Greyville racecourse, is now at an advanced stage, according to Natal Newspapers MD, Ed Booth

However, work on the new property will only begin once the existing *Daily News* building, owned by the Argus group, is sold. The asking price is "in excess of R15m" and Booth is confident that a deal will be struck before the year's end. This would put projected completion of the new building towards the end of 1989.

Meanwhile, the Board of Executors and Ovland have bought the five-storey CBD building housing the *Mercury* for R3,5m. Robinson group chairman Athol Campbell says the new owners will take over the existing lease held by Natal Newspapers ■

Buthelezi swipes at 'alternative rags'

DAYS after its silencing by the state, the *New Nation* has been attacked by KwaZulu's Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi as a "propaganda rag promoting the ANC/UDF/Cosatu alliance"

Speaking in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, where he is protected by parliamentary privilege, Buthelezi lashed out at certain sections of the media — including the *Weekly Mail* — for portraying Inkatha as "the number one enemy of the people"

He went on to say he "regrets" the action taken against *New Nation*, which is published by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, because such action by the state "makes things worse for South Africa, (underscoring) the image of this country as a totalitarian state"

"I cannot see how we can hope to achieve the black unity which we are

Weekly Mail Reporter

all craving for in the foreseeable future if the so-called alternative press does its damndest to portray Inkatha as the number one enemy of the people

"We can indulge in all the formal blandishments of leaders seeking black unity but for as long as the *New Nation* and the *Weekly Mail* write as they do write about Inkatha's leadership it will have to be accepted that the fight which has already begun is going to be a fight to the finish"

Buthelezi then launched an attack couched in similar language against *City Press*, calling it "a government-sponsored alternative press endeavour".

He asked, by implication, why the state had not banned *City Press* too,

saying he found it "hideously anomalous" that the state took action against *New Nation*, while at the same time "government ministers sit on the board of Nationale Pers which publishes *City Press*"

Buthelezi also attacked Gerhard Maré and Georgina Hamilton, authors of *An Appetite for Power*, a recent book on Inkatha and Buthelezi's leadership

He described them as "alternative academics" who have "a pathological bias" against Inkatha and himself and who give "paternalistic and uncritical support for all that the UDF, ANC and Cosatu stand for" He added they had simply applied their minds "to give the ANC mission-in-exile's blatantly party political propaganda a semblance of academic respectability".

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w/Neil



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Staatskoerant Government Gazette

As 'n Nuusblad by die Poskantoor Geregistreer

Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper

Verkoopprijs • Selling price
(AVB uitgesluit/GST excluded)

Plaaslik **50c** Local
Buitelands **70c** Other countries
Posvry • Post free

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PRETORIA, 9 MEI 1988
MAY

No. 11305

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTEMENT VAN BINNELANDSE SAKE

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

No. 954

9 Mei 1988

No. 954

9 May 1988

BEVEL KRAGTENS DIE REGULASIES AFGEKONDIG
KRAGTENS DIE WET OP OPENBARE VILIGHEID,
1953

ORDER UNDER THE REGULATIONS PUBLISHED
UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT, 1953

Ek, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister van Binne-
landse Sake, reik hierby kragtens regulasie 7A (3) (b) van
die Regulasies afgekondig by Proklamasie R 97 van 1987,
soos gewysig deur Proklamasies R 123 van 1987 en R 7
van 1988, die bevel uit in die Bylae uiteengesit

I, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister of Home
Affairs, hereby issue under regulation 7A (3) (b) of the
Regulations published by Proclamation R 97 of 1987, as
amended by Proclamations R 123 of 1987 and R 7 of
1988, the order set out in the Schedule

J C G BOTHA,
Minister van Binnelandse Sake

J C G BOTHA,
Minister of Home Affairs

BYLAE

SCHEDULE


Die voortbrenging of publikasie, gedurende die tydperk
vanaf die datum van afkondiging van hierdie bevel tot en
met 10 Junie 1988, van enige verdere uitgawe van die perio-
diese publikasie *South* word hierby geheel en al verbied

The production or publication, during the period from the
date of publishing of this order up to and including 10 June
1988, of any further issue of the periodical *South* is hereby
totally prohibited

836—A

(243) 11305-1

UCA lauds Nation ban

Sowetan
12/4/88
2+3


Sowetan Reporter

UNITED Christian Action, a church organisation co-founded by the controversial Bishop Isaac Mokoena, has welcomed the three-month ban imposed on the New Nation, a Johannesburg weekly newspaper published by the Catholic Bishops Conference.

In a letter written to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, the UCA said it welcomed the ban as the *New Nation* was one of the "most scandalous manifestations of liberation theology in our country"

The UCA said the newspaper promoted a value system diametrically opposed to Christian standards and beliefs

"The *New Nation* is not and never was a mouthpiece

for black Christians in South Africa. There is ample evidence that the authors of this publication subscribed to the teaching of Marx, Lenin and Mao Tse Tung which have caused havoc and misery in many parts of this tragic continent," the letter said

The organisation claimed in its newsletter, *Ucanews*, that the Government banned the *New Nation* after it was pressurised by "Christian quarters from abroad and throughout South Africa"

Bishop Mokoena sparked controversy in 1984 when he claimed that he had more than four million Christian followers in the country. He has not yet proved this membership

D/D 13/4/88

General denies ~~the~~ demotion ⁽²⁴³⁾

JOHANNESBURG —
The former head of the Ciskeian security police denied yesterday he was demoted by President Lennox Sebe in 1984 because a former Transport Minister, Mr Namba Sebe, had jumped bail and escaped to Transkei.

General Fumbalele Zozi is suing City Press newspaper for R10 000 over an article by a reporter, Mr Benito Phillips, published in 1984, which connected his demotion to Mr Sebe's escape.

He claims the article is defamatory in that it alleges he failed to keep Mr Sebe in custody and let him escape.

Gen Zozi — now the Ciskeian assistant commissioner of prisons — told the court he had been embarrassed and belittled by the article.

Under cross-examination by counsel for City Press, Gen Zozi denied he had been demoted. He said he had been transferred to the CID and did not regard it as a demotion — DDC

DID 14/4/88
Defamation judgment due

JOHANNESBURG — Judgment is expected today in a R10 000 defamation claim brought against Nasionale Pers by the former head of the Ciskeian security police, General Fumbelele Zozi.

(1975) (243)
The case arises from an article which alleged Gen Zozi was demoted after Mr Namba Sebe jumped bail

Defence counsel argued that the article was not defamatory per se, or by innuendo.

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Anger over warning to SOUTH

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MINISTER Stoffel Botha's second warning to SOUTH — which could result in a three-month banning — has evoked outrage from several organisations

A spokesperson for the Western Cape Teachers Union (Wectu) said the organisation viewed with "profound concern and anger" the attack on the alternative press as a whole and on New Nation and SOUTH in particular

"The only possible positive aspect of this brutal attack is that it demonstrates to the rest of the world emphatically that the Government's claim to be a torch-bearer of democracy in Africa is a pack of shameless lies," he said.

Mr Jan van Eck, independent MP for Claremont, said the Government's action against the media meant that new ways of communication and mobilisation would have to be explored.

14-20/4/88 South

Oppressed

"By closing down newspapers such as SOUTH that freely report the feelings of the oppressed as well as the extent and nature of the repressive measures taken by agents of the State, this minority government is ensuring that whites will become even less well-informed about the realities of South Africa and less responsive to demands for real change," said Van Eck

The national president of the Black Sash, Mrs Mary Burton, said the State of Emergency regulations which empowered Minister Stoffel Botha to take drastic action against the press were more likely to stir up anger and resentment than to contribute to an orderly and peaceful society.

Mr Muntu Myeza, publicity secretary for the Azanian Coordinating Committee (Azaco), said the organisation deplored the increasingly repressive measures adopted by the Government against the press.

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THE Government was promoting the image of the African National Congress (ANC) by refusing to unban the organisation and thereby test its credibility and support in free and fair elections

This was said by Grassroots Publications in its representations in response to a warning from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

The newspaper received its warning on March 22 and was given two weeks to make representations to the Minister

In a letter to Grassroots Publications the publishers of the non-profit community newspaper, the Minister accused the paper of promoting revolution stirring up feelings of hatred towards the security forces and promoting the public image of an unlawful organisation

In its representations, Grassroots denied the newspaper was promoting the image of the ANC

They claimed the Government was, in fact, doing so by refusing to unban the organisation Unbanning the ANC would test the organisation's credibility in free and fair elections

The publishers also claimed the Government's failure to negotiate with the ANC was also promoting the image of the banned organisation

It was our considered view that peace in South Africa depended on the government being prepared to unban and negotiate with the ANC

SOUTH fights back

SOUTH this week hit back at the Government's attempt to shut the paper in terms of the Emergency Regulations Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha stepped down from his initial refusal to extend SOUTH's 14-day representation period

SOUTH, under threat of closure after having received its final warning, requested the extension on the grounds that its representation period included the six-day Easter holiday period

The Minister's letter advising SOUTH of its final warning was hand-delivered on Thursday March 31, on the eve of the Easter long weekend

'Government promoting ANC'



The Grassroots staff at their office this week

"This is not projecting the organisation in a favourable light — it is stating a reality we believe the far-sighted among the present government acknowledges

Grassroots believed the "arbitrariness" of the media regulations was aimed not at the security of South Africa, but at the security of the "privileged minority"

Insofar as security force action was concerned, the newspaper submitted that the security forces had been the "authors of their own unpopularity"

"Grassroots merely reflects, mirrors and reports the factual situation and that factual situation is that the majority of citizens are without meaningful say in the running of their lives, the publishers said in their submissions to the Minister

The newspaper would make its representations and then seek a court relief against the closure of the paper subject to it getting a favourable legal opinion

"We have a commitment to other newspapers under threat and to the ideal that we all cherish — that there should be a free flow of information in this country"

SOUTH would be working closely with The Weekly Mail and the New Nation in encouraging foreign governments to pressure the government to 'allow some common sense to prevail', said Serra

GRASSROOTS
Grassroots Educare Trust believes children & their parents must be free to speak, see &

JUDICIAL JUSTICE
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
is a fundamental right in any

D10 15/4/88
Ciskeian paid liable damages

JOHANNESBURG — The proprietors and distributors of City Press newspaper were yesterday held to be liable for publishing a "defamatory and factually incorrect" article about a former Ciskeian police chief

Mr Justice R T van Schalkwyk awarded damages of R2 000 to General Fumbalele Zozi, a former Deputy Commissioner of Police in the Ciskei, for an article published by City Press

on September 2, 1984

The proprietors of City Press, National Newspapers Limited, and the distributors of the newspaper, Allied Publishing, were held to be liable for the damages and were also ordered to pay General Zozi's legal costs

The defendants' counsel, Mr L. Bowman, has said he will decide overnight whether to lodge an appeal against the decision — Sapa

The short, troubled life of SOUTH

SOUTH may be doomed, but its staff is determined to go down fighting. The independent Western Cape weekly is next in line for the executioner's axe of Minister of Home Affairs and Communications Stoffel Botha.

One small battle has already been won. The newspaper's second warning about "systematically and repeatedly" publishing "subversive propaganda" came just before the Easter weekend, lopping a week off the fortnight allowed to prepare written representations.

A request for an extension was first refused, then granted, after *South's* attorneys threatened to seek relief in the courts.

South will now submit its representations on Monday and simultaneously apply to the Cape Supreme Court for an interdict restraining the minister from acting against it.

Editor Rashid Sena is under no illusion as to the seriousness of the state's intentions, the three-month closure of the *New Nation* has left little room for optimism.

"But we're not just going to succumb," he told the *Weekly Mail*. "We're going to fight. We owe it to our sponsors (European church organisations who provided the bulk of *South's* capital), we owe it to our readers, the other newspapers under threat and, above all, to the political ideals we cherish. We're going to make it as difficult as possible to close us down."

Technically, Botha could gazette a warning against *South* within days of receiving the newspaper's representations, enabling him to impose a three-month suspension or pre-publication censorship.

Sena isn't expecting any men from the ministry wielding blue pencils. "At a meeting Botha had with editors soon after the media regulations were introduced last August, he made it clear he wasn't considering in-house censors as an option."

Launched just over a year ago "to



Still fighting: *South's* editor Rashid Sena, centre, and production editor Nazeem Howa, right, with acting news editor Ryland Fisher. Picture ERIC MILLER, Afrapix

political enough

There were internal problems, exacerbated by staffers having to work virtual seven-day weeks for little pay. Pressures of news gathering and production meant little time for dialogue and resentments festered.

In his annual report, Sena cited as a priority for 1988 an "intensive process of evaluation" involving staff and shareholders but also trade unions and community organisations, so the paper could fix on an identity allowing it to get across its political message and also sell copies.

All these difficulties have been eclipsed by the threat of imminent closure. After losing R420 000 during its first year, *South* is in poor financial shape to withstand a three-month lay-off.

"It would be very difficult to survive — but we would continue with our journalist-training programme, and plan to launch a news agency."

Sena, 38, a former joint-treasurer for the United Democratic Front in the Western Cape, got his training on Argus Company newspapers as did Moegsien Williams and Nazeem Howa, who shared the job of getting the newspaper off the ground.

A trust was created and a company formed, South Press Services, with the trust the major shareholder.

South has carried lively debate on a range of political issues, focused on the plight of unorganised workers and isolated rural communities and has also embarrassed Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok by proving him wrong after he denied two young Bontcheuwei detainees were 14, as initially reported by the newspaper.

Botha, he says, is "very shrewd — going for the small newspapers on the periphery hoping that he'll terrify the mainstream press to the extent that they'll be too scared to say anything."

"But we're not going to be party to our own demise. We're not going to try and toe any line the government draws. The axe will still fall, whatever we do."

failed to reach targeted levels, affecting advertising content and thus income. A survey revealed readership resistance to a "political" newspaper — at odds with the initial belief that a market was waiting to be tapped among an increasingly politicised working class community.

When the content mix was adjusted, criticism came from other quarters with the initial belief that a market was waiting to be tapped among an increasingly politicised working class community.

fill a media vacuum in a situation where many of the established newspapers have largely abdicated their social responsibility in favour of profits", *South's* short life has not been trouble-free. In 1987 two editions were banned by the Publications Control Board. Appeals against both bannings were upheld.

Started under a State of Emergency, operating with a small, relatively inexperienced staff and limited resources — reporters must use taxis, buses or their own cars to cover stories — *South* also proved vulnerable to other slings and arrows.

Sales, now at "just under 10 000",

243

19/4/88

SPR



Parliament '88

301 reports 'potentially subversive'

Political Correspondent

Government press monitors last year identified 301 newspaper reports with a potentially subversive content, according to the 1987 annual report of the Department of Home Affairs tabled in Parliament yesterday

"Reports that simply amount to criticism of the Government and of Government institutions are not branded potentially subversive for this reason alone," the report said

It added there had been a marked reduction in the nature and scope of reporting that promoted or had the potential to promote a revolutionary climate, particularly as regards the commercial media

DJD 19/4/88

Rapport criticised over picture of blast victim

243

CAPE TOWN — Rapport newspaper's front page colour picture of a man blown apart in the Pretoria bomb blast has drawn strong reaction

Media spokesmen of the Conservative Party and the Progressive Federal Party both condemned the newspaper for the distasteful picture

The MP for Losberg and CP media spokesman Mr Fanie Jacobs objected to the portrayal of "human debris", the fact that it was in colour and the effect especially on children

The PFP's media

spokesman Mr Dave Dalling said

I thought Rapport was supposed to be a family newspaper. Most family members and children especially would have been revolted by that picture

I don't know what it was supposed to achieve

Mr Dalling also objected to Rapport presenting the dead man as a 'kamikaze bomber'

It was clear from other reports that it had not been proved that the man shown in the picture had planted the bomb he said — Sapa



MR DALLING

AKGUS 19/4/88

Farm school article writer testifies

Staff Reporter

ROGER KENYON, a contributing editor of Readers Digest, has told the Media Council he did not claim to be a representative of the Department of Education and Training when interviewing the headmaster of a farm school.

He was giving evidence yesterday during the council's hearing of a complaint by the department about an article on farm schools in the July 1987 issue of Readers Digest

Mr Moses Thesiko, principal of the Tsebong farm school at Viljoensdrift, near Vc:eeniging, alleges that Mr Kenyon, author of the article, introduced himself to him as a Department of Education and Training official

Mr Kenyon said. "It would not be in my character in any event, I laid my bona fides on the table with Anglo American, owners of the farm. There was no reason for any deception."

FRIENDLY

Mr Thesiko had welcomed him in a friendly manner which suggested that he knew about his "mission", Mr Kenyon said

Mr Kenyon said Tsebong farm school was well run

Mr M A Diemont, chairman of the council. Would it not have been fair to say so?

Mr Kenyon Possibly
The point of the article was to show our readers what the situation is like in the rural areas. I don't think many of our readers have ever physically seen a farm school"

Readers Digest editor Miss Wendy Pankhurst asked him if his article was a fair reflection of farm schools.

PROMISED

Mr Kenyon replied "Yes, it was very fair. I believe the article shows exactly what is happening in our rural areas as far as the education of children is concerned"

He told her that he had never promised to give Mr Thesiko a copy of the article before publication

Readers Digest research editor Miss Sylvia Dantu said she read the article to Mr Thesiko twice

Earlier, Mr Thesiko said Mr Kenyon went to his school on August 15 1986 and introduced himself as being from the Department of Education and Training in Pretoria. It was only after the interview that Mr Thesiko realised Mr Kenyon was from the magazine

The department and Readers Digest agreed to explore a possible compromise

(Proceeding)

Call to help save papers

50ml
21/4/55
243

PROMINENT anti-apartheid activists yesterday appealed for international support in a campaign to save newspapers threatened with closure by the Government

"The pursuit of truth is being repressed," said the Reverend Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, at a news conference held in support of South Africa's so-called "alternative Press"

The weekly, *New Nation*, has been closed by the Government for 12 weeks, and at least seven other publications have been threatened with similar action for publishing "subversive propaganda"

"If the alternative Press disappears, millions of people will have no way of making known their feelings," said Boesak

Threat

"No one is allowed to say that this Government has no right to exist. No one is allowed to say that millions of South Africans would like to have a democratic, non-racial society," he said "Making the truth known is a crime"

The directors of *South*, a Cape Town community newspaper under threat of closure, defended their commitment to publishing "basic truths" which might anger the Government

They said *South* had a duty to convey black opposition to the Government

In a letter to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, who oversees the censorship regulations, the directors said "If reporting these truths is offending you, then surely the problem lies not with the facts but with those who cannot stomach the truth"—

Trade union defies Government order to hand over paper

By DICK USHER,
Labour Reporter

THE second largest trade union federation in South Africa is heading for a confrontation with the Government by defying demands for it to deposit its published material with the Department of Home Affairs

The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), which has about 500 000 members, said yesterday it had had three warnings about depositing its material with the department in terms of emergency regulations

The federation publishes Izwilethu, a monthly newsletter

A statement from Nactu said it was clear that Izwilethu was "targetted" just as the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the largest union grouping, had been targetted

Cosatu, the largest union federation, was banned from "political" activities in February. At the same time 17 community organisations were restricted

REQUEST IGNORED

"The Nactu central committee has decided to ignore the request from the Minister and has taken legal advice. No warnings over the content of Izwilethu has been received yet," the statement said

Calling for "all forces, all tendencies to be united in the fight", Nactu said that South, the Weekly Mail and New Na-

tion could not fight on their own

New Nation, published in Johannesburg by the Catholic Bishops' Publishing Company, has been suspended for three months

South is expecting similar action soon. Weekly Mail and the Argus company newspaper Sowetan have had letters from the Minister warning that they might be listed in the Government Gazette

Three publications had warnings issued in the Gazette this month. They are the Cape Town-based Grassroots, Saamstaan which is published in Oudtshoorn, and the End Conscription Campaign's Out of Step

SECURITY THREAT

A warning in the Gazette that a publication's material contains a threat to the security of the public or the maintenance of public order or causes a delay in the termination of the state of emergency is the second stage towards a publication being suspended or required to submit to pre-publication censorship

The first step is a warning that listing is being considered and at the final stage the Minister may suspend publication for up to three months

State strategy was now clear, Nactu said. It was to attack the federation on different issues, sow suspicion and mistrust among members and disunite members by engaging them in separate strategies

Izwilethu warned to submit copies

Scuph

21-27/4/88

(Handwritten signature)

THE National Confederation of Trade Unions has been warned for the third time to deposit copies of their publication Izwilethu.

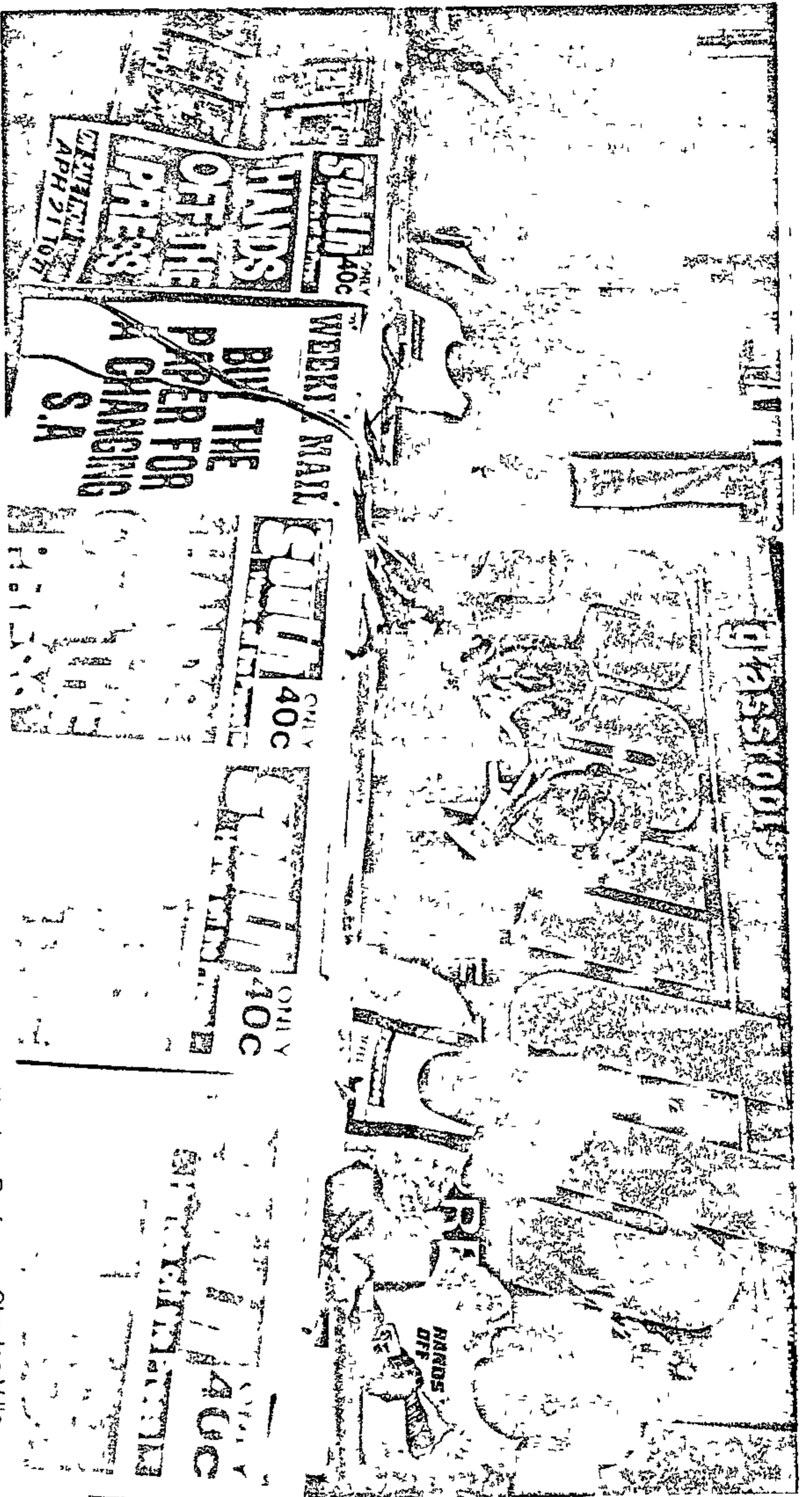
The Nactu central committee has decided to ignore the warnings until they had been advised by their lawyers.

They said the State's strategy against Nactu was clear.

"They aim to attack the Federation and to sow suspicion and mistrust among members."

The State also planned to cause disunity in the organisation by engaging members in different strategies, the committee said.

(243) *(Handwritten signature)*



The Rev Lionel Louw, the Weekly Mail's Clive Cope, Mrs Fareda Omar, Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, Dr Allan Boesak, Grassroots' Velswa Mhlauri and the New Nation's Gabu Tugwana at the press conference

'Act decisively to save alternative press'

REPRESENTATIVES of nine foreign governments this week heard Dr Allan Boesak appeal to the world to take decisive action to help save alternative newspapers facing closure

Speaking at a press conference at St George's Cathedral Cape Town, Boesak said pursuing the truth and making the truth known had become a crime in South Africa

Boesak told diplomats from the United States, Britain, Canada, Italy, West Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Austria and Portugal that protests at ambassadorial level were not sufficient to bring Pretoria to its senses

Several individuals and organisations have undersigned the appeal to the world
Present at the conference were S A Council on Sport president Frank van der Horst, W P Council

of Churches' chairperson Lionel Louw, New Nation's acting editor Gabu Tugwana, Weekly Mail's managing director Clive Cope, SOUTH editor Rashid Seria, Grassroots' staffer Velswa Mhlauri, and Out of Step's publicity secretary David Green.

Archbishop Stephen Naidoo said "We need to enter into a debate about our country as equal partners"

Smth



243

21-27/4/88

South
21-2/4/88

(243)

Threats not an isolated action

WHILE one can report encouraging solidarity from the international community following the suspension of the New Nation and similar threats faced by other newspapers like SOUTH Weekly Mail and Grassroots there is still a lot to be done at home, according to Gabu Lugwana, New Nation's acting editor.

"It should be understood that the threats against newspapers is not just an isolated action. It is an attack on our organs, our mouthpieces, our voices, our right to speak and to be heard."

"And the closure of these newspapers does not end there. Those

who saw the newspapers serving the black masses in Transvaal in the last two weeks would understand what I'm talking about. They took the achievements of the black press ten years back by writing about mull and tokoloshe stories. That's what this censorship aims to achieve.

Having said all this, perhaps we should suggest what people can do to save their newspapers. Journalist colleagues should raise the issue of the suspension and overall effect of this action at their work places, trade unions, church people, organisations and people in general should let their feelings known to Home Affairs minister Stoffel Botha."

Truth must be heard

The democratic movement and all peace loving people throughout the world should rally in support of the alternative media to enable the voice of truth to be heard, said Mr Abdullah Omar. This is the full text of his speech, read on his behalf at a press conference this week.

WE condemn in the very strongest terms the high handed and arrogant action against the alternative media.

It is a legalised act of violence which we entirely reject as a blatant interference and suppression of the right of freedom of the press.

It is not only an attack on the alternative media but is part of a major onslaught being perpetrated against the democratic movement in South Africa.

It is part of the whole State of Emergency onslaught against the democratic struggle.

From what we see around us and from what is happening all over our country it is quite clear that the millions of South Africa's masses are sick and tired of this oppressive regime and they have begun to participate in the democratic movement to bring about change.

The alternative media has attempted in some small way to tell the world what is happening in our country.

This news must now be suppressed. The world must not know what is happening in our land. One area in South Africa must not know what is

happening in another. The regime is attempting to impose a blanket of silence over every single township and every single activity of our people.

The world must know that even though the press may be silenced and suppressed the democratic struggle in South Africa will go on.

Without the eye of an independent press and media generally, the security forces in South Africa will be totally unrestrained. The price we will pay will be so much the higher.

Peace-loving

It is imperative that the whole democratic movement and indeed all freedom and peace loving people throughout the world should rally in support of our media so as to enable the voice of truth to be heard — not only in every part of this land but all over the world.

Regrettably the official media and the commercial media will not fulfil this role.

To the oppressed people and democratic forces in this country we say the onus rests on you to deliver the apartheid regime into the dustbins of history and to bring about a free and non-racial South Africa. This will be the only guarantee for a free press in South Africa.



SOUTH editor Rashid Seria addressing the press conference. Seated alongside from left are the Rev Lionel Louw, WPC chairperson Clive Cope, Weekly Mail and Professor Charles Villa Vicencio, South trustee.

Silence tantamount to acceptance

WITH a mere stroke of the pen and the publication of several words in a government notice the Minister of Home Affairs might within hours ban our paper for three months. SOUTH editor Rashid Seria said this week.

Speaking at a press conference to launch an international appeal to save the alternative press Seria said. At about 4pm on Monday we submitted to the Minister's office representations on why our paper should not be shut down for three months.

We believe our legal team has motivated a strong case but we have very little faith in our representations succeeding. We believe our paper will be shut — and thereafter, in quick succession action will be taken against Grassroots, Saamstaan, Out of Step — all of which have received formal warnings.

We would like to believe differently — but the fact is that the axe is out — in fact the axe has been out since August 28 1987 when the most recent press curbs were promulgated.

Our concern is now for all the other newspapers in this country which have

had the courage and social conviction to speak out against apartheid, injustice and exploitation.

Just as Hitler manipulated the media to cover up the horrific details of the holocaust so too the government in this country is suppressing news to hide the evils of apartheid and brutal repression.

Hence we found a situation in Nazi Germany where the newspapers and foreign media were aware of the horrors of the holocaust but did not truthfully inform the world because of threats.

In South Africa today we find a situation where the mainstream foreign and local media are being intimidated by closure of papers and the withholding of work permits.

If we compromise the truth in favour of survival history may pass the same dreadful judgment on us as it did on the media in Nazi Germany.

The closure of any paper or any attempt to stifle the free flow of information affects each and every one of us.

If we remain silent our silence will be tantamount to acceptance. Seria said.

Added funding found for South

Staff Reporter

ADDITIONAL funding has been found for the "alternative" community newspaper South, following a R310 000 loss suffered since the publication appeared 14 months ago

The editor of South, Mr Rashid Seria, said yesterday that the additional funding had come from foreign organizations and churches, but declined to elaborate

"We had been expecting a loss of R450 000 during our first year on the streets, but lost only R310 000," said Mr Seria

He was speaking at a news conference to speculate on the future of the newspaper after repeated warnings to "toe the line" from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

Mr Botha had till 5pm yesterday to announce whether the publication would appear on the streets this morning

Although a general banning was anticipated, a spokesman for Mr Botha's office said no ban would be announced, but that the minister would be continuing his correspondence with South's legal representatives

Blast photos: council probes complaints

(243)
D/P
21/4/88

CAPE TOWN — The South African Media Council is investigating "numerous complaints" against a Sunday newspaper, Rapport, following the publishing of pictures on the front page of a man blown apart in a bomb explosion in Pretoria

The conciliator/Registrar of the council, Mr Bob Steyn, said his offices had received numerous calls since Monday. He said 14 formal complaints were on record

He had sent a telex to the editor of Rapport, Mr Bob van Walsem, and was awaiting a reply

"It is the opinion of council that Rapport had transgressed Article 713 of the council's code of conduct which states that due care and responsibility shall be exercised by the media with regard to the pres-

entation of brutality, violence and atrocities," Mr Steyn said

Mr Steyn said Mr Van Walsem had seven days to respond to the complaints

Asked whether he could respond in his own paper or whether it should be done in writing to the council, Mr Steyn said his council had received formal complaints. He had formally contacted Mr Van Walsem and the council expected to receive a formal written reply

Rapport could respond in its own paper as well as in a formal written reply

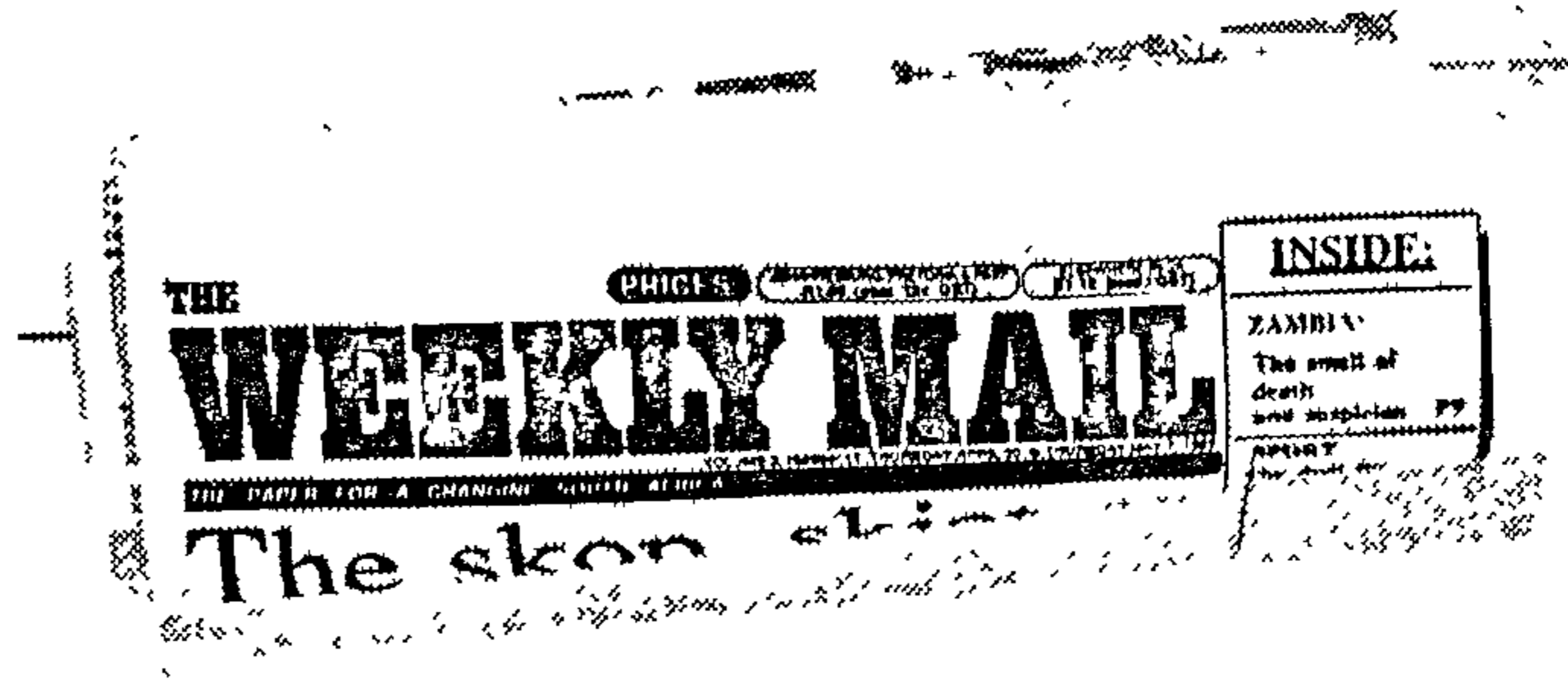
If the response did not satisfy the complainants, the council would start a formal investigation

Mr Van Walsem could not be immediately contacted for comment — Sapa

The Minister of Home Affairs gazettes a 'warning' against Weekly Mail and prompts a public outcry ...

352-72
243
w/Meil

SAVE THE WAIL



OUR enemies consider us one of the country's noisier newspapers. So do our friends.

For three years we've failed to keep our mouths shut. Despite various requests

This week the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, warned us, in a special edition of the Government Gazette, that our wailing threatens public safety.

We deny the charge. Our newspaper kicks at consciences and tears down barriers. It does not throw bombs.

In recent months, the minister has suspended one newspaper and lined up six more before the guillotine. He closed the first paper, *New Nation*, with minimal public outcry.

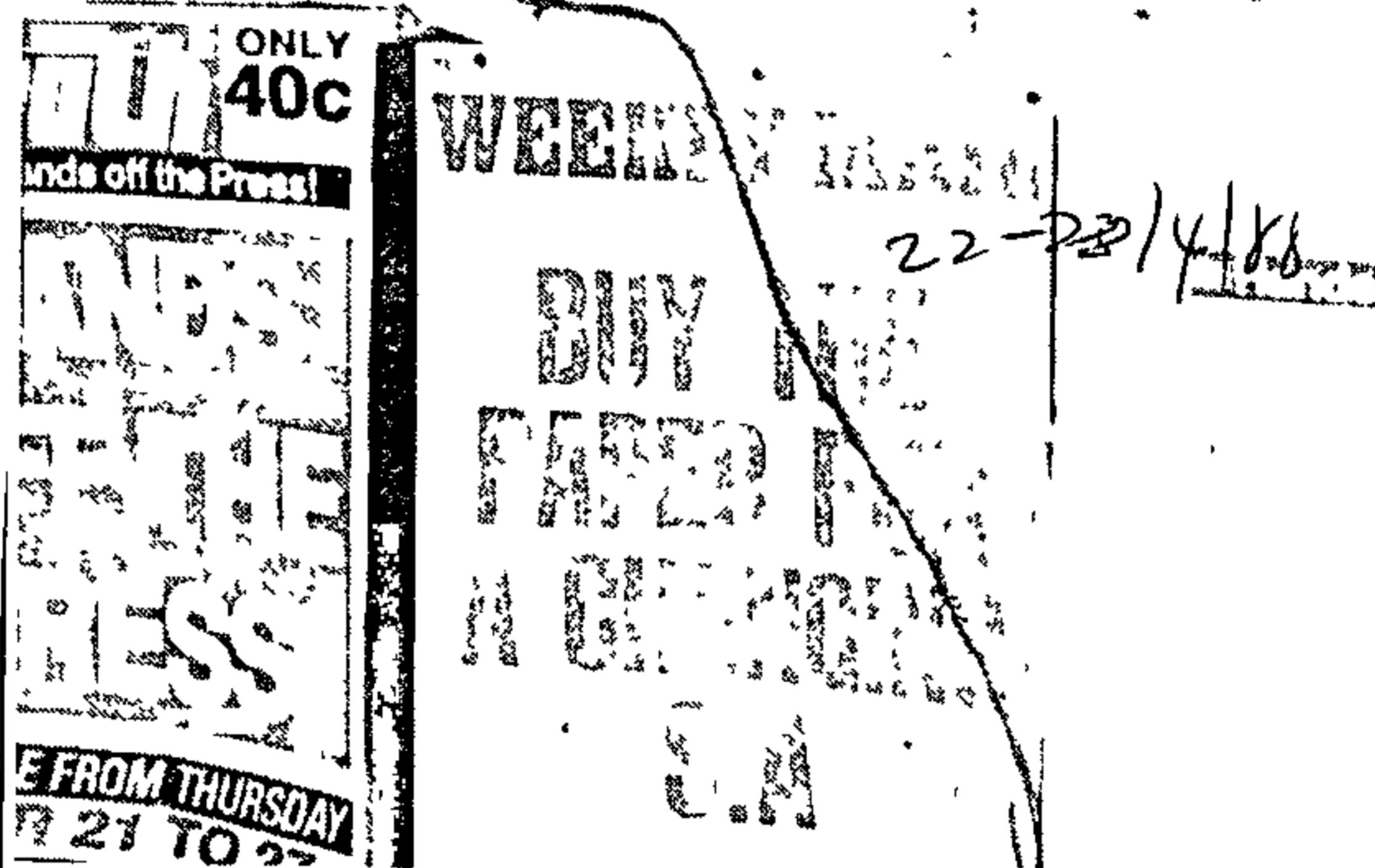
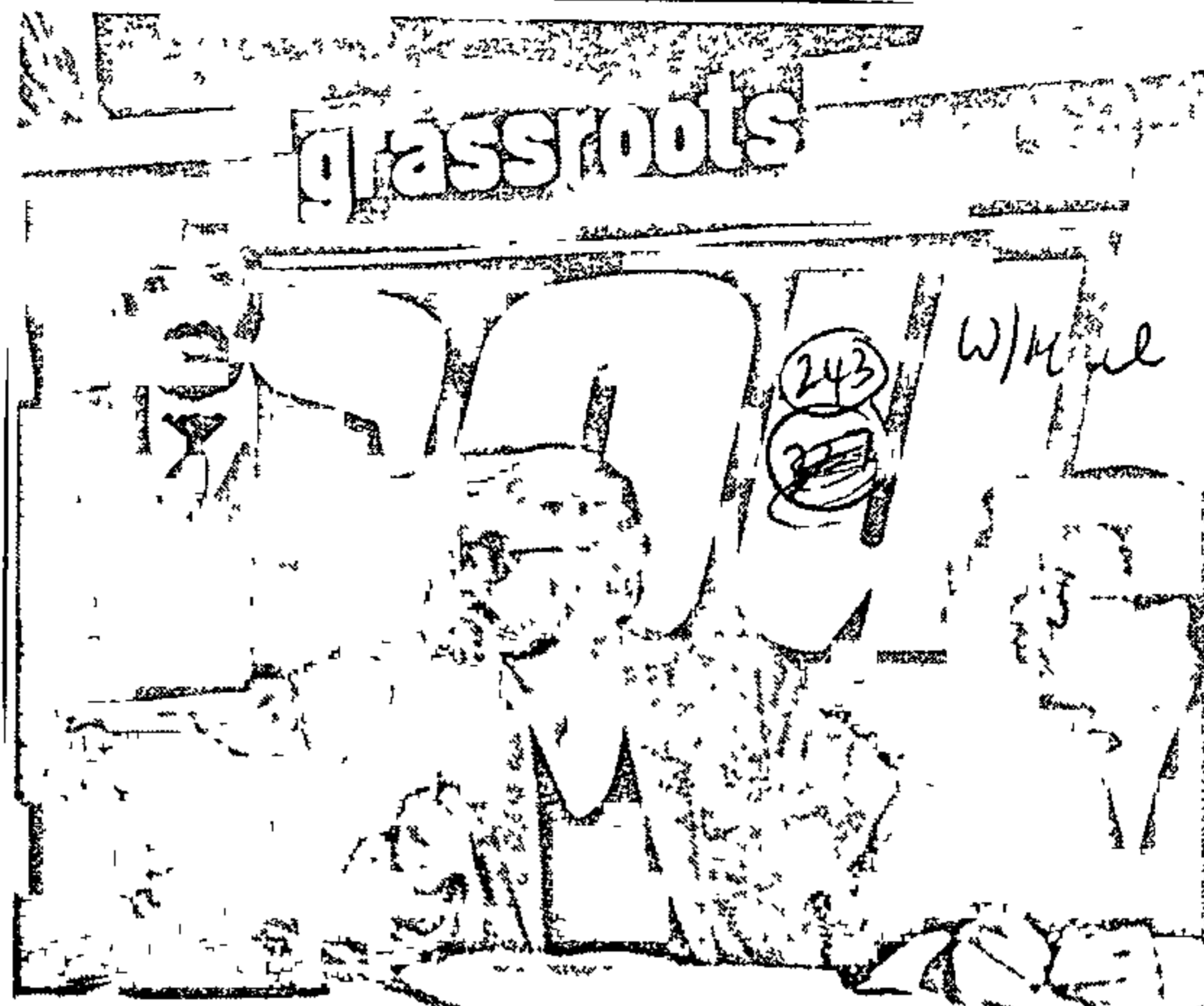
The process of closing newspapers is so lengthy, so tortuous, so little-understood, that public interest dies long before the climax of the wearying process of death by a thousand pin-pricks.

Which is why we appeal to our readers

DON'T LET US GO QUIETLY!

Carry on reading us. Carry on subscribing. Make a fuss.

WAIL, DAMMIT!



DR Allan Boesak, right, joined Cape Town newspaper *South's* editor Rashid Seria, left, and the head of the *South* press trust, Prof Charles Villa-Vicencio, at a press conference this week to call for foreign pressure against the banning of *New Nation* and possible action against *South* and other newspapers.

Boesak, a trustee of *South*, told representatives of nine foreign governments protests at ambassadorial level were not enough "to bring Pretoria to its senses". Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha this week acknowledged receipt of *South's* representations against imminent suspension.

Meanwhile, the End Conscription Campaign last Friday became the first political organisation to be hit by the media restrictions. Botha gazetted a warning against the Cape Town ECC publication *Out of Step* last Friday, along with similar warnings against Cape community newspapers *Grassroots* and *Saamstaan*.

(247)

No prize for literary bad-boy Prinsloo

By HANS PIENAAR

THE award of a major prize for Afrikaans literature has been cancelled — and literary circles say it's because a character in the winning manuscript makes vulgar reference to PW Botha. Directors of Afrikaans Sunday newspaper *Rapport* say its R20 000 prize for Afrikaans Literature will not be presented to short story writer Koos Prinsloo tomorrow because of former assistant-editor Dr Rykie van Recnen's resignation from the panel of adjudicators.

Van Recnen resigned in protest over last week's edition of *Rapport*, which spread across its front page a photograph of the mangled body of a black man killed in last Friday's Pretoria bomb blast.

member personally complained to both Nasionale and Perskor about Prinsloo's collection after it had been brought to the attention of Elize Botha, the state president's wife, by an official in the Office of the State President.

It is also believed the Nasionale Pers faction on the *Rapport* board was in favour of awarding the prize, but Perskor members vetoed it.

This is the second time the three-year-old prize has led to controversy. In 1986 the board distanced itself from the prize after Breytenbach said he would give part of the money to

liberation organisations. Prinsloo's reaction was short "Heaven help us." Taurus declined to comment, but said it would continue with a reprint of the book.

Cape Town journalist André le Roux was awarded second prize for his equally controversial short story collection, *Steep vir jou 'n stoel nad-er*. According to competition rules this automatically qualifies him for next year's prize.

But sources close to the organisers believe the cancellation of this year's award is the death knell of the *Rapport* prize. Few adjudicators and writers, they say, will want to be associated with it anymore.

This reference has also led to the rejection of Prinsloo's manuscript by Tafelberg Uitgewers, a publishing house affiliated to Nasionale Pers which, with Perskor, controls *Rapport*.

Hauum-Literêr, another publisher, said *Die Hemel Help Ons* did not fit in with its production schedule. The manuscript was eventually accepted by Taurus, which also published *Yk* by Breyten Breytenbach, the first winner of the *Rapport* prize in 1986.

It is understood that a senior cabinet

Decision to ban South is deferred

CAPE TOWN — *South*, the Cape Town-based community newspaper, was told this week that the deadline to consider whether or not it should be banned had been extended.

Lawyers representing the paper received a letter from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, advising that the paper had a further 14 days to make additional representations, the owners of the paper said in a statement today. ~~323~~ 243

The new deadline is May 4. After this date, the Minister can summarily shut the paper down for three months or appoint a censor. — Sapa. 5/27/4/57

Rapport 'meant no offence' (243)

Rapport's "kamikaze-bomber" front-page photograph was not intended to offend anybody, the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper said in its editorial yesterday.

Reacting to public complaints to the Media Council about the photograph, published on April 17, the editorial justified the photograph as one of those that "say more than the proverbial thousand words" "Where we have offended, we give the assurance that it was not meant to offend," it said.

The editorial argues that the image had been necessary to awaken a public already insensitive to the nature of terror "People generally veer away from the ugly face of terror. Almost as if it will disappear if we whisper about it. How can we know the act if we do not see its gruesome nature?" — Sapa

Mwasa

hits ^{Sullivan} 2/4/58

out at

Govt

THE Media Workers' Association of South Africa condemns in the strongest terms possible the Government's action on *Weekly Mail* — one of the more committed newspapers serving the public, Mwasa said in a statement yesterday.

"We wish to assure the *Weekly Mail* that Mwasa will stand behind it in whatever action it decides to take to defend its rights to inform the public on all issues affecting it . . . after all, that is the *Weekly Mail's* responsibility in the first place".

Meeting

Meanwhile, Mwasa has decided to hold a meeting at the Ipeleng Community Centre in Soweto at 7pm on May 5 on the government's onslaught on the media.

The deputy-editor of the *Sowetan*, Mr Joe Thloloe, will give a paper on the media restrictions and what Mr Botha hopes to achieve by restricting the media, the statement said.

Two other speakers will be announced early next week.

Bid to save 'alternative' press

Political Correspondent

243

CAPE TOWN — As the noose tightens around the alternative press, the "commercial media" was given the Government's seal of approval last week

There has been a "marked reduction" in reporting that could promote a revolutionary climate, especially in the "commercial media", according to the Department of Home Affairs

But Dr Charles Villa-Vicencio, chairman of the trustees of *South*, one of the alternative newspapers under threat of closure, had a grim warning for what he called the "establishment press"

The world trend when governments changed had been that the alternative press became the establishment press and vice versa. That process of transition was under way in South Africa, he warned

He made this prophecy while launching a campaign to save the alternative press in South Africa, which is under assault by the Government's new media regulations

EXPECTS TO BE SUSPENDED

In terms of these regulations, *New Nation* has already been suspended for three months

South, a Cape-based newspaper, has had all the statutory warnings and expects to be suspended, al-

though last week it was given a further 14 days to make representations

Other publications that have received warnings are *Weekly Mail*, the *Sowetan*, *Grassroots* of Cape Town, *Saamstaan* of Outdshoorn and the End Conscription Campaign's *Out of Step*

Dr Allan Boesak, speaking as a trustee of *South*, said whatever action the State took against the alternative press "we will do whatever it takes to make sure our people will be able to express themselves"

POWERFUL IMPACT OVERSEAS

The newly launched campaign to protect the alternative press has had little coverage in South Africa, but will have a powerful impact abroad

There was a strong diplomatic presence at the launch of the campaign and the foreign media also took it up

Any closures of alternative newspapers is likely to increase the powerful effect the recent crackdown on 18 organisations has had on stiffening the sanctions campaign against South Africa

"The axe is out for *South* and the other alternative media," *South* editor Mr Rashid Seria told a press conference at the launching of an international Hands Off The Press campaign in Cape Town last week

"The Government is suppressing news to hide the evils of apartheid," Mr Seria said

DP 25/488

Newspaper: photo not intended to offend

JOHANNESBURG
Rapport's "kamakazi-bomber" front page photograph was not intended to offend anybody the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper said in its editorial

Reacting to public complaints to the Media

Council about the photograph published last Sunday the editorial justified the photograph as one of those that 'say more than the proverbial thousand words

'Where we have offended we give the assurance that it was not

meant to offend it said
It argues the image had been necessary to awaken a public already insensitive to the nature of terror

People generally veer away from the ugly face of terror Almost as

if it will disappear if we whisper about it How can we know the act if we do not see its gruesome nature'

This will ensure terror does not become part of the pattern of society it said — Sapa

Press slams new policies

LONDON — Leading British newspapers yesterday harshly criticised President P W Botha's latest constitutional reform proposals as vague and failing in their attempts to dispel the impression that he remains bogged down by the complexities of the SA crisis

Said the liberal Guardian in a lengthy and condemnatory editorial, "His package contains new elements, but is not a new departure. There is no provision for black representation in Parliament or Cabinet, an omission so large that it makes the proposals look like outright evasion of the main issue"

The independent Financial Times credited Botha's hints of black participation in the electoral college that chooses the State President, black places in the President's Council and the possibility of elected regional au-

KIM IRVING

thorities for blacks living outside the so-called homelands, as "a courageous repudiation" of those who wish to return to old-style apartheid

"But it did not dispel the impression that the President remains bogged down by the complexities of his country's crisis"

The core criticism of both newspapers was the jailing of black leaders "Within their ranks are the men and women with whom Botha needs to discuss the options for SA," said the Financial Times

The Guardian said the sum of the proposals "will satisfy neither Western mainstream opinion nor that of the black majority, while it will confirm the deepest suspicions of the white right"

(2/3)

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26/4/88

AKGUS (243)
April 26 1988 9

METROPOLITAN



Tian van der Merwe

Press curbs 'affecting State decisions'

Staff Reporter

THE Government had become "a victim of its own propaganda," by inhibiting the free flow of information, Progressive Federal Party MP Mr Tian van der Merwe said at a "Muzzled Media" meeting

Mr van der Merwe was speaking in Claremont at a meeting of the Young Progressives, called to protest against media restrictions, the three-month closure of New Nation and the threatened closure of other newspapers

Cabinet decisions were being made on the basis of limited information, "where the State President chooses to get his information from, and interpreted by the security forces"

CONVENIENT

Criticism of the Government was tolerated "only as far as it is politically convenient" for the National Party

The Government wanted people overseas to see some criticism of the State so that they would believe there was a free society. The State then used its "massive control" over the SABC to counter this criticism, Mr van der Merwe said

One could no longer speak of a functioning democracy because people could no longer make sensible judgments based on proper information

"INHIBITING"

The regulations had been "effective and tremendously inhibiting" but more so to the establishment than the alternative Press

Ms Gaye Davis, of the Weekly Mail, which is among the papers threatened with closure, said she was happy writing reports knowing that every effort would be made to publish them

Legal advisers had become *de facto* editors and some newspaper lawyers were "more creative, inventive and adventurous" in applying the regulations to news reporting

243
The Argus, vv

NATIONAL

Paper ^{21/4} 'causing threat to public safety'

**The Argus
Correspondent**

PRETORIA — The Weekly Mail has entered the third stage of Government censorship procedures with a formal, gazetted warning that it is "causing a threat to public safety"

The warning — the third to be issued to various publications in two weeks — was made in a Government Gazette published in Pretoria yesterday and signed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

Mr Botha, the sole arbiter of whether a publication has contravened the August 1987 Press curbs, warned the publishers of the Weekly Mail that its contents and the way in which they are published "in my opinion (cause) a threat to the safety of the public or to the maintenance of public order or (cause) a delay in the termination of the state of emergency"

Without warning

If, in terms of the media curbs, Mr Botha objects to further issues of the Weekly Mail it may be closed down for three months at a time, or censored before publication without further warning

The warning to the Weekly Mail differs from others issued to a total of seven publications since the curbs were drawn up in that it was accompanied by a telex from the Minister inviting the Weekly Mail to discuss the matter under certain conditions

These include no discussion of the case involving the publication New Nation now before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in which the paper challenges the Minister's right to warn, close or censor newspapers

"Astounded"

Mr Anton Harber, editor of the Weekly Mail, said he is "astounded" that the Minister issued the warning "before giving us the kind of information we need to deal with his objections" to the content of the paper

The Weekly Mail received a list of the Minister's objections to articles and photographs — the first step in the censorship process — in December last year

It replied with a 160-page "representation" as was its right in terms of the curbs, and "heard nothing more," Harber said

On March 21 the newspaper received a second letter from the Minister, inviting further representations, particularly on the "cumulative effect" of articles or portions of articles carried in the paper

It again replied, this time with a 10-page letter. In all correspondence with the Minister the Weekly Mail has asked for a meeting in order to "understand his objections"

● The Weekly Mail plans to publish on Friday

Protest against media restrictions

(243) 2714188
CAPE TOWN — The Government had become a victim of its own propaganda, by inhibiting the free flow of information, Progressive Federal Party MP Mr Tian van der Merwe said at a "muzzled media" meeting in Claremont, Cape Town, yesterday

The meeting, called by the Young Progressives, was in protest against media restrictions, the three-month closure of

Neu Nation and the threatened closure of other newspapers

Cabinet decisions were being made on the basis of limited information, "where the State President chooses to get his information from, and interpreted by the security forces," Mr van der Merwe said

Criticism of the Government was tolerated "only as far as it is politically convenient" for the National Party

The Government wanted people overseas to see some criticism of the State so that they would believe there was a free society. The State then used its "massive control" over the SABC to counter this criticism, Mr van der Merwe said

One could no longer speak of a functioning democracy because people could no longer make judgments based on proper information — Sapa

Govt cracks down on the Weekly Mail

HOME Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha issued a gazetted warning to the Weekly Mail newspaper yesterday in terms of the media regulations

At the same time Botha sent the editors a telex offering to meet them

The Weekly Mail is the seventh publication to receive a gazetted warning, the penultimate step to a three-month ban

ROGER SMITH

or cutting by a government censor

Co-editor Anton Harber said they did not understand Botha's objections and needed clarification to know how to deal with the situation

He would not say at this stage whether they would meet Botha

(218) (243)

B/day 27/4/88

'Causing a threat to public safety'

Weekly Mail given warning in Gazette

51-✓
27/4/88
2431

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

The *Weekly Mail* entered the third stage of Government censorship procedures yesterday with a formal, gazetted warning that it was "causing a threat to public safety"

The warning — the third to be issued to various publications in two weeks — was made in a Government Gazette published in Pretoria yesterday and signed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

Mr Botha, sole arbiter of whether a publication has contravened the August 1987 press curbs, warned the publishers of *Weekly Mail* that its contents and the way in which they are published "in my opinion (cause) a threat to the safety of the public or to

the maintenance of public order or (cause) a delay in the termination of the state of emergency"

In terms of the media curbs, if Mr Botha objects to further issues of *Weekly Mail*, it may be closed down for three months at a time or censored before publication without further warning

Weekly Mail's warning differs from others issued to seven publications since the curbs were drawn up in that it was accompanied by a telex from the Minister inviting the newspaper to discuss the matter under certain conditions

These included no discussion of the *New Nation* case before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in which the newspaper challenges the Minister's right to warn, close or censor newspapers

Mr Anton Harber, editor of *Weekly Mail*, said he was "astounded that the Minister (issued the warning) before giving us the kind of information we need to deal with his objections" to the paper's content

Weekly Mail received a list of the Minister's objections to articles and photographs — the first step in the censorship process — in December last year

It replied with a 160-page "representation" as was its right in terms of the curbs, and "heard nothing more", Mr Harber said

On March 21, the newspaper received a second letter from the Minister inviting further representations, particularly on the "cumulative effect" of articles or portions of articles carried in the paper

WARNING OF INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY

It again replied, this time with a 10-page letter. In all correspondence with the Minister, *Weekly Mail* has asked for a meeting in order to "understand his objections".

"We see no rational way we can deal with the Minister's objections. He has moved to a gazetted warning without giving us reasons," said Mr Harber

He predicted an "international and local outcry" at the formal warning, similar to that which greeted the first action against the paper in December 1987

At that time, *Weekly Mail* received telegrams of support from publications such as the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Independent*, the *Guardian* and *The Washington Post*

Yesterday's action brought to seven the number of publications which have reached at least this phase of the curbs

Tow-truck driver shot dead in row

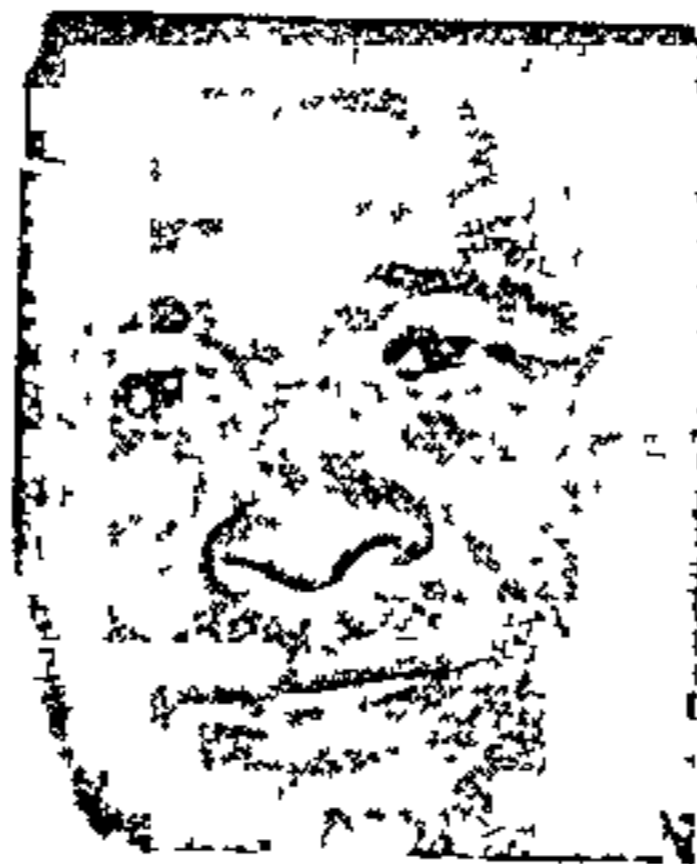
A Johannesburg Traffic Department tow-truck driver, Mr John Cass (33), was shot dead at point-blank range in Doornfontein yesterday after an argument with a man whose wife's car was being towed away

Mr Cass of Eldorado Park died when he was shot in the temple in Pearse Street at 7 15 am

A man was arrested soon afterwards and was expected to appear in court soon on a murder charge, said police spokesman Lieutenant Pierre Louw

Detectives have seized a 6,35 mm pistol

Johannesburg's Traffic and Security Director, Mr John Pearce, said he was horrified by the kill.



Mr John Cass shot dead in Doornfontein yesterday

Pearse Street to tow away an abandoned car which was apparently hindering work being done on the road by the municipality

Residents and workers in the area said the vehicle, which had been parked at the spot for some time, did not have

Govt is 'still against'

Editors vow to fight as banning looms after minister's warning

D/D 27/4/85
243
347

JOHANNESBURG — The Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha yesterday issued a gazetted warning against the Weekly Mail in terms of the media regulations.

At the same time he sent the editors a telex offering to meet them.

The Weekly Mail is the seventh publication to receive a gazetted warning, the penultimate step to a three-month ban or vetting by a government censor.

A co-editor of the Weekly Mail Mr Irwin Manoim said that Mr Botha would have a fight on his hands if he were to suspend the newspaper as it had wide support from the

business sector lawyers and other influential newspaper editors.

Support for Weekly Mail was demonstrated at a meeting held two weeks ago to which we invited 100 leaders in society including executives from major mining houses, large corporations and banks.

A committee was set up to save the press and indications at the meeting showed that we have a number of important allies.

Co-editor Mr Anton Harber, said yesterday they would do all they could to fight off the banning or censorship and persuade Mr Botha what he was doing was foolhardy.

They would be considering all avenues including legal action but would not say at this stage whether they would take up Mr Botha's offer to meet him.

They were astounded at the gazetted warning as they had made detailed representations to Mr Botha and had not had a response aside from the telex.

They did not understand Mr Botha's objections and needed clarification in order to know how to deal with the situation.

It appeared Mr Botha was determined to restrict all newspapers critical of government.

They started with the

New Nation and have moved on to ourselves — they will move onto other newspapers.

The New Nation one of the seven publications to receive a gazetted warning, has already been banned.

The others are the Cape Town weekly South a left-wing journal Work in Progress, the Oudtshoorn community newspaper Saamstaan, the Cape Town community newspaper Grassroots and the End Conscription Campaign publication Out of Step.

A number of other publications have received written warnings from Mr Botha — Sapa

ECC article in Times leads to police probe

CAPT 1m/88
27/4/88

Staff Reporter

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POLICE are investigating an alleged contravention of the emergency regulations by the Cape Times arising out of the publication of an article on the End Conscription Campaign.

The article was written by Dr David Greene, press officer for the Western Cape Region of the ECC, and dealt with the ECC's view on conscription and the Angolan war. It was published on February 2 this year.

The Editor of the Cape Times, Mr J C Viviers, was visited by a member of the security police on Monday who informed him of the investigation and asked whether he wanted to make a statement. Mr Viviers declined.

The investigation is in terms of Section 5B (par b) of the media regulations which relates to the making of a "subversive" statement.

Gazetted warning for Weekly Mail

CAP- Times 27/4/88 243

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Co-editor Mr Anton Harber

said yesterday that they would do all they could to fight off the banning or censorship and persuade Mr Botha what he was doing was "foolhardy"

He said they would be considering all avenues, including legal action, but would not say at this stage whether they would take up Mr Botha's offer to meet him

He said it appeared Mr Botha was determined to restrict all newspapers critical of government. "They started with the New

Nation and have moved on to ourselves — they will go on to move on to other newspapers as well "

Fellow editor Mr Irwin Manoim said Mr Botha would have "a fight on his hands" if he were to suspend the newspaper, as it had wide support from the business sector, lawyers and other editors in influential circles "We have now reached the end of the warning process The next step is suspension, which he can do at any time," he added — Own Correspondent, Sapa

to American, Mr Gavin Relly,
bican officials on the possible
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other of permitting cross-border violence

In a statement last night, the Minister of Foreign
Affairs Mr P. D. Botha said that

(24) ~~10~~

WHAT PUZZLES many people is why a government which has banned newspapers with a mere flourish of the pen should design brand-new process to close newspapers

We can now see why The new system ensures that any public outcry will fade to a whimper long before the climax of the whole tedious, boring, excruciatingly drawn-out process of death by a thousand pinicks

Government has closed one newspaper, New Nation, and is on the verge of closing another, South Others, including Weekly Mail, hover a step behind Has this prompted a public outcry? Some, yes But not very much

Internal Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha has every reason to be pleased with himself He has managed to wield the bludgeon without the usual complaints

He introduced a new set of Press regulations remarkable for their bureaucratic clumsiness The new regulations entitle the Minister to suspend a newspaper for a period of no more than three months, and only after a lengthy to-and-fro waltz of written "warnings" from his department, followed by responses from the newspapers, with ample opportunity to argue their defence

The regulations also permitted the Minister to impose a censor upon a newspaper, although an editor was entitled to ignore the censor's opinion, at his own risk The general impression was of a procedure which was slow and clumsy, perhaps, but not unreasonable

Best of all, there was no talk of permanent banning the worst possible penalty was the cooler, not the hangman

Near the end of last year, notices were sent to a number of newspapers announcing that the Minister required a free copy of every issue published These copies were for perusal by a faceless committee of experts, who, using criteria too secret to divulge, would determine what was and what was not acceptable

Then came the warning letters, which showed so little sign of a mind actually engaged in examination of the contents of the objectionable publication that they tended to produce guffaws rather than alarm

The Sowetan, for example was warned for a wire service report which was carried by almost every

Press must not bow to Stoffel's grand deception

Behind government's attack on "alternative" newspapers lies a threat to SA's mainstream Press: co-operate or else. This is an extract from a recent speech by IRWIN MANOIM, co-Editor of the Weekly Mail, which this week became the seventh newspaper to have a Gazetted warning in terms of the media regulations

other paper in the country, including several staunch allies of government New Nation was warned for an article on Govan Mbeki, lifted word-for-word from a Weekly Mail article to which the Minister expressed no objection

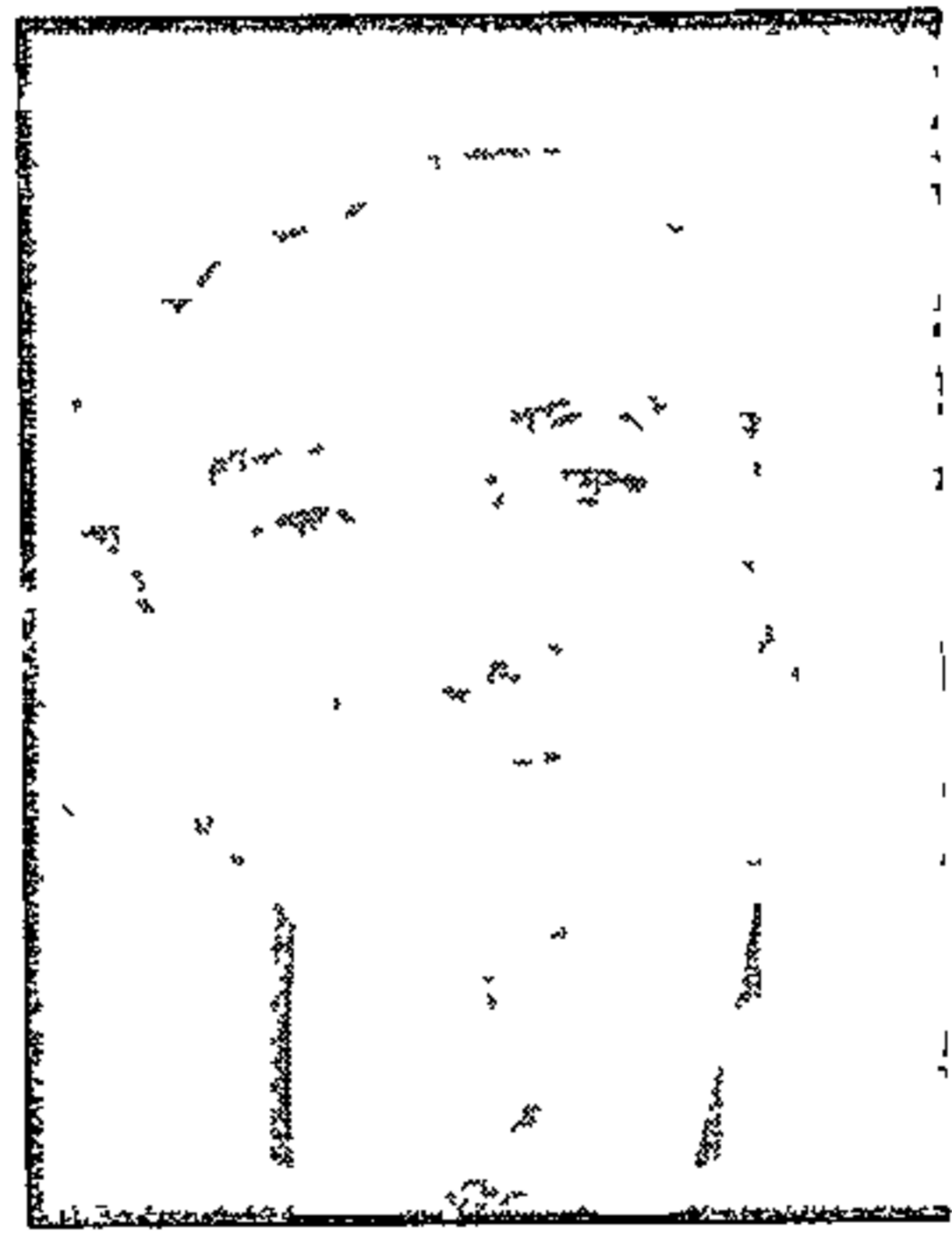
The Weekly Mail in turn was warned for quoting Govan Mbeki's words at a Press conference broadcast live on SABC-TV and organised by the Minister's own department

The letters of warning invite the newspapers to make representations in their own defence The Minister may accept these representations or move on to the next step which is to publish a notice in the Government Gazette warning that he is considering action against the newspaper

This is what he has done against the analytical journal Work in Progress, the community newspapers Grassroots and Saamstaan and the anti-censorship journal Out of Step This week he took this step against the Weekly Mail, which has already received two "warning letters" from him

The Minister may then write another letter to the newspaper saying that his warning has clearly had no effect and that he is considering suspending the newspaper

One publication has been suspended - New Nation a Transvaal-based weekly owned by the Catholic Bishops' Conference There was no more than a ripple of protest to greet the



STOFFEL BOTHA free papers

first silencing of an alternative newspaper

New Nation was suspended for just 10 weeks A mild enough punishment it would seem There has been no seizure of assets, no raids from the police but there is nothing to prevent the Minister from renewing that suspension the day it ends

New Nation is fortunate its church backers have said they will support it though the suspension But other papers faced with suspension for a few weeks may be less lucky It's a rare newspaper which can sustain its staffing and rental bills its leases and its other expenses without a cent of income

Suspension will indeed mean death - commercial death And the Minister

will be free to protest "My hands are clean I didn't close them"

The Minister has chosen a work-out on the margins of the mainstream Press where he is least likely to be disturbed by angry pressure from white public opinion or business leaders

He began his attacks with New Nation, South Grassroots and Saamstaan township papers which few of the shapers of white opinion are likely to have heard of let alone read and which most, if they read them would almost certainly hate

Yet the repercussions affected not only the alternative Press indeed, while the current attack may appear to be confined to the small papers it is in fact part of an attack on the Press as a whole

The National Party has been at war with the English Press since the day it came to power

There has been a relative lull in hostilities in the past 18 months, but the Minister had other matters to divert him the foreign television crews, for one, the alternative Press for another

The foreign television crews have been blindfolded With the alternative Press out of the way, the mainstream Press is left once more with its flanks exposed

The Minister is signalling to the mainstream Press not only can I silence the small papers, but in doing so I can lean on you, too And there is

more than a hint of that in the fact that one of the first papers to receive a warning was the Argus company's own Sowetan

The Minister seems to be aiming for two things First to silence the more pesky radical Press particularly that Press with union and political group ties second to extract deals from the more moderate mainstream

It is probably not mere accident that at January's Parliamentary session, the Minister chose to attack not the New Nation or the Weekly Mail but The Star and the Sunday Times, accusing them mysteriously of harbouring a new breed of advocate journalists His attack was unexpected and couched in the same language usually reserved for the alternative Press

Now it is hardly likely that the Minister would close The Star and Sunday Times But he has already set up the machinery to allow him to pressure them He can issue letters of warning which stop short of closure, provoking alarm within the newspaper but not much protest from outside

What does the Minister represent? A government which has shown little respect for the English Press in 40 years war with this Press He talks about stamping out revolutionary journalism but we know this is a cover

What he wants is cooperation Gentlemanly gentlemen that certain issues will not be covered For an indication of what the Minister thinks we should examine the remarkable observations he gave the magazine *Focus* last year

The Minister despite the protestations that all he sought was balanced reporting made it clear that what worries him is not the stirring of revolution but acknowledgment of the depth of the crisis SA is in

The Minister is not looking for honest reporting he seeks partners in government's grand deception

The task for us must be to deny the Minister this partnership He has started his campaign of destruction out on the margins of the media, and he is gradually widening those margins We must act now to deny him his victory before it is too late for New Nation and South and before those margins grow wide enough to swallow us all

And above all we must not let him make us partners in his grandest deception - that no crisis at all faces the Press

Star 28/4/68

(243)

Editors deplore warning to Mail

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

Newspaper editors around the country have condemned as "absurd", "shocking" and "deplorable" the warning issued to the *Weekly Mail* on Tuesday in terms of Government censorship

Mr Harvey Tyson, Editor-in-chief of *The Star*, said that the "ludicrous" accusation made against the *Weekly Mail* was a threat to every South African

"Those who dreamt up this grotesque form of censorship are doing the country, and especially white voters, a major disservice"

Mr Tertius Myburgh, editor of the *Sunday Times*, described as "obviously absurd" the action taken against newspapers with "no explanation offered"

Mr Aggrey Klaaste, who is to assume editorship of the *Sowetan* next week, said that although the action against the *Weekly Mail* was not unexpected, "it still leaves most people in the media and, I would suggest, the country rather shocked that another newspaper is faced with suspension"

Mr Michael Green, editor of the *Daily News*, said "It is hard to see the *Weekly Mail* as any kind of threat to public order"

Mr James McMillan, editor of the *Natal Mercury*, said he "strongly opposed the banning of any paper"

ARBITRARY

He was particularly opposed to "arbitrary action" against a paper where it had not been

of the *South African* next week, said that although the action against the *Weekly Mail* was not unexpected, "it still leaves most people in the media and, I would suggest, the country rather shocked that another newspaper is faced with suspension"

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Mr James McMillan, editor of the *Natal Mercury*, said he "strongly opposed the banning of any paper"

ARBITRARY

He was particularly opposed to "arbitrary action" against a paper where it had not been proven in court that a newspaper had "genuinely endangered the State"

Mr Mostert van Schoor, editor of the *Pretoria News*, said "If his (the Minister's) opinion is correct, then the paper's readers must be dangerous revolutionaries for putting up with its news and views. Clearly they are not a threat to the State"

Mr J C Viviers, editor of the *Cape Times*, said "The warning to the *Weekly Mail* following the closure of the *New Nation* is a depressing confirmation of the Government's determination to silence the so-called alternative press"

Mr Khulu Sibiyi, editor of the weekend newspaper *City Press*, said the action was "expected, it comes as no surprise at all"

Mr P W Kuhn, deputy editor of *Beeld*, said it was not his newspaper's policy to comment on "such matters"

A similar "no comment" was made on behalf of the editor of *Die Burger*

Mr Ken Owen, editor of *Business Day*, referred *The Star* to the paper's editorial headlined "Witless action"

The editorial described as "quite bizarre" the suggestion that the *Weekly Mail* "may be stoking up a night of the long knives"

● The *Star*'s formal comment appears on Page 10

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28/4/88

Stoffel mum on why Weekly Mail offends

ROGER SMITH

THE contents of the letter of warning issued to the Weekly Mail by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha in December give the only indication so far of what he finds objectionable in the newspaper.

In the gazetted warning issued this week, Botha had only to state it was his opinion the Weekly Mail was promoting or fanning revolution and preventing the ending of the emergency, without stating his grounds.

But in the letter, published in the Weekly Mail on December 18, Botha referred to several articles whose contents he found objectionable.

Articles which Botha said promoted revolution by mustering support for revolutionary organisations included those on ANC president Oliver Tambo's 70th birthday; the release of Robben Island prisoners Govan Mbeki and John Nkosi, and changes in the hierarchy of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

In responding to Botha's letter of warning, Weekly Mail editors Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim said they found his reasons difficult to understand. They pointed out the articles cited all related to matters "extensively and routinely reported by the entire media".

● See Page 10

Weekly Mail warned

THE Weekly Mail this week received a gazetted warning from Home Affairs Minister Botha.

The Johannesburg-based newspaper is now in the penultimate stage before a possible three-month suspension, or being subjected to pre-publication government censorship.

The editors simultaneously received a telex from Botha in which he offered to meet with them.

New Nation

Meanwhile, SOUTH, which faces three months' closure or pre-publication government censorship, received a letter on Friday April 22, from Botha, warning that the paper had 14 days to make further representations to prevent action being taken against it.

The Weekly Mail is the sixth publication to receive a gazetted warning.

28/4-4/17/87
S. J. ...
28/4-4/17/87

Groote Schuur racism: report 'one-sided'

IT was with deep indignation that I took cognisance of the one-sided report in SOUTH (April 14-20) under the heading: "Racism claims at Groote Schuur". In the report the Public Servants' League was criticised severely.

What bothers me is that your reporter consulted the national secretary on the whole matter, but did not deem it necessary to write about the other side of the story.

You should bear in mind that our organisation represents 44 000 members. I am sure thousands of members are regular readers of SOUTH. Our head office has received several telephone calls protesting the line of your story. I am convinced thousands of our members share my views.

So far I have been very proud of the undaunted performance of SOUTH. You made it clear many times, whatever the consequences, that you will stand by the truth in the interests of the community you serve.

We reject the view that we are a "sweetheart union" with the contempt it deserves.

The PSL has in the past and is still making a stand against hurtful discrimination in the

public service. Allow me to quote from the national chairman's address as delivered at an annual general meeting in Port Elizabeth recently:

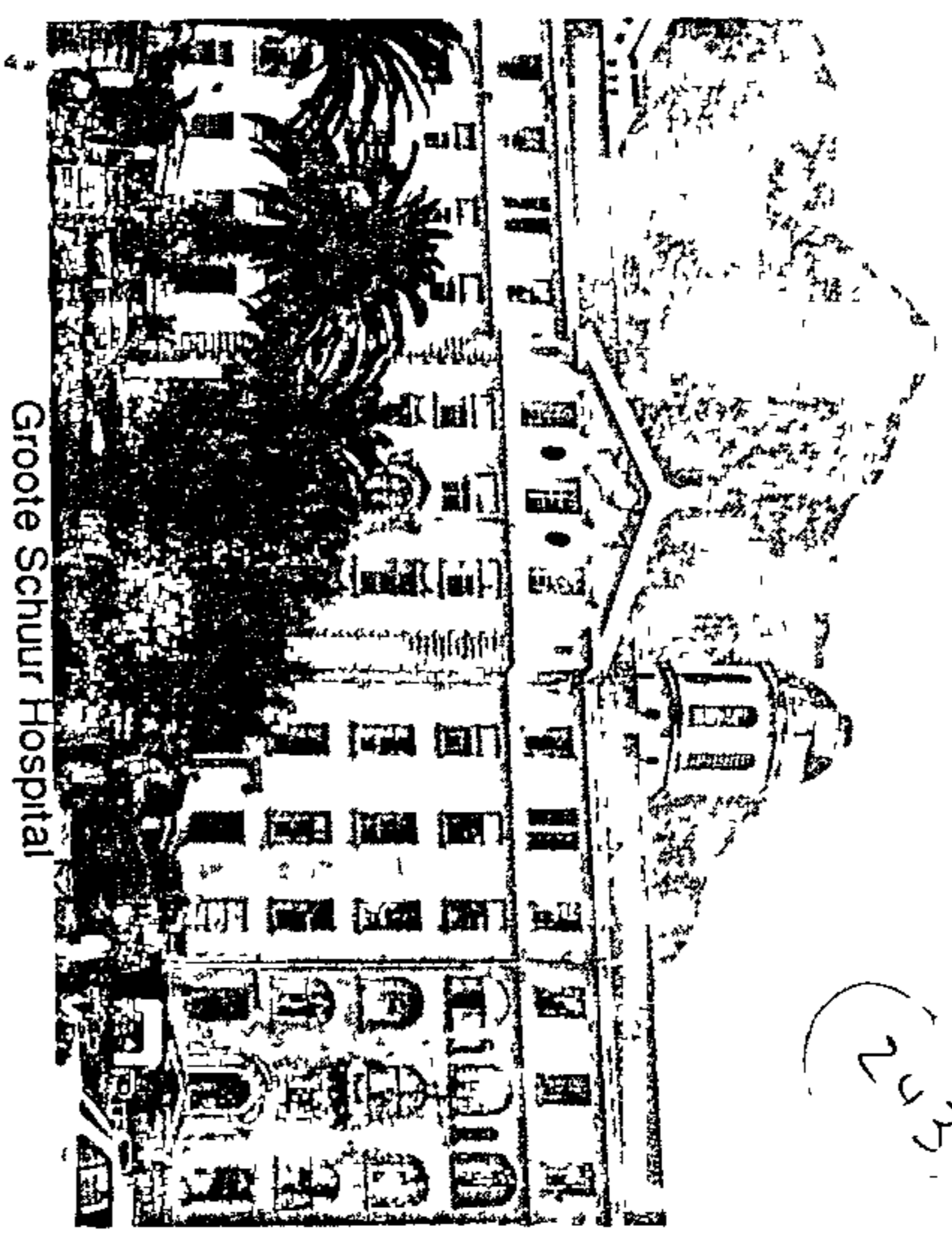
"We must help to determine a future in the public service and our country where everyone will be happy and live peacefully together. The present set-up in the public service, as well as in our country, does not satisfy our people."

While it is our organisation's immediate objective or priority to improve conditions of employment and to bring about a non-discriminatory public service, it must be clearly understood that we also want to improve our political future.

Thus the Public Servants League has quite unjustly been given the image of being a "sweetheart organisation" that supports the Government and apartheid. We stand for equality in all spheres of life and, therefore, we oppose all forms of discrimination which is based on race and colour.

As a result of persistent pressure from the PSL the following goals were attained:

• A new employment and utilisation policy has materialised where equal



Groote Schuur Hospital

opportunities on merit exists;

• The Commission for Administration and the Ministers Council has complied with a request from the PSL that preference be given to blacks when it comes to appointment and/or promotion to senior posts. This will assist to reduce the backlog resultant from an unjust employment policy;

• Parity in salaries as from March 1, 1988;

• Creation of posts for those employees who have been doing certain types of work (drivers or cooks), but were classified as temporary. These people must now be identified and appointed into posts;

• Staff evaluation through merit assessment also for general assistants; and

• Immediate admittance to the pension fund. The two-year

waiting period has been done away with.

The PSL is at present also bargaining for: A multiracial Commission for Administration; uniform retirement age of 60 years; an increase in the maximum housing subsidy; salary increases of 20 percent for all civil servants and general assistants.

Some of the other negotiations include: Extension of 100 percent housing loans and housing subsidies to married women officials; maternity leave; and parity on all levels.

You also reported that the PSL was not recognised by workers. I would like to know which workers you refer to. The PSL is a 44 000 strong organisation and is growing rapidly because of what has been achieved in the interest of our members. I wish to invite members of the PSL to report irregularities to us.

The statement that "workers are forced to join the PSL" is untrue. We respect the principle of freedom of association. All our members have joined of their own free will.

JJ DAVIDS

CHIEF LIAISON SERVICES

This letter has been shortened —
Editor

28/4-4/5/88 South

Cap Tavis
28/8/88

Issue of articles refused

Political Staff

THE police had turned down 45 of the 61 requests it had received since February last year to publish articles dealing with matters covered by the emergency regulations, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said yesterday

Replying to a question from Mr David Dalling (PFP, Sandton), Mr Vlok said permission had been refused because the articles or portions of them fell within the ambit of the provisions of the regulations promulgated in terms of the Public Safety Act.

He also told Mr Clive Derby-Lewis (CP, indirectly elected) that the police did not ban any organization and did not have such authority

"When an organization involves itself with subversive activities, the action is taken against such an organization in terms of the applicable security legislation," Mr Vlok said.

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0102814/88
Gazette (243)
**warning:
editors
no wiser**

JOHANNESBURG —
The contents of the letter of warning issued to The Weekly Mail by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in December give the only indication so far of what he finds objectionable in the newspaper

In the gazetted warning issued this week, Mr Botha had to state only that in his opinion The Weekly Mail was promoting or fanning revolution and preventing the ending of the state of emergency, without stating his grounds

In the December letter, Mr Botha referred to several articles he had found objectionable

The articles included those on ANC president Oliver Tambo's 70th birthday, the release of Robben Island prisoners Govan Mbeki and John Nkosi, an Angolan call to stop the war and a report on the rent boycott, which, according to Mr Botha, alleged the SADF was harassing Soweto residents

Weekly Mail editors Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim said the articles cited all related to matters "extensively and routinely reported by the entire media"

In response to the gazetted warning this week, Mr Harber said they still didn't understand Mr Botha's objections and had had no response from him on their detailed representations aside from a telex inviting them to meet him — DDC

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Weekly Mail Reporter

THE Minister of Home Affairs' warning to the *Weekly Mail* this week has brought widespread condemnation and the launch of an international "Save the Press" campaign.

A wide range of businessmen, editors, trade unionists, and civil rights organisations — locally and internationally — have come together to urge Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha not to restrict newspapers.

"We are gearing up to fight the minister. He is not going to be able to act against us without causing a local and international outcry," the *Weekly Mail's* co-editors said.

"So far the response has been extraordinary — businessmen, members of the legal profession, ambassadors and editors are among those who are working on ways to convince the minister that he should think again," they said.

Botha published a special gazette on Tuesday warning the *Weekly Mail* that it is publishing matter which, "in my opinion, is causing a threat to the safety of the public or the maintenance of public order or is causing a delay in the termination of the State of Emergency."

This takes the newspaper a further step down the road towards its possible suspension. To date, the minister has suspended one newspaper, the *New Nation*, and gazetted warnings

An international outcry meets notice to Mail



Stoffel Botha . warning

against six others *Weekly Mail*, *South*, *Work in Progress*, *Grassroots*, *Saamstaan* and *Out of Step*.

The "Save the Press" campaign grew out of a meeting of about 100 influential South Africans two weeks ago.

Aspects of the campaign so far are:

• United States presidential candidate Paul Simon, a "regular reader of the *Weekly Mail*", is to raise the issue in the US senate. He telephoned the newspaper's editors yesterday to express his concern.

• A letter from the editors of *Weekly Mail*, *New Nation* and *South* has been sent to hundreds of editors around the world, drawing their attention to the situation.

• An open letter to the State President, signed by writers and journalists around the world, was delivered to the South African embassy in London this week. Signatories so far include former *London Times* editor Harold Evans, playwright Tom Stoppard, Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the British Press Coun-

cil, Louis Blom Cooper QC, editor of the *Independent*, Andreas Whitlam-Smith, chairman of Random House publishers Bob Bernstein, and Lord Avebury, chairman of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group.

The London-based Index on Censorship group has already received more than 100 signatures for the letter, which is the first step in an ongoing international campaign to persuade the minister "to lift the ban on *New Nation*, and to take no further steps against the alternative or mainstream press."

• The Progressive Federal Party is to raise the issue in parliament in Cape Town.

• Editors of major local newspapers and leading businessmen are meeting in separate groups to decide what action to take.

There was swift reaction this week to the latest warning to *Weekly Mail*.

• Addressing a public meeting on Wednesday, former SA ambassador to London, Denis Worrall, lambasted the government for attacking the press, accusing it of "immaturity" and political myopia.

Referring specifically to *Weekly Mail's* warning, he said "South Africa needs as much information as possible. South Africans are mature enough to determine their future on the basis of facts and a free flow of information."

• In an editorial, the *Star* said "Today it is the 'alternative' media, tomorrow it could well be others. What is at stake is not just an abstract concept called freedom of the press, but the very right of all South Africans to know what is going on in their country."

• Newspaper editors around the country condemned the warning.

• Messages of support were received from media organisations around the world, such as the World Press Freedom Committee and the Committee for the Protection of Journalists, from South African businessmen and from editors around the world.

Court hears claim of collusion by ^{P/D} publisher, paper ^{29/4/88} against Forman ⁽²⁴³⁾

**Daily Dispatch
Correspondent**

JOHANNESBURG — A draft article and internal memo from The Star revealed the newspaper and Caxton bout businesswoman Miss Reeva Forman, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday

This submission was made by Mr M Kuper SC, acting for Miss Forman in a damages suit for more than R3 million

Mr Kuper said the collusion tried to make the information common knowledge and avoid a court interdict

The damages claim is against Caxton, Style editor, Miss Marilyn Hattingh, the author Miss Lin Sampson, CTP Web Printers, Central News Agency and National News Distributors

It arises out of an article published in the July 1985 issue of Style, critical of Miss Forman's business methods

During his opening address Mr Kuper said at the time of the origin of the Star memo and draft article, Miss Forman believed there to be a conspiracy or set-up between Caxton and newspapers

The memo and draft suggested, Mr Kuper said, that the Style lawyers sought republication by the Star of material which would make it common knowledge and render the court ineffective

The publication of the article had been preceded by a long interview with Miss Forman

Mr Kuper said, "that never once, either at the interview or thereafter, were the complaints, or charges, or criticisms that appeared in the article put to (Forman) in order to see whether they were well-founded or whether (she) had any answer or explanation

The suit is being brought by Miss Forman's two companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics (Pty) Ltd

Caxton and the other defendants are opposing the claim on the grounds of justification and public interest. They submit any damages suffered were made through unlawful business practices

The case continues before Mr Justice Curlew today

Mail urges readers to protest

The *Weekly Mail* today published a strong front-page appeal to its readers to continue protesting against the Government's protracted attempts to shut it down (243)

A special edition of the *Government Gazette* this week warned the paper that its activities could lead it to be closed for three months, or required to submit all information for pre-publication censorship (243)

The appeal, dominated by the headline "Save the *Wail*", read *Stw*

"Our enemies consider us one of the country's noisier newspapers. So do our friends. 29/4/68

"For three years we've failed to keep our mouths shut. Despite various requests

"This week the Minister of Home Affairs warned us that our wailing threatened public safety."

But, the appeal read, the newspaper denied the charge

The process of closing newspapers was so lengthy, so tortuous, so little-understood that public interest died long before the climax of the wearying process of death by a thousand pin-pricks

"Which is why we appeal to our readers. Don't let us go quietly", it said

"Carry on reading us
Carry on subscribing
Make a fuss

"Wail dammit"

Forman defamation action begins

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Magazine wanted Article re-published

Star 29/11/88

By Bruce Anderson and
Melanie Gosling

Legal action for *Style* magazine had sought and won the re-publication in *The Star* of aspects of allegedly defamatory article published by the magazine a Rand Supreme Court judge was told yesterday.

The assertion was made by Mr Michael Kuper SC, during for the plaintiffs in a case in which two Miss Reeva Forman's companies are claiming more than R3 million for an alleged defamation arising from an article published by *Style* in 1985.

Mr Kuper produced what he said was an internal memorandum of *The Star* newspaper and told Mr Justice D J Curlewis that the anonymous document

had been found attached to an article written by Ms Annie Quayle, a journalist on that newspaper

ANONYMOUS DOCUMENT

He said *The Star* article had been published during interdict proceedings in 1985 which had eventually resulted in the July 1985 issue of *Style* magazine being distributed without the article about Miss Forman entitled "Question How did Reeva Forman get to be so successful? Answer She believes in God, self-promotion (and a couple of other little things)".

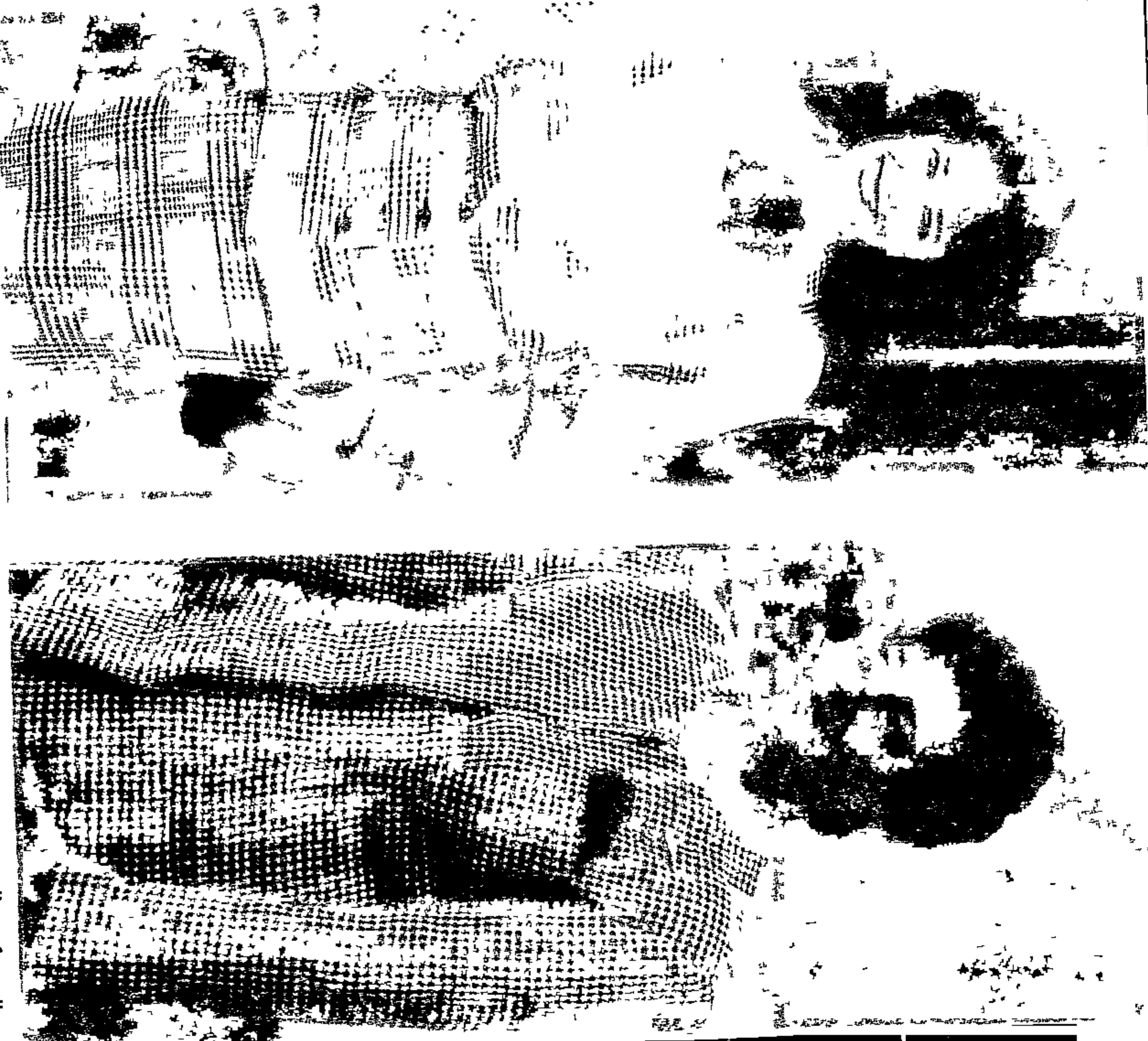
The re-publication of aspects of the *Style* article in *The Star* "was sought by *Style* in order to avoid the granting of the interdict", Mr Kuper said.

Mr Kuper had raised the re-publication of the *Style* article in *The Star* and *The Sunday Times*, after an explanation of

the financial links between the two newspapers and the defendants.

The plaintiffs in the case are Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics.

The six defendants are Caxton Ltd, publisher of the magazine, Ms Marilyn Hattingh, editor of *Style*, Ms Lin Sampson, the journalist who wrote the article, CTP Web Printers, Central News Agency, and National News Distributors.



Miss Reeva Forman (left), whose two companies are claiming more than R3 million for alleged defamation, and Miss Marilyn Hattingh, editor of *Style* magazine, outside court yesterday.

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Africans see time differently, says seminar absentee

Star 21/4/88

Mr John Mavuso, the former ANC member now a member of the Transvaal provincial executive committee, failed to attend a top level seminar in Johannesburg yesterday focusing on population growth that he was to have addressed

The other speakers were the former Broederbond head and vice-rector of RAU, Professor JP de Lange and Mr Christo Nel Mrs Margaret Lessing of the Women's Bureau was to have spoken but did not because she was ill.

The organisers, the Council for Population Development, were unable to explain Mr Mavuso's absence. They said he had contacted them in the morning to say he would be late.

His speech was read by Professor Pieter Haasbroek, a member of the Council, who chaired the seminar. It was attended by about 150 people from

womens organisations, engineering concerns and the business community

Mr Mavuso said in his prepared speech that time was viewed in a totally different way by the African tradition

A person experienced time partly in his own life, and partly through the society which stretched back many generations before his own birth

Time was thus seen as a two-dimensional phenomenon, with a long past, a present and virtually no future. Actual time was that which was present as well as which was past, so that this concept stretched "backward" rather than "forward"

In contrast to western or technological societies where time was a valuable commodity to be utilised, sold and bought, in African traditional life time was created by a sequence of historical events

Police chief warns papers about 'lies'

Star 21/4/88

WINDHOEK — The Commissioner of the SWA Police, Lieutenant-General Dolf Gouws, has warned newspapers that action will be taken against those that disseminate lies about the police

In a statement published yesterday General Gouws referred to a report in the latest issue of *The Namibian* newspaper

The report quoted an Ovambo official as saying security forces had abducted about 30 schoolchildren from northern Namibia and dropped them in Angola for "propaganda purposes"

The editor of the *Namibian*, Miss Gwen Lister, and a senior reporter, Mr Mark Verbaan, have been called to give evidence before a military board of inquiry to be convened in Windhoek in terms of the military disciplinary code

The hearing has been set down for May 20 and is to be held at a military base — Sapa

Botha is urged against 'foolhardy option'

NPU welcomes talks on new press threat

The Newspaper Press Union (NPU) has welcomed the Minister and his professors in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of press freedom. The NPU remains committed to the search for a solution which allows the maximum of freedom of speech within the parameters of existing legislation and with due regard to prevailing circumstances. The statement was issued by the acting Editor-in-Chief of The Star, Mr Rev

CLAIRE ROBERTSON, ADELE BALETA and SAPA

The Minister and his professors in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of press freedom. The NPU remains committed to the search for a solution which allows the maximum of freedom of speech within the parameters of existing legislation and with due regard to prevailing circumstances. The statement was issued by the acting Editor-in-Chief of The Star, Mr Rev

Gibson said. A statutory council means ultimate Government control of the press no more and no less. We trust that Mr Stoffel Botha will yet turn away from a foolhardy option that will be doubly damaging. Abroad it will place another perhaps a final nail in the coffin of South Africa's reputation among those who argue. Say what you like about South Africa it does at least have a vigorous press which does not operate under government licence.

At home a statutory council trying to apply the secret and whimsical norms of Mr Botha's department - will have the press by the throat. The throttling process will lull the Government and subordinate newspapers to be silent but it will also feed national ignorance, despair and tension. The Argus company had received the news with alarm, managing director of the company's newspaper division, Mr Peter

McLean said. State control on the press is unnecessary. If implemented the move will be seen overseas in a highly unfavourable light and further complicate relations with our trading partners and friends in the Western world. We believe that the Media Council has done an admirable job. Its aim is to facilitate the free flow of news and the operation of a responsible press rather than to act as a censor which is what the Government wants it to do.

Papers will run risk of closure

The Registration of Newspapers Amendment Act is threatened by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha. Newspapers will be forced to create a government-approved control body or risk closure under the Johannesburg media law. The law, which was asked not to be named, was reacted to by the NPU and its wish to have intensive discussions with the Newspaper Press Union on the matter. Mr Botha told Parliament this week that he would bring the amending Act into being. The Registration of Newspapers Amendment Act, which was passed by a great vote in 1982, was held to be brought into effect at any time. The law, which is the 'registration' of newspapers, requires that any newspaper which does not register with the government may have its licence suspended. The amending Act lies in the hands of the Minister of Home Affairs, which newspapers must sub-

Claire Robertson Pretoria Bureau

ject themselves for disciplinary purposes. The amendment to the Publications Act which the Minister threatens to bring into force provides that the body which will discipline newspapers will be an independent and voluntary body (none of whose members shall be appointed by the Government) striving for the attainment and maintenance of the highest possible standards by persons disseminating news. "The difficulty with the definition is that it goes on to stipulate that this body must fulfill a further condition - namely that it is recognised by the Minister. The Minister will be in a position, if this amendment comes into force, to reject any body with which he is not satisfied either because it is not comprised of acceptable members or because it does not set itself to regulate itself in an appropriate fashion. If in reaction to this the newspaper community refuses to put forward a voluntary body, then the amendment will result in them all losing their licences.

GABU Tugwana, acting editor of the *New Nation* surveys a newsroom where journalists work to produce a paper that only they will read

This scene has been played out daily since March 22 when the South African Government gagged the anti-apartheid paper with a renewable three-month ban

"We still produce a mock paper for our staff and stockpile stories for June 10 when we finally hit the street," Mr Tugwana added

Mr Tugwana remains defiant although the paper's editor, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, is in detention and the publication ban could be extended for further three-month periods until the *New Nation's* Roman Catholic Church backers can no longer subsidise it

"We will not stop fighting, we will not stop protesting against Pretoria's unjust practices. The closure of the paper would not be the first attack on basic democratic freedoms — nor would it be the last," Mr Tugwana said

Meanwhile bored reporters listlessly run up huge phone bills to fill the time in their downtown offices and wonder about their future.

The newsrooms of every outspoken anti-Government newspaper in South Africa may soon look like this as the Government presses home its attack on the non-commercial "alternative Press" using tough emergency regulations announced last August

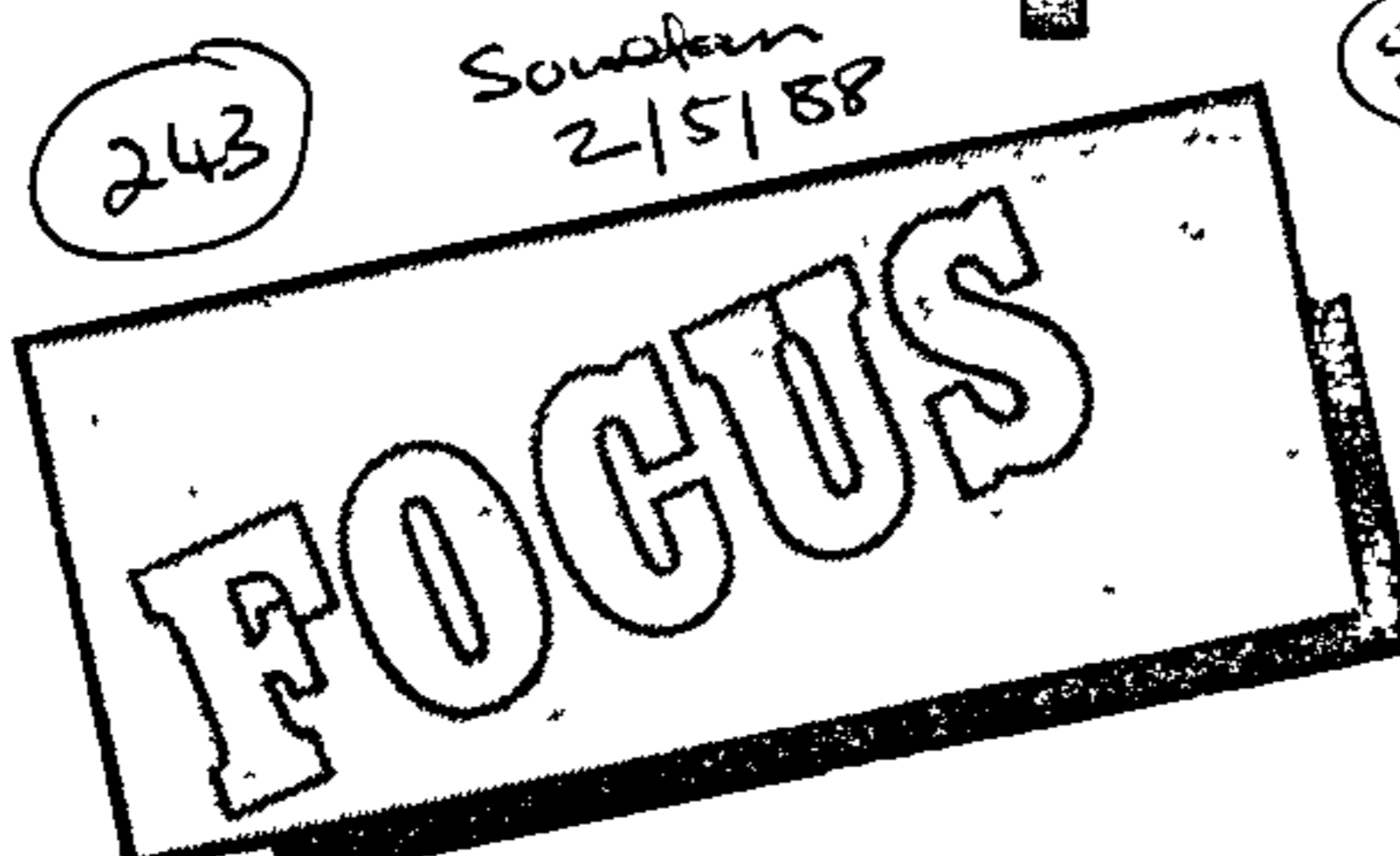
The Government has already issued warnings to the *Weekly Mail*, to *South*, a Cape Town-based weekly, to the *Sowetan* and six other publications

According to Mr Tu-



THE acting editor of the *New Nation*, Mr Gabu Tugwana . . . we will not stop fighting against Pretoria's unjust practices

Staff produces mock paper



gwana, the Government is using three-month bans to disguise the fact it is shutting the newspapers down for ever

"But that is what they mean to do," he said

The *New Nation* used to sell about 60 000 copies a week and had a much wider readership.

Mr Tugwana said he had received thousands of letters from concerned readers and had scores of sympathetic visitors

Last Thursday two members of West Germany's Greens Party dropped in for a 45-minute meeting with Mr Tugwana, after which they praised the paper as the

true voice of voteless blacks

What is it about the *New Nation* that irritates the South African Government?

"I guess it must be its stand against apartheid," said Greens member of parliament Will Hoss

Pretoria has praised "the commercial Press" saying there has been a reduction in reporting that could promote a revolutionary climate, one of the grounds on which the Government can close a newspaper under the emergency regulations

But Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, chairman of the Trustees of *South* newspaper, said the commercial Press could be next in line after the Government is finish-

ed with the alternative Press

Last Tuesday, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, warned the *Weekly Mail* it could be next in line to be shut for three months under the Government's Press curbs

Clean

Weekly Mail associate editor, Mr Irwin Manoim, said in an article last Thursday that for his paper the three-month suspension is the same as a death sentence. The paper does not have the same backing as the *New Nation*

"Suspension will indeed mean death — commercial death. And the Minister will be free to say his hands are clean, he did not close us," Mr

Manoim said

Mr Manoim says supporters of the alternative Press formed a committee last week to fight for their survival

"If we are closed down, we won't go unnoticed," he said

In Cape Town, Mr Rashid Seria, editor of *South*, said he expected his newspaper would be closed down this month

"The Minister has given us till May 4 to argue, but we believe he plans to close us down, most definitely," Mr Seria said

He said *South*, with weekly sales of 12 000, would have trouble surviving a three-month closure "but it is true that we are getting a lot of support and pledges of assistance" — Sapa-Reuter



Stoffel hits back at media critics

(243)
~~243~~

D/D 2/5/88

PRETORIA — The Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday rebutted criticisms of his handling of the media accusing detractors of 'misrepresentations'

He said certain elements "refused to accept that, by means of propaganda, publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries"

He said a false impression had been created that he wanted to close down newspapers and restrict publications indiscriminately

It was also claimed that the emergency regulations relating to the media were simply to shield the government against criticism

"All that is untrue," he said

What was true was that certain elements inside and outside South Africa wanted to brush aside the existing state of emergency as being unnecessary

It was his duty to act in terms of the emergency regulations pertaining to the media in cases warranting such action

"As far as the Weekly Mail is concerned, and the organised outcry about the warning which I have issued to the newspaper, the matter rests squarely with the

publishers of the Weekly Mail"

Replying to Mr Botha's statement, the co-editors of the Weekly Mail, Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim, said "If there is a revolution some day, it will not be because newspapers like the Weekly Mail have promoted it, but because voices for peaceful change such as ours are no longer to be heard

"We are an independent, critical newspaper, with ties to no or-

ganised group. We believe in democratic values, in non-racism and in open debate about the options for a changing South Africa

'Mr Botha accuses us of promoting revolution. He cannot surely believe this. Our real crime is the telling of awkward truths which the government would prefer not to hear'

They urged Mr Botha not to dismiss the views of those who had appealed to him to reconsider — Sapa

CMB Turis
2/5/88

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Govt unyielding on press action

Staff Reporter

THE Minister of Home Affairs and of Communications, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday he would continue to act against the media in terms of the emergency regulations despite a "hysterical campaign in certain circles"

In a statement he said that as far as his warning to the Weekly Mail was concerned the lengthy procedure for acting against a publication made ample provision for it to state its case and decide what it wanted to do

"Due to the organized outcry about the warning I want to state clearly and categorically that the further development in this matter rests squarely with the publishers of the Weekly Mail"

Mr Botha said he needed to "protect the public against being misled even further" by misrepresentations about his action against various publications

"The false impression is cre-

ated that I want to close down or place restrictions on publications indiscriminately, that freedom of speech and the free flow of information are unnecessarily restricted, and that the emergency regulations pertaining to the media have no other purpose than to shield the government against criticism

"All of that is untrue

"What is true, is that there are certain elements inside and outside South Africa which want to brush aside the existing state of emergency in an off-hand manner as being unnecessary

"They do not accept that a sustained onslaught is being directed against South Africa on almost every front and therefore they are also not prepared to accept the emergency regulations pertaining to the media as being essential

He said it would be irresponsible to allow the promotion of the cause of revolutionaries by positive publicity, and the government was not irresponsible

● If there is a revolution some day, it will not be because newspapers like the Weekly Mail have promoted it, but because voices for peaceful change such as ours are no longer to be heard co-editors of the Weekly Mail Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Man-oim, said yesterday in response to a statement by Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha, Sapa reports

"Mr Botha asks us to state our case We are an independent critical newspaper, with ties to no organized group We have a point of view We believe in democratic values, in non-racism and in open debate about the options for a changing South Africa

'Mr Botha accuses us of promoting revolution He cannot surely believe this Our real crime is the telling of awkward truths which the government would prefer not to hear

'Mr Botha appears astonished at the public outcry over his warning to the Weekly Mail

'Our crime is telling awkward truths'

Star 21/5/83 243

Weekly Mail hits back at Minister

If there were a revolution some day it would not be because newspapers like the *Weekly Mail* had promoted it but because voices for peaceful change were no longer to be heard, *Weekly Mail* co-editors Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim said yesterday.

They were responding to a statement by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Mr Botha asks us to state our case, they said. We are an independent, critical newspaper with ties to no organised group. We have a point of view, we believe in democratic values, in non-racism and in open debate about the options for a changing South Africa.

'Mr Botha accuses us of promoting revolution. He

cannot surely believe that. Our real crime is the telling of awkward truths which the Government would prefer not to hear.

Mr Botha appears astonished at the public outcry over his warning to the *Weekly Mail*. It seems he hoped to act against the press without a murmur of dissent. Instead a wide range of people both in South Africa and abroad appealed to him to reconsider.

These include senior business leaders, editors of major newspapers, professionals and diplomats.

These are cautious, responsible people, not given to either naive or reckless or hysterical views.

We urge Mr Botha not to dismiss their views too lightly. Mr Harber and Mr Manoim said.

In a statement yesterday, the Minister said certain elements obstinately refuse to accept that by means of propaganda publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries. Due to misrepresentations regarding the warning, it has become necessary to protect the public against being misled even further.

The false impression is created that I want to close down or place restrictions on publications indiscriminately. That freedom of speech and the free flow of information are unnecessarily restricted and that the emergency regulations pertaining to the media have no other purpose than to shield the Government against criticism. All that is untrue.

The Minister said "there are certain elements inside and outside South Africa which want to brush aside the existing state of emergency, in an off-hand manner as being unnecessary."

ONSLAUGHT

"They do not accept that a sustained onslaught is being directed against South Africa on almost every front and, therefore, they are also not prepared to accept the emergency regulations pertaining to the media as being essential."

"We dare not allow such people to lead us astray."

"They obstinately refuse to accept that by means of propaganda, publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries."

Mr Botha said that "due to the organised outcry about the warning which I have issued to the *Weekly Mail*, I want to state clearly and categorically that the matter rests squarely with the publishers of the *Weekly Mail*" — Sapa

GOVT PROTECTING

PUBLIC -

STOFFEL

Minister answers criticism on warnings to the media

31/5/88 Sowetan

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HOME Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha has rebutted criticisms of his handling of the media, accusing detractors of "misrepresentations"

In a statement dealing with warnings he has issued to newspapers in terms of the emergency regulations — among others the *Weekly Mail* — Mr Botha said certain elements obstinately refuse to accept that by means of propaganda publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries

"Due to misrepresentations regarding the warnings it has become necessary to protect the public against being misled even further," the Minister said in his statement

The false impression is created that I want to close down or place restrictions on publication indiscriminately — that freedom of speech and the free flow of information are unnecessarily restricted and that the emergency regulations pertaining to the media have no other purpose than to shield the Government against criticism

"All that is untrue

He said what was true is that there are certain elements inside and outside South Africa which want to brush aside the existing state of emergency in an off-hand manner as being unnecessary

"They do not accept that a sustained onslaught is being directed against

South Africa on almost every front and therefore they are also not prepared to accept the emergency regulations pertaining to the media as being essential

Revolution

We dare not allow such people to lead us astray. They obstinately refuse to accept that by means of propaganda publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries and to create a favourable atmosphere for the violent overthrow of civilised standards and good order in South Africa

"The end result of what these people are promoting or supporting is the replacement of the existing order by a Marxist/communist regime

"We cannot allow ourselves to be diverted from our course by naivety or reckless intent," he said

X

WEEKLY Mail states its case

3/5/88

Southern

IF there is a revolution some day, it will not be because newspapers like the *Weekly Mail* have promoted it, but because voices for peaceful change such as ours are no longer to be heard, co-editors of the *Weekly Mail*, Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim, said in response to a statement by Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha

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Mr Botha asks us to state our case we are an independent, critical newspaper, with ties to no organised group. We have a point of view we believe in democratic values in non-racism and in open debate about the options for a better South Africa

243

Truths

Mr Botha accuses us of promoting revolution. He cannot surely, believe this. Our real crime is the telling of awkward truths which the Government would prefer not to hear

"Mr Botha appears astonished at the public outcry over his warning to the *Weekly Mail*. It seems he hoped to act against the Press without a murmur of dissent. Instead, a wide range of people, both in South Africa and abroad, have appealed to him to reconsider

"These include senior business leaders, editors of major newspapers, professionals and diplomats. These are cautious, responsible people, not given to either "naivety", "recklessness" or "hysteria"

South could be facing its final deadline today

Staff Reporter *AKLus 4/5/88*

THE deadline for the weekly newspaper South to make representations to the Minister of Home Affairs about its being banned for three months is 4pm today

In a front page editorial editor Rashid Seria writes that today's edition of South could be the last

"The newspaper could be banned by a Government determined to cover up the evils of apartheid"

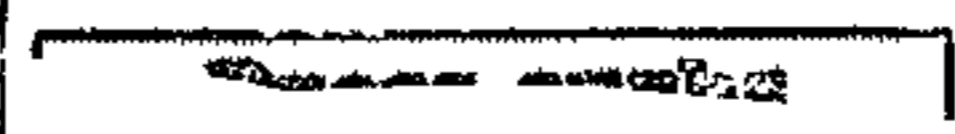
By banning South the Government would not put out the flame of freedom burning in the hearts of many South Africans, Mr Seria said

In an interview Mr Seria

said that South would hand the Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha, its final submissions before the deadline

South had decided not to "submit to censorship" should Mr Botha decide to appoint a censor rather than close the newspaper, he said

After Mr Botha made his decision South intended asking the "courts if he has applied his mind as required by the law in our case," Mr Seria said



Media body to hear Grosskopf complaints

CAPE TOWN An investigation quorum of the South African Media Council is to meet in Cape Town tomorrow to examine complaints by Professor H J Grosskopf of the University of Stellenbosch against the *Sunday Times*, the council said yesterday (243)

The complaints stem from reports on March 20 and 27 headlined 'Making of a terrorist' and Grosskopf's amazing story of scribbled notes and letters.

The reports were about the professor's son Mr Hein Grosskopf — Sapa

Weekly Mail to meet Botha this week

Weekly Mail's co-editors expect to meet the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, next week to discuss his threat to act against the paper.

The meeting is being arranged in the wake of an exchange of press statements this week between the two parties — and as an international "Save the Press" campaign gets off the ground.

As part of the campaign:

● An open letter to the State President from prominent editors, writers and media people around the world is to be published in South Africa's Sunday newspapers this weekend.

The letter has been signed by, among others, the editors of the *Inde-*

Weekly Mail Reporter

pendent, Mail on Sunday, and Observer of London, *Politiken* of Copenhagen, *Expressen* of Stockholm, the *Times of India*, the *Statesman* of India, the *Hufvudstadsbladet* of Finland and the *Mauritius Times*

Other signatories are Lord Avebury of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group, Peter Galliner of the International Press Institute and Bob Bernstein, chairman of Random House publishers.

● The Black Sash has circulated 1 000 copies of a chain letter, calling on the minister to stop his action against the press. They are asking

people to sign the letter and pass it on to five friends

● Stoffel Botha is about to receive a flood of letters from businessmen, editors, ambassadors, and ordinary readers of the *Weekly Mail* — all calling on him to reconsider his threat to the press

When Botha issued a special Government Gazette last week warning the newspaper that he considered it to be publishing matter that was a threat to public safety, he simultaneously informed the editors that he was prepared to meet them under certain conditions

The co-editors, Anton Harber and

● To PAGE 2

Weekly Mail to meet Botha this week

Irwin Manoim, replied saying they would be prepared to meet the minister to discuss matters arising from his warning

A date is expected to be set for sometime next week

On Sunday night, Botha issued a statement "in order to alert the general public not to be misled by the hysterical campaign in certain circles against the emergency media regulations"

He said "certain elements obstinately refuse to accept that by means of propaganda, publications are being used to promote the cause of revolutionaries

"The false impression is being created that I want to close down or place restrictions on publications indiscriminately, that freedom of speech and the free flow of information are unnecessarily restricted and that the emergency restrictions pertaining to the media have no other purpose than to shield the government against criticism

"All that is untrue," he said.

He said what was true was that "there are certain elements inside and outside South Africa which want to brush aside the existing state of emer-

gency in an off-hand manner as being unnecessary

"We cannot allow ourselves to be diverted from our course by naivety or reckless intent

"It would be irresponsible to allow the promotion of the cause of revolutionaries by positive publicity. The government is not irresponsible

"As far as the *Weekly Mail* is concerned, just this. I have repeatedly explained in public the provisions and application of the media regulations. The procedure according to which action is taken against a publication is long and makes ample provision for such a publication to state its case and to decide what it wants to do

"Due to the organised outcry about the warning which I have issued to the *Weekly Mail*, I want to state clearly and categorically that the matter rests squarely with the publishers of the *Weekly Mail*," he said

The *Weekly Mail* co-editors responded by urging Botha not to dismiss the protest voices too lightly

"Mr Botha asks us to state or case. We are an independent, critical newspaper, with ties to no organised group. We have a point of view we believe in democratic values, in non-racism, and in open debate about the options for a changing South Africa

"Mr Botha accuses us of promoting revolution. He cannot, surely, believe this. Our real crime is the telling of awkward truths which the government would prefer not to hear

"Mr Botha appears astonished at the public outcry over his warning to the *Weekly Mail*. It seems he hoped to act against the press without a murmur of dissent. Instead, a wide range of people, both in South Africa and abroad, have appealed to him to reconsider

"These are cautious, responsible people, not given to 'naivety', 'recklessness' or 'hysteria'," they said

● The lights are fading fast for South, a Cape-based independent newspaper, as they submit their last representations to Botha

Once Botha has received and considered them, he could publish a gazette suspending the publication of the newspaper

(243)
5-12/5/88

(243) From PAGE 1

W/Mail 572/5/88

South writes last editorial?

CAPE TOWN — The deadline for the weekly newspaper South to make representations to the Minister of Home Affairs about its being banned for three months was 4 pm yesterday

In a front-page editorial the editor, Mr Rashid Seria, wrote that yesterday's edition of South could be the last

By banning South the government would not put out the flame of freedom burning in the hearts of many South Africans, Mr Seria said

South would hand the minister its final submissions before the deadline, he said

South had decided not to submit to

editorial the State President Mr P W Botha decide to appoint a censor rather than close the newspaper he said

After Mr Botha made his decision South intended asking the courts "if he has applied his mind as required by the law in our case" Mr Seria said — Sapa

From a Weekly Mail reader

What right does Stoffel Botha have to call our paper "a threat to the maintenance of public order"?

None whatsoever.

And it's time we told him so.

Look at the message I'm sending him.

If you like it, send him a copy.

If you can word it better, send him your own message.

But do it NOW.

Mr J C G Botha
Minister of Home Affairs
House of Assembly
Cape Town
8001

Dear Mr Botha

I am a regular reader of the *Weekly Mail*. I am disturbed that you are contemplating action which could lead to the closure of the paper because in your opinion, it "is causing a threat to the safety of the public or the maintenance of public order or is causing a delay in the termination of the State of Emergency".

I read the *Weekly Mail* because I want to know what is going on, I like to make decisions based on all the available facts. To me, it is unacceptable that the information at my disposal should be filtered through the whims of a prejudiced party politician.

If you do not like the information the *Weekly Mail* carries you should look to the policies of your party which have led this country to its present sorry state. The people of this country need all the information they can get to work out solutions to the problems you have caused. They certainly don't need you to tell them what is good for them.

Hands off the press—it's doing a better job than you are.

Sunday Times 'transgressed code'

The *Sunday Times* had transgressed the SA Media Council's code of conduct in reports which had referred to a bomb suspect as a "ruthless car-bomb killer", a "deadly terrorist" and as an "ANC killer" on a "mission of murder", Professor H J Grosskopf of Stellenbosch told the Media Council in Cape Town yesterday

OBLIGATIONS

Professor Grosskopf outlined his complaints to an investigation quorum of the council on reports in the *Sunday Times* on March 20 and March 27 headlined "The suburban schoolboy who became a ruthless car-bomb killer", "Making of a terrorist", and "Grosskopf Amazing story of scribbled notes and letters"

In a signed statement

the editor, Mr Tertius Myburgh, said his paper believed it had 'already fulfilled our obligations under the code and the rules of procedure (of the council) by acting fairly responsibly and swiftly in admitting our error, correcting it and apologising to the complainant

"In other words, it is our view that the outcome of the formal hearing can only be that the council orders us to do what we have already done"

Professor Grosskopf was not prepared to accept this apology as it did not reflect the true essence of his complaint

He said the paper "became hysterical" against a man against whom not a single crime had been proved in a court of law

The *Sunday Times* acknowledged the validity of

this complaint, and that Mr Grosskopf was no more than a suspect unless and until convicted of a crime and apologised at the first opportunity to Professor Grosskopf

His main complaint was about the story on March 27 which claimed

It was learnt this week that Grosskopf once made contact with his parents when a South African journalist met him at the Solly Mhlangu college in Tanzania where he was a teacher

LETTER

Grosskopf asked the journalist to take a letter to his father in South Africa

Professor Grosskopf said it is stated as fact that his son had made contact with him while he and his wife had had no contact with him and

they also did not receive a letter This fact was also not checked out with him

He asked the council to reprimand the paper

The *Sunday Times* said in a statement it was satisfied that a letter had indeed been written and handed to a senior South African journalist who met Mr Grosskopf in Tanzania

The only question remaining was whether the letter had been received by Professor Grosskopf He denied this and the *Sunday Times* was "obviously willing to put the record straight in this respect"

Professor Grosskopf rejected this and drafted an apology which was rejected by the *Sunday Times* He insisted that the matter be brought before the council — Sapa

Consumer Award is now open for entries

The Checkers Award for Consumer Journalism, one of South Africa's most prestige media awards, is now open for this year's entries

The annual award, now in its eleventh year, carries R15 000 in prize money and is aimed at giving recognition and encouragement to members of the media who have championed the consumer cause

Past winners of the award have written on investigation into a wide range of issues, including contaminated maize, life insurance rip-offs, and dishonest used-car dealers

Mazikayise Barnabas Edom of the *Sowetan* won last year's first prize for his investigation into corruption in town councils. Runners-up were Elizabeth Clarke of the *Sunday Tribune* for her investigation into crop spraying in Natal, and Sy Makaringe of the *Sowetan* for his article on the use of debt collectors

There is one stipulation regarding the prize money of R8 000 for first place and R5 000 and R2 000 for first and second runners respectively

It must be used to further the winners' careers in the consumer field

The award is to all full-time journalists or regular contributors to the media and whose articles were published or broadcast between September 1 1987 and October 14 1988

Entries should be submitted not later than October 14

Winners will be announced at a gala dinner to be held at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg on November 21. The guest speaker will be Professor Willem de Klerk, head of the Department of Communications at Rand Afrikaans University and former editor of the *Transvaler*

The judges panel, convened by the head of the department of journalism at Rhodes University Professor Gavin Stewart, includes Mr Harold Pakendorf, former editor of *Vaderland*, Mrs Lyn Morris of the Housewife's League, and Mr Jan van Zyl, SABC's former deputy director of news

For information contact Ms Adele Gouws at (011) 28-1028, ext 2279

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Reeva office had to close, court told

A trial in which two of Ms Reeva Forman's companies are seeking the largest defamation claim in South African legal history ended its first week on Thursday before Mr Justice DJ Curlewis in the Rand Supreme Court.

Ms Forman's two companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming damages of over R3 million from six defendants for an allegedly defamatory article published by *Style* magazine in June 1985.

The defendants are Caxton Ltd, the publishers of *Style* magazine; Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, the editor of *Style* magazine; Ms Lun Sampson, the journalist who wrote the article, CTP Web Printers; National News Distributors and the Central News Agency.

The only witness who testified this week was Mrs Margaret Hewson, a former top distributor of Reeva cosmetics on the Reef. Mrs Hewson told the court she was forced to close her sales office three months after the publication of the article in *Style* magazine.

On Monday Mrs Hewson said in her evidence-in-chief, which was led by Mr Jonathan Heher, SC, that the article had resulted in a drop in sales and had caused the morale among her sales staff to drop to a "disastrous" level.

The court adjourned at lunchtime on Tuesday to allow Mr Wil-

BRUCE ANDERSON

lie Oshry, QC, who appears on behalf of the defendants, time to analyse a computer print-out of Mrs Hewson's sales figures.

On Thursday Mr Oshry began his cross-examination of Mrs Hewson and put it to her that sales figures for Reeva cosmetics had already begun to fall prior to the publication of the *Style* article as a result of a recession which began in April 1985. Mr Oshry also suggested that members of Mrs Hewson's sales team who had left her after the publication of the *Style* article had been dissatisfied prior to the publication of the article.

In a slow week for evidence, humorous comments by the judge and counsel provided welcome light relief.

At one stage Mr Oshry asked Mrs Hewson about a Reeva seminar in Thaba Nchu in April 1986. She told the court that the seminar provided a reward for sales staff at the halfway stage of a sales competition.

Mr Oshry told Mr Justice Curlewis that the seminar reminded him of the old joke about a competition where the first prize offered was a week in Wigan and the second prize was two weeks in Wigan.

"Does the same apply to Thaba Nchu?" he asked Mrs Hewson. Eventually Mr Justice Curlewis asked Mr Oshry to accept that the seminar in Thaba Nchu was fun.

Earlier, Mr Oshry had handed up a copy of an advertisement for Reeva cosmetics to Mr Justice Curlewis. Referring to a slogan which appeared under a photograph of Ms Forman, Mr Oshry asked the judge to note that the picture came, "not 'From Russia with Love' but 'From Reeva with Love'".

The end of the trial does not appear to be in sight.

Just before the adjournment on Tuesday Mr Justice Curlewis asked the Mr Michael Kuper, the leader of the plaintiffs' legal team, and Mr Oshry "Have either of you any idea how long this case will last?"

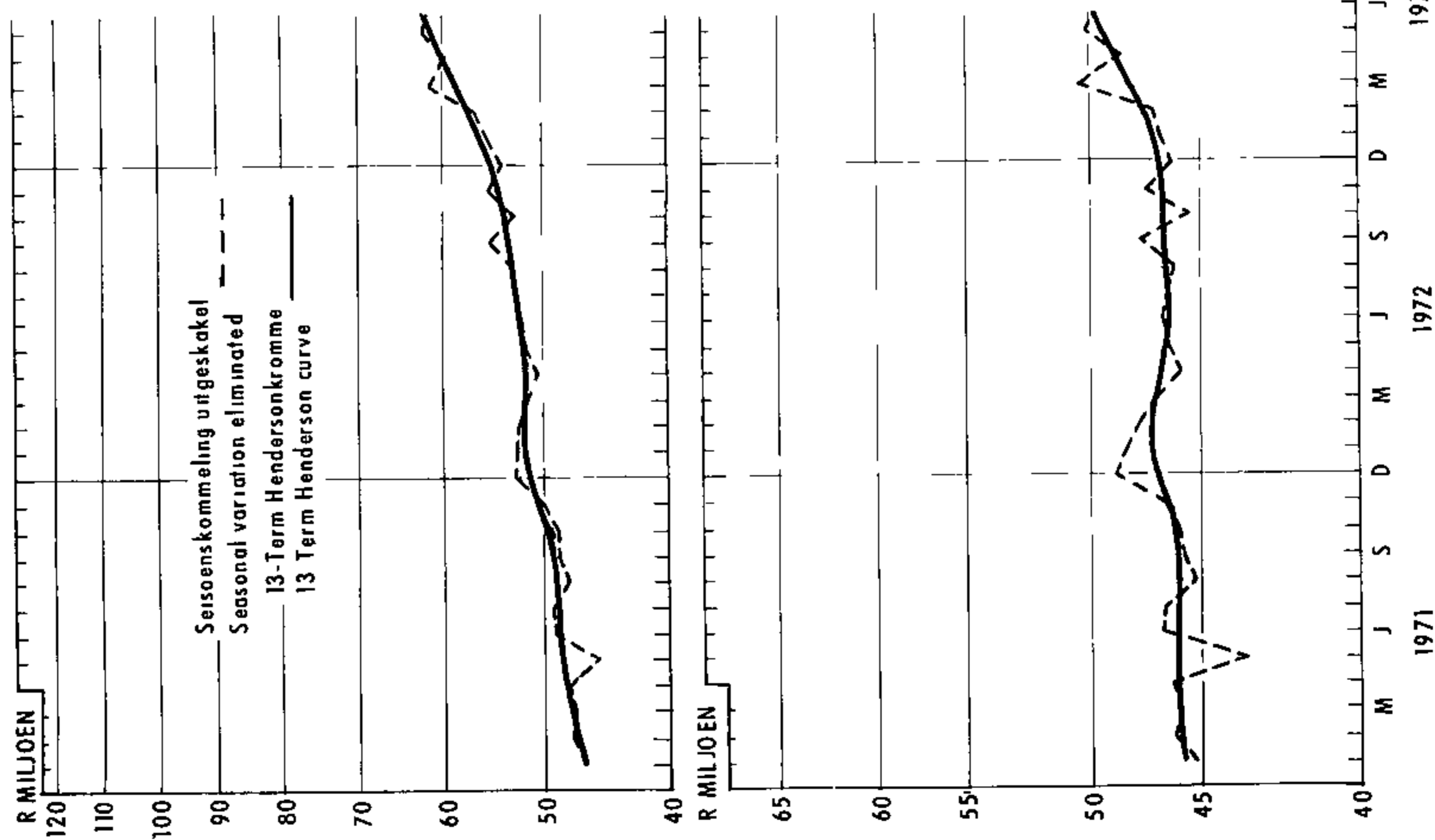
Neither of the counsel could give a clear answer to the judge's question.

Mr Justice Curlewis then asked Mr Oshry if the case might end before June 15. Mr Oshry said he doubted whether the case would be over by then.

The case is proceeding.

Appearances: Mr Michael Kuper SC assisted by Mr Jonathan Heher SC, Mr Wim Trengrove SC and Mr Sean Naidoo appear on behalf of the plaintiffs; Mr Willie Oshry QC assisted by Mr Bob Nugent and Mr John Suttner appear on behalf of the defendants.

WAARDE VAN KLEINHANDELVERKOPE VOLGENS SOORT BESIGHTIGING
ALGEMENE HANDELAARS



Agencies go for Sunday Star's new magazine

Star 715788

243

First news of Sunday Star's glossy, upmarket magazine is reaching the media industry

The magazine will boast 80gsm coated gloss stock on its outer pages and imported 60gsm paper for the text — a specification which puts it ahead of local competitors and even some international ones

The ad profile is just as high, with Star general manager Jolyon Nuttall reporting "exciting response" from major advertisers and agencies

Most luxury product and service categories are already represented in the ad mix — from hotel chains to jewellery and from financial services to premium grade liquor

Listened to advice

The ad industry launch of the upmarket mag takes place on May 17 and 18 in Johannesburg and May 25 in Cape Town

Mr Nuttall added "We went to great lengths to consult advertisers and agencies in Johannesburg and Cape Town BEFORE we settled down to the planning

"As a direct result of listening to their advice, we have been able to come up with a format which will occupy a unique niche and meet a growing, top-end need.

"Marketers appreciate that The Sunday Star has successfully established a special personality and position, and that this magazine will add considerable value, both for advertisers and readers, to the total Sunday package"

LYNDEN WRIGHT

The magazine would run with a minimum of 48 A4 pages, and Mr Nuttall said there had been no discounting to beef up the feel of the early numbers

"This is a premium product, not a discount product and the only saving we offer is a better rate for multiple bookings

"I have turned down advertising which we did not feel appropriate to the top people's profile. What we lose in rands, we make up in credibility

"In fact, we're grateful to the advertising industry for supporting us with the image advertising which enhances and justifies our ambitions for this upmarket newcomer

"It's not a question of who's in, but who's out"

The strength of The Sunday Star in reaching the innovative and self-motivated psychographic groups was also a factor swaying media departments, he added

Another was the new readership research used by AMPS, which tightened the focus on print, particularly magazines

He explained "Study of American and British trends as well as the expected impact of new AMPS readership measures have helped convince informed marketers that the era of quality magazines within quality newspapers has arrived"

The reassurance of a total Sunday Star weekly sale now above 100 000 and a subscription sale easily above 40 000 certainly looks capable of wiping out any media department concerns about going ANY magazine route

...Africa to respond in a positive manner, and to

Overseas protest over SA threats to publications

Stop 9/10/78

243

~~243~~

By Sue Olswang

The banning of a newspaper and gazetted warnings to other South African publications has sparked an appeal to President Botha by a host of overseas writers and editors

An appeal to lift the ban on *New Nation* and put a stop to further steps against the "alternative or mainstream press" was contained in a large advertisement which appeared in *The Sunday Star* this week.

Addressed to President Botha, it read in part: "We are alarmed by the recent banning of *New Nation*; by the gazetted warnings issued to *Weekly Mail*, *South*, *Grassroots*, *Saamstaan* and *Work in Progress*, and by the warning letter to *Sowetan*.

"We deplore the arbitrary way in

which these publications may now be stopped, the fact that the opinion of Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha may be the sole basis of a banning order; and the fact that he does not have to give any reason for his opinion, which cannot be challenged in court."

Some of the more than 90 signatories include Mr A Whittam-Smith, editor of *The Independent* newspaper in London, Mr Charles Glass of ABC News in London, Mr Bill Kovach of the American Society of Editors; Mr Harold Evans, former editor of *The Times* of London, Lord McGregor, chairman of the British Press Council, and Mr Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer* newspaper.

243 The Argus, Monday May 9 1988 11

Heads begin to roll

Assault on the Press: Special report

WHEN the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, announced

ough new measures against the Press last year, which included the power to close publications temporarily or impose pre-publication censorship, there was a general feeling that heads were going to roll.

In March this year Mr Botha exercised his powers and, after the extended process of leading up to it, banned New Nation for 10 weeks.

Six other publications have so far seen a warning published in the Government Gazette, the penultimate step in the beheading process. Weekly Mail, Saamstaan, Grassvoots, South, Out Of Step and Work In Progress.

Others have also been warned.

They, including Sowetan, a daily newspaper in the Argus company stable, have had letters from the Minister objecting to certain material.

And, earlier in the process, at the stage that may be regarded as hefting the axe and waving it around a bit, more publications have been asked to submit copies to the Minister for scrutiny.

At least one of these, Izwelethu published by the National Council of Trade Unions, has ignored demands from the Minister that material be deposited.

The regulations under which these actions have been taken came against a background of nearly two years of a state of emergency and a lengthy campaign against a press critical of the Government.

EMINENT international editors and other journalists have called on President Botha not to take further action against the South African Press.

Their call is contained in an advertisement which the Save The Press Campaign has been placing in local newspapers.

An open letter to President Botha has been signed by 20 editors of publications in Britain, Scandinavia, the United States and India.

They have been joined by 73 other prominent foreign media figures including several former newspaper editors, publishers, broadcasters and members of the British peerage.

Among those signing the letter are A

There were already at least 100 laws and regulations governing what the media could and could not observe, photographs and write about. Battles against publications in the 1950s had been followed by more and more regulation during the emergency years of the 1960s and in the 1970s the Government made its first moves against the "established" media when it banned World and Weekend World, forerunners of Sowetan.

The present curbs were preceded by a short skirmish in which the Government made its intention clear of dealing with what had come to be known as the "alternative" media.

The four main publishing groups — Argus, Times Media Ltd (then South African Associated Newspapers), National Pans and Perskor — were offered exemption from stricter regulations governing the Press, provided they vol-

untarily adhered to certain guidelines.

When they rejected this, on the grounds that the freedom of the Press was indivisible, President Botha made his intentions clear.

"I gave details of the problems caused by certain publications which were actively promoting the revolutionary climate in South Africa and indicated that I planned to take action against such publications," he said.

All media, whether "respectable" or "disreputable" in the official view, were already bound by emergency regulations which barred publication of a wide range of material almost anything a "security force" did was restricted, we couldn't report about "restricted gatherings" or the treatment of people in detention nor were blank spaces to indicate censorship allowed.

The new regulations also declared a wide range of pre-

viously permissible points of view — on matters ranging from sanctions to national service — to be "subversive".

Nobody could now make a "subversive statement", produce a publication containing one or bring into South Africa anything containing a statement now judged to be subversive.

As The Argus remarked in an editorial on April 20 this year "What officialdom sees as subversive statements promoting a revolutionary climate are, to others, the expression of legitimate concerns and ideals."

But, as Mr Stoffel Botha said when the upgraded restrictions were introduced "Even the emergency regulations could not curb propaganda."

The new measures were aimed at curbing a "flood of revolutionary propaganda" from "publications who make themselves guilty of the systematic or



The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

ing of material" which, he said, had certain effects.

● Promotion of revolution or uprisings in the Republic,

● Promotion of the breaking down of public order,

● Stirring up of feelings of hatred or hostility towards a local authority or security force,

● Promotion of the public image of unlawful organisations,

● Promotion of the activities of unlawful structures, and

● Promotion of boycotts and civil disobedience.

"We have all been warned by the Government that our publications are contributing to these effects," said Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, a member of the board of trustees of South, published in Cape Town. "But to my knowledge never in the warnings has it been claimed that they

Which highlights the fears of the conventional media. Relationships between the English-language Press and the Government have never been easy, and over the years many of the accusations made against the publications now threatened by the axe have also been levelled against it.

The grave fear is that, once the weak have been to the block, there will be warnings and gazetted warnings to those which continue to speak out followed either by suspension or the imposition of pre-publication censorship.

The tool designed for control of the Press is a complex one, apparently clumsy and wrapped in bureaucracy, but in reality well-adapted to its purpose.

It gives the process the appearance of sweet reasonableness and the length of time over which it can be drawn out helps defuse pro-

Although it maintains a superficial semblance of reason through its step-by-step progression and by giving threatened publications the chance to make representations, apparently abiding by the judicial rule of *audi patrem alteram* (hearing the other side), none of it is subject to review by any other party.

The appearance is that there is a process during which publications are invited to make representations. The reality is that any sanctions depend entirely on the subjective opinion of a member of the institution under attack, while there is nothing in the regulations to say the Minister or anyone else must read the representations.

They could just as easily be consigned to the shredding machine, unopened. Nor, as shown by an appeal to the courts by New Nation, may the courts intervene in this process.

Another factor tending to disguise the attrition is that the Minister has the power to order closure for only up to three months. Then the publication is free to resume operations — under the same threats.

But any publication which is closed for three months faces the problem of holding staff and infrastructure together without income for the period of suspension before it can start commending itself to public attention once more.

The slow, grinding intent of the measures appears to be to give the victim enough time to reflect that some sort of life would be more attractive than death, even if it means a slight flexibility of principles.

● Tomorrow: How the cen-

Govt wants

papers to
toe line

— Thloloe

9/5/88
Sowetan
THE Government was using a deliberate strategy of creating anxiety and uncertainty in the community by restricting publications and selectively banning organisations, the deputy editor of the *Sowetan*, Mr Joe Thloloe, told a protest meeting in Soweto at the weekend.

Mr Thloloe, a former national executive committee member of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa), was addressing the meeting on restrictions placed on the media and in particular the detention of journalists

The meeting, attended by more than 500 Mwasa members, several trade unions and organisations, was held at the Ipelegeng Community Centre and was hosted by Mwasa

Mr Thloloe said that the Government, in selecting certain newspapers and slapping them with warnings or closure, was using a "deliberate strategy which would see all publications towing the line and preaching the gospel according to P W (Botha), our father"

He said that the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, was using a strategy of first creating anxiety and then uncertainty. The Government issued a warning to *New Nation* on November 27, 1987 before closing it down for three months on March 22, 1988

Co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*, Mr Irwin Manom, also spoke at the meeting



SOME of the 500 people who attended the Mwasa media protest meeting at Ipelegeng Community Centre, Soweto, rose in song as detained journalists were remembered.

Top editors criticize banning

JOHANNESBURG — The closure of the New Nation newspaper, as well as the warnings issued to six others, was criticized by international editors and writers in an advertisement placed in South African national Sunday newspapers yesterday

The advertisement, under the headline "Dear President Botha", said the signatories were "alarmed at the recent banning of the the New Nation", a church-funded weekly

They were also concerned about the gazetted warnings issued to the Weekly Mail, South, Grassroots, Saamstaan, and Work In Progress and the "warning letter" sent to the Sowetan

GMT Times 9/5/88 243
"We deplore the arbitrary way in which these publications may now be stopped, the fact that the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, may be the sole basis of a banning order, and the fact that he does not have to give reasons for his opinion, which cannot be challenged in court," said the advertisement

The advert was placed on the editorial pages of the English-language newspapers, and is signed by the former editors of London's Times and the Observer, as well as by the current editors of the Observer, the Independent and the Mail on Sunday. — Sapa

U.C.I.T.
WARRING

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Star 10/5/88
Joint (243) protest (244) by 26 SA editors

An unprecedented joint protest at "authoritarian action" by the Government against the media has been made by 26 editors of South African newspapers, who have signed a petition to the Minister of Home Affairs.

Normally, editors prefer to express their views in their own publications. The petition, however, is said to represent a basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the press and the rights of South Africans.

The petitioners assert the belief that the Ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other publications are authoritarian and against the public interest.

"We believe that the Minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the interests of South Africa," the petition states.

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues."

The signatories urge that ordinary criminal procedure be used as the appropriate way of dealing with any publication

that fomented violent revolution, pointing out that they know of no recognised publication presently engaging in such unlawful acts.

The signatories are: Ron Anderson, editor of *The Star* (daily editions), Herman Arendse, editor of *Argus Community Newspapers*; Tony Ball, editor of the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*; Nigel Bruce, editor of the *Financial Mail*; Andrew Drysdale, editor of *The Argus*; Michael Green, editor of the *Daily News*; Allen Greenblo, editor of *Finance Week*; Rex Gibson, for the editor of *The Saturday Star*; Anton Harber, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*; John Hildyard, editor of *The Sunday Star*; Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the *Sowetan*; James McMillan, editor of the *Natal Mercury*; Irwin Manoim, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*; T G Mthembu, editor of *Ilanga*; Tertius Myburgh, editor of the *Sunday Times*; Ken Owen, editor of *Business Day*; Brijlall Ramgughee, acting editor of *Post Natal*; Khulu Sibiyi, editor of *City Press*; Derek Smith, editor-in-chief of Times Media Limited, Eastern Cape; Richard Steyn, editor of the *Natal Witness*; Harvey Tyson, editor-in-chief of *The Star*, *The Saturday Star* and *The Sunday Star*; Mostert van Schoor, editor of the *Pretoria News*; Koos Viviers, editor of the *Cape Times*; Glynn Williams, editor of the *Daily Dispatch*; Neville Woudberg, editor of the *Evening Post* and *Weekend Post*; and Ian Wyllie, editor of the *Sunday Tribune*.

● See Pages 3 and 13.

11/2/88
S. M. B.

2/2/88
G. M. B.

K. M. B.
1/2/88
M. C. B.

Press 'attacked the integrity of Reeve'

Star 10/5/88

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By Bruce Anderson

Articles published in The Sunday Star, the Sunday Times and Beeld in May 1986 were a serious attack on Miss Reeve Forman's honesty and integrity, a senior advocate told a Rand Supreme Court judge yesterday.

Mr Willie Oshry, QC, appears for the defendants in an action before Mr Justice Curlewis in which two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeve Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeve Success Dynamics, are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published in Style magazine in June 1985.

The defendants in the

case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of Style

'LOST YEARS'

Articles written by Mr Kitt Katzin in The Sunday Star had been headlined "Reeve Forman's five lost years" and "Reeve won't be charged for ID indiscretion", Mr Oshry said during cross-examination of Mrs Marjorie James, a distributor of Reeve cosmetic products

He said an editorial comment on the leader page of The Sunday Star had read "Reeve Forman's beauty products are so successful that they have taken five years off her age. Long may she live, or, as they

say in the revolution, 'Viva Reeve'."

The Sunday Times articles, written by Mr Neil Hooper, had been headlined "MP to bring up Reeve's age" and the "The curious tale of the two ages of Reeve"

DISHONESTY

Mr Oshry put it to Mrs James that the articles were "very serious attacks on Miss Reeve Forman".

He said the articles accused her of fraud, dishonesty and criminal conduct in relation to her identity document and birth certificate. The articles also accused Miss Forman of applying to an insurance company under a false age and obtaining insurance policies at a lower rate than if she had given her real age.

Mrs James said she agreed the articles contained "very serious charges".

Mr Oshry then asked Mrs James "Didn't these articles have a serious affect on the drop-off in recruitment (of sales persons) and concomitant sales?"

Mrs James replied that she had not had any inquiries from customers about "the age problem".

Mr Oshry also suggested to Mrs James that Style had a very limited publication compared with two national newspapers such as The Sunday Star and the Sunday Times

Only 12 500 copies of the issue of Style magazine in which the allegedly defamatory article appeared had been distributed, and many of those had been "redeemed" by Miss Forman

The hearing continues

MANY people want to enter the taxi business.

South suspended

Sowetan

10/5/88

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THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday suspended the production of *South* newspaper for a month.

The notice was published in a special Government Gazette.

South, based in Cape Town, is the second "alternative" newspaper to be banned by the Minister within the last two months.

On March 22, Mr Botha banned the *New Nation*, based in Johannesburg, for three months under the emergency regulations.

Another newspaper, *Weekly Mail*, was warned by Mr Botha on April 26 in terms of the emergency regulations.

Mr Rashid Seria, editor of *South*, said: "We had been warned and now we

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

are banned suffering a similar fate as the *New Nation* and knowing that a similar threat hangs over the entire alternative Press".

Mr Seria added that the directors and trustees of the newspaper would seek legal opinion on the matter.

The Media Workers Association of South Africa said it condemned the banning of *South*. Mwasu also said that the time has come "when we must stop uttering empty slogans, but must take positive action".

The South African Society for Journalists also condemned the banning.

South suspended

BY JOSHUA

Pro-UDF periodical is banned

PRETORIA — Production of the anti-apartheid periodical South has been totally prohibited according to a notice in the Government Gazette in Pretoria yesterday.

The notice, signed by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, said the banning was effective from yesterday's date until and including June 10, 1988 — the last day of the current state of emergency.

South, which supports the UDF, is the second newspaper to be banned for a limited period in terms of emergency censorship powers invoked in October last year. — Sapa-Reuter.

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B/day 10/5/88

SA editors urge Minister Stoffel Botha to ease press restrictions

Star 10/5/88

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Here is the full text of a petition, — supported by more than 20 editors across the country — to Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha.

The text of an accompanying letter written by The Star's editor-in-chief, Mr Harvey Tyson, is also quoted.

The signatories of the petition ask that unnecessary restrictions under the emergency regulations be eased.

In the covering letter by Mr Tyson's concern is expressed at the increasing threat to freedom of the press and the rights of South Africans.

The petition to the Minister of Home Affairs

We, editors of South African newspapers, are concerned at the mounting political pressure

on the press and ask, in the public interest, that the unnecessary restrictions issued under the emergency regulations be eased.

We believe the ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other newspapers and journals are against the national interest. We are opposed to such authoritarian action for the following reasons.

1. The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues.

2. While it is not possible to be aware of every article published, we have no knowledge of any recognised publication that is fomenting violent revo-

lution. If the Minister has any evidence of so serious a crime, we believe he should submit it to the courts for judgment. Such matters affect all of society, and cannot be left to the whim of officials, politicians or parties.

3. We believe that the Minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the interest of South Africa.

Therefore, in the interests of the freedoms, standards and values which all of us, including Government, profess to support, we ask that the Rule of Law be restored.

The covering letter to the Minister of Home Affairs

The petition, suggested by some editors in Johannesburg and immediately supported by more than 20 editors across the country, expresses their genuine, basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the press, and the rights of South Africans.

We are concerned as much for the future as for the present; because we believe that current actions will set a precedent for all future governments — as has happened in similar circumstances in many other countries around the world.

We believe the cause of revolution is abetted, not reduced, by closing down small newspapers and threatening bigger ones.

Our perception, right or wrong, is that attempts are being made to pressure newspapers into using one, bland voice.

While each newspaper editor would wish to express his own views in his own way (several non-signatories agree with the basic sentiment expressed, but will not be part of a joint statement), the petition submitted to you represents a consensus of the personal views of the editors who have appended their names.

We make this unprecedented joint plea in the belief that it is not only in the interests of a free press, but in the interests of South Africa and in the interests of justice and peace.

Axe now jams in SA

MOST publications falling under the threat of the executioner's axe have so far been outside the mainstream of established journalism in South Africa.

The exception, Sowetan, differs somewhat from the others because it is published by the Argus Company, one of the "big four" of South African print.

But because its target market is the black population of the Witwatersrand, Sowetan's editorial pages more closely resemble those of its competitors under threat than they do the more established newspapers.

The weapon threatens the whole media body corporate in that it is subjected to gradual debilitation. It's a process which those presently most threatened fear could lead to further emasculation of the mass-circulation media.

Mr Irwin Manoun, co-editor of Weekly Mail, said the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Botha, was signalling the mainstream Press. Not only can I silence the mail papers, but in doing so can lean on you too.

"And there is more than a hint of that in the fact that one of the first papers to receive a warning was the Argus Company's own Sowetan."

Professor Maurice Hornel, head of the Department of Public Administration at

the University of the Western Cape, describes the process as "the manufacture of consent" to which censorship is racial.

He also says it is "profoundly imbued" and because of its vital elements of society re talking past one another.

All of those spoken to agreed that the smaller papers had a vital role to play through taking up unvoiced

concerns, which would still have to be heard even if all of them went into oblivion.

This may place greater pressure on those publications which have so far not received attention.

Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, a trustee of the Cape Town-based South, which has now been banned for a month, thinks that church and other religious publications could move into the vacuum to some extent under pressure from their constituencies to reflect community views. Her exacerbation of the Church-State conflict, he said, because this would tend to make them targets.

The fringe newspapers were all born out of their conviction that the mass-circulation newspapers, for whatever reasons, were not reporting and commenting on events and trends that were important in the wider community.

"South was born in a climate of frustration with the established Press in not reporting what we saw as needing to be reported," said Professor Villa-Vicencio. "Many reports had a decided bias towards the status quo and the establishment."

"In desperation we decided that if we could not get the established Press to report these matters we would have to do it ourselves."

Assault on the Press: Special report

This is the second and last article in a series by Staff Reporter DICK USHER, right, on the threat to the South African Press.



Thus far the measures have been applied mainly against the smaller, fringe publications. But arbitrary as they are, they constitute a continuing threat to all newspapers generally inhibiting expression and the free flow of ideas and information which this country so desperately needs if its problems are to be resolved. (From an editorial in The Argus.)

Weekly Mail was born out of the demise of the Rand Daily Mail and first appeared in June, 1985.

"When the Mail disappeared, completely out of the blue, after there had been a lot of talk about the Sunday Express closing, it became apparent that the gap in the market was the liberal readership of the RDM," said Mr Anton Harber, co-editor of Weekly Mail.

"The whole unrest situation had begun in September the year before and it was apparent there were stories not being covered by the conventional Press."

Weekly Mail is often seen as the inspiration for the other newspapers that followed, New Nation and South.

That's not strictly true because there was, and still is, a whole spectrum of newspapers outside the mainstream. These range from church and other religious publications to trade union papers and journals of analysis and opinion.

ranging politically from the far-right South African Outlook to those of the left such as New Nation and Work In Progress.

But in a sense Weekly Mail flagships the movement, setting high standards of professionalism on a shoestring budget.

Pre-dating it was Work In Progress, which has also had a gazetted warning from the Minister.

This was started in September, 1977, mainly by Mr Glenn Moss and Mr Gerhard Maré when they left university. They saw that information and ways of looking at the world were being generated in academic institutions that were not being reflected in the mass media.

"Initially we saw WIP as a way of making more accessible university-related information," said Mr Moss, who is still editor. "Since then it has evolved to become more of a back-

why nothing had been submitted for scrutiny."

The concerns of the publications were the concerns of the world about them, a world in which they also had to live and maintain some form of commercial viability, a task complicated by the commercial rules of that world. The dream was to reach the masses of the wider community, but the achievement had been limited.

Most newspapers survive and (if they are fortunate) profit from the sale of advertisements, but none of the affected publications attracted enough advertising to make them viable.

All the smaller papers face the same problem dreaming of a mass market while the people who form that market are counting every cent of spending, and a newspaper of any description is something of a luxury. Their survival depends on shoestring budgeting and mostly low-cost technology.

Weekly Mail was started by using the former Handshakes of the golden Rand Daily Mail and Sunday Express staff members who joined the venture. Shares of R1 000 were sold, which raised a further R50 000. "Since then we've constant-

ly had inputs from business sources and recently issued fresh shares," said Mr Harber.

Published weekly, the paper hit 20 000 circulation late last year and since then had been consistently above that, "about double what we thought we'd get", said Mr Harber.

For South, which has a circulation of nearly 10 000, Professor Villa-Vicencio said it had hoped for a bigger market, but its support had come mainly from the more intellectual and affluent elements.

"To start South we got substantial funds from overseas and inside South Africa, also from individuals, institutions and community organisations," he said.

"We have taken sides and have a broad ideological location on the side of the broad democratic struggle. Given the nature of the repressive moves against us, South has succeeded to the extent that you can succeed in this type of society."

"We've pushed at the limits, looked for loopholes and sought through creative journalism to push barriers back and report news in a more realistic way from the point of view of the oppressed. People have a right to know and we are reporting that."

"In an intense situation like this, if people cannot find expression for frustration and anger, it is going to reveal itself in more violent and harsher ways.

Closure of city paper expected, but 'came as shock'

NEWS vendors were selling the weekly newspaper South in the city yesterday hours before and after the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, had closed it down for one month in terms of the emergency Press regulations.

Mr Botha announced in a Government Gazette yesterday that South could not be published between May 9 and June 10.

In an attempt to beat a possible ban, a special edition of South was published yesterday, three days earlier than usual.

The closure, although expected for some time, came as a shock to staff, said the editor, Mr Rashied Seria.

"Not in our wildest dreams did we expect the Minister to act so quickly. At the back of our minds some of us felt he

Staff Reporter

would not promulgate a special Government Gazette today."

At a Press conference, Mr Seria said he believed the onus was on management to withdraw all copies of the special edition from circulation.

"Unfortunately it appears

as a result of this notice that we have to withdraw 21 500 copies distributed throughout the Western Cape today. We are still gathering legal advice on it but it appears that we have no option but to withdraw all copies."

Staff had worked "into the early hours of this morning" to produce the last edition of South. He said he had been told of South's closure at 3pm. Althou h South

closed for a month, the Government could extend the time of the newspaper's closure when it would probably renew the state of emergency in mid-June, he said.

South had expected to be closed for three months and had planned accordingly. Letters were posted to editors of major South African newspapers yesterday, asking them to take on South staff

Paper may act against banning

CAPE TOWN — South was considering legal action following the announcement in a Government Gazette yesterday, which totally prohibits publication of the newspaper, the editor, Mr Rashid Seria, said here.

The banning order, in terms of the Public Safety Act, was published in a special Government Gazette this afternoon.

It is effective from yesterday to June 10, when the present state of emergency expires.

Our correspondent says that 21 000 copies of the weekly Western Cape newspaper, which were brought out yesterday, may have to be withdrawn.

The banning follows a final warning by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in March.

Mr Botha said South had published subversive propaganda.

The move follows a three-month ban on the Johannesburg newspaper, New Nation, and warnings against several other newspapers, including Work in Progress, the Oudtshoorn newspaper, Saamstaan, the Cape Town newspaper, Grassroots; and the End Conscription Campaign publication, Out of Step — Sapa

Govt bans

CAPE TOWN, 10/5/88

South for

a month

By JIM FREEMAN

SOUTH, the Cape Town-based weekly newspaper, has been banned for a month in terms of a proclamation in the Government Gazette yesterday.

The notice in the gazette said the order was issued under Regulation 7A (3) (b) of Proclamation R123 of 1987 and R7 of 1988 and was valid till June 10.

The banning covered yesterday's edition of the newspaper, brought out earlier than normal because South anticipated the order to be promulgated in the Government Gazette tomorrow, said South's editor, Mr Rashid Seria.

The newspaper had been gearing itself for a three-month ban following several warnings from the Minister of Home Affairs and Communications, Mr Stoffel Botha, he said.

According to Mr Seria, South was faced with pulling back almost 21 000 copies of the newspaper published yesterday from selling points in the Western Cape, as well as from outlets in Johannesburg and Durban.

Mr Seria maintained that because the ban had been anticipated, the trustees had planned a number of contingencies to avoid the retrenchment of staff and to generate revenue.

He said South Press Services, which publishes South, had revived a dormant project to create a news agency and was in the process of drafting an agreement with a Durban-based news agency, the Press Trust of South Africa.

Grosskopf refuses paper's apology

CNT-TMS, 10/1/88 Staff Reporter *(243)*

THE father of Mr Heinrich Grosskopf — the man linked by the authorities to the Krugersdorp bomb blast — has refused to accept an apology published by the Sunday Times following the newspaper's "hysteria against a man against whom not a single crime had been proven in a court of law".

Addressing a recent Media Council hearing, Professor H J Grosskopf said he was referring to reports published in the Sunday Times of March 20 and 27 headlined "The suburban schoolboy who became a ruthless car-bomb killer/Making of a terrorist", and "Grosskopf: Amazing story of scribbled notes and letters".

By referring to his son as a "ruthless car-bomb killer", a "deadly terrorist" and an "ANC killer" on a "mission of murder", the Sunday Times had transgressed the SA Media Council's code of conduct, he said.

In a signed statement the editor of the newspaper, Mr Tertius Myburgh, said his paper believed it had "already fulfilled our obligations under the council's code and the rules of procedure by acting fairly, responsibly and swiftly in admitting our error, correcting it and apologising to the complainant".

Prof Grosskopf was not prepared to accept this apology as it did not reflect the true essence of his complaint and his specific referral to "trial by newspapers".

No decision has yet been reached by the council.

Index on Censorship magazine, for 16 years one of Britain's loudest anti-censorship voices, celebrates its 100th issue with a published feast of the writings of oppressed authors.

In a sense, the publication's weighty 100th issue is simply an extension of the regular *Index*, which since 1972 has been providing a forum for dissident writers, be they pressmen in Pretoria or playwrights in Prague.

However, the bumper issue represents a landmark in that no fewer than 50 noted writers from across the world have written about the harassment they suffer for practising their craft.

Six of the writers featured are South Africans, among them Breyten Breytenbach and Wally Serote. This is the third largest contingent from an individual country — only the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia have more writers featured.

Questionnaires

Index's editor, Mr George Theiner, a Czech writer who knows what it is to anger the authorities in his home country, says work on the landmark issue began last year.

Questionnaires in 14 languages were sent to more than 100 dissident writers asking them to describe the pressures they are under, how freedom of expression has affected their national cultures, how writers cope and what can be done to help them.

While the cultural climate, particularly in Europe, is freer than it was 10 years ago, there are still countries which cause concern, he says, including South Africa, where "the heat has been turned with a vengeance on the media".

The material elicited by the questionnaires is rich and varied, taking the form of essays, poems and play excerpts. Some writers have given in-depth interviews.

Mr Theiner is particularly struck by the submissions from Soviet authors who, he says, are beginning to

Harassed and censored authors put it in writing

Sue Leeman talks to the editor of a leading anti-censorship magazine which publishes its 100th issue today. The illustrations accompanying this article are taken from that issue.

feel the effects of the official thaw created by *glasnost*.

Soviet poet Andrei Voznesensky, a prominent critic of Stalin, says in an interview that *glasnost* "is changing the minds of the people". Noted Soviet novelist Andrei Bitov asserts that Soviet censorship has "all but disappeared" — but adds wryly that writers probably found it easier to be creative while still under pressure.

Several writers tell of the suffering they have experienced when jailed for producing "subversive" literature. There is great pathos in Arab writer Dhabya Kharne's account of her detention in Abu Dhabi, when she was deprived of all contact with the outside world because the authorities considered her writings to be dangerous to the moral fabric of society.

Another moving submission comes from Guatemalan writer Tanla Palencia — crippled after a police beating — whose stark, simple poem "Disappeared" lists the members of a family who have vanished into state jails in her homeland.

These writings are in sharp contrast with the submission of Czech writer Ludvik Vaculik, who writes with great wit about his clashes with the censors. "Some of them really were thick know-nothings who were on the lookout for certain words, which would activate their blue pencil. These chaps could be fooled by the use of a different word. For instance, the word 'conscience' alerted



a censor. It was therefore advisable to substitute 'responsibility' — the Party demanded responsibility of its citizens."

George Theiner himself once spent three years in a labour camp for refusing to join the Party in Czechoslovakia.

He joined *Index* in 1973, a year after the organisation had been set up by English poet Stephen Spender. The idea had come from Russian dissident Pavel Litvinov, who argued for the establishment in London of an organisation which would publish the work of banned writers.

South Africans' points of view

The six South Africans featured in *Index on Censorship's* 100th issue have highlighted different aspects of the limitations imposed on dissident writers in South Africa.

Mbulelo Vizikhungo Mzamane, author of "The Children of Soweto" (unbanned in South Africa in 1987) and currently visiting professor of comparative literature at the University of Georgia, writes "My country insisted that, even though those of my colour are actually in the majority, I was a minority writer, having no connection with the civilised culture."

"I was supposed to accept my master's version of my experience and write it down and give it back to him and, thus, I would enter the mainstream. I would still be a minority writer, of course, but at least I would have a civilised point of view."

Says novelist and short story writer Richard Rive "In South Africa, if he (the writer) is black, he produces a peculiar type of literature,

not because the colour of his skin is black but because there are factors at work on him because of his colour.

"His social environment in turn influences his cultural environment and he is forced to create within the limitations imposed on him. The sameness of his experience produces in his work what seems like a sameness of theme, treatment and intent."

But, he adds "I will do all in my power, and use all the talent at my disposal, to expose the bigotry and sham of racialism wherever and whenever it raises its evil head."

Exiled writer Wally Serote, now working full time for the ANC's department of art and culture in London, says in an interview that he believes his role as writer is "to create a proper point of reference for my people as a writer, I hope I'm capable of that."

"Now that is being very ambitious, but one can only say that precisely because one has experienced

about its purpose, it could not be built on top of the hill, as this would symbolise government imposed upon the people," he says. "It should nestle within the hill, symbolically rising out of the Australian landscape, as true democracy rises from the natural state of things."

When Queen Elizabeth had a private tour of the building she saw some of the trappings which have prompted questions about the price of "true democracy". Although the building has a futuristic look from the outside, it appears more like the set of a 1930s Hollywood musical inside, with staircases and pillars in Italian and Portuguese marble.

There are four separate entrances, for members of the House of Representatives, for members of the Senate, for ministers and for the public. This means that lobbyists and journalists will no longer be able to buttonhole Prime Minister Bob Hawke and his ministers as they enter and leave.

BILLIARD ROOMS

And whereas the Parliament's 224 MPs shared offices in the old building, each will now have a suite, with a reception room, bathroom, kitchen and cocktail cabinet. To help them unwind, they will also have two billiard rooms, two squash courts, eight tennis courts, a swimming pool, spa pool, sauna, jogging track and meditation room.

All this has heightened worries that MPs, already insulated in a somewhat artificial capital city, will become further removed from reality inside their vast pleasure dome.

Mr Giurgola thinks otherwise. "I hope this building inspires a less provincial style of politics, making people more open to the world and to the level of culture Australia is gaining now" — *The Independent News Service, London*.



No 1 loses hubcaps

Thieves showed little respect for Hillbrow's number one beauty this week when they stole all four hubcaps off her car while it was parked outside her flat. Miss Hillbrow, Sandra Samling (21), is appealing to anyone knowing anything about the theft to telephone Julian Grabman at 646-3844.

● Picture by John Hogg

Cape newspaper banned

By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau

The Cape-based newspaper *South* has become the second publication to be banned in terms of the latest press curbs, this time for a month and a day.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, banned the paper yesterday after warnings in terms of "slow-motion

Stev 10/5788
"censorship" regulations published in August last year.

A Government Gazette notice signed by the Minister said the banning was effective from yesterday until and including June 10.

This will affect five editions of *South*, including one published yesterday.

The Minister may ban a paper for up to three months at a time, or impose a censor.

In the Gazette yesterday Mr Botha gave no reason for banning *South*, but last year he accused it of promoting the image of the ANC, legitimising violence and stirring up hatred against the security forces.

The editor of *South*, Mr Rashid Seria, yesterday rejected these charges.

"We do not fabricate or instigate issues, we merely mirror what is happening in the country."

Mr Peter Gastrow of

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the National Democratic Movement said the Government was unable to "meet politics with politics" and had resorted to "repression and censorship".

Eight publications have been targeted in terms of the curbs.

Two, *South* and the *New Nation*, have now been closed down, and another, *Die Stem*, closed itself after claiming to have been threatened.

The *Weekly Mail* is in the penultimate phase of the curbs, having last month received a formal, gazetted warning, as have the periodical *Work in Progress*, the End Conscription Campaign Durban newsletter *Out of Step* and the Oudtshoorn community newspaper *Saamstaan*.

The *Sowetan*, the second-largest daily newspaper in South Africa, has received lists of material which the Minister finds objectionable.

More than 1 in 4 SAA domestic flights are late

Stev 10/5788
More than a quarter of South African Airways domestic flights have been delayed each week this year, says SAA deputy chief executive Mr Viv Lewis.

An average of 248 out of 930 domestic flights were delayed each week.

Businessmen — about 60 percent of domestic passengers — have also complained about the unavailability of seats.

Mr Lewis said SAA had

leased out planes during the economic slump and had not anticipated the degree of upswing.

He said 58 percent of the delays were due to the "domino effect" — if one plane was delayed, subsequent flights were held up.

Only 2,8 percent of all delayed flights were due to technical problems.

Mr Lewis did not account for the remaining percentage.

of American Corporation to ty in addition to new members

Journalists condemn ban imposed on newspaper

PORT ELIZABETH — The one-month ban on *South* newspaper is a frightening example of the erosion of press freedom, says Mr Bob Kernohan, president-elect of the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ)

"The banning of *South* is a further example of the erosion of press freedom by the Government at a time when it is vital for the future of South Africa that information be disseminated as widely as possible," he said in a statement yesterday.

"The SASJ regards it and similar moves with the gravest concern and urges Minister of Home Affairs and Communications Mr Stoffel Botha to review it urgently with a view to cancelling the ban."

The Western Cape branch of the SASJ said in a statement that the ban had come only weeks after *South* celebrated its first anniversary.

"Through Stoffel Botha's desperate and heavy-handed use of the censorship Acts, the State has shown yet again that, as the political crisis deep-

ens, one of its first scapegoats is invariably the truth," the statement said.

In Johannesburg, the Media Workers Association of Southern Africa condemned the State's action

Mwasa said in a statement: "We condemn the banning of *South*."

"At our protest meeting last week a packed hall of more than 500 people heard how the Government progressively since 1960 has brought down so many newspapers as part of its campaign of total onslaught against any form of opposition to injustices .. waged against the people of this land

"This renewed campaign, which includes the effective banning of 17 organisations and the restriction of the trade union movement and other organisations, can only be seen as an onslaught which will not cease unless the people are forever silenced," the statement added.

"The time has come when we must cease to utter anti-slogans but take positive action" — Sapa.

Freehold property is available in Spruitview

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Sowetan 11/5/88

THE first ever black Homes Show in South Africa is here!

It is happening thanks to the *Sowetan* and our sister newspaper *The Star* at the Star Homes Festival 88

And what better place to hold this historic event than in the elite black suburb of Spruitview

Sowetan readers will be able to view 14 superb homes and 70 exhibition stands that are bound to interest everyone—from the serious home buyer to the average housewife and handyman

Package

And what's more, organisers have laid on a spectacular entertainment package for the whole family

Spruitview is in many ways a leader in black housing

It is South Africa's first black garden suburb, the first black area outside a township. It is also the first area where blacks have been able to purchase property freehold

It is the ideal area for the up-and-coming black businessman.

The festival has attracted phenomenal interest from the building

industry, with builders queuing up to participate

DAILY TIME SCHEDULE FOR HOMES FESTIVAL:

Thursday — 11 00 Alex Art Cent (doing activities throughout the day), 12 00 Tinny Tot parade, 1 00 Age Groups 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 2 00 braiding 3 00 kiddies corner (bubblegum blowing competition), 5 00 aerobics, 5 00 Junior Jet Set competition, 6 00 live entertainment

Friday 12 00 Mime disco dancing, 1 00 Glass blowing, 2 00 Tastic Rice, 3 00 Kiddies corner, 4 00 Basket weaving, 5 00 Live entertainment

Saturday — 11 00 Braiding, 12 00 Tastic, 1 00 SA Perm home give-away, 2 00 Aerobics and hair care demonstration, 3 00 Kiddies corner, 4 00 Pottery and fashion show, 5 00 Pottery and fashion show, 5 00 Mime disco dancing, 6 00 Live band and fashion show

Sunday — 12 00 Intercouffeur and jewellery making, 1 00 Aerobics, 2 00 Kiddies corner, 2 30 Junior Jet Set, 3 00 Tastic and 4 00 Exciting music competition



SENIOR assistant editor of *The Star*, Joe Latakgomo (extreme right), who presided at the official opening of *The Star/Spruitview Homes Festival* in Kalléhong, presented a group of exhibitors with a trophy for the best display stand. The prestige festival began on May 6 and will end on May 15.

Editors protest over restrictions (243)

JOHANNESBURG — An unprecedented joint protest at "authoritarian action" by the government against the media has been made by 26 South African newspaper editors who have signed a petition to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

The petition is said to represent a basic and common concern at the increasing threat to press freedom and the rights of South Africans

The petitioners assert the belief that the ministerial banning of New Nation and the threat to silence Weekly Mail and other publications are authoritarian and against the public interest

"We believe that the minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the interests of South Africa," the petition states

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues"

The signatories urge that ordinary criminal pro-

cedures be used as the appropriate way of dealing with any publication that foments violent revolution, pointing out that they know of no recognised publication presently engaging in such unlawful acts

The signatories are the editor of The Star (daily editions), Mr Ron Anderson the editor of Argus Community Newspapers, Mr Herman Arendse, the editor of the Diamond Fields Advertiser, Mr Tony Ball, the editor of the Financial Mail, Mr Nigel Bruce, the editor of The Argus, Mr Andrew Drysdale, the editor of the Daily News, Mr Michael Green the editor of Finance Week, Mr Allen Greenblo, Mr Rex Gibson for the editor of The Saturday Star, the co-editor of the Weekly Mail, Mr Anton Harber, the editor of the Sunday Star, Mr John Hildyard

The editor of the Sowetan, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, the editor of the Natal Mercury, Mr James McMillan, the co editor of the Weekly Mail, Mr Irwin Manom, the editor of Ilanga, Mr T G Mthembu, the editor of the Sunday Times, Mr Tertius Myburgh, the editor of Business Day Mr Ken Owen, the acting editor of Post Natal, Mr Brijlall Ramgughee, the editor of City Press, Mr Khulu Sibiyi, the editor-in-chief of Times Media Limited, Eastern Cape, Mr Derek Smith, the editor of the Natal Witness, Mr Richard Steyn, the editor-in chief of The Star The Saturday Star and The Sunday Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, the editor of the Pretoria News, Mr Mostert van Schoor, the editor of the Cape Times, Mr Koos Viviers, the editor of the Evening Post and Weekend Post Mr Neville Woudberg, the editor of the Sunday Tribune, Mr Ian Wyllie and the editor of the Daily Dispatch, Mr Glyn Williams — Sapa

Periodicals

1. 'Young Worker' Newspaper - 4 times a year
2. Pamphlets on specific things like - workers rights, information on what a trade union is etc.

Affiliations:

Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference; The International Young Christian Workers.

We are also looking at representation at work. The programme also involves young workers outside the YCW.

3. Salaries.
2. Hours of work; and
1. Health and safety at work;

issues being looked at are: inside the YCW. For those who are working, specific

Media organisations slam government ban on South 243

CAPE TOWN — The newspaper South has been handed an unwelcome but entirely predictable present from the government, the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ) said in a statement yesterday

The SASJ said the suspension of the newspaper came only weeks after South celebrated its first year on the streets of the Western Cape

"Through Mr Stoffel Botha's, desperate and heavy-handed use of the censorship acts, the state has shown yet again that, as the political crisis deepens, one of its first scapegoats is invariably the truth

"We are appalled by the ban on South and demand that the paper immediately be allowed to put back into practice its simple but indispens-

ible motto — that people have the right to know

"The Western Cape region of the SASJ applauds the newspaper's commitment to fighting the gagging order"

The Association of Democratic Journalists said in a statement yesterday that the suspension of New Nation and South "proves — if such proof is still necessary — that journalism is now an illegal activity in this country"

"It has become illegal for journalists to fulfil their primary responsibility of informing the public

"The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has yet again demonstrated, that in his eyes it is a crime, punishable with silence, to attempt to tell the truth and to speak for, and report on, the needs

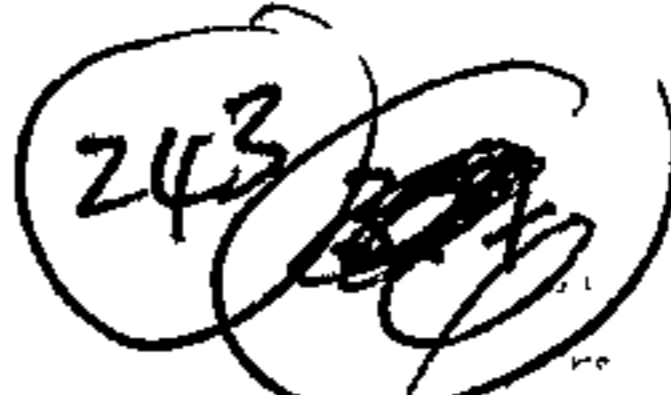
and demands of the voiceless majority"

The Media Workers Association of Southern Africa also condemned the banning

"At our protest meeting last week, a packed hall of more than 500 people heard how the government progressively, since 1960 has brought down so many newspapers as part of its campaign of total onslaught against any form of opposition

"This renewed campaign can only be seen as a vision and hardened onslaught which will not cease unless the people are forever silenced or, alternatively, unless they toe the line of the state

"The time has come when we must cease to utter anti-slogans but must take positive action" — DDC

Cape Times 11/5/88 (243) 

Editors issue joint protest

JOHANNESBURG — An unprecedented joint protest at "authoritarian action" by the government against the media has been made by 26 South African newspaper editors who have signed a petition to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Editors normally express their views in their own publications.

The petition, however, is said to represent a basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the press and the rights of South Africans

The petitioners assert the belief that the ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other publications are authoritarian and against the public interest

In a covering letter by the *Star's* editor-in-chief, Mr Harvey Tyson, concern is expressed at the increasing threat to freedom of the press and the rights of South Africans

"We believe that the minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not

in the interests of South Africa," the petition states

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues"

The signatories urge that ordinary criminal procedures be used as the appropriate way of dealing with any publication that foments violent revolution, pointing out that they know of no recognized publication presently engaging in such unlawful acts.

The signatories are Ron Anderson, editor of *The Star* (daily editions), Herman Arendse, editor of *Argus Community Newspapers*, Tony Ball, editor of *the Diamond Fields Advertiser*, Nigel Bruce, editor of *the Financial Mail*, Andrew Drysdale, editor of *The Argus*, Michael Green, editor of *the Daily News*, Allan Greenblo, editor of *Finance Week*, Rex Gibson, for the editor of *the Saturday Star*, Anton Harber, co-editor of *the Weekly Mail*, John Hildyard, editor of *the Sunday Star*

Aggrey Klaaste, editor of *the Sowetan*, James McMillan, editor of *the Natal Mercury*, Irwin Manom, co-editor of *the Weekly Mail*, T G Mthembu, editor of *Ilanga*, Tertius Myburgh, editor of *the Sunday Times*, Ken Owen, editor of *Business Day*, Brijlall Ramgughee, acting editor of *Post Natal*, Khulu Sibiyi, editor of *City Press*, Derek Smith, editor-in-chief of *Times Media Limited*, Eastern Cape, Richard Steyn, editor of *the Natal Witness*, Harvey Tyson, editor-in-chief of *The Star*, *The Saturday Star* and *The Sunday Star*, Mostert van Schoor, editor of *the Pretoria News*, Koos Viviers, editor of *the Cape Times*, Glynn Williams, editor of *the Daily Dispatch*, Neville Woudberg, editor of *the Evening Post*, and *Weekend Post* and Ian Wylie, editor of *the Sunday Tribune* — Sapa

'Anger still there'

Sowetan
11/5/88

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THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, "can stifle public expression through newspapers, but the fact of oppression and the resulting anger and frustration in people's lives remains," the Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) said in a statement today.

"The only way that can be changed, is by changing oppressive laws and ending apartheid. It is the oppressive laws and not the newspapers which are the real danger," ACAG said.

The Cape Town-based *South* was closed for a month by Mr Botha in a special Government Gazette.

"In the name of public safety the Minister has banned *New Nation* and now *South*," the statement said.

"ACAG knows it is the essence of futility and stupidity to shatter the windows into the frustrations of people's lives — frustrations which the National Party Government and not the newspapers created."

The newspaper *South*

has been handed an unwelcome but entirely predictable present from the government," the Western Cape region of the Southern African Society of Journalists, said in a statement in response to the suspension of the newspaper.

The SASJ said the suspension came only weeks after the newspaper celebrated its first year on the streets of the Western Cape.

"Through Stoffel Botha's desperate and heavy-handed use of the censorship Acts, the State has shown yet again that, as the political crisis deepens, one of its first scapegoats is invariably the truth.

"We are appalled by the ban on *South* and demand that the paper immediately be allowed to put back into practice its simple but indispensable motto — that people have the right to know.

"The Western Cape region of the SASJ applauds the newspaper's commitment to fighting the gagging order."

Sapa

AN unprecedented joint protest at "authoritarian action" by the government against the media has been made by 26 South African newspaper editors who have signed a petition to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Editors normally prefer to express their views in their own publications

The petition, however, is said to represent a basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the press and the rights of South Africans

The petitioners assert the belief that the Ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other publications are authoritarian and against the public interest

View

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues"

The signatories urge that ordinary criminal procedures be used as the appropriate way of dealing with any publication that foments violent revolution, pointing out that they know of no recognised publication presently engaging in such unlawful acts

"We believe that the Minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the interest of South Africa"

"Therefore, in the interests of the freedoms standards and values

which all of us, including government, profess to support, we ask that the rule of law be restored"

The covering letter to the Minister of Home Affairs reads

"The petition, suggested by some editors in Johannesburg and immediately supported by more than 20 editors across the country, expresses their genuine, basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the press, and the rights of South Africans

"We believe the cause of revolution is abetted, not reduced, by closing down small newspapers and threatening bigger ones

"Our perception, right or wrong, is that attempts are being made to pressure newspapers into using one, bland voice

"While each newspaper editor would wish to express his own views in his own way (several non-signatories agree with the basic sentiment expressed, but will not be part of a joint statement), the petition submitted to you represents a consensus of the personal views of the editors who have appended their names

"We make this unprecedented joint plea in the belief that it is not only in the interests of a free press, but in the interests of South Africa and in the interests of justice and peace."

The signatories are Ron Anderson, editor of

the *Star* (daily editions), Herman Arendse, editor of *Argus Community Newspapers*, Tony Ball, editor of the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, Nigel Bruce, editor of the *Financial Mail*, Andrew Drysdale, editor of the *Argus*, Michael Green, editor of the *Daily News*, Allen Greenblo, editor of *Finance Week*, Rex Gibson, for the editor of the *Saturday Star*, Anton Harber, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*, John Hildyard, editor of the *Sunday Star*

Editors

Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the *Sowetan*, James McMillan, editor of the *Natal Mercury*, Irwin Manoin, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*, T G Mthembu, editor of *Ilanga*, Tertius Myburgh, editor of the *Sunday Times*, Ken Owen, editor of *Business Day*, Brylall Ramgughee, acting editor of *Post Natal*, Khulu Sibiyi, editor of *City Press*, Derek Smith, editor-in-chief of *Times Media Limited* (Eastern Cape), Richard Steyn, editor of the *Natal Witness*, Harvey Tyson, editor-in-chief of the *Star*, the *Saturday Star* and *Sunday Star*, Mostert van Schoor, editor of the *Pretoria News*, Koos Viviers, editor of the *Cape Times*, Glynn Williams, editor of the *Daily Dispatch*, Neville Woudberg, editor of the *Evening Post* and *Weekend Post* and Ian Wylie, editor of the *Sunday Tribune - Sapa*

Editors sign protest petition

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Sowetan
11/5/68

Perskor workers go on strike

JOHANNESBURG —
More than 1 000 Perskor
workers went on strike
yesterday over a wage
dispute, the Media
Workers' Association of
Southern Africa
(Mwasa) said here

The union is demand-
ing a minimum weekly
wage of R180 and
Perskor upped its offer
yesterday afternoon to
R100 per week, a state-
ment from Mwasa said

"Perskor workers in
Benoni, Pretoria and
New Canada have all
gone on strike, and more
plants may join the
strike if the matter is not
resolved immediately,"
it said

Initially workers
sought a minimum
weekly wage of R260

However, after initial
negotiations they re-
duced their demand to
R180

Perskor offered an
R80 minimum weekly
wage and negotiations
deadlocked at that
stage, according to
Mwasa

"Mwasa took the mat-
ter to the National In-
dustrial Council for
mediation

"Perskor did not com-
ply and workers viewed
the action as a breach of
the agreement

"Consequently they
went on strike early this
(yesterday) morning,"
the statement said

Perskor management
declined to comment at
this stage as negotia-
tions were still under-
way, a spokesman said

A spokesman for The
Citizen said that, in
spite of the strike, the
newspaper would be
available as usual early
today — Sapa

WORK STOPPAGE AT FOUR PLANTS

**Perskor
papers
forced
to come
to halt**

ABOUT 2000 black workers at four plants of Perskor on the Reef yesterday downed tools over wages, bringing a standstill to the production of several publications, including the Afrikaans daily newspaper, *Die Vaderland*.

Sowetan 11/5/86
The plants affected are at Doornfontein and

SOWETAN REPORTER

Bosmont in Johannesburg, Benoni and Pretoria. The workers are members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa), an affiliate of Nactu.

Police arrived at Doornfontein and Pretoria after the workers downed tools but later left.

About 500 workers at the Doornfontein plant gathered in the basement of the Perskor building while Mwasa negotiators and management held talks to resolve the

dispute.

The workers later rejected management's offer of a weekly minimum wage of R100 and an across-the-board increase of R20. They are demanding a weekly minimum of R180 and an across-the-board increase of R100.

Meeting

The managing director of Perskor, Mr J N Buitendag, was not available for comment yesterday as he was said to be in a meeting.

A Mwasa spokesman said by late in the

afternoon that the workers had rejected management's offer and resolved to continue with the strike.

He said management said it regarded the stoppage as an illegal strike but that negotiations were continuing.

The workers are mainly machine operators, cleaners, drivers and inserters.

The stoppage could also affect the production of the Afrikaans morning newspaper, *Beeld*.

A worker said yesterday "*Die Vaderland* was not even printed as a result of the action."

210 1215788

Naughty humour earns Financial Mail a warning

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JOHANNESBURG — The Director of Publications has warned that he will submit the Financial Mail to a publications committee if the "trend" of naughty humour on its back page continues.

Several readers wrote to the Directorate of Publications to complain about jokes in the "Did You Hear" column in the April 15 edition of the magazine. Dr A Coetzee said in a letter in the May 13 edition of the Financial Mail.

"Although all these snippets are obviously intended to introduce an element of humour, they do offend people and could well be undesirable in terms of the Publications Act, 1974."

"I have decided not to submit the edition formally to a committee of publications for an examination and a finding, but will have to do so if this 'trend' is repeated in future," he warned.

A story from the Toronto Medical Post, "Good News" from Potchefstroom, and an anecdote about the golfer who got Aids were singled out, he said.

Another correspondent from Cape Town was "absolutely horrified" at the tone of three or four items in the column of April 15 — Sapa

CAPE TOWN — A former Commissioner of Police was not made aware that "witdoeke" from Old Crossroads had asked police for help against the "comrades" during 1986, the Supreme Court was told yesterday

General Petrus Johannes Coetzee was giving evidence under cross-examination in the R200 000 damages claim

'No conspiracy in KTC'

by 21 KTC residents and the local Methodist Church against the Minister of Law and Order

The plaintiffs allege the police assisted in, alternatively failed to prevent "witdoek" attacks on June 9, 10 and 11 1986, which destroyed KTC

The Minister has denied complicity

General Coetzee said he was never told that it was "safer" in Old Crossroads than in its satellite camps or KTC

Mr Henri Viljoen, SC, for the plaintiffs Did Brigadier Swart (Western

Cape Divisional Commissioner of Police) never tell you that "witdoeke" from Old Crossroads had asked for help and were, therefore, less hostile towards the police?

General Coetzee This was never reported to me I knew that normal policing could not take place in the area

"My memory is that people were not too friendly towards the police I had read allegations in the newspapers that 'witdoeke' were not hostile to the police

"If true, I would have thought it was a temporary situation"

General Coetzee said a conspiracy between police and "witdoeke" to destroy the KTC squatter camp could not have taken place

He denied there was a similarity of interests between the "witdoeke", the police and the State "Never in my presence has the suggestion come from the Government that illegal methods be used," he said

The case is proceeding

Recession 'affected Reeva sales'

243 By Bruce Anderson

A Cape Town-based beauty consultant experienced difficulty in selling Reeva cosmetics as a result of a recession which began in early 1985 — before the publication of an allegedly defamatory article in *Style* magazine in early 1985, a Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday

The evidence came during the cross-examination of Mrs Jacoba Boyd-White, a senior distributor of Reeva cosmetics, in a case in which two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming damages of more than R3 million for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* in June 1985

The defendants include the editor of *Style* as well as its publishers, printers and distributors

During cross-examination by Mr Bob Nugent, who appears for the defendants, Mrs Boyd-White initially denied that members of her sales teams

had experienced difficulty in selling Reeva products as a result of a recession

Mr Nugent then referred Mrs Boyd-White to an affidavit she had made at the time of the original interdict proceedings against *Style* in June 1985

In the affidavit Mrs Boyd-White said a member of her sales team, a Mrs du Preez, had told her she was experiencing difficulty in selling Reeva cosmetics before publication of the article

Under re-examination by Mr Jonathan Heher, SC, who appears for the plaintiffs, Mrs Boyd-White said Mrs du Preez's sales figures had been low ever since she joined the Reeva organisation

The first expert witness in the trial, Mr William Kirsh, a chartered accountant, began giving evidence late yesterday afternoon on the structure of Miss Forman's two companies

Mr Kirsh's evidence was preceded by lengthy legal argument over the admissibility of aspects of his evidence

The hearing continues

RECALL Anne Beloved wife of Don Wayne, Christiana, 10th May 88
laughers, we will miss you out thoughts and prayers to Eric, Mike
and
10th May 88

GLOOM again descended on the South African newspaper world this week with the silencing of *South*. The other day it was the *New Nation* that was gagged.

The Government's recent actions against the media and some organisations strike the victims as bewildering and perverse, but slowly a pattern is emerging the Government is using much more subtle methods to get compliance with its will

The attack on the media started from two ends — *Die Stem* on the right and *New Nation* on the left The publishers of *Die Stem* decided to stop publishing before action was taken against them, the *New Nation* put up a fight before it went down

It appears the Government is hoping that the newspapers in the centre will be cowed by what they see happening at the ends

The regulations allow for subjective judgments by officials and this makes editors uncertain about what may and what may not be published.

Some of the newspapers were warned for publishing material that was also published in newspapers that were not warned Even lawyers no longer advise newspapers with their usual confidence We are all dancing on delicate egg shells

People who have been interrogated tell of how the inquisitors rely on the anxiety that grows out of uncertainty to impose their will. A man in detention does not know what is happening to his children, his wife and his colleagues. He does not know when he will be released He does not know what time of the day he will be fetched from the cell for questioning.

Uncertainty, anxiety, collapse of confidence ..

The only certainty for editors today is: if you publish anything that promotes the image or esteem of the Government, you are safe The further away you move from that, the more the chances of getting shut

The Government is not closing down newspapers in the same way it closed the *World* and *Sunday World*, among others. it just suspends publication for a few weeks It dangles the carrot of "rehabilitation" — at a price

243
Death
of the
truth
Sowetan 13/5/88



GABU Tugwana, acting editor of *New Nation*, which has been suspended for three months.



The Government is hoping that the outcry against a few weeks' suspension will not be as vociferous as that against a total closure

The same method is being used against organisations opposed to the Government

That is why the United Democratic Front (UDF) and Azanian Peoples' Organisation (Azapo) were not banned outright and that is why some organisations were restricted while others,

sharing the same beliefs and programmes, were not And it explains why some leaders were restricted and not others

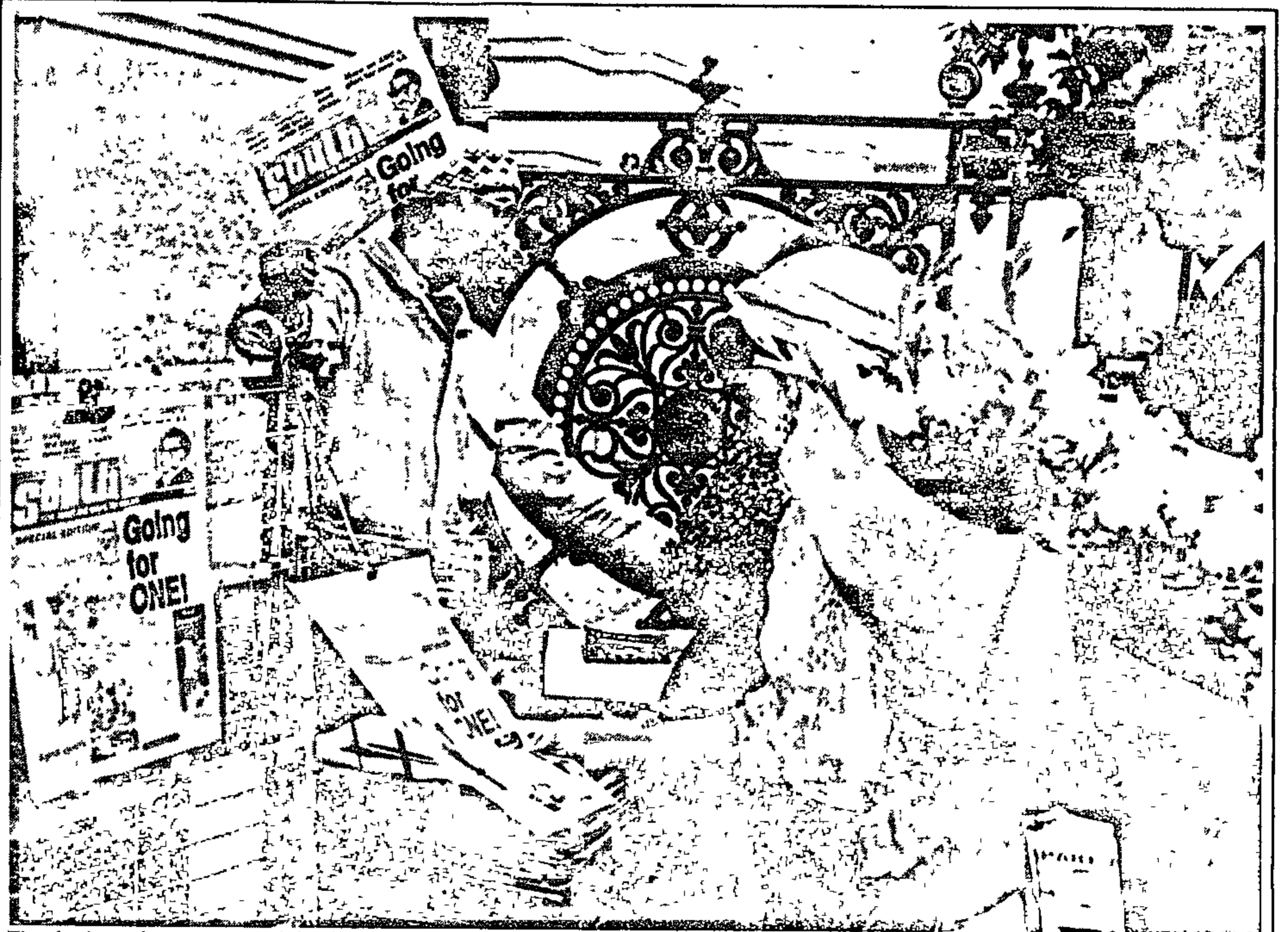
The uncertainty in newsrooms is so real that when the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, says that there is less subversive material being published today than there was before the media regulations were promulgated last August, I don't know whether to believe him or not

My first problem is that his yardstick is subjective, nothing that I can use to check what he is saying My second is that he might be right we might all have bowed down without realising it

And so truth has died.

W/Meal 13-19/5/88

die in mines demo



The last copies ... a special edition of *South* is sold in Cape Town this week. Minutes later the paper was banned

13-19/5/88 W/Meal

THE staff of *South* had to pull a special edition off the streets at the 11th hour this week when a banning order was slapped on the Cape-based newspaper.

South, which is usually published on Thursday, attempted to beat an expected banning order by bringing out the paper's last edition on Monday, in the hope that Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha would not bring down the axe until Wednesday.

According to editor Rashid Seria, the special edition was on the streets by midday. At 2.30pm *South* was banned.

"We received legal advice to withdraw our newspaper from the streets, which we did."

They managed to sell only 20 percent of the print run.

Production of the newspaper

13-19/5/88 W/Meal

On the streets at noon. Shut down at 2.30pm

By KAREN EVANS and
THANDEKA GQUBULE

has been totally prohibited according to a notice in the Government Gazette on Monday. The banning is effective until and including June 10, a day before the expiration of the current State of Emergency.

South staff intend keeping themselves busy in the next month by undertaking in-house training, helping *Grassroots* newspaper, and launching a news agency in conjunction with Press

Trust, a Durban agency.

Seria expressed concern over the possibility of the banning order being extended if the State of Emergency is renewed. "Beyond that we will fight with all our might. If we don't make it difficult for the minister now the future of the press will be bleak."

Organisations have come out in support of *South*, condemning the action of the minister.

"Through Stoffel Botha's desperate and heavy-handed use of the censorship axe, the state has shown yet again, as the political

Picture: RASHID LOMBARD, Afrapix

crisis deepens, one of its first scapegoats is the truth," said Bob Kernohan, president-elect of the Southern African Society of Journalists.

He called on the minister to review the banning urgently "with a view to cancelling it".

In a statement the African National Congress condemned the banning and accused the government of being "completely intolerant of those voices of our people advocating fundamental democratic changes in our land".

The Anti-Censorship Action Group (Acag) said the minister of home affairs can "stifle public expression through newspapers, but the fact of oppression and the resulting anger and frustration in people's lives remains."

● See PAGE 16

SAVE

THE

WAIL

and Freedom of the Press

The Weekly Mail, the newspaper that 'kicks down barriers', has received a warning from the Minister of Home Affairs that its words threaten public safety.

The following people and organisations in Grahamstown have contributed to sponsoring this page to demonstrate their support for this courageous newspaper. In pursuance of responsible protest, this page will be sent to the Minister.

We call on other communities wishing to show unity with the Weekly Mail and other publications under threat to follow our example and sponsor a page.

WAIL, DAMMIT!

Make a fuss before the Wail is bludgeoned to death and silenced

- Dr & Mrs H Hummel
- Mr & Mrs P M. Sully
- Anonymous
- D McLean
- Dr J Peires
- M L Peires
- Dr W Branford
- Dr J Branford
- Dr S Miller
- R Bouch
- I Truen
- A Oosthuizen
- S Ramsay
- D Christie
- S Malunga
- D Ayliff
- D Mot
- J du S Read
- C Woerber
- Mr R Berold
- Mr P Glover
- Rev G Hawkes
- Mrs B A. Tark
- Anonymous
- Mr G Coutouvides
- Prof W Kotzi
- Mr T Huisamen
- Prof M. van Wyk Smith
- Mrs R. Smith
- Mrs J Marsh
- Anonymous
- Mr D Forsyth
- Ms M Weaver
- Mr A Weaver
- Dr J S Marsh
- Ms R Brook
- Mr S Rankin
- Ms J Segar
- Ms L Cloete
- Rev T Goodyer
- Adv I Smuts
- Mr P. Auf der Heyde
- Mr K James
- Mrs J James
- Mr & Mrs R. W Harris
- Mr & Mrs D Gardiner
- Mr C A Mallinson
- Prof R E Jacob
- Prof F Pirajno
- Mrs M F Handy
- Prof W J Davies
- Mrs C Davies
- Mr J A Roberts
- Mr S D Pamphilon
- East Cape News Agency
- Ms J C Small
- Ms Z. Beck
- Mr Z. Boon
- Mr M Kenyon
- Ms R Kingwill
- Mrs J M. Butler
- Dr S Booysen
- Mrs A. Barning
- Mrs M Baxter
- The Very Rev T Barker
- Mrs M Barker
- Prof P D Terry
- J King
- Mrs E K J Barker
- Prof & Mrs R. T Bell
- Prof W H Hewitt
- Mr W Holleman
- Mrs H Holleman
- Mrs R Johnson
- Ms J Joubert
- Mr C Steyn
- Mr E de Wize
- Mr T Bower
- Mrs A Kew
- Mrs K Marx
- Dr R Marx
- Mr P Marx
- Mr G Marx
- Mr D Marx
- Adv & Mrs K. Matthee
- Rev & Mrs T Patterson
- Mr & Mrs T Slado
- St Pauls College Common Room
- Mr A. Roux
- Mrs C Roux
- Rev A. C J Charton
- A Friend
- Ms A C Petra
- The Young Progressives
- Mrs M Allen
- Mrs A W Macdonald
- Mr & Mrs E K. Moorcroft
- Mrs M G McCoy
- Mrs M. G Gilbert
- Ms C Jeffrey
- Miss M Moed
- Mrs A Evans
- Mrs L. Todres
- Ms H Cumes
- Nusas-SRC Rhodes University
- Ms I Walker
- Mr D Bunyan
- Mrs N De Villiers
- Ms S Fold
- Mr J M Bering
- Mrs P Higgins
- Mr B Patterson
- Mrs S Patterson
- Mrs A Rowlett
- Mr D Lowry
- Miss P Higgins
- Mr P Teelon
- RU Catholic Students Society
- Ms E V Viljoen
- Capitalists Against Apartheid
- South African Jews Against Injustice
- Mrs M Kenyon
- Mr G Kenyon
- Mrs I Vermaak
- Prof T Botha
- Ms V Botha
- P McDonald
- Ms B Brady
- P Smales
- Ms J Worth
- M Rollo
- Mr J Hughes
- Ms G Maurice
- Ms N Davey
- Ms M West
- Mrs S Cangley
- M Harding
- Ms S Mckenzie
- Ms N Conway
- Ms S Ziehl
- Ms S Aird
- Prof & Mrs D A C Macclennan
- Mr J C Louw
- Prof R Tunmer
- Mr R Midgely
- Prof R Harker
- Prof J Suggit
- Prof I Kanlor
- Mr J G Grogan
- Prof T R H Davenport
- Mrs G Davenport
- P F P Grahamstown Branch
- Grahamstown Advice Office
- Miss B M Nicholls
- Mr J L Jackson
- Mrs G P Jackson
- Dr A. P Bosch
- Albany News Agency
- Ms D Orpen
- Mr R. Hartle
- Mr D de la Harpe
- Mr David Pitman
- Ms R. Kingwill
- Mr J Stuart
- Ms N Gotyana
- Mr B Lock
- Mr P Tandy
- Mr M Feltham
- Mr A. Yazbek
- Mr M Vermaak
- Mr E van Heerden
- Mr G Davies
- Mr D Butler
- Mr J Godden
- Mrs T Tisane
- Ms L Vale
- Prof P Vale
- Ms S Lund
- Ms M de Villiers
- Ms S Middleton
- Mr M Roodt
- Ms B Taylor
- Ms N Cattaneo
- Mr A Tracey
- Prof J L Cattaneo
- Mr R. White
- Ms A Burroughs
- Ms A Baleta
- Mr G A. von Klemperer
- Mrs M A von Klemperer
- Ms S J Maulo
- Ms T A. Morrison
- Ms J Hams
- Mr P Howes
- Mr O Skaa
- Mr C J Hodgskill
- Prof P G Surtees
- Anonymous
- Mr J Wellman
- Ms M Beard
- Mr M. Hacksley
- Ms N Yeye
- Mr G Smith
- The Rt. Rev D Russell
- Mr J Pretorius
- Miss F Henley
- Dr A Marais
- Ms P Rogers
- The Albany Black Sash
- Prof F G Butler
- Mrs A Elliot
- Mr J Breytenbach
- Mr N Jardine
- Mr G Mantz
- Miss F Gale
- Mr & Mrs C Rogers
- Prof G Stewart
- Mr C Riddle
- Mrs L Place
- Mr T Walker
- Mr G Hayman
- Mr G Pincock
- Miss J Osborne
- Mr C Lebert
- Anonymous
- Mr R Hartley
- Mrs M Lorraine
- Mr A Weakey
- Mr R. Morikua
- Grahamstown Rural Committee
- Mr P Hathorn
- Mr B Hartle
- Ms F Adams
- Mr J Pickering
- Ms M Baleta
- Mr S Benton
- Mr D Sand
- Ms N Steyn
- Ms J Murray
- Mrs D Russell
- Mrs M Pretorius
- Mrs A Marais
- Miss T Wild
- Prof T Davies
- Mr L Wnght
- Mrs S Ross
- Mr D Meyer
- Mrs J Jardine
- Mr P van Velsen
- The Rev Dr B Clarke
- Ms D Sandler
- Mr I Lauder
- Mr L Stanfield
- Ms J Fairbairn
- Ms J Worthington-Smith
- Mr K Carleen
- Mr G Kew
- Mrs J Eisworth
- Miss B Dickerson
- Ms R Theron
- Ms S Du Plessis
- Mr J Lorraine
- Mr & Mrs M Schafer
- Ms J Rolfe
- Mrs P Paton
- Prof J K Coetzee
- Dr M C Roux
- Mr G T Wood
- Mr B du Toit
- Mr R Hartley
- Prof T Beard
- Mr D Christanson
- Mrs A Campbell
- Mrs C Burnett
- Miss A Campbell
- Mr C Heymans
- Mr A. Donaldson
- Mr M. Leibbrandt
- Dr A Webb
- Prof. & Mrs P Black
- Dr R. C G Palmer
- Prof I Macdonald
- Dr J de Wet
- Mr S Booysen
- Prof K van Wyk
- Dr & Mrs FC & J de Moor
- Prof T M Letcher
- Mrs V H Letcher
- Mr C J Letcher
- Mr R. F. Hall
- Mrs P Hall
- Prof & Mrs G de Jager
- Dr D B Campbell
- Ms V de Klerk

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FOCUS: THE WAR

WEEKLY MAIL co-editors Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim meet the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, on Monday — as the "Save the Press" campaign reaches a new peak

The meeting, originally scheduled for this week and now postponed till Monday, will focus on the minister's warning to Weekly Mail that he considers it "a threat to the safety of the public"

Also at the meeting will be the newspaper's attorneys There were renewed calls this week for the minister to reconsider his action against the press

Protests have come from people as wide-ranging as Dana Bullen of the Washington-based World Press Freedom Committee, and General Bantu Holomisa, military leader of Transkei

Editors from 33 countries — ranging from the USA and Scandinavia, to Jamaica, Ghana and Sri Lanka — have voiced their protest

The Inter-American Press Association (IAPA), representing more than 1 300 newspapers from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, sent a message to Botha

Signed by Ignacio Lozano IAPA president and editor-in-chief of Los Angeles' LA Opinion, the organisation deplored recent actions and threats

More calls to Botna: don't close

against the South African press "While our sphere of activity is principally the Western hemisphere, we feel obliged to protest because the type of suppression being practiced by your government is of concern to free peoples everywhere"

"We will follow the situation closely, especially with regard to any further restriction against the Weekly Mail or other periodicals"

The vice-chancellors of the universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town, Natal and the Western Cape issued a joint statement on current government action against the press

"A fundamental tenet for universities is a commitment to academic freedom By academic freedom is understood the right of individual staff members and students to engage without hindrance in the acquisition, advancement and transmission of knowledge"

"Violations of general liberty inevitably curtail academic freedom Unless freedom of expression

is guaranteed, universities are hindered in their fundamental pursuits

"High standards of scholarly enquiry can only be attained when the principle of freedom of thought is respected Where academic inquiry is subjected to the interests of another cause — especially the suppression of information on the basis of alleged public advantage — the consequences are serious"

"We therefore call upon Minister JCG Botha to reconsider the merits of his apparent course of action against publications of which he disapproves even when they have not transgressed the press regulations Such action will provoke further isolation and compound the debilitating nature of the growing intellectual boycott of this country"

The statement was signed by Professor RW Charlton (Wits), Professor JVO Reid (UCT), Professor P de V Booysen (Natal) and Professor GJ Gerwel (UWC)

In what the country's biggest daily newspaper, The Star, called an "unprecedented" action, 26 editors countrywide signed a protest at "authoritarian action" by the government against the media

The signatories included the editors of the major English-language newspapers in the country

In a covering letter, the editors said they believed the cause of revolution is abetted not reduced, by closing down small newspapers and threatening bigger ones

In the petition, they said the ministerial action was "against the national interest" and asked that "the unnecessary restrictions issued under the Emergency regulations be eased"

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues"

"We believe that the Minister's concern may be less about press incitement to revolution than

Read all about it. If the s



Saamstaan speaking up . front pages over the years Originally called Suid-Kaap Nuus, the paper got its

The small-town paper which shops won't

EVERY person associated with the tiny Oudtshoorn newspaper Saamstaan has spent some time in detention Several have been house arrested Some have been beaten, some shot at, some maimed

Saamstaan, newspaper of the "coloured" township Bridgton and its black neighbour, Bongolethu is an eight-page tabloid which appears every six weeks — that is, if not too many members of staff are in jail

The paper's offices have been set on fire three times Copy and photographs disappear before they find their way into the paper No printer within 500km of Oudtshoorn will touch the newspaper and an entire print run of 9 000 copies disappeared after being signed for by a mysterious person named "Scarface" at the Cape Town printers

Saamstaan is one of the seven newspapers being dragged through the laborious "warnings" process which may lead to its eventual suspension by the minister of home affairs But looming suspension is one of Saamstaan's lesser problems

Saamstaan is an Afrikaans word which means "stand together" A small community paper, its offices, with one telephone and one typewriter, are near a part of Bridgton which has been renamed "Moscow" by local youth organisations

The newspaper is written in three languages — Xhosa, Afrikaans and English It was born in 1983, the year the UDF was launched It was

The name of the tiny newspaper is Saamstaan, Afrikaans for 'stand together'. A good name for a newspaper whose staff have stood together despite bannings, detentions, fire-bombings, beatings, shootings, abusive phone-calls, printers who won't print the paper, lawyers who won't read it, shops which won't sell it

By PAT SIDLEY

in Oudtshoorn

published in an area served by no other newspaper, to be circulated among a deprived and oppressed community, whose incidence of tuberculosis and rates of unemployment were both extremely high

Its structure, with no editor but a collective drawn from all manner of groups (a rugby club dominates), meant that in no time it was the focal point of political organisation in the region and the vehicle for local mobilisation

Its news came from the groups and youth organisations who decided collectively what was of interest to them and others in the area

Run by local activists, the newspaper quickly became a successful vehicle for mobilising its readers, and as a source of basic information and advice It helped build firm — and unusual — bridges between the large "coloured" population and the smaller "African" population

Oliphant said "We never realised the strength of the press Once the newspaper started, more and more people came forward to participate

"We were never only a newspaper We were an organisation assisting people in diverse ways with their problems We talked to people about rent evictions and helped the youth draw up constitutions for their organisations"

There is a strong emphasis on sport in Saam-

staan In its coverage of local and national items, it supports a UDF vision for South Africa

It provides news and information about people's lives, enabling them to make informed decisions about their circumstances and act on them in an educated way

Local activists praise the newspaper's advice section "The newspaper is an organ to assist people with advice on various matters They had never had a place to go before," said one

"People had never heard of the Southern Cape before Saamstaan" said a Bongolethu activist

"It was a paper where we could knock at people's doors, discuss their problems, help solve them, and build structures and organisations to deal with it all It is a real alternative newspaper, reporting news which is not reported on anywhere else Saamstaan is the only paper to do it here — it's on our doorstep and now the government feels threatened"

Not one of the more than 20 white lawyers in Oudtshoorn will take on any work, however minor or important, for the newspaper, the political groups or even any of the individuals they think may be associated with "politics"

In order to prevent the disappearance — or confiscation — of stones and photographs, each article is duplicated several times and the photographs are hidden away in homes around town until they are ready to be sent to the printers in Cape Town

Oliphant, a 40-year-old father of five, is known to his anonymous callers, some policemen, lawyers and other local whites as a "kakmaker" (troublemaker)

It is not a term he necessarily rejects Oliphant was once a schoolteacher, but after being banished to the Northern Cape, he gave it up and now sells educational books

He does not hide his affiliations and brandishes his political symbols, some of which have literally drawn fire in the region His youngest son, aged two, is named Nelson

Journalist Umbulelo Grootboom, another person pivotal to the Saamstaan operation, lives in



Bongolethu and has spent most of the past two years in jail He now faces charges of making a subversive statement during a service for four local activists facing the death penalty for necklacing a councillor Oliphant has been asked, as a state witness, to identify a voice on a tape recording which police say was made at the service

The case comes to court in June and Oliphant has had to receive special permission on his restriction order from police to travel to court out-

DERICK JACKSON, co-ordinator of the Saamstaan newspaper project, received a telephone call at dawn last week telling him his girlfriend, in the labour ward at the local hospital, had miscarried Jackson, under house arrest, cannot easily visit his girlfriend He has had to apply for police permission to visit her for a couple of hours in the evening The phone call turned out to be untrue Just one of the many abusive calls Jackson and his colleagues receive with monotonous regularity

REGGIE OLIPHANT, a journalist on Saamstaan newspaper and a former regional president of the United Democratic Front, was stopped by police on Sunday afternoon a couple of minutes' drive from his house in Bridgton, Oudtshoorn The policeman told him he was in contravention of his restriction order that confines him to his house after 6pm. The policeman said the time was 6 03pm Oliphant's watch read 6 48

WAR ON THE PRESS

lose papers

about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the interests of South Africa

Therefore, in the interests of the freedoms standards and values which all of us, including government, profess to support, we ask that the Rule of Law be restored," they said

The editors who signed were Ron Anderson (The Star — daily), Herman Arendse (Argus Community Newspapers), Tony Ball (Diamond Fields Advertiser), Nigel Bruce (Financial Mail), Andrew Drysdale (The Argus), Michael Green (Daily News), Allen Greenblo (Finance Week), Rex Gibson (for the Saturday Star) John Hildyard (Sunday Star), Aggrey Klaaste (The Sowe-tan), James Macmillan (Natal Mercury), TG Mthembu (Ilanga), Teritus Myburgh (Sunday Times), Ken Owen (Business Day), Brijlall Ramgughee (Post Natal), Khulu Sibiyi (City Press), Derek Smith (Editor-in-Chief, Times Media Ltd, Eastern Cape), Richard Steyn (Natal Witness),



Stoffel Botha — renewed pleas

Harvey Tyson (Editor-in-Chief, The Star), Mos-tert van Schoor (Pretoria News), Koos Viviers (Cape Times), Glynn Williams (Daily Dispatch), Neville Woudberg (Evening Post), Ian Wylie (Sunday Tribune), and Anton Harber and Irwin Manom (Weekly Mail)

● Hundreds of people attended a protest meet-ing in Soweto on the weekend. The meeting, called by the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa), passed a resolution condemning the government's onslaught on the press

● The Anti Censorship Action Group has

launched a "Stop Stoffel Botha" petition, which is being circulated countrywide

This complements a chain letter being circulated by the Black Sash and an appeal from a *Weekly Mail* reader, which he has published as an advert in the newspaper, calling on people to write let-ters of protest to Botha

● Major-General Bantu Holomusa, head of the Transkei military council added his voice to the protests "As a reader I am still waiting for any justifiable reason for the closure of the *Weekly Mail* So far I have not seen any — but, anyway, that's South African business," he said in an in-terview this week

● Enos Mabuza, chief minister of KaNgwane, said in his policy speech at the opening of his legislative assembly this week that it was "deeply regrettable" that the government was further en-forcing its "restrictive rule"

● An advert in the form of an open letter to the state president from prominent international me-dia personalities, including the editors of major papers around the world, appeared in the *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Star*, *City Press* and the *Natal Witness*. The Afrikaans paper, *Beeld*, refused to carry the advert.

The odd case of the smart but careless news thieves

By FRANZ KRÜGER, East London

THERE was something a little odd about the burglary last week at the offices of the Port Elizabeth news agency, PEN

Not just the fact that it was the third break-in in months. Nor the fact that the expen-sive alarm system did not go off

What was puzzling was that the very skilled and professional burglars carelessly forgot to steal any money. They stole documents and negatives and news agency telecom-munications equipment

Journalists working for Pen, an affiliate of East Cape News Agencies, say they believe the attack last Wednesday night was by people "who want to stop us from work-ing"

Pen staffer Mbulelo Linda said the indepen-dent news agencies were supplying publi-cations with news that "some quarters don't want to see published"

Linda said the nature of the burglary made him believe it had not been carried out by ordinary burglars the intruders, who man-aged to circumvent a sophisticated radio alarm system, removed documents and negatives, as well as the equipment the agency needs to send out material. Among the items stolen were a teletex machine, computer equipment and the control box of the radio alarm.

According to the manager of Provident Bur-glar Alarms, Robbie van der Merwe, no alarm was registered at his firm's control room, although the alarm was found to be switched on the morning after the incident

Van der Merwe said the break-in was "suspicious" in that it was not usual for documents and negatives to be stolen, while petty cash had been left behind

He would not be drawn on who might be re-sponsible, but security sources who did not want to be named said whoever broke in "knew what they were doing. They were professionals, and there aren't too many of them around"

The sources said the burglars could have circumvented the radio alarm by the use of a duplicate key, or by jamming the radio frequency of the alarm system for as long as they required

The sources said it also seemed as if there must have been at least two people in-volved, who probably had a car at their disposal, because some of the equipment stolen was very heavy

It was the third break-in to have occurred at Pen since it was established in late 1986. Last June, the office was entered through a skylight and the office searched. Attempts were made to steal the teletex, but failed

● Linda and fellow Pen journalist Mike Loewe were detained shortly after the agency was set up and spent several months in Emergency detention

When released, they were prohibited from working as journalists, but restrictions were relaxed after a court application

Loewe now lives in Johannesburg — el-news

Too secret to tell the editor

Weekly Mail Reporter, Windhoek

MILITARY officials want information from two Windhoek journalists. But the matter is so secret that they won't even tell the jour-nalists what the information relates to

The editor and a senior journalist of Windhoek's "alternative" newspaper, *The Namibian*, have been subpoenaed to give evidence before a military board of en-quiry

Gwen Lister and Mark Verbaan will ap-pear at the Suderhof military base in Wind-hoek next Friday

Earlier this month, two military policemen arrived at the newspaper's offices with summonses ordering them to give evidence before an inquiry convened in terms of the military discipline code to inquire into "a matter of a secret or confidential nature ..."

Further inquiries only brought the re-sponse that they would be given more de-tails on the day they appear

The matter has been referred to the news-paper's legal advisers

staff aren't in jail



Its name from its first front page headline "Ons moet saamstaan"

can't sell and no printer will touch



Saamstaan split — a familiar scene as staffers and supporters welcome back two colleagues released from detention. Saamstaan staffers have been arrested on numerous occasions

past two side the magisterial district of Oudtshoorn

State action has included the 1984 detention, in one go, of 27 *Saamstaan* committee members and a University of Cape Town video crew

Action during the State of Emergency has taken its toll "People are scared to move around with *Saamstaan*, and one person was detained simply because he had a copy of it," says Jackson

Several people have burned their copies, fearful of the consequences of being caught with one

As a consequence the paper is being given away now, instead of being sold, as it used to be, for 15c a copy. Several store owners are too frightened to carry the paper, and distribution has had to change drastically

The three people central to *Saamstaan* (and to political organisation in the area), Oliphant, Jack-son and Grootboom, are all under severe restric-tion orders

Although they may be quoted and can work on their newspaper, they are all effectively under house arrest at night and may not move out of the magisterial district of Oudtshoorn, although

Jackson has received permission to go to Cape Town when necessary to get the paper to the printers. They may not have anything to do with specified political organisations and may not ad-dress gatherings of 10 people or more

Grootboom has been almost continuously in jail since 1985. He has been detained for a num-ber of reasons — the weirdest being his arrest for stealing prize stock "for a UDF party"

That happened after a local farmhand, fired after having a row with his boss, herded some cattle through the town, past an empty plot where a party was in full swing

The revellers, delighted by this gift from the heavens, slaughtered the cattle. Police arrived, fired buckshot to disperse the gathering, and ar-rested one person Grootboom. The charges were later withdrawn

Grootboom was the first of the 18 people around South Africa to be banned on the day of the government crackdown on black political or-ganisations in February. His order prohibits his attendance at any meeting where the government

is criticised. It was delivered to him just before his release from his most recent spell in deten-tion, several days before the others were served

Jackson finds his restriction order prohibits his playing rugby — and sport, which he says pro-vided his initial political awareness, is a central part of his life. Permission to go to rugby prac-tice has been denied

Oliphant's car has been burnt, he receives nightly phone calls asking "Staa julie nog?" (Are you asleep?) and some which threaten his children with the burning of their house, and he faces difficulties in his job, as he cannot sell books outside the magisterial district of Oudt-shoorn

On the day he and Jackson were released from detention, they retired to the back room of Oli-phant's house — a room with no windows — to write a letter to the South African Council of Churches

The letter complete, they walked out of the front door to post it, and a police van pulled up. A policeman said "Come with us, and bring the letter with you"

Since 1981, remarks Oliphant nonchalantly, "there has not been one single bloody year that I have not been inside"

What makes the *Saamstaan* staff continue? "I think it's become an obligation," says Oliphant "I feel I'm under an obligation to my children and my people

"I see myself as a part of society in which eve-ryone gets an equal share of the big bread of this country. And I really mean equal"

*
PATRICK NYUKA, a *Saamstaan* reporter, has a badly maimed left arm, disfigured face and buckshot scars on his back

He was shot while covering a celebra-tion party when two local activists were released from prison last year. Police had wanted to confiscate his film and notes and he had tried to pass them to a young woman standing nearby. She too was severely wounded by police fire

Nyuka was charged with public violence

of the received telling ward at cannot had to her for untrue Jack-mon-

Don't be naughty

FM told

The Director of Publications has warned that he will submit the *Financial Mail* to a publications committee if the "trend" of naughty humour on its back page continues.

Several readers wrote to the Directorate of Publications to complain about jokes in the "Did You Hear" column in the April 15 edition of the magazine. Dr A Coetzee said in a letter in the May 13 edition of the *FM*

"Although all these snippets are obviously intended to introduce an element of humour, they do offend people and could well be undesirable in terms of the Publications Act, 1974

"I have decided not to submit the edition formally to a committee of publications for an examination and a finding, but will have to do so if this trend is repeated in future," Dr Coetzee warned. — Sapa

fm 13/5/88

astonished by the vast apparatus that has been put up to deal with this matter has no bearing upon the legal aspect at all "

If this be a correct statement of the law, the implications are serious. When parliament empowers the executive to perform certain functions (such as to promulgate regulations in pursuance of emergency powers) it does so on certain conditions. If the executive fails to adhere to these conditions for some reason, it is said to be ultra vires (beyond legal authority) and its action could be declared invalid.

Administrative law is the main avenue of redress available to those organisations or individuals against whom the State acts in terms of its emergency powers. When they bring actions against the State they are normally asking for it to be found to have acted ultra vires, that is, broadly speaking, that the empowered person exercised powers they did not have — or that they did have the powers, but exercised them improperly.

The problem, as articulated in the *New Nation* judgment, is that the relevant State officials are effectively placed beyond the law. If the regulations are to be interpreted in the manner Judge Curlewis suggests, then the role of law in this area could be dramatically curtailed.

However, this interpretation may be incorrect. The judgment fails almost completely to deal with the authorities cited by counsel for the applicants. Arguments are not received or dismissed by reference to existing legal authorities, they are merely dismissed. Some of the decisions cited, such as the *Natal Newspaper* and *Mawu* cases, are of considerable authority and paint a very different picture of the extent of executive powers under the emergency. Had these been followed the outcome may well have been different.

The *New Nation* judgment represents a shift away from the rights of the individual towards those of the executive. It must be hoped that that body of legal opinion which holds the judgment to be something of an aberration is correct and that liberal values receive a more sympathetic hearing when the case goes on appeal.

□ See page 55 for Willem de Klerk's opinion on press freedom.

PRESS BANNINGS

(Handwritten initials)

Man above the law

The Cape-based paper *South* went the same way this week as *New Nation* when Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha banned it, in terms of the emergency regulations, for a month. Coincidentally, it was also the week in which judgment in the *New Nation* case appeared. As a symbol of the unhappy position the press currently occupies, it repays examination.

The decision of the Rand Supreme Court, delivered by Judge Curlewis, upheld Botha's opinion that *New Nation* had contravened the emergency regulations. What, in essence, the judge decided, was this: the State of Emergency is a political issue, not a legal one. The courts are dealing "with the opinion of a politician and not a judgment of a court of law."

In other words, if the legislature empowers the State President to do what he thinks is necessary or expedient, the court is not entitled to second-guess him. As Judge Curlewis put it: "The fact that one may be somewhat

DEAR PRESIDENT BOTHA

(Handwritten signature/initials)

We are alarmed by the recent banning of the New Nation and South; by the gazetted warnings issued to the Weekly Mail, Grassroots, Saamstaan and Work in Progress; and by the warning letter sent to the Sowetan.

We deplore the arbitrary way in which these publications may now be stopped, the fact that the opinion of the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, may be the sole basis of a banning order, and the fact that he does not have to give any reasons for his opinion, which cannot be challenged in court.

The South African press and foreign correspondents of the world's media are already greatly censored; in February a further 17 organisations were effectively banned. It now seems to be the intention to cripple one-by-one any inconvenient publication.

We urge you to lift the ban on New Nation and South, and to take no further steps against the alternative or mainstream press.

THIS APPEAL HAS BEEN PLACED BY 'INDEX ON CENSORSHIP', 39C Highbury Place, London, on behalf of leading editors, writers and professionals around the world

- A WHITTAM SMITH Editor Independent London
- CHARLES GLASS ABC News London
- BO STRÖMSTEDT Editor Expressen Stockholm
- HERBERT PUNDIK Editor Politiken Copenhagen
- DANA BULLEN World Press Freedom Committee
- OLIVER CLARKE Publisher The Gleaner Jamaica
- T RILEY Freedom of Info Institute Canada
- AS ABRAHAM Editor Times of India, Bombay
- LORD BONHAM CARTER In view of Lords London
- STEWART STEVEN Editor Mail on Sunday London
- BILL KOVACH American Society of Editors
- CHRIS LAW Firm-maker London
- GA HARTMOLL British Film Institute London
- DR KARL GROBE HAGEL Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- HARK LE FANU Society of Authors London
- BIRGITTE RAHBEK Danish Radio Copenhagen
- BEN SONNENBERG Editor Grand Street USA
- DONALD ATYEO Editor Time Out London
- ERKKA LEHTOLA Aamulehti Finland
- KALPANA SHARMA Indian Express Bombay
- ANDREW NAGORSKI Newsweek Bonn
- ALF THOOR Expressen, Stockholm
- D FRANKE Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- JAN TYSTAD Oslo
- JILL RENOUF New Statesman London
- HARRY CONROY National Union of Journalists
- MARK PALMER Middle East Times London
- ALAN ROSS London Magazine London
- COLIN HARDING The Independent London
- JOHN KELLEHER Channel 4 TV London
- DENIS HERBSTEIN Journalist London
- VICTORIA BRITAIN The Guardian London
- HELEN BIRCH City Limits London
- PETER HICHALSKI Springer News Service London
- JEREMY PAXMAN Journalist London
- ANDREAS SKARTVEIT Oylendal Norsk Forlag Oslo
- M JOHANNESSEN Editor Morgunblaðið Iceland
- JOHN DOWNING Editor Toronto Sun Canada
- ALFONSO DUBOIS Editor Pensamiento, Nicaragua
- ROBERTO TEJADA Vuelta magazine Mexico
- P GYSELBRECHT Warehousekeeper Belgium
- SARJA STOKVIS Editor, Article 19 Netherlands
- JW VERBEI Editor De Journalist Netherlands
- KENNETH SOLOMON University of Maryland USA
- JAIME MUNOZ MUNOZ Colepo de Periodistas Chile
- JOHN M BURKOFF University of Pittsburgh USA
- RHONDA WASSERMAN University of Pittsburgh USA
- RODDY HEYLIGER Editor Saba Netherlands Antilles
- ROGER EAST Editor Keessing's London
- KATE DEVEREUX, Writer Keessing's London
- STEVE LEWIS Editor Keessing's London
- IAN GORVIN Writer Keessing's London
- DJ SAGAR Editor Keessing's London
- FRANCIS NICHOLSON Journalist Keessing's London
- PHILLIPA YOUNGMAN Sub-editor Keessing's London
- ALISON GDWAN Editor Keessing's London
- HARK R ROSENZWEIG University of California, Berkeley
- THOMAS G CLARK Editor Writers Digest USA
- JUAN SORUCO Director Cadena Bohia
- MINEKE SCHIPPER Free University Amsterdam
- JCE HUIZINGA Press Institute Amsterdam
- DAVID SUDA Monmouth College USA
- DAVID NALLE Alfred Hendy Press Fellowships
- M NIOL Press Afrique Paris
- GEORGE THEINER Index on Censorship London
- W SALAYAKANOND Press Development Thailand
- WAYLES BROWN Co-net University USA
- LORRAINE J ELLETSON Sophia University Tokyo

- LORD ARDWICK Commonwealth Press Union
- JOHN R MACARTHUR Publisher Harper's USA
- PETER GALLINER International Press Institute
- HON DAVID ASTOR Former Editor Observer London
- CUSHROW IRANI Editor The Statesman India
- NAT HENTOFF Village Voice New York
- MELVYN BRAGG South Bank Show London
- R USHERWOOD University of Sheffield
- ANDREW MILNE Cambridge University
- JOHN ALDERSON Professor United Kingdom
- SIDNEY CROSKERY OBE, Northern Ireland
- MONICA FOOT City Council Birmingham
- JAGATH SENARATNE Development Studies Centre
- STEWART DILL Birmingham University
- KS RANAKRISHNAN Newspaper Development, India
- NICK ST GEORGE Radio Journalist London
- PAMELA CLUNIES Poetry Society London
- PADDY SHERIAN Southern newspapers, Toronto
- NALINA GERA Maharashtra Herald India
- ROLF KLUGE Editor Oslo
- JH EDWARDS Birmingham University
- HAROLD EVANS Former editor London Times
- LORD MCGREGOR University of London
- TOM STOPPARD Playwright
- LORD AVEBURY Parliamentary Human Rights Group
- LOUIS BLOM COOPER Queen's Counsel London
- BOB BERNSTEIN Chairman Random House
- DONALD TRELROD Editor Observer London
- MARION DONHOFF Publisher Die Zeit, Hamburg
- BRUCE COHE Africa Info Centre New Zealand
- ROBERT HENARD Rapporteur France
- J CHECRIER Professor Editor France
- JANIE KALVEN Journalist London
- A EMILE Chief reporter Mauritius Times
- S RAMLALLAH Bob-editor Mauritius Times
- GI HAMPSHIRE Librarian, London
- JL HOLZGREFE University of Oxford
- ELIZABETH KISS University of Oxford
- BOGDAN SZAKOWSKI Cardiff University
- WOLF BRÜGMANN Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- KARI SKJONSBERG Author Norway
- ELLING TJONNELAND Peace Research Institute Oslo
- JUAN LUIS CEBRIAN Editor El Pais Madrid
- NORMAN WEBSTER Editor Globe and Mail Toronto
- LIONEL MORRISON National Union of Journalists
- NALINA GERA Editor Maharashtra Herald India
- HAKAN HELLBERG Editor Huvustidningen Finland
- AHMED RAJAB Editor Africa Analyse London
- STEVE PLATT Editor New Society London
- PETER PALUMBO Company Director London
- EDGAR AUTH Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- BRIGITTE KOLE Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- MICHAEL SIMMONS The Guardian London
- ROBERT HEWSON Journalist London
- PETER HENNESSY Journalist London
- MICHAEL COVENEY Journalist London
- RACHEL BILLINGTON Writer London
- GORDON HOLMBAKK Oylendal Norsk Forlag Oslo
- RONALD KOVEN Correspondent Paris
- BERNI ECKLUND Expressen Stockholm
- MAREK GARZTECKI Editor Voice of Solidarity
- KEVIN BOYLE Director Article 19 London
- PHILIP SPENDER Index on Censorship, London

- HANS IHLEBAEK Norwegian Press Association
- JENS LJNDE Danish Union of Journalists
- NEAL ASCHERSON Co-ordinator London
- SVEN EGIL ØMDAL Norwegian Union of Journalists
- MICHAEL WALTER Swiss Radio International
- STEVE PLATT Editor New Society London
- DON ROWLANDS Journalism Centre Cardiff
- ARNE RUTH Dagens Nyheter Stockholm
- EDWARD MORTIMER Financial Times London
- CARDLINE MOOREHEAD The Times London
- MUSTAFA EL BEHAIRY Al Wafd Egypt
- ANTONIN ANDREGEN Norwegian PEN Oslo
- INGER ETZLER Swedish Broadcasting Corporation
- ROBIN WHARMBY Press Federation London
- ULRIKE FUSSEL Frankfurter Rundschau Frankfurt
- JANE E KIRTLEY Committee for Press Freedom
- DAN VAN DER VAT The Guardian London
- MICHAEL FREEMAN Carcanet Press Manchester
- EJB ROSE Punyamedia Trust London
- CARLO GEBLER Author London
- LARS PERSSON Expressen, Stockholm
- GHSILAIN RIPAUT Writer and editor France
- EGH JOFFE Journalist London
- SARAH LY GRANICH Writer London
- NATHANIEL POLSTER Editor HLR Newsletter USA
- DR SH AMIN Glasgow College Scotland
- JOHN S ROSSANT Business Week USA
- M RAMLALLAH Editor Mauritius Times
- GUNDER ANDERSSON Author Sweden
- PENTTI V RUOHONEN Editor Finnish Broadcasting
- CHARLES RANDOLPH Writer London
- ZOIA HORII Right To Know Project USA
- MACARIO DI TAV Meda Services Philippines
- V GUNWARDENE Deanga Sri Lanka
- MIKAEL WITTE Freedom of Expression Denmark
- ANNE SCHMITT Soviet American Review USA
- ROMEO B ABUNDA Press Foundation Philippines
- ABDI ISSA Journalist Istanbul
- LYDIA H WOLF Welfare worker USA
- ANNE NELSON Protect Journalists USA
- ANDREW MORRISON Editor Catholic Standard Guyana
- S WICKREMASINGHE Barrister Sri Lanka
- OLIVIA WARD Journalist, Toronto Star Canada
- A DE LUNA Librarian Paris
- RICHARD KEEBLE City University London
- HACENE HIRECHE University lecturer Paris
- JMV HILLS Teacher Norfolk
- DONALD FRISCHMANN Texas Christian University USA
- FRANK M LUECKE Editor Cameron Herald USA
- FAWZIAN AL BAKRI Journalist London
- LONDON WHITE USA
- CHRISTINE GEORGE Everywoman Magazine London
- BARBARA ROGERS Everywoman Magazine London
- KATHERINE KNORR Journalist Paris
- STEFANIA GRANT Solicitor London
- ROBERT FRASER Editor London
- GEOFFREY BOULD Civil Servant Staffordshire
- DAVID SPARK Journalist London
- ROY ISAKSSON Writer Stockholm
- ANTONIO LLUBERES Revista Dominicana Republic
- LAWRENCE ELLIOT Writer Luxembourg
- WIM ZAAL Novelist Amsterdam
- JOHAN SOMERVIL President Int Publ Ass Geneva
- SIMPEKKA NORTAMO Editor Helsinki Sanomat Finland
- ANNA PYK Swedish Writers Union Stockholm
- ALEX OWUSA Kwakye Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
- YEHUDA LITANI Jerusalem Post Israel
- BARTOLOMALS GRILL Political editor Die Zeit Hamburg

Our press is strongly inhibited



Willem de Klerk, brother of Cabinet Minister F W de Klerk, was the editor of Rapport. He resigned from the newspaper last year after constant pressure from government. Now a Professor in

Journalism at Rand Afrikaans University, he has strong views on press freedom.

The informed public is aware of most aspects of freedom of the press. I briefly reduce these to four statements

□ Freedom of the press does not mean absolute, unbridled freedom, as every newspaperman knows. It implies responsibility, the preservation of the ethical norms of communication and journalistic standards of what is accurate, fair and in the interest of the public.

□ Tension between the press and politicians, authorities and the public is normal in a democracy. Newspapers publicise, are involved in events, take up positions and make decisions. They operate in a conflict-oriented market. This is part and parcel of the nature and function of the press.

□ The South African press is relatively free. We have more freedom than is found in autocratic systems — but SA has never had a true democracy. Despite all the talk about broadening democracy in this country, we are currently living in a "semi-democracy". The way government handles the press is a clear indication of this — there are dozens and dozens of statutory measures which inhibit or prohibit the gathering of the publica-

tion of information. Surpassing all former measures, the 1986 and 1987 regulations curtailed the press to an unprecedented extent even for a "semi-democracy."

□ The press cannot be divorced from its community. We have a community polarised into groups with different political expectations, strategies and procedures. We are in a power struggle around political philosophies.

Against this background, I can find no justification for the extent and manner in which the press has been suppressed in SA. The most fundamental protest against the government regulations is that it places arbitrary power in the hands of a politician. A faceless committee of censors advises the politician, who, in this way, gets the power to wield the axe above newspapers according to the vaguest of norms, namely, the furtherance of revolutionary activities. Without duly tested norms, power is allocated to the State which, directed by its own party political propaganda and aims as well as by its own irritations and angers, has the power to inhibit, sow suspicion and destroy newspapers.

This is abuse of power. This is improper interference. This is a step towards the further impairment of the freedom of the press and the public. This is opting for the style of the dictator.

And this state of affairs causes certain side effects. It affects the credibility of the South African press, internally and abroad. In principle, it undermines the public's right to be informed — which is important in a polarised country because ignorance can lead to a false sense of security. And the current regulations establish a tradition of

government control of the press which may in future boomerang on political systems in SA.

The regulations inhibit the press and, therefore, the public, on basic principles of freedom: the freedom to know, the freedom to communicate, the freedom to differ and criticise, the freedom to oppose and protest. I do not argue that these liberties have ceased to exist, but I maintain that they are strongly inhibited. This in turn affects the credibility of the government and stimulates suspicion.

We have to remain a free press in SA, precisely because of the many differences in our community. In this way, bargaining and negotiations may be fostered. A press that is immune to State or group pressure is an essential part of a polarised community. It may be a burden, it may even be dangerous — but it remains an inextricable part of the process of dialogue.

It is my opinion that colliding political aspirations in SA can be kept in balance successfully only by a politically free press, only subject to its own controlling institutions and codes. The image of SA and changes in our system can best be built, therefore, by maintaining the freedom of the media.

I believe that the press — including the so-called alternative press — has a vital role to fulfil in a polarised community. I quote the following statement by a leader in the field of communications:

"It is an important communications principle — in fact, a known propaganda principle — that a communicator maintains and enhances its credibility exactly because it allows other speakers to say their piece."

ANC criticises ban on South

LUSAKA — The African National Congress yesterday strongly condemned the banning of the newspaper *South* under media regulations. (243)

A statement released by the ANC in Lusaka said that coming after the banning of the *New Nation* and the threat against other media, the action clearly showed that the Government was completely intolerant of those voices inside South Africa advocating fundamental democratic changes. (243)

The statement said South Africa's rulers hoped it could stop the mass opposition against it by prohibiting the publication of the truth about the country. — Sapa. S. 13/5/88

Court told of Reeva beauty school losses

Star 14/5/88
243

A Reeva Forman beauty training school would have grown 100 percent in a year had it not been for the publication of a defamatory article, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday

Chartered accountant Mr William Kirsh was giving evidence in the most expensive defamation action in South African history

He said he could find no other evidence to show why the company, Reeva Success Dynamics, should not have achieved 100 percent growth

Mr Kirsh, who was hired by Mrs Forman in September 1986 to make a detailed study of her companies' books, said the reversal of the company's growth trend could be traced to the publication of an article in *Style* magazine.

Mrs Forman's two companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd, a cosmetics company, and Reeva Success Dynamics, the beauty and business management training school, are claiming damages of more than R3 million from six defendants for an allegedly defamatory article published by *Style* in June 1985

The defendants are Caxton Ltd, the publishers,

TONI YOUNGHUSBAND

Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, the magazine's editor; Ms Lin Sampson, a writer, CTP Web Printers, National News Distributors; and the Central News Agency.

Mr Kirsh said that after publication of the article, Reeva Success Dynamics lost about R340 000 in projected attendance fees alone

Would-be beauty consultants and business managers pay the training school an attendance fee

Mr Michael Kuper SC, assisted by Mr Jonathan Heher SC, Mr Wim Tregrove SC and Mr Sean Naidoo, are appearing on behalf of the plaintiffs. Mr Willie Oshry QC, assisted by Mr Bob Nugent and Mr John Suttner, are appearing on behalf of the defendants

Reversal of company's growth trend can be traced to article court told 243

JOHANNESBURG — A beauty consultant and business management school, owned by Reeva Forman, would have shown a 100 per cent growth rate in one year were it not for an allegedly defamatory magazine article

This was the evidence led in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday by a chartered accountant, Mr William Kirsh, who said he could find no other evidence to show why the company, Reeva Success Dynam-

ics, should not have achieved a 100 per cent growth rate

Mr Kirsh, who was hired by Forman in September 1986 to make a detailed study of her companies' books, said the reversal of the firm's growth trend could be traced to the publication of the article

He is a witness in the most expensive defamation trial in South African history which opened in the Rand Supreme Court two weeks ago

Forman's two companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd, a cosmetics company, and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming damages of more than R3 million from six defendants for an allegedly defamatory article published by Style magazine in June 1985

The defendants are the publishers of the magazine, Caxton Ltd, the magazine's editor, Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, a journalist, Miss Lin Sampson, CTP Web Printers, National News

Distributors and the Central News Agency

Mr Kirsh said that after publication of the article, Reeva Success Dynamics lost R340 000 in projected attendance fees alone

Would-be beauty consultants and business managers pay the training school an attendance fee

Mr Willie Oshry, QC, who appeared for the defendants, will begin cross-examination of Mr Kirsh on Monday — Sapa

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SA Society of Journalists calls on govt to lift bans

CAPE TOWN — The Southern Africa Society of Journalists (SASJ) has called on the government to lift the bans on the newspapers, New Nation and South, and to terminate its threats to the media in general

At its 12th annual congress being held here, the SASJ passed a resolution which noted "with grave concern" the continued enforcement of the state of emergency and accompanying Press curbs

"The seizing and closure of publications and the detention of individual journalists is a repulsive extension of these curbs

"These sweeping gags make a mockery of the principles of Press freedom"

The SASJ called on the government to end the state of emergency and to enter into meaningful negotiations with legitimate leaders, many of whom are currently in detention, banned or in exile, about the formation of a non-racial democratic South Africa

It also called for the release of leaders in detention, the unbanning of popular political movements and the unconditional release of all political prisoners

The SASJ said the state should "immediately suspend what now appears to be its hidden programme to eliminate all voices of dissent in the country and to allow the media to report freely on issues of importance to the country as a whole or, alternatively, to scrap the arbitrary tests by which its so-called media panel operates and to have this accuracy of publications tested in an impartial court"

The congress also noted "consistent attempts of the government to misinform, disinform, deceive or refuse information to local and foreign newspapers"

It said that, through this approach, journalists unwittingly became instruments of the state's repression

The congress resolved to urge all journalists to bear this in mind when in receipt of statements from government sources and to treat with "appropriate scepticism and a rigorous spirit of enquiry", the facts contained in the statements

The congress also resolved to embark on a "high energy campaign" for the immediate release of all journalists and media workers and to draw up a petition to be presented to the state president — Sapa

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Saamstaan We won't be silenced

A REPRESENTATIVE of the prize-winning newspaper Saamstaan yesterday hid his acceptance speech in a shoe for fear of interception

Mr Mzukisi Mooi, in Cape Town to receive the 1988 Pringle Award for Saamstaan's "commitment to Press Freedom", last night said he was the only Saamstaan staffer who was still free to travel after a state clampdown on the newspaper and its staff.

In its citation, the SA Society of Journalists noted that each of Saamstaan's staff members had on occasion been detained, the office had been petrol-bombed and that the newspaper had received a gazetted warning of closure or pre-publication censorship.

"The Saamstaan project is the very essence of journalism"

● Jaffer: Press panders to public — Page 3.

Lift gags and stop threats to journalists

243
14/5/88
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Southern Africa Society of Journalists, at its 12th annual congress has called on the Government to lift the bans on New Nation and South and to stop its threats to the media in general

A resolution noted "with grave concern" the continued enforcement of the emergency and accompanying Press curbs.

"The seizing and closure of publications and the detention of individual journalists are a repulsive extension of these curbs," the resolution said.

"These sweeping gags make a mockery of the principles of Press freedom"

The SASJ called on the Government to end the emergency and begin meaningful negotiations with legitimate leaders, many in detention, banned or in exile, about the formation of a non-racial, democratic South Africa

It called for the release of leaders in detention, lifting bans on popular political movements and for the unconditional release of all political prisoners

The State should "immediately suspend what now appears to be its hidden pro-

gramme to eliminate all voices of dissent in the country and to allow the media to report freely on issues of importance to the country as a whole or alternatively to scrap the arbitrary tests by which its so-called media panel operates and to have this accuracy of publications tested in an impartial court"

The congress also noted "consistent attempts of the Government to misinform, disinform, deceive or refuse information to local and foreign newspapers"

It noted that through this approach journalists unwittingly became instruments of the State's repression.

The congress resolved to urge all journalists to bear this in mind when in receipt of statements from government sources and to treat with "appropriate scepticism and a rigorous spirit of inquiry" the truth or otherwise contained in the statements, as they would to all other sources of information

The congress resolved to embark on a "high-energy campaign" for the immediate release of all journalists and media workers and to draw up a petition to be presented to the President. — Sapa.

Ease Press laws, say publishers

Weekend Argus Reporter

PROMINENT South African book-publishers have urged the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to review and rescind legislation restricting the Press.

In a letter to Mr Botha signed by Claremont publisher David Philip on behalf of 23 directors and spokesmen of publishing firms and university publishers, the group expressed their deep dismay over Press restrictions, especially those placed on the "alternative Press"

"We wish to ensure that you are aware of the seriousness of our concern for the free flow of information in South Africa," the letter said

"We as book publishers in South Africa regard an injury to the Press as an injury to publishing as a whole.

"The recent restrictions on the media seriously endanger the freedom of the Press and of publishing generally in this country"

The statement of concern was approved by

Karin Donker, Ad Donker, TV Bulpin, Books of Africa, Lynne Bryer, Chameleon Press, Piet Snyman, Century Hutchinson S A, Malcolm Edwards, Collins Publishers S A, Anita Theron, Heinemann S A, John Allen, Longman Penguin S A, Howard Dalton, Lowry Publishers, Don Nelson, Don Nelson, James Clarke, Oxford University Press S A, David Philip, David Philip, Dorothy Wheeler, Ravan Press, Mthobisi Mutloatse, Skotaville Publishers, Basil van Rooyen, Southern Book Publishers, Gerrit Struik, C Struik Publishers and Timmins Publishers, Hans Strydom jun, Hans Strydom Uitgewers, John Miles, Taurus Uitgewers, M Moberly, the University of Natal Press, Professor Ample Coetzee, the University of the Western Cape Publications, Professor Noel Carson, Witwatersrand University Press, Dr Martin Hall, Centre for African Studies at UCT, Professor Peter Vale, Institute for Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, and Professor Paul Walters, Institute for the Study of English in Africa

SA press curbs slated

Star 14/5/88

LONDON — There is every reason to believe that the South African Government will continue to do its utmost to conceal news about black resistance and its repressive response, says the censorship watchdog body, Article 19.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the London-based organisation has published a report containing an overview of censorship in 50 countries.

The 300-page volume is dedicated to detained *New Nation* editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu.

243
SUE LEEMAN

In its six-page entry on South Africa, the report says that over many years, "the means have been perfected to circumscribe rights to opinion and expression when these were exercised in any fashion considered seriously to challenge apartheid policies".

It says that "with few exceptions, South Africans who have held or proclaimed opinions considered hostile, and who might command attention or influence, have been victims of virtually every conceivable mode of repression — including polit-

ical trials, detention, internal exile and prohibition of their writings".

The country's legal system, it says, "comes close to total regulation of the freedom to seek, receive and impart ideas and information, proclaimed in the Universal Declaration".

The report adds the curbs have reduced international media focus on apartheid. "Government leaders are gratified by these successes: their belief that unrest and rioting go hand-in-hand with the dissemination of news and the taking of pictures is confirmed."

NPU launches award scheme for press ads

Star 14/5/84

243

Excellence in newspaper advertising is to be showcased and encouraged by the NPU via an award scheme announced this week during a series of presentations put on at Sun City by the South African chapter of the IAA

Value of the prize for the year's top newspaper ad has been put at R250 000 in advertising space — with 16,5 percent of that going to the winning agency!

This is how the scheme works. Beginning in July, a newspaper ad of the month contest gets under way. The ad will have been run in a member newspaper that month, and will stand out because of its effectiveness and high level of creativity. A judging panel will make selections.

Winning agency and client receive a statuette and certificate, and the ad of the month becomes a contender next June for the title of newspaper ad of

the year. The ad taking that honour will be given a full page in all 29 daily and weekly newspapers represented on the NPU — worth quarter of a million at today's rates.

News of the award was given by Jolyon Nuttall, in his capacity as chairman of the NPU publicity committee. He said it was part of a hard-hitting campaign by newspapers for front-of-mind awareness among agencies and clients.

He announced the award while introducing a new NPU video presentation, *The Creative Challenge of Print*, featuring the views of some of the country's top creative directors on the immediacy of the newspaper medium and the opportunity it gives a creative person to put an individual stamp on a campaign.

That video presentation will be seen nationwide in the weeks ahead.

Top SASJ award for Saamstaan

By GWEN GILL

(243)
THE recipient of one of South African journalism's most prestigious prizes hid his acceptance speech in his shoe for fear of interception on his way to the awards ceremony in Cape Town this week

Mr Mzukisi Mooi, receiving the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ) 1988 Pringle Award for Outstanding Services to Journalism on behalf of Saamstaan, an Oudtshoorn community newspaper, said he was the only

staffer on the paper free to travel after three other employees had restriction orders served on them.

"We may be banned, but we will not be silenced," said Mr Mooi

At the ceremony, tribute was paid to a past winner of the award, Mr Percy Qoboza, who died earlier this year.

At its 38th annual congress, the SASJ called "in the interests of Press freedom" for the removal of the State of Emergency, the release of leaders in detention, the lifting of the bans on the publications New Nation and South, and

the cessation of threats to the media in general"

W. J. S. Jones
Incoming president of the society, Mr Bob Kernohan, said: "It is vital that our readers be kept fully informed on what is happening in a changing South Africa.

"But the clampdown on the Press makes it difficult and sometimes impossible for journalists to carry out this responsibility."

The congress also called for the release of imprisoned journalists, including the eastern Cape's Brian Sokhuto, and New Nation editor Zwelakhe Sisulu.

Taxman seeks GST on free newspapers

THE Receiver of Revenue is trying to levy GST on free-sheet newspapers and magazines — even though they are free.

By Ian Smith

The move is likely to be fought out in court

Publishers of magazines and newspapers which are sold pay GST on their cover price

A spokesman for the quoted Caxton group, the biggest publisher of give-away newspapers, "I believe we will contest the Receiver's claim."

He says that GST is levied at source on all advertising carried in the publications. Advertising makes up the publishers' total revenue.

"Now he is saying that the editorial content has been deemed an 'own use' item in terms of the GST Act and we must pay the tax on the cost of all materials for preparing that editorial content

"It means we would be paying GST on GST."

Controversy

Free-sheet publishers did pay sales tax on the cost of preparing editorial material while advertising was free of GST. But when the application of the tax was widened to apply to advertising four years ago the levy on editorial material fell away.

The advertising and publishing industries are still crying "foul" about the extension of GST to advertisements, and the new move will stir up more controversy.

All major publishers, including the Argus Group, Times Media Ltd, Perskor and Nasionale Pers, will be affected because they all own free-distribution newspapers

Free-sheets were one of the fastest growing sectors in the publishing field until recently.

Rumours in the advertising industry have put the cost of a backdated GST on editorial content to the industry at several million rands. But the Caxton spokesman says the figure has been highly inflated

"It is more a question of the principle than the money. I don't believe very large sums are at stake"

Diesel card

SHELL South Africa has launched a diesel fleet card, linked to a payment and fleet management system. The cost is R2 a card for each vehicle. Shell charges no interest on fuel and lubricant purchases or Government levies

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Sunday Times and the Media Council

ON May 5 the Media Council considered two complaints by Professor H Grosskopf against the Sunday Times with reference to reports concerning his son Heinrich.

The report of March 20 described his son, inter alia, as a "cool and deadly terrorist" and an "ANC killer hunted by the police for Thursday's car-bomb attack at Krugersdorp".

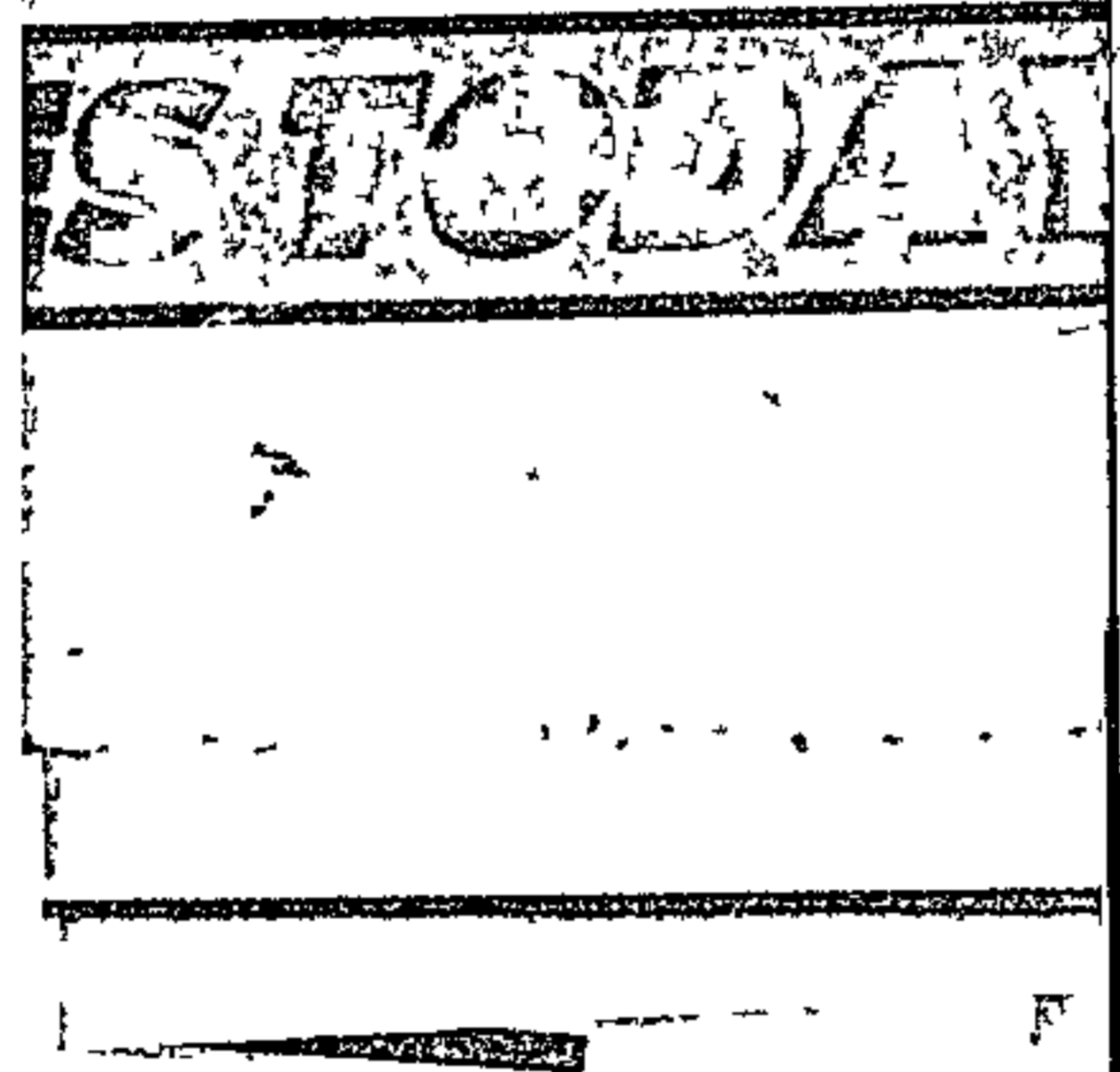
The report of March 27 implied that Professor Grosskopf had via the medium of scribbled notes and a letter been in contact with his son.

The Media Council concluded that the reports in question constituted flagrant and reprehensible breaches of Clauses 2.1 and 2.2 of the code of conduct. The first report sensationally presented as fact the

above highly damaging allegations concerning the complainant's son as though they constituted the established truth whereas at the time of publication they were speculative in their nature. No evidence of this truth was presented to the council. With reference to the second report an inaccurate report was carried which could readily have been avoided upon a simple inquiry. The council reprimanded the Sunday Times.

The SUNDAY TIMES comments: This ruling by the Media Council confirms what the Sunday Times said in its submission — that a hearing was unnecessary since the

Turn to Page 2



Sunday Times and the Media Council

From Page 1

outcome could only be that the council ordered the paper to do what we had already done

In fact we are dismayed that the council makes no favourable acknowledgement of the promptness of the newspaper's printed admission of its error, its correction of faulty facts and its apology to Professor Grosskopf.

We fear that newspapers will henceforth be cautious about taking the swiftest possible action to correct errors since there is obviously no assurance that they will not, in addition,

and themselves the subject of formal proceedings

Regarding the second report, we are surprised that, in reprimanding the Sunday Times for not having verified its information, the council makes no mention of the fact that the paper made frequent, but unsuccessful, attempts to reach Professor Grosskopf during the week in question.

We have published this adjudication above because, as foundation signatories to the council's code and constitution, the Sunday Times believes in voluntary self-regulation by the Press

Govt hits Press again — this time South

C Press 15/5/88
(243)

CP Correspondent

IN a self-confessed attempt to beat a likely ban, a special edition of the Cape weekly, *South*, was published on Monday, three days earlier than usual, just hours before the paper was closed for a month.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, announced in a special Government Gazette on Monday that *South* was prohibited from publishing between May 9 and June 10.

At a Press conference, the editor of *South*, Rashid Serra, said although the closure had been expected for some time, it had still come as a shock.

"Not in our wildest dreams did we expect the Minister to act so quickly. At the back of our minds some of us felt he would not promulgate a special Government Gazette today," said Serra. He said *South* had printed 21 500 copies

on Monday, which would probably have to be withdrawn. The newspaper was seeking legal advice on this matter.

South had expected to be closed for three months and had planned accordingly, Serra said.

Editors of major newspapers had been asked to "place" *South* staff on their news-papers for that period.

In an editorial in Monday's edition of *South*, Serra said it was difficult to understand Botha's measures against the alternative Press.

"What is certain is that he wants to eliminate the alternative press," Serra said.

The attacks on the Press appeared to be part of an official onslaught to crush the democratic movement.

"As far as Botha is concerned, we are all part of a plot to legitimise the African National Congress! And nothing is likely to convince him otherwise."

Editors send Minister joint protest over curbs

AN unprecedented joint

protest at "authoritarian action" by the government against the Press has been made by 26 South African newspaper editors in a petition to the Home Affairs Minister, Stoffel Botha.

Editors normally prefer to express their views in their own publications.

The petition, however, is said to represent a basic and common concern at the increasing threat to freedom of the Press and the rights of South Africans.

The petitioners assert the belief that the ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other publications are authoritarian and against the public interest.

The signatories include Khulu Sibya, editor of *City Press* and Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the *Sowetan* among editors of most of the country's leading daily and weekly newspapers.

● The full text of the petition reads:

"We, the editors of South African newspapers, are concerned at the mounting political pressure on the Press and ask, in the public interest, that the unnecessary restrictions issued under the emergency regulations be eased.

"We believe the ministerial banning of *New Nation* and the threat to silence *Weekly Mail* and other newspapers and journals are against the national interest. We are opposed to such authoritarian action for the following reasons:

politicians or parties

"We believe that the Minister's concern may be less about Press incitement to revolution than about coercing all the media into adopting a uniform attitude — a subservience not in the

interest of South Africa.

"Therefore, in the interests of the freedoms, standards and values which all of us, including government, profess to support, we ask that the rule of law be restored."

"The public is being deprived of information and viewpoints which all South Africans need if they are to make sensible decisions on vital issues."

"While it is not possible to be aware of every article published, we have no knowledge of any recognised publication that is fostering violent revolution. If the Minister has any evidence of so serious a crime, we believe he should submit it to the courts for judgment. Such matters affect all of society, and cannot be left to the whim of officials,

Afrikaans press executives won't condemn Govt clamp

Own Correspondent

Differences between Afrikaans and English newspaper groups have been thrown into sharp relief by the latest moves in the Government's clampdown on the press

While every major English-language newspaper has protested against the "authoritarian action" against the press, the chief executives of the two Afrikaans press empires have expressed no opposition to restrictions placed on the so-called alternative media

Perskor managing director Mr Koos Buitendag declined to comment last week on attempts to muzzle the *Weekly Mail* and other papers

Mr Buitendag, also president of the Newspaper Press Union, said the question of representations to the Government was a matter for the NPU to decide

Mr Ton Vosloo, MD of Nasionale Pers which

controls the black weekly *City Press*, said he would not be making any approaches to the Government but that the Nasionale Pers position had often been put in past NPU representations

Commenting on State action against the media, Mr Vosloo said one should be careful about labelling such action as "an assault on press freedom"

The concept of press freedom was not absolute, he said, and its principles were cast at a time and "in circumstances where fair play is still considered a virtue"

"In present-day circumstances one often finds opposition groups take on governments through psychological methods. The established media are often targets for infiltration to obtain various revolutionary goals. We have numerous court findings in this respect," he said

In a thinly veiled reference to two newspapers already suspended by the Government, *South* and *New Nation*, Mr Vosloo attacked what he called "spurious publications who do not care one whit about press freedom, standards or ethics". He said these foreign-funded "so-called newspapers and so-called press agencies" were invariably part of the same revolutionary onslaught

In contrast, the MD of *Argus Newspapers*, Mr Peter McLean, and the acting MD of *Times Media Ltd*, Mr Roy Paulson, condemned the Government's attempts to "interfere with the free flow of information"

"We object in the strongest terms to the arbitrary closing down of newspapers by ministerial decree," Mr McLean said

"The subjective way in which the Minister arrives at decisions to ban or warn a paper is anathema to us. If newspapers are thought to be inciting people to violence or endangering the security of the State, then they should be tried in court"

POSER

The staff of *South* have lobbed a prickly poser at the English press barons. They have asked to be taken on by *The Argus* and *Cape Times* during the month the Cape Town paper may not be produced. They say this is an opportunity for the commercial groups to give material, and not only vocal, support to their beleaguered colleagues

Mr Paulson said that, at best, he could call it as an "interesting suggestion", but felt the motivation was provocative.

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Applications made against media

D/D 16/8/88 (243)

BETHEL — Applications for contempt proceedings against the media were made in the Bethel treason trial yesterday

The defence counsel, Mr H K Naidu, submitted a transcript of an April 28 SABC TV news item on the trial and copies of stories from Rapport, Beeld and Die Burger

Mr Naidu said some stories contained factual inaccuracies and gross distortions "which have no resemblance to the evidence", or were speculative comment

He invited the court to move for contempt proceedings by issuing a rule nisi calling on Mr Chris Olckers of the SABC and the editor and reporters of the newspapers involved to show cause why they should not be committed for contempt of court

Regarding the television news item, Mr Naidu said that the only factually correct statements in the report were that the three accused pleaded not guilty and that the trial was being held in the Bethel court

Mr Justice H Daniels commented "It even referred to the wrong judge, because I'm not J (Daniels)"

The State Prosecutor, Mr Harry Prinsloo, made an application for a contempt charge against a report on the trial in The Star. He alleged that the report contravened a judge's order and that details in it may have led to the identification of a secret witness

Judgment was reserved — Sapa

Journalists slate press curbs: 'Mockery'

Staff Reporter
16/5/70

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JOURNALISTS at the 12th annual congress of the SA Society of Journalists (SASJ) at the weekend criticized the government's media curbs — particularly the banning of newspapers and detention of journalists — as making a "mockery" of press freedom.

A resolution passed by the congress noted "with grave concern" the continued enforcement of the state of emergency and accompanying press curbs.

"The seizing and closure of publications and the detention of individual journalists is a repulsive extension of these curbs," the resolution said

"These sweeping gags make a mockery of the principles of press freedom."

The SASJ called on the government to end the state of emergency, release detainees and political prisoners and "enter into meaningful negotiations with legitimate leaders about the formation of a non-racial democratic South Africa".

Pressmen condemn media colleagues

The South African Society of Journalists has condemned certain media coverage of the capture of an alleged ANC cell in Broederstroom last week.

At its annual congress held in Cape Town, the society yesterday expressed its concern and disappointment at certain newspapers' "insensitive and unsubstantiated portrayal" of members of the alleged white ANC military unit arrested recently and expressed its "outrage" at similar reports about an alleged ANC operative, Mr Hein Grosskopf.

It noted that, in both instances, the word "alleged" was omitted and allegations were therefore presented as fact.

ATTACKED

The congress noted that the personality of a former *Rand Daily Mail* journalist, Mr Damian de Lange, had been attacked by nameless former colleagues, through the pages of various newspapers and that the journalist, or the organisation of which he is alleged to be a member, was in no position to respond in the interests of a fair account.

In a separate resolution the SASJ alleged consistent attempts by the Government to "misinform, disinform, deceive or refuse" information to local and foreign newspapers. Through this approach journalists "unwittingly become an instrument of State repression".

Nowhere was this more evident than in the silencing of newspapers that the government did not like, the society said.

SCEPTICISM

It urged all journalists, local and foreign, to bear this in mind when in receipt of statements from Government sources and to treat with appropriate scepticism and a rigorous spirit of inquiry the truth or otherwise contained in the statement — as they would with all other sources of information.

Newspapers will move underground — editor

DURBAN — The Government is pushing the alternative press underground, says the editor of the banned Cape newspaper *South*, which the Government has shut down for a month

Editor Mr Rashid Seria last week predicted the development of a "suitcase press" which would print news using primitive equipment that could be carried in a suitcase

The Government would then find it virtually impossible to control the flow of news, Mr Seria said

"The State has closed all options for non-violent protest in this country and it is now doing the same with the 'alternative' press, making it impossible for us to survive on an institutionalised basis"

"We are either going to be forced out of business or the country will see a situation where publications are going to flourish underground, as happened in the '50s," he said

South operated from hi-tech offices below Table Mountain using all the advances the electronic age had brought. If it were killed, the new publications that would take its place would probably resort to outdated production methods, Mr Seria said

The Cape paper, which claims to have a circulation of 12 000, is the latest publication to feel the Government's wrath

Its banning follows the suspension of *New Nation*. The *Weekly Mail*, *Grassroots* and *Saamstaan* are other newspapers that fear closure

South became a mouthpiece of extra-parliamentary opposition in the Cape and fought against the State's clamp on news, consistently publishing

Own Correspondent

reports about issues that mainstream newspapers considered too hot to touch

In the latest issue, pulled off the streets last week, it discussed the ANC's draft constitutional guidelines, debated whether hangings would deter the ANC and focused on news of detainees held under the state of emergency

Mr Seria is pessimistic about the newspaper's future after its suspension by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha. Mr Seria fears the ban could be renewed indefinitely or that the Minister might streamline the banning process to make it easier for him to act more swiftly against newspapers

"We cannot go from one banning to another, it is impossible to work under such conditions. The whole process is designed to demoralise

"But irrespective of repression and attempts to crush us, we will come back again and fight after a lull"

The staff is preparing for its next edition, on June 10, which is two days before the state of emergency is expected to be renewed

CAPE TOWN — The South African Media Council has reprimanded the Sunday Times for breaching the council's Code of Conduct in reports on March 20 and March 27 on an alleged ANC terrorist, Mr Heinrich Grosskopf.

An investigating quorum of the council met here on May 5 to examine complaints by Mr Grosskopf's father, Professor H. J. Grosskopf of Stellenbosch, against the newspaper.

The Sunday paper was reprimanded for breaching clauses 2.1 (which states the media shall be obliged to report news truthfully, accurately and objectively) and 2.2 (which states news shall be presented in the correct context and in a balanced manner, without intentional or negligent

Sunday Paper Reprimanded

departure from the facts).

The paper was required "at the earliest possible moment" to carry prominently on the front page the following report:

"On May 5, 1988 the media council considered two complaints by Prof. H. J. Grosskopf against the Sunday Times with reference to reports concerning his son, Heinrich.

"The report of 20 March 1988 described his son, inter alia, as a 'cool and deadly terrorist' and an 'ANC killer hunted by the police for Thursday's car-bomb attack at Krugersdorp'.

"The report of 27 March, 1988 implied that Prof Grosskopf had, via the medium of scribbled notes and a letter, been in contact with his son.

"The media council concluded that the Sunday Times' reports in question constituted flagrant and reprehensible breaches of clauses 2.1 and 2.2 of the Code of Conduct.

"The first report sensationally presented as fact the above highly damaging allegations concerning plaintiff's son as though they constituted the established truth whereas at the time of publica-

tion they were speculative in their nature. "No evidence of this truth was presented to the council.

"With reference to the second report of 27 March, 1988, also, an inaccurate report was carried which could readily have been avoided upon a simple enquiry. The council reprimanded the Sunday Times."

Sketching the background of the first complaint the council said the paper's editor, Mr Tertius Myburgh had drafted an apology which was published on the second page of the March 27 issue of the paper.

Prof Grosskopf refused to accept the apology and lodged a second complaint and the matter was taken to the council. — Sapa

'Rescind media clamps'

CAPE TOWN — Twenty-three publishers asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, on Saturday to rescind the media restrictions. (243)

They said in a letter to Mr Botha: "We as book publishers in South Africa regard an injury to the press as an injury to publishing as a whole."

"The recent restrictions on the media seriously endanger the freedom of the press and of publishing gen-

erally in this country and we strongly urge that in the public interest the relevant legislation be reviewed and rescinded," it said.

The letter was endorsed by the managing directors or spokesmen of the following firms: Collins Publishers, Heinemann SA, AD Donker, Books of Africa, Chameleon Press, Century Hutchinson SA, Longman Penguin SA, Lowry Publishers, Don Nelson, Oxford University Press SA, David

Phillip, Ravan Press, Skotaville Publishers, Southern Book Publishers, Struik Publishers, Hans Stydom Uitgewers, Taurus Uitgewers, University of Natal Press, Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland Publikasies, Witwatersrand University Press, UCT Centre for African Studies, Rhodes University Institute for Social and Economic Research, and Rhodes University Institute for the Study of English in Africa. — Sapa.

Govt to ~~start~~ start new journal

Star 16/1/78
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By Claire Robertson
Pretoria Bureau

The Government has discontinued the overseas subscription to one of its best-known publications, *SA Digest*, because it was "no longer penetrating the critical market", according to a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The department hopes to launch a new publication for overseas distribution in July.

Planned as a more "market-oriented" journal, production of the new publication has attracted tenders from the major press houses in South Africa, and will be run largely outside the department.

The new publication is planned as a compendium of local and foreign press articles about South Africa, and could include critical articles, the spokesman said.

He said that very few of *SA Digest's* about 126 000 readers "could be characterised as politically important".

The department had made "a very thorough study of the market" and found that *SA Digest* was largely preaching to the converted — at a cost of R11 million a year in postage alone.

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Weekly's editors meet minister 243

CAPE TOWN — Attorneys acting for the Weekly Mail and the newspapers co-editors, Mr. Irwin Manoim and Mr. Anton Harber, had an hour-long meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Stoffel Botha, in Cape Town yesterday.

Mr. Harber said in a short statement that it

was an informal discussion in a cordial atmosphere.

"Each side put its point of view and the matter was left at that," he said.

"No undertakings were asked for or given by either side and the discussions were off the record" — Sapa.

010 (715/88) (243)
US questions bannings

CAPE TOWN — The banning of the New Nation and South, and the threats of suspension facing five other publications, represents a "distressing escalation" in the suppression of the free flow of information and ideas in South Africa.

The United States Embassy in Cape Town said that "the effect of these

closures — and of the general process of arbitrary censorship — is a systematic stifling of non-violent dissent".

"In the end, it is South Africa which ultimately suffers. An ill-informed public and a compliant and conformist press cannot serve the nation in its need to confront the critical problems that face the country." — DDC

Curbs not opposed

General

17/5/88

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DIFFERENCES between Afrikaans and English newspaper groups have been thrown into sharp relief by the latest moves in the Government's clampdown on the press.

While every major English-language newspaper has protested against the "authoritarian action" against the Press, the chief executives of the two Afrikaans Press empires have expressed no opposition to restrictions placed on the so-called alternative media Perskor managing director, Mr Koos

Butendag declined to comment last week on attempts to muzzle the *Weekly Mail* and other papers

Mr Butendag, also president of the Newspaper Press Union, said the question of representations to the Government was a matter for the NPU to decide

Mr Ton Vosloo, MD of Nasionale Pers, which controls the black weekly, *City Press*, said he would not be making

any approaches to the Government but that the Nasionale Pers position had often been put in past NPU representations

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In a thinly veiled reference to two newspapers already suspended by the Government, *South* and *New Nation*, Mr Vosloo attacked what he called "spurious publications who do not care, one whit, about Press freedom, standards of ethics."

He said these foreign-funded "so-called newspapers and so-called Press agencies" were invariably part of the same revolutionary onslaught

In contrast, the MD of *Argus Newspapers*, Mr Peter McLean, and the acting MD of Times Media Ltd., Mr Roy Paulson, condemned the Government's attempts to "interfere with the free flow of information"

"We object in the strongest terms to the arbitrary closing down of newspapers by ministerial decree," Mr McLean said

"The subjective way in which the Minister arrives at decisions to ban or warn a paper is anathema to us. If newspapers are thought to be inciting people to violence or endangering the security of the State, then they should be tried in court"

The staff of *South* have lobbied a prickly poser at the English Press barons They have asked to be taken on by *The Argus* and *Cape Times* during the month the Cape Town paper may not be produced They said this is an opportunity for the commercial groups to give material, and not only vocal support to their beleaguered colleagues.

Mr Paulson said that, at best, he could call it as an "interesting suggestion" but felt the motivation was provocative

Southern
17/5/88
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3/2/88

NEWSMEN IN TALKS WITH BOTHA

ATTORNEYS acting for the *Weekly Mail* and the newspaper's co-editors, Mr Irwin Manoim and Mr Anton Harber, had an hour-long meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in Cape Town yesterday.

The Weekly Mail faces action under the emergency press curbs

Mr Harber said in a short statement it was an informal discussion in a cordial atmosphere. "Each side put its point of view and the matter was left at that," Mr Harber said.

"No undertakings were asked for or given by either side and the discussions were off the record"

— Sapa.

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Mail editors discuss ban with Minister

(243)

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'I was wrong about Reeva loss'

By Bruce Anderson

An expert witness admitted in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that he had worked from an unreliable base in calculating a loss in one of Miss Reeva Forman's companies after the publication of an article in *Style* magazine

Mr William Kirsh is a chartered accountant called by the plaintiffs in a case in which two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics (RSD) are claiming more than R3 million damages for an allegedly defamatory article published by *Style* in June 1985

The defendants include the editor, publishers,

printers and distributors of *Style*

Last week Mr Kirsh said in his evidence-in-chief that he could find no reason other than the publication of the *Style* article for the drop in sales in Miss Forman's two companies

Yesterday, under cross-examination by defence counsel, Mr Kirsh agreed that the base for his calculations on RSD, a company which offers training courses, was unreliable

PROFITS

Mr Kirsh admitted he had used an incorrect course fee in his calculations of profits received from training courses in March 1985.

The court also heard

that money was paid into the RSD account from another account in the name of a Mr Vassiliades, a minority shareholder in the company.

Defence counsel suggested to Mr Kirsh that possible causes for the reversal in the sales trend could have included

- A drop-off in sales after an incentive trip to Rio de Janeiro for sales staff just before the publication of the *Style* article

- The state of the economy at the time of the publication of the article

- A dependence on advertising by the Reeva organisation

Mr Kirsh did not agree
The hearing continues

Gov threatens to act against 'media terrorists'

Star 1915-1988

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Political Staff

The Government yesterday mounted a double-barrelled attack on sections of the media.

In the House of Representatives the Government's centrist-in-chief, Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha, continued his attack on the so-called alternative press, branding some sections as "media terrorists".

In the House of Assembly Defence Minister Magnus Mafan reopened the debate on the "public's right to know" by scolding sections of the press for not paying sufficient attention to the security of the SADF and the country.

He accused the media of being interested solely in circulation figures — selling and buying news as a product — while the SADF was concerned with the security of the country, and the family and friends of its personnel.

Mr Botha fired his opening shots by accusing sections of the press of being more concerned about the concept of "press freedom" rather than the existence and effect of publications which promoted subversion and revolution.

Intimidation

It was stated, he said, that action taken by the Government "against subversive and revolutionary publications" violated democratic principles.

"Should the Government, in the name of democracy, allow fear, hatred, intimidation, murder, mutilation and other similar evils to be furthered by certain publications?"

Claims made by newspaper editors that the suspension of newspapers under emergency measures was actually promoting revolution by fostering resistance, were devoid of truth, Mr Botha said. The regulations deal with

"inciting thoughts which threaten the security of our country", he said

If the suppression of the publications led to subversive resistance, the Government would have to take further action

"The Government simply cannot allow itself to be coerced by the argument that by suppressing one evil, another will arise in its place."

Mr Botha said the primary aim of revolutionaries was to gain support for the violent overthrow of the existing order

In their efforts to achieve publicity for their thoughts and deeds, particularly acts of terrorism, they had collaborators whom Mr Botha referred to as media terrorists.

He claimed it was an acknowledged fact worldwide that planned acts of terrorism, such as bomb blasts, were often leaked to certain members of the media

He also objected to certain newspapers presenting terrorists as freedom fighters or guerrillas.

Mr Botha suggested that fear and anxiety had increased as a result of incidents of intimidation being given publicity.

He said certain newspapers were carrying the false message that the days of established order in South Africa were numbered, and that the true implications of communism were not being spelt out.

Mr Botha said elements within and outside the press were incorrectly trying to create the impression that the Government and newspapers in general were in conflict.

"The Government is not in conflict with newspapers which do not accept the existing order in South Africa but are convinced it should be reformed peacefully"

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PARLIAMENT

Malan: Mugabe will foster SA revolution

'Media terrorists spread revolution'

THE Mugabe government would strengthen and extend its support for SA revolutionaries, Defence Minister Magnus Malan said yesterday.

He said SA should have no illusions about the matter.

He said SA wanted to see the sub-continent removed from the East-West power play and did not want to prescribe a political formula for Angola.

"We expect the Soviet Union to show some flexibility on this issue. It can no longer afford to underwrite the conflict that has developed around a pro-Moscow MPLA government."

Reconciliation was imperative in Angola to end internal tensions.

Dealing with conflicts in southern Africa, Malan singled out Zimbabwe

and said terrorist acts which could be traced back to that country had increased by 52% in 1987, measured against 1986.

"Added to this are a large number of terror acts which cannot be traced to a specific country, many of which originate in Zimbabwe," he said.

"It should be noted that one of the serious implications of the Broederstroom discovery of advanced weapons is the evidence that these weapons were brought in through Zimbabwe and Botswana."

On freedom of information, Malan said an informed public was a responsible public and there was nothing wrong with the right to know, but a balance had to be maintained between the need for information and security interests of the country and its people.

He said "The public's right to know can never threaten the soldier's or the public's lives and security."

Protecting the security of the public and the country was priority No 1 and information which might damage the county or its people, or give the enemy an advantage, was diametrically opposed to this.

Malan said it appeared many SA journalists could not wait for the Angolan, Mozambican and Zimbabwean news agencies to send their propaganda stories into the world.

"The media makes a business out of news, but the SADF does not. For the SADF there is no profit motive and sales figures are not involved."

This was why the SADF did not intend to enter a news competition with propaganda organs like Aim, Angop and Ziana — Sapa

PEOPLE who spread the message of revolutionaries and provided publicity for acts of terrorism were "media terrorists", Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said yesterday.

Speaking in the debate on his vote in the House of Representatives, he said revolutionaries needed publicity for their thoughts and deeds, particularly acts of terrorism such as car bombings and throwing hand grenades into private homes.

He said it was acknowledged worldwide that planned acts of terrorism were often leaked to the media for maximum publicity.

Botha asked whether MPs found that in certain newspapers "revolutionaries are presented in a variety of ways aimed at promoting their acceptance by the public."

Botha said that for those who understood the part played by the alternative revolutionary Press in the onslaught against the established order in SA, "the reasons for the action taken by the government to combat such revolutionary propaganda, must also be evident."

Weekly Mail ban 'up to the editors'

Political Staff

HOME Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said yesterday he hoped it would not be necessary to take action against the Weekly Mail but stressed it was up to the newspaper's editors not to transgress the prohibition against propaganda.

He was speaking in the House of Representatives after two Labour Party MPs, Charlie Green (Haarlem) and Sam Louw (Rus ter Vaal), attacked him for banning the New Nation and South Green also challenged him directly to say whether he would ban the Weekly Mail.

"If the editors decide to publish the matters in this document (the prohibition on propaganda), they will have taken the decision into their own hands," Botha said.

Green said it was Botha's policy to

eliminate all newspapers which informed the public.

He said government's actions against newspapers also challenged the intelligence of the people who read them.

"If they are busy with reform, they don't ban newspapers."

Botha said claims by newspaper editors that the temporary suspension of newspapers promoted revolution by fostering resistance among those who contended they had a valid viewpoint were devoid of truth.

He said he had not yet received the petition by 26 newspaper editors protesting against the prohibition on newspapers, but he had read about the petition.



BOTHA

Resistance art fosters spirit of revolt — minister

RESISTANCE art in SA in the form of plays, popular theatre, recitals and music was aimed at fostering a spirit of revolt, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Speaking in the budget debate on his vote, he said people wanted to bypass the Publications Act under the banner of art and literary merit.

This was an attack on the interests which the Act was intended to protect, namely the morality, religion and dignity of South Africans and the safety of the state. In certain communities, spontaneous theatre was used to agitate the audience.

"When the show ends, the audience is so emotionally charged that they will not calm down before everything in the vicinity, from buildings to cars and even other people, has been attacked," he said. It was impossible to control this form of theatre.

Another form of resistance art was biting satire aimed at making the viewer critical of the existing order and at creating a spirit of general dissatisfaction and even revolt.

Recitals by so-called national artists at which freedom songs were sung, and which could lead to an emotionally explosive situation, were becoming prevalent, he said — Sapa

Notice of motion for probe into corruption

NOTICE was given in the House of Delegates yesterday by NPP Chief Whip Mahomed Baid of a motion to be moved on June 16 that President P W Botha appoint a commission of inquiry into the administration of all four departments of the House with regard to corruption claims.

It should investigate all aspects of

the administration of the departments of Education and Culture, Budgetary and Auxiliary Services, Health Services and Welfare, and Local Government, Housing and Administration, "with particular reference to the allegations of maladministration, irregularities and corruption made in this House from time to time" — Sapa

Stoffel attacks

Media terrorism

DID 19/5/88

BY BARRY STREEK



MR BOTHA

CAPE TOWN — "Media terrorists", people who provide publicity for revolutionaries, spread the message of revolutionaries and provide publicity for acts of terrorism, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday.

Revolutionaries needed publicity for the thoughts and deeds, particularly acts of terrorism such as car bombs and the tossing of hand-grenades into private homes, especially the homes of those who upheld the law, he said during the debate on his vote in the House of Representatives

"It is an acknowledged fact world-wide that planned acts of terrorism such as bomb blasts are often leaked to certain members of

the media, especially in television, in order to obtain the maximum possible publicity.

"I want to take it a step further. Have you noticed that certain newspapers present terrorists as 'freedom fighters' or 'guerillas', rather than the perpetrators of political violence seeking publicity

"Do you find that revolutionaries are presented in ways aimed at promoting their acceptance by the public?"

"Do you find that people are sometimes indoctrinated in favour of the communist ideology without all its true implications being spelled out?"

A clear understanding of what was going on in South Africa was important, he said

"Do members find that fear and anxiety have increased as a result of incidents of intimidation given special publicity by newspapers?"

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"Do they find that in certain newspapers, there are recurrent allegations, sometimes put subtly, and sometimes blatantly, carrying the message that the days of the established order in South Africa are numbered or that the country is succumbing to the violent onslaught of the ANC and South African Communist Party?"

Those who understood this had a good understanding of the nature and extent of the part played by the alterna-

tive revolutionary press in the onslaught against the established order in South Africa.

"If they understand this, then the reasons for the action taken by the government to combat such revolutionary propaganda, must also be evident to them"

The government was not in conflict with newspapers which accepted the existing order in South Africa but were for peaceful reform

"We should not allow ourselves to be misled by revolutionary propaganda," Mr Botha said

Botha hits at 'media terrorists'

By David Braun,

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Further action against the media could be taken by the Government following the latest verbal onslaught against newspapers by two senior Cabinet Ministers, opposition politicians fear.

Two senior Cabinet Ministers attacked South African newspapers during debates in Parliament yesterday.

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha accused sections of the media of being "media terrorists" by helping the African National Congress in its objective of violent revolution.

He also warned that the Government could not allow itself to be coerced by the argument that by suppressing one evil, another would rise in its place.

Mr Botha said: "Let me make it clear. Should the suppression of inciting thought lead to subversive resistance, as is claimed, the Government would also have to take action."

The opinions of people who did not share the Government's point of view were not being curtailed, he said.

He is expected to especially deal with the Media Council and its powers and activities with regard to the "subversive menace" in the media.

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan yesterday said the media was interested in circulation figures, while the Defence Force was protecting the security of the country.

He criticised what he termed the quality of information and not the quantity. Not enough publicity was given to such things as the objectives of the ANC and its links with communism, he said.

A Progressive Federal Party spokesman on the media, Mr Peter Soal, said today he found the latest attacks on the media deeply disturbing.

ARCUS 19/5/88
2443

Papers, SABC may face contempt charges over terror-trial reports

BETHAL — News organisations including Die Burger, the Johannesburg Star, SABC TV and Beeld have been cited for possible contempt of court by Mr Justice H Daniels in the Bethal terror trial.

Yesterday the judge said perhaps the only true statement in the SABC TV report by reporter Chris Olckers was that the accused pleaded not guilty and that the hearing was proceeding.

Reports on the trial, in the Bethal Circuit Court, carried by SABC TV, Beeld, Die Burger and Rapport, were described by defence counsel Mr H K Naidu as "highly prejudicial to his client", Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim. He applied for a rule nisi against them.

Mr H Prinsloo, for the State, said a report in the Star contained information that could allegedly lead to the unmasking of a State witness referred to only as Mr X4.

INACCURACIES

He asked the judge to consider the possibility that the report was contrary to a ruling that the identity of former African National Congress and Umkhonto we

Sizwe members was not to be made public.

Referring to reports by SABC TV, Mr Justice Daniels agreed with Mr Naidu that they contained gross inaccuracies, such as an allegation that a letter mentioned by reporter Olckers was written by an accused.

This, Mr Justice Daniels said, was totally incorrect.

The judge agreed with Mr Naidu that no evidence had been led to substantiate the allegation by Olckers that Mr Ebrahim was a former lover of Helene Passtoors, who is serving 10 years for treason.

Beeld was mentioned for alleging that Mr Ebrahim was the lover of Passtoors and that certain letters were written by him — allegations not substantiated in evidence.

The newspaper Rapport allegedly connected Mr Ebrahim with the shooting of five policemen on the East Rand.

Die Burger allegedly referred to a handwriting sample used in a handwriting analysis as being that of Mr Ebrahim, when no such admission was made. — Sapa.

4 newspapers, SABC named at treason trial

Media accused of contempt of court

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

An application for contempt proceedings against the SABC and four newspapers was made in the Bethal treason trial on Tuesday.

Defence counsel Mr

HK Naidu submitted to the court a transcript of an April 28 SABC-TV news item on the trial and copies of stories from *Rapport*, *Beeld* and *Die Burger*

Prosecutor Mr Harry Prinsloo applied for a contempt charge arising from a report on the trial

in *The Star*.

He alleged the report contravened a judge's order, and details in the report might have led to the identification of a secret witness.

Judgment was reserved.

Mr Naidu said some stories in *Rapport*,

Beeld and *Die Burger* contained factual inaccuracies and gross distortions "which have no resemblance to the evidence", or were speculative comment.

Mr Naidu invited the court to move for contempt proceedings, by issuing a rule nisi calling on Mr Chris Olckers of the SABC and the editors and reporters of the three newspapers to show cause why they should not be committed for contempt of court.

Mr Naidu said that in the SABC-TV news report the only factually correct statements were "the three accused pleaded not guilty" and "the trial continues"

Mr Justice H Daniels commented: "It even referred to the wrong judge, because I'm not J" (Daniels).

The trial continues

Sta 19/5/88

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By Bruce Anderson

The Reeva cosmetic company owed a huge amount of its success to Miss Reeva Forman herself, a senior Johannesburg accountant told a Rand Supreme Court yesterday

Mr Charles Stride, senior partner of a Johannesburg auditing firm, has been called as an expert witness by the plaintiffs in a case before Mr Justice DJ Curlewis in which two of Miss For-

Forman 'was cause of company's success'

(243)

star 19/5/88

man's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming more than R3 million for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* magazine in 1985

The defendants in the

case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*

In his evidence, led by Mr Michael Kuper, SC, Mr Stride said he was amazed at how profitable Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd was

Mr Stride said that before investigating Miss Forman's companies, he found it necessary to "get an understanding of the market in which it operated"

He reached the conclu-

sion that Miss Forman's company owed its success to Miss Forman because, as a manager, she showed flair, kept her eye on the market and ran motivational programmes

Mr Stride said he had studied figures from other direct-sales companies which suggested that such companies often experienced growth in "bad times"

The hearing continues

Government's press curbs come under fire

(243)
1915188
If the Government were on the right reform track, it would not be banning newspapers, Mr Charlie Green (LP, Harlem) said in the House of Representatives yesterday.

In the budget debate on Home Affairs he said the Government professed to support the democratic principals of freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

But, every time there was an emergency, the first to suffer were certain critical newspapers.

The policy was to eliminate people on newspapers who informed the community as to what the Government was doing or who praised extra-parliamentary organisations.

The Government had haunted newspapers ever since it came to power.

He said no matter how many papers were banned, the people would still search for freedom. — Sapa.

SABC, press
CAT Trials 19/5/88 243

criticized in

treason trial

BETHAL — Applications for contempt proceedings against the media were made in the treason trial here yesterday.

Defence counsel Mr H K Naidu submitted a transcript of an April 28 SABC-TV news item on the trial and copies of reports from Rapport, Beeld and the Burger

Mr Naidu said some reports contained factual inaccuracies and gross distortions "which have no resemblance to the evidence", or were speculative comment

Mr Naidu invited the court to move for contempt proceedings by issuing a rule nisi calling on Mr Chris Olckers of the SABC and the editor and reporters of the three newspapers to show cause why they should not be committed for contempt of court

Mr Naidu said regarding the TV news item that the only factually correct statements in the report were that the three accused pleaded not guilty and that the trial was being held in the Bethal court

Mr Justice H Daniels commented: "It even referred to the wrong judge, because I'm not J (Daniels)"

State prosecutor Mr Harry Prinsloo made application for a contempt charge against a report on the trial in the Star. He alleged the report contravened a judge's order and details in the report may have led to the identification of a secret witness

Referring to the reports carried by SABC-TV, Mr Justice Daniels agreed with Mr Naidu that they had contained a number of inaccuracies, such as an allegation that a letter mentioned by reporter Chris Olckers had been written by one of the accused

This, Mr Justice Daniels said, was totally incorrect

The judge also agreed with Mr Naidu that no evidence had been led to substantiate the allegation made by Mr Olckers that Mr Ebrahim was a former lover of Helene Passtoors, who is serving 10 years for treason.

Mr Justice Daniels remarked that perhaps the only true statement in the report by Olckers had been that the accused in the trial pleaded not guilty and that it was proceeding.

Judgment was reserved. — Sapa



Newspaper
banning: 'It's
their choice'

The decision on whether or not the *Weekly Mail* newspaper would be banned rested with its editors, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Replying in the budget debate on his vote to Mr Charlie Green (LP Harlem), who asked him whether he was going to ban the newspaper, Mr Botha said he hoped it would not be necessary to take further action. Sapa.

CAH-7113 19/5/88
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Stoffel attacks protest artwork

Political Staff

THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday lashed out at "resistance art" and said the government would defend and protect "proper morals" with all available means

Under the banner of art and literary merits, the creators of resistance art wanted to bypass the Publications Act and attack morality, religion, the dignity of sections of the inhabitants, relations between inhabitants and the safety of the state, Mr Botha said

Speaking in the debate on his Vote in the House of Representatives, Mr Botha said another form of resistance art was "biting satire in which an attack is launched on personalities and specific aspects of the "establishment"

"The purpose is obviously to make the viewer critical of the existing order and to create a spirit of general dissatisfaction and even revolt," he said

The state, as well as the bodies concerned with publications control, had noted the new tendency with concern

The state will "with all its available means, defend and protect the proper morals and customs namely those morals and customs, acknowledge and accepted by the all the population and religious groups in our community in the comprehensive indication of a "proper Christian norm", Mr Botha said

CME Times 19/5/88

Government slams 'media terrorists'

Political Staff

"MEDIA terrorists", people who provided publicity for revolutionaries, spread the message of revolutionaries and provided publicity for acts of terrorism, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday

Revolutionaries needed publicity for the thoughts and deeds, particularly acts of terrorism such as motorcar bombs and the tossing of grenades into private homes, especially the homes of those who upheld the law, he said during the debate on his vote in the House of Representatives

"It is an acknowledged fact world-

wide that planned acts of terrorism such as bomb blasts are often leaked to certain members of the media, especially in television, in order to obtain the maximum possible publicity

"I want to take it a step further. Have you noticed that certain newspapers present terrorists as "freedom fighters" or "guerillas", rather than the perpetrators of political violence seeking publicity

"Do you find that people are sometimes indoctrinated in favour of the communist ideology without all its true implications being spelled out?"

A clear understanding of what is going on in South Africa is important

Minister on 'action' against newspapers

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday he hoped it would not be necessary to take action against the Weekly Mail but stressed that it was up to the newspaper's editors not to transgress the prohibition against propaganda.

He was replying in the House of Representatives to Labour Party MPs Mr Charlie Green (Haarlem) and Mr Sam Louw (Rus Ter Vaal), who had attacked Mr Botha for banning the New Nation and South.

Mr Green also challenged him directly to say whether he was going to ban the Weekly Mail.

Mr Botha said: "There is a specific prohibition in regard to propaganda. If editors continue to publish things prohibited in terms of the regulations, they take the decision into their own hands."

In his speech, Mr Green said it was Mr Botha's policy to eliminate all newspapers which informed the public.

"Who are its victims? They are newspapers that circulate in the townships."

The newspapers which reported on extra-parliamentary organizations were getting into hot water.

"As soon as they criticize the government, they risk being banned. If a newspaper says 'apartheid is unchristian', it has had it."

Every time the government imposed an emergency, the first people to suffer were the newspapers.

"This party believes in the absolute freedom of the press," Mr Green said. "We know that a newspaper cannot overthrow the government of day."

"The people have a right to know what is happening. They want to read New Nation and South and they want to read the Weekly Mail."

"Irrespective of how many newspapers you close down, the people were still struggle for freedom."

Mr. Botha's 19/5/84

1243

CM-1015 19/5/88

Stoffel (243) Claims are untrue

Political Staff

CLAIMS by newspaper editors that the temporary suspension of newspapers promoted revolution by fostering resistance among those who contended they had a valid viewpoint were devoid of truth, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday.

He said during the debate on his vote in the House of Representatives that he knew of, but had not yet received the petition by 26 newspaper editors.

"There are editors who maintain that the temporary suspension of newspapers affected by the emergency measures, promotes revolution by fostering resistance among those who contend they hold a valid viewpoint which is being suppressed."

"This is devoid of truth. The opinions of people who do not share the government's viewpoint are not being curtailed," Mr Botha said.

Minister's press threat under fire

star By Claire Robertson 243
2015/188 and Adele Baleta ~~5727~~

The threat by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, of tougher press measures has been criticised by journalists, legal experts and censorship monitoring bodies.

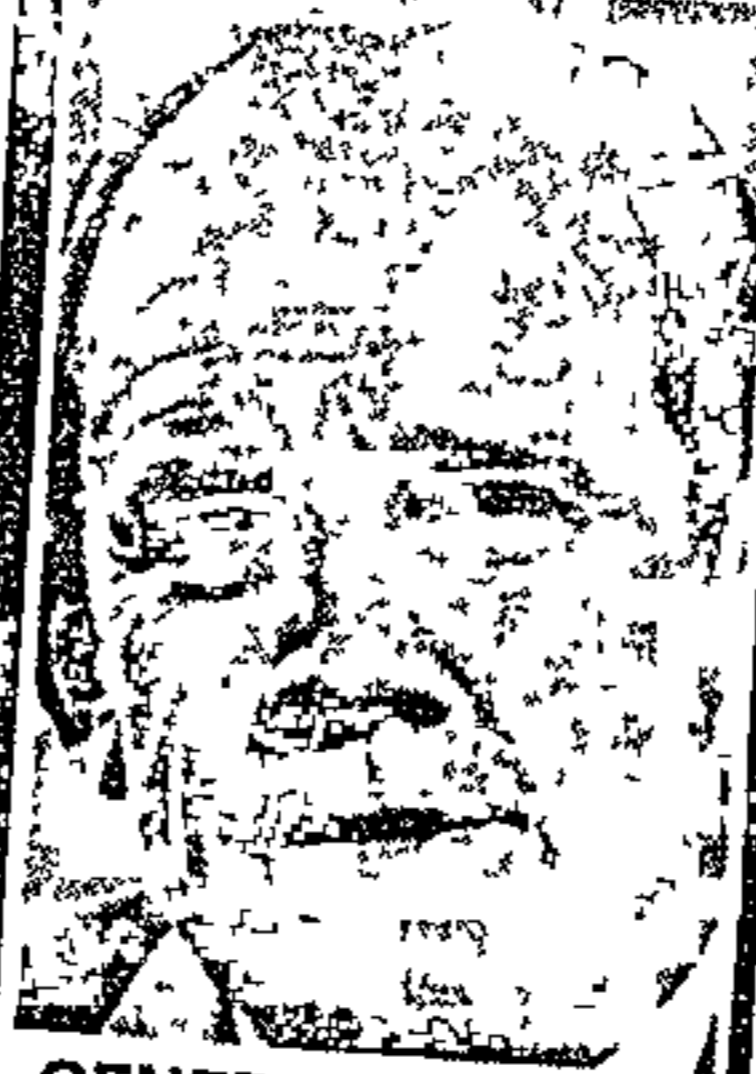
Mr Botha told Parliament yesterday that there had to be some form of "discipline" on the press and attacked the Media Council for not monitoring the "negative" media.

Mr Michael Green, editor of the *Daily News*, said it was not the Media Council's task to "carry out Mr Botha's ideas of press freedom".

"The English language newspapers get it in the neck from both sides — on one hand we are accused of having been co-opted by Government and, on the other, of furthering the revolutionary struggle."

Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) organiser Ms Pat Sidley said "The Steyn Commission had provided for a statutory Media Council and code of conduct, the registration of journalists and the criminalisation of those who practised without being on the register. If the Government is seriously now proposing to dust this piece of fascist legislation off its shelf and bring it into law, the end is in sight for any remnant of the ability to express oneself freely."

Professor John Dugard of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies said he was hoping that the Minister would withdraw the threat.



GENERAL Magnus Malan

Fears for media

Sowetan
20/5/88
243

WARNINGS were made yesterday in the wake of a double-barrelled attack on sections of the media by senior Cabinet Ministers that further measures against the media were imminent.

The Government has re-opened its attack on sections of the Press defending the recent banning of some newspapers and defence force secrecy.

The attack came in two different Houses of Parliament.

Mrs Helen Suzman MP (PFP Houghton) said "It is all very ominous from a government that does not hesitate to use its powers."

In the House of Representatives Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha, accused sections of the media helping the ANC in its objective of violent revolution.

But he denied that the Government was generally in conflict with the media.

General Magnus Malan, Minister of Defence, said he subscribed to the principle of the public right to know but said this had to be balanced by the security of the country.

The Mail and the minister meet ^{W/Mail} And it's polite

20-26/78
Weekly Mail Reporter

THE *Weekly Mail's* editors and lawyers had an hour-long meeting this week with the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, to discuss his threat to act against the newspaper.

Co-editors Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim and attorneys from the firm Bell, Dewar and Hall met Botha and four members of his department in Cape Town on Monday.

Since the meeting was off-the-record, no details have emerged. However, the *Weekly Mail* representatives said afterwards that there had been a polite exchange of views

"The meeting reached no formal conclusion and no undertakings were asked for or given by either side. However, both sides expressed their views on the situation in a cordial atmosphere," the co-editors said afterwards.

Botha told parliament on Wednesday that the decision on whether or not the *Weekly Mail* would be banned "rested with its editors".

Replying to a question in the budget debate on his department, Botha said

he hoped it would not be necessary for him to take further action

However, if the editors "decided to continue" publishing matters prohibited by the regulations then they had taken the decision into their own hands.

In his speech in the House of Representatives, Botha attacked "media terrorists" who are "collaborators" in the attempts by "terrorists" to get publicity for their thought and deeds.

"They are people who are in a position to provide publicity for the revo-

●To PAGE 2

The Mail and the minister

●From PAGE 1

lutionaries. They achieve this in two ways: by spreading the message of the revolutionaries and by providing publicity for acts of terrorism," he said.

"It is said that actions such as those taken by the government against subversive and revolutionary publications amount to the violation of democratic principles. The contrasting question that I wish to pose is this: should the government in the name of democracy simply allow that fear, hatred, intimidation, murder, mutilation and other similar evils be furthered by certain publications? That is nonsense."

●The *Weekly Mail* editors yesterday thanked people involved in the campaign to stop the minister from acting against the press.

"We were overwhelmed by the level and extent of support we have received. There has been a flood of letters, petitions, protests and other forms of support.

"We have no doubt that these activities have had an important effect in assisting us to continue publishing."

the editors said.

Meanwhile, a wide range of people added their voices to the call to "Save the Press":

●Twenty-three South African book publishers signed a statement last week calling on Botha to review and rescind the Emergency media regulations.

The "statement of concern" was signed by David Philip of David Philip Publishers, Karin Donker of AD Donker, TV Bulpin of Books of Africa, Lynne Bryer of Chameleon Press, Piet Snyman of Century Hutchinson, Malcolm Edwards of Collins SA, Anite Theron of Heinemann SA, John Allen of Longman Penguin SA, Howard Dalton of Lowry Publishers, Don Nelson of Don Nelson (Pty) Ltd, James Clarke of Oxford University Press SA, Dorothy Wheeler of Raven Press, Mthobisi Mutloatse of Skotaville Publishers, Basil van Rooyen of Southern Books, Gerrit Struik of C Struik Publishers and Timmins Publishers, Hans Strydom of Hans Strydom Uitgewers, John Miles of Taurus Uitgewers, M Moberly of the University of Natal Press, Professor Ampie Coetzee of the University of the Western Cape Press, Professor Noel Garson of the Wits University Press, and representatives of three university-institute publishers.

W/Mail

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W/Mail

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THE MEDIA

Brinkmanship

Acting on legal advice, rebel Afrikaans writer André Brink had to look overseas for the publication of his latest novel, *States of Emergency*. For in it, certain quotes are attributed to banned persons such as jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela. The relationship between the writer and the ANC — and by implication, that of Afrikaner dissidents generally with the organisation — is a tricky issue. Back in SA, Brink says he has been quoted out of context by the SABC and certain Afrikaans newspapers on his views on the ANC as published by the French magazine *Liberation* (see page 63). He was said to have associated himself with the aims and methods of violence.

However, says Brink "What they neglected to do was to mention the qualifications I had stipulated with my views. I have strong principles against violence, and most Afrikaans newspapers have chosen to ignore my explanation, which was issued after my return."

SABC TV news reported that Brink had "associated himself with the African National Congress and the organisation's methods to achieve its political aims." The broadcast also reported Brink as saying that although it conflicted with his principles, he accepted violence in SA.

"I stand by what I said. But it has to be read in the context of my known anti-violence stand," the writer says "Everything I said abroad I had previously expressed inside SA and in writing. So it would seem that at least some of the media are concerned with creating the kind of climate which would make it easier for action to be taken against me by our increasingly intolerant and totalitarian regime."

"For the sake of perspective, I should like to emphasise, as I did in my interviews abroad, that I regard violence, in any situation, as an extreme measure with as much destructive effect on those who have recourse to it as on those who fall victim to it and that as a writer — that is, as one who is committed to the word, to reason and to actions of the mind — I abhor violence of any kind. "At the same time I am realistic enough to

accept that there are situations where violence has become so deeply entrenched as part of the system that it is, tragically, no longer possible to break the deadly pattern without at least a measure of counter-violence."

Brink's latest remarks about the ANC could spell the end of his position as literary editor of the Afrikaans Sunday paper *Rapport*. Already the long-standing relationship between the acclaimed author and the newspaper has suffered badly because of the decision by the majority of *Rapport's* board members not to award this year's prestigious R20 000 *Rapport* prize for Afrikaans literature to up-and-coming writer Koos Prinsloo (a staff member of the newspaper) for his novel *Die Hemel Help Ons*. The decision was taken because of certain remarks in the novel aimed at the State President.

After the board's decision, Brink informed editor Bob van Walsem that he would not be doing any more book reviews until the *Rapport* prize dispute had been resolved satisfactorily. But after his latest statements on the ANC he may not have to wait for such a decision. Government pressure on Van Walsem and the board could spell a permanent end to the relationship.

Brink tells the *FM* that he has so far not had any contact with *Rapport's* cultural editor, Coeme Slabber, overseas at the moment. Slabber and some of his colleagues have a high regard for Brink's work. Seven signed a letter to Van Walsem to distance themselves from a statement which appeared in *Rapport* explaining why the prize would not be awarded. Brink's departure may aggravate the situation.

A break in the often stormy relations between Brink and the paper may come as a relief to Tuynhuys — and also to top men in the Afrikaans press hierarchy.

Disciplinary body for press soon?

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday indicated that the time had come to introduce a statutory disciplinary body for the press as envisaged in the Registration of Newspapers Amendment Act

Effectively this means a media council with which all newspapers would have to register.

The registration of a newspaper would be cancelled if it did not do so and it would not be allowed to be registered again without the permission of the minister.

Currently newspapers are not bound to register with the media council

The introduction of such a body, the PFP's Mr Dave Dalling warned the minister, would put the government and the Newspaper Press Union on a "collision course"

During the debate on his vote, Mr Botha said an independent media council had been established on September 1, 1983 with an acceptance of the principle that the press would "voluntarily accept" the guidance of the media council would

apply

The establishment of this body, he said, meant that the government had agreed to withhold the contemplated statutory disciplinary body

In the course of time, Mr Botha said a number of shortcomings had been brought to the attention of the media council but no "meaningful" reaction had been forthcoming

Mr Botha said that with regard to the problem of what he described as "tendencies of negative reporting" and "misleading headings" the council had reflected an attitude of not wanting to become involved.

The minister said he could only come to the conclusion that the Media Council "does not fulfil the role which the NPU proposed to the government" and equally it did not satisfy government's "own reasonable expectations"

Further negotiations, he said, would be "futile" and government was therefore asking itself whether the introduction of the statutory body could be delayed any longer

Star 20/5/88 (243)

Reeva witness cross-examined

By Bruce Anderson

Growing unemployment could have contributed to an increase in the recruitment of sellers for Reeva cosmetics in the months preceding the publication of an allegedly defamatory article in *Style* magazine in 1985, a Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

The evidence came during the cross-examination of Mr Charles Stride, the senior partner

of a large Johannesburg auditing firm

Mr Stride had been called as an expert witness by the plaintiffs in a case before Mr Justice DJ Curlewis in which two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming more than R3 million for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* magazine in 1985

The defendants in the

case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of magazine.

Mr Bob Nugent, who appeared on behalf of the defendants, cross-examined Mr Stride for two hours yesterday and will resume his cross-examination today

A large part of the cross-examination was taken up with financial evidence of a highly technical nature, focusing on sales and recruitment figures for the Reeva or-

ganisation both prior to, and after, the publication of the *Style* article in June 1985

Mr Nugent put it to Mr Stride that a sales incentive conference in Rio de Janeiro in May 1985 had been the most successful venture of its kind that Miss Forman's company had ever organised

RECRUITS

It followed, he said, that the conference had attracted an unusually large number of sales recruits and that, in order to maintain the same amount of growth the company had experienced prior to June 1985, it would have been necessary to maintain the same rate of recruitment achieved before publication of the *Style* article

Mr Stride consistently disagreed with Mr Nugent, saying that other factors came into play and that it might not have been necessary for the company to maintain such a high rate of recruitment in order to sustain growth.

Among the factors mentioned by Mr Stride in his evidence were the possible influence of growing unemployment in 1985 and a price increase in Reeva products late in 1985

The hearing continues

Media Council 'does not fulfil its role'

Minister threatens press with new body

Star 20/5/88
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Political Staff and Sapa

Government media minder Mr Stoffel Botha has threatened the Press with a new move in the form of a statutory disciplinary body to replace the present Media Council.

Speaking during his Home Affairs vote debate in the House of Assembly yesterday Mr Botha recalled the Registration of Newspapers Amendment Act in which there was provision for such a body.

When the present Media Council was formed by the Newspaper Press Union (NPU) and the Conference of Editors in 1983 as an independent body whose guidance the press would accept voluntarily, the Government had withheld the establishment of the statutory disciplinary body for which there was provision in the Act, in order to "give the Media Council an opportunity to prove itself," said Mr Botha.

He said it was clear now that the council did not fulfil the role envisaged by the NPU and did not satisfy "the Government's own reasonable expectations".

"Negotiations thus far have produced nothing of significance," said Mr Botha adding that further negotiations on the shortcomings of the council would "obviously be futile".

"The Government now asks itself whether the putting into operation of the applicable sections of the Amendment Act can be withheld any longer," he said.

'Violent revolution'

Before he made recommendations to the Government he would have "in depth" discussions with the NPU, he said.

Mr Botha said during the debate that press freedom in South Africa had to be looked at in the context of an attempted violent revolution by the ANC and its mentor, the SA Communist Party.

He said these organisations blatantly admitted they collaborated with the mass media.

Mr Botha said he wanted to ask the following rhetorical question: "How long must the Government and I, as the responsible Minister, continue to caution in a friendly tone and elicit the co-operation of the press in these major matters of national interest, before those sectors of the press which so grossly underestimate the threat against South Africa, will come to their senses?"

'Clamps prevent exchange of news'

(243)

step 20/5/88

The real reason for the existence of the media regulations and their application was to prevent free and open exchange of news and views — the lifeblood of democracy — from penetrating the claustrophobic atmosphere created by the Government, Mr Tian van der Merwe (PFP Green Point) said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

"The Government does not want their own propaganda to be challenged by revealing facts and views," Mr van der Merwe said during debate on the Home Affairs budget vote in reference to the banning orders on the *New Nation* and *South* and the warning of possible action against *The Weekly Mail*.

The Government had



Mr Tian van der Merwe ... Government has created feeling of insecurity.

succeeded in creating a repressive feeling of insecurity and isolation in the minds of South Africans; this being even more the case among whites than blacks; and it wanted that insecurity to remain because it was the only basis on which it could retain political support — Sapa.

Temporary reprieve for Sowetan

Stay 20/5/88.

Political Staff

The *Sowetan* newspaper appears to have received a temporary stay of execution following an announcement by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in Parliament that he was not considering further action against this publication "at present".

In the same breath, Mr Botha also criticised newspaper editors, particularly those in the Argus Group and Times Media Limited, who had signed a petition protesting against the banning of *New Nation* and *South*.

The letter accompanying the editors' petition sounded very like the thinking of Progressive Federal Party MP Mr Tian van der Merwe and Claremont independent MP Mr

~~243~~ (243)
Jan van Eck, said Mr Botha.

He said he was concerned that these senior newspaper people did not understand the import of the media regulations in the light of the "revolutionary onslaught".

Mr Botha said he had had no reasons to date to publish an official warning to the *Sowetan*.

Mr Botha gave the House a breakdown of 188 reports from the publications which have received notices so far: *Die Stem*, *Grassroots*, *Saamstaan*, *Work in Progress*, *The Weekly Mail* and *Out of Step*.

"Not one of these publications was acted against merely because it was opposed to apartheid or the Government," said Mr Botha.

Press watchdog plan appears set

SKS
20/5/84

(243) 
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government appears set on pushing through legislation to establish a statutory body to discipline the media despite of a storm of protest against new moves affecting press freedom.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has stirred up a hornet's nest with his announcement yesterday of his support for the statutory body.

The Minister told Parliament yesterday he would be discussing the matter with the NPU.

Mr Botha explained in an interview today that he was not trying to get the Media Council to deal with what the Government views as the "revolutionary supportive press"; he said he would do this.

He said he had no problem with the conventional media as far as revolutionary propaganda went, because these newspapers gave both sides of the story.

His complaint about the Media Council was that it did not properly uphold its own code of conduct.

He said he received complaints from the public about reports on which no action had been taken.

The Media Council, he said, should be policing its own code to ensure members adhered to it.

Mr Justice L de V van Winsen, chairman of the Media Council, said the council would be seeing Mr Botha to discuss the alternative media.

"The Minister feels the Media Council is not playing enough of a supervisory role and it should be more active in seeking out contraventions, rather than waiting for public complaints.

"The Media Council, by contrast, sees itself in a more judicial role of settling complaints brought to it by the public. We cannot be a prosecutor and a judge at the same time," he said.

Mr Peter Soal, a PFP media spokesman, said there was no absolutely no reason why the Government should not take any editor or newspaper to court in terms of the common law of the country.

"The Government must keep its hand off the press," he said.

Star 20/5/88

Tribute to court bomb victims

Today a year ago four policemen were killed in car bomb explosions outside the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court — exactly four years to the day after the Pretoria bomb blast killed 10 people.

A memorial service will be held at the Bezuidenhout Street entrance of the magistrate's court today to pay tribute to the men who were killed

in the explosion last year. The service, organised by Victims Against Terrorism, will be attended by Johannesburg mayor Mr. Jan van Blerk and mayors from other towns. Family members of the victims will be present when a plaque is unveiled.

The policemen killed were Constable Kobus Wilkens (26), Constable Wevers Botha (20), Constable Andre Duvenhage (26) and Constable Christoffel Botha (22).

Police spokesmen said the car bomb had been detonated without sight of the blast scene with an automatic device. It was the first time this sophisticated equipment had been used in South Africa.

The ANC claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Indifference also to blame for clamps — editor

MUNICH — The Editor-in-Chief of The Star, Mr. Harvey Tyson, yesterday blamed public indifference, partly for the increasing Government pressure on the South African press.

In an interview on Vatican Radio in Rome Mr. Tyson said that the South African press had "never been as threatened as it is now".

"When the *New Nation* was closed, the outcry was not very great. It was from some of us in the press, but not

from many others, from other people".

The result was that other papers had been closed, he said. "Now we have more under threat, even establishment newspapers such as my own have had warnings, not official warnings but unofficial — so the threat is great."

The interview with Mr. Tyson, who was in Rome to attend an international conference of newspaper publishers and editors, was carried by Vatican Radio, monitored in Munich — The Star's Foreign News Service.

Govt won't act against CBS

CAN. TIMES 21/5/88
21/5/88
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Reprimand for US news team

Political Staff

NO ACTION is to be taken against the American television network CBS News for its documentary film

"Children of Apartheid" which was criticized at the time by the government as biased and unfair.

Mr Stoffel Botha, Minister of Home Affairs, said in the House of Representatives yesterday that he had been given certain undertakings by CBS News and would not "in the present instance take any action against the presence of CBS News in South Africa".

Extracts from the film were shown on SABC TV recently to demonstrate the type of media coverage South Africa was receiving abroad.

Mr Botha said he had investigated all the circumstances surrounding the matter and had "no doubt that the persons responsible for making this documentary have transgressed their conditions of sojourn in South Africa".

He said the president of CBS News had agreed that Mr Botha should issue a press statement on May 18 that he had severely reprimanded the

organization for "its conduct in connection with the making and screening of the documentary film"

Mr Botha said he had told CBS News he stood by his previous statement that the film had been "distorted and unfair".

It had been made in circumstances which "amount to a breach of our requirements in regard to the conduct of visiting media personnel"

"CBS News agrees that the circumstances surrounding the making of the programme were such as to give grounds for objection by the South African Government and regretted that it had not been meticulous in complying with South African procedures regarding foreign media," he said.

Suicide squad 'possible'

CAN. TIMES 21/5/88

9/11/85 21/5/85 (2113)

Media take issue with minister

Staff Reporter

THE Media Council has taken issue with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, on its role as watchdog of the press.

This follows a statement in Parliament on Thursday when Mr Botha again raised the possibility of introducing a statutory body to discipline the press.

The chairman of the council, retired Appeal Court judge Mr Louis de V van Winsen, said Mr Botha's remarks were

based upon a wrong perception of its role and had been the subject of correspondence.

Meanwhile, the Newspaper Press Union welcomed the opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with Mr Botha in an attempt to find a solution.

"The NPU remains committed to the search for a solution which allows the maximum of freedom of speech within the parameters of existing legislation and

with due regard to prevailing circumstances," the statement said.

But the president of the Southern African Society of Journalists, Mr Bob Kernohan, said: "The implications of introducing a statutory disciplinary body clearly points to the fact that the dissemination of information will be further curtailed at a time when such information is vital to the charting of a fresh course to a new South Africa."

Cape Times Fresh Air Fund

Taxed to death

Stoffel Botha's actions to curb press stir up hornet's nest

CAPE TOWN — Recent actions by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to curb the alternative press in South Africa coupled with his recent comments on the press and the media council has stirred up a hornet's nest

Yesterday the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ) said there was little doubt that the "vice" on freedom of the press in South Africa was "tightening to an unprecedented extent"

The President of the SASJ, Mr Bob Kernohan, was reacting to Mr Botha's announcement on a possible statutory disciplinary body for the press.

"The implications are that the dissemination of information will be further curtailed at a time when such information is vital to the charting of a fresh course to a new South Africa

"Every effort must be made to prevent such action," Mr Kernohan said

Members of the national executive of the Black Sash responded, particularly to the banning of New Nation and South, by holding a demonstration in Claremont, Rondebosch and Mowbray yesterday morning. Posters were displayed which read

"A just society needs a free press"

The banning of South was disgraceful and the current threat to the wider press and the year-long emergency restrictions on all publications was an outrage, the president of the Black Sash, Mrs Mary Burton, said in a brief statement

"No amount of censorship will stop opposition to apartheid and tyranny," she said

A retired Appeal Court judge and chairman of the Media Council has reacted against the minister's remarks made in parliament yesterday

Mr Justice Louis van de Winsen said, in a brief statement, that the comments were based on a wrong perception of the council's role

"We asked recently for a meeting with the minister and were told that we would be advised soon of a suitable date

"We were not aware when we made the request, and were given no prior warning, that he was about to make the statement he made in parliament. We are assuming that his undertaking to see us still stands," he said

The National Press Union (NPU) also reacted yesterday by welcoming the opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with the minister before the government took any action to introduce a statutory body to discipline the press

"Both the NPU and Media Council have held protracted discussions with the minister and his predecessors, in an attempt to find a solution to a vexed problem

"The NPU remains committed to the search for a solution which allows the maximum of freedom of speech within the parameters of existing legislation and with due regard to prevailing circumstances," the statement said — Sapa

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LITERATURE

10 YEARS OLD

And Staffrider is riding higher and higher

By ZB MOLEFE

THE third quarter of this year marks a milestone in the painful struggle by South African writers to create a literature of liberation

Ten years ago, *Staffrider*, an innovative, grassroots literary magazine was first published. A celebration anthology of the best work which has appeared over 10 years will be published to mark the decade and an exhibition of the best photographs which have appeared in the magazine is planned soon.

The magazine, published by Raven Press, has given a platform to some of South Africa's most eloquent literary voices.

These include Ingoapele Madingoane, Mbulelo Mzamane, Wally Serote, Pascal Gwala, Njabulo Ndebele, Mtuzeli Matshoba and Essop Patel. Literary heavyweights like Ezekiel Mphahlele and Wole Soyinka have also been published in the series.

These voices — unheard in the cultural desert of divided South Africa — might never have been immortalised in print had it not been for *Staffrider*.

And a birthday bonus for the publication is the appointment of its new editor, Andries Oliphant. He has already made changes, like the magazine's new format.

Staffrider's new compact size and glossy texture have the look and feel of a literary magazine.

An eight-person board that includes, Ivan Vladislavic, Njabulo Ndebele, Nadine Gordimer, Kelwyn Sole, Paul Weinberg, David Koloane, Gary Rathbone and Christopher van Wyk help run the magazine.

Oliphant, a regular contributor to the publication before he was appointed editor, said "I have to view my role against the history of the magazine."

Oliphant has his finger on the pulse of the creative forces that inspired this vibrant magazine that gave voice to a generation of black writers in the 1970s.

DEMOCRACY

He sees *Staffrider* as vital in the promotion of democracy in South Africa.

The magazine has helped revive the work of past South African writers. The voices of Mphahlele, Bloke Modisane and many others were heard in their motherland again. Victims of bannings, exile and the grave, they had been long silenced.

The birth of *Staffrider* was painful. A number of editions were banned in its first year.

It had a baptism of fire, but the magazine soldiered on.

Says Oliphant "We are on the threshold of seeing a new generation of writers."

"South African writers have had to deal with

censorship since the 1960s. And there have been a lot of casualties. This was damaging to South African culture."

Censorship had not eased, Oliphant said and the state of emergency has not helped writers express their opinions.

He is aware the publication is being revamped at a time when state censorship is at its most restrictive.

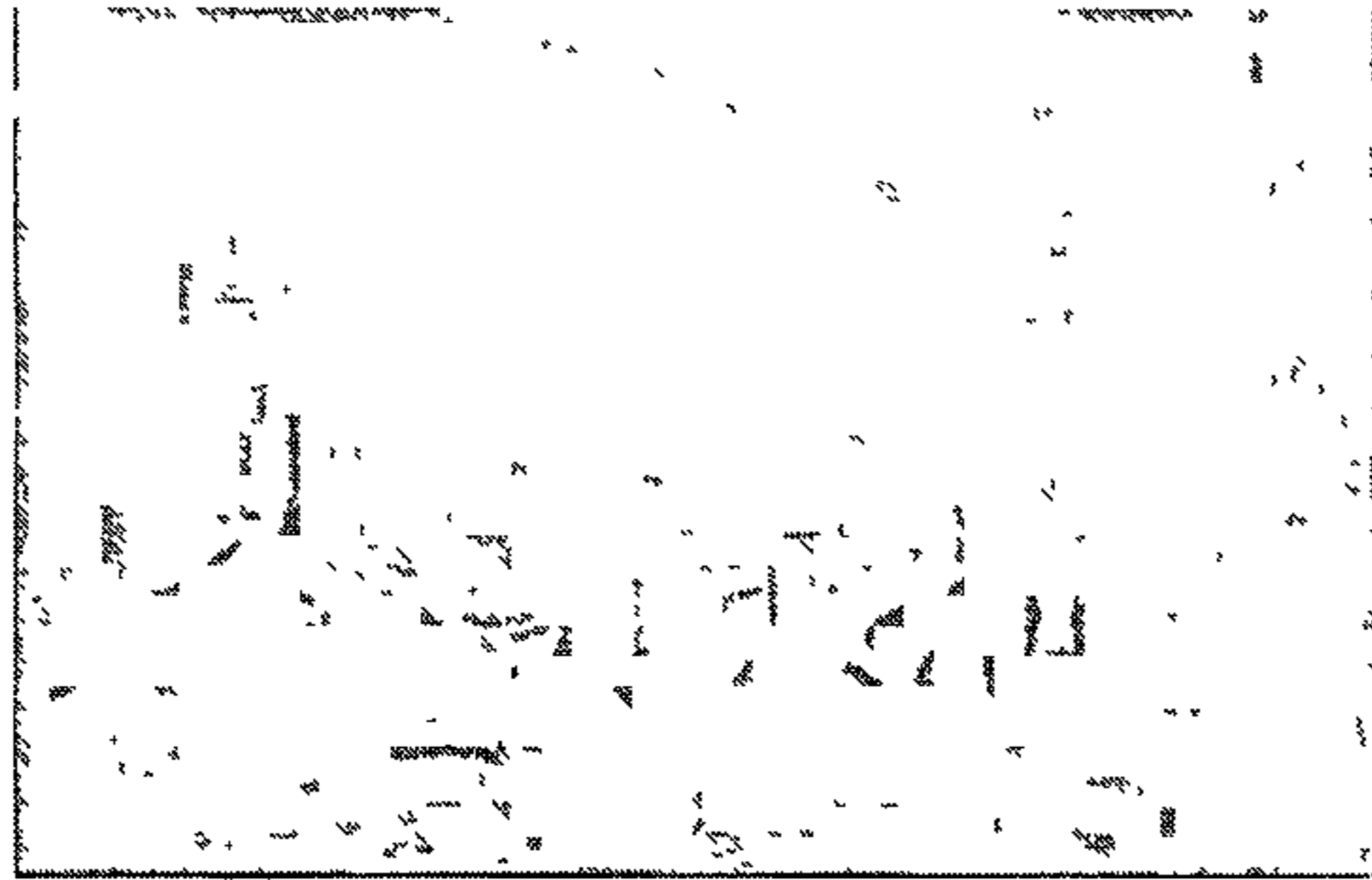
But the publication's staff were prepared to fight on, despite the restrictions on the media.

"We are on the side of ideas and will continue to fill the gap. We will do anything to stand by our people," he said.

Staffrider was born of the black consciousness-dominated 1970s and would always retain that perspective, Oliphant said.

"We are Africans in Africa. Our task is to strengthen our heritage," Oliphant said.

A radical culture has taken root in South Africa, and *Staffrider* will bring that culture to fruition, he added.



Labourers in Sophiatown by exiled artist Gerard Sekoto is reproduced on the back cover of the latest issue of the new-look *Staffrider* magazine.

New editor, Oliphant, is the right man for the job

By ZB MOLEFE

THE Group Areas Act destroyed the Oliphant home in Heidelberg in the early 70s, but the incident served to build the characters and give direction to the family who lived there.

One of the children of that family, Andries Walter Oliphant, 33, has spent much of his life trying to eradicate legislated injustices like the Group Areas Act. Today Oliphant is one of the country's youngest editors, newly-appointed to the helm of the literary magazine *Staffrider*.

Published by Raven Press, *Staffrider* is considered in literary circles to be an important cultural statement in South Africa.

Oliphant matriculated at the East Rand High School in 1972, and obtained a BA (hons) degree in sociology and literature from the University of the Western Cape.

Seeds of his literary career had already been planted. He established a literary society and founded the uni-

versity's first literary magazine, *Africa Lux*.

Oliphant also revived the UWC's dramatic society, which had been dormant since the days of writer-philosopher Adam Small.

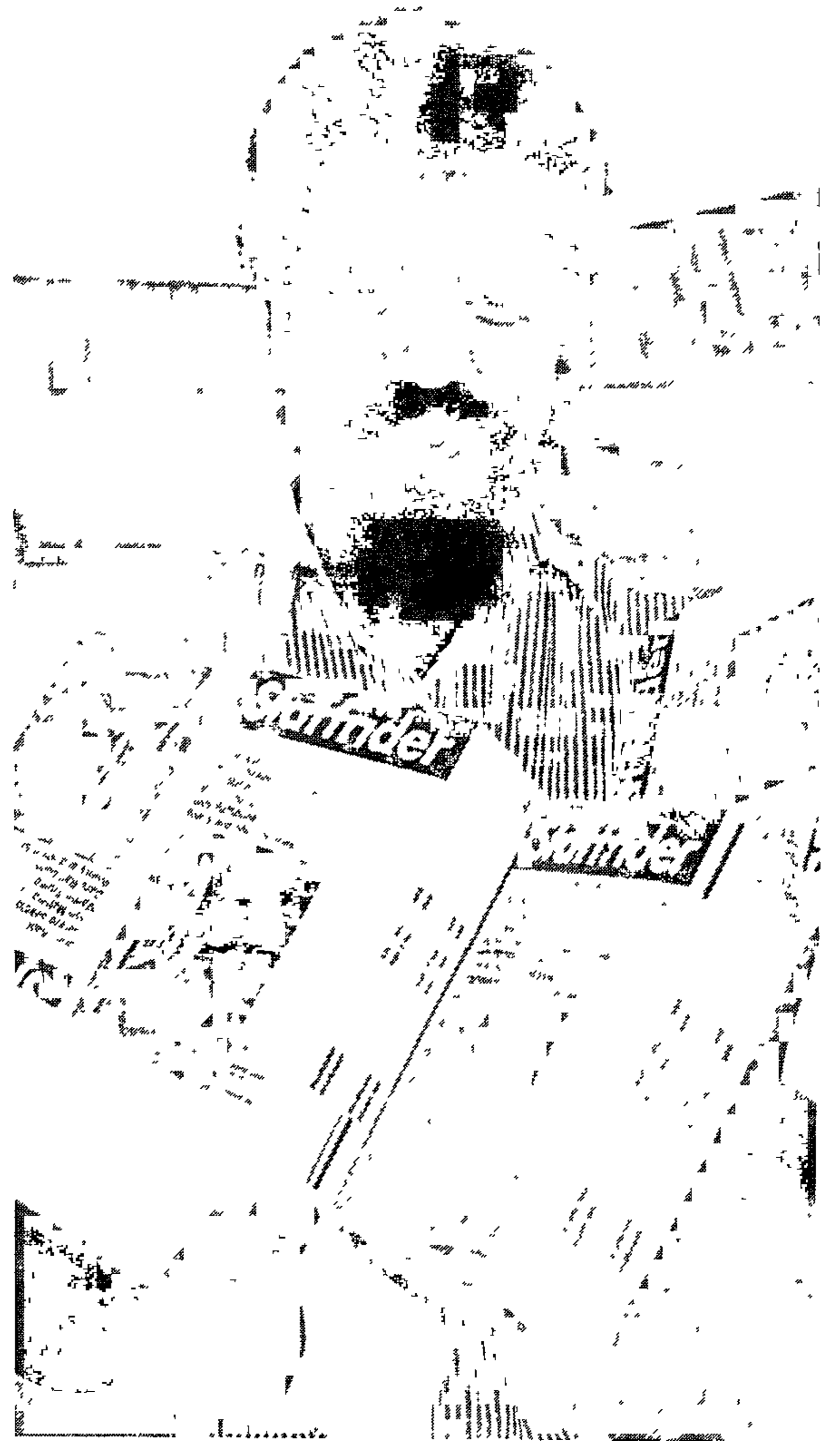
During his student days, while involved in experimental drama, the young Oliphant crossed swords with the security police after he produced *The Evil Eye* and *Inkululeko*.

After he left university, Oliphant was appointed resident playwright at Cape Town's Space Theatre. His work, *The Bicycle* won the 1978 Amstel Playwright of the Year Merit Award.

The following year Oliphant lectured at the University of the Transkei. Another of his works, *The Sleepwalkers*, was nominated for the Amstel Award that year.

In 1985 he accepted a Fulbright Scholarship in Comparative Literature to the US.

His first collection of poems, *At The End Of The Day* will be published this year.



Newly appointed *Staffrider* editor, Andries Oliphant



Staffrider workers (from left) R Everett, T Sepanya, H Khoza, M Patjie, R Lindner, A Oliphant and D Wheeler.

Delegates want press unbanned

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

DELEGATES representing about 45 media-related groups resolved to call for the immediate and unconditional unbanning of all media at the launch of the "Save the Press Campaign"

The conference, held at the University of Cape Town yesterday afternoon, follows the banning of two community newspapers and the government clamp-down on the media.

Mr Essa Moosa, a Cape Town lawyer, chaired the second half of the meeting where delegates of about 45 publications and media-associated organizations adopted a draft declaration in which they demanded the right to:

- Procure and disseminate information in accordance with the principles of our discipline without state intervention and harassment.

- Free access and movement in pursuing these objectives.

- To air ideas, views and opinions of people and organizations regardless of their political and ideological persuasion

- Act and campaign on behalf of any cause we consider to be humane and in the interest of the people we serve

- Associate with any movement or organization in pursuing these objectives.

Professor Hermann Giliomee, editor of the Suid-Afrikaan, chaired the first half of the meeting and some of the speakers included Professor Jakes Gerwel, the Rector at of the University of the Western Cape, Mr Harald Pakendorf, former editor of the Vaderland in Johannesburg, and Mr Sefako Nyaka, news editor of the New Nation, the first newspaper to be banned by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Magazine under threat

Mr Patrick Solomons, a worker at Molo Songololo, a children's magazine, said the magazine was under threat by officials of the Department of Education and Culture which had tried to cut off their distribution networks at schools.

Mr Peter Dennehy, a Cape Times reporter and a member of the Southern African Society of Journalists, said that because so little "politically sensitive" material was used in newspapers, the reporter was less willing to take risks and the news editor reluctant to allow the reporter to spend a great deal of time in "unrest areas".

Mr MJ Fuzile, who served 20 years on Robben Island and runs the Veritas News Agency in King William's Town, said he had been detained under the emergency regulations from June 1985 to November last year.

Ms Jane Raphaely, editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan and Femina magazines, said she had been "bounced off the Media Council for saying things I was not put there to say"

Professor Giliomee, Mr Mansoor Jaffer, of Grassroots, and Mr Moegsien Williams, media officer for the University of the Western Cape, were elected as the three committee members

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6/10/85 35/150
(372)

SOME AFFAIRS Minister Stoffel Botha, the only member of the Cabinet who is known positively to read books, says newspapers which promote violent revolution I must agree

True, I did sign the petition to Learned Stoffel to spare the Weekly Mail, but I did so out of cowardice. I did not wish to be seen as the only English Editor who thought it a pitiful waste of time to try to convince so well-read a man as the Minister of the role of a free Press. He knows. Anyway, our newspapers abound with examples of information that — to use the Minister's words — "promotes violent revolution".

One is tempted to say that publication of the salaries of public servants might provoke a certain class of taxpayer to murder — that is why government hides the salary scales — but this is not a time for flippancy. The days when excessive taxes, unjust laws, overweening public servants, arrogant rulers and corrupt administrations caused revolutions are thankfully long past. Modern revolutions are caused by negative images

Among the serious examples of revolutionary publication which Learned Stoffel cites is to mention that Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, is honoured on certain occasions. Sis! say I. It is quite obvious that when people pin medals to Tambo's chest it is likely to drive our State President to tear up the tricoloural constitution in a fit of revolutionary pique. It could drive him to cheer the carpet of the Winter Palace. Not even Raan Eksteen or Allan Hendrickse has dared to go so far in taunting the Great Man.

Similarly, it is very dangerous, as Learned Stoffel explained, for newspapers to publish reports which evoke sympathy for ANC detainees or prisoners. Everybody who felt sympathy for Steve Biko or Neil Aggett should examine his conscience, he may have cause to feel guilty. The Minister put his finger precisely on the solution to the problem when he said, "The facts are that the ANC, and the SACP, and other revo-

So let there be darkness, says Learned Stoffel

KEN OWEN

ditionary organisations have been ordered by law to cease to exist. But these organisations are now being kept 'alive' by means of one-sided positive publicity."

It's powerful stuff, that one-sided positive publicity. Some of our generals think it is our most potent military weapon, better than the Kukri and the G-6. It captures hearts and minds, which are often harder to capture than Cubans. If one-sided positive publicity ever fell into the hands of the ANC or Swapo, one hates to think what might happen.

In fact, if one goes back across the history of the past 40 years, it is plain that Learned Stoffel is using well-tried means to preserve the Republic against a total onslaught. The Communist Party was ordered in 1949 to cease to exist, its mouthpiece, variously called the Guardian and New Age and New Era, was ordered in the Fifties to cease to exist, the liberal newspaper, Contact, was ordered to cease to exist in the early Sixties.

It is an awesome thought that when two scruffy little fringe publications were ordered to cease existence, the idea that SA had a free Press also ceased to exist. Since then we have known that we can say what we like so long as it does not enrage the Great Man too much.



□ BOTH A . . . power of publicity

Some newspapers have survived by lying low, some by adopting codes of conduct, some by inventing counter-firing their *verligte* editors and concentrating on publishing gurdy pictures and stories of family murders. But some have willfully sought their own destruction by mentioning the honours showered on Oliver Tambo or publishing dirty words like "a luta

continua," or "Umkhonto we Sizwe". John Vorster knew how to deal with that sort of thing. "Let there be dark," he said when he became Minister of Justice, and darkness fell. It lasted until 1985, when the Weekly Mail suddenly appeared, full of youthful idealism and good English, and crammed with one-sided positive publicity.

Apparently its appearance breathed new life into the ANC, the PAC and Oliver Tambo. So far it has not been able to breathe fresh life into Steve Biko or Neil Aggett, but who knows? That one-sided positive publicity is powerful stuff. It may even overcome cease-to-exist orders.

Still, there is a puzzling gap in the historical record. Between the disappearance of Contact and the appearance of the Weekly Mail, the SACP, and the ANC — according to the theory of Learned Stoffel — obediently ceased to exist. By 1976, according to books which Learned Stoffel has surely read, the ANC was almost forgotten. There was indeed a small, seedy organisation in London to which young black people "escaped" along a route which was virtually managed by Craig Williamson, a policeman.

Nobody wrote about the ANC, nobody even thought much about it. Hence it ceased to exist. Meanwhile, young men and women banded together in SA to form the Black Consciousness movement, and AZAPO and CUSA and SASO and the Black People's Convention. They did not think much of the ANC. They began an entirely new revolutionary movement of their own. This revolutionary impudence shocked the non-existent ANC back to life in murmurous fashion.

The ANC leaders, according to other books which Learned Stoffel has surely read, were frantic with anxiety when it seemed their long-awaited revolution was starting without them. They must have felt like Moses at the Jordan, in sight of the Promised Land, but forbidden entry. So they all shifted to Lusaka to be close to the frontline, and have been pestering Learned Stoffel ever since.

Wondrously, it all happened without the help of the Weekly Mail, or of Saamstaan, or New Nation or South. First came the violence of 1976, then came the ANC and then the newspapers. Learned Stoffel has not so far explained this sequence, but no doubt he will soon issue cease-to-exist orders against whispers in the dark, against silent nods and stealthy signals, against any expression of a sense of grievance against the wicked, brutal and corrupt rule under which many people think they suffer.

Then, I am sure, he will issue a cease-to-exist order against the Conservative Party which is a far, far greater threat to the National Party, and to Learned Stoffel, and to democracy, than any person so far ordered to cease to exist. Then we shall all be free.

□ This column said erroneously on March 25 that Wits had sent Professor Mervyn Shear to the Alan Paton memorial service in St Mary's Cathedral. In fact, Professor Shear was invited by Paton's son. I gladly apologise to Wits for suggesting that it sent Professor Shear to pay tribute to Paton, and to Professor Shear for suggesting that he was sent.

Media representatives to fight curbs

AK645 23/5/88

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By JEREMY DOWSON, Staff Reporter

MORE than 200 media representatives have resolved to campaign for lifting the emergency under which the latest Press curbs have been imposed.

At the launch of the Save the Press campaign at the University of Cape Town yesterday, delegates noted that the Government was "clamping down on the media in an attempt to promote its own policies and deny the public access to information and opinion about alternatives".

It was doing this "by using the law, by assuming blanket powers under the state of emergency and

through restrictions on individuals and organisations".

Referring to the suspension of New Nation and South and threats to others, delegates said: "We, people and organisations associated with the media, cannot remain silent while this process continues.

"We demand the right to fulfil the role of a free Press in serving our society."

Among the resolutions taken were that the campaign committee would work with others towards

lifting the emergency and call for the immediate and unconditional unbanning of all restricted media and the release of detainees.

Those elected to the committee were Professor Herman Gilhorne, editor of the Suid Afrikaan and a professor of political studies at UCT; Mr Mansoor Jaffer of Grassroots and Mr Moegsien Williams, senior media officer of the University of the Western Cape.

Among those who addressed the gathering in support of the cam-

paign were UWC Rector Professor Jakes Gerwel, former Vaderland editor Harald Pakendorf, New Nation news editor Sefako Nyaka, Cosmopolitan and Femina editor-in-chief Jane Raphaely, Ameen Akhalwaya of the Lenasia-based weekly the Indicator, Peter Denney of the Southern African Society of Journalists, Patric Solomons of Molo Songololo, UCT Radio station director Ian Koenigsfest, Cape Town printer Rashieda Parker, the editor of the Black Sash magazine Sash, Helen Zille, Patrick Nyuka of Saamstaan, King William's Town journalist M J Fuzile and Cape Town civil rights lawyer Mr Essa Moosa.

Judge: SABC report 'full of inaccuracies'

BETHAL. — The judge in the Bethal treason trial yesterday found that the SABC's television report of April 28 on the case was "full of inaccuracies, bad reporting and caused embarrassment for all concerned".

However, Mr Justice H Daniels said the report had not prejudiced the outcome of the trial, and as such did not warrant further investigation or action.

The night after the report appeared, reporter Mr Chris Olckers, phoned him to apologise for any inconvenience it caused.

The judge said he had taken into consideration that Mr Olckers had apologised.

Regarding the stories in three Afri-

kaans newspapers — Beeld, Die Burger and Rapport — which the defence counsel requested a rule nisi with a view to contempt proceedings, the judge said the stories had contained inaccuracies. However they were not of a contemptuous nature and accordingly did not warrant prosecution.

The judge said he could find nothing wrong with a report in The Star on the trial which the state prosecutor had alleged might identify a secret state witness.

Last week the prosecutor, Mr Harry Prinsloo, asked the judge to consider whether The Star's report had broken the judge's order not to identify former ANC members who were giving evidence against the accused. — Sapa

D/D 24/5/88

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Negative images and modern revolutions

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, the only member of the Cabinet who is known positively to read books, says newspapers publish a mass of information which promotes violent revolution I must agree

True, I did sign the petition to Learned Stoffel to spare the Weekly Mail, but I did so out of cowardice I did not wish to be seen as the only English Editor who thought it a pitiful waste of time to try to convince so well-read a man as the Minister of the role of a free Press He knows

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gress, is honoured on certain occasions

Sis' say I It is quite obvious that when people pin medals to Tambo's chest it is likely to drive our State President to tear up the tricolor constitution in a fit of revolutionary pi- que It could drive him to chew the carpet of the Winter Palace Not even Riaan Eksteen or Allan Hendrickse has dared so to go so far in taunting the Great Man

Similarly, it is dangerous, as Learned Stoffel explained, for newspapers to publish reports which evoke sympathy for ANC detainees or prisoners. Everybody who felt sympathy for Steve Biko or Neil Aggett should examine his conscience, he may have cause to feel guilty

The Minister put his finger precisely on the solution to the problem when he said "The facts are that the ANC, and the SACP, and other revolutionary organisations have been ordered by law to cease to exist But these organisations are now being kept 'alive' by means of one-sided positive publicity"

KEN OWEN : JOHANNESBURG

generals think it is our most potent military weapon, better than the Kufri and the G-6 It captures hearts and minds, which are often harder to capture than Cubans If one-sided positive publicity ever fell into the hands of the ANC or Swapo, one hates to think what might happen

In fact, if one goes back across the history of the past 40 years, it is plain that Learned Stoffel is using well-tried means to preserve the republic against a total onslaught The Communist Party was ordered in 1949 to cease to exist, its mouthpiece, variously called the Guardian and New Age and New Era, was ordered in the Fifties to cease to exist, the liberal newspaper, Con-

fact, was ordered to cease to exist in the early Sixties

It is an awesome thought that when two scruffy little fringe publications were ordered to cease existence, the idea that SA had a free Press also ceased to exist Since then we have known that we can say what we like so long as it

does not enrage the Great Man too much

Some newspapers have survived by lying low, some by adopting codes of conduct, some by inventing councils to police them, and some by firing their veritable editors and concentrating on publishing glibly pictures and stories of family murders But some have wilfully sought their own destruction by mentioning the honours bestowed on Oliver Tambo or publishing dirty words like "a luta continua," or "Umkhonto we Sizwe"

John Vorster knew how to deal with that sort of thing "Let there be dark," he said when he became Minister of Justice, and darkness fell It lasted until 1985, when the Weekly Mail suddenly appeared, full of youthful idealism and good English, and crammed with one-sided positive publicity

Apparently its appearance breathed new life into the ANC, the PAC and Oliver Tambo So far it has not been able to breathe fresh life into Steve Biko or Neil Aggett, but who knows? That one-sided

positive publicity is powerful stuff It may even overcome cease-to-exist orders

Still, there is a puzzling gap in the historical record Between the disappearance of Con-

tact and the appearance of Weekly Mail, the SACP and the ANC — according to the theory of Learned Stoffel — obediently ceased to exist

By 1976, according to books which Learned Stoffel has surely read, the ANC was almost forgotten There was indeed a small, seedy organisation in London to which young black people "escaped" along a route which was virtually managed by Craig Williamson, a policeman

Nobody wrote about the ANC, nobody even thought much about it. Hence it ceased to exist. Meanwhile, young men and women banded together in SA to form the Black Consciousness movement, and AZAPO and CUSA and SASO and the Black People's Convention They did not think much of the ANC They began an entirely new revolutionary movement of their own This revolutionary impudence shocked the

non-existent ANC back to life in miraculous fashion

The ANC leaders, according to other books which Learned Stoffel has surely read, were frantic with anxiety when it seemed their long-awaited revolution was starting without them They must have felt like Moses at Jordan, in sight of the Promised Land, but forbidden entry So they all shifted to Lusaka to be close to the front line, and have been pestering Learned Stoffel ever since

Wonderously, it all happened without the help of the Weekly Mail, or of Saamsaan, or New Nation or South First and then the newspapers Learned Stoffel has not so far explained this sequence, but no doubt he will soon issue cease-to-exist orders against whispers in the dark, against silent nods, and stealthy signals, against any expression of a sense of grievance against the wicked, brutal and corrupt rule under which many people think they suffer

Then, I am sure, he will issue a cease-to-exist order against the Conservative Party which is a far, far greater threat to the National Party, and to the National Party, and to the National Party, and to the National Party, than any person so far ordered to cease to exist Then we shall all be free

Sowetan gets a Govt reprieve

Sowetan 24/5/88

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The Sowetan newspaper appears to have received a temporary stay of execution following an announcement by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in Parliament that he was not considering further action against this publication "at present."

In the same breath, Mr Botha also criticised newspaper editors, particularly those in the Argus Group and Times Media Limited, who had signed a petition protesting against the banning of *New Nation* and *South*

The letter accompanying the editors' petition sounded very like the thinking of Progressive

POLITICAL STAFF

Federal party MP Mr Tian van der Merwe and Claremont independent MP Mr Jan van Eck, said Mr Botha

He said he was concerned that these senior newspaper people did not understand the import of the media regulations in the light of the "revolutionary onslaught"

Notices

Mr Botha said he had had no reasons to date to publish an official warning to the *Sowetan*

Mr Botha gave the House a breakdown of 188 reports from the publications which have

received notices so far
Die Stem, Grassroots, Saamstaan, Work in Progress, The Weekly Mail and Out of Step

"Not one of these publications was acted against merely because it was opposed to apartheid or the Government," said Mr Botha

TV trial
Star (243) (243)
report was
2415788
'inaccurate'

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

BETHAL — The judge in the Bethal treason trial found yesterday that the SABC's television report of April 28 on the case was "full of inaccuracies, bad reporting and caused embarrassment for all concerned".

But Mr Justice H Daniels said he felt the report had not prejudiced the outcome of the trial and did not warrant further investigation or action.

He said that the night after the report, presenter Chris Olckers telephoned him to apologise for any inconvenience the report might have caused.

Regarding the stories in three Afrikaans newspapers, *Beeld*, *Die Burger* and *Rapport*, for which defence counsel requested a rule nisi with a view to contempt proceedings, the judge said the stories had contained inaccuracies. But they were not of a contemptuous nature and thus did not warrant prosecution.

The hearing continues.

Nothing wrong with Star's report — judge

Star 2-9-58
The judge in the Bethal treason trial said yesterday that he could find nothing wrong with a report in The Star which the State prosecutor had alleged might identify a secret State witness.

Last week the prosecutor, Mr Harry Prinsloo, asked the judge to consider if The Star's report had broken the judge's order not to identify former ANC members who were giving evidence against the accused.

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WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 1988

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ments are called for by, and submitted to the State Tender Board which falls under the Department of Finance

(a) and (b) As regards State departments, preference is given in respect of local content, calculated at a sliding scale according to the percentage local content of a product, as well as in respect of locally designed electronic systems. In both cases it is the function of the State Tender Board to see that the preferences are applied. Research on contract is aimed at technology transfer only.

In the case of statutory or parastatal bodies falling under the Department of Trade and Industry, both the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the South African Bureau of Standards seldom or ever make use of the tender method as such. Purchases by them are normally made on the basis of obtaining three quotations.

The CSIR and SABS in all cases give preference to locally manufactured products and many of their requirements are made in their own workshops.

As far as bodies falling under the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs are concerned, the relevant details are as follows:

CEF (PTY) LTD

In respect of the Mossel Bay Project both local content and technology transfer are considered in the adjudication of tenders. Each contract is considered on its merits. In respect of major fabrication contracts for the off-shore part, collaboration with overseas partners to provide the necessary technology is made a condition of tender. The same applies to the project management and engineering contracts in respect of both on- and off-shore, while emphasis is placed all round on local content. The overall aim is to strive for the maximum transfer of expertise, engineering design and fabrication capability of the country.

Factors taken into account in regard to local content are the following:

- The degree of local content and the additional cost, if any, that needs to be paid to achieve this,
- whether payment of a local content premium will likely create a situation where, in

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WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 1988

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AEC, it is implicit that the technology is maximally developed and established locally, and where possible, transferred to the SA industry. NATIONAL ENERGY COUNCIL (NEC)

The NEC is still in its initial stage and no items falling in this category, have thus far been ordered.

However, emphasis will be placed on local content and the transfer of knowledge and expertise.

Aliens Act: newspapers furnishing returns

1042. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether any newspapers furnished his Department with returns in 1986 in terms of section 59 of the Aliens Act, No 1 of 1937, if so, (a) which newspapers and (b) how many non-South Africans were being employed as (i) journalists and (ii) photographers by each of these newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Yes. The hon member is also referred to my reply in this House to oral question No 18 on 23 February 1988.

(a)	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)
The Natal Witness	8	2
Sunday Star	4	Nil
Die Volksblad	1	Nil
Eastern Province Herald	5	1
Weekly Mail	2	Nil
South Coast Herald	3	1
Newcastle Advertiser	2	Nil
Sunday Tribune	2	Nil
Kolstad Advertiser	2	Nil
Daily Despatch	6	2

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(2) whether he will furnish similar information in regard to Unita and the South West Africa Territorial Force, if not why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) and (2) The SA Defence Force supplies information on operational aspects on a regular and confidential basis to Members of Parliament. Information of this nature can be abused by the enemy and is therefore not divulged.

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WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 1988

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Business Day	13	Nil
Midlands News	Nil	1
Cape Times	8	3
Citizen	8	1
Evening Post	2	Nil
The Star	35	3
Beeld	Nil	Nil
Vaderland	Nil	Nil
South Coast Sun	Nil	Nil
The Sowetan	Nil	Nil
The Representative	Nil	Nil
Total	101	14

Angola: Losses by Fapla/Defence Force/Unita/South West African Territorial Force

1081 Mr J B de R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Defence

(1) Whether the South African Defence Force furnished members of Parliament on 26 April 1988 with information on Angola in regard to troop and military equipment losses by Fapla and the Defence Force, if so subject to what conditions,

(2) whether he will furnish similar information in regard to Unita and the South West Africa Territorial Force, if not why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) and (2) The SA Defence Force supplies information on operational aspects on a regular and confidential basis to Members of Parliament. Information of this nature can be abused by the enemy and is therefore not divulged.

- (2) This information falls outside the ambit of my portfolio

Grabouw: township for Blacks

*19 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) Whether, at any stage between 1960 and 1975, there was a township for Blacks in the Grabouw area, if so, (a) when, (b) what was its name and (c) how many persons resided there,
- (2) whether this township was demolished, if so, (a) when, (b) why and (c) what arrangements were made for the persons who resided there,
- (3) whether any representations have been received for the establishment of a new township for Blacks in this area, if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was the response thereto?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he furnished the following information

- (1) No
- (a), (b) and (c) Fall away
- (2) (a), (b) and (c) Fall away
- (3) Yes
- (a) 4 March 1988
- (b) Mr J van Eck
- (c) The possibility thereof is being investigated

South African Police: searching of home

*20 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether members of the South African Police conducted a search of the home of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, on or about 27 April 1988, if so, (a) on whose instructions (b) for what purpose and (c) what is the name of this person,
- (2) whether a search warrant has been issued for the purpose of this search, if not, why

Answer

not, if so, (a) when, (b) (i) by whom and (ii) to whom was it issued and (c) (i) by whom and (ii) to whom was it displayed on the premises searched,

- (3) whether any items were removed from the premises, if so, (a) what items and (b) why,
- (4) whether a receipt was issued for the items removed, if not, why not, if so, (a) by whom and (b) to whom was the receipt issued,
- (5) whether any further action is to be taken as a result of this search, if so, (a) what action, (b) against whom, (c) when and (d) on whose instructions, if not, (i) why not and (ii) when will the items removed from the premises be returned to the person concerned?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) No, not as far as could be ascertained
- (a) to (c) Fall away
- (2) to (5) Fall away

The Weekly Mail representations

*21 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (1) Whether he received any representations on behalf of a certain publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, subsequent to warning this publication of possible action to be taken against it, if so, (a) when, (b) from whom, (c) what was the nature of these representations and (d) what is the name of the publication,
- (2) whether he responded to these representations, if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) what was the nature of his response?

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (1) and (2) The publishers of the periodical *The Weekly Mail* was notified in writing on 17 December 1987, that action under regulation 7A(1) of the Regulations published by Proclamation R 97 of 1987, as amended, was being considered by me, such notice also stating the grounds of the proposed action. The publishers, Weekly Mail Publications (Pty) Ltd, submitted written representations to me on 31

December 1987 and on 7 April 1988. After careful consideration of these representations, which are regarded as a confidential matter between the publishers and myself, I decided to issue a warning in the *Gazette* under regulation 7A(1) of the Regulations and the publishers of this publication were notified by telex of this decision on 26 April 1988. The warning was issued on the same day by notice in the *Gazette*

South reasons for banning

*22 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- Whether the editor of a certain publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, was informed of the reasons for its banning at the time of or subsequent to the publication of the banning in the *Government Gazette*, if not, why not, if so, (a) what were these reasons, (b) when were they furnished and (c) what is the name of this publication?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The publishers of the periodical *South* were given an initial notice in writing in terms of regulation 7A(4) on 13 November 1987 that I was considering action, such notice stating the grounds of the proposed action. After written representations had been received in connection with the proposed action, a warning was issued in the *Gazette*. Hereafter I caused the publication to be further monitored. Subsequently it became evident to me that the publication continued with the repeated or systematic publishing of matter, which had or was calculated to have the effect, referred to in the Regulations. A further written notice, stating the grounds, was issued to the publishers. Written representations were once again received from the publishers. I considered the representations carefully, whereafter I issued on 9 May 1988 the order, whereby any further issue of *South* was prohibited for a period of approximately one month.

Mr P G SOAL Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, could he advise us whether those people who do the monitoring on his behalf have any journalistic training?

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, I am advised by a variety of people including people with journalistic training

Political affiliations of certain person

*23 Mr J B DE R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether the South African Police in Harare have been informed of and/or have ascertained the current political affiliation of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, if so,

- (2) whether the Police issued any instruction or advice to this person regarding the political organization concerned, if so, (a) when, (b) what was the nature of the instruction or advice, (c) (i) on whose instruction and (ii) why was it issued and (d) what is the name of the (i) person and (ii) political organization in question?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (a) to (d) Fall away

Sex education in schools: policy

*24 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education

- (1) Whether he has further to Recommendation 14 of the President's Council Committee for Social Affairs on the Youth of South Africa (PC 2/1987) regarding the teaching of sex education in schools, adopted a policy on this matter, if not, why not, if so, (a) what is this policy and (b) when was it made public,
- (2) whether the decision regarding the teaching of sex education in schools is an own affair, if so, for what reason,
- (3) whether he intends having discussions with the other Ministers responsible for education regarding the (a) teaching of sex education in schools in general and (b) question of Aids in particular if not, why not, if so, (i) when and (ii) what will be the purpose of these discussions,
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

- (1) No I have not yet in terms of the National

Answer

Paper taken to council

Sowetan

26/5/88

SP

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THE vice-rector of the University of Durban-Westville, Professor M A Smout, this week accused the *Sunday Tribune Herald* of hindering efforts to eliminate racialism at his university.

He told a South African Media Council inquiry in Durban that an article which appeared in this newspaper, advocated on the one hand that the university should not be run on racial lines. It then suggested that Indians should be getting the jobs and that as an Indian university, it should be staffed by Indians for Indians.

"The university council has for years said in order to procure the best for students, with the best possible staff. It has a policy of appointing the best person regardless of colour," said Professor Smout.

"This article challenges this. We have tried to move away from racialism. We believe that an article like this sets us back."

Professor Smout said the university had 6 600 students of whom 71 percent were Indian, 23 percent black and six percent white and coloured.

Article

The council inquiry was about his complaint about an article headed: "A New Challenge" in which it was claimed, inter alia, that Professor Jaap Greyling was a Broederbonder, that racial considerations were given to appointments," Professor Louis du Preez was elected "as one of the two convocation representatives on the council" and that State President P W Botha, had the final say

in appointing eight of the 24 members to serve on the new-look council.

Professor Smout said that these claims were incorrect and took the matter to the council despite a correction being printed.

Sunday Tribune assistant editor, Mr Peter Davis, said the reporter concerned, Mr Marlan Padayachee, had been fired for another matter and had declined to give evidence or reveal his sources. He had worked at the newspaper for about eight years.

Mr Davis admitted that some of the information was "second-hand" and had been used as it had never been challenged and was accepted as accurate. Except for some obvious errors, which were corrected, he felt the article was a fair reflection of the situation.— Sapa.

How to avoid malpractice suits — law lecturer

Outside the United States, where medical practice suits are becoming an "unmanageable Frankenstein monster", doctors are not really being prosecuted, a Venda lecturer in law says in the latest issue of *De Rebus*.

However, University of Venda law lecturer Mr Pieter Carstens writes in the latest issue of the attorneys' journal that doctors can apply 20 "working rules" to avoid becoming involved in malpractice suits.

These working rules avoid legal pitfalls in practice and legal action for negligence, but Mr Carstens admits that it is "impossible to formulate an all-encompassing rule as an effective preventive measure".

Trying to do so would, he says, "almost amount to applying horse-and-buggy rules in an age of machinery".

However, he believes the 20 rules are worth keeping in mind since it is "surprising to find how even these elementary precautions and rules are not often followed".

They begin with the rule that the "physician must care for every patient with scrupulous attention given to the requirements of good medical practice".

"It goes without saying that special care should be taken when sterilising patients, as well with as other related operations on the procreative functions of patients

"Plastic surgery is another problem, as this type of patient is the one who may be hard to please under any circumstances, and if there is any excuse for doing so, can become litigation-minded with little difficulty.

"In these cases it is imperative that comprehensive and informed consent be obtained, always in writing"

He states that neither the law nor the patients are out to "get" doctors but that, in fact, the law has a very difficult task, merely in keeping up with ever-advancing medical technology and science"

The nation should laugh off this latest dangerous farce

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5 ter 26/5/88

There is a need to step back for a moment and look coolly at the issue of press and government relationships

It is a subject which I happened to be involved in at the 41st World Congress of Newspaper Publishers in Rome last week. But nothing concerning the press in the world's most powerful communist country; the press in the world's most popular democracy, or the press in an overheated dictatorship such as Chile prepares anyone for the conundrum of press-government relationships here at home.

In fact there appears to be nothing comparable with our problem anywhere in the world at present. Our current contretemps mystifies all the world's experts in press law. It mystifies even those of us who have been intimately involved in the convoluted local system for decades.

What is the sudden and urgent threat to our country that is so great that the Government is frightened even to tell us about it?

New and weird

What revolutionary movement is so powerful that the authorities must reinforce nearly 100 of their restrictive press laws by introducing, not one form of "Emergency" censorship, but several succeeding versions; followed by a new and weird way of closing down newspapers, followed by threats to destroy the entire structure of a semi-free press?

Are we seriously expected to believe that matters are suddenly so out of control that it is necessary to shut our ears and close our eyes to avoid the revolutionaries?

Who are these "media terrorists" whom the government has discerned? They sound like ogres beyond imagining. Why are they not arrested, tried under our strict laws, and locked away or hanged?

But wait a bit... Am I or some of my innocent-looking editorial colleagues "media terrorists"?

Question piles upon unanswered question. And the Minister in charge of press censorship adds dozens of his own. He asked in Parliament the other day, "Do you find that revolutionaries are presented in a variety of ways aimed at promoting their acceptance by the public? Do you find that people are sometimes indoctrinated in favour of the communist ideology without all its true implications being spelled out?"

**Harvey Tyson,
Editor-in-Chief of
The Star, discusses the
conundrum of
press-government
relationships in South
Africa, which he says
mystifies not only
those directly affected
but also all the
world's experts in
press law.**



"Do members find that fear and anxiety have increased as a result of incidents of intimidation given special publicity by newspapers? Do you find that certain newspapers... carry the false message that the days of the established order are numbered? That the country is succumbing to the violent onslaught of the ANC and SACP?"

"If honourable members do not notice this, are they not themselves victims of the propaganda I have described?"

Now there is a conundrum for you

Here is another: the Minister says it is not true that the Government and newspapers in general are in a state of conflict with each other.

And here is a third conundrum

While the Minister suggests that some newspapers are creating anxiety by emphasising a revolutionary onslaught — he insists there IS a revolutionary onslaught — he goes so far as to suggest that we are irresponsible in not recognising its seriousness. He says that if the revolutionary onslaught is accepted as a real threat, and if it is accepted that the revolutionaries want to use the media for their objectives, then they cannot reject the necessity for the application of the media regulations

"If they do not believe or accept this, then they must not be surprised if the question is put 'On whose side are you?'"

Well, there at least is a question all newspaper people and all democrats can answer: they are not on the side of anyone who intends to smash a 150-year tradition of press freedom — whether he be commu-

nist, fascist, nationalist or self-proclaimed lover of press freedom.

I believe there are no answers to all the other questions, simply because they arise out of inexplicable over-reaction. And this over-reaction could lead the Government and South Africa into a ridiculous position.

The Government is considering invoking the Registration of Newspapers Amendment Act, which provides that all newspapers must subject themselves to the discipline of a government-recognised "independent and voluntary body" ... or else. The Government seems deadly

serious about this ludicrous plan. The illogicality of the proposal is highlighted by yet more questions which are likely to be asked time and again if the Government goes down the path of creating a government-recognised media regulatory body. The questions are these

● How can a body dealing in subjective ideas and political issues, but forced to accept government recognition, be "independent" as the law prescribes?

● How can a media control body which is compelled by law to be recognised by the government, also be "voluntary" as the law prescribes?

I think we are dealing with gobbledegook here

Basic values

Worse, I fear we are not even considering the basic values involved, values for which South Africans — Afrikaans, English, black and brown — once trekked, and fought, and laid down their lives in far more serious times than these

And today we already have ten times more rules for regulating news, restricting newsmen and censoring information than we did in any crisis in our modern history. I believe the nation should laugh off this latest, dangerously spiralling farce, and find a proper sense of proportion

CHIEF 7-1-75
26/5/80
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SABC's Olckers criticized again

JOHANNESBURG — SABC-TV's news coverage of the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union trial, in which 18 of its members are facing charges of murder, was criticized as "prejudicial" in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday

The objections to a report on Tuesday night by television news reporter Mr Chris Olckers was brought to the attention of Mr Justice T T Spoelstra and his two assessors at the start of yesterday's proceedings

Mr Martin Laitingh, who appears on behalf of a number of the accused, objected to the identification of two of the accused on film footage — obtained from a video recording made by the police — of a State witness making his statement last year

During the prime time coverage of the trial, two of the accused were shown as having been identified by a former ticket collector, Mr Albert Thuluwa, who was allegedly abducted and assaulted for his non-participation in the SA Transport Services strike last year

The union's former regional secretary, Mr Johannes Ngcobo, and his 17 co-accused have pleaded not guilty to four charges of murder, one charge of attempted murder, five charges of abduction, four charges of assault, two charges of robbery and a charge of intimidation.

"Their identities were shown to all and sundry. This trial is one where identity of the accused is crucial and the weight of any evidence still to be led has been affected," said Mr Laitingh

He said the coverage may have defeated the ends of justice, and "was not only an offence but contrary to fair play" He added that the exposure of the identity of the accused to potential State witnesses still to lead evidence "is dangerously close to being improper" — Sapa

Copyright move is 'frightening'

The proposed abolition of the 10-year copyright on industrial drawings is "frighteningly bad and has the effect of abolishing the protection grant for 10 years in respect of copyright and certain artistic works", a Pretoria mechanical engineer, Mr Alan Dunlop, believes

Writing in the latest edition of the attorneys' law journal *De Rebus*, he says the amendment to the Copyright Act before Parliament is a threat to technological sources valuable to South Africa and that it could "cripple" the country as happened in some South American countries.

Mr Dunlop points out that the amendment has come before Parliament without prior publication or opportunity for comment by interested parties.

He says South Africa does not enjoy top levels of indigenous technology and importation of "priceless" overseas technology must be protected by law.

He says the more irresponsible Latin American countries tried during the 60s "to legalise piracy of foreign technology and the result was immediately and catastrophically counter-productive". *Stes 26/5/88*

Because new technology was not protected and could thus be copied, foreign countries stopped introducing their technologies, and industrial advancement based on foreign technology collapsed.

"It is fallacious to imagine that we can enjoy the importation of this priceless overseas technology if it is not protected by our laws"

Mr Dunlop concludes that the Government believes that by legalising piracy it will do the country a service, but the Latin American experience has proved the opposite.

"Foreign technology will dry up and South Africans will lose out."

Advertising switch 'could have hit Reeva growth

By Bruce Anderson

Counsel for two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies yesterday asked an expert witness in the Rand Supreme Court whether there was "any horse in the race" besides an allegedly defamatory article in *Style* magazine, which could have caused a sharp drop in the growth of the two Reeva companies.

The question came during the cross-examination of Professor Cedric Robinson by Mr Michael Kuper, SC.

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Professor Robinson, an associate professor of Wits University's Graduate School of Business, had earlier been called by the defendants in the case before Mr Justice D J Curlewis in which two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* in 1985.

The defendants in the case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*.

In his examination-in-chief, led by Mr Wilhe Oshry, QC, Professor Robinson told the court that retail sales in all categories of consumer goods went down during a downturn in the economy in 1985/86.

He said the downturn was short but very sharp and was brought about by a tightening of monetary policy by the Government in response to what the Government regarded as an overheated

economy in 1983/84.

Mr Kuper began his cross-examination by asking Professor Robinson "Exactly what are you an expert on?"

Professor Robinson told the court he was an associate professor of business policy, a "capstone" course at the Graduate School of Business.

Mr Justice Curlewis asked the professor what a "capstone" course was and Professor Robinson said it was a term that had been introduced by Harvard University.

QUALIFICATIONS

"That still doesn't make it acceptable to me," replied the judge.

Professor Robinson then explained that the course was one that integrated the various aspects which had to be considered in running a business.

After Mr Kuper had asked Professor Robinson a number of questions on his formal qualifications in the fields of statistics and economics, the court heard that the witness had completed a course in statistics at undergraduate level and a one-year postgraduate course in economics.

Professor Robinson said the only other "horses in the race" which could have caused a sharp turnaround in the growth of the two Reeva companies were a recession in 1985 and a change in the companies' advertising mix in the same year. He said a recession would have had a "gradual impact" on the two companies.

The hearing continues.

115 foreign newsmen *CAPE TIMES 26/5/88*

THERE were 101 foreign journalists and 14 foreign photographers working on the 21 newspapers which had supplied returns in 1986 on non-South Africans working for them, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday. Some newspapers, such as Die Burger, the Sunday Times and the Natal Mercury, did not submit returns. There were 35 non-South African journalists and three non-South African photographers on The Star, Business Day had 13 non-South African journalists, while the Cape Times, Citizen and Natal Witness all had eight non-South African journalists, he said.

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We

the undersigned members of anti-apartheid solidarity groups and organisations in the Federal Republic of Germany,

- condemn the recent suspension of 'The New Nation' and 'South' by Stoffel Botha
- wholeheartedly support the campaign

HANDS OFF THE PRESS

- furthermore, pledge to mobilise and intensify pressure against further attempts to muzzle 'The Weekly Mail', 'Grassroots', 'Saamstaan' and 'Work in Progress'

STOP STOFFEL

- South Africa Scholarship Fund, Tuebingen
- Pro Oikumene, Stuttgart
- Anti-apartheid Movement in the FRG and Berlin (West)
- Medico International, Frankfurt
- Covenant Project, Bremen
- Women against Apartheid, Bremen
- Action Group: Free Nelson Mandela, Stuttgart

Writers rally to 'Save The Press' banner

By GAYE DAVIS, Cape Town JOURNALISTS ranging from feature writers on glossy women's magazines to editors of political journals have rallied in Cape Town under the banner of a Save the Press campaign.

Delegates from about 45 media-related organisations launched the campaign last weekend in a Western Cape initiative which, it is hoped, will spark similar campaigns in other regions.

A draft declaration adopted demanded the right to:

- Obtain and disseminate information "in accordance with the principles of our discipline" without state intervention and harassment

- Free access and movement in pursuing these aims

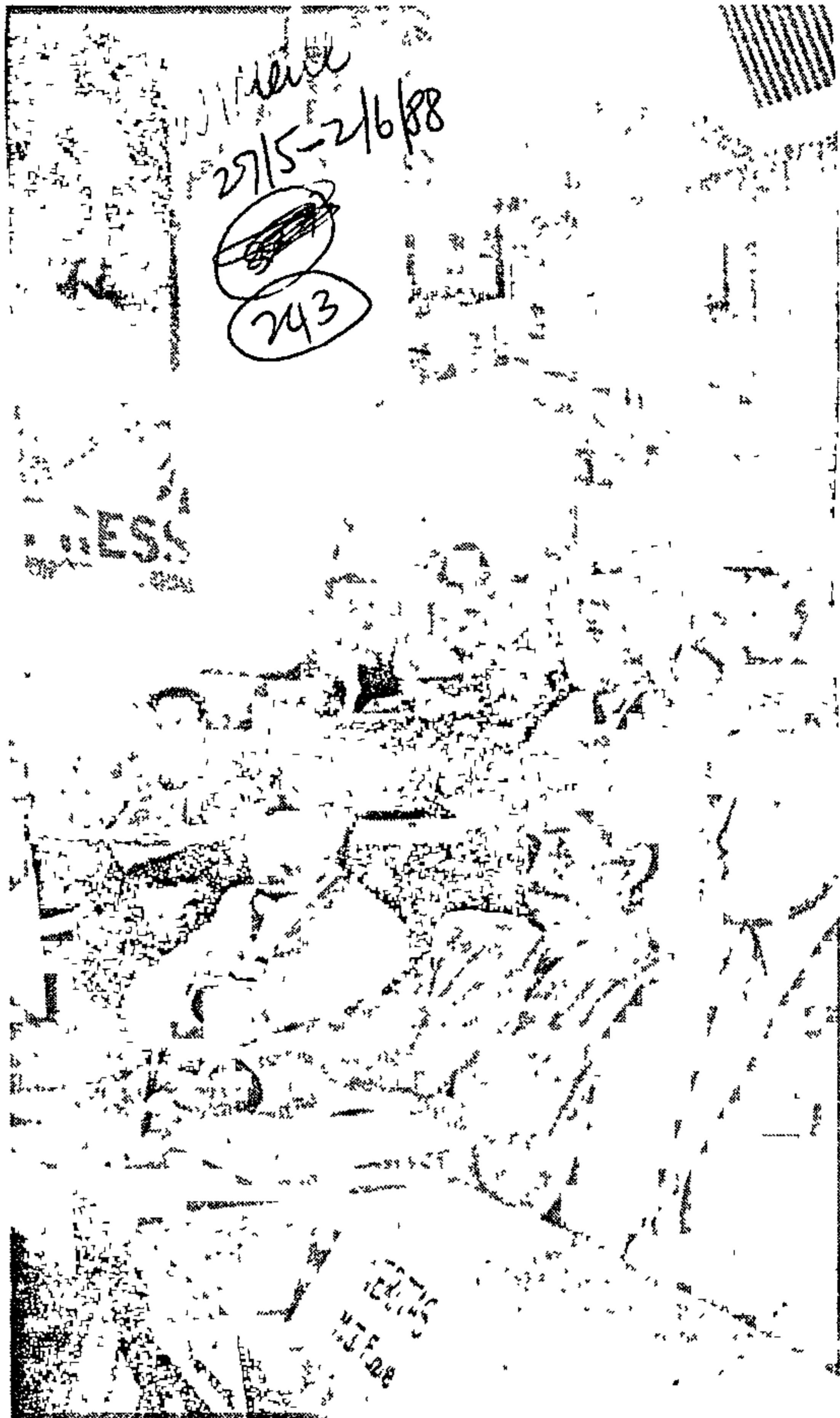
- Air ideas, views and opinions of people and organisations regardless of their political and ideological persuasions

- Act and campaign on behalf of any cause deemed humane and in the interest of the people served

- Associate with any movement or organisation in pursuing these objectives.

Elected to a committee to coordinate the campaign were Professor Hermann Giliomee, editor of the journal *Die Suid Afrikaan*; Mansoor Jaffer, editor of *Grassroots* community newspaper and Moegsien Williams, media officer at the University of the Western Cape.

Giliomee told the *Weekly Mail* he would be approaching editors of daily and Sunday newspapers to canvas their support and involvement in the campaign to achieve as broad a front of opposition as possible.



The press meets — delegates at the Cape Town meeting
Picture: ADIL BRADLOW, Afrapix



Botha . . . unhappy with council

MEDIA COUNCIL

Pressed to conform

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha's assault on the press continues. His latest threat is to replace the current voluntary Media Council with a body with statutory disciplinary functions. Botha is unhappy with what he regards as the council's lack of support for the emergency media regulations and its unwillingness to act in advance to "prevent the media from being misused by revolutionaries."

In terms of the 1982 Newspaper Amendment Act, Botha has the power to impose a code of conduct or to establish a council bound by law to carry out a government-imposed policy — should he so desire.

Recently, all the editors of mainstream English publications (including the *FM*) addressed a letter of protest to the minister about the restrictions faced particularly by the "alternative" press. The Afrikaans press was conspicuous by its failure to lend its voice to this criticism. It is thus notable that Botha's most recent foray has attracted criticism from this very quarter. An editorial in *Die Vaderland* takes "serious" issue with Botha for the "undeserved blame" he heaps upon the Media Council. The council was formed in 1982 as a body which would supervise the voluntary regulation by the press of its content and conduct.

Die Vaderland notes that it is not the council's function to operate as a censorship body (which is implicit in Botha's desire that it should act proactively) and that even in its reactive mode, it exerts a strong disciplinary influence on the press. It accepts the thesis that the press is subject to attempts at revo-

lutionary infiltration and it goes on to say it is the alternative press which is the problem and that it is *not* subject to the Media Council. The need for a monitoring body is questioned and the already formidable array of weapons which government has to deal with the press is cited.

These sentiments are echoed by Nasionale Pers MD Ton Vosloo. He believes that the formation of a statutory media council would be to "cross the Rubicon of press freedom in this country. Either you have some degree of press freedom, or you have an Iron Curtain situation. The government already has the necessary law and is just waiting for an opportunity to implement it. If it were to do so it would be a day to mourn and I strongly advise against it."

Vosloo believes the Media Council's powers should be beefed up — and recommended this, to no avail, when he was a member of the council. This would involve such developments as shortening the council's reaction time and making it proactive in its functioning. "I am not against the press monitoring itself," Vosloo says. "We are not, after all, sacred cows. The council's composition has remained unaltered since its inception and it is time for some self-examination. The alternative — State control — should be avoided at any cost."

It is heartening, at last, to hear the Afrikaans press speaking out against government's heavy-handed treatment of the media. One must hope that the unusual experience of criticism from this source will cause the minister to reassess the path he has chosen. He is on record as saying that no newspaper has been acted against "merely because it was opposed to apartheid or the government propaganda which promotes revolution is the real issue."

Unhappily, the government's behaviour has often suggested the contrary. Until these matters are determined by reference to something more representative than Stoffel Botha's own opinion, it is difficult to be sanguine about the future of press freedom. ■

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THE FRIENDLY EXECUTIONER

Stoffel Botha

A PROFILE — by FRANS ESTERHUYSE, Weekend Argus Political Staff

HE regards people of the media as his friends. His doors are always open to them. And in his view, the standards of South African newspapers compare with the best in the world.

The speaker?

None other than Mr Pieter-Dirk Uys, as Minister of Home Affairs, has the power to close down newspapers — and has done so

In his office in the HF Verwoerd Building he has a framed cartoon depicting himself as *The Friendly Executioner* wielding a huge axe over the South African Press

He is amused by it, clearly dismissing that brand of satire. As the minister in charge, he has come to the forefront of the ongoing controversy about Press Freedom in South Africa, and his actions in losing some papers, warning others and expressing tough views on newspapers

BUT in his office in the Verwoerd Building in Cape Town he told me this week how much he enjoyed reading newspapers, how he appreciated their role, and that high regard he had for the job they were doing under difficult circumstances

The last thing he wanted as to seek confrontation with the Press — "my doors are always open to them"

He greatly appreciated the positive and educational role of the informative action of the Press

He understood the difficult circumstances under which journalists worked when they

had to meet deadlines and when they also had to interpret the facts before them

If it had not been for the media, South Africa would not have progressed as far as it has in various fields

To him it is "a pleasant task" to read newspapers — and in spite of a busy daily programme he always sets aside time to read them. Sometimes he does so before going to bed at night or when he has time to spare during lunch breaks

He tries to look at every publication in the country, ranging from the daily papers to weekend papers, magazines and papers circulating among black people "I find time to read them all, perhaps not in great detail — and I enjoy them"

In reading them, his aim was not to scrutinise them with a view to censorship but largely to be informed about events. It did not upset him if he found individual papers had overstepped the mark in some way or did not present a balanced account of events

HOWEVER, he received letters every day from individuals, organisations or from the private sector complaining about published material. These were usually referred to the Media Council or to his department

In spite of such complaints he still thought that South Af-

rica's overall Press standards compared favourably with the best in the world. This did not mean there were not certain weaknesses.

One of the problems was that the existing press code of conduct was not always adhered to. This would be discussed with the Newspaper Press Union (NPU) at talks to be held in June

What about his recent reference in Parliament to media terrorists, which he described in these terms

They are instruments of conflict and destruction throughout the world, not only in South Africa. They are the people who do not have the guts to be terrorists themselves as it is too dangerous. They hide behind the protection of an editorial office to motivate others to do the dirty work for the sake of their selfish aims, like those people who try to impress the ordinary motorist with their expensive sports cars on public roads, but do not have the courage to take up the challenge at Kyalami.

Mr Botha said there were not many of them (media terrorists). His concern was about "a small group" seeking to wreck the Government's reform efforts

He saw the emergency regulations as a temporary measure to maintain order so that



Mr Chris April

Dop pay system

the Government could go ahead "in peace" to seek political and constitutional solu-

tions to the country's problems

the media were not aimed at silencing ordinary critics of the Government

at propaganda from hostile sources

QUESTIONED about his attack in Parliament on "resistance art" and "bling satire", he explained that he had not implied all satire was unacceptable

He enjoyed satire. Satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys, for example, was "very funny" at times and he had no objection to him

"I have an intense interest in the performing arts. I have seen some of Uys's performances and I enjoy them, but sometimes it depends on one's taste"

He also did not object to jokes about politicians — "I enjoy them, but sometimes it goes beyond my sense of humour"

But back to his remarks in Parliament. "I am not against satire. I was merely referring to some things that get out of hand. I get loads of correspondence daily from various organisations, churches and other bodies complaining about plays, for example"

In Parliament Mr Botha had outlined his objection to "resistance art" thus

Under the banner of art and literary merits, these people want to bypass the Act and attack those interests which the Act is intended to protect, namely the morality, the religion, the dignity of sections of the inhabitants, relations between sections of the inhabitants, and the safety of the State

Resistance art did not, of course, originate in South Africa. It has been known for ages in countries where authors and other artists masked and subtly camouflaged their works for security reasons

Locally, resistance art is mostly expressed in the form of plays, popular theatre, recitals and music. The purpose of all this is to create a climate which fosters

and revolt, and which can then lead to labour unrest, civil disobedience, protest marches and, in the final instance, to revolution

And on the question of "bling satire" Mr Botha told Parliament

Another form of resistance art is biting satire in which an attack is launched on personalities and specific aspects of the "establishment". The purpose is obviously to make the newer critical of the existing order and to create a spirit of general dissatisfaction and even revolt

Something which is becoming more prevalent are recitals and song evenings during which recitals from the poems and other works of so-called "national" artists and prohibited publications are given. The recitals are usually alternated with the singing of freedom songs, which often serve as a catalyst for the creation of an emotionally explosive situation

The State, as well as the bodies concerned, have not had with concern a new tendency

MR Botha emphasised in this week's interview that he had a great interest in arts and the theatre

In his five years as Administrator of Natal he had been instrumental in getting the Natal Playhouse off the ground and had served for five years as chairman of the Natal Performing Arts Board (NAPAC). He had also been instrumental in establishing the Natal Symphony Orchestra

"I have an intense interest in the performing arts". Before he entered politics Mr Botha, who studied law at the University of the Witwatersrand, practised as a lawyer in Johannesburg. He was a senior partner in a large firm of attorneys

He has also been a farmer in Northern Zululand where he owns a farm

Two former Thompson's mining editors, Dick White and Hendrik Vorster, have, launched *Mining Mirror* — a glossy 100-page monthly with a 6 000-strong, newly re-searched circulation list

□ □ □
Finance Week's AdReport 88 will be on sale next week and provides an in-depth analysis of the state of the industry. Increasingly tight management has been reflected in the analysis of leading advertising agencies. AdReport 88 also examines the deterioration in client-agency relationships and the increasing importance of "integrated advertising".

□ □ □
Fair Lady seems determined to be twice as successful as

its immediate competition. In an increasingly tough market, with new magazines being launched right, left and centre, *Fair Lady* has topped its ABC figure of 179 133 per issue for the second half of last year with New Year sales round about the 220 000 mark.

22/5/88
Stv 28/5/88 □ □ □
From an eight-page newsletter in 1966, *Successful Salesmanship* has become the highest paid-circulation magazine in the professional magazine category. Of the 7 000 subscriptions, 90 percent go to middle or senior management. What makes it different, says editor Joar Wright, is that it has become an informal training medium as well as a magazine.

THERE can be no compromise on an issue such as the Government's threat to close the Weekly Mail

One is either for censorship or one is against it and there is no grey area, at least in principle, in between

Not so long ago the South African Government hoped that by keeping images of township violence from the TV screens the problem might go away. It did not work that way

Indeed one might go so far as to say that the turning point for South Africa in its relations with Britain came when British viewers were no longer able to see what was going on in the townships for themselves.

Our friends in that tolerant country literally started "switching off"

Now, with the impending clamp-down on the Weekly Mail, there is a danger of switching off altogether

Sanctions

Not only that but we invite the real possibility that the quality British Press, who have until now been understanding of South Africa's problems, will decisively change their editorial line in favour of isolation, sanctions and a general toughness

Why is the Weekly Mail so important?

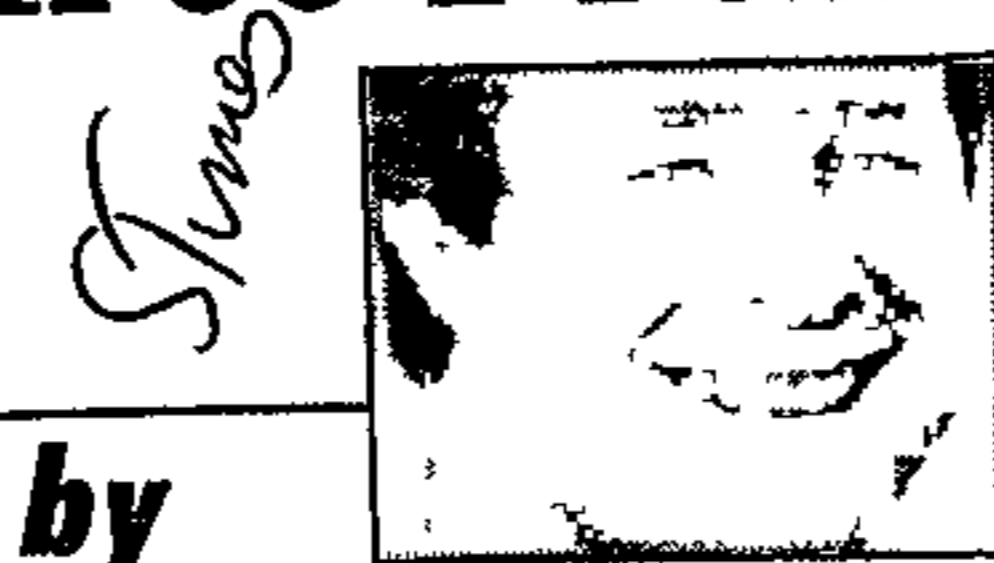
It is widely seen here as being a repository of liberal values under immediate threat by an intolerant Government and it is this perception which is of crucial importance to South African business

Business objectives of a de-regulated, free economy in a just society are incompatible with censorship and nobody should be under any misapprehension on that score

Business leaders have already called on the Government to reconsider its attitude towards the Weekly Mail and organised business would certainly question Mr Stoffel Botha's contention that it belongs to the category of "certain elements who obstinately refuse to accept" that certain publications are promoting revolution

Nor would businessmen regard themselves as being part of any "or-

Why big business wants a free Press



by **David Willers**

London director of the South Africa Foundation

ganised outcry".

Their concerns about the Weekly Mail centre on the fact that its closure would have extremely damaging effects abroad in the very countries whose values South Africa has always subscribed to and which are now violated, and that censorship at this level would undermine the drive generally towards a more open society

The Government accuses the Weekly Mail of advocacy journalism yet there is nothing necessarily wrong with advocacy — the Afrikaans papers have been doing it for years — and it is a great tradition in highbrow British weeklies like the Spectator.

We must never forget the historic contribution to Press freedom of that great pamphleteering figure on the political landscape, the Ink-Stained Wretch, who made no pretence of "objectivity" in his scribbles

One must also recognise that it is a hallmark of totalitarian societies

that they rely on "objective facts" as the prism through which they view events

Such "facts" must be "empirically" based and "scientifically" verified, either by way of a legal system or judged in terms of the Government's own criteria, which, in our own case, are deliberately kept secret, but which, we are told, have their origins in "scientific" evaluation

The Government thus succeeds in creating a distinction between those newspapers who write "objective" copy, the mainstream establishment Press, and those who write "advocacy" copy — the alternative Press.

In a curious parallel the Israelis are today much obsessed by the state of their nation 40 years on. And on its 40th birthday Israel does not present an attractive face to the world

Increasingly the land is haunted by the spectre of renewed civil war between Jews and Arabs and between factions of the Jewish population. A riveting BBC film the other evening showed an underside to the State of Israel that had not been evident to Western audiences

Disdain

What was most disquieting was the Renaissance of the Jewish right and a spirit of control and disdain for democratic tradition apparently seeping through the fabric of modern Israel

I was sufficiently struck by the comments of one old grey beard who had boarded the Exodus for freedom in Seté in 1947 to note them down

He explained that he was worried about censorship. He stressed the need for strong opposition, and some political disobedience where necessary. He said fascism would take over in Israel with no active opposition

If it did the possibility of civil war would be heightened, life in the shadow of which would become poisoned

The point he makes is an important one applicable not only to Israel but everywhere the media is muzzled.

Stoffel Botha's threat to media freedom

Star 30/5/88

243/16

The existence of this column, modest though its scope may be, demonstrates The Star's acceptance of two principles that no newspaper is immune from error and that no newspaper should be the final judge in its own cause.

The SA Media Council, currently under fire from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, is grounded in much the same principles, but with a heavy political background.

The acceptance of these principles, though now fairly general, did not come easily to journalists or the newspaper industry as a whole. It is doubtful whether the press would voluntarily have surrendered its liberty to a disciplinary body, even a self-appointed one, had it not been for government pressure.

It was under the threat of restrictive legislation that first the Press Board of Reference, then the Press Council (later revamped and given "teeth") and finally the present Media Council were successively set up. The Southern African Society of Journalists has watched this process with dismay, regarding it as appeasement on the part of the Newspaper Press Union, the printers' association.

The Media Council represents a compromise between the Government on the one side and the NPU and the Conference of Editors on the other.

Had this compromise not been reached at the eleventh hour in 1982, legislation would have been passed putting the newspapers at the mercy of a statutory body which would in effect have been a censor.

IN MY JUDGMENT

The Stars Ombudsman
JAMES MCCLURG
discusses
readers' complaints



The Media Council, whose chairman and vice-chairman are former judges of the Appeal Court, includes representatives of both the general public and the media.

But the objectionable legislation of 1982 was not cancelled. It was merely put on ice, and it looks like being taken out of the parliamentary refrigerator and warmed up.

The Newspaper Press Union has consistently refused to be involved in the disciplining of non-members, otherwise it could have found itself being expected to act against the small "alternative" publications (including the highly esteemed *Weekly Mail*) whose life now hangs on the personal yea or nay of Mr Stoffel Botha.

The council has also declined to become a "pro-active" body monitoring the output of NPU members and disciplining errant publications even in the absence of outside complaints.

Since the media representatives on the council espouse opposing political beliefs, to have undertaken either of these things would have created intolerable tensions and almost certainly caused a complete split.

Mr Botha finds that, all in all, the council has not met the Gov-

If you have a complaint about the editorial content of The Star you are invited to write to The Ombudsman, c/o The Editor's Secretary, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

ernment's "reasonable expectations" and does not administer its own code properly. Another meeting is to be held, but it is doubtful whether room for further compromise exists.

If Mr Botha now does his worst, the public can be expected to know less and less of what is going on in their own country and over its borders. Any talk of media freedom in South Africa will finally become a manifest mockery.

★ ★ ★

The Star has plan to put brake on SA brain drain

By Winnie Graham

The Star hoped to lobby the Government to permit graduates to do two years of community service instead of military training, the editor-in-chief of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, said in Johannesburg last night.

Addressing the LINC (Lions Information Network Communication) supper club, Mr Tyson said he believed a selective approach would help stem the enormous brain drain South Africa was experiencing among post-graduates

APPROACH

Many of these young men were leaving the country because, for one reason or another, they did not want to do national service

In reply to a questioner who asked why The Star did not start a "hard-nosed" campaign on the question of compulsory military training, Mr Tyson said he was not in favour of an aggressive approach but preferred to lobby behind the scenes.

"We believe the skills of many post-graduates could be put to far better use within the community," he said.

"The Defence Force may argue it is already using doctors, teachers and engineers for this, but government could go much further with the idea by devoting the energies of skilled people to help the under-privileged

community."

Mr Tyson said at a recent lunch for Starbridge leaders of all races that 22 ideas for bridging had been put forward in 15 minutes. To assist the community in getting some of these ideas off the ground, The Star hoped to create an infrastructure for "combined operations".

It was Starbridge's specific goal to publicise and promote understanding through.

● Promoting meetings between people of different races

● Providing publicity for the excellent projects which were being carried out and, by their success, were bringing about better understanding.

● Providing a network infrastructure which would help all communities help one another.

The Star, he said, planned to publish lists of all relevant action groups and charities so that each would know how to link with others.

ABANDONED

A Starbridge brigade of workers for the community was another project under consideration.

Mr Tyson said South Africa's mission hospitals, many of which had been abandoned or were just "staggering along", could become a network of nerve centres where people with specific skills, including doctors, teachers and engineers, could give time to the under-privileged

Collision claims

Reeva case: affidavit is subpoenaed ^{Star 3/5/88}

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By Bruce Anderson

An affidavit made by a former Sunday Star journalist and subpoenaed from the newspaper by the plaintiffs in the Reeva Forman defamation suit was not protected by attorney-client privilege, a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled yesterday

The ruling was made by Mr Justice DJ Curlewis after Mr Michael Kuper SC, for the plam-

tiffs, made an application to see a draft affidavit made by Miss Anne Quayle, formerly of The Sunday Star

The affidavit was made in July 1985 during interdict proceedings which led to the June 1985 issue of *Style* magazine appearing without an allegedly defamatory article about Miss Forman and the Reeva organisation

Earlier, Mr Wilhe

Oshry QC, closed the defendants' case after Mr Justice Curlewis refused a second application by the defendants to lead evidence from women who had attended Reeva training courses

HISTORY

The case, in which two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies are claiming more than R3 million, represents the highest damages claim for defamation in South African

legal history

The defendants in the case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*

Mr Kuper had asked the court to order the production of the draft affidavit as he said there was cause to believe that the draft affidavit had been changed to avoid the risk of a charge of collusion between lawyers acting for *Style* and The Sunday Star

An internal Sunday Star memorandum in the form of a computer printout was read to the court by Mr Kuper, who submitted that it showed lawyers acting for *Style*, had colluded with The Sunday Star to ensure the publication of a article by Miss Quayle about the Reeva organisation during interdict proceedings against the magazine in 1985.

The hearing continues.

Staff Reporter

INTERNATIONAL television crews covering a church service at the threatened Lawaai-kamp settlement yesterday claimed that four video cassettes, which had been handed to SAA for transportation to Johannesburg, had been "wiped".

TV tapes of church service

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In a joint statement, Worldwide Television News (WTN) and Visnews said television crews had videotaped a church service at Lawaai-kamp on Sunday and had shipped four videotapes containing footage of the church service to Johannesburg

"WTN and Visnews have clear evidence that the four tapes had been tampered with after they were given to SAA for shipment. The video images on all four cassettes had been erased. We deplore this type of tampering with the news gathering process.

"WTN and Visnews issue this statement representing NBC News, ABC News, BBC and ITN."

SATS spokesman Mr Francois Louw confirmed last night that SAA had transported the tapes but said SATS did not "interfere in any way with cargo that has been entrusted to us for transport.

"Our official standpoint is that we transport all cargo after having screened it by means of X-rays and other means for the sake of aircraft and passenger safety. We are investigating the matter, and view it in a serious light," he said.

He could not explain how the tapes could have been wiped clean and could not say whether another agent could have intercepted the tapes and interfered with them.

Mr Craig Matthew, WTN cameraman, said nothing remained of the church service at Lawaai-kamp which he had filmed.

The images could not be wiped out by X-Ray machines at airports and it would need strong magnetism to erase the tapes which were packed in normal plastic shipping bags and properly tied, he said.

● Lawaai-kamp's residents have till today to move or face legal efforts to evict them. They have appealed that they be allowed to stay and that Lawaai-kamp be upgraded.

Department pulls back its journal

23 (23) By Claire Robertson
Pretoria Bureau

Star 3/1/88

The Department of Home Affairs has withdrawn the latest edition of its journal, *Civitas*, in which an editorial calls for unity among all races in South Africa.

It appears in the issue commemorating the Huguenot Festival, and was distributed and withdrawn on Friday. A spokesman would not give reasons.

The editorial says that although several derogatory terms are used by the various races to describe other races, they all make up "one *volk*" (one people).

It says: "We call one another 'Kaaskoppe, Boere, Hotnots, Porras or *Seekaffers*, Yanks, Pommies or *Rooinekke*, *Aitaais*, *Keffiegriek*, Kaffirs or Bantu, Frogs, Nazis and everything Polish, Russian or Hungarian is 'Communist'.

'HAS LAID A CORNERSTONE'

"But each one of us, whatever we are called, has laid a cornerstone in the building of our country.

"Dias laid the cornerstone of the 'Porras'; Van Riebeeck that of the 'Kaaskoppe'; the Huguenots that of the 'Frogs'; the Strandlopers that of the 'Hotnots'; Shaka and others that of the 'kaffirs' and so on.

"But however we feel about one another, we are one big cornerstone. The cornerstone of South Africa. One people. Each and every one of us builds the walls of South Africa.

"Whatever we think of ourselves, each one has done his part in the construction. Let us take one another's hand and continue to build to make this happen."

Ellison Mohlabe

Secretary:

Claire Thompson

Partnership and Constituency:

At present 4 full-time employers and the volunteers working in the organisation constitute the membership.

and Objectives:

We run a complaints service for workers in the Witwatersrand. We also help workers from other areas. We deal with complaints about wages, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, contracts, pensions, overtime, sickpay etc. We train people to deal with these complaints. We are available to train people from other organisations. We aim to give people working in our office background to the complaints e.g. unemployment, accidents and safety, migrant labour. We review complaints to detect and analyse trends e.g. UIF, the workmen's compensation Act, contract labour.

ities and Resources:

Developing training materials:

Other Resources: Industrial Council Agreements and wage determinations. Industrial laws; WCA Act; UIF Act Cheddie and Silver, Health and Safety in the work place.

Programmes:

Teaching skills in complaints; Seminars on the workmen's Compensation Act and accidents; Project on unemployment insurance; Self-education.

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JUNE. - August

NPU moves against top ad agency

243
MANDY JEAN WOODS

b1/2000
2/6/88

THE Newspaper Press Union (NPU) has called in its R500 000 Freedman Rossi/BBDO guarantee, NPU Agency Guarantee Committee chairman Graham King said yesterday.

Ad agencies are required by the NPU to put up collateral equal to two months' billings.

And in a dramatic, unrelated move, five of the agency's seven directors resigned last Friday and formed a new ad agency, U5, which opened its doors for business yesterday. They have since been joined by more than 20 former Freedman Rossi/BBDO staff.

Grey Financial Services is a minority shareholder in the new agency and will put up its media guarantees.

Freedman Rossi/BBDO finance director Hans Scheffer, the only remaining director, said the agency's MD Graham Tones also resigned on Friday and was pursuing his own interests.

King said the committee decided to call in the guarantee on Monday after agency representatives cancelled a Friday meeting at which the company's financial situation was to be discussed.

Scheffer said the guarantee would be met.

The agency's debts to NPU members, over and above the guarantee, ran into "several hundred thousand rands", King said.

Scheffer said "irreconcilable differences" had led to the mass resignations.

"The NPU decision about two weeks ago to withdraw our credit facilities contributed significantly to the break-up of the agency," he said.

Normally the agency would have had up to 60 days to pay for ads.

Scheffer said the heart of the business had gone and there was "no doubt the company would, in all probability, be wound up".

flets were distributed in
king residents to attend a
officials this evening.

in terms of the Squatter Act more
than a month ago
Apart from certain officials, po-

orities

The most pressing concern of
residents yesterday was the fact

and no newcomers may move into
the area

Stellenbosch petition protests against curbs

Own Correspondent
216/88 (243)

CAPE TOWN — More than 230 people living or working in Stellenbosch have signed a petition calling on Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha to revoke the Government's "undemocratic and repressive measures" against the Press.

A statement by the petition organisers is to be published tomorrow in Afrikaans in the *Weekly Mail*.

Among the signatories are Dr Esther Lagtogan of the National Democratic Movement, Professor Herman Gillomee of the

University of Cape Town's political science department and Professor Sampie Terreblanche, one of 34 Stellenbosch University academics who severed ties with the National Party before last year's election.

A spokesman for the organisers, Mr Eugene Lourens, said the petition had been signed by a "wide range" of people.

It reads: "We are of the opinion that freedom of the Press is one of the most important pillars of any democratic society."

The signatories said they viewed the action taken by the Government against *New Nation*, *South* and the *Volkstem* in a "se-

rious light" and called on Mr Botha to revoke the Government's "undemocratic" measures.

Other academics who have signed the petition include the vice-rector of the University of the Western Cape, Professor Jaap Durand, Professor Willem van Vuuren of UWC and Stellenbosch University academics Professor Johan Degenaar, Professor Hennie Kotze, Professor Willie Breytenbach.

A co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*, Mr Anton Harber, confirmed that the statement would appear in tomorrow's edition.

NPU calls in agency's guarantee

By Sven Lünsche

The Newspaper Press Union (NPU) yesterday acted strongly against troubled advertising agency Freedman and Rossi BBDO yesterday, when it withdrew the agency's R500 000 guarantee.

Advertising agencies are required to provide a financial guarantee equal to two months' billings

NPU agency guarantee committee chairman Graham King said this morning the agency's outstanding debts exceeded their guarantee by several hundred thousand rands

"When questioned on their financial position the agency refused to comment and when they cancelled a meeting on Friday we had no option but to call in the guarantee," Mr King said.

Market sources said that apart from debts for advertising services, Freedman and Rossi BBDO also owed similar amounts to other firms and that it was close to liquidation

In a separate development several senior members of the Freedman and Rossi BBDO have broken away with the financial backing of the Grey Philips Group and started up on their own. The new group is to be called U5 and it is expected that a number of existing clients will join in the move.

The new agency, which opened its doors yesterday has two sets of partners, Grey Financial Services which has a minority equity stake and the five senior partners Mike Freedman, Mike Rossi, Andrew Clare, Sam Michael and John Montgomery.

"We were approached to provide the financial backing for this new venture and had no hesitation in agreeing," Edo Foll, Grey Group deputy chairman said last night

Argus maintains strong growth and profit record

Star 3/6/88

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By Ann Crotty

The excellent performance reported by the Argus group at the half-way stage was sustained during the second half and has enabled management to report a 74 percent surge in taxed income on a 23 percent increase in turnover for the 12 months to end-March

A final dividend of 425c a share has been declared bringing the total for the financial year to 600c.

The strong improvement in margins, from 6,8 percent to 8,6 percent, and a sharp reduction in interest payments, from R9,4 million to R5,4 million, meant that the group was able to report trading income of R84 million on a turnover of just over R1 billion

A hike in investment income to R7,8 million from R2,8 million lifted the improvement at the taxed profit level to 76 percent, equivalent to R51 million. After stripping out minority interests, attributable earnings showed an increase of 77 percent to R27,9 million (R15,7 million). To this was added R12,6 million (R5,6 million) representing the group's share of retained earnings of associated companies.

So bottom line attributable

Separate listing for newspapers

Although it is difficult to get any sort of enthusiastic response from market players in the current investment climate, plans to get a separate listing for Argus Newspapers are likely to be well received.

Argus group management has announced that as a result of the group's development over the past 10 years it now feels that it is both "logical and commercially beneficial to its shareholders to rationalise its newspaper business by incorporating it into a separate company."

Initially the newspaper company will be wholly owned by Argus, but at a later stage Argus shareholders will be given the opportunity to become shareholders in a separately listed company through a rights issue.

The stated benefits of such a move include:

- To enable the existing newspaper division to be readily identifiable as a newspaper publishing company,
- To allow for the concentration of specialist management expertise in newspaper publishing, and thus improve profitability;
- To provide taxation benefits and savings;
- To facilitate employee share participation and;
- To provide cash reserves for Argus, through the listing of the newspaper company, for further desirable acquisitions and/or expansion programmes.

This is the sort of talk a healthy market likes to hear

But given current market conditions, a listing looks some way down the line. However, management is in no hurry and is in the comfortable position of being able to await a strengthening in market sentiment to implement its plans

Earnings at the Argus were up a massive 89 percent to R40 million (R21,3 million) On a per share basis this is equivalent to R20,29 (R10,98) and puts the share on an historic price/earnings ratio of a meagre 4,4 times on yesterday's share price of R90. This compares with a sector average of 6 times, which means that an upward revision of the share price must be on the cards.

The strong improvement in

operating margins was due chiefly to the rationalisation of production and distribution facilities between TML and Argus Newspapers In addition margins benefited from a general improvement in asset management The sharp drop in interest payments in part reflects CNA -Gallo's healthy cash position but also the generally enhanced cash-generating ability of the group

With the exception of Hortors,

which reported a loss for the period, the group's major subsidiaries, Argus Newspapers, CNA-Gallo, and CTP Holdings, each contributed to the sharp improvement in performance

The Argus Newspapers, which remains the strongest single contributor, enjoyed an 86 percent increase in earnings Management reports that advertising demand was "firm and strong circulation gains were achieved by the Star, Sowetan and Pretoria News"

CNA-Gallo, in which the group has a 33 percent stake, saw a 76 percent increase in its earnings Attributable earnings at 46 percent-held CTP Holdings, were up 80 percent

The group's major associate interests, which contributed a massive R12,6 million (R5,6 million) to earnings, include a 25 percent stake in Masters and a 40 percent stake in TML with TML accounting for about R10,5 million

For financial 1989 management seems "cautiously optimistic" and believes that provided there are no adverse changes in the political and economic environment earnings should again increase "but not at the rate of the two previous years."

New-look Staffrider

RAVAN Press publishing house launched its new-look *Staffrider* in Johannesburg last night.

Staffrider, edited by Mr Andries Walter Oliphant, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. *Sowetan 2/6/88*

A bumper commemorative issue featuring a selection of the best work published in *Staffrider* during the past decade is planned for later this year.

The quarterly magazine has dropped its A4 format for a smaller, more compact design.

Another new feature is the introduction of provocative critical discussion.

In this issue, distinguished actor, John Kani, associate director of the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, speaks about his role in South African theatre and society.

It sells for R3,95 (excl GST)

Hortors ^(CBS) ^{See 3/6/88} ⁽²⁴³⁾ shows loss

By Finance Staff

Argus subsidiary Hortors continued to show a loss for the twelve months to end-March, but the R802 000 loss before extraordinary items was slightly down on the previous year's R1,176 million loss. A total dividend of 4,5c was maintained over the period.

Commenting on the results the directors said the loss was mainly due to the losses of Kalamazoo Business Systems (KBS), but last year's restructuring of KBS is already showing results and breakeven was reached in the last two months' trading.

The dividend income from Walhold and CTP increased by 42 percent to R508 524.

Shareholders are advised that negotiations are in progress with CTP and Argus, which could materially affect the nature of the company. The directors said that the negotiations were at an advanced stage.

Forman counsel alleges bid to pervert justice

Star 3/6/88
By Bruce Anderson

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An article on Miss Reeva Forman, published in The Sunday Star during interdict proceedings against *Style* magazine, was a "purposeful, sinister attempt to pervert the course of justice, to render it ineffectual and, in so doing, to destroy Miss Reeva Forman," a senior counsel told a Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

The submission was made by Mr Michael Kuper SC, who appears for two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, in a case before Mr Justice DJ Curlewis in which the two companies are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* magazine in June 1985.

The defendants include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*.

Mr Kuper said the article by Miss Anne Quayle, a former Sunday Star journalist, had tried "to defeat the interdict by producing evidence to the court that the interdict could not stand because the information (about the Forman organisation) was public knowledge".

"The article was a manifest attempt to create the impression that what was said in *Style* was nothing more than the truth," said Mr Kuper.

Earlier, Mr Kuper read from a computer printout of an internal Sunday Star memorandum which, he submitted, showed that lawyers acting for *Style* at the time colluded with The Sunday Star to republish aspects of the allegedly defamatory article.

Mr Kuper said Caxton, by "issuing the invitation to The Sunday Star to republish", had perverted the course of justice because Caxton was interdicted.

He said this had been contempt of court because it was an attempt to influence the judge. He told Mr Justice Curlewis "The weight your Lordship should put on this document (the printout of a memorandum) is the weight of reliable and unchallenged testimony."

CONTEMPT OF COURT

Mr Kuper, commenting on The Sunday Star's published reports at the time, said the newspaper appeared to be sensitive to any suggestion that it might be attempting to influence the courts because it had carried a statement saying that it held back on the publication of the article "so that it could get both sides", said Mr Kuper.

He described this statement by the newspaper as "a burst of journalistic virtue — proclaiming it gives both sides of the story".

Mr Kuper also submitted that articles on discrepancies in Miss Reeva Forman's age, according to her various ID documents, had originated from Mr Sam Aarons, a legal adviser for Caxton Ltd, publisher of *Style*.

Mr Kuper submitted that it could not have been a coincidence that three newspapers had carried stories on Miss Forman's age at the same time.

This alleged placing of the articles by Caxton was "part of the established modus operandi" of the company, namely, "using newspapers to do its work for it", said Mr Kuper.

Mr Kuper described Caxton as a "tricky, devious litigant" and said that the other defendants in the case had "thrown in their lot with Caxton".

The hearing continues

Ever-growing pressure on the press

Sfr 3/6/85

THE LIST covers every significant feature of life in South Africa's electronic media

A report on the pressures on the press in South Africa is always a bewildering assignment. Where does one begin? There are just so many pressures and they come from all sides — and they are always increasing.

Perhaps the worst at this time is the ban on the two weekly papers, *New Nation* and *South New Nation*, with a largely black circulation of 37 000, and *South*, with a mainly black and coloured circulation of 10 000 have been banned under the emergency regulations for up to three months.

Another four newspapers are threatened with closure and an unknown number of others have been required to submit copies of their publications to the secret board of government employees which decides which papers are "a threat to public order", "foment revolution", "promote banned organisations" — and I must say I always find this a bizarre element of the restrictive media regulations —

From a paper delivered to the recent general assembly of the International Press Institute in Istanbul, Turkey, by Raymond Louw, editor and publisher of Southern Africa Report, Johannesburg.

"stand together") which was planned to appear in the rural black community at Oudshoorn in the Cape, with a print order of 9 000 to 12 000 copies every six weeks, but failed to meet that commitment because of the intermittent detention of its three courageous editors, the sabotage of its deliveries and other harassment, another "community" paper, *Grassroots*, in Cape Town, bigger than *Saamstaan* but details of its sales are not known, which is being subjected to the additional burden of an inquiry into foreign funding. *Out of Step*, a quarterly run by the End Conscription Campaign and *Work in Progress*, a bi-monthly journal with 14 000 circulation.

'The government in its zeal had obviously not realised that closure could be a two-edged sword.'

"prevent the ending of the state of emergency", which means that they too may be faced with closure.

Condemnation by this board of inquisitors, who act through the Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, is arbitrary and purely subjective. A decision is based on a study of more than one issue of the paper, but, according to the Minister, the "tone" of articles can be a deciding factor.

One newspaper was accused of promoting the image of a banned organisation by publishing a story about the ANC announcing willingness to have peace talks with the SA Government. The story also appeared in most other papers in the country but none of them were accused of this "crime". That may sound absurd, but the end result could still be banning of the paper for three months — which, of course, could lead to its being closed down.

The known papers under threat, in addition to the banned Catholic bush-ops-funded *New Nation* and *South* are the *Weekly Mail*, started by several displaced journalists after the closure of the *Rand Daily Mail* in 1985, which has a 22 000 circulation of mainly upper class whites and a few blacks. *Saamstaan* (which means

while being banned and is using the period on staff training. But for the *Sowetan* with substantial advertising, a ban could mean closure. Though owned by a big group, it would not easily be able to sustain unproductive overheads for that period. This, of course, is an extremely serious problem for the mainstream press, some of which have already had editions held up — a threat was made to ban an edition of *The Star*, the country's biggest evening paper.

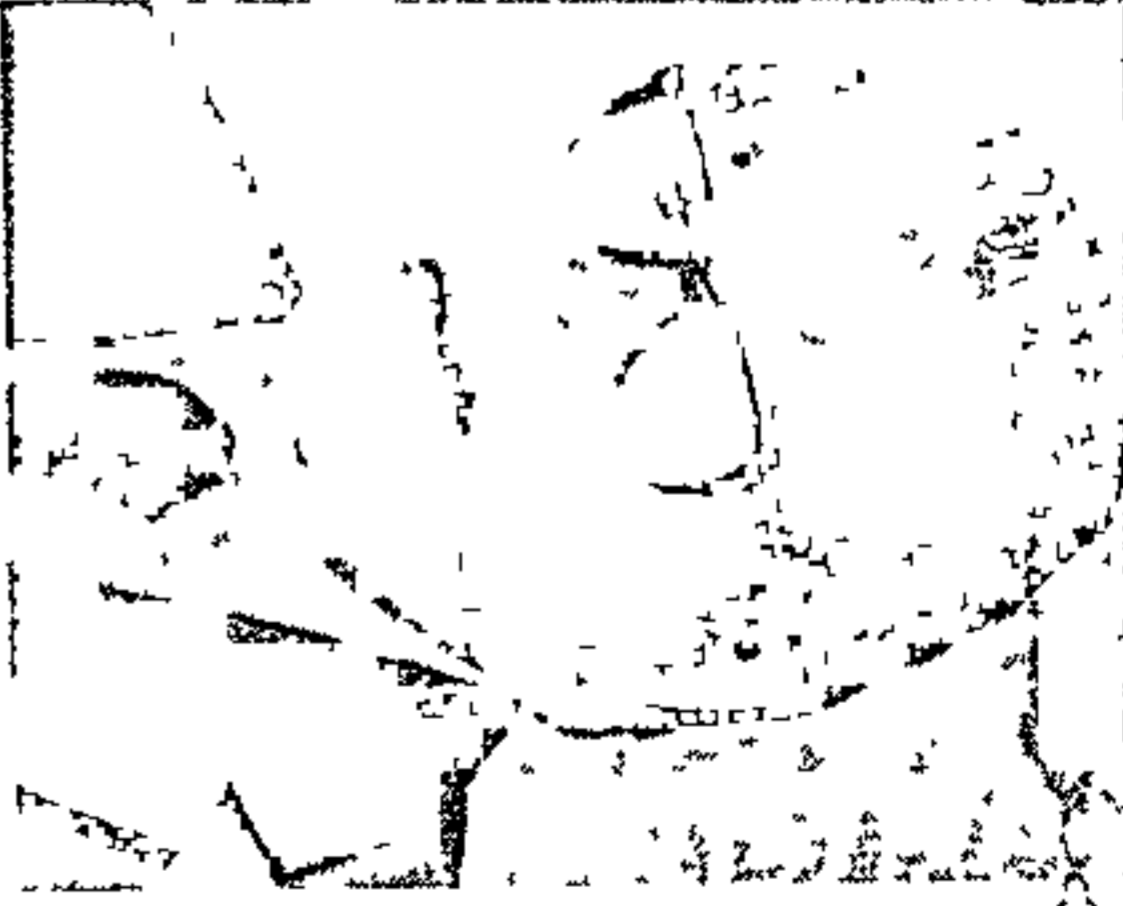
Confiscation of a few issues, let alone a three months' ban, could mean the difference between profit and loss on a year's operations for a major newspaper — and that could result in permanent closure.

These fears are certainly not lessened by the constant example of the "alternative" papers being threatened. Another pressure point is the continual threat of legal action against editors and journalists. Most opposition newspaper editors suffer constant harassment. Most have a stack of complaints against them for what they have published or for the activities of their journalists, many related to demands for their sources of information. Failure to comply can earn two-year jail sentences.

Harassment is of course a major pressure and the worst of this is detention without trial. It is held over journalists as a constant threat. There are also the restriction orders imposed on detainees on their release. Five journalists are in detention, under various security laws.

One, Brian Sokutu, in his 30s, has been held since June 12 1986 — a total of 699 days, mostly in solitary confinement. Another long-held detainee is internationally known editor and US Harvard University Nieman fellow, Zwellakhe Sisulu (37), editor of the banned *New Nation* who was arrested on December 12 1986 and has been held for 517 days. The reasons have not been given.

Other forms of harassment have been the detention, mostly for brief periods, but accompanied by interrogation, often under threat of worse treatment, of reporters and photogra-



Louw "detention without trial is a constant threat"

phers on assignment, and arrest and trial on charges of breaking censorship laws, some of which stuck and some of which are thrown out of court. (Half of the country's editors have convictions of one kind or another for breaches of censorship laws.)

'The list (of government restrictions) covers every significant feature of life.'

Telephone tapping and interference with mail is regarded as routine. Harassment varies only in degree of severity between SA and the so-called "independent" black homelands and between white and black journalists.

Demands for information sources has had a stifling effect on informants' assaults and detentions of journalists in the black "homelands" has discouraged papers from sending staff there, and the murderous fighting in Pietermaritzburg, where more than 600 people have been killed, has resulted in the authorities and the warring sides imposing considerable additional pressures on journalists.

"Normal" emergency restrictions require journalists to absent themselves from unrest areas and to move out of camera and sound tape range.

These complement the many existing restrictions on publishing information about defence matters, strategic supplies, occurrences in prisons, the treatment of detainees, the state-ments of banned people, and so on

South Africa's electronic media broadcast what the authorities want and there is little risk that SABC-TV would produce a documentary questioning the police role in a shooting as TV and the BBC in Britain have done over the IRA killings. The only similarity between the Gibraltar killings and a similar incident in South Africa would be the reluctance of officials to give more than the flimsiest details about what had occurred, that is if the authorities decided to release information at all.

The emergency regulations lay down that nothing may be published in newspapers about "unrest", the category into which this incident falls, without official permission. This would prevent publication of details of such a killing except, perhaps, the bare statement that three people had been killed in a shooting with no reference to the police involvement.

If the authorities did disclose the information, the Police Act (which prohibits publication of information about police activities unless steps have been taken to ensure accuracy) would prevent the media from alleging police misconduct.

In practice, however, the papers would insulate that there had been irregularity, ask questions of the authorities and publish the answers and some aspects of the story would appear in some of the papers. Mean-

while, the state-controlled electronic media would give an account justifying the official version, which, of course, would tend to throw doubt in the public mind on the press version.

There is a lesson for the rest of the world in all this. Before this government came to power 40 years ago, press freedom in South Africa was at much the level as in Britain. South Africa enjoyed with minor exceptions the considerable freedoms that the British press had. But, take note that the speaker that follows me is Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer* of London, whose talk is about the growing censorship of the British press.

And that adds point to the lesson, which is, of course, beware, the censorship disease is catching!

Cap. 103 4/6/88
**Press order:
Govt may
appeal** *(243)*

BLOEMFONTEIN. —

The Minister of Law and Order and the Commissioner of Police have been granted leave by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein to appeal against a decision that an order by the commissioner was void and without legal effect.

The order, made on January 8, 1987, prohibited editors from publishing any advertisement or report "calculated to improve or promote the public image of an organization unlawful under the Internal Security Act".

It also prohibited the media from "commending, defending, explaining or justifying any action, policy or strategy of such organization against the authority of the state".

The decision that the order was void was made by Mr Justice H Daniels in the Witwatersrand Supreme Court on January 29, 1987. It was granted to the Argus Printing and Publishing Co Ltd and South African Associated Newspapers Ltd.

— Sapa

SA's biggest defamation case draws to a close

After five weeks in the Rand Supreme Court and hundreds of thousands of rands in legal costs, the Reeva Forman defamation case — the largest defamation damages claim in South African legal history — is drawing to a close.

In the case before Mr Justice D J Curlewis, two Forman companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* magazine in 1985.

The defendants in the case include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*.

During his closing argument this week, Mr Michael Kuper SC, who appears for the two Forman companies, submitted that the *Style* article had three main themes:

- That through trickery, the triad (of Miss Forman and her two companies) exploited needy people by parting them from their money
- That by brainwashing, modelled on the "appalling" practices of William Penn Patrick (an American man who Miss Forman is quoted as describing as her mentor in the article) people on courses were manipulated into the worship of Reeva Forman and the creation of a cult around her
- That at the heart of the Reeva organisation there was not a genuine training venture. There was instead a massive confidence trick because the operation depended on a mathematical progression of

Star 4/6/85

BRUCE ANDERSON

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recurring which could not be sustained

Mr Kuper submitted that Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, the editor of *Style* had been "reckless" in deciding to use the Reeva article. Mrs Hattingh had said in an affidavit that she had proceeded on the basis that the factual allegations in the article were correct.

During Mr Kuper's argument on this aspect, Mr Justice Curlewis said "But surely all she (Mrs Hattingh) did was get bad advice from her legal adviser."

Yesterday Mr Willie Oshry QC began his argument by saying that no lawyer acting for *Style* had asked The Sunday Star to re-publish aspects of the *Style* article at the time of the original interdict proceedings against *Style* in 1985.

After a request from Mr Oshry, Mr Justice Curlewis also ordered newspapers to make it clear that the allegation of collusion (which has been made by the plaintiffs) was not aimed at any attorney or counsel presently appearing for *Style*, but was a submission concerning a different set of lawyers who appeared for *Style* during interdict proceedings three years ago.

Mr Oshry was then granted an adjournment until Monday to consider calling further witnesses on the issue of alleged collusion between *Style* and The Sunday Star.

REEVA FORMAN The businesswoman who is asking a court for R3 million defamation damages from a magazine



ELECTION BAN ²⁴³

THE Lenasia-based newspaper, *The Indicator*, announced that it would not accept advertisements promoting the municipal elections scheduled for October ^{Sowetan 1/16/68}

Mr Ameen Akhalwala, editor of the twice-monthly newspaper, yesterday said that a number of potential candidates had approached his newspaper about booking advertising space

"We are committed to giving two or more sides of a story. However, the government has made that impossible, more especially since the new emergency regulations make it a crime to call for a boycott of the elections and to quote restricted organisations," he said

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NOW IT'S
STOFFEL
VERSUS
STOFFEL
IN A
R4,7M
ADVERT
LAUNCH

ST

243 5/16/88

By LESTER VENTER
Political Correspondent

THE Government will be placing official advertisements in the "alternative media" if it follows recommendations of a R4,7-million campaign it has commissioned from an advertising agency.

Newspapers such as the Weekly Mail and New Nation (temporarily closed by the Government) may be "needed" to counter propaganda against the local authority elections in October, says the agency, McCann.

Such a move would highlight an ironical clash of interests between the Minister of Information, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, and the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Mr Botha is moving to contain or close newspapers he says are fostering a revolutionary climate.

Dr Van der Merwe may need those papers to communicate with the people he wants to motivate to the polling booths.

Suspect

"It's ridiculous," said Mr Peter Soal, Progressive Federal Party spokesman on information.

"Now *shim* Stoffel must advertise in the papers *dom* Stoffel is closing down."

The agency's proposal said: "The Government's credibility as an agent for future reform is suspect."

So it has suggested the Government's message be carried by two cartoon characters, like the owl and the chameleon in Nuustak.

"Such characters would succeed also in this campaign to convey to the target audience facts which would under normal circumstances be unacceptable," an agency spokesman said.

The Government was embarrassed and angered by the leak of the proposal to the Conservative Party on Friday.

Dr Van der Merwe said he had planned to hold a Press conference next week to explain details of the campaign.

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Court orders Press to clarify reports

SUE RUSSELL

A RAND Supreme Court judge ordered on Friday that newspapers make it clear that no allegations of collusion had been made against the present legal team acting for Caxton Ltd in the Reeva Forman cosmetics case.

Mr Justice Curlewis made the ruling after counsel for Caxton, W Oshry QC, said he objected to press reports of argument by M Kuper SC who appeared on behalf of Reeva Forman Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics Ltd

Allegations of collusion between Style magazine and the Star newspaper to republish an allegedly defamatory article on the Reeva Forman companies at the time of interdict proceedings brought nearly three years ago were made by Kuper during his argument

Oshry said reports of Kuper's argument had created the impression that the allegations had been made against Caxton's present legal representatives

Forman's companies are suing Caxton for more than R3m for loss of profits which they claim were caused by the allegedly defam-

atory article in the July 1985 issue of Style

The judge granted Oshry an adjournment until Monday to call further witnesses. Oshry said he wished to contact former Star editor Brendan Nicholson, and lawyers acting for Style during the original interdict proceedings

New bid to have editor Sisulu released

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~~243~~

Sowetan 6/6/88

ATTORNEYS for detained editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu are to go to the appeal division in their legal battle to have the courts order his release from detention.

SOWETAN Correspondent

Mr Sisulu, editor of the *New Nation*, has been in detention for almost 18 months

Attorney Mrs Priscilla Jana said that a further appeal would soon be lodged with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein.

He is being held in terms of the emergency regulations and has not been charged with any offence. The Minister of Law and Order has given Mr Sisulu's involvement in the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) as the reason for his continued detention.

The present state of emergency expires automatically on June 9. Last year the lapsing of the emergency proclamation coincided with the release of a considerable number of detainees

Appeal

Asked whether there were signs that Mr Sisulu might be released before the appeal could be heard, Mrs Jana said there were no indications of what the authorities intended.

Last week a full bench of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court turned down an appeal against an earlier Rand Supreme Court decision in which it was found that the judge could not order Mr Sisulu's release

The New Nation, which was suspended in terms of emergency censorship provisions two months ago, is expected to come back into operation after the end of the present emergency

Lawyers and Editor deny collusion at Forman hearing

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Star 7/6/88

By Bruce Anderson

Two members of the Bar, three attorneys and the Editor-in-Chief of The Star appeared in the Johannesburg Supreme Court yesterday, all denying a submission to the court that there had been "collusion" between *Style* magazine and The Sunday Star which resulted in the publication three years ago of an article on Miss Reeva Forman in the Sunday newspaper.

The legal witnesses called by Mr Willie Oshry QC were Mr Emanuel Zar SC, who read an uncontested statement, a junior counsel, Mr Chris Jordaan, Mr Phillip Gefen, attorney, Mr Peter Brinsloo, attorney, and Mr David Scholtz, attorney.

Mr Peter Reynolds, The Star's main legal adviser was in court but did not give evidence as he was not in Johannesburg at the time of the issue in dispute.

The case, before Mr

Justice DJ Curlewis, involves two of Miss Reeva Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, which are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published by *Style* in 1985.

The defendants in the case include *Style*'s editor, publishers, printers and distributors.

The evidence of the Editor-in-Chief of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, dealt mainly with an internal Sunday Star memorandum written by Mr Brendan Nicholson, a former news editor of the Sunday Star who now lives in Perth, Australia.

Mr Michael Kuper SC, who appears for the Forman companies, has submitted that the memorandum was an apparent request to The Sunday Star by a lawyer — acting for *Style* at the time of the interdict proceedings in 1985 — to republish aspects of the allegedly defamatory *Style*

article at the time of the interdict against *Style*.

Mr Oshry, who appears for *Style*, has denied that any lawyer acting for *Style* at the time of the interdict proceedings in 1985 made such a request to The Sunday Star.

Mr Tyson told the court that, shortly before the publication of the article on Miss Forman in The Sunday Star, public feeling on "pyramid selling" was running high.

A Sunday Star reporter, Miss Anne Quayle, spent about three months investigating complaints to The Star about the Reeva organisation and was assigned to write a report.

Mr Tyson said he "held back" on the publication of the article as a result of an undertaking to Miss Forman that he would not publish until its author, Miss Quayle, had spoken to a number of witnesses nominated by Miss Forman. Mr Tyson said he gave the undertaking in the interests of

ensuring a "balanced" report.

In the interim, *Style* published an article on the same subject and members of his staff were angry at being "scooped", said Mr Tyson.

Miss Forman applied for an interdict against *Style* magazine and Mr Tyson said he asked Mr Nicholson to contact lawyers and see if the article on Miss Forman could be published on Sunday, June 30, without contravening the sub judice rule (with regard to the interdict proceedings) or committing contempt of court.

One of the Star's attorneys told Mr Tyson on Saturday, June 29, that, although the article was defamatory, its publication was defensible in terms of public interest. The attorney, Mr David Scholtz, said the article would not be contempt of court or sub judice but that some of the allegations in the article should be "toned down".

During cross-examination by Mr Kuper, Mr Tyson told the court he accepted that the memorandum written by Mr Nicholson was authentic. Mr Tyson said he "must have" seen the memorandum and had no reason to believe that any of the facts stated in it were incorrect.

He agreed with Mr Kuper that the content of the memorandum amounted to a "dishonourable and disreputable" request but said he had brushed aside the request and had been "irritated" by it.

He told Mr Kuper he had published the article for his own reasons and was "unaware of any possibility of collusion".

Asked about the undertaking given to Miss Forman, he said that this fell away with the threat of litigation and that balance was kept by eliminating from the published article most of the allegations made by complainants.

The hearing continues.

Banned papers to print again

(2/2)
CAPE TOWN — Two publications restricted under emergency media regulations will be back on the streets next week

New Nation, which was banned for three months, is planning a special re-publication issue and *South*, which was banned last month until the expiry of the current state of emergency on Friday, will also be back in circulation —
Own Correspondent.

Article 'attacked Reeva, not her organisation'

Star 8/6/85 (243)

By Bruce Anderson

An allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* magazine had been "essentially an attack on Miss Reeva Forman herself and not her organisation", a senior counsel acting for the publishers of *Style* submitted in his closing argument in a Rand Supreme Court yesterday

Mr Willie Oshry QC submitted that the article said that while Miss Forman "portrays herself in a particular manner, in truth she is hypocritical and dishonest"

SUBSTANTIAL

He said that this meaning in the article represented the "real sting" of the article, and it was on this basis that payment of R35 000 had already been made to Miss Forman

The R35 000 was quite a substantial sum for a personal defamation, said Mr Oshry

At this point Mr Justice D J Curlewis asked Mr Oshry if any apology or expression of regret had been made to Miss Forman with the settlement

"No, my lord," replied Mr Oshry

Mr Michael Kuper, SC, who appears on behalf of two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, had earlier completed his closing ad-

dress to the court in a case in which the two Forman companies are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article published in *Style* in 1985

The defendants in the case include the magazine's editor, publishers, printers and distributors

Mr Oshry submitted that the *Style* article was essentially an article about Miss Forman and would have been understood by readers as relating to her

After examining the dictionary definition of the words "cult" and "brainwashing", which had been used in the *Style* article, Mr Oshry submitted that the words could not be claimed to be defamatory

Mr Oshry referred the court to Mr Kuper's submission that the defendant's plea of justification was a spurious plea which was simply an attempt to smear the Reeva organisation under the privilege of court

He said the submission by Mr Kuper was "quite unjustified"

Mr Oshry also referred to the fact that Miss Forman had been granted an interdict preventing the publication of the allegedly defamatory article in *Style* in 1985

"I am submitting, as a fact, that no damage was suffered because she (Miss Forman) was vindicated by

the court order within a very short time of the article's appearance," said Mr Oshry

Mr Oshry responded to Mr Kuper's allegation of collusion between The Sunday Star and a lawyer who had acted for *Style* at the time of interdict proceedings against the magazine

Mr Kuper has said that the alleged collusion resulted in the re-publication of aspects of the *Style* article in The Sunday Star

Mr Oshry said this allegation of Mr Kuper's represented "the biggest attack of all" against Caxton Ltd (publishers of *Style*) in that Mr Kuper had described Caxton's conduct as litigants as "tricky, dishonest, deceitful and collusive"

JOURNALISTS

Referring to Mr Kuper's allegations, Mr Oshry said "It seems that counsel are in a much happier position than journalists — they (counsel) can say what they like and get away with it. If a journalist says it, he has to pay"

"In point of fact there was no collusion between *Style's* lawyers and The Star — no matter what the printout (an internal memorandum at The Star which formed the basis of Mr Kuper's allegation) said," Mr Oshry told the court

The case continues

Two banned publications to reappear

ARGUS 26/11/88
Staff Reporter

TWO publications restricted under South Africa's emergency media regulations will be back next week

New Nation, banned for three months, is planning a special re-publication issue and South, banned last month until the expiry of the current emergency on Friday, will also be in circulation

A spokesman for Bishop Reginald Orsmond, chairman of the South African Catholic Bishops Publishing Company, publishers of New Nation, said they were assuming the emergency would be renewed and that the media regulations would be substantially the same

"That means the Minister will have to go through the same exercise as last time before he can take further action against New Nation," he said

"He will have to examine three issues and make warnings as he did before restricting New Nation"

Mr Rashid Seria, editor of South, said the newspaper would be back next Tuesday

Attack on Forman was plain to see — counsel

Star 9/6/88

243

By Bruce Anderson

An average person "sitting on the Emmentaria bus" would have read an allegedly defamatory article in *Style* magazine as "a vicious, sustained attack" on Miss Reeva Forman and her two companies.

This was submitted yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court by Mr Michael Kuper, SC, who appears on behalf of two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, in a trial before Mr Justice DJ

Curlewis

The companies are claiming more than R3 million in damages for an allegedly defamatory article in *Style*

The defendants in the trial include the editor, publishers, printers and distributors of *Style*

Mr Kuper was replying to the closing argument made by the leader of *Style's* legal team, Mr Willie Oshry, QC

In his argument, Mr Oshry dealt with the evidence given by two expert witnesses who had been called by Mr Kuper to testify on the question of damages in the trial

They were Mr William Kirsh and Mr Charles Stride of the Johannesburg auditing firm Fisher, Hoffman & Stride

Mr Oshry said that soon after Mr Kirsh, an articled clerk, began giving evidence it became apparent that he was not an expert and had expressed opinions on matters of which he had no knowledge

"Insofar as he expressed an opinion, his (Mr Kirsh's) evidence must be disregarded," said Mr Oshry

'Dogmatic'

Mr Stride, the senior partner of the firm, "was inclined to be somewhat dogmatic in his views, somewhat pontifical, and looking down on us as mortals," said Mr Oshry.

He said "experts do tend to become partisan — and Mr Stride is no exception to the rule"

Mr Oshry also told the court that not a single witness had been called

to say "I didn't join" or "I didn't buy" because of the article

In response to a question from Mr Justice Curlewis, Mr Oshry said he (Mr Oshry) had not challenged the evidence of Neil Hooper, a senior *Sunday Times* reporter

Hooper had told the court he obtained information for an article on alleged discrepancies in Miss Forman's age from Mr Sam Aarons, a legal adviser for Caxton Ltd, the publishers of *Style*

The defendant's argument on the calculation of any possible damages in the trial was presented to the court by Mr Bob Nugent, a junior counsel in *Style's* legal team

Mr Nugent told Mr Justice Curlewis "Your lordship must be very careful, with respect, in getting locked in to a certain way of thinking (with regard to calculation of possible damages) — especially with the figure of R3 million being paraded about"

During his reply to the closing argument by *Style's* legal team, Mr Kuper again dealt with the question of alleged collusion between lawyers acting for *Style* at the time of the interdict proceedings against the magazine three years ago, and *The Sunday Star*

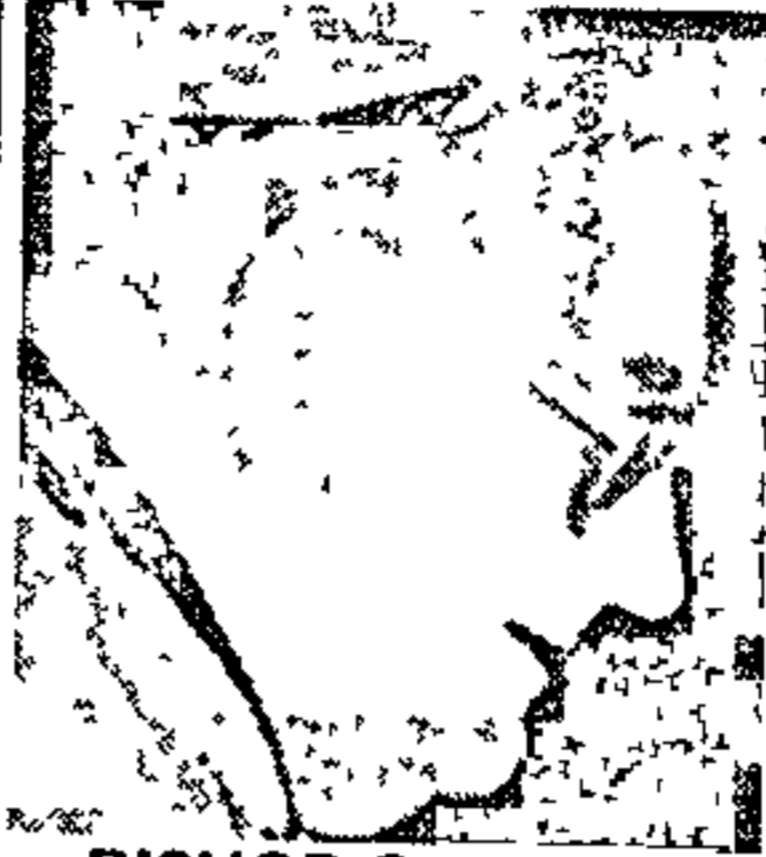
Mr Kuper has alleged, on the basis of an internal *Sunday Star* memorandum, that the "collusion" resulted in the republication of aspects of the *Style* article in *The Sunday Star*

Mr Kuper said the witnesses who could have thrown light on the alleged collusion had not been called by the defendants.

The witnesses he was referring to were Miss Phillipa Stratten, a lawyer who is working in London, and Brendan Nicholson, the former news editor of *The Sunday Star* now living in Perth.

The hearing continues

New Nation
to return ^{Some times 9/6/08}



BISHOP Orsmond.

TWO publications restricted under South Africa's emergency media regulations will be back next week. ~~(2)~~ 243

New Nation, banned for three months, is planning a special republication issue.

A spokesman for Bishop Reginald Orsmond, chairman of the South African Catholic Bishops Publishing Company, publishers of *New Nation*, said they were assuming the emergency would be renewed and that the media regulations would be substantially the same.— Sapa

Biggest defamation claim yet in SA

Forman judgment

Will be given today

By Bruce Anderson

Judgment in the Reeva Forman court action, in which two of her companies are claiming more than R3 million damages for an allegedly defamatory article in *Style* magazine, would be given today in the Rand Supreme Court, Mr Justice Curlewis has said

It is the highest defamation claim in South African legal history

The defamation suit arises from an article published by *Style* in June 1985

It was titled "Question How did Reeva Forman get to be so successful? Answer She believes in God, self-promotion (and a couple of other little things)"

An interdict she was granted in 1985 resulted in copies of the magazine going on sale without the article

Settlement payment

Miss Forman is not a party to the present proceedings, having received a settlement payment of R35 000. They were brought by two of her companies, Reeva Forman Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics

The six defendants are Caxton Ltd, the publishers of *Style* magazine, Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, the editor of the magazine, Miss Lin Sampson, the journalist

who wrote the article, CTP Web Printers, Central News Agency, and National News Distributors

The hearing began seven weeks ago on April 28. Mr Michael Kuper, SC, who appears on behalf of the Forman companies, yesterday completed his reply to the closing argument of *Style's* counsel, Mr Willie Oshry, QC

Referring to the issue of damages, and the way in which they are to be calculated, Mr Kuper told the court "Your lordship will approach them (the figures suggested by the experts) with a healthy degree of commonsense and cynicism."

Drop in sales

One of the judge's questions to Mr Kuper was "What would a jurymen say (with regard to damages) — if you accept that the article had a catastrophic effect?"

One of the submissions made by the defendants has been that a recession which began in 1985, near the time of the publication of the article, could have contributed to a drop in sales of Reeva products

Referring to this argument, Mr Kuper told the court "It is very difficult to see how the recession crept up and stabbed this company in the back on June 24"

5/10/88
2573

NEWS

'Seem'

Magazine article 'the nastiest I've

An article about Miss Reeva Forman and her organisation in the June 1985 issue of *Style* magazine can stand as the nastiest I have seen", a Rand Supreme Court judge said yesterday in his judgment on the largest defamation claim in SA legal history

Damages

Mr Justice Curlewis spent an hour giving part of his judgment yesterday in the case in which two of Miss Forman's companies, Reeva Forman Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, are claiming

more than R3 million in damages arising from the *Style* article

He has postponed the rest of his judgment — including a ruling on the amount of damages to be awarded — until Monday

The six defendants in the case are Caxton Ltd, the publishers of *Style* magazine, Mrs Marilyn Hattingh, the editor of the magazine, Miss Ian Sampson, the journalist who wrote the article, CTP Web Printers, Central News Agency, and National News Distributors

The judge described the article

BRUCE ANDERSON

as "a vicious and unprovoked attack on Miss Forman and her organisation". He added that "there was not a tittle of truth in the allegations or insinuations which were made against Miss Forman".

"There is no doubt that the article caused enormous damage to the plaintiffs," he said

The publication of the article was wide and in addition there had been a wide "dissemination"

by newspapers of the details in interdict proceedings against *Style* in 1985

The Reeva organisation was also susceptible to "the attack made by *Style*" because it was an organisation which depended upon people

Mr Justice Curlewis said the passing of information by the first defendants, Caxton Ltd, to *The Sunday Times* for a story about discrepancies in Miss Forman's age in May 1986 was "deplorable"

It was "as clear as a pikestaff"

that the information had also been passed for the same purpose to other newspapers, he said

The judge also dealt with evidence given by the Editor-in-Chief of *The Star*, Mr Harvey Tyson, regarding a request by the defendants for the republication of aspects of the *Style* story in *The Sunday Star*

"Mr Tyson said the request was 'disreputable' and he ignored it. He thought it was impertinent, and he was angry that his own people had been 'scooped'," said the judge. He accepted that Mr

Tyson had said that he had his own reasons for publishing an article on Miss Forman in *The Sunday Star*

Collusion

Mr Justice Curlewis said that Mr Peter Reynolds, *The Star's* main legal adviser, had not been called as a witness in regard to the allegation of collusion between *Style* and *The Sunday Star*. The judge noted "I'm sure that he would have nothing to do with anything disreputable."

Proceeding

REPUBLIEK
VAN
SUID-AFRIKA



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OF
SOUTH AFRICA

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Vol. 276

PRETORIA, 10 JUNIE 1988
JUNE 1988

No. 11342

PROKLAMASIE

van die

Staatspresident van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika

No. R. 99, 1988

WET OP OPENBARE VEILIGHEID, 1953

MEDIANOODREGULASIES

Kragtens die bevoegdheid my verleen by artikel 3 van die Wet op Openbare Veiligheid, 1953 (Wet 3 van 1953), vaardig ek hierby die regulasies vervat in die Bylae met ingang van 10 Junie 1988 uit.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seel van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Kaapstad, op hede die Negende dag van Junie Eenduisend Negehonderd Agt-en-tagtig.

P. W. BOTHA,
Staatspresident

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

J. C. G. BOTHA,
Minister van die Kabinet.

BYLAE

Woordomskrywing

1. In hierdie regulasies, tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

“ampsdraer”, met betrekking tot 'n organisasie, 'n lid van die beherende of uitvoerende liggaam van—

- (a) die organisasie, of
- (b) 'n tak of afdeling van die organisasie,

“beperkte byeenkoms” 'n byeenkoms ten opsigte waarvan 'n voorwaarde kragtens artikel 46 (1) (ii) van die Wet op Binnelandse Veiligheid, 1982 (Wet 74 van 1982), bepaal is of ten opsigte waarvan 'n voorwaarde, verbod of vereiste kragtens regulasie 10 (1) (d) van die Veiligheidsnoodregulasies, 1988, opgelê of van krag is;

“byeenkoms” 'n byeenkoms, toeloop of optog van enige getal persone;

“Direkteur-generaal” die Direkteur-generaal Binnelandse Sake,

PROCLAMATION

by the

State President of the Republic of South Africa

No. R. 99, 1988

PUBLIC SAFETY ACT, 1953

MEDIA EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Under the powers vested in me by section 3 of the Public Safety Act, 1953 (Act 3 of 1953), I hereby make the regulations contained in the Schedule with effect from 10 June 1988.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Cape Town this Ninth day of June, One thousand Nine hundred and Eighty-eight

P. W. BOTHA,
State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet:

J. C. G. BOTHA,
Minister of the Cabinet.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise indicates—

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the South African Police, and for the purposes of the application of a provision of these regulations in or in respect of—

- (a) a division as defined in section 1 of the Police Act, 1958 (Act 7 of 1958), means the said Commissioner or the Divisional Commissioner designated under that Act for that division, or

- (b) a self-governing territory, means the said Commissioner or the Commissioner or other officer in charge of the police force of the Government of that self-governing territory,

“Director-General” means the Director-General Home Affairs,

Govt takes draconian new steps to muzzle the media

Star 10/6/88

243

A to Z of emergency laws

PRETORIA BUREAU

Sweeping and more detailed emergency regulations aimed at the media were announced in a Government Gazette published in Pretoria yesterday.

They are part of the renewed state of emergency announced late on Thursday night by the State President, Mr P W Botha.

They include
● Nobody, without the prior consent of the Commissioner of Police or a member of a security force serving as a commissioned officer, may take any photograph or produce a television or film recording, or make a drawing or depiction of any security unrest action, including the damaging or destruction of property or the injury and killing of people
● The prohibition of any film, pictures, reports or drawings of any damaged or destroyed property or injured or dead persons or other visible signs of violence at the scene where unrest or security action is taking place, or of any injuries sustained by any person in or during unrest or security action
● The prohibition of any film, pictures, reports or drawings or sound recording of any unrest or security action or incident, including damage or destruction of property and people injured or killed

On the publishing of subversive statements, the gazette prohibits statements, either oral or written, in publications, on television, or by means of sound recording
The importation of any of these is also banned, as well as the local production or importation of foreign periodicals which contain subversive statements
The banning includes news agency business, which is defined as "activity involving the gathering, preparation, compilation, recording, processing or production of news material regarding events in the Republic and the supplying of such news material to a person for publication in a periodical which is published in the Republic or elsewhere or for broadcasting by a television or radio station situated in the Republic or elsewhere"

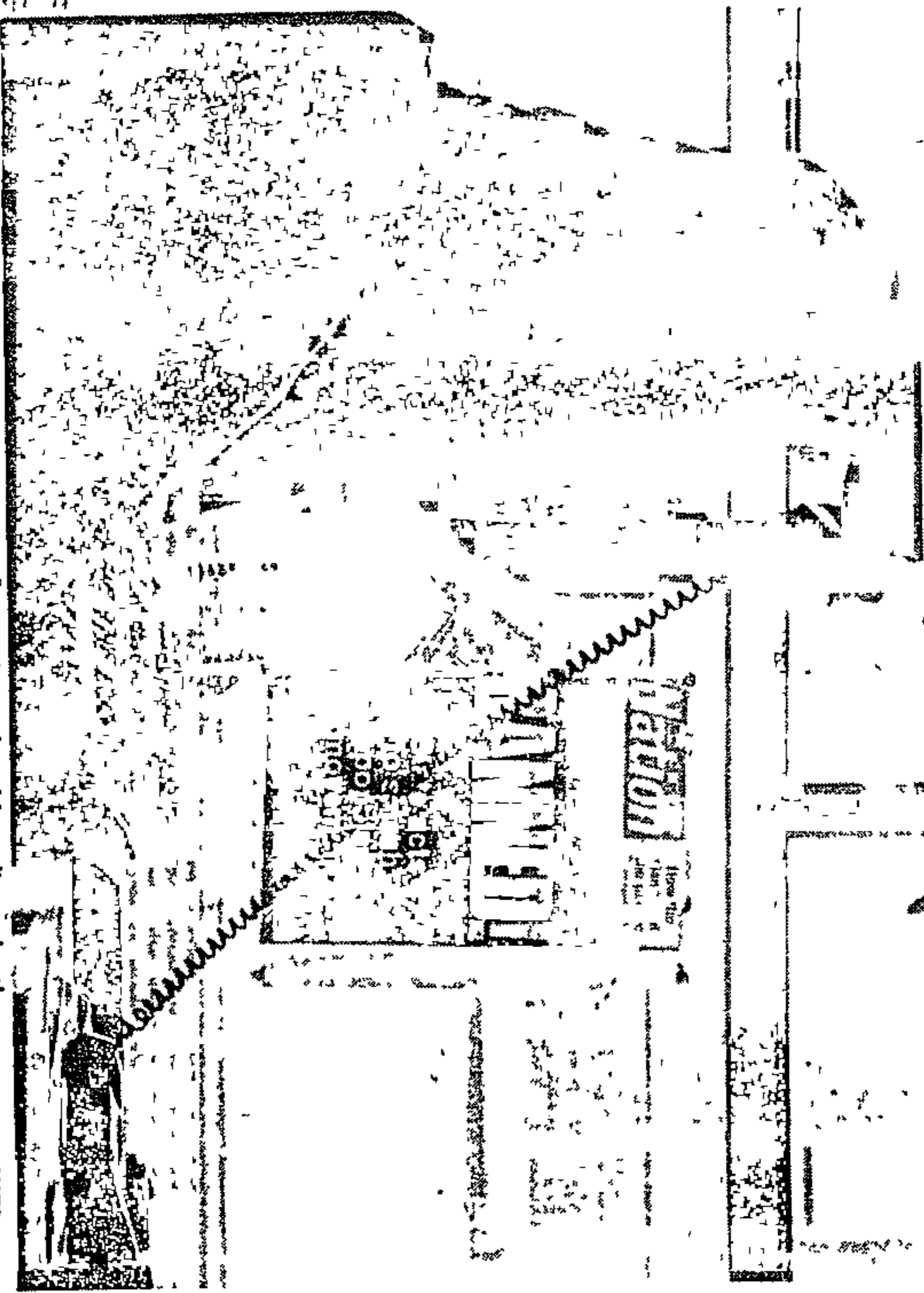
The media may not report on security action, that is any action to terminate unrest, to protect life or property, follow-up action, or any action in which a person is arrested under the Public Safety Act or Security Emergency Regulations (1988)

A subversive statement is one which incites or encourages, or which is calculated to have the effect of inciting or encouraging, members of the public to
● Take part in an activity or to commit an act resisting or opposing a member of the Cabinet, or of a Ministers' Council, or another member of the Government, official of the Republic or self-governing territory, or a member of the security forces in the exercise or performance of their duty under the Public Safety Act of 1953

Boycott Action

● Take part in a boycott action against a particular firm or against firms of a particular nature, class or kind, either by not making purchases at or doing business with those firms, boycotting a particular product or article, or refusing to comply with an obligation towards a local authority with regard to rent or a municipal service
The gazette states further that the notice is also binding on members of the public who incite or encourage people to
● Stay away from work or to strike in contravention of the provisions of any law, or to support such a stayaway action or strike
● Attend or to take part in a restricted gathering
● Take part in any activities of or to join or support an unlawful organisation in terms of the Internal Security Act of 1982
● Exert power in specific areas by means of structures purporting to be those of local government, and acting as such in an unlawful manner, or to establish such structures, or to support them or subject themselves to those (pseudo) authorities

Referring to the media, the gazette states that no



The New Nation newspaper offices in Johannesburg the old media curbs the newspaper was banned for three months.

member of the media, including cameramen and crew, will be allowed at the scene of an unrest situation, restricted gathering or security action without permission from the Commissioner of Police.
This provision apparently will not apply to somebody from the media who happens to find himself/herself at the scene of the unrest, restricted gathering or security action and "is within sight", or arrives at the scene "for a reason other than to cover the unrest, gathering or action for the gathering of news material"

The gazette states that if there is a "systematic or repetitive publishing" of subversive propaganda
"promoting, fomenting revolution or uprisings" in the Republic — "or other acts aimed at the overthrow of the Government, otherwise than by constitutional means" — the Minister may, by notice in the gazette, issue a warning and after an examination of a series of issues of the publication (including any issue after April 11 1988), prohibit further issues of the publication
The prohibition will not exceed three months at a time in the case of a registered periodical, or six months at a time in the case of any other periodical, unless the article published has been previously approved by a person specified in the order — Sapa

SWOKE??

Fighting words from new media group

SOUTH AFRICA'S newest media organisation, the Association of Democratic Journalists, launched its Transvaal region last weekend with an urgent call on members to promote campaigns in defence of press freedom.

The Transvaal ADJ undertook to participate in existing campaigns as well as undertaking its own initiatives aimed at "protecting media workers and journalistic practice from (being) hindered in meeting their journalistic responsibilities to society".

Resolutions were also passed pledging support for the trade union movement; the churches' "Standing for the Truth" campaign; a media charter; intensified training of media workers; and co-operation with like-minded journalists in neighbouring states.

The Johannesburg launch, attended by about 200 people, was addressed

by Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, former secretary-general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Glenn Moss, of *Work in Progress*

Members are drawn from at least 15 Transvaal media organisations, including *The Star*, *City Press*, *Sunday Times Extra*, *Sunday Star*, *New Nation* and *Weekly Mail*. The Transvaal ADJ has an initial signed-up membership of 120, and interim committees are operating in Natal, Border, Eastern Province and the Western Cape.

According to Transvaal ADJ president, Cecil Sols of *Dynamic Images*, "the ADJ is a broad front to bring together all journalists fighting for press freedom. Journalists today find themselves facing strict curbs and an unprecedented state onslaught."

The ADJ was formed, said Sols, because the two existing journalists'

groups — the Southern African Society of Journalists and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa — "had a lot of problems".

"We are seeking to cross barriers such as those between the commercial and 'alternative' media, and between races."

Although the ADJ will not initially act as a trade union, it was agreed that the organisation would represent members in disputes "if intervention was requested".

Also elected to the regional executive were Herbert Mabuza of *The Star* (vice-president), David Niddrie of *Agenda Press* (treasurer), Jo-Anne Collinge of *The Star* (secretary), and Glenn Moss of *Work in Progress*, Chris Vick of *The Other Press Service*, Kerry Cullinan of *City Press* and Thami Mkhwanazi of *Weekly Mail*.

243 10-16/6/88

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VLOK MAY EXPOSE ^{OFF - 7/14/85 10/6/88} ~~BBC~~ OVER ~~FILM~~

LAW and Order Minister Mr Adrian Vlok yesterday hinted that the BBC may be kicked out of South Africa

The clash follows the broadcast in Britain on Wednesday night of the controversial documentary, "Suffer the Children", which contains "serious allegations" of police torture, beatings and disfiguring of children in detention in South Africa.

The British Charges D'Affairs was called in by the South African government to hear protests about the BBC screening, but the Foreign Office in London had no comment to make on the issue

Mr Vlok said the government took the "strongest exception" to this "most hostile film".

"Neither the government nor the police were given a chance to comment on the serious and one-sided allegation in the film.

"Worst of all is the fact that a spokesman for the BBC in London still had the audacity to phone my office yesterday to ask for comment, but still without us having been given the opportunity to view the film."

Mr Vlok said that when his press liaison officer, Brigadier Leon Mallet, asked a BBC spokesman why the allegations were not put to the SAP for comment beforehand, the interviewer responded. "Quite frankly, the BBC does not believe the SA government."

"If this is the BBC's attitude, why

should the government continue to host their representatives here?"

The police would investigate every allegation made and, if any were proved to be factual, the necessary action would be instituted

"But those allegations which are proved to be false will be exposed and we expect the BBC to then afford as much time to the truth in the same time slot as they did with this film"

In the film, a Methodist minister from Soweto, Mr Paul Verryn, is quoted as claiming that girls and boys of 13 were being tortured with electric shocks

"He said some of the victims were as young as nine We will go to him and ask him to supply us with the evidence

"A SA Council of Churches worker, Mr Saki Macozoma, claims that it was common to find missing children in mortuaries, while another person claimed that children's fingers were chopped off. They, too, will have to give us the evidence"

The film, made by the independent company Penumbra, claimed up to 10 000 children had been detained during the state of emergency

The BBC's commissioning editor, Mr George Carey, emphatically dismissed a strong protest from the SA Embassy that the film was "propaganda", had serious inaccuracies and that they could have sought permission to make it openly — Political Staff and Own Correspondent

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Weekly Mail, the newspaper that "kicks down barriers" is threatened with closure under South Africa's news clamp down.

The following people and organisations in the Port Elizabeth area have contributed to sponsoring this space to demonstrate their support for this courageous newspaper and the principle of press freedom.

In pursuance of responsible protest this page will be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs and Communications.

Mark Palmos	M A Hogshaw	Lawyers For Human Rights	Annick Stoll
Asna Thorpe	P.J Price	Mads Stone	Dr Franco Frescura
Rachel Gregory	J O Young	Debbie Mattheus	Sylvia Mitchell
Margie Evans	E D Chalmers	Bob Kernohan	Lindsay Woods
J Williams	J A Price	Judy Chalmers	E. Budlender
Edward Trent	William Moir	Lavinia Cluckman	W Budlender
Elizabeth Trent	J T Masters	Stella Booth-Jones	Sharyn Vincent
Sylvia Mitchell	M Christie	Ms Beverly Burkett	Mike Vincent
Rev E P Bryant	H W Kohler	Anne Knott	Edith English
Mrs M Bryant	E Lovemore	Bles Knott	Aliza Rachman
Dr C.B Jeffrey	D.B Lovemore	Isabel Van Der Linden	R Monty
Patsy Church	B Crews	Lynne Howse	Dr A.B
Rob Church	J.G Cooke	Cathy Binnell	Ronnie Bowker
Sandy Stewart	H O'Driscoll	Margie Satchwell	Frankie Simpson
Kobus Pienaar	G E Oettle	Dr J Moodliar	Ken Simpson
Norman Heath	Prof L. Kamfer	Rory Riordan	Roy Simpson
Trevor Brooks	Andre Lemmer	Juliet Opperman	Doreen Carmichael
Bishop Bruce Evans	Anonymous	Mike Mjekula	Zena Van Niekerk
Joan Evans	Anonymous	Freda Krupenia	Jay Philip
Rev B.O Botha	Anonymous	The Human Rights Trust	Gill Bowman
Rev Canon M O Xundu	Anonymous	Valance Watson	P.D A Bowen
Chuck Volpe	Megan Hurley	Ronnie Watson	V Bowen
Denise Bouttal	Steven Dollery	Lee-Anne Watson	Vanya Phitidis
S A.S.J East Cape	Rev P Pasha	Tracy Watson	Vanessa Brereton
Sally Kernohan	Joanna Bowker	Eileen Watson	Rick McKiever
John Kelly	Cait Turner	Cheeky Watson	Rev W F Brennan
Leon Schubart	Nike Turner	Dan Watson	Jennifer Bowler
Anonymous	Mbulele Linda	Bobbi Watson	Cathy Hicks
Di Matlock	P.E News Agency	Rev George Irvine	Ronald Hicks
John McDermott	Melanie Freddy	Louise Daish	Jimmy Matyu
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Mrs G Firth	Tim Douglas-Jones	Valerie Hunt	Andre Erasmus
W. Firth	Shelagh Hurley	Ken Pinchuck	Peter Dickson
W Fowlds	Bobby Melunsky	Simon Van Der Linden	Anita Coe
E H Shuman	L. Melunsky	Roy Crawford	IDASA (East Cape)
E. Kolnick	Pat Counihan	Joan Crawford	Keith Watrus
M Gibbs	Lou Ann Parsons	Lyn Crawford	Max Mamase
D.S Clare	Howard Varney	Ian Crawford	Janet Cherry
P.C Stradling	Graham Richards	Eileen Petersen	Andrew Savage
Eric Attwell			

This advertisement is placed by "Concerned Citizens" P. O. Box 2767, North End, 6056.

BBC film on detainees 'one-sided'

M6u's
19/6/82
243



Mr Adriaan Vlok

THE BBC film on children in detention was obviously designed to generate hatred towards the police and South Africa's other security forces, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, has told the President's Council.

He said police and the Government took the strongest exception to the film, which, according to information he had received, gave an extremely biased and slanted picture of children in detention.

What was most shocking, however, was the fact that neither the Government nor the police had been given the opportunity to comment on the "serious and one-sided allegations" made in the film.

Hendrickse hails poll victories

Political Correspondent
LABOUR Party leader MR Allan Hendrickse today hailed his party's two by-election victories as the indication of growing community support for the party and his leadership.

In the Eersterus seat in the Tansvaal the Labour Party beat the United Democratic Party by 3 001. And in Natal Mid-East it won against the UDP by 440.

Eersterus P Da Gama (LP) 5 301, A Rabe (UDP) 2 300. Majority 3 001. Percentage poll 36,02.

Natal Mid-East. W White (LP) 2 217, M Fynn (UDP) 1 777. Majority 440. Percentage poll 33.

"Audacity"

"Worst of all is that a BBC spokesman in London still had the audacity to phone my office yesterday to ask for comment, but still without us having been given the opportunity to view the film."

"When Brigadier Mellet (the Minister's liaison officer) asked why the allegations had not been put to the police for comment beforehand, the interviewer said 'Quite frankly, the BBC does not believe the South African Government'."

"If this is the BBC's attitude, then why should the Government continue to host their representatives in our country?"

He said every allegation would be investigated and if any were proved to be factual the necessary action would be instituted.

Soweto Methodist minister Mr Paul Verryn was quoted in the film as claiming that girls and boys of 13 were being tortured with electric shocks and that some victims were as young as nine.

"We will go to him and ask him to supply us with the evidence," Mr Vlok said.

A South African Council of Churches worker, Mr Saki Macozoma, claimed it was common to find missing children in mortuaries, while another person claimed children's fingers were chopped off.

"They too will have to give us the evidence," Mr Vlok said — Sapa.

ex-7145 10/6/88

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A 'courteous' hearing

NO tangible results but a "courteous" hearing was the response of members of the South African Media Council who met the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in Cape Town this week to discuss the media emergency regulations.

The council's conciliator and registrar, Mr Bob Steyn, said in a statement yesterday: "We were well received. We cannot report any tangible result in the sense that we have come back with any undertaking by the minister."

"Though we were unable to persuade the minister that the media restrictions should be lifted, we have come away with the impression that the gap in perceptions has been narrowed and that there is room for further discussion." — Sapa

Raid on WM man

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POLICE this week raided the Hillbrow flat of *Weekly Mail* reporter, Thami Mkhwanazi.

Mkhwanazi is a former Robben Island prisoner who was last week elected to the executive of the Association of Democratic Journalists.

According to his wife, Amanda Kwadi, two policemen arrived at their flat on Tuesday afternoon and identified themselves at first as plumbers. The two searched the flat, apparently in terms of Emergency regulations, for about 20 minutes.

They questioned her about Mkhwanazi's work, the stayaway and the whereabouts of various activists

A spokesman for the South African Police said he had no knowledge of the incident. "The visiting of premises, seizing of property, etc, is regarded as routine police duties. As this office does not comment on routine duties, enquiries in this regard will not be made."

W/Mail 10-16/84

[Signature]

NPU goes all out to win advertising rands from TV

ster 11/6/58

243

Next month a press counterattack gets underway to win back national advertising rands from TV — though the NPU may prefer to call it a research exercise to underpin the advantages of multi-media ad campaigns.

Whatever the semantics, the NPU initiative is expected to endorse marketers who orchestrate strategies which successfully use a range of media — and that, of course, includes print.

First findings of an NPU study called "Media Imperatives" are expected early July — a case of the NPU putting its research rands where its mouth

LYNDEN WRIGHT

Project co-ordinator is NPU vice-president Jolyon Nuttall

He explained the background "It is almost 10 years since newspapers first witnessed a disturbing phenomenon — some clients saying to their ad agencies "There's the budget, stick it all on TV"

"Some thought this approach was triggered by TV's novelty and glamour and would soon pass. But elements of that attitude persist

"Newspapers have pointed out that plugging away, repeating the same message in the same medium, raises boredom levels and minimises response

"In the past, we depended on the commonsense of our arguments. Then we quoted overseas research

"Now the NPU has commissioned highly specific research on multi-media campaigns currently running in South Africa"

He added "The research is covering TV, radio, magazines and newspapers. MRA is conducting the research and was asked to evaluate effectiveness in terms of coverage, spontaneous brand awareness, degree of awareness in the brand category, and degree of awareness for the specific brand

"The research will highlight the comparative effectiveness of different media"

The NPU plans to repeat the study at regular intervals.

0267 on 13 11/15/88
Fears for
safety of
BBC crew

By JIM FREEMAN

FEARS for the safety of some South African film crewmen have been expressed in London following the screening by the BBC on Wednesday night of the controversial documentary "Suffer the Children"

In another development, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, yesterday ordered his department to investigate the presence of the BBC in South Africa.

A ministry spokesman said the order was in reaction to a statement by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, that the position of the BBC could be reviewed, hinting that the corporation could be expelled from the country.

A spokeswoman for Penumbra, the independent London-based company which was commissioned by the BBC to make the film, said yesterday that several South Africans had been used in filming the programme, which alleged police torture and beatings of children in detention

The spokeswoman said there was "a great deal of concern about the safety of those people we employed who are still in South Africa".

Ownership of Press Causes Problems

Black papers subject to outside influences

By ZB MOLEFE

BECAUSE South Africa's black Press is under the "protection" of white publishing companies, it is anti-apartheid but not necessarily anti-capitalist, according to three local academics.

Keyan Tomaselli, Ruth Tomaselli and Johan Muller make this argument in their book, *Narrating The Crisis Hegemony and the South African Press*. This book is the first in a series that examines the history of South Africa's commercial Press, broadcasting services and the "alternative" Press.

The authors point out that black newspapers not only face State intervention, but are also subject in varying degrees to white editorial policies.

This, among other things, caused dissatisfaction and disillusion among black journalists working for the defunct black newspaper *The World* and those

employed on other white-owned newspapers in the 1970s, point out the authors.

These feelings ushered in the birth of the Union of Black Journalists, described by journalist Patrick Laurence as "a black consciousness union which sought to mobilise black journalists and synchronise their aspirations with those of the broader black community".

Out of this picture emerged the late Percy Qoboza. He became editor of *The World* when tension was building in black newsrooms and black community resistance to Afrikaners as a medium of instruction in black schools was intensifying.

The Afrikaners language issue in black schools was to ignite the June 16, 1976m riots.

Qoboza and his newspaper were in forefront in reporting and analysing this turn of events in South Africa's history. Say the authors "Qoboza espoused a cautious black consciousness view point in

some of his editorials during 1976

"Editorial concern had switched from what may be seen as the peripheral to the central issues of South African politics."

On how the disturbances affected newspapers in general, the authors say "The extensive scale and geographical spread of the disturbances (June 16 and after) made nonsense of the idea that blacks (newspaper readers in particular) have little interest in politics."

This was the era of *The World* which, before its banning on October 19, 1977, the authors say, was according to one media expert "more widely-read and more influential than all newspapers, black or white, in South Africa."

The authors tell an interesting story about how the 1976 township disturbances affected the white newspapers, which desperately needed to cover the events — particularly the Afrikaners

"So desperate was *Beeld*," write the authors, "that it gave one of its black messengers a camera with aperture setting and the shutter speed taped up and sent him into Soweto on the first day of the uprising with instructions to click when he saw something exciting."

"The man came back with good photographs and a dramatic eyewitness account of the rioting. He was promptly placed on the editorial payroll."

In a way this was journalistic enterprise at its best — for the newspaper and its instant journalist.

"The government onslaught against black journalists continues to the present, sharpened by the Media Workers' Association of South Africa's pledge to uphold what they call 'commitment journalism' which, among other things, rejects ideological controls such as the principle of 'objectivity'," say the authors.

They say the fact that "the white-owned

articulate the needs and aspirations of the real opponents of apartheid, the black working class" has led to the white English-language Press being cast in the role of the opposition by default.

"With the entrenchment of the Nationalist regime, the English-language Press' view of itself as the public representative of black interests has become more deeply ingrained," they say.

This myth was given additional credibility by the Second Steyn Commission, which described the English-language Press as a "perceptual Gohath" but "was, however, aware that in the absence of black representation on the SABC or in the Afrikaners Press, the white English Press is the only outlet available to blacks," say the authors.

● NARRATING THE CRISIS HEGEMONY AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS is published by Richard



Magazine gets govt warning

CP Correspondent

12/19/81
A CAPE Town magazine, *New Era*, is the latest publication to be given a government warning

Last Friday, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha issued a warning in the *Government Gazette* that, in his opinion, the content of *New Era* constituted a threat to public safety or to the termination

of the state of emergency

This clears the way for possible further action against the magazine, launched in 1986 by Grassroots Publications and published every two months

Mary Ralphs, co-editor of the magazine, said Botha's action against *New Era* was part of a "general onslaught" on the media aimed at silencing legal opposition to the government

Open

22

245

Star 13/6/88

Nine die violently in Pretoria area

Nine people died violently in and around Pretoria at the weekend.

A police spokesman said one man died in Mamelodi Hospital after a midnight knife fight. The body of his opponent was found near the Mamelodi post office about an hour later. One of the men was Mr Modise Mathathe.

Mr JHP Fouche (52), of Rooiels Street, Moregloed, suffocated when his bed caught fire.

Three pedestrians were killed in separate incidents on the Pietersburg highway, in Mamelodi and in Quagga Road.

Mr David Makhetla was battered to death in Potgieter Street on Saturday and a man was run over by a train.

An unidentified man died in hospital after being stabbed in Mamelodi last night. — Pretoria Correspondent.

Star 13/6/88

Helen Joseph is still in critical condition

By Duncan Guy

Veteran anti-apartheid campaigner Mrs Helen Joseph is still in Johannesburg Hospital in a stable but critical condition following a severe dose of flu that led to pneumonia.

She was admitted to the hospital on Friday night.

Mrs Joseph (83) has dedicated herself to opposing injustice and discrimination in South Africa, despite bannings, house arrest and mysterious attacks on her Norwood, Johannesburg home.

As one of the founders of the Federation of SA Women she helped organise a protest by 20 000 women in 1956.

Born in England in 1905, Mrs Joseph came to South Africa from India 57 years ago. Working as a social worker, she became involved in anti-apartheid campaigns at the age of 48.

'Claims do not apply to local media'

243) Political Staff (243) the statement did not apply to the local media. But, he said, there was little doubt that some representatives of the overseas media did.

CAPE TOWN — The Bureau for Information has backed off from claims that journalists welcomed acts of terrorism as "hard news". Mr Peter Soal MP, Chief of the bureau, Mr Progressive Federal Party, today strongly condemned the bureau's attempt at justifying the curbs on the media saying they were "crude".

11011 10 4

Botha warns Cape magazine

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape political magazine *New Era* has been given its second gazetted warning by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha,

The warning follows the issuing of a warning in the *Government Gazette* under the old emergency regulations

New Era co-editor Ms Mary Ralphs said its publishers, Grassroots Publications, would consult lawyers about the implications of the magazine being given a renewed warning.

She believed it to be "only a matter of time" before larger publications began to bear the brunt of Government action against the press.

The media may not report on security action without the prior consent of the Commissioner of Police

A subversive statement is one which incites or encourages people to take part in boycott action

The notice is binding on members of the public who incite or encourage people to stay away from work

BLACKOUT

SWEEPING and more detailed emergency regulations aimed at the media were announced in a *Government Gazette* published in Pretoria on Friday. They are part of the renewed state of emergency announced late last Thursday night by the State President, Mr P W Botha.

They include

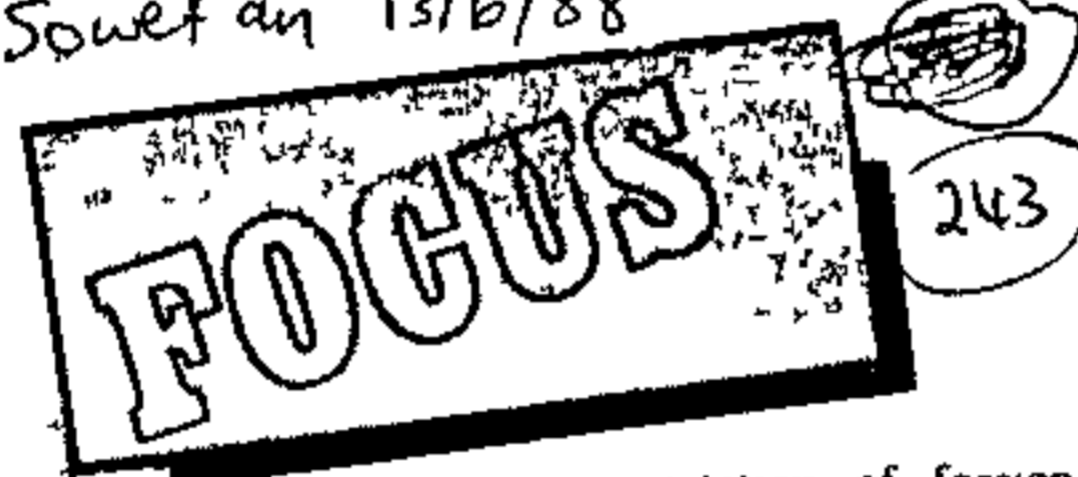
- Nobody without the prior consent of the Commissioner of Police or a member of a security force serving as a commissioned officer, may take any photograph or produce a television or film recording, or make a drawing or depiction of any security unrest action including the damaging or destruction of property or the injury and killing of people

Injuries

- The prohibition of any film pictures, reports or drawings of any damaged or destroyed property or injured or dead persons or other visible signs of violence at the scene where unrest or security action is taking or has taken place, or of any injuries sustained by any person in or during unrest or security action
- The prohibition of any film, pictures reports or

New emergency laws hit hard

Sowetan 13/6/88



drawings or sound recording of any unrest or security action or incident including damage or destruction of property and people injured or killed

On the publishing of subversive statements the gazette prohibits statements either oral or written, in publications, or television or by means of sound recording

The importation of any of these is also banned as well as the local production or

importation of foreign periodicals which activity involving the gathering, preparation, compilation, recording, processing or production of news material regarding events in the Republic and the supplying of such news material to a person for publication in a periodical which is published in the Republic or elsewhere or for broadcasting by a television or radio station situated in the Republic or elsewhere

Arrest

The media may not report on security action that is any action to terminate unrest to protect life or property, follow-up action or any action in which a person is arrested under the Public Safety Act or Security Emergency Regulations (1983)

A subversive statement is one which incites or encourages, or which is calculated to have the effect of inciting or encouraging, members of the public to

- Take part in an activity or to commit an act resisting or opposing a member of the Cabinet



PRESIDENT Botha declared emergency

or of a Ministers Council, or another member of the Government, official of the Republic or self-governing territory or a member of the security forces in the exercise or performance of their duty under the Public Safety Act of 1953

- Take part in a boycott action against a particular firm or against firms of a particular nature class or kind, either by not making purchases at or doing business with those firms boycotting a particular product or article, or refusing to comply with an obligation towards a local authority with regard to rent or a municipal service

Binding

The gazette states further that the notice is also binding on members of the public who incite or encourage people to

- Stay away from work or to strike in contravention of the provisions of any law, or to support, contain subversive statements

The banning includes news agency business, which is defined as

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thlooe Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg

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- Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000 Nom-de plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published

such a stayaway action or strike

- Attend or to take part in a restricted gathering
- Take part in any activities of or to join or support an unlawful organisation in terms of the Internal Security Act of 1982
- Exert power in specific areas by means of structures purporting to be those of local government and acting as such in an unlawful manner, or to establish such structures or to support them or subject themselves to those (pseudo) authorities

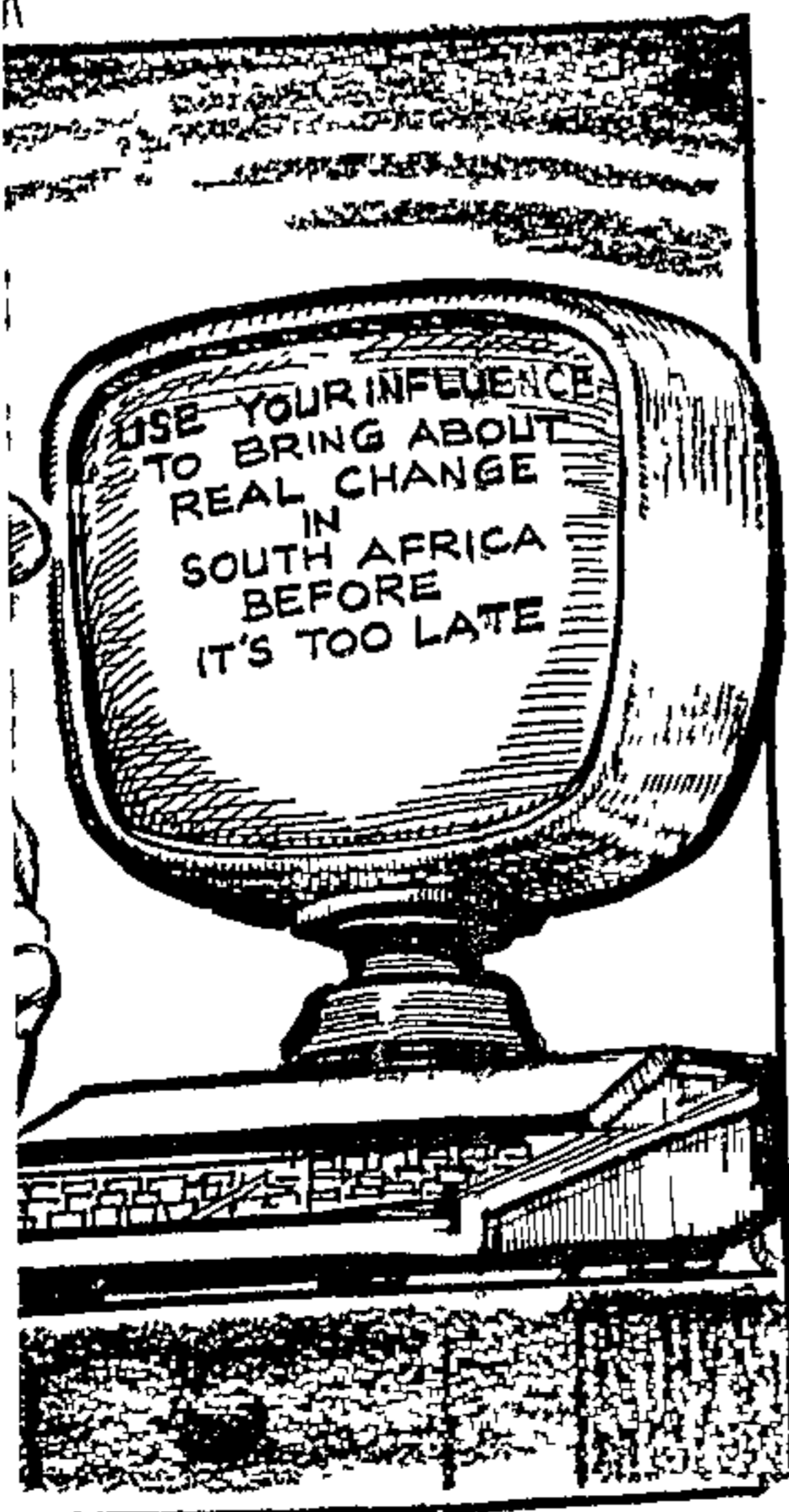
Referring to the media the gazette states that no member of the media including cameramen and crew will be allowed at the scene of an unrest situation restricted gathering or security action without permission from the Commissioner of Police

Provision

This provision apparently will not apply to somebody from the media who happens to find himself/herself at the scene of the unrest, restricted gathering or security action and is within sight or arrives at the scene for a reason other than to cover the unrest, gathering or action for the gathering of news material

The gazette states that if there is a "systematic or repetitive publishing" of subversive propaganda "promoting fermenting revolution or uprisings" in the Republic — "or other acts aimed at the overthrow of the Government, otherwise than by constitutional means" — the Minister may by notice of the gazette, issue a warning and after an examination of a series of issues of the publication (including any issue after April 11 1988), prohibit further issues of the publication

The prohibition will not exceed three months at a time in the case of a registered periodical or six months at a time in the case of any other periodical, unless the article published has been previously approved by a person specified in the order — Sapa



that they could exceed R1 million.

The article on Miss Forman and her organisation was described by Mr Justice Curlewis on Friday as "the nastiest article I have seen".

companies had enjoyed a good business and reputation. Figures compiled after publication of the article showed there had been a loss of "custom".

Style editor is 'valued associate' (243)

The editor of *Style*, which published the defamatory article on cosmetic queen Miss Reeva Forman that cost the owners of the magazine more than R2 million in damages, will not be fired.

Mr Sam Aarons, former legal adviser to Caxton Ltd and spokesman

for the company, told The Star yesterday that *Style* editor Marilyn Hattingh was a "very valued associate".

"There's no question that Mrs Hattingh will be fired. Of course she will remain as editor. We stand behind her all the way," Mr Aarons said.

When The Star asked

Mrs Hattingh how she felt about the judgment, she said she had been advised to make no comment. Caxton managing director Mr Terry Moolman would not comment yesterday.

The defendants have filed a notice of application for leave to appeal against the judgment.

Dilemma for banned paper

Stev 14/6/84 By Duncan Guy (243)

The banned publication, *South*, is considering publishing this week after being advised by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, that he will decide whether to suspend the newspaper after seeing an edition.

South's editor, Mr Rashid Seria, said an edition was due tomorrow pending opinion from the paper's attorneys.

"If we publish, it will present the Minister with a basis to take us off the streets for a further two months," he said.

He said that Regulation 9(a) of the Media Emergency Regulations was specifically aimed at *South* and if they waited it would expire next Monday. The Minister's action would then be weakened although he could act without seeing an edition, the statement said.

Latest media clamp 'could be ultra vires'

Political Staff

Lawyers are planning to contest the new media emergency regulations which forbid quotation of known spokesman or office-bearers of the United Democratic Front and 17 other restricted organisations

Johannesburg attorney Miss Priscilla Jana is to seek counsel's opinion on the scope of the new clampdown which was gazetted with the new emergency on Friday

She said today it seemed that section 3(1)(f) of the Media Emergency Regulations might effectively forbid publication of any political remarks by people such as Dr Allan Boesak, patron of the UDF

Though political statements by the UDF, Azapo and other organisations were prohibited under restriction orders served on them in February, officials of these bodies have continued to be quoted in their personal capacities

But section 3(1)(f) prohibits publication of statements by people "known" to be spokesmen or office-bearers of organisations such as the UDF which have been restricted under regulation 3(8)(b) or 8 of the Security Emergency Regulations.

The new regulation seems to be aimed at preventing the office-bearers of these organisations from claiming that they are speaking in their personal capacities

Lawyers challenge 'gagging' rulings

Miss Jana said that the new regulation might now effectively gag these people from making any political statements because of the broad scope of section 3(1)(f)

PUBLIC SAFETY

The section prohibits any statement which either has the "effect or is calculated to have the effect of threatening the safety of the public or the maintenance of public order, or of delaying the termination of the state of emergency".

Mr Paul Jenkins, a media lawyer, said that he thought that the regulation could easily be ultra vires. He did not think it would prevent the publica-

tion of all political statements by people such as Dr Boesak

"I don't see how a statement by him such as 'Apartheid is bad' could fall within the scope of this section

"However, where I think it could be tricky is if someone like him should call for sanctions. This could be interpreted as threatening public safety"

But he said he considered the section ultra vires because to prevent a person from making certain statements just because he was an office-bearer of a certain organisation went beyond the intentions of the original Act

Asked how the regulation would prevent quotation of people like Dr Boesak, an official of the Department of Home Affairs media relations office said that this would have to be judged from case to case.

"Where Dr Boesak is talking as a church leader, this will not fall within the scope of the Act

"Where he makes political statements, the publication will have to decide in each case whether or not the statement threatens public order and safety or delaying the termination of the state of emergency."

Section 3(1)(f) also prohibits publication of statements by spokesmen and office-bearers of organisations banned under the Internal Security Act such as the ANC



Miss Priscilla Jana ... silencing any political statements from people such as Dr Boesak.

Sowetan 14/6/88

Curbs will be fought says Jana

LAWYERS are planning to contest the new media emergency regulations which forbid quotation of known spokesmen or office-bearers of the United Democratic Front and 17 other restricted organisations.

Johannesburg attorney, Mrs Priscilla Jana said she was seeking counsel's opinion on the scope of the new clamp-down which was gazetted with the new emergency on Friday

She said it seemed that Section 3 (1) (F) of the media emergency regulations might effectively forbid publication of any political remarks by people such as Dr Alan Boesak, patron of the UDF.

Though political
To Page 2

Statements prohibited

• From page 1 preventing the office bearers of these organisations from claiming that they are speaking in their personal capacities

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PRESSMEN UNITE AGAINST CLAMPS

14/6/88 Sowetan
243

LOCAL and foreign journalists in South Africa have displayed a rare unanimity and expressed alarm over Pretoria's extension and toughening of media curbs under the nationwide state of emergency.

A pro-government newspaper even went as far as saying the move would deprive the public of vital facts

The curbs were announced on Friday as the Government extended for a third year its sweeping emergency powers that allow for detention without trial of opponents

"We view with despair the State's brutal assault on the very little and rapidly-diminishing freedom of the Press and on the right of the people to know what is happening around them," said Jon Qwelane, a local columnist and representative of the Geneva-based International Federation of Journalists.

The Foreign Correspondents Association, grouping nearly 100 journalists of major foreign news organisations, issued a statement urging the swift repeal of all Press restrictions

Irony

"We observe with irony that South Africa is progressively shutting down the free flow of information at a time when the Soviet Union, frequently depicted here as an enemy of Press freedom, is noticeably moving towards a more open society, despite having its own problems," it said

President P W Botha first imposed media controls when he declared the emergency on June 12, 1986 — Sapa-Reuter

'Under pressure' South back on sale tomorrow

Staff Reporter

243

SOUTH, the city-based weekly newspaper, will be back on the streets by tomorrow pending a legal opinion from attorneys

South was banned for a month on May 9 by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, after several warnings from him

Yesterday South's editor, Mr Rashid Seria, said: "We were going to publish our editions as normal. As much as we are under pressure from the state, we have an obligation to our readers and constituency which we will maintain"

Mr Seria said Mr Botha told South he would decide whether or not to suspend the paper after having seen the contents of tomorrow's edition.

The government had promulgated a provision in the latest emergency regulations allowing Mr Botha to ban South for a further period not exceeding two months

"We are preparing an edition for tomorrow subject to legal opinion. If we publish, it will present the minister with a basis to take us off the streets for a further two months. Should we wait, the provision expires on June 20," he said.

South, which claimed an average distribution of 15 000 copies including subscriptions nationally, said it hoped to increase sales to 25 000

The edition due to appear tomorrow would be a day earlier than usual to give staff time off to commemorate June 16

At the time of its banning, South had to pull back 21 000 copies of the paper from selling points in the Western Cape and outlets in Johannesburg and Durban.

SA 'now a few gazettes away from complete totalitarianism'

(SAP) STEV 4/6/88 243
Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Twenty-two organisations in the western Cape linked to the Save the Press Campaign have condemned the new press curbs contained in the new emergency regulations

"The Save the Press Campaign is appalled by the most draconian curbs imposed on the media through adjustments to the emergency regulations," they say in a statement

"By restricting information emanating from organisations representing millions of South Africans, the Government has set the basis for only one voice to be heard — its own. The curbs have brought the country a few gazettes away from complete totalitarianism"

The statement said it was clear that the Government wished to eliminate all "alternative" publications

"Far from navigating a course enabling a peaceful resolution of the conflict within South Africa's borders, the Government has once again attempted to suppress the very voices which are vital to achieving this aim

"The Government is not only empowering itself to re-ban papers already silenced, it can also silence press agencies which play an indispensable part in keep-

ing people informed about events in remote regions of the country"

The newest regulations had also reduced the October municipal elections to a fiasco, the statement said "Those expected to vote will be unable to make informed decisions without correct and balanced information at their disposal"

"The Save the Press Campaign, representing about 60 varied media groups in the western Cape, will be intensified and we call on all peace-loving South Africans to join forces in resisting the latest onslaught on the media and systematic attacks on human rights

FREE ACCESS

"We reiterate the demands spelt out at our recent launch, including the right to procure and disseminate information without State intervention, harassment or detention, to free access and movement in pursuing these objectives, and to air ideas, views and opinions of people and organisations regardless of their political and ideological persuasions"

The statement was signed by *Upfront*, *Out of Step*, *South*, *UWC News*, the Southern African Society of Journalists (Western Cape) *Prospector*, *Perspective Ekapa On Trial*, the Media Workers' Association of SA, SA Students Press Union, the Churches Urban Planning Commission the University of Cape Town SRC Nusas (UCT) *Varsity*, Western Province Tertiary SRC, *Educatio* UCT Radio, *Grassroots*, *Learning Roots*, *New Era* and *The Shield*

Ban on
New

DATE: 15.16.88
NEW YORK Times
is lifted by 243
Government

The Star's Foreign
News Service

NEW YORK — The New York Times said yesterday it had been told by the South African Government that an 18-month ban on the newspaper's representatives in South Africa had been lifted

The newspaper, noted for its extensive coverage of South African events, its strong editorial support for sanctions against South Africa and for its generally sharp criticism of the Government's racial policies, said it had been advised by the Government that it "would welcome an application from a staff correspondent to report full time from South Africa".

In response, the newspaper has submitted the name of Mr Christopher Wren as its next bureau chief in Johannesburg

MOSCOW

Mr Wren, who is one of the paper's most senior and experienced foreign correspondents, previously headed the New York Times bureaux in Moscow, Cairo, Beijing and Ottawa.

The newspaper has been barred from having its own staff correspondent in South Africa since January 1987, when the Government refused to renew the accreditation of Mr Alan Cowell or accept a successor

The New York Times has since been represented by Mr John Battersby, a South African journalist who will continue to report for the newspaper

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Paper refuses adverts from election hopefuls

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Lenasia-based independent newspaper *The Indicator* is refusing to take adverts from candidates who intend standing for election in the October municipal election.

Editor Ameen Akhalwaya said yesterday that the newspaper had been

approached by prospective candidates to reserve advertising space, but he had turned them away.

"We are committed to giving two or more sides of the story. The Government has made this impossible, more especially since the emergency regulations make it a crime to call for a boycott of the elections and to quote restricted organisations."

In black politics, participation or non-participation was the key issue, Mr Akhalwaya argued.

PROPAGANDA

"If the Government is intent on allowing only its views to be published, then we refuse to be — by default — the additional willing tools of apartheid propaganda."

An additional reason cited was the renewal of the restriction order on Dr R A M Salojee, a UDF regional vice-president and vice-president of the Transvaal Indian Congress. Both organisations were involved in boycott campaigns in Lenasia during the first elections for the tricameral Parliament in 1984.

From Friday it became "subversive" to make statements encouraging boycotts of the local-authority elections scheduled for October 26.

New Nation, South are to appear again

247) By Janet Heard and Own Correspondent (RM)

The Cape publication *South* will be back on the streets today after a month's banning. And the *New Nation*, banned for three months, will be published again on June 30.

Both newspapers were forced to close down by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha until the expiry of the previous state of emergency, which was reimposed on June 10.

The new emergency allows the Minister to extend by two months the suspension of publications that were suspended under the previous emergency. The extended ban requires none of the warning procedures that preceded the original suspension.

South editor Rashid Seria said yesterday it had been decided to publish despite fears that the newspaper could be banned.

"The Minister of Home Affairs has advised us that he will decide whether or not to suspend our paper after seeing an edition," Mr Seria said.

New Nation, published by the Catholic Bishops Publishing Company in Johannesburg, was banned for three months on March 22.

Acting-editor Mr Gabu Tagwana said yesterday that the staff and chairman of the board of directors had decided to resume publication on June 30 instead of June 16 to give themselves sufficient time to prepare a bumper issue and to upgrade equipment.

"It will be our biggest single issue produced. It will also give *New Nation* and the legal team time to familiarise themselves with the new and tighter media regulations before publishing."

All 'regular' freelance journalists to register

By Tim Cohen

The new emergency regulations required the registration of all regular freelance journalists or stringers, even if all they wrote about was flower shows, the president of the Southern African Society of Journalists, Mr Bob Kernohan, said last night.

The new regulations, published last Friday, went much further than was first thought, he said.

News agencies operating in South Africa declined when approached for comment last night to discuss the implications of the regulations, saying these were still being studied and that legal advice was being sought.

Media experts at first thought that only news agencies (other than those specifically excluded) had to be registered, but legal experts said last night that any regular freelancer reporting on news events fell within the definition of a "news agency business".

This is defined in the regulations as "an activity involving the gathering, preparation, compilation, recording, processing or production of news material regarding events in the Republic and the supplying of such news material to a person for publication . . . in the Republic or elsewhere".

Section 11 of the regulations requires the registration of a "news agency business" by August 1 with the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs.

The regulations allow for three exceptions — news agencies specifically mentioned need not register, people who supply news material exclusively to a publication of which they are employees, and people whose work consists of only a "casual or isolated act".

BANNED NEWSPAPER RETURNS

THE weekly Cape Town newspaper *South* will be back on the streets today.

On May 9 Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha banned *South* for a month in terms of the emergency regulations *South* editor Mr Rashid Seria said yesterday he had decided to publish despite fears that it could be banned.

"The Minister of Home Affairs has

SOWETAN Correspondent

advised us that he will decide whether or not to suspend our paper after seeing an edition," Mr Seria said.

The latest regulations contain a provision allowing the Minister to ban *South* for a further two months.

Mr Seria said Regulation 9(A) was specifically aimed at *South* as it was

the only publication to be acted against under Regulation 7A (3)B after May 1 1988.

"If we publish today it will present the Minister with a basis to take us off the streets for a further two months.

"If we wait, the provision under Regulation 9(A) expires on June 20."

• The acting editor of *New Nation*, Mr Gabu Tugwana, said yesterday that the chairman, the board of directors and staff of *New Nation* have decided to delay the republication of the newspaper, in spite of the expiry of the ban on June 10.

A bumper issue will be published on June 30, he said.

Defendants go straight to Appellate Division 243

Forman defamation case: new bid to contest award

Star 16/6/88

By Inga Molzen

The defendants in the Reeva Forman defamation action have petitioned the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein for leave to appeal against this week's court decision

More than R2 million was awarded to Reeva Forman Ltd, which produces and sells her cosmetics, and Reeva Success Dynamics Ltd, the company which trains beauty consultants

The defendants in the case include *Style* magazine and its editor, publishers, printers and distributors

They lodged the appeal petition yesterday

This came after the judge in the action, Mr Justice Curlewis, had refused leave to appeal

He said "In my view the appeal should not be granted, and should be refused with costs of two counsel. Another court would not have come to a different conclusion"

The judge said Mr Wilhe Oshry, QC, senior counsel for the publishers of *Style*, had developed a very full argument

He added that the main attack of the defence counsel had been directed towards damages

Mr Justice Curlewis said it had not been suggested that the court omitted to consider relevant facts or introduced facts which weren't there

"The argument is a different one that I gave insufficient weight to a lot of facts, and too much weight to other facts

"I agree that one should start by looking at the article. From the outset, if the article was not defamatory, then that's the end of that

KUBUS PUZZLE

He added "Mr Oshry said another court may come to a different construction. In particular, he said, by coming to the conclusion that the ordinary reader would have understood portions of the article — such as those relating to the Kubus scandal — as being applicable to Miss Forman's two companies"

Mr Michael Kuper, SC, who appeared on behalf of Reeva

Forman Ltd and Reeva Success Dynamics, said no intelligible reason had been suggested as to why Kubus was mentioned at all. It was either for the most devastating purpose, to smear the two companies of Miss Reeva Forman, or for "no apparent purpose at all"

On Monday Mr Justice Curlewis awarded R2 050 000 to Reeva Forman Ltd and R75 000 to Reeva Success Dynamics

They were also awarded the fees of two expert witnesses, and the legal costs of three counsel

Mr Oshry said there was no improper conduct on the part of the defendants which justified a punitive award

He said the damages awarded were "grossly excessive" and were assessed upon incorrect principles, relying upon insufficient evidence

There was no evidence, said Mr Oshry, upon which the court could reasonably have found that the effect of the article was either "shattering" or "catastrophic"

He said the court did not at-

tach sufficient weight to the extent and nature of competition in the cosmetics market, that a lack of advertising could have caused a drop of sales, and that Miss Forman was vindicated through various newspaper reports headlined "Reeva triumphs"

AGE QUESTION

Mr Oshry said the court "sucked out of thin air" the finding that *Style* magazine's owners, Caxton Limited, sought publication of an article dealing with Miss Forman's age in *The Sunday Times*, and was probably responsible for a similar article which appeared in *The Sunday Star* and *Beeld*

The court heard that the application for leave to appeal was not an attempt to play for time. "The defendants are prepared to pay over the money, and are not applying for leave to appeal for any improper motive"

For personal defamation in the article published in June 1985, Miss Forman has already been paid R35 000

that
confil








South back on (243) streets after ban

CAPE TOWN — The Cape Town-based weekly newspaper *South* appeared on city streets yesterday after being banned for a month.

The newspaper appeared a day earlier than usual to allow staff to commemorate June 16.

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha informed *South* he would decide whether or not to suspend the paper after he saw yesterday's edition. — Sapa. Nov 14/61/86

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CAPE TOWN • 1/20

Emergency regulations to introduce a register of journalists through the back door

The new register of "news agencies" — defined widely enough to encompass hundreds of individual journalists, agencies and possibly even newspapers — is one of a number of new media restrictions that accompanied last week's declaration of a third National Emergency.

Most of the previous Emergency measures remain in force, but a number have been significantly expanded. The most important is the clampdown on "news agencies" — which represents a significant increase in the level of government control over the media.

This is, firstly, because it will establish the existence of a journalists' register. The minister need only gradually expand the definition of who must register — and already the list could involve hundreds of individuals and organisations — in order to establish a complete journalists' list.

A register would allow the government a final say in who may practise as a journalist — one of the most direct forms of media control.

Secondly, the state is increasingly turning its attention to the sources of news, as opposed to its outlets. During two years of Emergency, the government has attacked, in turn, foreign correspondents, photographers and the "alternative press". It has also prevented newspapers from publishing a wide range of "subversive statements".

The latest attack on "news agencies" signals a new focus on those who provide much of the information published in international newspapers and the local "alternative press". Not satisfied with attacking those who publish the news, the government is now trying to ensure the news does not reach them.

This follows the Emergency ban on the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, which, as a human rights monitoring group, was the source of much public information on state repression.

The notion of a register of journalists, first introduced by the Steyn Commission of Inquiry into the media in 1982, has always been opposed by a wide range of media organisations, both left-wing and right-wing.

The government's oft-repeated threat to introduce it has brought criticism from across the political and media spectrum. For example, the right-wing Washington-based World Press Freedom Committee has adamantly opposed to

1 June 12, 1986: The first Emergency 2 December 11, 1986: Further curbs 3 A cross marks the threat of suspension

Two years of the eroding right to know

STAFF REPORTER

THIRTY people were injured when police opened fire on hundreds of Maza workers seeking for the unbanning of the African National Congress yesterday in Pretoria.

A police representative, Colonel Adrian Muller, said his men had been attacked by rioters with stones and petrol bombs. He said 30 injured protesters had been detained.

At the scene, a number of police officers had surrounded the huge crowd which spilled out of the Maza grounds after attending a meeting to demand the unbanning of the ANC.

Some officers were seen to be shouting at the crowd from the hands of a young worker of 17. The crowd then began to disperse.

Colonel Muller said he ordered his men to open fire on the crowd when they threw stones at police officers.

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Colonel Muller said he ordered his men to open fire on the crowd when they threw stones at police officers.

4 June 10, 1988 More loopholes closed

registration as bodies such as the Media Workers Association of South Africa.

The Steyn Commission recommended the drawing up of a register which would exclude journalists convicted of security offences and those who broke a statutory code of conduct.

Parliament then passed an amendment to the Newspaper and Imprint Registration Act incorporating these recommendations.

However, the outcry was so widespread and so vehement that the government accepted a compromise the formation of a voluntary Media Council and the new Bill was never promulgated.

Last month, on the eve of a meeting with the Media Council, the minister of home affairs raised, once again, the spectre of a statutory code of conduct and register of journalists.

Now Botha has used Emergency regulations to introduce it. All "news agencies" have until July 30 to regis-

ter — or shut down

In terms of his Emergency Media Regulations, the minister cannot refuse to register anyone. However, he can de-register them if he forms the opinion that it is "necessary for the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the State of Emergency".

He does not have to give a hearing to anyone or give any notice of such an act. He can, in the words of the regulation, "summarily withdraw the registration" by a notice in the Government Gazette.

A de-registered journalist, or anyone who had been "involved" with a de-registered agency, can be refused further registration.

The minister has the power to order all "news agencies" to submit to him copies of all their work within 30 days of publication.

The definition of an agency is in itself a major source of controversy. It incorporates anyone involved in the "gathering, preparation, compilation,

IT takes a concrete example to show how three States of Emergency have eroded the public's right to know. Today, the only legal reports on police action in "unrest" are those which carry the official view.

In February last year *Weekly Mail* used a fictitious report to illustrate exactly how security legislation from 1980 to January 1987 had curtailed reports on "unrest", banned organisations and detentions. This week we update the illustration to include additional media curbs imposed in the past year. The "mock-up" report is fictitious. The lawyers' heavy pencilled lines, however, are real.

1 June 12, 1986, the first national Emergency is declared. Media regulations black out news of any "subversive statements" — a category including promoting the aims of unlawful organisations, encouraging participation in unlawful demonstrations and creating hostility between groups.

2 On December 11, additional curbs prevent unauthorised reports on police action to stop unrest. News about detention conditions is also banned and even court records of detention conditions cannot be quoted until the court has made a final ruling.

With the second national Emergency of June 11, 1987, new regulations again prohibit reports on action taken by the security forces to quell unrest. The prohibition on any news of detention conditions is renewed. Statements encouraging the public to join the African National Congress are banned.

3 August 28, 1987, sees the introduction of regulations under which the *New Nation* and *South* are temporarily banned and eight other publications are threatened with suspension.

Our fictitious article could contribute to the closure of a publication for three months if, in the opinion of the minister of home affairs, it is part of a campaign by the newspaper to fan revolution, foment feelings of hostility towards the security forces or promote the esteem of a banned organisation.

4 June 10, 1988, the latest media regulations are introduced. They close a loophole whereby representatives of outlawed organisations could be quoted if they themselves were not restricted. Now it is illegal to publish statements of "known officials" of banned organisations like the United Democratic Front if such statements "endanger public safety".

In addition, the regulations continue to prohibit unauthorised reports on police action to quell unrest. Moreover, newspapers still face closure under regulations similar to those of August.

the Argus group

Media lawyers expressed surprise that such formal and long-term measures — which involve a complex bureaucracy — are introduced in terms of Emergency regulations. "It is legally inappropriate," one said.

However, the suspicion is that the minister is using Emergency powers to try to establish the existence of a register. Once the Emergency is over, it will be easier and less controversial to introduce it into normal law.

Meanwhile, he has scope gradually to increase the number of journalists who must sign up.

Other significant additions to the media regulations are:

- A ban on encouraging people to boycott a local authority election
- This is clearly aimed at stifling opposition to the October municipal elections
- Major opposition groups, such as the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, have already signalled their sup-

promoting organisations that have been restricted under the Emergency.

Previously, it was illegal to carry adverts from banned organisations (such as the African National Congress) or promote their esteem. This now also applies to the 18 organisations under Emergency restrictions.

It does not include the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

- A ban on quoting any person who is, or is commonly known as, an office-bearer or spokesman of a restricted organisation

Although this only applies when their statements threaten public safety, this new regulation massively increases the number of people whose words are restricted.

- A wider ban on certain advertisements. Previously, a newspaper could not run an advert defending, praising or endeavouring to justify a banned organisation

Now the ban includes such an organisation's "campaigns, projects, programmes, actions or policies of violence or resistance against, or of subversion of, the authority of the state" as well as those of organisations under Emergency restriction.

- Massively increased powers to seize single editions of unregistered publications. This applies to most publications that come out less than once a month, including some of those who have had formal warnings of action against them, such as *Work in Progress* and *Saastmaan*.

All the minister or commissioner of police now has to do to seize an edition of one of these papers is to form the opinion that it is promoting or fomenting revolution.

This power also applies to film, television or sound recordings.

Major media controls that remain include the ban on a wide range of "subversive statements", "unrest" photographs and reporting of security force action and restricted meetings (eg all outdoor meetings). Journalists are still barred from being present at unrest situations or scenes of security force action.

The minister retains enormous powers to seize publications that contravene the regulations or suspend them if, after a lengthy process of warning, they publish material that "promotes" or "foment revolution" or "stirs up hatred" against security forces.

He has also extended the validity of warnings he issued against newspapers during the last Emergency. This means that newspapers such as *Weekly Mail*, which have had two warnings, remain under the threat that they can be suspended from publication at short notice.

Jo-Ann Bekker

recording, processing or production of news material regarding events in the Republic and the supplying of such news material to a person for publication either locally or abroad.

The only exemptions are people who do this on a "casual or isolated" basis or if the person is in the exclusive employ of one publication or television station. The 14 major news agencies, including Sapa and Reuters, are also excluded.

It is believed these regulations are aimed primarily at the younger, smaller news agencies that supply the "alternative press". Port Elizabeth News (Pen), East London News (elnews), Grahamstown's Albany News Agency (ANA) and Durban's Concord News.

However, according to media lawyers, the definition is so vague that it could include everyone from "the little old lady sending a few paragraphs every month to *Scope*" to a major newspaper like *The Star* which supplies news to its sister-papers in

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See PAGES 4 and 5

w/maail
17-23/6/88

Govt tells
officials:
Don't talk to
unaccredited
journalists

w/maail
17-23/6/88

By PAT SIDLEY

GOVERNMENT departments have been instructed not to talk to foreign journalists who are not accredited with the Bureau for Information

They have also been instructed, according to a letter leaked to the *Weekly Mail*, to report to the Bureau any approaches made to them by foreign correspondents.

The Bureau would then be able to inform the department of the "attitude of the journalist and his/her newspaper". It would also allow them, according to the leaked letter, to stop "unlawful" work done by journalists "under false pretences" and to monitor accredited journalists

This move has serious consequences for journalists who have been refused Bureau accreditation. The Bureau has, without giving any reason, refused to recognise a number of South Africans who work for the foreign press — usually the most outspoken or critical of the government.

However, it also signals a new vigilance towards the "attitudes" of even those journalists that are accredited

The instruction to government departments was contained in a letter sent by the Interdepartmental Liaison Forum (ILF), an umbrella body of liaison officials which facilitates contact between all government departments, from the letter, it appears to work closely with the Bureau for Information

The *Weekly Mail* also has a copy of a letter written by Minister of Information Stoffel van der Merwe on the subject.

"It happens increasingly that foreign journalists and mainly television teams visit the RSA under false pre-

Journalists face
state blackout

w/maail

From PAGE 1

tences to write unlawful reports and compile TV programmes," Van der Merwe's letter states.

"To deal with the situation, it would be appreciated if no co-operation is given, or interviews given to any journalist or correspondent representing the foreign media who is not in possession of a Bureau for Information accreditation card ...

"If you or members of your department are asked to co-operate with or give interviews by representatives of the foreign media (including South African citizens) who do not have the accreditation cards, you are cordially asked to report the circumstances immediately to the Bureau

"You are also cordially asked to let the Bureau know of any request for interviews or co-operation from journalists, including South African citizens who represent the foreign media (including those who are accredited with the Bureau) to let the Bureau know, so that you can be informed of the attitude of the particular journalist and the media he represents and the activities of foreign journalists can be monitored more efficiently...

"In this way, we shall hopefully limit more successfully the illegal activities of foreign media and control the legal action of accredited correspondents efficiently," he said.

17-23/6/88

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Sombre warning by expert on 'thin-end-of-wedge' press law

By Patrick Laurence

88/9/17/16/88
Star

The Government has taken a stealthy first step towards the establishment of a compulsory register for journalists, from which they can be disqualified by ministerial decree and thus barred from practising

"It is the thin edge of the wedge," says Mr David Dison, co-author of a definitive book on newspapers and the law. His sombre warning is prompted by the latest emergency controls on the media, promulgated last Friday.

The regulations oblige all except specifically exempted news agencies to register. The definition of a news agency is so wide as to include, on the face of it, all freelance journalists, irrespective of whether they contribute to local or overseas publications or radio or television stations.

Registration of freelance journalists is a start towards fulfilment of the long quest by the Government to compel all journalists to register and thus become subject to control and manipulation from above, Mr Dison argues.

INDIRECT CONFIRMATION

Mr Andries Engelbrecht, chief director of media relations in the Department of Home Affairs, provides indirect but indisputable confirmation that the Government plans to compel all freelance journalists to register.

"They are not excluded," he says. "If anybody is in doubt, my advice is that they should register. I'm not telling anyone not to register."

A top Government official dismissed the registration requirement as inconsequential. "It is simply a question of supplying a bit of information. No money is required. It is not like registering a newspaper."

The regulations require news agency journalists to supply the Director-General of Home Affairs with their names and addresses, identity numbers, and a list of all the publications or radio/television stations

to which they contribute

Many journalists see registration of news agencies as an integral part of the network of Government controls imposed on newspapers under the state of emergency.

Two newspapers, *New Nation* and *South*, were suspended under the regulations by Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha, after being found by him to be spreading "revolutionary propaganda".

Both are alternative, rather than mainline newspapers.

The new regulations requiring registration of freelance journalists come in the context of Government hostility towards the opposition press in general and the alternative press in particular.

It is reflected in the term "media terrorist", a phrase coined by Mr Botha to describe a person who, in Mr Botha's view, uses his skills to support the revolutionary or terrorist cause.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr Dison says the move requiring registration of freelance journalists should be seen against increasing signs of Government dissatisfaction with the present Media Council, set up by the Newspaper Press Union (NPU) to police a professional code of conduct.

The NPU represents proprietors and managers. It acted in collaboration with the Conference of Editors when it established the Media Council.

A 1982 amendment to the Registration of Newspapers Act, however, empowers the Government to set up its own statutory media council to enforce its own code of conduct.

But the amendment was never promulgated, the Government having been persuaded to stay its hand by the establishment of the present Media Council.

But the legislation remains on the statute book and can be brought into effect at any time.

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No plan to register all journalists, says Stoffel

By David Braun
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has rejected suggestions that the Government was trying to introduce the registration of journalists "through the back door".

He was reacting to inquiries by The Star this week about the latest emergency regulations that make it man-

datory for most freelance journalists to register with Home Affairs.

The wide net cast by the regulations has raised suspicions that the Government is attempting to introduce the mandatory registration of all journalists via a back door.

The Government has previously considered legislating for such a register, but abandoned the plan because of intense opposition.

Editors work in a morass, says Tyson

By Inga Molzen

Editors have criticised provisions in the new media curbs apparently aimed at cracking down on independent news agencies and freelance correspondents.

The Editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, commenting on the regulations, said: "The emergency regulations, as usual, mean different things to different people. We work in a morass. However, if the Minister says he is not trying to introduce by the back door a register of journalists, then of course he will not register freelancers."

Mr Aggrey Klaaste, editor-in-chief of the *Sowetan*, said the Government "is involving itself in an irreversible process which will inevitably lead to the total destruction of press freedom in South Africa".

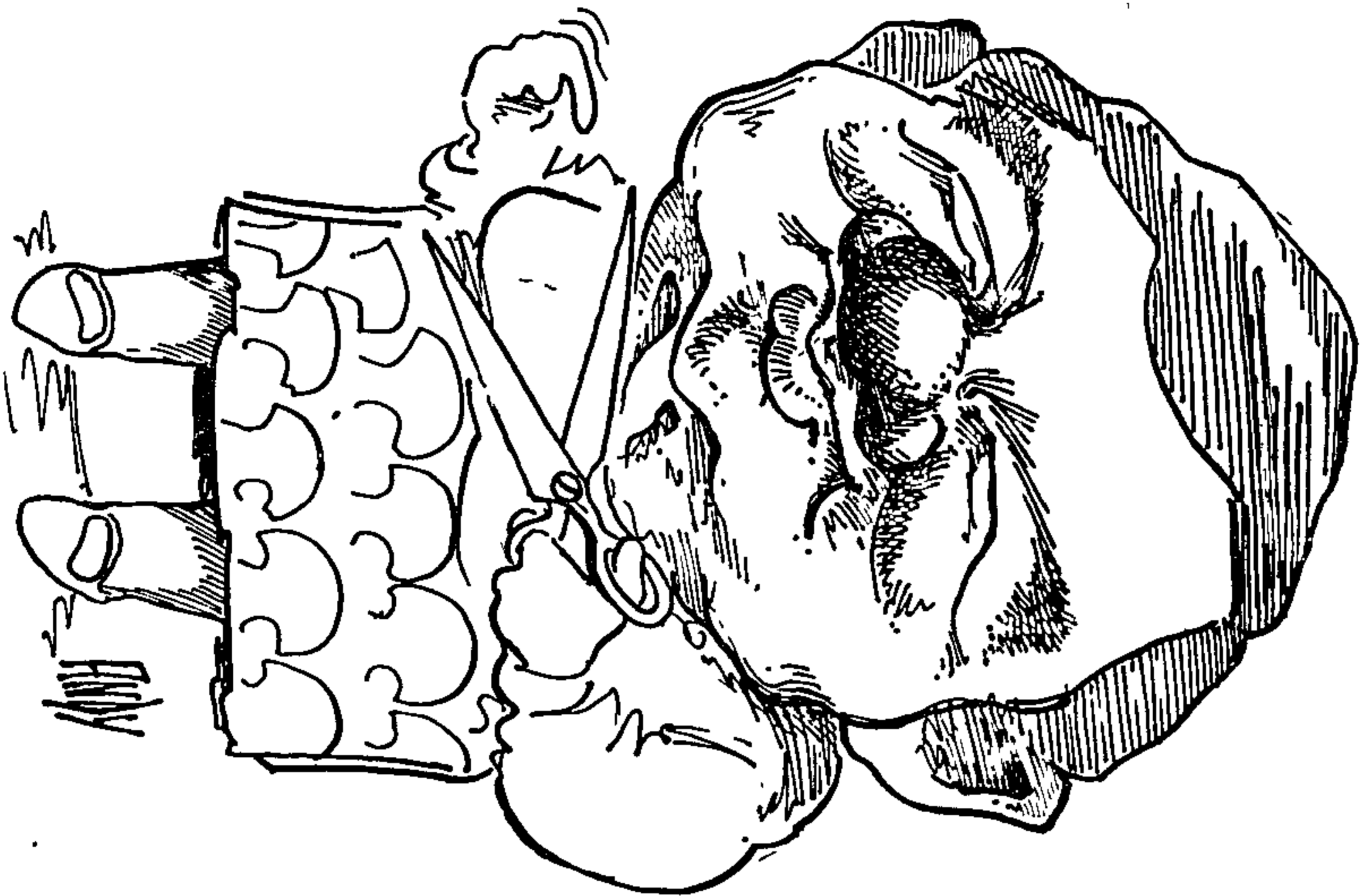
Deputy editor of the *Pretoria News*, Mr Peter Sullivan, said: "It continues to be difficult to be polite about the emergency restrictions as *Washington Post* publisher Kate Graham said at The Star's Centennial Conference last year."

Mr Anton Harber, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail*, said it would be a serious attack on the profession.

The implications of the latest regulations, however, could be that eventually all SA journalists would have to be registered. Furthermore, if the Minister assumed the power to strike journalists off a register, they could find their careers terminated.

When Mr Botha was asked by The Star to comment on fears that the Government was trying to slip in mandatory registration of journalists via the emergency regulations, he said: "I can state emphatically that such a suggestion is devoid of all truth."

"I sincerely trust the media will in fairness properly analyse the particular provisions of the regulations, which will then enable them to completely reject such a rumour."



(243)
New disinformation order



When Unesco's New World Information Order withered and died a few years ago, few tears were shed. They should be flowing again now, however, for the cause of press freedom is under renewed assault, not from one source but from many.

It is hard to draw a line between countries as diverse as SA, Singapore, Nicaragua, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, the Soviet Union and even Britain, which comprise a non-exclusive list of nations in which press freedoms have been infringed recently (a comprehensive survey, *Information, Freedom and Censorship*, just published by Longman, lists the

SA's press restrictions are in line with those in countries like Israel, Singapore, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union. The common basis is the decision that no coverage gives the best of all worlds — a position foreshadowed some years ago by the Unesco bureaucrats.

rest)

There cannot be any unholy conspiracy between them. But the common thread re-

mains not just an age-old determination on the part of officialdom to control and influence what appears in the respective domestic media but also what the international press discloses. It is in this second area that new concerns apply.

The two are obviously connected. A prime source for every foreign correspondent is the local media, thus applies as much in Washington, where small foreign bureaus cannot compete with the reporting strength of the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* and so on, as it does in Moscow today, where news is made through the columns of *Pravda*.

and other Soviet publications.

The good foreign correspondent should not merely shift and report what is in the indigenous media, it is much more important to be able to read between the lines. If, however, the domestic source is muzzled, then the work of the foreign correspondent becomes that much more difficult, though certainly not impossible.

Two recent examples demonstrate this. In SA, a principle purpose of the censorship in effect over the last two years has been quite simply to remove the reporting of unrest in the townships from foreign television screens. This has been achieved by circumscribing a prime source, the black and white domestic media, and by censoring the foreign press, both formally and more subtly, by encouraging what amounts to self-censorship.

In the short term, this approach has had some success. At a conference on press freedom in SA held in London earlier this year, US television executives conceded that they were covering SA less fully than in the past and believed that the decline in public protest in the US against the South African regime could be ascribed to that fact.

Similarly Israel, whose domestic press has always been conspicuously free and vigorous, was also much exercised by reporting, in the US in particular, of unrest in the Occupied Territories. Its response has mirrored that of SA and has included closure of dissident publications and suspending the credentials of two American reporters. It has been less successful in putting a lid on coverage, in good measure because the Israeli press fought hard against control. Across the river, Jordan, hitherto relatively relaxed towards domestic and foreign reporting, has also cracked down on both.

SA and Israel are not alone in the belief that controlling what appears on foreign television, and, to a lesser extent, in the press, helps determine policy. In so doing they subscribe to the view, long fashionable in rightwing circles, that the American media "lost" the Vietnam war because television coverage in the US showed that American forces were winning it. This is surely a gross simplification. The war was lost not in the newsrooms and the salons of Washington but in the paddy fields and jungles of Vietnam. But it is easy to be wise after the event.

There are, of course, other ways of influencing or con-

trolling the media. The pattern of reporting from war zones or from difficult-to-reach areas is very much dictated by access, control over which varies. Depending on the state of the war, both Iran and Iraq routinely invite the foreign media to view evidence of their latest triumphs or of atrocities committed by the other side. So did the Sandinistas and Contras in Nicaragua.

Political freebies

The relatively high reputation enjoyed by Jonas Savimbi of Unita in the US owes a lot to some skilfully handled press trips, a fact which, belatedly, the Angolan regime has recognised. So, in its conflict with Renamo, has the regime in Mozambique. The best information coming out of Ethiopia is provided not by the government in Addis Ababa, but courtesy of the Eritrean Liberation Front.

The technique is in essence no different from furnishing motoring journalists with free cars and travel writers with free trips. The task for the responsible media is to strike the right balance between the need to inform objectively and a hunger for information whatever the source. This balance can be fairly struck, though it is hard to make the case that it is in every instance.

Certainly the government of Singapore is

one which remains sceptical on this score, to the point that it really does appear to be breaking new ground in its running confrontation with the foreign press. It has amended its Newspapers and Printing Presses Act of 1974 to empower the relevant government minister to take action if he finds that a foreign publication is "engaging in the domestic politics of Singapore." Further, the Singapore government has argued — and its courts have so far agreed — that the minister has great powers of discretion over what constitutes interference.

PM Lee Kuan Yew doubtless has his own good reasons for taking the position he has. His attitude, though, is indelibly reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's famous slogan when he was fighting against the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties a decade ago: "We built it, we paid for it, it's ours." In other words, the message to the foreign press is that if you want to work in my territory, you play by my rules.

To an extent, there is nothing new in this. Countries have thrown out foreign correspondents for lots of reasons, including espionage and other breaches of domestic law and it is impossible to maintain that in each and every case the journalist was without sin. What does appear to be different is that Singapore, along with, perhaps, neighbour-

ing Malaysia, is effectively legalising its protective policies and applying them to the foreign media.

In Britain, formal and informal restrictions — the Official Secrets Act, the law of libel — do weigh mightily on the domestic media, but not so much on resident foreign reporters. Even the heavy hand of South African officialdom gives the foreign correspondent a degree of licence to determine whether or not a particular story does in fact break the censorship code.

This probably does deter some coverage in places like SA, but in practice, if not in principle, it is better to have half a loaf than none at all. Whatever the fine distinctions, in their respective ways SA, Singapore and too many other nations of contrasting political stripes seem to have concluded that it is better to have no coverage than that which is critical or unfavourable.

That, in sum, is what the Unesco bureaucrats were after, no matter how the notion was dressed up. The Western press is not perfect by a long chalk, but it has to fight for its rights to do the best it can. ■



De'Ath inquest to be reopened

CAR & TILES 18/6/88

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Supreme Court Reporter

THE inquest into the death of ITN cameraman Mr George De'Ath will be reopened following the setting aside yesterday of a decision by the inquest magistrate not to hear oral evidence from Mr Andile Fosi, Mr De'Ath's soundman at the time of his death

The judgment handed down by Miss Justice Leonora van den Heever — Mr Justice Berman concurring — also directed that the inquest magistrate, Mr W J P Marais, or any other magistrate who may hear the inquest, call Mr Fosi to give oral evidence

Mr Marais was also ordered to pay the costs

In his finding on August 13 last year, Mr Marais found that Mr De'Ath had died on June 14, 1986, and that his death was caused by "a head injury and the consequences thereof"

Where he was required to determine whether the death was brought about by any act or omission involving or amounting to an offence on the part of any person, Mr Marais had found "Yes — the deceased was extensively assaulted by a person or persons unknown to the state"

Mr Gordon Ian Rushton, the attorney acting for Mrs Tiley (Mr De'Ath's sister), said in an affidavit that the film made by Mr De'Ath before the fatal assault — which had been in police custody for some time — had a "freeze frame" superimposed from a certain point.

Evidence was that Mr De'Ath filmed "to the very last" and the disappearance of the last minutes of the film called for an explanation, Mr Rushton said

A video film (with soundtrack) prepared by Mr De'Ath, as well as others made by the South African Police Video Unit and other television networks of events in Crossroads that day, were available to the magistrate

Mr Marais viewed only the police tape

Professor L S Smith, formerly chief State Pathologist and Professor of Forensic Medicine at UCT, had concluded that oral evidence of the circumstances of Mr De'Ath's death could be important.

Miss Justice Van den Heever said there could be not be a "full, fair, public inquiry on incomplete or conflicting affidavit evidence as to relevant facts"

It was true that the identity of Mr De'Ath's attackers could not be determined from the documents before Mr Marais, but had Mr Fosi been questioned, particularly about available video material relating to people — particularly vigilantes — in the vicinity shortly before the attack, it was certainly "not beyond the bounds of reasonable possibility that he would be able to point out one or more of the people he is confident of being able to identify"

Mr J J Gauntlett, instructed by Findlay and Tart, appeared for Mrs Tiley. Mr P B Hodes SC, assisted by Mr W J Louw and instructed by the State Attorney, appeared for Mr Marais

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Cape Times, Monday, June 20, 1988 5

PFP 'deplores' new steps against media

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

THE federal executive of the PFP yesterday "deplored" the government's latest emergency regulations on the media, saying they drew a "cloak of secrecy" over information vital to citizens.

In a statement issued after its meeting at the weekend, the chairman of the federal executive, Mr Ken Andrew, said "It is concerned that these regulations further extend the grip of the authorities on the media in South Africa and that this stranglehold on the public's right to know appears to have become a permanent feature of government."

"South Africans are denied much of the information vital to citizens of a democracy, a situation further augmented by the constant barrage of bias and propaganda by SATV and the SABC."

The regulations were not aimed at preventing inaccurate reporting, but simply at empowering the minister to make arbitrary decisions, he said.

"There is little doubt that the application of these regulations will do more to damage democratic values than to any evils they are designed to curtail."

"The PFP is particularly concerned about the cloak of secrecy which will now, to an increasing extent, be drawn over the actions of the security police and the treatment of detainees."

Mr Andrew said the party believed that "disturbing revelations of abuses" may in future never come to light except through court action, and that PFP members who had played a significant role in exposing some of these abuses would "find it more difficult to do this very important work".

New govt curb on foreign media

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Civil servants have been instructed not to speak to unaccredited foreign journalists to counteract what a government circular described as "one-sided vitriolic propaganda against SA".

This was disclosed in a government document leaked to the Weekly Mail last week.

Bureau of Information Chief Mr Dave Steward yesterday confirmed that the document was circulated by the Interdepartmental Liaison Forum (ILF) to heads of departments.

Mr Steward described the document as a guideline for "unsuspecting representatives of government departments" in the event of being approached by foreign media.

Mr Steward said the instruction was necessitated by the increasing numbers of foreign press and television journalists who had entered the republic under "false pretences" in order to produce vitriolic and one-sided propaganda against SA such as the recent BBC programme "Suffer the Children".

The document was prompted by a letter to all director-generals from the former Deputy Minister of Information and Constitutional Development and Planning, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe.

The objective of the instruction was to control such "unethical practices", the document says.

More Govt action on foreign media

243 6/day 20/6/88

CIVIL servants have been instructed not to speak to unaccredited foreign journalists, to counteract what a government circular called a "one-sided, vitriolic propaganda against SA"

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Bureau of Information Chief Dave Steward confirmed yesterday the document was circulated by the Inter-departmental Liaison Forum (ILF)

Steward described the document as a guideline for "unsuspecting representatives of government departments" in the event of being approached by foreign media

Steward said the instruction was necessitated by the increasing numbers of foreign Press and television journalists who had entered SA under "false pretences" to produce one-sided propaganda such as the recent

ELSABE WESSELS

BBC programme "Suffer the Children"

The document was prompted by a letter from the former Deputy Minister of Information and Constitutional Development and Planning Stoffel van der Merwe to all directors-generals.

The letter, signed by ILF executive officer G Janse van Rensburg, called on department heads to immediately inform the bureau when approached by any members of the foreign media.

THEO RAWANA reports that the Foreign Correspondents Association said the instruction did not directly apply to it as a lot of freelance journalists were not members of the association.

Association chairman Peter Hawthorne said one criteria for membership was that the major part of a journalist's income should come from abroad.

Comment: Page 4

COMMENT

Press curbs

MOST comment on the latest restrictions on the Press, including the requirement for independent correspondents (known as "stringers") to seek registration by the state, assumes government is all-powerful, sinister, and effective in suppressing information. In fact, its regulations are proof of ignorance, provincialism, and a blundering ineptitude.

The real problem with President Botha and his close advisers is the narrowness of the information base from which they operate, their incapacity to comprehend the media as a phenomenon of the 20th century, and their lack of education. They just don't know how the world out there operates.

The deplorable image of South Africa which has been created abroad has not been the work of the odd "stringer" but of some of the best and most experienced news-gathering staff in the world — men and women with working experience in Moscow, Poland, Beijing, Bonn, and similar centres. Once upon a time the South African Press used to lead the foreign Press in reporting on events in South Africa; today, it lags far behind.

Nor have the curbs on news coverage had a beneficial effect abroad. Indeed, the reverse is often true. Japanese television, denied access to scenes of unrest, has been using clips from Sir Richard Attenborough's film, "Cry Freedom", to fill out its news broadcasts. The BBC, denied access, has resorted to making programmes — properly

described, in our view, as journalistic rubbish — which purport to disclose the torture of children. We are worse off as a result of the curbs.

Government goes astray because it allows itself to be guided by the superficial, and often nonsensical, theories of revolution which emanate from the rural colleges that, in this country, pass for universities. The most revolutionary idea ever produced is the idea of justice, and if government does not grasp that point, it wastes its time poring over Mao's Little Red Book.

All this, however, is peripheral. The essential point of any debate on public information or public media is credibility. A government which has established, as ours has done, a reputation for deceit, for concealing the facts, for suppressing the truth, for behaving in ways that do not bear examination in public, for having poor moral standards, for misnaming legislation in order to conceal its true purpose, for resorting to propaganda, for displacing editors who displease it, for trying to buy favourable publicity abroad, and for bullying the Press at home, is not readily believed.

The proposal to force some journalists to register will undermine the credibility of the rest. If government persists with this folly, it will soon have no way at all to communicate with either its own population or the outside world. At that point, it will have lost the ability to govern except by brute force, and possibly also the ability to conduct foreign relations.

Namibian editor is detained

Sowetan
20/6/88

243
~~277~~

A LEADING Namibian journalist highly critical of the South African and Transitional governments, Ms Gwen Lister, has been detained by security police in Windhoek.

A spokesman for the police, Chief Inspector Kierie du Rand, confirmed that Ms Lister — the Editor of *The Namibian* newspaper — had been picked up under South African Security Proclamation AG9, which provides for detention without trial for up to 30 days.

No reasons were given for the detention.

However, the arrest of Ms Lister came the day after security police raided her paper's offices in Windhoek, looking for a leaked confidential government document. Ms Lister handed over the document last Thursday but refused to say where or how it had come

into her possession SA VO 12/20/88

By MATHATHA TSEDU

243

HISTORY will be made in Pietersburg this morning when the Media Workers Association signs a recognition agreement with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

It will be the first time that the corporation recognises a black trade union. Union officials in the far northern Transvaal region said the agreement followed protracted negotiations that started last year.

Mwasa presently represents over 50 percent of black staff employed at Pietersburg. Louis Trichardt and Giyani. The five, Mr Richard Ranoto, Mr Silas Mashale, Mr Hendrik Mashakeng, Mr Johannes Kau and Mr five Mwasa members for

ON DOTTED LINE SABC SIGNS

allegedly wanting to resign from the South African Typographical Union, a Mwasa official, Mr Kgalabi Kekana, said yesterday.

The five, Mr Richard Ranoto, Mr Silas Mashale, Mr Hendrik Mashakeng, Mr Johannes Kau and Mr Philemon Baleka, were dismissed on Wednesday.

The dismissals followed a decision by the National Industrial Council of the Printing and Newspaper Industry to reject their application for exemption from Satu membership.

"Our members were told to resign from Mwasa and when they refused they were fired. We are not taking this lying down. A Nactu legal unit and our attorneys are processing the matter. It is absolutely unfair and unacceptable that people should be forced to belong to a union that they do not want," Mr Kekana said.

A Boshoff of Moreseter Printers yesterday told the *Sowetan* to write him a letter about the matter in order to get a comment. He then hung up.

"Our members complained about the high subscriptions that are deducted for Satu. On the other hand they have no control over the subscription as the union is dominated by whites. They feel more at home in Mwasa," he said.

4 held
after ^{CAP 7-175} 22/6/88
press curb
protest ²⁴³

THREE city journalists and a graphic artist holding placards to protest against the media curbs were yesterday arrested outside their offices in St George's Street and charged with contravening the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act.

Police took possession of four posters and took the four to Caledon Square where they were photographed and fingerprinted before being charged and released on R50 bail each.

The four — Argus reporter Robert Houwing, reporters Chris Steyn and Peter Dennehy and graphic artist Tina Coombes, all of the Cape Times — were warned to appear before a Cape Town magistrate this morning.

A lawyer for the four said the law under which they had been charged prohibited certain gatherings and demonstrations in an area of Cape Town bordered by Long, Orange, Buitengracht, Strand and Buitenkant streets.

The posters read "No news is bad news", "Emergency — your right to know — save the press", "Free the Press" and "Stop Stoffels gags — save the Press" — Staff Reporter and Sapa

course Glenfon, who help run the Operation Snowball collection depot in Kew, sit in an empty room which they hope will soon be filled with blankets and clothes.

Media curbs demo: journalists arrested

CAPE TOWN — Three Cape Town journalists and a graphics artist holding placards to protest against media curbs were arrested outside their offices in St George's Street yesterday and charged.

A reporter from *The Argus*, Mr Robert Houwing, *Cape Times* reporters Mr Chris Steyn and Mr Peter Dennehy and graphics artist Ms Tina Coombes were warned to appear in court today. — Sapa

Freelances slate new regulations

By Duncan Guy

Freelance journalists have expressed disgust at the Government's latest emergency regulations which includes the registration of freelance journalists and news agencies.

International correspondent Mr Mervyn Rees said yesterday that news of South Africa would be read with little credibility overseas.

"There is already a great deal of wariness about accepting copy from South African journalists or correspondents based here because of the media restrictions"

Mr Franz Kruger of East London said it was a great worry that the new restrictions seemed to have been passed unnoticed by many South Afri-

cans
"Once a journalist is struck off the register they may no longer practise."

Another international correspondent, Mr Tony Weaver of Cape Town, said the definition of a "news agency" appeared to be hopelessly vague and that such registration would be "the end for journalism"

Sixty freelance journalists who met last week under the auspices of the Anti-Censorship Action Group decided not to register with the Minister of Home Affairs unless all representations in respect of any challenges to this provision have been exhausted

Spokesman Miss Pat Sidley said yesterday that attorneys had been briefed to check whether the registration issue could be declared *ultra vires*.

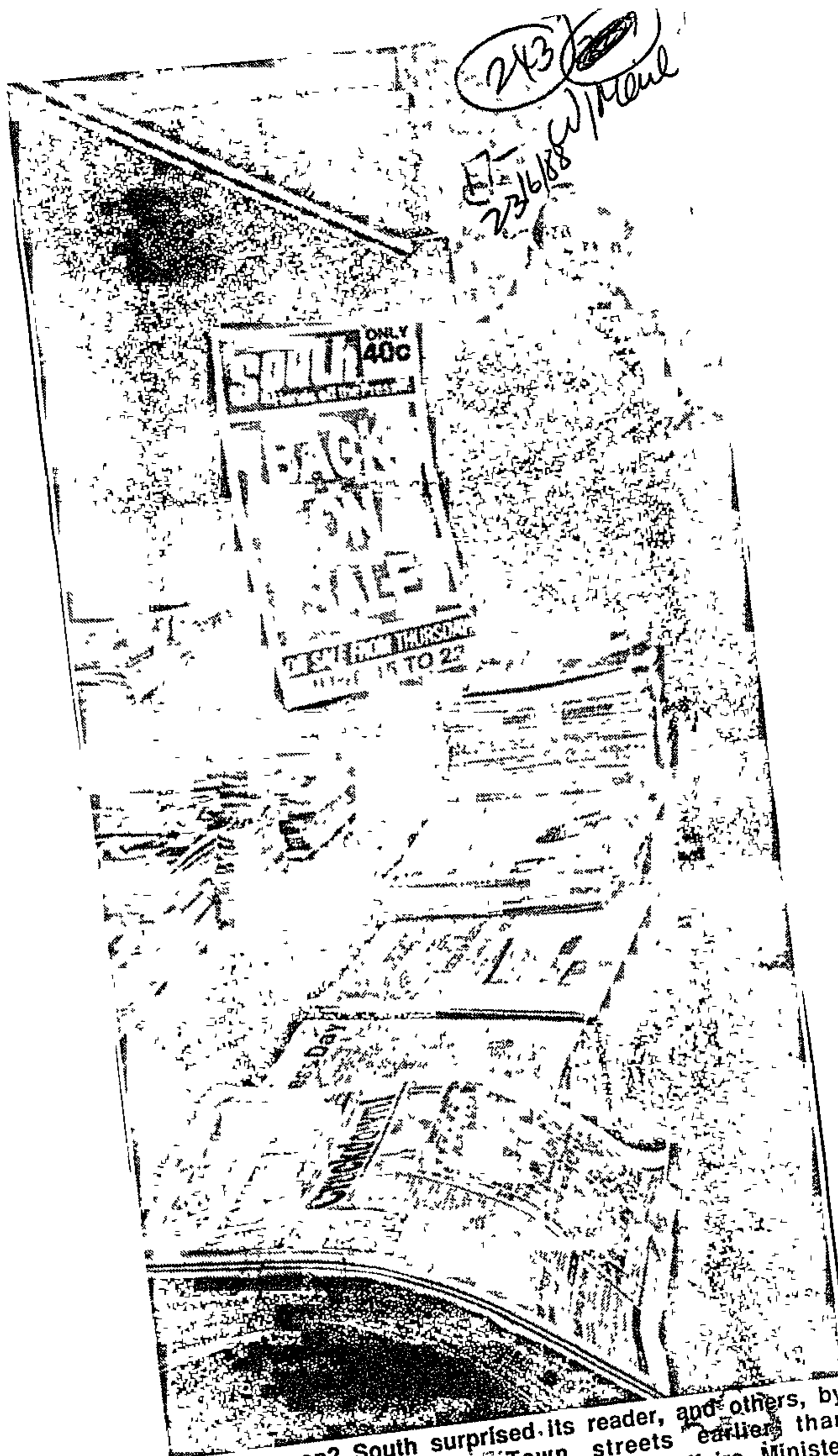
Police release detained editor

after five days

WINDHOEK — The police have released Miss Gwen Lister, editor of the *Namibian* newspaper, a staff member said

Miss Lister was detained last Friday in terms of security Proclamation AG 9, which provides for detention without trial for renewable periods of up to 30 days.

The staff member said Miss Lister was freed at about 3.15 pm yesterday. — Sapa



Back so soon? South surprised its reader, and others, by appearing on the Cape Town streets earlier than expected. Under new regulations, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha had to extend their suspension within ten days. South decided to come out anyway Picture: AFRAPIX

'Society is being robbed'

(243)


South Africa 23/6/08

THE Government was facing a national crisis because it tried to march out of step with humanity by demanding that only its version of the truth be known to South Africa and the world, Mr Anthony Heard, former editor of the *Cape Times*, said.

pers either closed directly by the Government or crumbling for various reasons, but under Government pressure

Civil rights lawyer Mr Essa Moosa said English and Afrikaans-speaking journalists should "stand together" to safeguard

the freedom of the press

"The aim of the media, which is presently under attack, is to present facts to substantiate truth. To suppress the media is to suppress the truth. No enlightened society can allow this to happen," he said — Sapa

Addressing a meeting at St George's Cathedral Hall on government curbs on the press, Mr Heard warned of the loss of newspapers.

"When a divided society is robbed, even temporarily, of what papers like *South*, or *New Nation* have to say, it is gravely threatened. It is threatened because it lurches closer to settling disputes not by reason but in the streets."

People should do all they could to save the press as it was part of the process of saving the country.

"Established press and alternative press are two sides of the same coin. They are essential parts of free expression. And there is no point in one ignoring the plight or problems of the other.

"Today's alternative newspaper could be tomorrow's established institution."

Mr Heard said he had never known a period in his professional life when the South African press had not been under severe Government attack.

There was a long casualty list of newspa-

Four appear in court over demonstration

CAPE TOWN — Three Cape Town journalists and a graphic artist, picked up by police on Tuesday during a placard demonstration against the media restrictions, appeared briefly in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of contravening the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act.

The case against the four — Robert Houwing, a reporter on *The Argus* and western Cape vice-president of the Southern African Society of Journalists; *Cape Times* reporters Chris Steyn and Peter Dennehy, and graphic artist Tina Coombes — was postponed to July 7 for further investigation.

No charge was put to them and they were not asked to plead. The four are on bail of R50 each. — Own Correspondent.

Read all about it

243

If the results from the English groups — Argus and Times Media Limited (TML) — are anything to go by, the newspaper and publishing industry appears to be firmly out of recession. Both groups reported substantial earnings surges in recent weeks. Do their figures portend more results of that ilk from Afrikaanse Pers (APB)?

Signals from the market, which are affected by the high dividend cover of 5,85 times, are mixed. At 465c, the share stands on a P/E of only 3,4 times while the dividend yield indicates a higher rating at 4,3%. The conservatively managed APB has long had the distinction of offering a very hefty asset underpin — which is partly a comment on the earnings performance. With the price up from the 12-month low of 400c, the share currently stands at only 30% of the net worth of June 30 1987. After the interim earnings advance of 20%, the 1988 year-end results could show that the discount to net worth is even larger.

But comparisons with other newspaper groups are difficult for several reasons. Argus and TML have benefited from the rationalisation of their printing operations, Argus gains considerable investment income from diversified interests; and APB, also heavily diversified, does not reveal the profit breakdown between its various divisions.

CE Koos Buitendag does say that newspapers currently provide about 27% of turnover, with the rest coming from books, printing and magazines (see chart). The group thus has a range of activities in printing and publishing and has remained highly capital intensive.

The asset intensity together with the conservative approach to management has in large measure determined the performance. Although shareholders' funds totalled R52,6m last year, gearing has been kept low, the June 1987 balance sheet showed net cash balances of some R310 000 and Buitendag says the figure has risen since then. But funds are continuing to be ploughed into the business. He estimates that capex in the 1988 year was about R9,1m against R7,5m in 1987 and expects this could rise further.

Given the high fixed cost structure, volume throughput and effective utilisation of the assets are crucial for the profit performance. Earnings have been erratic over the

The English-language press has soldiered on to renewed profitability. This trend does not, however, apply in all respects to APB — though its diverse interests give a reasonably solid base.

years. EPS fell from 102c in 1981 to 54,4c in 1983, followed by 68,34c in 1984, 35,73c in 1985, 63,9c in 1986 and 117c in 1987.

One problem is that a substantial portion of assets and management time is devoted to the newspaper interests, held in subsidiary Perskor, which appear to be the least profitable of the group's activities. Although most newspapers have recently shown marked circulation growth, Perskor's major Afrikaans publications *Die Vaderland* and *Die Transvaler* have struggled. Senior GM Kotie van Heerden says he is confident improvements will be achieved.

But these publications have been facing heat from the electronic media and other publishing groups, particularly Nasionale Pers. ABC circulation figures show, for example, that during the six months to end-



APB's Buitendag ... mum on profit breakdown

December, *Die Vaderland's* daily circulation grew by 1,9% to 33 449 on the year-ago period, that of *Die Transvaler* by 3,1% to 21 828 and *The Citizen* by 4,1% to 113 269. In comparison, *The Star* increased its circulation by 3,4% to 202 482, *Business Day* by 10,4% to 30 182 and *Beeld* by 7,4% to 97 923.

Buitendag says the group will continue to concentrate on expanding circulation of its newspapers. He says that *The Citizen's* circulation is rising and the newspaper recently turned profitable after making losses since its inception. The group's country newspapers are also doing well, he claims.

However, the main financial strength lies in the other major divisions — commercial printing, books and Republican Press (RP), which publishes and distributes magazines. There is also a corporate division, which holds various investments. Buitendag doubts that further diversification would be feasible but says that existing facilities and products will be strengthened. At present, he says, the commercial printing presses are fully utilised and staff are working overtime.

Perskor, through its commercial printing division, owns 11 specialised printing works spread across SA. Among these are the Transvaal Envelope Manufacturers (Temco), RP, Aurora, Exakta Business Forms (Exakta), Thanda, Galvin & Sales and Perskor commercial presses. Replacement costs are high. The Perskor printing works comprises three factories in Doornfontein, Johannesburg, where activities range from production of cheque books to telephone directories. The printing division handles business only for clients, while newspapers are printed on separate presses.

Temco manufactures a range of envelopes varying in size and type. Exakta, which prints continuous stationery for the computer market, is said to be performing successfully.

Buitendag says that RP's consumer magazines and commercial printing have improved their performance strongly over the past two years, although the "look reads" (so-called photo stories) continue to carry part of the overheads. RP publishes and distributes consumer magazines in various languages, with the emphasis on entertainment and information. *Bona*, printed in four

246/88 (243) PM

languages and with circulation exceeding 300 000, remains dominant in the black market

Latest ABC figures show circulation increases for a number of the magazines, including *Garden & Home*, *Bona*, *Femina*, *Personality*, *Rooi Rose* and *Scope* Glossy magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and other publications are printed and distributed for outside publishers

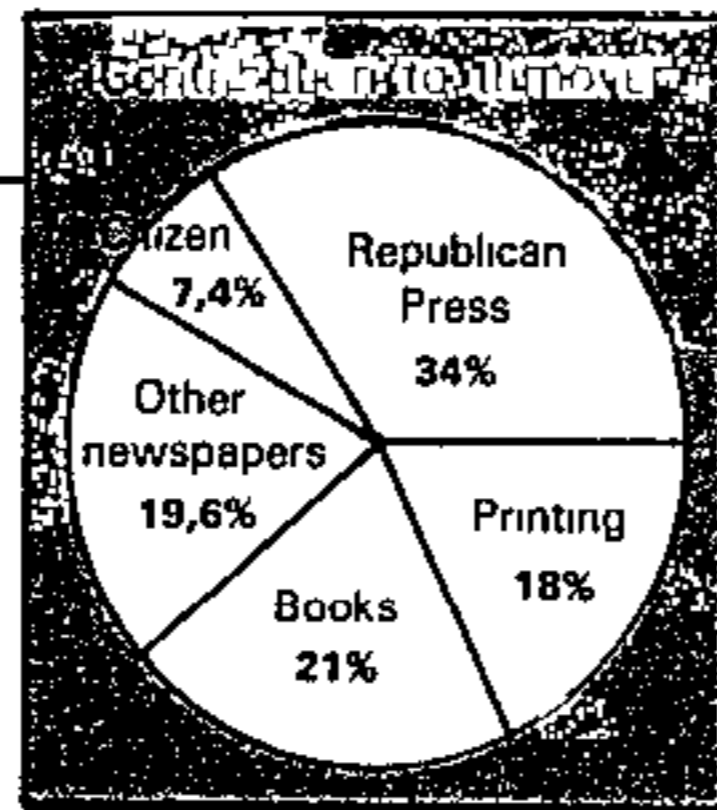
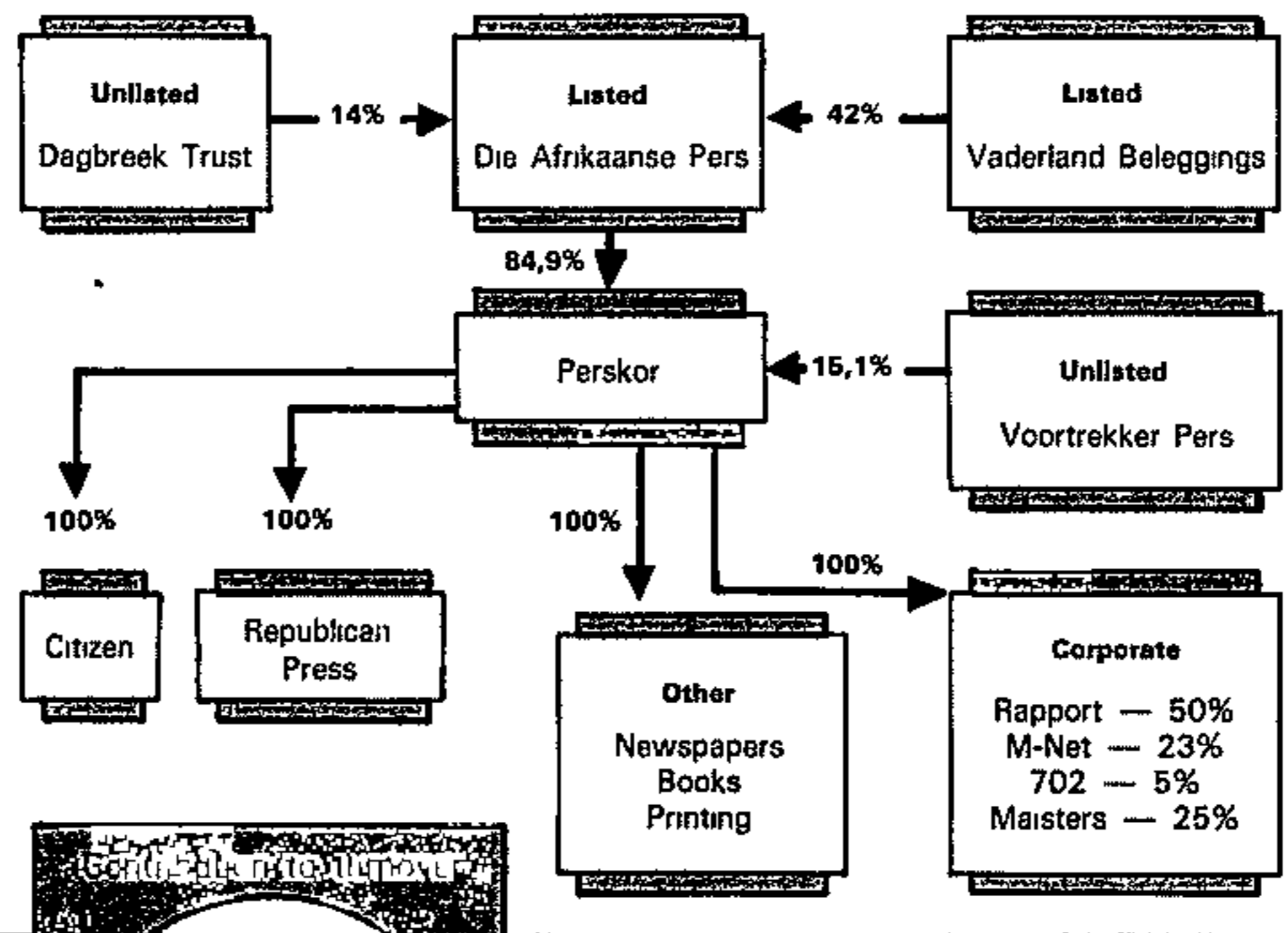
Deputy MD Schalk van der Merwe notes that the division's magazine business is supplemented by substantial volumes of commercial printing. He adds that RP has swung its distribution organisation, Republican News Agency, from a service department into a profit centre by distributing external publications such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Living*, *De Kat* and *Vleende Springbok*

Van der Merwe contends that the potential of the magazine subsidiary is "unlimited," despite the threat from the electronic media. Even so, there is cause for concern in the fact that the electronic media's advertising income is growing faster than that of magazines

Meanwhile, contributions to profits from the books have soared to record levels over the past two years, says deputy MD Frans Wessels. The division's black services de-

Well diversified

Group structure for Die Afrikaanse Pers



partment has become the major sales generator and a publisher has been established on a partnership basis with eight black and four white directors. Products handled include prescribed books, including primary and secondary textbooks and general publishing literature

But the printing industry is cost intensive. Materials and other printing costs are responsible for more than half of the Perskor group's operating expenditure. Paper prices have ballooned, with some imported types affected by the depreciating rand. Uncertain prospects for advertising could be another

constraint on group profits

Buitendag's response is that while limits on advertising growth are hurting the industry, it will be up to the industry participants to adapt and improve their own positions. "One counter would be to change the emphasis on the type of advertising," he says. "This could involve further exploitation of the retail trade rather than the shrinking national advertising market." He is also targeting further circulation growth for *The Citizen*, and improved market penetration for the group's afternoon papers

Still, the overall performance has derived stability

from the extensive printing operations and the board has used a high cover to avoid large dividend fluctuations — although the frugal dividend policy does not endear the share to the stock market

The payout was increased last year to 20c (14c) and with cover already close to six times, the dividend could rise in line with earnings

EPS growth will be curbed by a rise in the tax rate, which is set to move off the present 25% level, but the group looks set to report solid real growth soon

Marketability of the share is low, with only 181 528 shares traded in the past six months and 660 000 during 1987

Louis Venter

VIENNA GOLD CONFERENCE

Where we fit in

Some 300 delegates attended this year's *FT* World Gold Conference in Vienna. Senior South African representatives sat side by side with the delegate from the Soviet Union, Eugene Ulanov, GM of the treasury division of the Bank for Foreign Affairs, which has the sole legal authority to sell Soviet gold on international markets

As expected, Ulanov divulged no statistics on Soviet gold production and observed that there was no benefit for his country in giving this information. However, he made an interesting point: if Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to improve the domestic economy succeed, the Soviet Union would have more leeway when deciding in what quantity and when to sell gold, depending on market conditions. "This will be helpful for the development of international precious metal markets," Ulanov said. Moreover, he considered it his main task at the meeting to convince participants of a medium-term upward trend in the gold price

Timothy Green, consultant to Cons Gold Fields in the Middle East, Far East and South American markets, reported contin-

Trudy Newbury reports exclusively for the *FM* on the annual gold conference hosted by the *Financial Times* in Vienna. The focus fell on new production and the possibility that the metal's price will test new lows.

ued positive purchasing of gold by central banks for the third year in succession. Despite official protests about gold's monetary role, central banks had been net buyers of 709 t in the period 1980-1987. This trend is likely to continue for some years. South Korea might follow Taiwan as a big buyer — and in the first quarter of 1988 Far East demand, mainly from Taiwan, Japan and India, reached 220 t, equivalent to around two-thirds of quarterly Western output

One reason for official buying in the Far East has been to try to balance trade with the US (the gold for both Japan and Taiwan has largely been shipped from the US). Green is sure that there is *not* a glut of gold, despite the enormous production increases in the

US, Canada and Australia. To him the underlying message of this physical offtake is that the market — in statistical supply/demand terms — looks in very good shape.

John Curran, executive vice-president, Republic National Bank of New York (Singapore), confirmed a strong trend towards liberalisation and deregulation on the South East Asian gold markets. For example, Malaysia has no duties or taxes on gold, and imports between 5 t-10 t annually. South Korea is easing regulations and lowering taxes and duties on gold, which are at present very high. Taiwan saw its currency appreciate by some 20% in 1987 and the government purchased 170 t between October 1987 and March 1988, doubling its holdings to 345 t. This is about 7% of Taiwan's total foreign currency reserves. In addition, private-sector imports into Taiwan are estimated at 120 t-140 t in 1987

In Hong Kong, first-quarter 1988 gold imports are also up on the previous year (139 t, as against 153 t for the whole of 1987). Singapore imported 44 t in the first four months of 1988 and has already exceed-

Do you have a licence, Mr Botha?

From PAGE 1

cation, television or radio station

In other words, any individual or organisation that regularly provides material for publication to more than one outlet would fall within the new controls

Thus law firms would be affected if they informed newspapers or other publications of developments in their field. So would organisations that regularly provided statistics or opinions, such as the SAIRR's regular reports or Cals' civil rights monitoring reports

The only proviso is that the information they circulate would have to be news material

There is nothing to exclude a church member who sent news articles to a parish newsletter.

Similarly, there is no exemption for government liaison offices. As long as they are supplying more than one outlet, they will have to sign up at the Department of Home Affairs.

The same would apply to almost every public relations operation, both those within organisations such as the Chamber of Mines and private PR companies

In terms of the regulations, the minister of home affairs will not be able to refuse registration. But he will be able immediately to de-register anyone who he believes is a threat to public safety or to law and order or is delaying the termination of the Emergency.

De-registration means that agency will no longer be able to perform its work — and the minister has the sole discretion to refuse re-registration.

● A meeting of about 60 freelance journalists, news agencies and others hit by the new regulations last Friday called on all journalists not to register in terms of the new regulations until all other channels have been exhausted.

Attorneys have been briefed to investigate the possibility that the regulations are *ultra vires* and invalid.

Pardon, Mr Botha, but do you have a licence?

Weekly Mail Reporter

THE government's own Bureau for Information may have to register in terms of the new State of Emergency controls over "news agencies".

So might the South African Police's Division of Public Relations; and that of the South African Prisons Service and the State Security Council.

Media law experts say the new controls over "news agencies" are so wide-ranging that probably all 40 of the liaison offices of the various sectors of the government will fall within their ambit.

So might most of the country's law firms; dozens of organisations such as the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (Cals) which circulated information for publication; public relations divisions in every large company; and individuals ranging from foreign correspondents to church members who contribute to their local parish newsletter.

There is consensus that the primary targets of the government action are the "alternative" news agencies and South Africans who work for the foreign media. Their work and livelihood are directly threatened by the regulations.

However, the definition within the Emergency regulations encompasses dozens of others.

In order to qualify as a "news agency" and fall subject to the Emergency controls one simply has to be involved in the "gathering, preparation, compilation, recording, processing or production of news material" and supplying such material for publication locally or internationally.

There are only three categories that are exempt: major news agencies that are listed in the Government Gazette (such as Sapa, Reuters and Associated Press); people who do this work in a "casual or isolated" way; and those who are in the exclusive employ of one publi-

To PAGE 2

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24-30/6/88

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Press chief slates curbs

Skv 27/6/88

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The right of Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel-Botha to suspend newspapers on the strength of his opinion threatens the freedom of expression of every inhabitant of South Africa, says the chairman of Times Media Ltd (TML), Mr Pat Retief, in the company's annual report.

He says this is not only a dangerous regulation but "seems unnecessary given the panoply of existing laws available for use against alleged transgressors".

Mr Retief says it is not necessary to agree with the views of affected newspapers in order to

believe that they be accorded the normal protection of the courts.

He expresses regret that the Government had seen fit to use its emergency powers against certain newspapers.

Few businesses were more complex than the newspaper business, which required many diverse disciplines to mesh smoothly together, while working against demanding daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly deadlines, said Mr Retief.

"In addition, our publications must tread through a minefield of restrictive legislation each time they go to press."



Treat yourself
to taste today.

Press regulations dangerous, says TML chairman

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The right of the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to suspend newspapers on the strength of his opinion "threatens the freedom of expression of every inhabitant of our country", said the chairman of Times Media Limited (TML), Mr Pat Retief

Writing in the latest TML annual report, Mr Retief expressed regret that the government had seen fit to use its emergency powers against certain newspapers

He criticized the media regulations "which place beyond the reach of the courts the exercise of sweeping powers on the basis of an opinion of a minister".

He said the regulation empowering the minister to suspend newspapers was "dangerous" and "seems unnecessary given the panoply of existing laws available for use against alleged transgressors"

It was not necessary to agree with the views of the affected newspapers in order to believe that they should be accorded the normal protection of the courts

Mr Retief said TML management had learnt to cope with the unpredictable and often turbulent conditions which prevail in SA

He thanked management, editors and staff for the outstanding results achieved against a background of having to meet the complex demands of the newspaper business as well as "a minefield of restrictive legislation"

1931

MONDAY, 27 JUNE 1988

1932

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Bonteheuwel line' commuters killed/injured

40 Mr P C MCKENZIE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs

- (1) (a) How many commuters (i) died and (ii) sustained (aa) light and (bb) serious injuries on trains or in train-related incidents on the Bonteheuwel line during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, (b) what (i) were the names, (ii) were the ages and (iii) was the nature of the injuries of the commuters who (aa) died and (bb) were injured, (c) how many of them were (i) workers and (ii) scholars and (d) what percentage of the persons who were injured or died were travelling (i) away from and (ii) towards their homes,
- (2) (a) how many such commuters (i) fell through open doors in overcrowded train coaches, (ii) lost their grip whilst clinging to or jumping into trains in motion, (iii)

were deliberately pushed or thrown from trains and (iv) were forced to jump from trains to avoid serious assault and (b) what percentage of these accidents occurred (i) on weekdays, (ii) over weekends and (iii) during peak (aa) morning and (bb) evening periods;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS

(1) (a)

(i) 2

(ii) (aa) Unknown

(bb) 15

(b) (i) (aa) B Zofuxhe

and
David J

For the period 1 April 1987 to 31 March 1988

(ii) and (iii) (aa) and (b)(i), (ii) and (iii) (bb), (c), (d) and (2) Particulars are not readily available and it will take much time and expense to gather such information

(3) No

1933

TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 1988

1934

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 21 June 1988, pursuant to resolution adopted by House on Monday, 20 June 1988

Managing directors/newspaper editors

*1 Mr P G SOAL asked the State President

- (1) Whether he contacted any (a) managing directors and/or (b) editors of any newspapers on or about 6 June 1988, if so, (i) why and (ii) in what manner,
- (2) whether he issued any instructions and/or put forward any suggestions to these persons at the time, if so, (a) why, (b) what was the purport of these instructions or suggestions, (c) to whom were they issued or put forward and (d) what was the response to them in each case?

The STATE PRESIDENT

I am in continuous contact with various people who hold responsible positions in South Africa. I am however not prepared to disclose the contents of confidential discussions.

Mr P G SOAL. Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the State President, would he not consider giving the answer to this question in view of the fact that it concerns a very serious matter?

The STATE PRESIDENT The reply is no

New Question

ANC discussions

*1 Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the State President +

Whether, since 1 January 1984, any Ministers have held any official or unofficial discussions outside prison premises locally or abroad with Mr Nelson Mandela or other members or associates of the ANC, if so, (a) which Minis-

ters, (b) on what occasions, (c) with whom, (d) when, and (e) for what purposes, in each case?

The STATE PRESIDENT

I refer the hon member to the reply of the Minister of Justice to question No 4 of 22 March 1988 and his subsequent replies. The Minister has a line function with regard to prisons

As regards other ANC members or associates outside prisons, the answer is no

Ministers

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 14 June 1988

State President's patient

*8 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, is still being held as a State President's patient, if so, (a) what is his name, (b) (i) in which institutions has he been held since 1966 and (ii) for what periods in each case and (c)(i) where and (ii) under what conditions is he being held at present,
- (2) whether he is receiving any (a) medical and (b) psychiatric treatment at present, if not, why not, if so, (i) what is the nature of this treatment, (ii) by whom is it being given and (c) what have been the results of the treatment,
- (3) whether the Government is considering taking any further steps in regard to this person, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) Yes

(a) The person whose name was furnished to the Department

(b) (i) and (ii) He was declared a State President's patient by the Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa on 20 October 1966 and an order for his detention was issued

(c) (i) Pretoria Prison complex



Press chief criticises Minister's powers

Star 28/11/58
242
The right of Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha to suspend newspapers on the strength of his opinion threatens the freedom of expression of every inhabitant of South Africa, says Times Media Ltd chairman Mr Pat Retief in the company's annual report ---

This was not only a dangerous regulation but "seems unnecessary given the panoply of existing laws available for use against alleged transgressors".

Mr Retief says it is not necessary to agree with affected newspapers' views in order to believe that they be accorded the normal protection of the courts.

He expresses regret that the State has seen fit to use its emergency powers against some newspapers

Few businesses were more complex than the newspaper business, which requires many diverse disciplines to mesh smoothly together while working against demanding daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly deadlines, Mr Retief says

"In addition, our publications must tread through a minefield of restrictive legislation each time they go to press"

(243) (243) (243)
May 25/1968
**Curbs on free
expression
'are deplored'**

The council of the English Academy of Southern Africa says it deplores any attempts, by the Government or any other agency, to suppress or impede the democratic right of free speech and publication in South Africa.

In a statement issued this week "in view of the increasing legislation limiting free expression in this country", the council said one of the aims in the constitution of the English Academy was to "defend the democratic rights of free speech and publication".

"In the light of that aim, our earnest desire is to uphold at all times and to cultivate free academic, political and social debate among the peoples of South Africa

"We sincerely believe that only when the democratic right of free speech is restored to our people will a safe, peaceful and stable South Africa become a living reality, acceptable once again among the community of civilised nations."

BANNED PAPER

BACK IN STREETS

243

THE *New Nation* newspaper, which was shut down for three months in March under the emergency regulations, will be on the street again on Thursday.

According to the acting editor of the paper, Mr Gabu Tugwana, the Thursday edition will be bigger and will contain more special features than the editions prior to the suspension

From Thursday, the paper will now sell at 50 cents, an increase from 30 cents, which Mr Tugwana said was to contain the spiralling costs of production

"This is our first increase since the paper started two years ago, until now we have been taking the production costs which were escalating and we can no

longer do so," he said

On March 22, the newspaper, which is owned by the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, was suspended by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

Rise

Meanwhile, the Cape Town based *South*, last week reported a 25 percent rise in its circulation, after it was banned for a month, also under the emergency regulations.

The editor of *South*, Mr Rashid Seria, which now stands at 16 000 copies a week, said that he did not think the rise in the circulation was the result of the banning. He said that readers responded around issues which accounted for more copies being sold.

Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha, announced that he would not ban *South* for further two months in terms of the Regulation 9(a) of new media regulations.

BIG THREAT

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THE Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha's right to suspend newspapers on the strength of his opinion "threatens the freedom of expression of every inhabitant of our country," said Times Media Limited chairman, Mr Pat Retief, in the company's annual report.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes The name furnished by the hon member
- (2) (a) and (b)(i) and (ii) Yes, departmental disciplinary action will be considered against the sergeant and all the members who were involved in the incident, as soon as the one outstanding criminal case has been finalised

Police newspaper editors

*10 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order

Whether the public relations division of the South African Police issued any warnings and/or put forward any suggestions to any editors or news editors on or about 7 June 1988 in regard to the publication of information regarding stay-aways, intimidation or any other specified topic, if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) what was the purport of such warnings or suggestions, (d)(i) in what ways, (ii) on whose instruction and (iii) to which editors or news editors were they issued or put forward and (e) what was the response to each such warning or suggestion?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(a) to (e)

I wish to point out to the hon member that an excellent relationship of trust exists between the South African Police and the vast majority of the media

On 6 June 1988 the commander of the Public Relations Division of the South African Police sent a confidential note by telex message through SAPA to all editors and news editors in which media regulations relating to the publication of certain information, was brought to their attention

In view of an agreement between the South African Police and the Newspaper Press Union, as well as a meeting between these two parties which took place on 25 June 1987, it was decided to advise editors and news editors when it appeared necessary, with regard to reporting that could possibly constitute an offence of the media regulations. This step was welcomed by the media. This advice would, however, not be binding and the final decision to accept or ignore it would still rest with the editors and news editors



Up until now no complaints have been received from the media regarding this matter. However, it is regretted that a confidential matter between the South African Police and the media, which was intended to facilitate the task of the media, was apparently made known with malicious intent in order to involve it in petty politics

Municipal elections

*11 Dr P W A MULDER asked the Minister of Information, Broadcasting Services and the Film Industry †

- (1) Whether the Government commissioned a certain advertising company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to work out and submit a communication strategy with a view to the municipal elections in October 1988, if so, (a)(i) what company and (ii) on what date was the commission given and (b) what was the cost involved in the submission,
- (2) whether the Government accepted this submission (a) in its entirety or (b) partially, if so, (i) what total amount was approved for the advertising campaign and (ii) by whom,
- (3) whether the company concerned is part of an international group, if so, of what group,
- (4) whether other companies were also requested to make submissions of this nature, if not, why not, if so, what companies?

†The MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING SERVICES AND THE FILM INDUSTRY

(1) (a) (i) No, not the Government as such, but the Bureau for Information requested several agencies to submit proposals and as a result the McCann submission was accepted

(ii) 16/3/88

(b) None

(2) (a) No

(b) Yes

(i) R4,8 million (round sum)

(ii) Tender Board

(3) Whether or not the company concerned has international links has no relevance to the matter under discussion

(4) Yes, but I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the other agencies to reveal their names

†Mr S C JACOBS Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply in respect of paragraph (3) of Question 11 — whether the company concerned is part of an international group — I understood from the hon the Minister's reply that it is not relevant to the question under discussion

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! The hon member understood it correctly. That is the reply of the hon the Minister, and that is the end of the matter

†Mr S C JACOBS Mr Chairman, I would like to know whether there is any link between

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! No, the hon the Minister said on that point that in his opinion it was not relevant, and we cannot pursue the matter any further

†Mr F J LE ROUX Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply I just want to know on what grounds the hon the Minister asserts that it is not relevant for the purposes of replying to the question

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, the company is a South African company but many of the companies do correspond with firms in one state or another

†Mr F J LE ROUX But that is not the point!

†The MINISTER and I do not think their international links are relevant for the purposes of this question

†Dr F HARTZENBERG Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether the Government has accepted that part of the report that proposes that animated characters be used? [Interjections]

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, that aspect as well as certain other aspects concerning the implementation of the proposals of the company are still under consideration

†Mr S C JACOBS Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he give us

an indication of where the head office of this company is situated, and whether they have more than one head office in South Africa and abroad?

†Mr W J SCHOEMAN What does that have to do with the matter?

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! If the hon the Minister is not willing to reply to any further supplementary questions, we shall proceed to the following question. The hon member for Johannesburg North's question will be the last one

Mr P G SOAL Mr Chairman, with respect, I believe this is only the fourth supplementary question arising from the hon the Minister's reply

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! It does not matter how many questions the hon member has counted. When the Chair decides enough questions have been put, it can bar hon members from putting any more questions

Mr P G SOAL Mr Chairman, I was under the impression Mr Speaker had decided five supplementary questions would be allowed. [Interjections]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I have decided to allow the hon member to put his question, which will definitely be the final supplementary question relating to the reply to this particular question

Mr P G SOAL Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply given by the hon the Minister, could he tell us whether, as a result of the communications strategy, certain advertisements were placed in newspapers last week concerning registration dates for voting on 26 October? If so, is the information contained in those advertisements correct?

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, the answer to both questions is yes

Mr P G SOAL That is untrue! [Interjections]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I just want to point out to the hon member for Johannesburg North that he should perhaps recount the number of supplementary questions asked arising from the reply to Question 11. He might conclude there have actually been five

Media group resolves to oppose registration

Curbs not aimed at all journalists, says Minister

Star 29/6/88

243

By Patrick Laurence

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has again denied that the latest emergency curbs on the media are the first step towards compulsory registration of journalists.

But, in reply to specific questions from The Star, Mr Botha evaded a direct answer to the question of whether freelance journalists will be required to register under the restrictions.

Two questions were faxed to Mr Botha last week seeking clarity on the implications of the June 10 regulations.

They were whether freelance journalists were required to register, and, if so, whether that did not constitute a first step towards compulsory registration of all journalists.

After considering the questions for a couple of days, Mr Botha replied, affirming that the regulations were not a move — in his words — “to slip in mandatory registration of all journalists”.

Under the regulations all “news agencies” are required to register with the Department of Home Affairs, unless they are specifically exempted.

The definition of a news agency focuses on the activity of gathering and processing news about South Africa.

Media lawyers

It is framed so widely that some media lawyers have contended that they include people — stretching from freelance journalists to employees in the Bureau for Information — not normally regarded as fulfilling a news agency function in the dictionary sense of the phrase.

Mr Botha quoted the definition of a news agency in his reply, before adding “To avoid requiring the registration of all journalists, regulation 11 (8) excludes people who supply news material exclusively to a periodical or television or radio station of which they are employees or by way of casual or isolated act to a person for

publication in a periodical or for broadcasting to a television or radio station”.

The logical inference to be made from Mr Botha's reply is that freelance journalists are not exempted and will therefore have to register. He did not say so directly, however.

At a recent meeting convened by the Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) about 60 journalists resolved to campaign against registration. The journalists were drawn from the ranks of freelance writers, the smaller and non-exempted news agencies, three journalist societies and the “alternative newspapers” (which use the smaller news agencies).

The meeting further decided to seek legal opinion on the regulations. Senior counsel has since been asked to scrutinise them.

Mammoth report

The idea of establishing a register of journalists — from which they can be struck off — has been mooted from time to time as a technique for controlling the media. It was proposed most recently by Mr Justice M T Steyn, in his 1982 mammoth report on the media.

According to Ms Pat Sidley, an ACAG organiser, Mr Botha's media regulations are worse than Mr Justice Steyn's proposed register.

Under Mr Botha's curbs, some journalists will be required to register with a bureaucrat, the Director-General of Home Affairs. Mr Justice Steyn envisaged registration with a 12-man media council, consisting of three Government appointees and nine journalists.

Mr Botha is empowered to “summarily withdraw registration” if he is of the opinion that it is necessary for the “safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency.” Refusal to register carries heavy penalties: a fine of up to R20 000, imprisonment for up to 10 years or jail without the option of a fine.

Mr Justice Steyn wanted his proposed council to have the power to reprimand, fine, suspend or bar journalists found guilty of improper conduct.

New (243)

Nation (52)

back on
5/29/88
the streets

By Lloyd Coutts

The New Nation newspaper, banned for three months under emergency regulations, will be back on the streets from tomorrow.

Although the cover charge has been increased from 30 cents to 50 cents, tomorrow's paper is expected to be bigger than previous editions.

Acting Editor Mr Gabu Tugwana said the staff felt more confident than before the newspaper's suspension by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, on March 22.

Although the staff had spent the past three months recording events, they had also spent a great deal of time upgrading their skills.

Explaining the reason for the price hike, Mr Tugwana said production costs had increased

Press freedom
Star 30/6/87 (243)
forum to be
held at festival

PORT ELIZABETH — A press freedom forum, aimed at "mobilising the general public to take a much more active role in demanding that current media restrictions be lifted", is to be held during the Standard Bank National Arts Festival in Grahamstown next week.

Organised by the Southern Africa Society of Journalists, the forum is to be addressed by a range of speakers, including the author, Professor Andre Brink, and Mr Gregory de Polnay, compiler of "You Can't Shut Out the Human Voice", a mainstream festival production.

It will be chaired by Professor Gavin Stewart, head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University — Sapa.

I HAVE never known a period in my professional life when the press of South Africa was not under severe government attack.

There is a long, casualty list of newspapers either closed directly by government or crumbling for various reasons, but under government pressure. It ranged, in the 1950s and 1960s, from far-left publications such as *The Guardian*, *New Age* and *Spark* to the Liberal paper *Contact*, edited by Governor-General's son Patrick Duncan, in the seventies, it covered establishment-owned but outspoken black newspapers *World* and *Post*, and in the eighties the world-class *Rand Daily Mail*.

Down the years, while brave newspapers and journalists went to the wall, others were powerfully warned of what could happen to them, and they adjusted their procedures accordingly. A torturous mmet went on for years between government and what is loosely called the commercial or established press — with the government huffing and puffing and the latter responding by limiting its coverage, beefing up internal self-discipline to masochistic levels and, in some cases, taking permanent refuge in trivia and sensation as the magic combination to profit safely and permanently.

The so-called alternative newspapers are now being picked off by grim little men across the Government Avenue. Like fleet-footed antelope in the fynbos, some manage to duck the ponderous fire — for a while. But there is a grim inevitability about it all.

The "revolutionary climate" argument used by government knows no bounds, it seems. Faced with a national crisis of its own making because it tried marching out of step with humanity, the government demands that essentially only its own version of the truth be known to South Africans and the world. So the BBC is thrown out or warned. Visas are refused. Papers are suspended. Journalists are detained, and the profession faces the looming prospect of state licensing.

It is exceptionally arrogant for anyone to assume a mortgage on the truth. Experienced journalists will confirm, from actual working conditions, that reality is made up of a complex mosaic of events and viewpoints. When a divided society is robbed, even temporarily, of what papers like *SOUTH* or *New Nation* have to say, it is not only the poorer, but it is gravely

Censorship blindfolds 'whites in defeat'



Anthony Heard

threatened. It is threatened because it lurches closer to settling disputes not by reason but in the streets. The official casts of mind which would use brute force against opposing opinions, not only betrays arrogance, but stupidity — because governments, like ordinary people, are fallible. Government versions are merely components of the truth, varying according to the credibility enjoyed by a particular government. And in an era of total onslaught propaganda and dirty tricks, the government line is only a small component of the truth.

Governments make mistakes, for instance they inform Parliament incorrectly on what happened at Langa, Uitenhage, they provide a version of how some of the Guguletu Seven died which violently contrasts with medical evidence in court, they grossly mislead about the secret state funding of pro-government newspapers.

What reliance can be placed on the government view of events when it cuts off all other channels of information on key issues of the day? Very little, if any. Quite apart from obvious considerations of human error, its credibility suffers immensely when it is found to be deliberately misleading people — as over the Angolan operation it denied in mid-attack in the seventies, or multifarious dirty tricks against political opponents.

We, the humble public, are expected to listen in awe while the

Established press and alternative press are two sides of the same coin; they are essential parts of free expression. And there is no point in one ignoring the plight or problems of the other, Anthony Heard, former editor of the Cape Times, told a lunch-time meeting of the Save the Press campaign (Western Cape) recently

propaganda arms of government hand down tomes from high mountains, while at the same time banning or severely restricting other versions of the truth. And we must be suitably intimidated by Emergency Regulations which are as draconian as they are foreign to what this land should be.

Thus, ordinary South Africans glued to controlled media could come to believe that the recent stayaway was a minor event, the June 16 commemoration insignificant, Tambo a bloodthirsty communist, the black masses remarkably contented, and so on.

One problem with press curbs is that they rob the government of vital information and insights which it desperately needs to govern properly. Its officials, uncorrected by other versions of the truth, unchastened by the thought that they could conceivably be wrong, portray events in their own subjective way, giving fiction and myth a status that sounds impressive, and giving their masters in government the comforting impression that all is well — when, in fact, truth can and often does lie elsewhere. Hence, in the midst of the Soweto upheaval we can hear authoritatively that there is "no crisis". We are assured that Pretoria is winning the war in Namibia, in spite of having to wipe out Swapo with such efficiency and regularity that one wonders whether there are

physically any people left to fight. We are led to believe that the internationally-unrecognised black homelands are working, when coups and near-coups vie with casinos and corruption to grab popular attention. We are led to believe that the ANC is beaten, disillusioned and about to collapse — yet 26 years after its banning and 76 years after its founding it simply won't go away. And the world celebrates its jailed leader's 70th birthday. We are assured that reform is being pursued with resolve, that the country will be governed into a new dispensation, but reality seems to be closer to an interminable wrangle over constitutional blueprints that seem to lead nowhere and reality is a Cabinet bleached by the loss, for different reasons, of the two members who made it look multi-racial, with promises of black reinforcements soon.

One of the first casualties of press control is government credibility. People lose confidence in what it has to say. For this, it has only itself to blame. The Portuguese, under a dictatorship, thought they were winning in Mozambique and Angola, and many informed observers agreed with them, till just before the collapse. White Rhodesians believed that Smithy would give them many years of comfort on top, or at least a nice black bishop would do it for them. They were wrong. They missed the Mugabe hurricane racing across the veld. Government propaganda and censorship had placed the whites so far from reality that it blindfolded them in defeat.

That is why we must do all we can to SAVE THE PRESS. It is part of the process of saving our country. Established press and alternative press are two sides of the same coin, they are essential parts of free expression. And there is no point in one ignoring the plight or problems of the other. This is, for instance, the time for established newspapers to come forward to support those under deadly attack, in every way possible. Today's alternative newspaper could be tomorrow's established institution.

New Nation hits the ⁽²⁴³⁾ streets again

By Inga Molzen ^{Stev}

1/7/88

An estimated 55 000 "bumper" copies of *New Nation* — until recently read by an estimated 250 000 readers each week — were back on the streets yesterday after a forced three-month closure

"We're back! Back to continue writing about the aspirations and desires of the voteless majority," said acting editor Mr Gabu Tugwana

The *New Nation*, which is backed by the Catholic Bishops' Publishing Company, was closed down after an application to restrain the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, from invoking media curbs against the paper failed in the Rand Supreme Court

"It's sad to say, not even an open court can test the subjective opinion of Mr Botha. We tried and failed," said Mr Tugwana

Mr Tugwana, who is acting in the place of detained editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, said the morale of his staff was high and that they were determined to continue working and to take all the necessary precautions to avoid further State action

"Let us be clear that even the previous three-month banning was imposed despite observing these precautions.

"We will fight vigorously to retain the few areas we have in which to express what is happening around us."

Mr Tugwana said the forced closure of *New Nation* was supposed to be an example and a warning to all "because the Government does not want to strike at the mainstream media"

The history of the media regulations, he said, had been one of increasingly severe measures

Reuter looks forward to SA media's freedom day

Star 11/7/48
The Reuter news agency looks forward to the day when the media in South Africa will be restrained no longer in "telling it the way it is"

At a banquet held in Johannesburg last night to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the South African Press Association (Sapa), Mr Peter Holland, managing director of Reuter's overseas operations, said his organisation condemned censorship wherever it experienced it and therefore had to condemn it in South Africa

He said newspapers had been suppressed and an editor detained without trial and added "Anybody following foreign reports of South Africa will still have a rough idea of what is happening But they will no longer be able to read the views of the growing number of those banned or restricted"

The banquet was also addressed by Mr Koos Buitendag, president of the Newspaper Press Union, who paid tribute to Sapa's independence and depth of coverage

● Sapa was launched to gather and distribute news between South African newspapers in 1938 It now serves 22 newspapers, 44 subscribers, overseas correspondents from 15 countries and about 10 overseas embassies

US Fellowship award for Durban journalist

By Jovial Rantao

A journalist with the Durban *Sunday Tribune* newspaper, Mr Mduduzi Dennis Lembede, is among 12 journalists from around the world who have been awarded 1988 Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships

The 12 have been assigned to American publications until December

Mr Lembede, who reports on labour and trade union issues as well as politics, is already working at the *Washington Post*

He said the fellowship

would "enhance my professionalism and build my confidence," and enable him to "know more about America and its people"

The Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships, named after the late managing director of the *Washington Post* who launched and endowed the programme, are in their fifth year, with an ever-expanding number of US newspapers and magazines including *Time* and *Newsweek* offering five-month working assignments

BLOW to freelance journalists

'Thin edge of wedge to total control'

CP Correspondent

THE government has moved towards one of its long-desired goals - while falling short of a register for all journalists, freelancers have to register

The new regulations, which were promulgated to establish the third national emergency in South Africa, have tightened Press curbs in several respects

Among other new provisions, a register is established for news agencies. From August 1, no agency may operate unless it is registered with the Department of Home Affairs

The government has given itself wide powers to deregister agencies

Journalists around the country have been meeting to formulate a response. Public pressure is being seen as crucial to any attempt to force the government to drop the new measure

Some agencies are considering legal action, and after a meeting of freelance journalists in Johannesburg last weekend, a statement was issued calling on

journalists not to register until exhaustion of all possibilities to have the provision dropped

The measure forms part of the network of controls imposed by the government on newspapers. South and New Nation have already been suspended under these powers

But while newspapers can be suspended for up to three months - and now in certain cases six months - agencies can be closed down permanently

The registration of agencies provision is seen as primarily aimed at a number of small, independent news agencies that have sprung up in the past few years, but the definition of a news agency is so wide that freelance journalists are also affected

There have been suggestions that companies public relations divisions could be affected, and even the Bureau for Information itself

And there are fears that the register may be widened to include other journalists. Prominent media lawyer David Dixon has called the provision "the thin end of the wedge"

He said the register was the first step on the road towards a compulsory register for all journalists - a long-time aim of the government. The idea of such a register has been raised repeatedly, but has always been dropped after a public outcry

Other media experts

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Sponsors wanted for Achib scheme

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business has appealed to companies to sponsor about five unemployed people every month at a cost of R800 a group to become hawkers

The move is part of the organisation's Unemploy-

ment Creation Project, established last year to assist jobless people

Achib has written to 21 companies asking for sponsorship. According to Achib president Lawrence Mavundla the organisation has had over 600 applications from people who wanted to become mem-

bers but who do not have the finance to start up

"It costs R135 to set up a hawker - R100 for stock and R35 for licensing and the organisation's joining fee," he said. Achib will charge an additional R125 a month to cover administration costs. Mavundla said Achib

had set up more than 500 hawkers last year. Because of mounting unemployment, the organisation decided to go on a campaign to interest more companies to become involved

"The problem of unemployment affects the whole of South Africa and therefore an appeal is being

made to companies to come forward and help the organisation's marketing arm by providing an outlet for people who want to launch new products onto the market. Their products will be stocked and promoted by the sponsored hawkers

have pointed out that a register for journalists amounts to State licensing of the profession, which would ultimately mean total State control

Within hours of the regulations being published, the East Cape News Agencies reacted

"We hereby serve notice that we have every intention of fighting this measure, not only in our own interests, but in those of all South Africans," it said

Eena, which groups independent agencies in Port Elizabeth, East London, Grahamstown and King William's Town, said it appeared the government wanted to establish a register "through the back door", affecting at first only those seen to be the most marginal in the South African media - the inde-

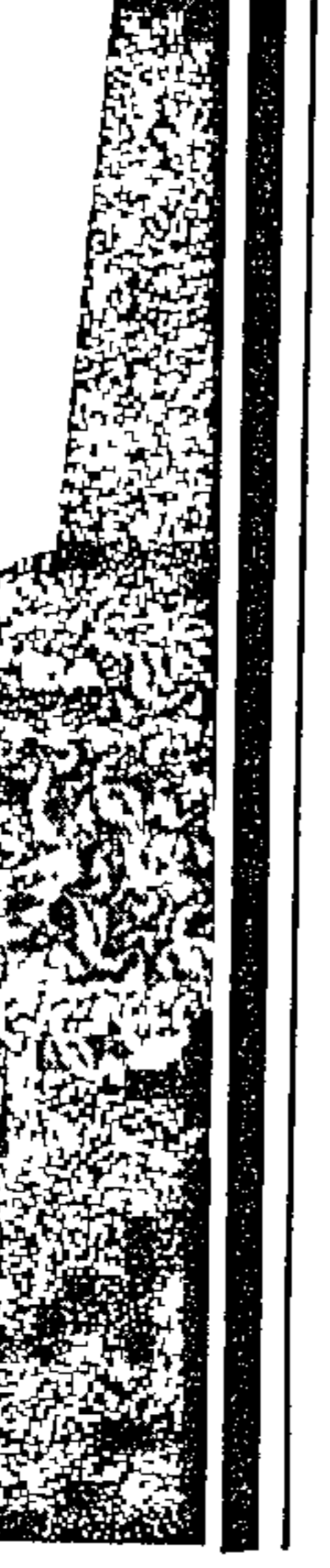
pendent news agencies"

The new provision provides that all agencies must be registered, and supply the department with details such as the names and addresses of the journalists involved, and the names of publications they serve

Registration cannot be refused the first time around, but once an agency is registered it can be required to submit copies of all news material it produces to the department

"If the Minister is of the opinion that it is necessary for the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency, he may, without prior notice to any person and without hearing any person, withdraw the registration of the agency"

Once it is deregistered, the agency and all the individual journalists involved can be refused re-registration



Botha was quoted as saying 'I can state emphatically that such a suggestion is devoid of all truth'

But his chief director of media relations, Andries Engelbrecht, gave a strong indication that freelance journalists were included

"They are not excluded. If anybody is in doubt, my advice is that they should register. I'm not telling anyone not to register" - Elnews

Can you hear a death-knell ^{spv STMS} being sounded for freedom?

(243)

Moments of truth should hit one in the face like unfileted frozen fish

Yet the South African press, so quick to sense other signals, may have reached its moment of truth without being fully aware of it

The problem is that truth has little relevance when reality is suspended — and reality has, like normal law, disappeared under successive waves of "temporary" states of emergency

We have now reached the ludicrous position where emergency regulations, often contradictory of each other, can mean anything to anyone

So it is that the latest decree, forcing certain news agencies and freelancers to register with the State, can be interpreted as a threat not only to the press, but to every form of information-dispensing organisation, including civic institutes and chambers of commerce. A literal interpretation means that even government press officers and most of the public relations industry must register

Suspend belief

A reader suggests in *The Star* today (See Letters Page) that even regular letter-writers to the press will have to register with the State as "news agencies"

On the other hand, it is possible by a stretch of the imagination and suspension of belief, to interpret the new rule as "a mere technicality" bringing informal news agencies into line with established ones

My own view is that the regulation demanding that certain freelancers register with the State is a moment of truth for press freedom. Whether deliberately intended or not, it is a direct — and potentially mortal — blow to all journalists and publications in this country.



By
HARVEY TYSON

South Africa has reached a moment of truth for press freedom. Whether deliberately intended or not, a register of freelance journalists is a direct, and potentially mortal, blow to all journalists and publications in this country.

It is the single, most dangerous attack on freedom of information

The nightmare is that I cannot prove it — because truth has vanished, the courts have no powers to decide, and the meaning of words depends on what a Cabinet Minister or his cohorts choose them to mean

When *The Star* asked the Minister of Home Affairs whether he was bringing in a register of journalists "by the back door", he denied it categorically. There was no move "to slip in mandatory registration of all journalists", he said

But he also quoted the new regulations, which stipulate exemptions to a proposed State register. Reporters supplying news exclusively to media by whom they are employed are exempt. So are people supplying information on a casual basis. Thus Sapa, Associated Press, Reuters and most South African journalists now practise "by exemption". But other recognised correspondents are not exempt — and they will therefore be required to register

If freelancers do register, it means that many fulltime, professional journalists on major newspapers who contribute regularly to other sporting, economic and news

journals, will in effect be licensed by the State

It seems possible that a newspaper may be forced to employ — or fire on principle — State-registered reporters

If I write regularly for an international professional journalists' magazine, for instance, I would become a licensed reporter

You may ask: What's wrong with that?

You might as well ask: what's wrong with State thought control?

Obvious differences

There's no space here to spell out the obvious differences between registers supported voluntarily by doctors, dentists, lawyers as opposed to compulsory registers for writers. Suffice to say that a journalists' register is possibly the only instantly recognisable division between a relatively free press and a state-controlled one

The issue of journalists' registers has been a decade-long world battle between the free nations on the one hand, and a coterie of communist and Third World UN members on the other. Unesco remains the battle-ground where democracies fight against those countries which are intent on enforcing a New World Information Order in which journal-

ists are to be registered "for their own protection"

For the first time in a decade, the move for information control is losing ground, and democracy is beginning to win in Unesco. But among those still pressing for a World Information Order are Congo, Cuba, China, East Germany, Mali, Bulgaria, Somalia and Senegal

The South African Government has, consciously or otherwise ranged itself alongside them. Indeed, our Government publicly expressed sympathy years ago with the authoritarian proposals put forward in Unesco. Now it has gone further. It has actually introduced the form of journalists' registration which is anathema to press freedom everywhere

I believe that most journalists will leave their jobs or leave the country rather than surrender so basic a freedom. So we have reached a moment of truth

But most newspaper people (leaving alone the general public) are unaware of it. For all I know, even the Minister is unaware of it. For all I know, he may have been beguiled into thinking that he has found an acceptable device for "licensing the licentious few"

Indeed, there may be the narrow and insensitive view that the register is "all right" because it is intended only for those on the fringe of the recognised press. There may be an optimistically fatuous belief that only a few "irresponsible" will be affected. Shades of Nazi Germany!

We can only hope that the Government, of its own accord, will come to its senses and recognise the reality — the truth — which is the State register of reporters (or free lancers) is the Rubicon marking, not the suspension, but the death of free speech

News agencies plan to fight registration

A campaign to oppose the registration of independent news agencies will be launched in Grahamstown today

Numerous individuals and organisations in the eastern Cape have been invited, including businesses, churches and the media.

The meeting is being hosted by the head of the Rhodes University Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Professor Gavin Stewart, and is being supported by the four independent East Cape news agencies the Albany News Agency (Ana) in Grahamstown, the Port Elizabeth News Agency (Pen), Veritas in King William's Town and the East London News Agency (Elnews)

● In terms of the latest regulations, no person shall after July 31 carry on a news agency business unless he is registered — Sapa

HONOUR FOR SISULUS

MORE than 400 people attended a function in Lenasia on Friday night organised by *The Indicator* newspaper which named the Sisulu family as their newsmaker of the year for 1987/88.

The award was accepted by Mrs Zodwa Sisulu, wife of detained *New Nation* newspaper editor, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, on behalf of the family. The acceptance speech was made by Mrs Sheila Sisulu, the wife of

Sowetan 5/7/88
Zwelakhe's brother, Lungi

The editor of *The Indicator*, Mr Ameen Akhalwaya, paid tribute to the Sisulu family as "remarkable and also as a symbol of many who had paid the price for the fight for justice

"I have always maintained that Zwelakhe Sisulu was going to be the president or prime minister of this country one day. The Government knows it too, that is

why it keeps him in jail," Mr Akhalwaya said

Other guest speakers included the Reverend Buti Thagale of the Education Opportunity Council, Civil Rights lawyer Pricilla Jana, the Deputy Editor of the *Sowetan*, Mr Joe Thlolo and former general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Beyers Naude.

The Indicator was also awarded the 1988

Human Rights Award jointly with four organisations involved in assisting homeless squatters in the Lenasia area.

The four organisations are: the religious group Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team, Dr A B Asvat, Azapo health secretary, Mrs Soraya Hassim of the Islamic Relief Agency and the Witwatersrand Network for the Homeless.

All 'should protest press restrictions'

CAPE TOWN 6/27/68 *243*

GRAHAMSTOWN — It was imperative that all people protest against the press restrictions which had been imposed consistently and ominously over the past few years, Professor Andre Brink said last night.

Addressing a press freedom forum organized by the Southern African Society of Journalists, Prof Brink stressed that the freedom of the press concerned "every living person in this country".

"For our own survival we need knowledge — we need to know what is happening in the townships, at funerals and in the detention cells. We need to know what the ANC is about and what the term total onslaught means," he said.

Prof Brink said that not only did one have to strive to fill the vacuum caused by the press curbs, one had to try actively to counter the "deliberate dissemination" of wrong information.

He said the public also had a responsibility to try to penetrate "the blanket of silence, even in small ways".

If newspapers could not report on various events, news of them could be spread by word of mouth.

New 'Sunday' magazine a resounding success

Sunday, the new, upmarket magazine launched in The Sunday Star last week, is proving a resounding success, according to a survey by Marketing and Media Research. The day after the launch of *Sunday*, MMR telephoned 150 Sunday Star subscribers, 40 media directors and planners, and six ad agency managing directors.

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Readers liked the articles, layout and advertising as well as the reproduction and quality. More than 80 percent of subscribers noticed the mag-

azine and nine out of 10 read or paged through it

Sunday is proving to have a long life — only 35 percent of subscribers said they weren't keeping it to read during the week. It has established its position as only 25 percent of subscribers compared it with other Sunday magazines.

Sunday has made The Sunday Star an even better read and sales of the paper were up, with many outlets running out of copies. The research produced guidelines for improving aspects of editorial content — so watch out for Sunday's brighter *Sunday*.

Angry Heyns denies Beeld report

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Staff Reporter

Professor Johan Heyns, moderator of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), today reacted angrily to a report in the Nasionale Pers Transvaal morning newspaper *Beeld*, stating that he had repudiated *Die Kerkbode* about its criticism of South African Defence Force troops in Angola.

"I have not repudiated *Die Kerkbode*. The questions raised in its editorial are perfectly legitimate. Those are the questions in the hearts of our people," Professor Heyns said.

This followed the major row between the Government and the NGK after the church queried the "more or less permanent presence" of South African troops in Angola.

Professor Heyns said while the Government might have its reasons for maintaining a military presence in Angola, parents of national servicemen "are entitled to ask whether this is necessary.

"Political and military considerations aside, we nonetheless wonder whether the Government would not be acting ethically if it withdrew its troops completely from Angola."

Professor Heyns added that the SADF's protection of the Calueque water scheme was an agreement between states.

"There can be no ethical or moral objection against the presence of South African troops at Calueque."

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8-14/7/88

Cape news agencies fight the register

THE Eastern Cape wing of the "Save the Press Campaign" was launched in Grahamstown this week in response to increasingly harsh press regulations, in particular the introduction of registration of news agency journalists.

A committee was set up to take the issue of press freedom into a wide range of constituencies and to coordinate with other areas to form a national campaign

A statement drawn up by the East Cape News Agencies was endorsed at the meeting saying: "The media plays a central role in democratic so-

By KAREN EVANS,
Port Elizabeth

ciety, providing access to information and ideas which enable citizens to participate in the political process

"South Africa needs more information, not less, to enable its citizens to help solve its problems. South Africans will become more isolated from each other, conflict will intensify and the chances of a democratic outcome will diminish"

●The issue of the registration of freelance journalists and press agen-

cies was raised at a meeting hosted by the South African Society of Journalists in Grahamstown this week.

"At the moment it seems to affect only a small minority but it can be extended bit by bit, until it affects all journalists," said Franz Kruger, an East London News Agency reporter

Johannesburg media lawyer Lauren Jacobsen said "the media in South Africa has been crippled. Crucial issues of our time may not and are not being reported.

"The government is raising a generation of political eunuchs, unable to make informed choices." — Pen

Costly loopholes

Rules regulating competitions run by newspapers are full of loopholes. The final decision, which rests with editors, is not always the last word in the matter — and this the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper, *Rapport*, found out for a second time last week, when it had to settle a R15 000 literature prize to Afrikaans writer Koos Prinsloo.

Both cases involved journalists working for the newspaper. Prinsloo, who was given the literature prize for his novel *Die Hemel Help Ons* is a sub-editor. In the other case, a Port Elizabeth woman was disqualified when she won R17 000 in *Rapport's* charity competition on the ground that her son, Herman Jansen, works for the newspaper as a reporter, making her ineligible for the competition.

Prinsloo's prize (R15 000 and two overseas air tickets) was held back after the chairman of *Rapport's* board of directors, Willem van Heerden, announced two days before a prizegiving event in Bloemfontein.

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that it had been cancelled. The board's decision was made in the light of a scurrilous reference to President P W Botha in Prinsloo's novel.

Prinsloo consulted his attorneys and a letter of demand was sent to his employer threatening legal action. Last week *Rapport* settled. As part of the settlement it was agreed that the content of the settlement would not be divulged, but that the paper would report that a settlement was reached — and this was done last weekend.

The *FM* understands that Prinsloo re-

ceived a very generous financial settlement, but that the two air tickets were not included. However, Afrikaans satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys offered to give Prinsloo two air tickets when it was announced that the prize was cancelled. "I have not spoken to Pieter-Dirk again after the settlement was announced, so I am not sure whether his offer still stands," Prinsloo told the *FM*.

In the case of Jansen's mother, a settlement was reached after legal proceedings. What apparently made the difference with her competition entry was the distinction

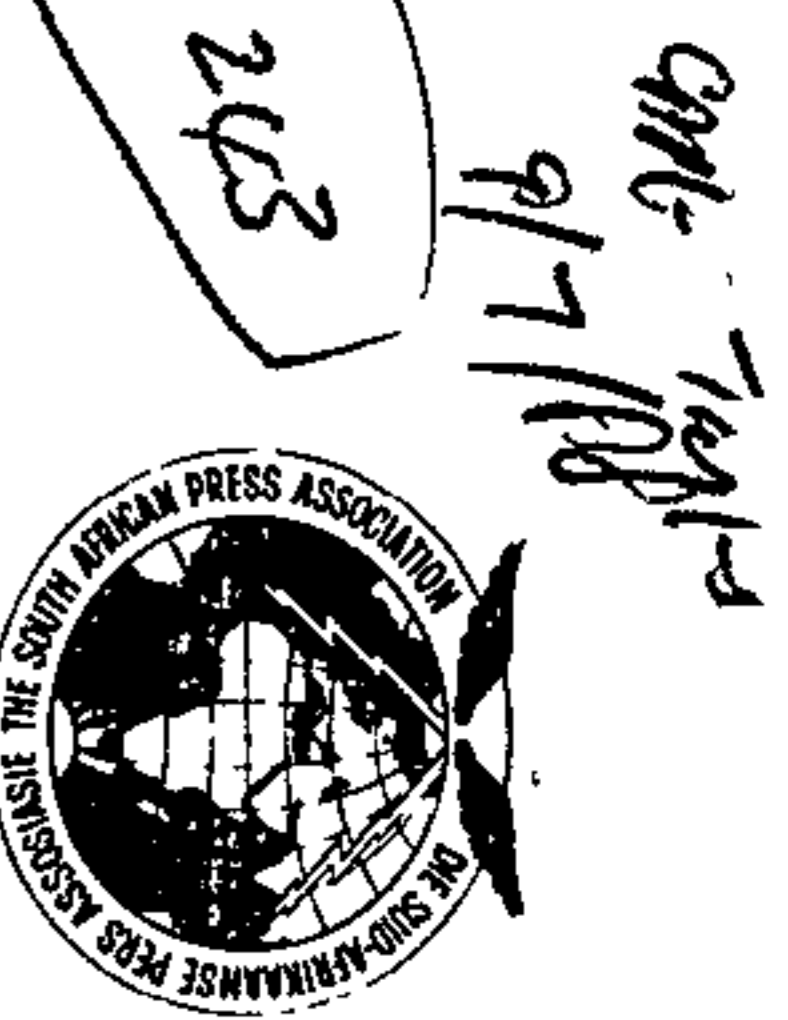
between the Afrikaans words *gesinslede* (family at home) and *familielede* (family in the broader sense).

Meanwhile, the future of Afrikaans's most prestigious literature award is still being decided. It can be expected, though, that members of the Afrikaanse Skrywersgilde (writers' guild) will in future not accept the prize unless *Rapport* guarantees that the decision will rest solely with the judges, and that no interference from other sources will be allowed. In Prinsloo's case, the judges unanimously voted his novel the winner.

THE telephone near my typewriter jangled for the umpteenth time since I had come on night duty in the newsroom of the Johannesburg head office of the South African Press Association (Sapa). It was 7.40 pm on September 11, 1950, when I picked up the receiver and heard a cultured voice at the other end say "This is Henry Cooper, at Doorn-choof, to let you know that the Oubaas passed away quietly about seven minutes ago."

I handed the phone to news-editor Harry O'Connor, who recorded further details and then gave an urgent instruction that the telex tapes be broken so that SA and the world could be informed that General Smuts had died at his home at Irene near Pretoria, after returning from a drive through the surrounding countryside. News of the death of one of the great world figures of his time dominated newspaper front pages, including that of the Cape Times, the next day.

Sapa for 50 years the heart of SA news



which it receives and then redistributes the big news of the day. General Smuts was among those present at the birth of SA's own news agency 50 years ago and a historic photograph taken at the Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town, in 1938 shows him with the other "midwives" including Sir Roderick Jones, chairman of Reuters, and the top South African press personalities of the time.

There is only one survivor of that group — Phil Weber (84) former Editor of the Burger, who retired as chairman of Nasionale Pers in 1977 and is still living in Cape Town.

As a second-year cadet at Sapa, soon after the agency had celebrated its 10th anniversary, I was greatly impressed by the swiftness with which the news of Smuts's death was relayed around the world — reflected in the morse-coded reaction we had to it, via London, from scattered parts of the globe. Within an hour of our cabling an urgent flash message to Reuters in London we were receiving tributes from world figures including King George VI, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, his predecessor Winston Churchill, the President of the US, Harry S. Truman, and the United Nations which Smuts had helped establish after the war.

This year Sapa celebrates half a century at the centre of the Republic's news network, and its founding on July 1, 1938, was marked by a banquet in Johannesburg last week at which Sapa's close and long-standing link with Reuters was underscored by the presence, as guest speaker, of Reuter executive Peter Holland.

Early in the century Reuters co-operated with the Cape Times and other SA newspapers to form Reuters South African Press Agency, with head office in Cape Town. This led to Sapa's coming into being in Johannesburg in 1938, as an organization wholly owned by SA's major newspapers yet independent of their various political viewpoints. The move was seen not as a break with Reuters but rather as a continuation of a close co-operation that still exists.

Sapa, a non-profit organization, has kept well abreast of international communication technology, and the morse/typewriter/telex operation of earlier years has given way to a fully computerized system.

The news agency operates from a foundation of independence and freedom from outside influence, and its constitution stipulates that all news supplied by or to Sapa should be unbiased and impartial.

Through World War II, and through the momentous changes and developments that have taken place in this country since, the agency has disseminated, to southern Africa and to the outside world, the unembellished news of the day in a round-the-clock service.

Sapa is, in essence, the heart that pumps the lifeblood of the South African media.

"MIDWIVES" AT THE BIRTH... The SA Press Association (Sapa) which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, traces its origins to this gathering of top personalities at the Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town in 1938. It was these men who decided to found SA's own national news agency. Seated (from left) are: Gerald Orpen, John Martin, General J Smuts, Sir Roderick Jones (chairman of Reuters), A V Lindbergh, Sir Alfred Hennessy and G A L Green. Standing: T W Mackenzie, J D Milne, George Wilson, J M McCausland, R Nesbitt Horne, Alistair, J Walton, C F Todd, J "Jimmy" Dunn and Phil Weber former chairman of Nasionale Pers and sole survivor of the group.

New Sunday mag has kicked off well

SKR 9/1/87

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FIRST impressions of Sunday, the new glossy magazine launched last weekend by Sunday Star, were broadly favourable.

Dipstick research was carried out by Marketing & Media Research on Monday.

Interviewers phoned 150 Sunday Star subscribers, 40 media directors and planners and six agency MDs.

An important plus point was that only 19 percent of those canvassed thought no-one else in their household had read Sunday.

So broad pull appears to be there.

A further plus, in view of Sunday's editorial commitment to appeal to both sexes, was that men were marginally more impressed by the newcomer than women.

On a scale where four is excellent, three good, two fair and one poor, Sunday averaged 2.81 among men and 2.72 among women.

LYNDEN WRIGHT

Other points were

Eighty-two percent of subscribers noticed Sunday and, of these, nine out of 10 read or paged through it. Most of the remainder said they had not had time.

Only 35 percent of subscribers said they would not keep and read Sunday after its day of publication — good news for advertisers looking for a long shelf life.

Fifty percent of subscribers said Sunday was unique or not comparable to other magazines.

Twenty-five percent said it was comparable to The Sunday Times magazine and others linked it mainly to Cosmopolitan, Living and Style.

Generally, the younger the reader, the more he/she liked it.

Among the agency pros, comment was unanimous in praise of repro quality.

The new packaging of Sunday Star's mainbody, Sunday, Review/TimeOut and Finance received a good reaction.

Star general manager Jolyon Nuttall and Sunday editor Jennifer Crwys-Williams were pleased by initial response, but stressed that the test was the long haul and the long-term commitment to excellence.

● Toast of Sunday's editorial staff was the agency MD who commented favourably on the "feel" of the editorial, the brightness of the layout and said of the ads "I didn't notice".

Restrictions: ^{UWC Times} 'Argus papers ^{9/7/88} had testing year' ²⁴³

JOHANNESBURG. — Argus Company newspapers had a testing year in the face of restrictive legislation and the increased authority and discretion granted to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said Mr Hal Miller, in his chairman's statement, assessing the performance of newspapers

Of the Argus newspapers, only the Sowetan had been "named" in terms of the new regulations and, as far as the company knew, it was not on "the minister's shortlist of problem newspapers", he said

"Our difficulty is that our newspapers do not know precisely where the minister will draw the line in dealing with particular publications. And in the face of that uncertainty, our editors can only conform to precise law, where that exists, and, for the rest, follow age-old newspaper guidelines which say that facts are sacred and comments must be fair.

"I said last year that our primary task has always been to record facts as comprehensively and as factually as human frailty permits, to convey them quickly to the wide South African audience, which needs them, and to interpret their relevance as objectively as possible in the volatile South African scene."

Mr Miller said all of this remained the primary task of Argus Company newspapers. It could not be stated too strongly, he added, the company's belief that the best interests of South Africa and all its peoples would be served if newspapers were left by the government to meet their task conscientiously, without state interference or threat of it. — Sapa

New Perskor chief slams NHK-CP link

w/LEAGUS 9/7/88 (108) 243 (10116)

By DALE LAUTENBACH, Political Staff

THE Nederduits Hervormde Kerk theologian who has been appointed editor-in-chief of Perskor's Afrikaans daily newspapers has distanced himself from his church's "tragic" association with the Conservative Party.

Dr Gerrit Velthuysen, associate professor of dogma and Christian ethics at Pretoria University, described himself as "politically left of centre"

He said he was on record as an opponent of his church's Third Article, the "whites only" position of the NHK.

Dr Velthuysen described the article as "notorious" and said he believed his appointment by Perskor as editor-in-chief of the Vaderland and the Transvaler was not because of his association with what was regarded as a conservative church

"It was more likely the opposite," he said

The link between the NHK and the official Opposition CP was a "tragic misconception" in which there was no truth

Dr Velthuysen said his opposition to the Third Article — something about which he had always had "strong feelings" — probably made him a liberal within the confines of his church. But he voiced his criticism in solidarity with his church and as part of its body

"Not easily dug out"

"I am a reformist in what I believe to be the true and good sense of the word, but I am also an Afrikaner and my sentiments lie there in the first instance. These are one's roots, which cannot be easily dug out"

Dr Velthuysen regards his appointment to the Vaderland and the Transvaler as a great opportunity. As a theologian and academic in dogma and Christian ethics he has no specific media experience but is "no stranger to the written word" and has published articles in newspapers

He believed this is how Perskor spotted him.

Asked why, in his view, the newspaper company had chosen him, Dr Velthuysen asked if he could reply by stating his political stance. "I'm not a conservative by any stretch of the imagination. But I'm not a way-out liberal either. I am left of centre."

Although he was not a "specialist", he was prepared to tackle a role in the media because he had always tried to avoid the "cardinal sin of tunnel vision"

"I regard journalism as more or less a mirror in which the whole of reality is reflected, and in this way every position in life can prepare you for it in some way."

Sisulu is still in hospital

By MANDLA TYALA

ONE of South Africa's internationally acclaimed journalists has been in hospital for nearly two weeks in a state of depression, after spending more than 18 months in police detention.

Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, 37, a trade unionist-turned-editor, has been held under State of Emergency regulations since December 1986. According to his lawyers he was admitted to hospital on June 26 suffering from depression.

Mr Sisulu, editor of New Nation and an influential voice in black journalism, has seen several spells of detention without charge since he started his career in newspapers in 1975.

The Minister of Police, Mr Adriaan Vlok, has given the reason for Mr Sisulu's continued detention as his membership of the National Education Crisis Committee.

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New Perskor editor's stance 'left of centre'

(243) Stw " 11/7/88

Political Staff

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NOTORIOUS

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Conscription groups' row over phone poll

Stw " 11/7/88 (244)

By Helen Grange

A dispute has arisen between Veterans for Victory and the End Conscription Campaign over ECC figures indicating strong support for a revised system of alternative national service

The dispute follows a ECC Speak-out held last week on the Wits campus, which showed that 81 percent of 81 callers felt alternative service should be offered to those who object to service in the SADF for political or moral reasons

Mr R Brown, chairman of the national executive of Veterans for Victory, has attacked the validity of these figures as being representative of general attitudes towards conscription

Veterans for Victory says

Figures put out by the ECC are of little consequence and have no true bearing on the support afforded to the SADF and the SA Police

Veterans for Victory made over 500 calls to the Speak-out, all supporting the SADF. Yet the ECC claims it only had 81 calls

The Veterans say the results proved to be a meaningless sample that brings the credibility of the ECC into question

The ECC says

The Speak-out was a chance for members of the public to express views on conscription and alternative national service

Eighty-one percent supported a system of alternative service that would accommodate all objectives

The ECC claims it did not receive the veterans' 500 calls which "we would have welcomed, as our telephones were blocked between 7 am and 10 pm"

Mutilated out: decision this week

'Clean shop' at centenarian Government print works

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

The most avidly read newspaper in South Africa today, so the grim humour of the Emergency goes, is the *Government Gazette*, herald of doom to its sisters in the industry when it carries censorship regulations or orders

Its publisher, the Government Printing Works in Pretoria, marks its centenary this year, billions of postage stamps and tons of paper after the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek bought the printing works of *De Volkstem* from poet Jan F Cilliers in August 1888 for £22 000

As the country grew beyond the boundaries of that Republiek, the Government Printing Works spread from the original premises to eight more erven in the centre of Pretoria, with additional buildings added in 1897, 1926 and 1954

One of the largest printing works in the country, it churns out a mass of maps, books, State publications and *Government Gazette's* daily on 16 000 tons of paper a year

It is also "the cleanest shop" in the printing trade, according to Government Printer Mr Magnus Coetzee who is equally proud of the institution's privatisation record, having awarded tenders worth R28 million to private firms last year

The printing works handles confidential printing for all Government departments, as well as producing stamps for South Africa and some other southern African countries.

The Post Office has announced it is to issue a special temporary date stamp for Pretoria to mark the 100th year of the printing works

People

Editor without

a newspaper

Five years ago this week, 37-year-old journalist Zwelakhe Sisulu returned to the touch of the typewriter after a 30-month absence from work caused by the imposition of a banning order

If he recalled that anniversary yesterday, it was from a hospital ward where he is currently under police guard as an emergency detainee. This detention has kept him out of journalism for 18 months.

Mr Sisulu is the son of jailed Rivonia case accused Walter Sisulu and UDF president Albertina Sisulu. His anti-apartheid genealogy shows in his every action. In 1980 he refused to give evidence against a fellow journalist and was sentenced to nine months in jail. The sentence was overturned on appeal.

Six months later he was banned for three years. The restriction came shortly after a two-month strike by the Media Workers Association of South Africa of which he was president.

In June 1981 he was detained and spent 251 days in jail before being released without charge.

Unbowed, soon after release he refused to give evidence in the trial of two members of the South African Revolutionary Council and was sentenced to 18 months. Again he won an appeal against sentence.

In 1983 he returned to work as a journalist on the *Sowetan* and in 1984 had a year of rare luxury when he won the Nieman Fellowship to Harvard.

Within months of his return to SA, he was back in the thick of things as editor of *New Nation*, which was launched in March 1986 and suspended by the Government shortly after its second birthday.

By that time he was back in detention, his second spell under the emergency. He believes newspapers are acceptable only if they reflect reality — and to do so in an unjust society they cannot be neutral.

● The Police Act forbids the publication of a picture of a person in custody before he has pleaded to a charge.

Woman's challenge

SUE VALENTINE



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Dutch newsmen protest at SA press 'censorship'

UTRECHT — The Dutch Society of Journalists and the Dutch Society of Editors have objected to the increasing measures being taken against journalists in South Africa.

"The recent tightening up of press rules can be considered direct censorship measures," the two groups said in a letter to the South African Embassy in The Hague.

Embassy secretary Mr IS Heath said the groups had asked for a meeting to hand over the letter, but when they refused to discuss the contents, he had asked that it be mailed.

— The Star's Foreign News Service. 243



Independent judiciary is the best protector of a free press

Star 14/75r

243

Abuse of power is not the prerogative of any particular political system. Apparently it is endemic in human nature. It is tragic how the erstwhile oppressed who swore by human rights and inalienable freedoms convincingly assume the role of oppressors and dictatorial rulers when elevated to positions of power.

Mechanisms are therefore essential for checking power and bringing to book public functionaries, including the President or the Prime Minister, if they have transgressed.

In a true democracy this function of checking and controlling abuse of governmental authority is by and large performed in their own way by the judiciary and the press.

However, the exercise of judicial power has certain in-built constraints. The court cannot assume the general role of a watchdog or an ombudsman. Nor can it become the daily critic of the government. This is the proper role of the press.

Freedom of the press is not a narrow, self-serving concept whose ambit is confined to the individual rights of the proprietors of newspapers or editors or journalists. It includes the collective right of the



SOL SORABJE, former Solicitor General of India, addressed a world congress in Rome recently on the roles of government, the media and the law. Although he made only one reference to South Africa (in praise of independent judges) his universal theme relates directly to the problems caused in this country through the suspension of law and through press censorship. Here are excerpts from his address.

community, the right of the citizen to read and to be informed, to impart and receive ideas and opinions.

But a citizen can seldom obtain for himself the information needed for the intelligent discharge of his political responsibilities. The press therefore acts as the surrogate or custodian of the public's right to know.

But why should the press not play a positive role and emphasise the gains and achievements of the government rather than indulge in the negative role of denigrating it?

Should it always be a ferocious watchdog? Can the press not work hand in hand with the government?

The most frequently voiced public criticism of the press in capitalist societies is that the ownership patterns lead newspapers to reflect the interests of those basically supporting the status quo, regardless of their attacks on particular instances of government corruption or maladministration. In other words, even the most active "adversarial" newspaper might, at a deeper level, be hand in hand with government, be-

cause both have the same stake in the system.

Only a press diverse enough to provide variety in news selection and a variety of opinions can play its proper role in a democratic society.

The question, "is the press either for or against the government?" is simplistic and suggests a false dichotomy.

Having regard to the manner in which most governments operate in reality, it is inevitable that the function of the press would be that of the critical watchdog. There is therefore, from the very nature of things, bound to be tension between an independent press and the government and, in a sense, they can be said to be natural adversaries.

In India and in most developing countries in the Third World, the government has a monopoly of the broadcast media and many controls on newspapers. The balance therefore is tilted in favour of government which, left to itself, is unlikely to publicise its own wrongdoings.

Moreover, the major concern of governments is to preserve the importance of government secrecy. The national-security mystique is often invoked to justify secrecy by resorting to deliberate lying by heads of governments.

In such a situation it is not only the role, but the duty, of the press to uncover secrecy and expose deception because the press exists to

that the press wields enormous power and the power of the press can also be misused.

Who watches the watchdog? Who checks and controls these public custodians?

Certainly not the government because the moment you concede it the right to monitor or discipline the press, to regulate the content and restrict the free flow of information, one pillar of democracy has been badly battered.

It is said that the matter should be left to the sense of responsibility



of the press. Unfortunately there has not been much evidence of that, and instances of irresponsible journalism are not wanting as is evident from the number of complaints filed in India before the Press Council, and by its judgments.

At the same time, to legislate responsibilities for the press has the potential to impair its independence.

This is where the judiciary comes in. Courts check and control abuse of power and discretion by the government. They also check the press by mulcting it in damages for libellous publications, and by restraining publications which are considered by the courts to be manifestly libellous or injurious to national interest involving national-security risks.

An independent judiciary is disliked by most governments. Independent judges are regarded as thorns in their side. Many media men do not like judges,



do not the gover-

14/7/88

of an

nors, and only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception and uncover corruption

Press exposure at times is beneficial to government itself and helps it to rectify its errors. For example, if the press had not been gagged during the emergency in India from June 1975 to March 1977 it would have published accounts of the high-handed methods employed by the administration in implementing the family planning programme.

It is possible that the government would have taken the necessary corrective steps to prevent the brutal methods of compulsory sterilisation that were resorted to by over-enthusiastic officials

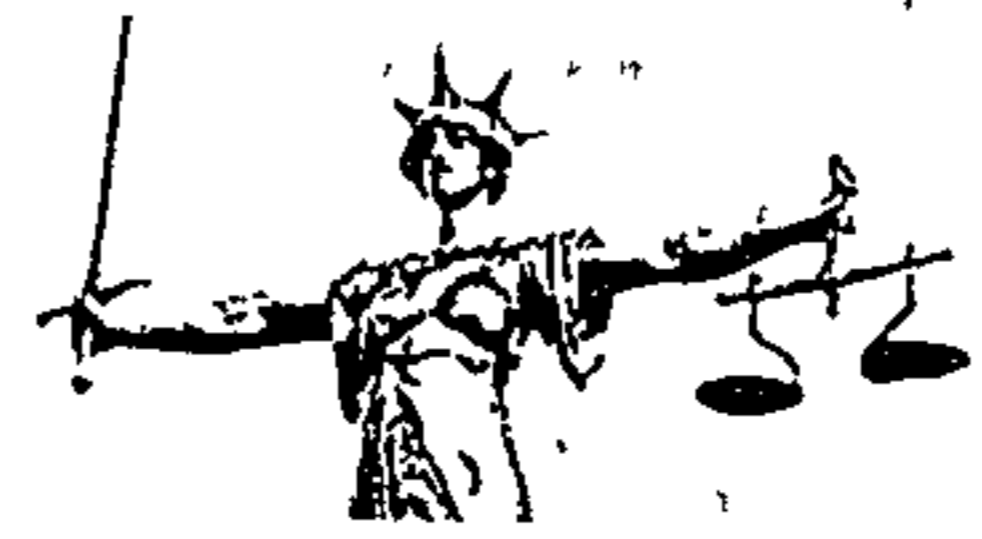
But thanks to the stringent pre-censorship which then prevailed in the country, the government itself did not realise the extent of these pernicious practices nor the people's bitter reactions to them.

It is said that President Kennedy, after his stern warning to newspapers and broadcasters to re-examine their own responsibilities in connection with publication of information about the Bay of Pigs, two weeks later after the operation was over, in the privacy of the White House, told managing editor Turner Catledge of the *New York Times* "Maybe if you had printed more about the operation, you would have saved us from a colossal mistake"

It would be unrealistic to ignore

whom they consider reactionary and unsympathetic to freedom of expression and freedom of the press whenever a judgment is given against the press.

What happens in such a situation? Do these natural adversaries, the press and the government, become close allies against the common



24/3

enemy, the judiciary? Not at all, for that would be a tragedy of the highest order, the irony of ironies because the best protector of a free press is an independent judiciary. And one of the surest means of ensuring judicial independence is a free press

In India, even during the phony emergency of 1975 when the court's powers were curtailed and fearless judges were transferred by the executive from one state to another, the judiciary did not flinch from striking down the arbitrary and illegal orders passed by the censoring authorities

And today I wish to pay tribute to some of the courageous judges of the South African Supreme Courts who have tried, to the extent they could, to uphold freedom of the press against heavy odds by striking down some of the censors' actions.

Top is where ^{Star 16/7/55} ^{2x3} glossy action is, says Rapphaely

PINPOINTING is everything in the field of women's magazines and newspaper colour supplements, says Jane Rapphaely, editor and publisher of the South African edition of *Cosmopolitan* and *Femina* magazines.

Just back from New York, Washington and London, Jane says the good news for South Africa is that this country is "completely part of this trend".

"In fact," she says, "what we consider to be relatively modest circulation figures in our market are considered to be astonishingly large by publishers in other countries in the light of the fact that there are only 20 million adult South Africans of all races, of whom 18 million are literate and 6.3 million enjoy annual incomes of over R12 000".

"I don't even bother to tell them that 60 per cent of the white readers are Afrikaans-speaking since so many up-market Afrikaans readers are completely bilingual".

"It's the up-market readers in our population that interest them and the question I am constantly asked in terms of publications here with bigger circulations is 'How do you prove to your advertisers who you are reaching?'"

MALCOLM FOHERGILL

"The only way I can do that is by the cover prices of magazines they understand, such as *Cosmopolitan*".

"The fact that an issue of *Cosmo* can sell to 127 000 copies at a cover price of R2.80 on a print order of 134 000 gives them a benchmark".

"But they still say South African magazines, irrespective of currency differences, are ridiculously cheap — and they are".

Jane believes South African magazine readers are ready, willing and able to pay more for their preferred reading.

"We've proved that with *Femina*," she says of her new baby.

"The two biggest changes in the magazine are the new editorial substance and its cover price".

"This has lost us some old readers, but with a re-positioning of the magazine's distribution so that it was better supplied in the up-market buying areas, these readers were replaced with those the advertisers want, the readers with spending power."

Winner with advertisers

In South Africa's comparatively small market, pinpointing who the advertising rand is aimed at is especially important, says Jane.

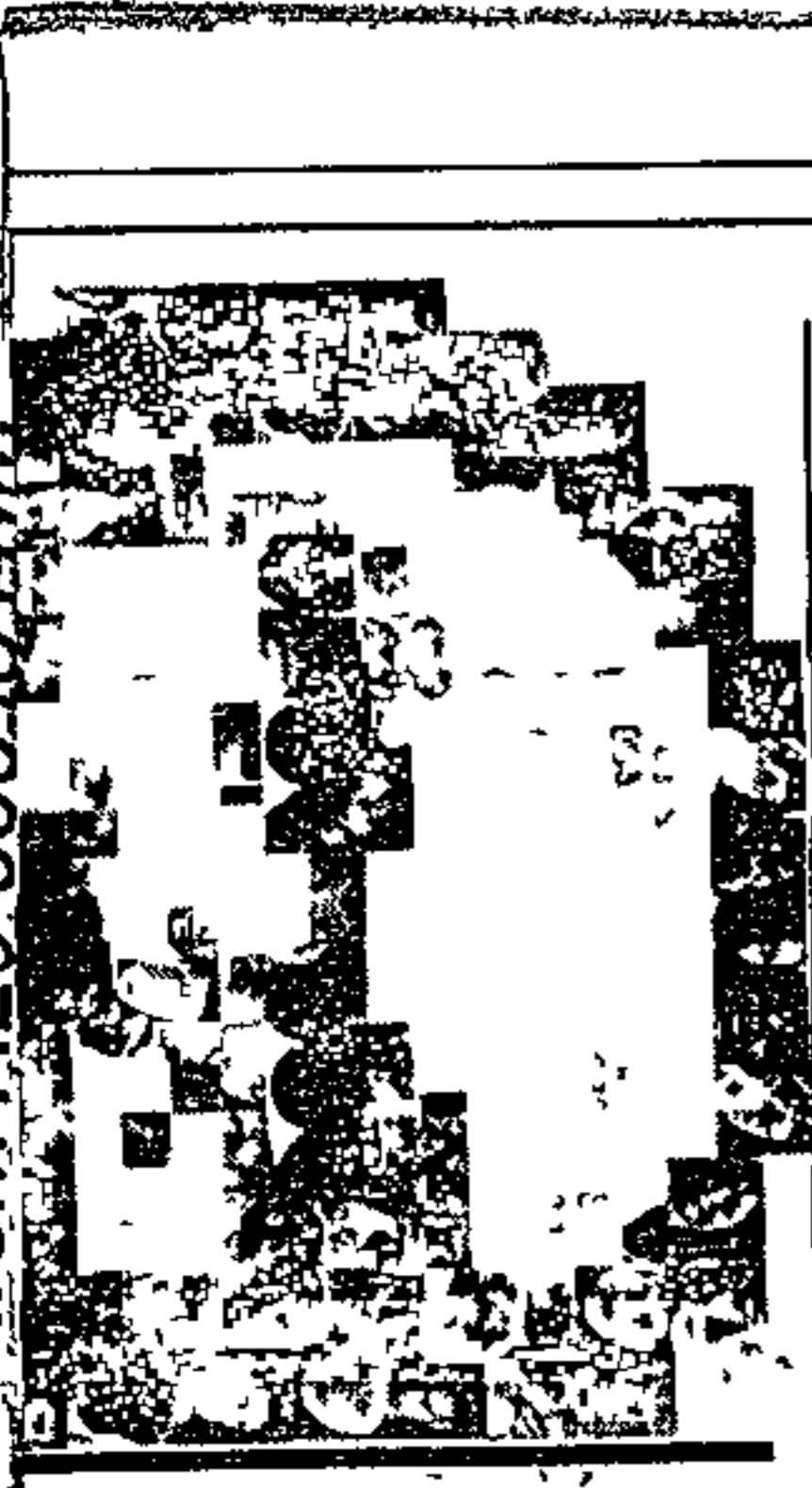
"*Cosmopolitan* has proved that the working woman with her sophisticated, specialised tastes is a winner with advertisers".

"But that left a large proportion of thinking, well-off women without a title to call their own".

Jane defines these readers as equally sophisticated women of substance who rank their families on a par with their careers. "Both have minds of their own — it's their tastes that differ".

Femina, she says, is now securely positioned between *Cosmo* and *Fair Lady*. She predicts that September's new cover price will position the magazine as the most successful in the country in its up-market sphere.

On 23, 24, 25 August, 400 people will change their views of Marketing.



FRONT PAGE. Of the August issue of Femina... heading up-market.

Marketing BRIEFS

Gurus galore are being lined up for this year's South African Direct Marketing Association symposium, at Johannesburg's Carlton Hotel from August 23 to 25.

Among them is Jerome Pichholz, chairman and chief executive of O&M Direct worldwide and board member of O&M/US. Others include Professor Louis Stern,

Don't be too slick

WHEN should a television presenter not appear friendly and polished? When he's reading the news, that's when.

Research by the Institute for Communication Research of the Human Sciences Research Council in conjunction with the SABC has shown that viewers like performers to be smooth when their main task is to entertain. However, the reverse applies when the main task is to inform.

Three themes emerged from research, said Dr van Vuuren.

VIEWERS prefer in-

Against it "Similarly, a tense or even stern performance can earn high respect". Those words, from a study in Newfoundland, are echoed by the South African experience, says Dr D P van Vuuren, the SABC's head of broadcasting research, in an article in *Community Care*.

State Versus Press

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Relations deteriorating, says Media Council

DETERIORATING relations between the State and the Press, generated by the emergency, were likely to continue, the South African Media Council said in its report for 1986 and 1987

In its second periodical report yesterday, the council, established in 1983 with equal media and public representation, said certain other functions besides setting or adjudicating complaints about alleged violations of its code of conduct for professional journalism, had "brought it directly into the line of fire in the disputes between the Government and the media"

These included reviewing developments likely to restrict the free flow of information on matters of public concern and investigating the conduct of, among others, Government bodies at all levels and reporting publicly on these

reported on specific matters of public importance concerning the good conduct and repute of the media

The report stated that inclusion of such functions in the council's constitution had led the Government, on one hand, to criticize it for not doing its job properly and sections of the media, on the other hand, to level the criticism that the council was part of the restrictive machinery used against the Press

The report said "The Government's criticisms of the Media Council are based on the view that the council's constitution requires it actively to monitor the media for contraventions of its code and for what the Government terms 'negative', 'biased', 'subversive', 'revolutionary', 'provocative' and 'climate-creating' reporting"

Against this, the council had said in discussions with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, that "the machinery for bringing such matters under the surveillance of the council is clearly set out in the constitution and can be brought into action by any interested party"

"The council has taken the view that it cannot be expected to play the role of both policeman and judge and, also, that it cannot apply subjective party political criteria in its assessments"

The council, however, of its own accord had set up a special committee to clarify its own role and the feasibility of conducting an investigation to lay down guidelines on the "limits of partisanship"

The council had considered this committee's report on March 21 this year, and it was decided that "at this stage, no specific pilot investigation concerning reporting in the daily Press relating to any particular subject be launched"

It had also decided it was within its power to investigate, in terms of its constitution, any specific matter of public importance concerning the good conduct and repute of the media

According to the report, the Media Council also took a decision to continue having discussions with the Government.

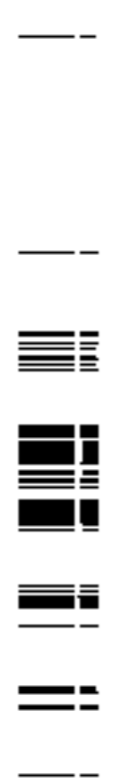
Of these, 107 were settled, 43 rejected, 34 withdrawn, 26 had lapsed, five were adjudicated and one was pending. The number of complaints from the council's inception was 443.

The council was founded by the Newspaper Press Union and the Conference of Editors as an independent body with equal numbers of media and public representatives and a code of conduct aimed at achieving the highest possible standards of professional journalism.

According to the report, complaints lodged with the council against media organisations and bodies which did not subscribe to its code of conduct totalled 58. Of these, 27 were settled, two adjudicated, seven rejected, and 11 each were withdrawn or had lapsed.

Complaints upheld involved the Kwazulu Finance and Investment Corporation against the Sunday Tribune, foreign television networks against The Citizen, Shield Fire Appliances against The Star and the South West Africa Police against the Windhoek Observer.

A complaint against The Argus by the executor of the estate of a man who committed suicide, who claimed the report was sensational and an invasion of privacy, was dismissed. Sapa.



Time to ²⁰³
free him ^{15/7/76}
— Beeld

Political Reporter

The Government-supporting Nasionale Pers morning newspaper in the Transvaal, *Beeld*, today called on the Government to release ANC leader Nelson Mandela

In a leading article, *Beeld* argued that it had perhaps become time to estimate the cost of keeping Mr Mandela in jail

"In the first place, by being in jail for more than 25 years he has acquired a status larger than life

"Furthermore, the jailed Mandela is worth more to the ANC's propaganda war than a free Mandela would have been. He himself will find it difficult to maintain the image of a living legend he has acquired

"The Government and South Africa suffered more from his imprisonment than Mr Mandela and his following. The white man especially was heavily burdened by his imprisonment.

"If a 'more' suitable time for his release is awaited, we can state now that that time will never come

"A last question," asks *Beeld*. "Do we really want to imprint into our history that we let an old man die in jail while there was the opportunity to negotiate with him on the aspirations of his people? That, perhaps, is the most pressing question that has to be answered"

Rule 'crisis for SA and journalism'

Star 19/7/88

(243)

Within days, scores of journalists and other people in the communications industry could face a threat of up to 10 years in jail.

The repercussions are likely to be far-reaching. Industrial resources and news organisations here and around the world, are preparing to challenge a rule so sweeping that no one can define its limits.

The latest media regulations require all people working for all "news agencies" to register before next weekend. Sources close to government say the decree applies "just to a few ANC-sponsored people". But the regulation is so broad that even public relations officers and institutes, businesses and other organisations which provide information for publication may be affected.

What is certain is that a crisis faces all regular correspondents — from art critics, motoring editors and sportswriters, to economists, news reporters and commentators — who write in their spare time for specialist publications and newspapers.

"It is a crisis for South Africa as much as it is for journalism," the editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson said today.

"Despite assurances to the contrary, this regulation violates the very basis of freedom of information and independent journalism. If State registration is enforced it will create yet another major international furore, alienating even the most conservative international press, and probably much of the Afrikaans press. The register will not succeed in censoring news — but it could drive the more responsible journalists out of the business."

Already some candidates for the State register have been questioned by the police.

While registration of individuals by the Government is seen by all free nations as the worst possible violation of freedom of information, the plan to exempt some news agencies in South Africa is almost as bad. The South African Press Association, Reuters, Associated Press and all the world's major news agencies which are specifically exempted by name from the State register, will find themselves in as untenable a position.

Mr Tyson explained: "It will soon become difficult for any agency to justify its existence as a 'favoured party'. No credible news agency will be able to live with an exemption from an order that imposes restrictions which are intolerable to the free press throughout the world."

"As individuals, all practising South African journalists could soon find themselves in an equally untenable position."

Register for news agencies condemned

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Scores of journalists and others in the communications industry could soon face a threat of up to 10 years in jail

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Drawn by DIT

Release him says Beeld

THE pro-Government Afrikaans daily newspaper, *Beeld*, said in its editorial yesterday, there would never be a better time to release jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.



77/88 (243)

Beeld argued Mandela served the ANC's "propaganda war" better in jail than he would as a free man. The newspaper said South Africa and the Government, especially whites, were suffering more as a result of his continued imprisonment.

The "loads" of birthday wishes and cards from "all corners of the world" to congratulate Mandela on his 70th birthday yesterday proved he had acquired a status "larger than life" during his 25 years in jail. He would find it hard to keep up this image if he was released, *Beeld* said.

— Sapa.

Sapa

had been postponed to today.

Newspaper registration ^{20/7/88} 'pernicious form of control'

By PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

243
THE chief director of media relations, Mr A J Engelbrecht, confirmed today that major South African newspapers would have to register as news agencies under the emergency regulations by July 31 — or face fines of up to R20 000 and prison of up to 10 years.

There has been some confusion in media circles about the definition of a "news agency" under the new regulations promulgated on June 10, but today Mr Engelbrecht confirmed that if newspapers gathered news and relayed it to other organisations for publication or broadcast — as most, if not all,

major newspapers do — they would qualify for registration.

In reaction Mr Peter Soal, Progressive Federal Party spokesman on media matters, said it was "horrendous" that major newspapers were subject to this "pernicious form of intimidation and control".

INEXPLICABLE

He said it was inexplicable that major newspapers were obliged to register with the Department of Home Affairs while major news agencies such as Reuters and Sapa had specifically been excluded.

Mr Engelbrecht said that if news agencies did not register by July 31 they would be trans-

gressing the regulations and would be liable for fines of up to R20 000 or 10 years' imprisonment or the prison sentence without the option of the fine

The regulations required news agencies to provide the department with full lists of all journalists employed by them. This has been criticised as being a form of registration of journalists — something that newspapers have fought against for years.

Mr Soal said "It is a pernicious form of intimidation reminiscent of countries behind the Iron Curtain where governments have an insatiable desire to control the flow of news



Mr Sidney Kentridge



Mr Pat Retief

SC warns papers on registration

Call Times 20/7/88

243

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Major commercial newspapers could be affected by the latest media regulations which demand the registration of all people working for news agencies, according to Mr Sidney Kentridge SC.

Mr Kentridge said this in legal opinion to the SA Society of Journalists (SASJ)

The demand for registration was part of the media emergency regulations promulgated on June 10 under the Public Safety Act. The regulations demanded registration by July 31.

It is Mr Kentridge's opinion that according to the regulations, if a newspaper, in addition to its ordinary business of publication, provided news on a regular basis for other publications, it would fall within the definition of "news agency business"

Civil disobedience

Mr Kentridge found that even though such a wide definition would demand the registration of major commercial newspapers, it would have no effect on the validity of the regulations.

The chairman of Times Media Ltd (TML), Mr Pat Retief, yesterday condemned the media regulations and said he found it disturbing that the regulations came dangerously close to creating a national register for journalists.

Answering questions posed by the SASJ at the TML annual meeting, Mr Retief said the company could not advise or encourage its employees, or indeed anyone, to breach those regulations. To do so, could be an act of civil disobedience on the part of the company and a criminal offence.

Mr Retief said the company had been advised that there were conflicting views among eminent senior counsel on the validity of the regulations.

If advised that there was a real prospect of succeeding in challenging the regulations in court, the company would consider such action, Mr Retief said.

no official reasons for the mountains last night. cards will be dealt with on faction. I wish also to recommend to other had been given by Mozamb-

**Threat
of up to
10 years
in jail**

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WITHIN days, scores of journalists and other people in the communications industry could face a threat of up to 10 years in jail.

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The latest media regulations require all people working for all "news agencies" to register before next weekend. (243)

Sources close to Government say the decree applies "just to a few ANC-sponsored

people." But the regulation is so broad that even public relations officers and institutes, businesses and other organisations which provide information for publication may be affected. (243)

What is certain is that a crisis faces all regular correspondents.

20/7/86

Newspapers try to delay registration

SUSAN RUSSELL and DAN SIMON

THE Newspaper Press Union (NPU) has been asked to appeal to the Home Affairs Minister to delay the July 31 introduction of an emergency regulation which would, in effect, require major newspapers to register as news agencies with the Home Affairs Department.

The appeal was made by Argus MD Peter Maclean on behalf of Times Media Limited and the Argus Group.

Maclean said yesterday he had asked the NPU to approach Minister Stoffel Botha to request him to suspend the introduction of the regulation until a NPU delegation was able to meet him and discuss the matter more fully.

"We have an appointment to see him on August 11 and a suggestion was made that he suspend the regulations pending that meeting," he said.

SAPA reported yesterday that Media Relations chief director A J Englebrecht confirmed a newspaper would qualify for registration if it gathered news and relayed it to other organisations for publication or broadcast.

Most major newspapers do this. Failure to do so would mean a fine of

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to Page 2

Newspapers seek to delay registration

up to R20 000 or 10 years imprisonment. The regulations also require news agencies to give the department full lists of all journalists they employ.

TML MD Steve Mulholland said TML would be discussing the matter with other members of the NPU.

"Quite obviously we must do everything we can to persuade government this is a most unwise and unnecessary move.

"I think it can do irreparable damage to the reputation of SA, as a country in which there is a Press which is relatively free by the standards of all but the most advanced countries.

"I think if such a situation is permitted to come into being, we will be classed alongside primitive Third World communist countries and others, with which we certainly would not want to be

← ● From Page 1

classified

"One thing we have always believed in this company, is that the free flow of information is absolutely vital to a stable and functioning society.

"Ordinary citizens must have accurate, credible information upon which to base their decisions.

"A society without a free flow of information is not a civilised and free society," Mulholland said.

SAPA reports that PFP media spokesman Peter Soal said it was inexplicable that major newspapers were obliged to register with the department, while news agencies such as Sapa and Reuters were specifically excluded.

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provided by

Circulation rise 'due to media laws'

243 Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The circulation of the Oudshoorn community newspaper *Saamstaan* has rocketed since the latest set of emergency regulations were imposed, according to *Saamstaan* journalist Patrick Nyuka.

At a "Save the Press Campaign" meeting at the University of the Western Cape, Mr Nyuka said the newspaper's circulation had risen from about 9 000 copies a week to about 17 000, "thanks to (Internal Affairs Minister) Stoffel Botha".

However, the Government's "continued harassment" of the paper and its staff had recently forced employees to change its name from *Saamstaan* to *Staan-saam* to avoid being closed down.

Weekly Mail reporter Gaye Davis said journalists were finding it "very difficult to sustain any kind of concerted campaign around Press freedom".

The editor of *South*, Mr Rashid Seria, said his newspaper would publish news of developments surrounding ANC leader Nelson Mandela's birthday "at the risk of being banned by Stoffel Botha".

I P profits

Much of the snow in Lesotho has melted and, if good weather prevails, life in the mountains will be back to normal by the end of the month.

● Pictures by Dawn Barkhuizen.

estimate the operation will take another 16 days

Housing 'gimmick' alleged

By Kaizer Nyatsumba

Campaigns for the October municipal elections have kicked off in Sharpeville with candidates making promises to Vaal Triangle residents and pointing accusing fingers at each other.

Lekoa mayor Mr Esau Mahlatsi said in a television interview this week that he wanted to demolish hostels in Sharpeville and replace them with houses.

Mr S M Kolisang, a Sharpeville councillor and election candidate, dismissed this as a pre-election gimmick.

Mr Kolisang said a site for the construction of houses had been available in Shambo (Sharpeville-Boipatong) for more than 2½ years and yet nothing had been done. The Lekoa council had never discussed the conversion of hostels into family dwellings, he said.

Mr Mahlatsi could not be reached for comment.

Media ruling: 'Never intended to register mainstream papers'

Political Staff

The Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha said today he had never intended mainstream newspapers to be registered as news agencies, and if necessary, he would amend media emergency regulations to make that clear.

He was reacting to the storm that erupted yesterday after the chief director of media relations Mr A J Engelbrecht announced that mainstream newspapers that also relayed South African news to other organisations would have to register in terms of the regulations by the end of this month.

Mr Botha said he had instructed his legal advisers to examine the regulations and said he would issue a statement tomorrow.

'BACK-DOOR REGISTRATION'

Making it clear he had not intended that the regulations imply that mainstream newspapers would have to be registered or that journalists would be registered "through the back door", Mr Botha said "I merely wanted to ensure that news agencies were kept under control. If need be I will effect an amendment to the regulations."

He noted that the Newspaper Press Union had requested a meeting with him on August 11. He would be happy to grant it.

Mr Botha's assurances came after the newspaper industry was thrown into confusion by the statement of Mr Engelbrecht yesterday, subsequently denied by an official of the Department of Home Affairs.

Managing director of the Argus Company's

Newspaper Division, Mr Peter McLean, said the NPU had been asked to organise a meeting with Mr Botha.

It was suggested by the Argus Company and Times Media Limited (TML) that discussions take place on August 11.

In the meantime, said Mr McLean, "I've asked the NPU to request of the Minister that the compulsory registration of news agencies be suspended until we have had the opportunity to discuss the matter with him."

Times Media Limited managing director, Mr Stephen Mulholland said "It's our company view that if these media regulations come into being, as had been indicated, this would be a very unfortunate and tragic development for the country in the sense that we would be categorised along with Third World and communist countries which we wouldn't want to be characterised with."

Mr Mulholland said that by any standards applied in most advanced countries the South African press was "relatively free."

Reacting to the July 31 deadline, the editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson said "When the Government finally sorts itself out it will probably offer exemptions to major newspapers — but that will be almost as bad as registration."

"State registration is an abhorrent principle everywhere and needs to be scrapped. Neither the world's news agencies, nor South Africa's press, can live under exemptions from a decree that totally contradicts the basis of freedom of information."

● See Page 11.

Frog catches park on the hop

Govt gives news clamp the go-ahead

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE government yesterday confirmed fears that commercial newspapers which relayed news to other organizations would, under an emergency regulation, have to register by the end of the month as news agencies.

Failure to do so would result in fines of up to R20 000 and jail sentences of up to 10 years.

The chief director of media relations in the Department of Home Affairs, Mr A J Engelbrecht, said that in terms of the regulation it was "quite clear" that if a newspaper gathered news and relayed it for use by another organization it fell under the definition of a news agency, "whatever it may call itself".

Virtually all newspapers as a matter of course circulate news gathered by their reporters to other papers, news agencies and organizations.

There has been considerable debate in media and legal circles in recent weeks over whether newspapers would have to comply with the government's tough new registration laws.

The emergency regulations require news agencies to provide the Department of Home Affairs with full lists of all journalists and photographers who work for them and of all periodicals, television or radio stations which will be provided with news material.

In an apparent anomaly, major news agencies like Sapa, Reuters, AP and UPI do not have to register with the department.



**TRANS ORIENTAL
CARPET COMPANY**

SENSATIONAL OPENING

Pernicious form of intimidation, says MP

BIG GROUPS TO REGISTER

THE chief director of Media Relations, Mr A J Engelbrecht, confirmed yesterday that major South African newspapers would have to register as news agencies under the emergency regulations by July 31 — or face fines of up to R20 000 and prison of up to 10 years.

There has been some confusion in media circles about the definition of a "news agency" under the new regulations promulgated on June 10.

But yesterday Mr Engelbrecht confirmed that if newspapers gathered news and relayed it to

other organisations for publication or broadcast — as most, if not all, major newspapers do — they would qualify for registration.

In reaction Mr Peter Soal, Progressive Federal Party spokesman on media matters, said it was "horrendous" that major newspapers were subject to this pernicious form of intimidation and control

He said it was inexplicable that major newspapers were obliged to register with the Department of Home Affairs while major news agencies such as Reuters and Sapa had specifically been excluded.

Mr Engelbrecht said that if news agencies did not register by July 31

they would be transgressing the regulations and would be liable for fines of up to R20 000 or 10 years' imprisonment or the prison sentence without the option of the fine.

The regulations required news agencies to provide the department with full lists of all journalists employed by them. This has been criticised as being a form of registration of journalists — something that newspapers have fought against for years

Mr Soal said: "It is a pernicious form of intimidation reminiscent of countries behind the Iron Curtain where governments have an insatiable desire to control the flow of news" — Sapa

Blacks are underpaid

THOUSANDS of black labourers work in the public sector on wages below the minimum living wage

The more than 1,6 million blacks employed in the public sector earn an average R447 a month with those in some departments earning under R300 a month, according to statistics for the first quarter of this year, released by Central Statistical Services in Pretoria

SOWETAN Reporter

These wages are below the R526,39 a month minimum living level for a (black) family of six, as calculated by the University of South Africa for the same period.

Blacks in parastatal scientific councils and general affairs departments are best off, with average salaries of R952 and R830 a month

respectively in the first quarter. But in own affairs departments, the wages average R295 a month and in other parastatal institutions R349 a month.

The statistics show coloured wages/salaries to average R910 a month and those of Indians R1512, compared with the R2070 average for whites.

But the public sector, which has lost thousands of skilled white workers

to better-paid jobs in the private sector, is unlikely to forfeit its 1,6 million black workers

Without strong negotiating powers such as those of the trade unions, with strikes "unthinkable" because of the disruption to essential services, and with little prospect of jobs in the private sector anyway, labourers are often only too grateful for their jobs, even if the salaries are low.

The disclosure that most mainstream newspapers will have to register with the Government has been greeted angrily as an all-out attack on the media

"This confirms the suspicions of journalists that the Minister had no intention of confining registration to only a few 'suspect' journalists but wanted to get his hands on the whole media industry. Forcing all journalists to register — because this is what registration in effect means — will give him the power he seeks," said Mr Raymond Louw, editor of *Southern African Report*, speaking for the Save the Press campaign in the Transvaal

INTIMIDATORY
 "The prospect of being struck off the register which enables one to practise at the whim of a Minister will undoubtedly have an intimidatory effect on journalists, their editors and their managements. It is clear that the Minister, having failed to get his way by banning newspapers such

The media met is spread wide

(243) Star 21/7/85

as the *New Nation* because of the uproar it created here and abroad, is now seeking to achieve the same effect by forcing the journalists who have made those newspapers the powerful sources of information that they are."

Mr Louw's views were echoed by a spokesman for the Transvaal region of the Association of Democratic Journalists. "We have said from the outset the emergency regulations were designed to silence the media as a whole. The regulations give the director-general power to stop any journalist — or if necessary all journalists — from working and control absolutely what South Africans and the rest of the world know about this country."

Mr Bob Kernohan, president of the Southern African Society of Journalists, commented. "This is confirmation of

By JOANNE COLLINGE AND ESMARE VAN DER MERWE
 The announcement that most mainstream newspapers will have to register in terms of the emergency regulations has caused consternation and anger among media organisations and politicians alike. It has also confirmed the fears held by media lawyers. Here are some of their comments



Mr Raymond Louw ... suspicions have been confirmed.

our worst possible fears. We would hope that, now the intention is clear with regard to mainstream newspapers, individual publishers and the Newspaper Press Union will take urgent action — if necessary through the courts — and use their influence to prevent the provision being implemented."

A Johannesburg media lawyer said "We've always believed that the regulations were wide enough to cover any newsgathering activity that involves re-publication. The initial impression that they were intended only for news agencies is clearly not right."

"Newspapers will open themselves to exactly the same dangers as news agencies have been up in arms about. They will have to submit details of all their staff members and of their journalistic activities and will be subject to deregistration."

Dr Denis Worrall, leader of the Independent Party, said the measures were "deplorable" and a clear sign that the Government did not have any "creative answers" to the present crisis in the country.

The attorney said she did not believe that journalists could rest assured that they were temporarily shielded from the requirement of registration by virtue of the fact that the Natal Indian Congress had launched a court challenge to the relevant emergency regulations in the Natal Supreme Court. The application is likely to be heard on August 8.

The Conservative Party maintained that the Government already had widespread powers to control the "radical" press.

The leader of the National Democratic Movement, Mr Wynand Malan, said he objected to the measures in the strongest terms.

These measures would clamp down unnecessarily on "moderate" journalists.

"We regard this as a further effort by the State to gain complete control of the South African media. It also represents a further break-

down of press freedom and, at the same time, it is a step backwards as far as basic human rights are concerned."

Herstigte Nasionale Party leader Mr Jaap Marais said the measures were "an easy way to pull the blanket over all journalists." The Government should explore other ways of acting against "the guilty"

Wits police slap ban on Mandela statement

PRETORIA — The Witwatersrand divisional police commissioner has ordered in terms of the media emergency regulations that copies of a publication issued by Learn and Teach Publications, "The Historic Speech of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela at the Rivonia Trial", be seized.

Police said last night that the publication was apparently being distributed free of charge.

Though Mr Mandela's statement was part of the Rivonia trial court record, its "one-sided" publication did not offer a balanced version of the facts, police said.

Mr Mandela's statement was unsworn and its truthfulness could therefore not be tested.

Police wished to emphasize that Mr Mandela admitted in his statement:

- To being a founder member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, which was responsible for terror attacks;

- That he planned sabotage and supported violence,

- That he had studied revolution and warfare and had received military training abroad;

- That he had arranged for recruits to receive military training abroad, and

- That there was cooperation between the ANC and the SACP and that he had been influenced by Marxist thoughts. — Sapa

Govt has at last revealed its true purpose

The Government should postpone indefinitely the closing date for registration of news agency businesses, or better still excuse all reference to them from the media regulations, Mr Peter Reynolds, a newspaper lawyer, said yesterday

He was commenting on the announcement by the Government's Information chief, Mr A J Engelbrecht, that mainstream newspapers relaying reports to other organisations would also have to register by the end of the month in terms of the emergency regulations

Mr Reynolds' full statement reads "After many weeks of uncertainty, the Government through its spokesman Mr A J Engelbrecht, has now at last told us the true purpose behind the regulations requiring 'news agency businesses' (as defined in the media regulations) to be registered

"Mr Engelbrecht's statement that mainstream newspapers will have to register as news agency

Newspaper lawyer Mr Peter Reynolds says the Government has finally told us the true purpose behind the media regulations — to register all journalists through the back door — despite denials from the Minister that such a register is intended.

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businesses, means that the personal details of nearly every journalist and newspaper photographer in SA will be contained in a statutory register

"So, the Government may have finally achieved its objective — to register journalists (through the back door) — despite denials by the Minister that such a register is intended

"Although Mr Engelbrecht has little or no difficulty with interpreting the regulations, others have not shared this experience and have had considerable difficulty in deciding what is to be done.

"For example, a journalist may be exempt from registration if he supplies news by way of 'a casual or isolated act'

"What is meant by 'a casual or isolated act'? Is it occasionally, if so, what is meant by occasionally? Is it weekly, monthly, annually — who knows?"

"As so often happens with emergency regulations, there is substantial confusion as to what must be or need be done — apart from any questions of principle concerning the freedom of the press

"I believe the Minister would act prudently if he heeded the criticisms being levelled at this piece of legislation, and at the very least postpone the date for registration indefinitely, but better still excuse all reference to news agency business from the media regulations. This will avoid possible applications to court to obtain clarity and the patient will be all the better for this minor bit of surgery."

Press register issue hots up as Stoffel agrees: I'll see delegates

By JO-ANN BEKKER

THE issue of press registration reached a critical stage this week when a Department of Home Affairs official announced mainstream newspapers would have to register under Emergency media restrictions

Yesterday's assurance by Minister of Home Affairs and Communications Stoffel Botha that he had never intended mainstream newspapers to be registered as news agencies did little to stem these fears.

The two issues at stake now are

● Whether Botha will amend the regulations so they specifically exclude commercial newspapers which regularly supply news material to agencies like the South African Press Association

● Or whether the Newspaper Press Union and Botha will strike a deal which exempts the mainstream press from registration — but not independent news agencies and freelancers — when they meet on August 11.

The *Star's* editor, Harvey Tyson, said offering exemptions to major newspapers would "be almost as bad as registration".

Nevertheless, although it is more than a month since the regulations were passed, a public outcry against them erupted only when Home Affairs' chief director of media relations, AJ Engelbrecht, announced mainstream newspapers would also have to register — or face the penalty of a R20 000 fine or 10 years in jail.

In its editorial yesterday *Business Day* bemoaned the fact that: "It is becoming very difficult to say why the fascist totalitarianism that is overtak-

● To PAGE 2

Press register issue hots up

From PAGE 1

ing us is better than the revolution that threatens it."

Botha has so far not responded to a request that he receive a delegation from the Anti-Censorship Action Group (Acag) and Save the Press Campaign — representing the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ), the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa), the Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ), freelance journalists and smaller news agencies

However, Botha told a Johannesburg newspaper yesterday he would be happy to grant a meeting to the Newspaper Press Union, which represents the Afrikaans and English-language mainstream press, to discuss the regulations

He said "If need be I will effect an amendment to the regulations" He had not intended them to apply to mainstream newspapers, Botha said

Although it is only one week before the July 31 deadline for news agencies to register, confusion reigns in the ranks of freelance journalists.

Several journalists are planning to fight the restrictions in court. But even legal opinion of the implications and scope of the regulations differs

Some lawyers contend registration applies to all individuals and institutions involved in collecting and disseminating news — apart from those sending news exclusively to one employer, or those who disseminate news only occasionally.

At least one senior counsel, however, believes this is not the case — having examined the regulation's exemption of someone who supplies news material "exclusively to a periodical or television or radio station of which he is an employee". This means, the lawyer argues, that any journalist can send stories — and even the same story — to any number of outlets, provided he or she has an employment contract with each outlet.

Many journalists have adopted a "wait and see" attitude. While most have strong moral objections to registering, others argue for a more pragmatic and strategic approach

However, the minister of home affairs can deregister any journalist without giving reasons

The Department of Home Affairs' Directorate of Media Relations yesterday did not respond to queries about how many individuals or news agencies had applied for registration

● A public meeting will be held in Durban on Wednesday, July 27, to highlight the issue of compulsory news agency registration

It has been organised by the ADJ, Mwasa and the SASJ. The meeting will be addressed by *Natal Witness* editor Richard Steyn, a lawyer involved in the upcoming Natal Indian Congress challenge to the news agency regulations, and representatives of the three press unions

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PRESS GROUPS IN THE DARK

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CONFLICTING official statements on the effect of the new emergency regulations on major newspapers has led to confusion and legal uncertainty in media circles.

Sapa requested Government clarification yesterday after several Department of Home Affairs officials gave different interpretations of the regulations

Argus Group newspapers reported on Wednesday the department's media relations chief director, Mr A J Engelbrecht, confirmed that major newspapers would have to register as news agencies by July 31 or face fines or up to R20 000 and prison terms of up to 10 years.

Commenting on media speculation on the definition of a news agency, he said that if newspapers gathered news and relayed it to other organisations — as most do — they would qualify for registration

Sister

He said he did not think this would be the case for newspapers who circulated news to sister newspapers within the same corporate group

However, he also advised newspapers to get legal opinion on the definition of a news agency.

He added registration of news agencies did not seem to be going very well

Denied

The Citizen yesterday quoted an unnamed Home Affairs official who denied that newspapers would have to register

Reacting to Mr Engelbrecht's statement, he said it was "totally incorrect" and a clarifying statement would be issued

capl Times 22/7/88 203

Stoffel clears up media confusion

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

AFTER days of growing confusion in media and legal circles, sparked by conflicting official statements on the affects of the latest emergency regulation on the press, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has finally been forced to step in to clear up the uncertainty.

Contradicting a statement issued just a day before by his chief director of media relations, Mr A J Engelbrecht, Mr Botha said yesterday that he had never intended mainstream newspapers to be registered as news agencies.

Mr Engelbrecht created a storm in the newspaper industry when he indicated that mainstream newspapers that relayed news to other organizations — as most do — would have to register in terms

Press curbs: groups call to Botha for talks

PRETORIA — The Anti-Censorship Action Group and the Save the Press Campaign has asked for an urgent meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs and Communication, Mr Stoffel Botha, to discuss the compulsory registration of press agencies.

Some freelance reporters and domestic news agencies have said they would refuse to register, courting fines of R20 000 or up to 10 years in jail — Sapa-UPI

of the emergency regulation by the end of the month or face a fine of up to R20 000 or 10 years imprisonment.

The confusion was compounded yesterday when one Home Affairs official described Mr Engel-

brecht's remarks as "totally incorrect", while the director-general of Home Affairs, Mr Gerrie van Zyl, would neither confirm nor deny Mr Engelbrecht's statement.

But he was then reported to have added "I can, however, confirm that the minister has clearly indicated that the registration of news agencies is not a step towards the eventual registration of a journalist per se"

This view in turn contradicts the government's own legal experts who have indicated in the past that the emergency regulations do indeed allow for the registration of individual journalists or freelancers as news agencies

Yesterday, Mr Botha said he had instructed his legal advisers to examine the media emergency regulations and said he would issue a statement today

Mr Botha said that if necessary he would be prepared to amend the regulations to make it clear that mainstream newspapers would not have to be registered as news agencies.

Indicating that he had not intended registration for major newspapers or for individual journalists "through the back door", Mr Botha said. "I merely wanted to ensure that news agencies were kept under control. If need be I will effect an amendment to the regulations."

Major news agencies like Sapa, Reuters, AP and UPI are specifically excluded from the registration provisions

Mr Botha indicated he would grant a meeting with the Newspaper Press Union requested for August 11.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that the Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) and the Save the Press Campaign has asked for an urgent meeting with Mr Botha to discuss the proclamation of recent regulations relating to the registrations of press agencies.

The request to the minister notes. "We request an urgent meeting with you to discuss this proclamation and our concerns about its effects on journalists."

Commonwealth 'may join fight'

Registration: all journalists to get free legal aid

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Staff Reporters

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) has decided to make its legal aid network available to any journalist affected by the new registration legislation

The national director of LHR, Mr Brian Currin, said yesterday that the organisation's "pro bono" scheme would be available to any journalist prosecuted under the legislation

Advice will also be available in the event of a journalist being deregistered

Commenting on the legislation, Mr Currin said that the definition of a "news agency" in the Act was extremely wide.

Hard to believe

"We cannot believe that it was the intention of the legislature to include those persons who appear to have been included"

Mr Currin said because, technically, LHR "processes news" it might also be required to register, something it had no intention of doing

"One could find oneself in a situation where every bit of news could be tainted by the ideology of the Minister in charge of registration"

The Save the Press Campaign, be-

cause of the severe inroads into the freedom of the press which it considered to be implicit in the new legislation, asked for an urgent meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs and Communication, Mr Stoffel Botha, early this week, but has received no reply.

The organisation includes the Southern African Society of Journalists, the Media Workers' Association of Southern Africa, the Anti-censorship Action Group (Acag), the Association for Democratic Journalists and representatives of freelancers and the so-called alternative press

It is also supported by major newspapers.

The new legislation has also brought a response from Canada, where Reuter reported that a senior government official said yesterday in Toronto that other Commonwealth members will be asked to aid the South African-based media to battle censorship and propaganda

Eight Commonwealth countries represented on a committee dedicated to dismantling apartheid will be asked in Toronto next month to contribute money or technical assistance to help counter Pretoria's ability to control the news

Journalists 'could become known as State agents and ^{under curbs!}

Tainting the SA Press

Star 23/7/88 (243)

JOURNALISTS and agencies who register in terms of the latest emergency media regulations could be considered Government agents, it was agreed at an urgent meeting of media, political, church, and labour organisations called last night

Under the regulations promulgated on June 10, news agencies are expected to register by July 31

The regulations were slated by speakers at the meeting called by the Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) and The Save the Press Committee. Speakers included foreign correspondent Mr John Mattison, who presided, Mr John Dugard of the Centre For Applied Legal Studies, Ms Sheena Duncan of the South African Council of Churches, and Mr Irwin Manoim, editor of the *Weekly Mail*

PAT DEVEREAUX

All agreed that registration of journalists or agencies was yet another Government attack on freedom of the press

Mr Dugard said he believed it was no mistake that the regulations were so broadly applied

"Registration is an attempt to force self-censorship," he said, adding "It is the Government's intention to deprive newspapers of their sources of information instead of closing papers down"

Mr Manoim said registration of journalists could lead to blacklisting

Outside world

Ms Sheena Duncan said the church had chosen to ignore the Emergency Regulations and journalists and agencies could do likewise and choose not to register

Speaking from the floor, Editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, said "Any kind or form of registration of any kind of journalist is below the line"

He repeated the point made by the ACAG and the Save the Press Committee that "these regulations will give the impression to the outside world that all journalists who are registered are approved by the Govern-

ment and therefore act as Government agents or propagandists"

Professor M Shear, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, and Mr Jay Naidoo of Cosatu pointed out that the media restrictions should be seen as part of a general clampdown by the Government on mass organisations and an attempt to silence protest

Mr Anton Harber, co-editor of the *Weekly Mail* said representatives of groupings present at the meeting should "give the assurance that they will not register Secondly, they should not believe others should register and thirdly they should give support to those who follow in their path"

'Unprofessional'

Stressing that local press credibility may be in question, journalist Mr Raymond Louw said "For journalists to register is unprofessional conduct Even the mainstream press will be affected (if they collude) The reputation of the South African press will be tainted internationally"

A furore in political and media circles followed confusing statements issued this week by Government officials, the chief director of media regulations, Mr A J Engelbrecht, and Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

But the Minister yesterday admitted he had received various representations about the registration of news agencies and had requested his legal advisors to examine the issue in depth

The groups which initiated last night's meeting confirmed that they had called for an urgent meeting with the Minister



PLEASE SIR, MAY I HAVE SOME MORE The food queue at Leeuwkop's maximum the Saturday Star's visit to the jail and Pretoria Central see page 13

Prisoner claims maltreatment

CONDITIONS at the Krugersdorp Prison for inmates who are supposed to have "maximum privileges" are in fact "primitive and uncivilised", according to a letter apparently smuggled out by a prisoner

The prisoner, who cannot be named, said that the "head" of the prison, named only as a Colonel Coetzee, ran the institution "by his own rules and does not take orders from the prison department headquarters"

The letter pleaded for "headquarters" to investigate conditions at the prison before "we shall be bound to make our problems known to higher authorities"

In reply, the Department of Prisons says that "prisoners often subjectively relate their perceptions and experiences as if they are facts" "The SA Prisons Service has repeatedly de-

CARMEL KNIPE

monstrated its commitment to high of physical treatment and is satisfied people entrusted to its care are humanely and in a responsible manner with internationally accepted standards

"The allegation that the head of Krugersdorp Prison runs the institution rules is devoid of all truth"

Other allegations by the prisoner ● Privately owned radios, which are confiscated at other prisons, are confiscated on Krugersdorp

The department says, however, that prisoners are allowed only if the prison has a radio system, which Krugersdorp has

Bara barometer

Figures reflecting Baragwanath Hospital's bed shortage in the Medicine Department from July 14 to 20 reveal one of the worst deficiencies yet reported by the Saturday Star

There were 2 024 patients without beds during this winter period. The daily average was 289 patients a ward. On July 19, the worst night, 347 were without beds and there were 117 patients in one 40-bed ward

Media rules *cont'd*
in a jumble *23/7/84*

Political Correspondent

THE confusion surrounding the media emergency regulations is set to continue until at least next week.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday that he was considering "various representations" regarding the registration of news agency businesses in terms of the regulations.

Conflicting official statements on the registration issue have sparked a wave of uncertainty and concern within the newspaper industry

Media group plans to challenge action against agencies

By S'BU MNGADI

THE government is heading for a showdown with journalists over the compulsory registration of news agencies - including mainstream newspapers - and freelance journalists.

As the July 31 registration deadline approaches, chief director of media relations in the Department of Home Affairs, AJ Engelbrecht, has shaken the media establishment with his announcement that mainstream newspapers could also have to register as news agencies under the emergency regulations.

Although urged to seek legal advice on their individual positions, these newspapers face fines of up to R20 000 if they are obliged to register and they do not.

The regulations have been criticised as being so wide that even the government's Bureau for Information, columnists, part-time correspondents and public relations officers may be affected.

Media lawyers have said that in practical terms, every journalist operating in SA - whether freelance or full-time - would be affected by the regulations, whether directly or indirectly.

Journalists have responded by forming a loose coalition - the Save the Press Campaign - made up of journalist associations, independent news agencies, anti-censorship watchdogs and freelance

journalists. The coalition will challenge the validity of the media regulations.

Papers are expected to be filed on August 1 - a day after the government's deadline on registration - in the Maritzburg Supreme Court.

The matter may be heard in tandem with the Natal Indian Congress' application on August 8 against the validity of the current third state of emergency.

Journalists have interpreted the latest clamp-down as a "stealthy introduction through the backdoor" of the mandatory registration of journalists, as first mooted in the 1982 findings of the Steyn Commission.

The Commission recommended the drawing up of a register which could exclude journalists convicted of security offences and those who break a statutory code of conduct.

Organisations in the Save the Press Campaign include the Association of Democratic Journalists, the Media Workers' Association of SA, the SA Society of Journalists, Concord News Agency, Eastern Cape news agencies, and the Anti-Censorship Action Group.

Meanwhile, the coalition in Johannesburg is today briefing industrialists on the situation and a Newspaper Press Union delegation meets Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha on August 11.

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Stoffel to make register decision

Political Correspondent

JOURNALISTS are waiting for a ruling from the Minister of Home Affairs and Communications, Mr Stoffel Botha, on the instrument of state control they fear most — a register of newspapers and writers.

Mr Botha has said he is consulting legal advisers this weekend for opinion on emergency regulations involving a register. The definitions are vague and when Mr Botha's Director of Media Regulations, Mr A J

Engelbrecht, was asked for clarification, he said the establishment newspapers fell into the defining net of a news agency — because in addition to gathering news, they also distributed it.

Mr Botha moved quickly to correct the impression created by Mr Engelbrecht, and a pronouncement is expected early this week.

The journalists' objection is that a state register is traditionally seen as the final measure of an unfree press.

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Times
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Journalists: Govt agents?

CARC Times
25/7/88
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JOHANNESBURG. — Journalists and agencies who register in terms of the latest emergency media regulations could be considered government agents, it was agreed at an urgent meeting of media, political, church

and labour organizations at the weekend.

The regulations, which require news agencies to register by July 31, were slated by speakers at the meeting called by the Anti-Censorship Action Group (ACAG) and the

Save the Press Committee. Speakers included foreign correspondent Mr John Mattison, Mr John Dugard of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Mrs Sheena Duncan of South African Council of Churches and Mr Irwin Manoim, co-editor of the Weekly Mail.

Agents

Speaking from the floor, the editor of the Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, said: "These regulations will give the impression to the outside world that all journalists who are registered, are approved by the government and therefore act as government agents or propagandists"

The groups at the meeting confirmed that they had requested an urgent meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

● Yesterday the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Southern Africa said Mr Botha should "think again" on the registration of journalists.

In a statement the association said: "The plain intent of these measures is to narrow still further the range of views which can lawfully be expressed in South Africa." — Sapa

Big fight looming

Scwefom 25/7/88 (243)

JOURNALISTS, news agencies and a range of organisations supplying information for mass media seem poised to follow the example of the trade unions, churches and "open" universities in refusing to submit to direct government control through registration.

While top government representatives are at odds as to whether or not the registration of mainstream newspapers was ever intended, it has become clear that foreign correspondents are among the main targets of the new control measures

With the deadline for government registration of news agencies just a

week away, a campaign to fight the move is just getting off the ground. It involves:

- A probable legal challenge to the relevant emergency provision requiring that anyone conducting "news agency business" must register with the Department of Home Affairs

- Refusal by many such organisations and individuals to comply with the registration provision or passively to accept exemption from it

- Attempts to persuade or press the Government to withdraw the registration requirement

- Support for those organisations which may be prosecuted for failing to register, including free legal assistance from Lawyers for Human Rights.

A Johannesburg law firm acting for the Free the Press Campaign has notified Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha of likely court action this week.

Minister yet to reply on media curbs

Staff Reporters

As the end-of-month deadline for the registration of "news agencies" in terms of the emergency regulations draws closer, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha has given no official indication that he will meet representatives of the Save the Press campaign and the Newspaper Press Union to discuss the media curbs.

A spokesman for the NPU said yesterday that although the Minister had publicly stated that he was attending to the issue and that he would consider representations, no formal confirmation had been received that Mr Botha would meet the NPU on August 11 — the date the NPU had proposed

POSTPONEMENT?

"We also have not received notice that the Minister will postpone the deadline for registration pending the representations," the spokesman said.

By yesterday afternoon the Save the Press Campaign had not had a reply to its demand that Mr Botha indicate by the end of the day whether he would hear representations from the organisation. Court action was likely to follow if the response was not received by the end of the day, members of the campaign's constituent organisations said.

The Star could not ascertain late yesterday whether the deadline had been met as the attorney was not available for comment.

URGENCY

A spokesman for the Ministry of Home Affairs said yesterday the Minister was giving urgent attention to the matter. He repeated a statement by Mr Botha, which was issued Friday last week, that the Minister was presently being advised on the issue.

A further statement would be released later this week, the spokesman said.

The South African Students Press Union (Saspu) became one of the first organisations to declare that its intention was to ignore registration requirements. Others indicated at a meeting held in Johannesburg on Friday that they would take a similar position.

"Saspu refuses to become an agent of the South African Government," the organisation said in a statement issued yesterday to Sapa.

Where is the last line of defence?

243/ 574 2-21-758

Viewpoint
Journalists are inept communicators when it comes to defending their own cause, judging by the conversations over dinner tables in constituencies which used to be safe Progressive Federal Party seats.

Using that admittedly rough guide, it seems that some people who might be considered sympathetic to the idea of a free press are at the same time not appalled by the edict requiring "news agencies" to register.

It is seen as an essentially reasonable step to ensure the maintenance of professional standards, comparable, say, to the "registers" maintained by the medical and legal professions and to the disciplinary measures taken by their councils against wayward members.

A largely deaf ear is turned to the protest from journalists against the decree, issued by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, giving a major proportion of the journalist fraternity until July 31 to register with the Director-General of Home Affairs.

If the cry is audible, it is heard as an unnecessary wail, perhaps even as a howl for the right to do or write what they please.

The sympathy for Mr Botha and the corresponding indifference, if not hostility, to anxiety of journalists is based on a number of fallacies and misunderstandings.

First, there is no comparison between controls exercised in medicine and law and what Mr Botha seeks for journalists.

Controls over doctors, dentists and lawyers are wielded by their fellow professionals.

Mr Botha is not asking journalists to control themselves according to a prescribed set of professional standards. He wants to police them himself according to undefined and probably undefinable criteria.

No doctor, dentist or lawyer would be disciplined by his peers, let alone "struck off the roll", without

By PATRICK LAURENCE
Doctors and lawyers have "registers" — and face disciplinary action if they err — so why should journalists object? Here is a person-of view.

being given an opportunity to defend himself

Under the emergency decree, however, Mr Botha may "without prior notice to any person and without hearing any person, summarily withdraw registration" All that is required is for Mr Botha to be "of the opinion" that it is necessary for public safety or the maintenance of law and order.

The consequences are severe for the journalists deemed to be unworthy of a place on Mr Botha's register: professional death.

But Mr Botha is not a neutral party. He is a politician. He is not infallible. He should not be the judge

in his own case.

When journalists write about political matters — and most issues in present-day South Africa are political in the last analysis — they may offend Mr Botha politically. But that does not mean they are a threat to the public interest or to law and order.

If Mr Botha thinks so, he should be the plaintiff in a case before a court of law where journalists will have an opportunity to defend themselves.

There is a second central fallacy among generally enlightened people who have thus far failed to see why most journalists are vehemently opposed to Mr Botha's register. It is the false assumption that journalists are presently unfettered, that they are free to indulge in any anarchical madness, perverse bigotry or malicious prejudice which may possess them.

Journalists have to write within the law. There are literally dozens of laws which constrain them,

ranging from common law libel to statutory security laws.

But, as important, journalists already have their own council, the Media Council. Established largely on the initiative of the editors of major newspapers, the Media Council enables the profession to discipline itself.

Moreover, it offers aggrieved members of the public a channel through which to seek redress if they feel they have been reported unfairly.

The Media Council, consisting of 14 media representatives and 14 representatives of the public and under the chairmanship of a retired judge, seeks to ensure that newspapers honour a code of conduct largely drawn up by journalists.

It can impose a fine of up to R10,000 on erring newspapers and order them to publish its findings, which may include a severely embarrassing and damaging reprint.

Over and above these sanctions, however, there is professional pride as journalists, not as polemicists. One of the highest accolades journalists can earn is a reputation for fairness.

Difficult

BOTHA URGED TO ABANDON CURBS

Sowetan 27/7/88

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US newsmen send a letter

NEW YORK — Nine US news organisations urged South African President, P W Botha, to rescind new curbs which could force journalists in South Africa to register with the State or face up to 10 years in jail.

The organisations, which group journalists and publishers, said in a letter to Botha that the new regulations would give the State the power to "deregister" a journalist or news agency without notice, appeal or review

"This means that the Government would exercise the absolute power to decide who may or may not work as a journalist or function as a news agency," said the letter, signed by heads of the nine organisations

Licensing

"This practice, known as 'licencing' in other countries, has been widely condemned by news media organisations as an unacceptable government abuse of Press freedom and the independence of the news media," it said

"We call on you and your government to rescind these regulations immediately and to take all further steps neces-

sary to restore freedom of the Press in South Africa "

One of the signatory groups, the Committee to Protect Journalists, said the letters had been

delivered to the South African Embassies to the United States and to the United Nations on Monday

The new restrictions, which reinforce tough

emergency media curbs that severely curtail reports of political unrest, were introduced when a national state of emergency was renewed for a third year last month

Under the new regulations, - news agency journalists failing to register with the Government by July 31, will face heavy fines or up to 10 years in prison.— Sapa-Reuter

People

Bridging the gap between press and police

By CRAIG KOTZE

It's not easy being a public relations officer in the SAP, caught between the often conflicting needs of the press and those of the police force.

But if any two officers on the Witwatersrand can be said to have bridged the gap it would be Captain Pierre Louw (33) and Colonel Frans Malherbe (44)

It was announced last week that Captain Louw had been promoted from lieutenant to captain from July 1.

Virtually media personalities in their own right after almost constant exposure in the media, they occupy the public relations "hot seat" in the most important police division in the country

For Johannesburg houses South Africa's most important newspapers, SABC TV and the largest concentration of foreign media in Southern Africa.

THEIR UNIT IS A SHOWCASE

This dynamic duo have made the Witwatersrand Police Division and its units — including the almost legendary Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad, the crack John Vorster Square Vehicle Branch and the Robbery Reaction Unit — the best known in the country

Their efforts have also turned their own unit into the showcase of the SAP public relations effort outside Pretoria

The two men come from police families and perceive their role as having three main functions — enhancement of the SAP's image, improving its relations with the public through the media, and keeping the public informed.

Colonel Malherbe, commander of the team, is recognised as an organisational and planning expert with extensive public relations experience.

He organised the Transkei independence celebrations in 1976 while stationed in Umtata and this year is co-ordinating the considerable arrangements for the SAP's 75th anniversary celebrations on the Witwatersrand.

IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE

Captain Louw is more often than not the "front man" of the team, quoted regularly in the press, appearing regularly on TV talk shows, giving news bulletins and speaking at high-powered seminars and lectures

A keen student of strategic studies, he majored at Pretoria University in criminology and psychology. After joining the SAP in 1979, he was made an officer in 1983.

He and his journalist wife Anna have two young sons, Pierre (2) and Jacque (11 months).

Colonel Malherbe joined the police in 1962 and was appointed to his present post in May 1986. He became an officer in 1972 and has also served in the Cape

He and his wife Stella have four children, Linda (20), a student at Stellenbosch University, Erika (18), a student at the Rand Afrikaans University, Francois (15) and Werner (10)



Colonel Frans Malherbe . . . behind the scenes organisation and planning of public relations and the SAP's 75th anniversary celebrations on the Witwatersrand.



Captain Pierre Louw
South African

STV 28/7/86

Media groups in US join ~~2000~~ in protest over registration

Nine US news organisations have joined the protest against the Government's decision to force journalists and news agencies to register

The new controls require, at the very least, freelance journalists and small news agencies to register with the Government, which can withdraw the registration and thus silence journalists it decides are "a threat to public order"

The group of US organisations, which includes journalists and publishers, said in a letter to President Botha that the new regulations would give the State the power to "deregister" a journalist or news agency with-

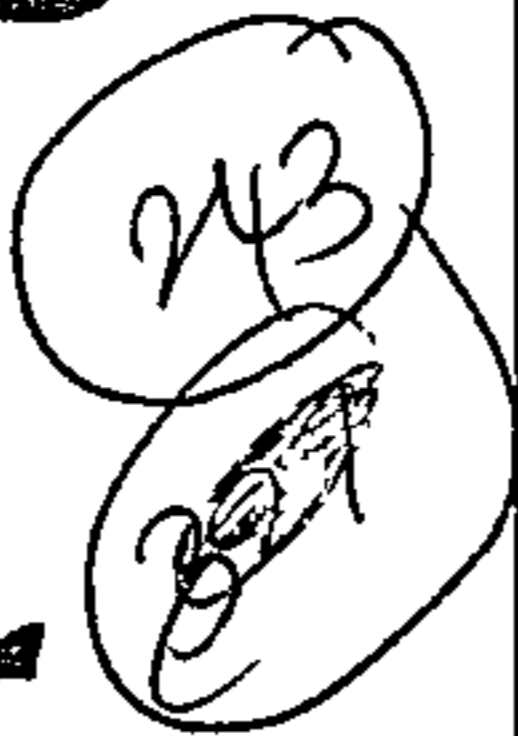
out notice (243)

Those who fail to register face a fine of R10 000 or a jail sentence of up to 10 years

● Sapa reports that in another development, Natal journalists, in accepting the national Save the Press statement, followed their counterparts in other provinces last night by refusing to register with the Government by Sunday

About 150 journalists attended the meeting convened by the Southern African Society of Journalists, the Media Workers' Association of South Africa and the Association of Democratic Journalists at Durban's Ecumenical Centre

Rethink on news agency register



From FRANZ KRUGER

EAST LONDON. — A belated storm of protest against the new provision requiring news agencies to register has forced a government rethink on the issue.

Ironically, it was the director of media relations in the Department of Home Affairs, Andries Engelbrecht, who lifted the issue out of obscurity and unleashed the current storm.

Engelbrecht last week confirmed that mainstream newspapers would have to register in terms of the regulation.

There was an immediate outcry, with the Newspaper Press Union requesting a meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, and asking that implementation of the measure be delayed until the meeting is held.

Clarify issue

Botha subsequently said it had not been his intention to include the mainstream press, and the regulations would be redrafted if necessary.

He promised to clarify the issue later this week, but at the time of going to press no further explanation had been issued.

The provision requiring news agencies to register with the Department of Home Affairs was promulgated when the national state of emergency was redeclared on June 10, along with the other emergency regulations.

Section 11 of the media emergency regulations created the new register for all persons carrying out a "news agency business."

Initial registration is automatic, if certain details are supplied, but once an agency is registered the minister has sweeping powers to deregister it, effectively closing it down.

Prime target

He can do so "without prior notice to any person, and without hearing any person," if he considers it "necessary for the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency".

The provision was seen as targeted primarily at the batch of independent news agencies that have emerged in the past few years.

However, the definition of "news agency" is so wide as to include freelance journalists, mainstream newspapers who syndicate their news, even the public relations divisions of companies and other bodies engaged in some form of information gathering and dissemination.

The large news agencies, like Sapa, Reuters and others are

specifically exempted.

There was immediate concern that the measure was the thin end of a wedge which would end with a general registration of all South African journalists - something the government has long sought.

Commentators warned that such a register would mean the government had the power to licence individual journalists, and would use it to weed out those they do not like.

Weed out

Even those allowed to continue working would be tainted by the fact that they were working under government licence, and would suffer a severe loss of credibility.

Save the Press committees were set up in the Eastern Cape and Transvaal to take up the issue,

A call was made at one of these meetings that nobody should register until absolutely unavoidable, and legal opinion was sought on a possible court challenge to the regulations.

By and large, however, the significance of the issue passed with little comment, and there was a deafening silence from most of the mainstream press.

It seemed that they were happy to accept the measure, as long as they were not immediately affected.

But then a legal opinion by one of the country's most respected legal minds, Sydney Kentridge, was published in which he said that mainstream newspapers clearly fell within the definition of news agencies, and would have to register.

Storm erupted

The Newspaper Press Union (NPU), which groups the newspaper publishing companies, sought an interview with Botha, and asked for the measure to be held back until they could see him on August 11.

Almost simultaneously, the Anti-Censorship Action Group also requested a meeting with Botha on behalf of the Save the Press Committee, failing which a court challenge would go ahead.

Among the groups coming out in opposition are foreign governments, sectors of the business community and even some conservative elements in the mainstream press.

There is a hardening of opinion among journalists themselves, with few prepared to countenance registration.

At a public meeting in Johannesburg last Friday, the editor of the Star, Harvey Tyson, said he would not register and would support anybody who also refused.

Another Johannesburg journalist said: "I'm not going to register; I'm just going to carry on and do my job. I've spent too much time and energy bending over backwards to fit in with these restrictions."

CAPE TOWN — Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha has been urged to make his "temporary suspension" of one of the controversial Media Emergency Regulations "permanent".

Botha yesterday suspended the regulation calling on anyone conducting a "news agency business" to register with his department before the end of this month or face a R20 000 fine or 10 years in jail.

The regulation was published in June but a recent legal opinion indicated that "mainstream" newspapers could also be affected and that government would indirectly have got the "register of journalists" it has been toying with for some time, in

243 ~~243~~
BUSINESS DAY, Friday, July 29 1988

3

Drop media registration, Stoffel urged

spite of strong opposition from the media and other sources.

Botha confirmed yesterday it had never been government's intention to involve "mainstream" newspapers and that the regulation would be suspended pending further investigations.

PFP media spokesman Dave Dalling said yesterday he hoped the suspension would be permanent because it could cause "incalculable harm to SA and the cause of Press freedom".

Southern African Society of Journalists president Bob Kernohan said

Botha should "drop the legislation altogether"

In announcing the suspension of the regulation, Botha said the decision had been taken because of "practical considerations" and pending further investigation of the matter

The regulation evoked fiery criticism that the government was making further inroads into the freedom and the status of the Press

In Cape Town journalists mounted pickets at rush hour yesterday morning

They held banners reading "The Press says no to registration", and stood at major roads in the centre of Cape Town, Sea Point and the southern suburbs.

A joint statement by the Southern African Society of Journalists, the Association of Democratic Journalists and the Save the Press Campaign said "People have the right to know what is happening in their own country. Muzzling the media intrudes upon this right and limits people's ability to make informed decisions" — Sapa

Govt suspends rule on media

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PRETORIA. — The government has decided temporarily to suspend the media emergency regulation which required news agency operators to register with the Department of Home Affairs, the Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha, said yesterday.

In a statement, he said this decision had been taken because of "practical considerations" and pending further investigation.

"The principle of the problem addressed in regulation 11 (which requires news agency operators to register) remains a matter of grave concern for the government."

Mr Botha's announcement that the regulation was being suspended means that journalists are no longer obliged to register before July 31

He and his legal advisers had considered various representations on the matter

It had not been intended to involve the "mainstream newspapers" when the regulation was formulated and he had publicly given this assurance on July 21

"After publishing the regulations it came to my attention that these 'mainstream newspapers', or certain of them, are involved in activities which may fall within the definition of a news agency business," Mr Botha said.

"I have also received representations from the business sector and other institutions involved with the media."

Regulation 11 was suspended in a Government Gazette yesterday afternoon — Sapa

Journalist in court

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A SOWETO journalist appeared in the Johannesburg Regional Court charged with two counts of harbouring, assisting or failing to report the presence of certain persons.

Mr Themba Khumalo (31), of Diepkloof, Soweto, was not asked to plead when he appeared before Mr P J du Plessis on Wednesday.

Mr Khumalo, who was a stringer for the Toronto Star, Southam News and Associated Press is alleged to have harboured and assisted two trained ANC members, Mr Oupa Sehere and Mr Vuyisile Tshabalala during November 1986

and February last year.

The State alleges that during November 1986 Mr Khumalo arranged accommodation for Mr Sehere of whose training he was aware, at Crown Mines for two months he visited him there where he demonstrated to him the working of the AK47.

When Sehere was arrested the States alleges that Mr Khumalo left his home to avoid being arrested by the police. The State further alleged that he assisted Mr Vuyisile Tshabalala during February last year with transport and incorporated with him in the use of firearms, security and intelligence

methods of the ANC. He is also said to have acted as a courier for the ANC.

According to the State Mr Tshabalala was involved in a shootout with the police he was shot with the police. He sustained a leg injury and Mr Khumalo took him to a house in Dubea and obtained assistance for him from Dr Nthato Moutlana. He also took him to a farm in Honeydew where he got further medical assistance from Dr David Setfel.

Tshabalala was later removed from the farm and accommodation was sought for him elsewhere by Mrs Mandela. He later died.

Mr Khumalo is in police custody and will appear on November 21 for trial.

Redrafted version expected from Botha

Press Register

Regulations

are suspended

8/29/78

243

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Controversial state of emergency regulations requiring all news agencies to register with the Government by the weekend have been temporarily suspended by Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha.

The suspension of the regulations follows confusion over whether "mainstream" newspapers, which also serve as news agencies, had to register

The regulations are, however, likely to be redrafted to exclude mainstream newspapers.

The regulations have been widely condemned both at home and abroad, as they would give the Government power to suspend the operations of any news agency or journalist filing reports on an agency basis.

Notice of the suspension was published in yesterday's *Government Gazette*.

The *Gazette* confirmed an earlier statement by the Minister announcing the suspension of the regulations in terms of which all news agencies were to register with the Government.

Govt statement

Mr Botha's full statement yesterday read

"The media emergency regulations were published on June 10 1988 to counter certain conduct occurring in the media, for the purpose of the state of emergency.

"For this reason provision was made in regulation 11 of the media emergency regulations for inter alia the registration, by not later than July 31 1988, of persons conducting a 'news agency business' as defined in the regulations.

"I considered in conjunction with my legal advisers, various representations made to me concerning the aforesaid regulation. In formulating the regulations pertaining to such 'news agency business', it was not intended to involve the so-called 'mainstream newspapers'.

Newspapers

"This assurance was publicly given by me on July 21 1988. After publishing the regulations it came to my attention that these 'mainstream newspapers', of certain of them, are involved in activities which may fall within the definition of a 'news agency business'. I have also received representations from the

Govt's decision is widely welcomed

By Helen Grange

The Government's decision to suspend the regulation to enforce registration of news agencies has been welcomed widely by the media and political and economics spokesmen.

However, fear was expressed that the suspension was only temporary. The president of the Southern African Society of Journalists (SASJ), Mr Bob Kernohan, said in a statement that the society was pleased with the move, but was deeply concerned that registration might still be enforced.

"We urge the Minister (of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha) to think again about the whole issue of registration," the statement said.

"Government licensing of journalists represents the most serious threat yet to the freedom of the press in South Africa."

Mr Mike Horsby, vice-chairman of the Foreign Correspondents' Association, agreed with this view, saying he was pleased Mr Botha was taking time to think again.

On the political front, PFP spokesman Mr David Dalling said he hoped the regulation would be suspended permanently.

"The regulation has created a furore inside and outside South Africa."

CP spokesman Mr Koos van der Merwe said "This is typical of this plan-less Government NP stands for 'no plan'."

Mr Dennis Worrall, leader of the Independent Party, welcomed the announcement.

Mr Wynand Malan, leader of the National Democratic Movement, said "This is good news I am delighted."

Assocom welcomed the suspension. Its legal adviser, Mr Ken Warren, said "We would also have been forced to register because we write and distribute numerous newsletters."

The Star's legal adviser, Mr Peter Reynolds, said in a statement that Mr Botha had acted "prudently" and perhaps the regulations would "die a natural death".

business sector and other institutions involved with the media. "The principle of the problem addressed in regulation 11 remains a matter of grave concern for the Government. In view of the aforementioned, however, I hereby make known that due to practical considerations, it has been decided temporarily to suspend regulation 11 of the media emergency regulations pending further investigation of the matter."

Press freedom lingers on

PRESS independence lives on, even in some propaganda-plagued corners of Africa

So says a study by Dr Alan Cooper, a former editor attached to the political studies department of the University of Bophuthatswana

His report, published in Rand Afrikaanse Universiteit's *Communique*, shows the ideal of an unfettered press lives on in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi

Even where the western concept of press freedom is believed "unacceptable" or "unsuitable for local conditions", there is still reluctance to publish pure propaganda sheets, says Dr Cooper

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"Rather they wished to retain some editorial independence despite influences from various sources

"As long as this reluctance to become purely government mouthpieces continues, editors in these three countries will attempt to retain some attributes of western press freedom"

Press studies usually use three broad categories — western democratic, Third World and totalitarian

Dr Cooper adds "Little regard has been given to the heritage of western press freedom left to the post-colonial stages, to the attitudes of those journalists who trained

under colonial regimes and still endeavour to practise within the restrictions of their new political environments those principles of the freedom of the press they were taught before independence" (243)

Dr Cooper suggests his survey points to a "further sub-category in the definition of Third World press systems — that of a half-way house between a democratic press system and a Third World-controlled system".

Facts that don't often register

JOURNALISTS have no exalted or special role in a free society

Why then should they not be registered by the State? Why should journalists be different from some of their betters, such as doctors and lawyers, who voluntarily register in order to ensure their standards of practice?

I had hoped never again to have to supply the obvious answers to these questions — yet they keep cropping up, and are adroitly used by censors everywhere.

Well, on the assumption that you read this column only because you've read everything else, there is no need for me to point out yet again to so well-informed a citizen the obvious and clear-cut differences between doctors and reporters, and the separate principles involved.

But in this near-crisis week for the press, perhaps I should remind you that the battle against registration of journalists is, basically, a simple fight for the individual citizen to be able to know — and to speak — without fear.

The Government, all governments, would like newspapers to act as our State radio and TV do as "positive", unquestioning, obedient bodies. There are newspapers like that. And so there should be. But there are many other kinds of publications ranging from "non-obedient", questioning papers like this one, to hilariously irresponsible publications and seriously political pamphlets. Again, so there

should be.

But if any journalists — fulltime or freelance (including medical and legal correspondents who might be registered doctors or lawyers) — are licensed somehow by the State, then all South Africans are ultimately affected. The few freedoms left concerning speech and information in this country will be lost. And, inevitably, a blighted uniformity will soon set in, a style as dreary as it is bland.

In our country, particularly, any attempts to license journalists or force conformity of the press will result in the establishment of "an official" press (believed by nobody, including government supporters) and an "underground press", run by politicised journalists campaigning for causes believed only by the converted.

There can be little doubt that any registered journalist is "a government-licensed" operator. Worse, he or she is then forced to quit, or to deny authority and go underground, or to operate in a way that will never displease the official who is empowered to end a reporter's career at the figurative flick of a bureaucratic pen.

That's what all the fuss is about concerning Mr Stoffel Botha's media regulations. That's why many of us say, without qualification, "I shall never register, under any circumstances." We believe that to register is to betray the very essence of a philosophy —

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Undercurrent Affairs
Harvey Tyson



Short 30/7/88

not a journalist's philosophy, but the basic philosophy of free people.

But can the press demand total freedom to write whatever it likes? The answer, of course, is that the press can demand no more than the very lowest citizen can demand. And any newspaper that seeks more should get what it deserves: the dreaded "special treatment". That is why all normal newspaper people insist on having no special "rights".

In reality newspapers have to obey every law aimed at every individual — and then some. For there are, despite decades of struggle, many laws specifically controlling the media — quite apart from libel laws and the rest.

Unlike most of Europe and America, newspapers here are not protected legally in any way from State victimisation. Unlike West Germany, Switzerland and many other lands, we do not have a law, or even a convention, that expressly forbids registration of journal-

ists (while insisting on the registration of some scientists and other professions).

But why should the press — and individual reporters — not be punished if they fail to print the truth?

One has to ask in reply: Whose "truth"? The Government's "truth"? The ANC's "truth"? The "truth" of the independent witness on oath whose "facts" may be challenged later by other sworn testimony?

An eminent professor of politics said in Britain this week that "truth, historical truth, is the daughter of time".

I once expressed it less elegantly in relation to current truth: "Current truth can be ascertained only in a river of sequences."

Truth does not necessarily appear in the initial accusation, nor in the initial "public announcement" by the Minister" as read so often on TV.

No monthly journal, let alone a six-editions-daily newspaper, can instantly provide "the truth". My own view is that the truth has the best chance of emerging in a newspaper if it provides as many different sides of the story as possible, as soon as possible.

But what about a paper that deliberately prints lies?

Well, its lack of credibility must ultimately penalise it. In addition, the law protects you from the more damaging falsehoods. And the independent Media Council sorts out the lesser ones — the "differences of opinion about fact".

You may say that statistics lie, but let me give you the latest Media Council figures:

Cases lodged in the past two years 216
Cases settled (between reader and paper) 107

Cases withdrawn, rejected or lapsed 103
Cases adjudicated 5

Thus there have been only five complaints serious enough to go to trial in two years! One case is still pending and the "score" so far must be about 3 to the complainants, and 2 to the newspapers.

So much for the "irresponsibility" of the press as alleged by government. Government departments have lodged 54 complaints against different newspapers in the past four years — and in all that time have won only two of them!

I hope those figures register

Space for only two literary questions.
Was Francis a Sassy?
Was the Acne and the Ecstasy the story of a spotty nymphomaniac?
And one political question.
Is Dukakis a Bushwhacker?

Media registration to be reconsidered

3/7/88
C/Per
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THE government has decided to temporarily suspend the emergency regulation which required news agency operators to register with the Department of Home Affairs, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said in Pretoria yesterday, reports Sapa.

He said in a statement this decision had been taken because of practical considerations and pending further investigation.

The principle of the problem addressed in Regulation 11 (which requires news agency operators to register) remained a matter for concern, he said.

Botha's announcement that the regulation was being suspended means that journalists who were obliged to register before July 31, or face a 10-year jail term - do not have to do so for the time being.

Botha said he and his legal advisers considered various representations on the matter.

The Minister's announcement comes just days before the registration was supposed to have been effected.

It also comes in the wake

of moves to challenge the legal validity of the regulations in the Natal Supreme Court, reports S'BU MNGADI.

Durban journalists held a midweek meeting to protest against the regulations.

The meeting, convened by the Association of Democratic Journalists, the Media Workers' Association of SA and the SA Society of Journalists, at Durban's Ecumenical Centre, endorsed the "Save the Press" campaign statement.

In it Transvaal ADJ president Cecil Sols said the media regulations introduced in June - particularly the requirement that many journalists register with the government - represented a massive intrusion on the right of people to be accurately informed.

"By requiring that journalists obtain a licence to practice, and by holding out the threat of arbitrary withdrawal of those licences, the government is threatening to drastically cut back the quantity and quality of reporting on SA," he said.

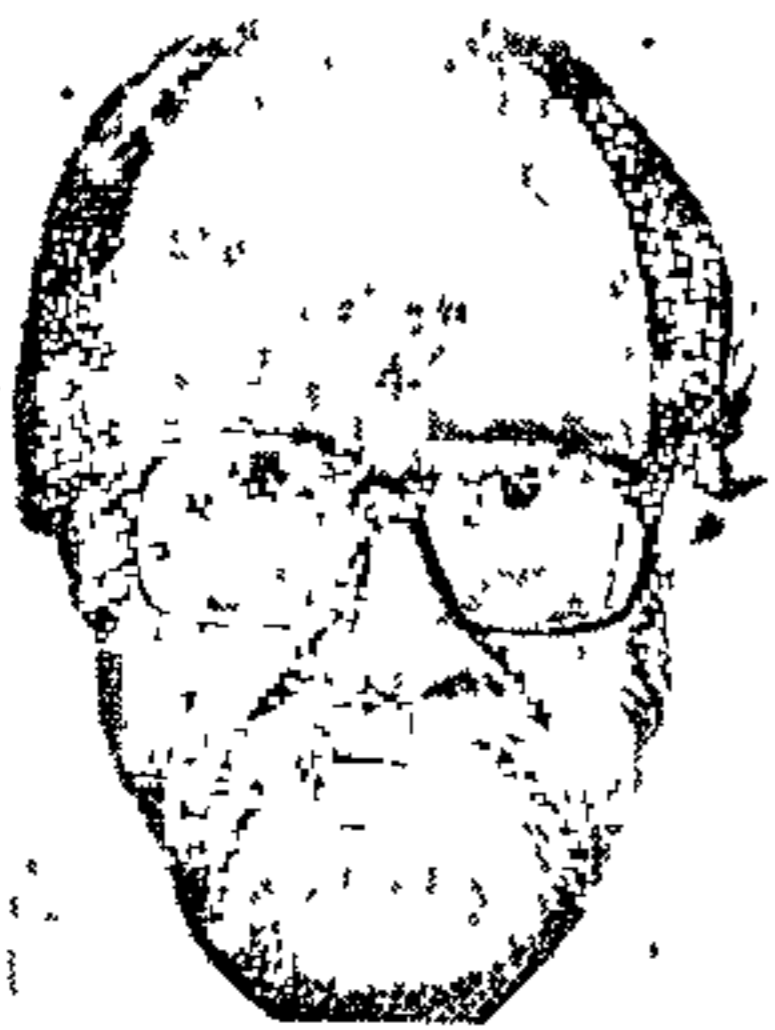
LOVE TO ADDRESS

at his new que
marriage and cel

the senior event). With them is Second-Lieutenant Wayne Swanepoel of Group 1.



Prof Dennis Davis



Mr John Scott

SA must not allow 'nazi-style' press curbs

Cap Times 2/8/88
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Staff Reporter

ANY society which allowed a government to pass press censorship laws similar to those of nazi Germany was heading for disaster, a UCT law professor told a Save the Press Campaign meeting in St George's Cathedral yesterday

Noting a parallel — the definition of a "subversive statement" — between laws passed in Germany in 1934 and the current emergency press regulations, Professor Denis Davis warned that government threats to register journalists were not aimed at improving professional standards, but "bringing news in line with what it believed news should be"

The government had jettisoned "rational criteria" of judgment when it banned "Cry Freedom" under security legislation, thereby overriding government-created bodies like the Publications Control Board and Me-

dia Council, he added

"If anything shows where the government's concerns lie in terms of the media controls, it is 'Cry Freedom'," Prof Davis said

"In 1950 Dr D F Malan and his wife attended the world premiere of Alan Paton's 'Cry the Beloved Country' — could you imagine Mr P W Botha going to the premiere of 'Cry Freedom'?"

This, Prof Davis said, indicated the extent to which the country had retreated from civil liberties since the National Party took power in 1948

Columnist and freelance journalist Mr John Scott said journalists were opposed to registration since their professional fate was "entirely in the hands of tinpot politicians with a party axe to grind"

"What the government wants," he said, "is a Pravda on the Soviet Russian model — and at this rate they're going to get it"

Ex-attorney's prison

4 000 rail users charged this year

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Detainees 'found guilty' in court — Info man

AKG 5
4/8/88
243

By DALE LAUTENBACH
Political Staff

THE Bureau for Information and the SABC have been asked to correct a statement by a bureau official on a nationwide black radio broadcast claiming that people in detention had been "found guilty" in "open courts".

Mr Johan Eiselen was taking part in a live phone-in programme on the October municipal elections broadcast on black radio stations between 5.30pm and 6.15pm yesterday.

Replying to a question about the difference between "municipal democrats" and "the democratic people we have in the township", Mr Eiselen said:

"People who are in detention are people who have been found guilty of some kind of offence by open courts of law, and I don't think we should argue that point; that is a case of fact, a case of justice that has been rendered and that is, I think, beyond dispute."

But this was "bad and terribly misleading", said advocate and National Democratic Movement leadership committee member Mr D P de Villiers.

Correction

"There should be a correction from the bureau and from SABC."

University of Cape Town legal academic Professor Dennis Davis said Mr Eiselen "should be sacked".

"It's not the first time the bureau has tried to pull the wool over people's eyes, but I've never heard one quite as bad as this," he said.

Leader of Cape Democrats Ms Amy Thornton said: "That is the most blatant piece of misinformation I've heard. There are detainees who have been held without trial for over two years."

PFM law and order spokesman Mr Tian van der Merwe responded with "unbelievable" but added that this sort of thing was to be expected as the bureau was a government body designed to "pump out propaganda, bias and selected information".

Accuracy

Mr Eiselen stood by what he had said, saying it was not his intention to give a "finite legal opinion or legal advice"

Asked to comment on the factual accuracy of his statement, he said: "By and large that is correct."

He said he knew about a number of detainees who had been held without trial for more than two years.

Asked to account for those detainees who have been released without being charged, Mr Eiselen replied:

"I'm no legal expert and it's senseless to pursue a legal argument with me. It is not always possible within the confines of a radio broadcast to delve into the intricacies."

Weekly Mail copies seized in swoop

W/E ARGUS 6/88
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by VERNON BRENT
Weekend Argus Reporter

warnings under the emergency regulations

THOUSANDS of copies of the Weekly Mail have been seized from street vendors and book-stalls in a nationwide swoop by police acting under the emergency regulations

The circulation of the Weekly Mail is about 30 000

Mr Manoim said "relatively few" copies had been seized, as most had been sold or distributed by the time police acted.

The editor of the Weekly Mail, Mr Irwin Manoim, said from Johannesburg today that copies had been confiscated in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town last night and this morning.

A police spokesman, Major Jan Calitz, confirmed that police had confiscated "the latest edition of the Weekly Mail".

The paper's lawyers were informed by police they were acting under Section 9 of the media emergency regulations

This allows police to seize the paper if they suspect it contains a subversive statement, Mr Manoim said.

However the paper had not been told which article(s) had fallen foul of the police, he said

The weekly tabloid, well-known for its strong anti-apartheid stance, has already received several government

Mail's application postponed

CAC Tants
8/8/88 243

JOHANNESBURG — An application to prevent police from seizing copies of this week's edition of Weekly Mail was postponed in the Rand Supreme Court at the weekend

The application was made after police raided news stands and impounded copies of the Weekly Mail

Police said "all copies" of the Weekly Mail on sale in Cape Town had been confiscated

Hearing to continue

Staff at the newspaper's offices said most of the 32 000 copies had probably been sold before the police seizure

Mr Justice M Fleming said the hearing would continue today at 8.30am to give the Commissioner of Police, General Hennie de Witt, an opportunity to prepare his case.

The commissioner has not given reasons for the seizures in terms of Section 9 (1) of the emergency media regulations

Mr Justice Fleming said on Saturday that though the seizure order stood, news vendors and outlets could continue to sell the newspapers

It is believed there are still copies of the Weekly Mail available at some outlets, specially in country areas

Counsel for the applicants, Mr Denis Kuny, SC, appealed to the judge for an interim interdict restraining police from seizing newspaper copies pending the application to General De Witt.

Mr Kuny said the Weekly Mail would suffer financially through loss of sales and had an obligation to its advertisers

It was important, he said, that the application be dealt with as soon as possible as "the weekly's newsworthiness diminished as each day passed"

"The commissioner has had an opportunity to respond to the application, yet he has not done so," Mr Kuny said

Meanwhile, prejudice was being suffered which should dictate to the judge why he should make a decision "With every copy sold, potential prejudice diminishes," he added

Statistics indicated that 50% of the weekly's sales were on Friday, and 40% during the rest of the weekend, Mr Kuny said

Mr Justice Fleming said that what was regarded by the commissioner as a valid order could be completely undone if numerous sales took place yesterday

The Weekly Mail has been warned by government twice in recent months that it faced a possible three-month suspension for violating censorship rules

Lamponing cartoon

Articles in Friday's edition of the Weekly Mail included extensive coverage on the 143 who have publicly voiced their refusal to do military service, prison detainees on strike and a report of black municipal policemen fatally shooting a high school pupil in Soweto

It carried a front-page cartoon lamponing the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, who on Wednesday warned opponents of conscription they are "anti-South African"

The tabloid was established in 1985. — Sapa and UPI

Judge upholds seizure of paper

A JUDGE yesterday upheld the right of police to seize newsstand copies of the *Weekly Mail*. Johannesburg Supreme Court Judge H C Fleming, without explanation, ruled that police acted within their broadly defined state of emergency powers when they confiscated thousands of copies of the newspaper's August 5 edition.

Last Friday's edition featured a front-page story on 143 South African men who jointly announced that they would not perform military service. During a four-hour court hearing, lawyers

for the State did not dispute the facts printed in the story. But they claimed the *Weekly Mail* story amounted to a "subversive statement" that would encourage other white males to evade military duty.

The *Weekly Mail's* lawyer, Denis Kuny, noted that all major newspapers in South Africa, including pro-Government dailies, reported the same story.

The *Weekly Mail* also extensively quoted Minister of Defence Magnus Malan, who condemned the actions of the military objectors.

When police confiscated the newspaper they cited the emergency regulations, but gave no specific reasons.

Censorship rules imposed under the 26-month-old emergency ban or restrict reporting about unrest, security force actions, treatment of detainees, most forms of protest and a broad range of statements authorities consider subversive.

Government lawyers complained about several additional items that appeared in the newspaper's August 5 edition. The lawyers cited an unflattering cartoon of General

Malan, a report of a municipal policeman fatally shooting a black high school pupil in Soweto, and a quote made in 1915 by a South African general who criticised the lack of civil liberties in the country.

The lawyers argued that the quote by General Barry Hertzog, one of the country's most famous military figures, was taken out of context.

Monday's court ruling applied only to last Friday's edition of the *Weekly Mail*. The paper will publish again this Friday, said editor Mr Anton Harber. — Sapa-AP.

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Paper's plea is dismissed

JOHANNESBURG.— An urgent application by the Weekly Mail against the Commissioner of Police for the return of copies of the August 5 issue seized on Saturday in terms of the emergency regulations was dismissed in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Flemming also dismissed with costs the Weekly Mail's application for an interdict stopping further seizure and an order declaring the minister's notice authorizing the seizure invalid.

The judge made his order and said he would furnish a full judgment reflecting his conclusions later.

He ruled that police acted within their broadly defined state-of-emergency powers on Saturday when they confiscated thousands of copies of the newspaper's August 5 edition.

Last Friday's edition featured a front-page article on 143 South African men who jointly announced that they would not perform the military service during a four-hour court hearing, lawyers for the state did not dispute the facts printed in the story. But they claimed the Weekly Mail story amounted to a "subversive statement" that would encourage other white males to evade military duty.

The Weekly Mail's lawyer, Mr Denis Kuny, noted that all major newspapers in South Africa, including pro-government dailies, reported the same story.

The Weekly Mail also extensively quoted Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan, who condemned the actions of the military objectors.

Handwritten initials: MRS

Order to seize Friday's edition invalid, claims W. G. M. M. M.

By Cathy Stagg

Mr Justice H C J Flemming yesterday dismissed the urgent application brought by W M Publications (Pty) Ltd against the commissioner of the South African Police.

The judge said he would not give his reasons at this stage and ordered the applicants, the owners of the *Weekly Mail* newspaper, to pay the costs.

According to papers before the court, a co-editor of the newspaper, Mr Anton Harber, had received telephone calls from journalists on Saturday morning, asking for his comment on the commissioner's decision to seize the editions of the newspaper, published the previous day (Friday, August 5).

Mr Harber said he was unaware of the decision. He went to W M Publications' premises and found no notification had been received of the action taken against the newspaper.

In response to a telex sent by the newspaper's legal advisors, the commissioner advised that he had acted in terms of the media emergency regulations.

A further telex was sent asking for more information but no reply was received.

The urgent application was launched over the weekend and postponed by the judge so that the commissioner could reply to the founding affidavit.

The application continued yesterday morning.

Judge dismisses urgent application by newspaper

Mr Denis Kuny SC, who appeared for the *Weekly Mail*, submitted that the order issued by the commissioner should have contained the grounds and, because it did not, it was invalid.

He said it was not good enough for the commissioner to act after the event to issue the order on Saturday, then take his time going through the newspaper with a fine toothcomb to list his reasons.

For the order to be valid, it should have contained the grounds when it was issued, Mr Kuny said.

He also submitted there was no room for the judge to substitute his discretion for that of the Minister and to decide whether the newspaper did or did not contravene the emergency regulations.

Mr J Swart SC, who appeared for the Minister, submitted that the interpretation of the portion of the emergency regulations which deals with a "subversive statement" did not mean only one statement or statements in the narrow sense of the word.

He compared a subversive statement with a defamatory statement which could mean an inference or innuendo. He submitted that a cartoon and reports published in the *Weekly Mail* amounted to a subversive statement because they conveyed information which undermined the system of military conscription.

Mr Swart quoted at length from the articles published by the *Weekly Mail*.

He said a public challenge had been issued by a large group, 143 people, whose names and occupations were listed.

He said the mention that some of them came from prominent Afrikaans families was no doubt included because the police and other similar institutions enjoyed large support from Afrikaans speakers.

"The emphasis is on the ostensible responsibility of the objectors. They describe themselves as loyal South Africans.

"The challenge is not on medical or religious grounds. The relevance of this point is that in terms of the Defence Act these

are the grounds on which people can be excused.

"At least by implication, the statement is 'whatever the Act requires, we refuse', Mr Swart said.

During the debate, Mr Justice Flemming asked how the article overstepped the mark and said it was not doing so if it used the tools of propaganda by saying Afrikaans people supported the idea.

Mr Swart replied this could not be approached as if it was a matter of free speech in ordinary times when the ordinary law of the land could be expected to cope.

"It boils down to the fact the newspaper is telling its readers, with obvious approval, that 143 loyal and responsible people have decided to take a public stand, not merely advocating change, but saying they will not serve in the SADF or do compulsory military training.

"They not only present argument or debate as to why not but, at least partly, rely on a number of gruesome details in terms of which, the SADF is the

aggressor, the murderer and the criminal, apart from being used as a political instrument of the ruling party," Mr Swart said.

The judge said only two out of the 143 quoted these gruesome details and he was sure the critical reader would see that these two did not seem to draw a distinction between what was approved of by the SADF and what was not.

Mr Swart also objected to an advertisement in the *Weekly Mail* because it was ostensibly a broad, unqualified approval of what the 143 had said.

In reply, Mr Kuny said the aim of the emergency regulations was to prevent the media from "ferreting out" information about police action in unrest situations. However, once there had been an official report by the authorities on an unrest incident, the media was enabled to report and comment on it.

He submitted that the six portions of articles in the *Weekly Mail* did not constitute a statement.

"In other words what is being objected to is a conclusion rather than a statement. It is a conclusion which the commissioner chooses to read into it," he said.

After the judge had dismissed the application, the newspaper's legal adviser said they would await the judge's reasons before taking a decision on whether or not to appeal.

Weekly Mail bid fails ²⁴³

SUSAN RUSSELL

AN URGENT application by the Weekly Mail against the Commissioner of Police for the return of copies of the August 5 issue seized on Saturday in terms of the emergency regulations was dismissed in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Flemming also dismissed with costs the Weekly Mail's application for an interdict stopping further seizure and an order declaring the minister's notice authorising the seizure invalid.

A full judgment reflecting his conclusions would be furnished later.

Costs are to include the costs of two counsel.

Police seized copies of the Weekly Mail on Saturday after the commissioner issued a notice in terms of 9(1) of the emergency regulations.

He ordered the seizure on the grounds that various articles dealing with conscription and the public refusal of 143

men last week to serve in the SADF or do national service, read collectively, constituted a subversive statement in terms of the emergency regulations which discredited or undermined the system of compulsory military service.

● Cartoon: Page 2

Another article was also said by the commissioner to contravene the prohibition on reporting unrest incidents contained in the regulations.

Articles that led to the seizure were the cartoon and 1915 quote from General Hertzog on page 1, three articles on pages 2 and 3, including the names of the

● To Page 2 →

Weekly Mail application dismissed

143 men refusing to serve in the SADF, and an advert on page 22 from an international war resisters' organisation.

Counsel for the Weekly Mail, D Kuny SC, argued that the portions of the newspaper relied on by the commissioner in making his order did not constitute a statement.

Kuny argued that while there were other portions of the newspaper that might constitute a statement, none of those cited by the commissioner did so — either singly or collectively.

Dealing with the article said to contravene the prohibition on reporting security force action in unrest situations, Kuny said the Press was entitled to do so

Once the police had issued a report Counsel for the Commissioner, J Swart SC, argued that not only what was quoted and stated, but also the manner in which it was done, could have no other meaning than to undermine and discredit the system of compulsory military service.

Swart said the newspaper was telling readers with obvious approval that 143 loyal and responsible people had decided to take a public stand not to serve in the SADF or do compulsory military service.

● From Page 1

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B/Day

Wednesday, August 10 1988

9

B/day 10/8/8

PRESS PACKAGE

GLEN SHELTON

CANADA has proposed a package of measures "to counter SA propaganda and censorship," including the creation of a Commonwealth Journalism Award and a legal advisory fund.

A Canadian government statement said the fund is to help the "alternative Press" in providing accurate reporting as well as to assist individual journalists who run foul of SA's media restrictions.

The award was being created to assist journalists in reporting honestly and accurately, even through the "maze of South African government restrictions and regulations governing the media".

The statement said that "ensuring the newspaper copy does not affront these restrictions is a burdensome and uncertain task," but Canada proposed to contribute to a legal advisory fund to help the alternative Press cope with "government-imposed impediments to accurate reporting".

The other programmes would include a scholarship programme to help South Africans to receive "an education in journalism". At least two fellowships would enable journalists to work in Canada for three to 12 months.

Radio church service cut

CAPL TENTS 11/8/88

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JOHANNESBURG. — The SABC has been accused of censoring a Methodist radio service which was due to be broadcast on Sunday.

Dr Peter Storey, of the Central Methodist Church, said in a statement yesterday that his pre-recorded radio church service was cancelled because of a "threat by the SABC to censor part of the service".

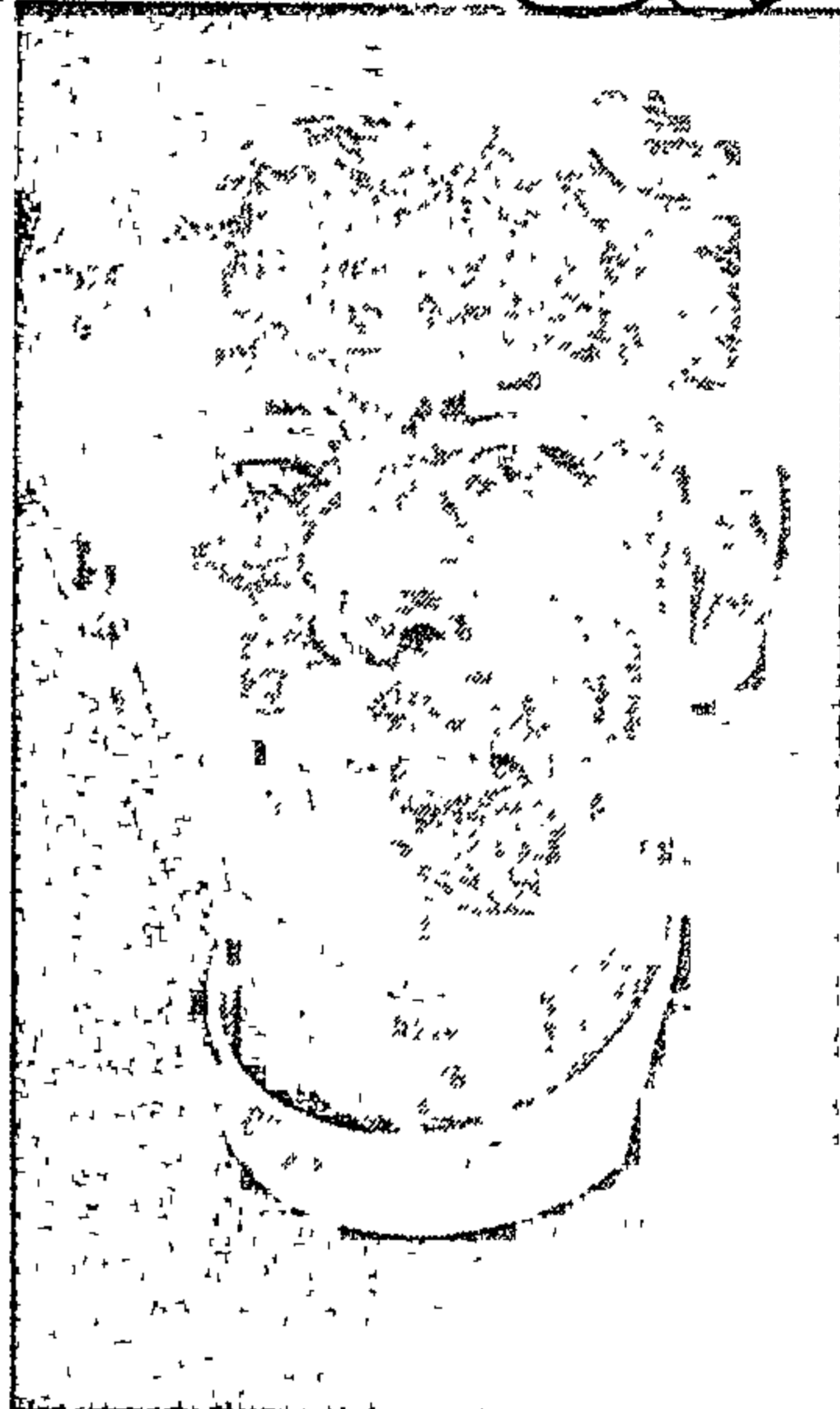
Dr Storey said in his statement that he was told by the SABC after his previous radio broadcast in June that if the "lighting of the Candle of Peace and Justice was included in his next worship, it would be cut".

The Candle for Peace and Justice is lit at each of the Central Methodist Church's services with prayers for those suffering because of oppression and violence in South Africa, Dr Storey said.

The SABC's acting director-general, Mr Wynand Harmse, said that "on request of Dr Peter Storey no recording was done from any Methodist church for the coming Sunday because of points under discussion in the Advisory Committee on August 11".

Dr Storey said that at a meeting between him and the Rev Austen Massey and the SABC's Religious Directorate, it became clear it was not the directorate who had decided to censor the service, but that the decision had been taken by the SABC's acting director-general.

"They were the messengers. But we were being asked to submit to political censorship of a service of worship.



CENSORED . . . Dr Peter Storey

No Methodist Church could be part of that," Dr Storey said.

The section to which objections were raised said in part: "On our altar stands a candle which is surrounded by a coil of barbed wire. The barbed wire symbolizes the hurt and oppression in our land." — Sapa

Barnard TV film runs into trouble

13/8/88

Weekend Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — A video film made by Professor Chris Barnard, Shaka Zulu director Bill Faure and a Cape Town millionaire to promote political moderation has run into its first snag it is unlikely to be seen locally

US citizen and co-financier of the film, Dr Robert Hall, said the film was shown to top Foreign Affairs officials who gave it the thumbs down

"They have not ordered a single copy," he said

The three well known figures are worried that their film will get them into trouble with at least three power groupings the African National Congress and the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, which are heavily criticised, and the Government because of the emergency regulations

Almost an hour long, the film is highly critical of the ANC, shows several necklacings and indicates ANC approval of this method of executing "informers".

It also analyses speeches by ANC President Oliver Tambo, accusing him of lying and the ANC of hypocrisy for allegedly saying contradictory things to different audiences.

Also slammed for a "pro sanctions stand" are Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Reverend Alan Boesak.

Their central message is that the vast majority is in favour of moderate solutions to the country's problems and that these can be worked out if the international community stops sanctions pressure

They are convinced that major overseas television networks will not screen the video and plan to distribute it through friends and contacts, mainly in the US

They are trying to get the video cleared for viewing in South Africa but believe the emergency Press restrictions will prevent this

Weekly Mail's co-editors box on in shadow of Big Brother

FOUNDING co-editors of *Weekly Mail* Anton Harber and Irwin Manom had to learn one lesson quickly how to survive in the shadow of Big Brother as he masqueraded as guardian of the public against revolutionary propaganda

The newspaper's first edition, on June 14, 1985, was threatened with seizure when police stopped the truck as it left the printers with the entire print order. But, fortunately for South African journalism, after some rapid talking the officers allowed the truck to proceed

Since then the two men and their newspaper have lived through a series of crises, winning fulsome praise abroad and from many people in South Africa, and accruing the enmity of powerful men in high places in Pretoria

The latest occurred only a week ago when police confiscated copies of *Weekly Mail* from newspaper vendors and distribution outlets on the orders of the Commissioner of Police, General Henne de Witt

He ruled that they contained articles which contravened the emergency regulations

The two men offer an odd contrast to the fledgling newspaper which they founded with the help of unemployed colleagues after the closure of the *Rand Daily*

Mail and the *Sunday Express* in 1985

Both are laid back and understated, the *Weekly Mail* is bold and innovative Harber (29) is the frontman But even in that role he tends to make his points quietly

Manom (34) is something of a recluse, preferring production and sub-editing to the publicly visible role of reporting

But underneath their shared reticence is a passionate commitment to journalism as a pioneering, invigorating and challenging force pointing the way ahead to a new non-racial South Africa

As they declared in a statement in May, when their newspaper was under threat of suspension by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha "We are an independent critical newspaper with ties to no organised group We have a point of view We believe in democratic values, in non-racism and in open debate about the options for a changing South Africa"

Denying Mr Botha's allegation that they were promoting revolution, an offence under statutory law as well as the emergency regulations, they added "Our real crime is in telling the awkward truths which the Government would prefer not to hear"

Neither man fits the stereotype of a revolutionary propagandist The clean-shaven, bespectacled Harber is more akin to a universi-



Embattled journalists Anton Harber (left) and Irwin Manom.

Personality

ANTON HARBER

and

IRWIN MANOM

Interviewed by:
PATRICK LAURENCE

ty don rather than a polemicist He is cautious rather than reckless, consistently consulting lawyers in a bid to ensure that *Weekly Mail* remains within the law Where he takes bold action

Botha's campaign to curb the allegedly revolutionary alternative press as "death by a thousand pinpricks"

He argued that the slow process of written and gazetted warnings to newspapers was meant to inure the public to the fact that sections of the press were being killed before their eyes

These steps cleared the way for the suspension of newspapers But as he noted "Suspension will mean death, commercial death And the Minister will be free to protest 'My hands are clean. I didn't close them'"

Weekly Mail received a gazetted warning on April 26 As a gazetted warning is the penultimate stage in the steps leading to suspension, it has had to exist on the very edge of permissibility for nearly four months

Since then there has been no word from Mr Botha, except for a letter after the state of emergency was renewed in June, its co-editors to continue submitting copies to him

Manom commented on Mr Botha's penchant for interspersing silence after a flurry of activity "Stoffel Botha is the master of tranquillising silence He uses it to great effect, sometimes to pacify opponents, sometimes to un-settle them"

The silence was broken last

week — by General de Witt's policemen rather than Mr Botha's pen Articles on conscientious objection, an advertisement by war resisters and a report on security force action were in contravention of the media regulations, the general said

It was unclear what the latest action signalled But, commentarily Manom in his characteristic wry manner "This week will demonstrate whether it was a freak accident or part of a plan"

Harber observed that the recurring crises were not without benefit "The staff is at its most cohesive and working harder when we are under pressure And our circulation usually goes up"

But there are heavy costs legal fees and the problems caused by the seizure of newspapers — *Weekly Mail* has been seized from the streets twice in its brief existence of just over three years — and the intimidating effect of official disapproval on news vendors and cafe owners

Crises mean sleepless nights Lawyers have to be consulted urgently and action has to be taken to defend the newspaper

But Harber and Manom are used to sleepless nights For the first few months of the *Weekly Mail*'s existence they worked right through the night every Wednesday to meet deadlines on Thursday evening

SA lashes out at BBC over documentary

243
CAF TRIP 15/8/81

Own Correspondent

LONDON — The South African embassy here has lashed out at the BBC over a TV programme which examined the murders of opponents of apartheid at home and abroad, such as Dr Rick Turner, Mr Matthew Goniwe and ANC Paris representative Ms Dulcie September.

The documentary, screened on Friday night on "Ebony", a weekly programme aimed at Britain's black population, examined 10 years of violence against the activists.

It included interviews with the victims, reminiscences by relatives, reconstructions of the murders and comment from intelligence experts on South Africa's "dirty tricks" campaign — which allegedly includes the murder of dissidents. There was also graphic footage of a critically injured Mr Albie Sachs — who was injured in a Maputo car bomb earlier this year — dragging himself along the ground seconds after the explosion, his arm blown off.



Miss Dulcie September

In the statement the embassy accused the BBC of conducting a "continued propaganda vendetta" against South Africa and complained of the "naive acceptance of the ANC and UDF members as injured innocents".

"The programme failed to draw attention to the intense internecine conflict existing between different factions within the ANC and its supporters which, in the view of serious and informed commentators, is the most likely cause of the events mentioned in the programme."

The documentary did give South Africa a chance to answer the allegations, ending with a live question-and-answer session with President's Council member Mr Craig Williamson.

He flatly denied South African authorities were in any way involved in the incidents shown, saying it was "easy" to make accusations without having anything to back them up.

He drew a parallel between the fact that in none of the cases highlighted had the attackers been arrested and brought to trial and the numerous unsolved murders of civilians and security forces in Northern Ireland — including that of Lord Mountbatten.

Mr Williamson, himself a former undercover BOSS agent who infiltrated anti-apartheid organizations abroad, said South Africa did not get involved in any "cloak and dagger" activities. Action against the ANC was done openly and admitted to, he said.

Police seize copies of church publication

Staff Reporter

Argus 16/8/88 (243) (527)
ALMOST 30 000 copies of the Western Province Council of Churches' publication *Crisis News* were seized by police at the city's central post office on Friday

WPCC official Mr Pierre van den Heever said yesterday copies of the six-weekly publication were posted to local churches for distribution

A Lieutenant van Deventer of the security police had visited the council's offices later on Friday to confirm that police had confiscated the copies under the emergency regulations

WORTH R7 000

The batch was worth about R7 000

A council statement said earlier the seizure of the edition, which focused on the October municipal elections, proved there was "no opportunity for democratic discussion" on the elections.

"As Christians standing for the truth we deplore this action"

The council supported a free Press and a free exchange of views

● Police spokesman Lieutenant Denise Benson confirmed that the copies were seized under the emergency regulations.

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Canada puts up a million to beat censors

CANADA has committed \$1-million (R2,4-million) to counter "South African propaganda and censorship" in the next year

A Canadian "Action Plan" was released at the meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers in Toronto last week

According to a press release, the plan will entail

- A legal advisory fund "to help the alternative press cope with government-imposed impediments",

- Funding for individual journalists who fall foul of the censorship law,

- The Canadian government working closely with and supporting groups who work "to blunt the ef-

Weekly Mail Reporter

fects of South African propaganda and to reduce the effectiveness of the South African government's censorship",

- Convening a major conference in Canada to focus on the issue,

- Mobilising the Canadian sport and entertainment industry to increase public awareness in Canada,

- Establishing a scholarship program for young South African journalists and fellowships for those who want to work in Canada for 3-12 months,

- Establishing a Commonwealth Journalist Award "to be presented to

an outstanding South African journalist recognising his/her courage and achievement in maintaining independent standards in the face of government censorship and propaganda."

"The Commonwealth must confront the fact that news reporting about the reality of South Africa and the apartheid system is being distorted by the press censorship and media restrictions," the committee said in its press statement.

The committee asked the Commonwealth secretary-general, Sonny Ramphal, to establish a working party "to elaborate an over-all Commonwealth programme for counteracting South African propaganda and censorship".

THE drama began last Friday with a few brief words from the commissioner of police

"Under the powers invested in me by Regulation 9(1) of the Media Emergency Regulations, 1988, I, Hendrik Gideon de Witt, Commissioner of the SAP, hereby order the seizure of the publication, 'The Weekly Mail', Vol 4, No 30 (Friday August 5 to Thursday August 11, 1988)"

It ended three days later with an equally terse statement from Mr Justice HCJ Flemming "The application is dismissed with costs, including the costs of two counsel," he said.

The messages may have been brief, but they were laden with significance for the South African press

The judge had upheld the right of the commissioner to order the seizure of last week's edition of *Weekly Mail* and dismissed an urgent application by the paper for the action to be declared unlawful

He will write a full judgement at a

Why your Weekly Mail disappeared from the shelves

Police seized copies of last week's Weekly Mail. Thirty hours passed before reasons were given

Weekly Mail Reporter

later stage The reasons he advances in that document are likely to define the parameters of what can be written in two important areas

● Security force action One of the reasons given for the seizure of the newspaper was a page two report of a shooting incident in Soweto in which a student was killed

Police contended that the incident

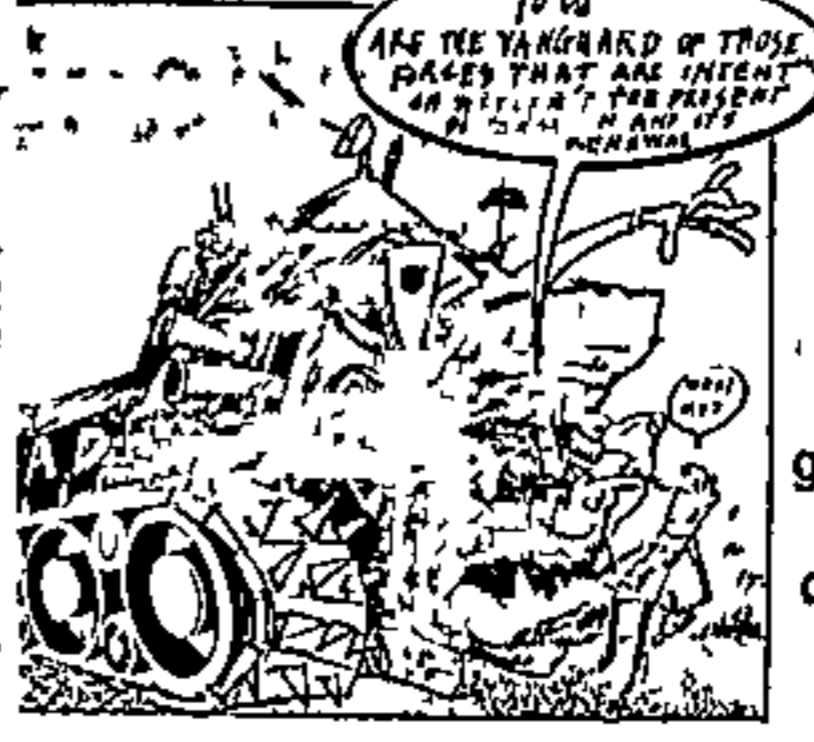
fell within the definition of "security force action to quell unrest", ruled out of bounds by Emergency regulations

Weekly Mail contended that because police had dealt with the matter in their daily "unrest report", it was not restricted information News and comment on the incident was permissible because police had acknowledged it, the paper's lawyers argued.

● The system of compulsory military service

Media regulations make it illegal to "undermine or discredit the system of compulsory military service"

The commissioner of police gave as one reason for the seizure the combined effect of a cartoon and quote on page one of the newspaper, coverage (on page two and three) of the decision by 143 men to object to military service, and an advert placed by War Resisters International (on page 22)



The graphic that caused the fuss

He argued that taken together, these undermined the system of conscription

J Swart SC, appearing for the commissioner, said the issue "boiled down to the fact that the newspaper is tellings its readers, with obvious approval, that 143 loyal and responsible people have decided to take a public stand, not merely advocating change, but saying they will not serve in the SADF or do compulsory military training

"They not only present argument as to why not, but rely on a number of gruesome details in terms of which the SADF is the aggressor, the murderer and the criminal, apart from being used as a political instrument of the ruling party," he said

He objected to the advertisement on the grounds that it gave broad approval to the 143

Dennis Kuny SC, appearing for *Weekly Mail*, argued there was nothing illegal about criticising conscription or calling for alternatives to it this did not constitute an undermining of the system This had been established over time by organisations operating legitimately and legally, such as the End Conscription Campaign (ECC)

He said the *Weekly Mail* was carefully scrutinised by lawyers before it went to press and they believed the paper had not transgressed the Emergency regulations

Kuny also argued that the commissioner was obliged to supply full reasons when issuing his original seizure order

It was not good enough for the commissioner to act on Friday and then take his time going through the newspaper with a fine-toothed comb to list his reasons

It had taken *Weekly Mail* almost 48 hours to obtain the commissioner's reasons for the seizure Attorneys acting for the newspaper had teleaxed police headquarters early on Saturday to ask for these reasons, when they had not been received by the evening they went to the supreme court on Saturday night

Counsel for the commissioner had not yet taken instructions and the matter was postponed to Monday morning

Justice Flemming declined to give an interim order — stopping the seizures pending the outcome of the application — on Saturday

The reasons were finally given to the newspaper's attorneys after 6pm on Sunday — and their validity was argued (unsuccessfully) on Monday morning in the Rand Supreme Court. Denis Kuny SC, assisted by Frans Rautenbach, and instructed by Bill Dewar and Hall, appeared for *Weekly Mail*

J Swart SC appeared for the commissioner

Weekly Mail's legal representatives said afterwards they would decide whether to lodge an appeal after the full written judgement was delivered



Namibia university lecturers join students in a lunchtime protest against the South African Defence Force. Picture JOHN LIEBENBERG, Atrapix

As freedom looms, Namibia simmers

AT a time when Namibia's prospects of achieving independence appear better than at any time in the last eight years, the territory is in ferment

There has been an upsurge in fighting and strikes, meetings between white politicians and the exiled South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) leadership, and flights out of the country by both blacks and whites

According to Ben Ulenga, general secretary of the Namibian Mineworkers' Union, "three or four years of simmering discontent against the South African military presence has simply boiled over"

The trade unions and newly-created

While other countries are deciding whether Namibia will achieve independence, there is political turmoil within the territory itself

By VICTORIA BRITAIN

head Ulenga was sentenced to 15 years in jail and served nine on Robben Island before being released early in 1985

His release, like that in 1983 of Swapo general secretary Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, was part of the last United States-brokered attempt towards a settlement of the Namibian problem

the northern war zone.

In another unprecedented development, 24 Namibian whites, many of them West German or South African passport holders, met Swapo leaders in Stockholm for three days of talks, also in June

The Stockholm meeting, hosted and funded by the Swedish government, was not the first this year between the exiled Swapo leadership and members of Namibia's 70 000-strong white community But for many of the 24 at the meeting it was a dramatic encounter. "It blew my mind", said one, previously a supporter of the the South African-backed Transitional Government.

The first day's agenda stuck on the

There is no way they are likely to go back into those schools without the bases being removed"

This political pressure on some of the northern bases coincides with an eight month-old military campaign by Swapo which has allegedly destroyed or damaged at least six bases

Most Namibian leaders both inside and outside the country remain extremely sceptical that South Africa is poised to grant them independence — but with the increased momentum of the peace process after the announcement of a ceasefire, there is a cautious optimism that the changes which have taken place are unlikely to be reversed — The Guardian, London

Beeld's editor refuses to back down

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

The chairman of Nasionale Pers and the editor of the company's Transvaal morning newspaper, *Beeld*, declined today to back down in the face of the scathing attack made yesterday by President Botha on the newspaper's handling of contentious political issues. Mr Botha attacked *Beeld* in a speech to the Natal National Party congress in Durban yesterday following the paper's criticism of the Government's handling of issues such as the "Cry Freedom" film banning, stringent amending legislation on the Group Areas Act, and the continued imprisonment of ANC

leader Nelson Mandela

Mr Botha asked the company's board of directors yesterday to take action against *Beeld* editor Mr Willem Wepener

In a front page article, accompanied by a detailed report of Mr Botha's words at the National Party's Natal congress, Nasionale Pers chairman Professor Piet Cillhé said the directors would "discuss" the relationship between *Beeld* and Mr Botha.

However, he said, the directors appreciated the autonomy of its newspapers and would not act as a "dictatorial super editor"

● See Page 11

19/2/88 (243) [initials]

Inkatha in appeal bid

CAPE TIMES 19/8/88

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BLOEMFONTEIN. — The question whether or not Inkatha as a "Universitas" and cultural movement with quasi-political interests and a non-trading artificial entity or "Persona" was entitled to sue for damages for defamation was argued in the Appeal Court here yesterday.

Judgment was reserved in the appeal by Dr Oscar Dhlomo — in his capacity as secretary-general of Inkatha — against the dismissal of a claim for alleged defamation of Inkatha.

The claim — for R20 000 — was brought against Natal News-

papers (Pty) Ltd and the editor of the Sunday Tribune, Mr Ian M Wyllie, as a result of a report in the Tribune on March 30, 1986 headlined "Two Killed as Violence Flares".

The claim was dismissed in the Supreme Court, Durban, on May 21, 1987 when Mr Justice J A van Heerden upheld an exception by the newspaper group.

The appeal was heard by the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rabie, sitting with four assessors.

Mr P C Combrink SC, with Mr M Daley, for Dr Dhlomo, said the

issue required consideration of two principle questions: "Whether or not a non-trading entity or "Persona", such as that represented by Dr Dhlomo, could suffer injury in the sense of an impairment of its reputation, and "whether the injury was one that could be redressed by invocation of the "actio iniuriarum".

Mr MDJ Wallis SC, for the newspaper group and Mr Wyllie, defined the "actio iniuriarum" principle as being directed at giving compensation for any intentional wrongful act which injured a plaintiff in his person. — Sapa

20/8/68

Sisulu ⁽²⁴³⁾ gets leave to appeal

BLOEMFONTEIN — A further opportunity to appeal against the detention of Mr. Zwelakhe Sisulu, the editor of the *New Nation*, has been granted by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

An earlier appeal against a rejection of an application to have his arrest and detention to be declared unlawful, was dismissed by a full bench of the Transvaal Provincial Division in June.

His application to be released from custody was rejected at the same time

The respondents are the State President and the Government, the Ministers of Law and Order and of Justice, the Commissioner of Police and the Officer Commanding the Johannesburg Prison — Sapa

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PW and Naspers showdown soon?

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — President Botha and his long-time political allies, Nasionale Pers, appear to be headed for a serious confrontation.

Mr Botha strongly attacked the newspaper group's Johannesburg daily, Beeld, on Thursday, for an editorial in which it called for the scrapping of the proposed controversial legislation concerning the Group Areas Act

But the group's chairman, Prof Piet Cillie, a personal friend and supporter of Mr Botha's over many years, has virtually dismissed the president's thinly veiled call on the board to take action against the newspaper

He said the board was not a "super editor"

And, in its main editorial, the newspaper made it clear yesterday that it was totally unrepentant for its editorial and said it only had South Africa's best interests in mind

In a footnote, printed in bold type, the newspaper said Mr Botha would probably agree that



Mr P W Botha

a "short temper" was a common human failing of "even the best of us"

Taking strong exception to the newspaper's Group Areas editorial, Mr Botha accused it of irresponsibility and playing into the hands of the NP's enemies

He had often stuck out his neck

for the newspaper group and spoke of the camaraderie which had existed between them in a spirit of neither one dominating nor embarrassing the other

But Beeld, whose name he never mentioned, had made a habit of embarrassing the government at short intervals

Prof Cillie said his board would discuss the "problem" which had arisen between Mr Botha and the newspaper

"In the meantime I would point out that the board places a high value on the independence and autonomy of its group's newspapers and does not act as a prescriptive super-editor," he said

The board would therefore like to see the problem which has apparently arisen between the State President and Beeld, to be settled by themselves

He confirmed the camaraderie between Nasionale Pers and the party in the spirit that neither would dominate nor embarrass each other. It had not always been an easy path to walk but the group would attempt to continue in this vein

NP laws to be rejected, says LP

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — The leader of the Labour Party, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, said yesterday that his party would reject all National Party legislation during the coming short session of Parliament

Interviewed yesterday, Mr Hendrickse said the Labour Party caucus would meet on Monday to discuss its role during the session

He said the Labour Party still stood by its rejection of the three Bills amending the Group Areas Act — due to come before Parliament this session — "and all other legislation proposed by the National Party"

Probed on the issue, Mr Hendrickse agreed it would be a "blanket rejection"

No conflict with 'press' — Stoffel

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — There was no conflict between the government and the "conventional" press, Mr Stoffel Botha, Minister of Home Affairs, said yesterday

Replying to a resolution at the Natal National Party congress, calling for steps against the "revolutionary role of the alternative press", Mr Botha said that action had been taken in this respect

But there was great appreciation in the government for the "tremendously important role the conventional press has played in the history of South Africa"

"Generally speaking, the press has made a much more positive contribution than it has been credited with," said Mr Botha

While there was no conflict between the press and the government, there were "vigorous exchanges" from time to time

It was the government's duty to ensure that there was a free press in South Africa and the government wanted to lift the emergency media regulations as soon as possible

They had been devised to deal with a situation of violent unrest, fed by the ANC and supported by the SA Communist Party who wanted to overthrow the government

The ANC's goal was to get the press to support its aims and the government would not hesitate to clamp down on any publication doing so

"This is not simply a question of ordinary criticism of the government. It is a question of the violent overthrow of the government," he said

Govt to deal with street children

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The government was working on a national strategy to deal with "street kids", Dr Willie van Niekerk, Minister of National Health and Welfare, said yesterday

Several government departments were working on the problem

"We must get them off the streets. There is a rehabilitation problem and they must be trained for some job," he told the Natal NP congress, where several delegates expressed concern about the problem with "street kids" in Durban

It was not a problem which could be handled by individual city councils, he said

CAPX TRAFF 20/1/88 (243) (27)

Reasons for paper's seizure

JOHANNESBURG. — Newspapers are prohibited from publishing any details of security action, beyond what appears in official government releases, or which are mentioned in Parliament or court proceedings, according to a judgment given by Rand Supreme Court judge Mr Justice H C J Flemming this week

The judge was advancing reasons for his earlier decision, in which he upheld the police seizure of the Weekly Mail a fortnight ago. The Weekly Mail is to apply for leave to appeal against the judgment.

The publication was seized in terms of the emergency media regulations under an order issued by the Commissioner of Police. The publishers of the Weekly Mail

went to court in a bid to have the order set aside, but failed

The order was issued on the grounds that the Weekly Mail had infringed the emergency regulations in two ways.

It had published unauthorized accounts of security action, which is a subject on which news coverage and comment is severely restricted

It had made subversive statements in terms of the regulations, by publishing statements "by which the system of compulsory military service is discredited or undermined".

In relation to "security action", Section 3 (1) (a) of the media regulations provides

that no reports in relation to the matter may be carried except "in so far as particulars of such a matter are disclosed, announced or released or authorized for publication by a cabinet member or government spokesman".

Counsel for the Weekly Mail, Mr D Kuy SC, argued that once an instance of "security action" had been announced or confirmed in an official statement, this rendered publications free to comment or report more extensively on the matter.

Mr Justice Flemming ruled that if reports were to be made "in so far" as they were officially given, this was only in so far as the official statement went — Sapa

Booklet ban counsel uses SAP release

By Cathy Stagg

Counsel for Learn & Teach Publications is using an SAP public relations division press release to attack an order in terms of which booklets were seized

The Divisional Commissioner for the Witwatersrand issued the order in terms of the emergency regulations. About 14 300 copies of "The Historic Speech of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela at the Rivonia Trial" were seized on July 20

Arguing the case for Learn & Teach Publications in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday, Mr Jules Browde, SC, submitted that the Commissioner did not have to give reasons for issuing the order, but once he had, a court could look at the reasons to see if he had a valid opinion that the publication would have the effect of "promoting uprisings or acts" aimed at overthrowing the State by non-constitutional means

The press release said publication of Mandela's statement created the impression that it was accepted by the court (which was hearing the charges of treason), that its publication in isolation was calculated to justify Mandela and to place the South African legal system in a bad light, and that the booklet was to be distributed free of charge

At the time of his trial, Mandela had the choice of remaining silent, giving evidence under oath from the witness box and being cross-examined to test his evidence, and making an unsworn statement from the dock that could not be cross-examined.

Mr Browde said Mr Justice G Gordon, who is hearing the application to have the order declared invalid and the booklets returned, could look at a booklet to see if those impressions had been created

The claim that the speech had been published out of context could not be so because everyone knew Mandela had been sentenced to life imprisonment

The judge asked if an ordinary reader would know that a statement from the dock meant the person had not been cross-examined. He felt he should look at the booklet as an ordinary reader, not as someone familiar with court procedure.

Mr Browde submitted there was no substance to the argument that publishing the statement meant Mandela should not have been convicted

The hearing will resume today

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Publisher seeks return of booklets

PUBLISHERS of a booklet containing the unsworn statement given by ANC leader Nelson Mandela, from the dock during the Rivonia trial, applied in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday for the return of 14 300 copies seized by police last month.

Learn and Teach Publications asked the court to declare the seizure invalid.

The Witwatersrand Commissioner of Police, opposing the application, ordered the seizure under powers to

SUSAN RUSSELL

stop any publication which, in his opinion, promoted *inter alia* revolution or uprising

Learn and Teach counsel Jules Browde, SC, said reasons for seizure were contained in a SAP statement issued to the media

□ The publication, according to police, was to have been distributed free to a variety of people and organisations,

□ It put the judiciary in a bad light,
□ The booklet gave the impression that Mandela's unsworn statement was accepted by the court

Browde said nowhere in the booklet did it deal with the truth or otherwise of Mandela's statement nor that it was accepted by the court

He said the only reference to the court was in the frontispiece where it said the speech was delivered from the dock

Argument continues before Mr Justice Gordon today

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SOUTH PRESS SERVICES LTD, PRESENTED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS ON 18 AUGUST 1988

THE BANNING

The period since the beginning of the year has been characterised by the banning of the paper and the effects of the repressive actions

As is common knowledge SOUTH was banned from May 9 until June 10, becoming the second newspaper after New Nation to be shut down under the 1987 State of Emergency curbs on the press

Had it not been for the Emergency expiring on June 10 the banning would have been for a longer period

The ban had been anticipated and a special edition of the paper published three days earlier

The banning order was however dated Monday May 9 the same day as the special edition

At great cost, inconvenience and effort almost 20 000 copies of the paper had to be withdrawn

The speed with which the government acted was shocking. We submitted our final representations at close of business on Wednesday May 4 and the Minister of Home Affairs had only the next day to consider the matter since a public holiday and the weekend intervened

The first opportunity the Minister had to publish the Government Gazette notice was on Monday May 9 — and he took full advantage of this

We seriously doubt if any consideration whatsoever was given to our representations

In our opinion, to challenge the closure in court would have been a waste of time and money. The court's judgment would in any event, have come only after our paper was back on the streets

THE NEW REGULATIONS

The new media emergency regulations published at the beginning of the year proved a double blow to the project

Besides tightening up measures against papers like SOUTH, a special regulation was promulgated to make it possible to ban our paper for a further two months

In addition, the new measures made it a legal requirement that news agencies register — thus seriously jeopardising plans by SOUTH to merge with another news agency — the Press Trust — to launch the country's first national alternative news agency

Regarding the special regulation affecting SOUTH the Minister advised he would first wait to see an edition of the paper before deciding whether or not to act in terms of the special provision

In spite of the dilemma of providing the Minister with possible ammunition to act against the paper the Editor proceeded with publication

In the end the decision proved to be a correct one — the Minister could not find grounds to act and the people responded enthusiastically to the reappearance of the paper

SAVE THE PRESS CAMPAIGN

However, in the road ahead, more than skilful editing is required to challenge the State's attempts to curb the free flow of information

And it is in this respect that the Save the Press Campaign is of such significance to activate as broad a spectrum of people as possible to protest against the suppression of the truth

In fact, it was an initiative by SOUTH in November 1987 which laid the basis for the launch of the Save the Press Campaign

After papers like New Nation, SOUTH, Work in Progress and the Sowetan first received letters of warning from the Minister, we initiated discussions locally and nationally among the independent newspapers and media groups to challenge attempts to silence papers

This initiative escalated with the subsequent warnings to Weekly Mail and Grassroots — and later to news agencies

Joint actions embarked upon by SOUTH, New Nation and Weekly Mail have strengthened and cemented relations among the independent papers

The onslaught on the free flow of information in this country is an attack on our right to be kept informed. It constitutes part of a broader design to keep us in the dark about what is happening in our country

We all therefore, have to play our small role in ensuring that these regulations are opposed

We have to make life as difficult as possible for the Minister to implement these draconian measures, we have to defend our alternative papers, we have to support and strengthen the campaign, we have to stand up and make our voices heard

Only in this way will we be able to create the space for "skilful editing"

There already appears to be confusion within ranks of the State with the police getting increasingly impatient with the apparent reluctance of the politicians to act more swiftly against alternative papers

Stoffel Botha it appears is buckling to increasing pressures and protests. This seems to be the only logical explanation for increased police harassment of SOUTH's Editor and staff — and the recent confiscation of copies of Weekly Mail

In the case of SOUTH pressures are also being exerted on our printers. The Argus Printing and Publishing Company and that company's refusal recently to print a poster of Nelson Mandela can only be attributed to these pressures

We have an obligation to widen these contradictions — and in so doing we will create additional space that will make skilled editing a meaningful option

THE EFFECTS OF THE BAN

The ban has affected the newspaper negatively in many respects

Plans to launch a national news agency with Press Trust have been shelved temporarily

It appears the State may soon promulgate new regulations specifically requiring certain independent news agencies to register

The paper itself had been plunged into a state of limbo as a



Essa Moosa,
Chairman of the Board

result of the uncertainty caused by State actions and threats

Firstly there was the provision to ban the paper for two months. Thereafter the paper was propelled by events like Nelson Mandela's birthday celebrations — and the fifth anniversary of the UDF

The Editor has certainly found it difficult to tone down the paper in a situation where political activity is on the upswing

Exacerbating the situation has been an almost deafening silence on the part of Minister Stoffel Botha

The uncertainty for the future of the paper has heightened anxiety, especially among the staff and affected the filling of vacancies

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process launched at the beginning of this year was overtaken by State action against the paper

The evaluation began with a general meeting at which the Editor presented an annual report reviewing the paper's first year

The occasion was significant in that it was the first time that an independent weekly newspaper opened its operation for scrutiny

Thereafter, editorial staffers met with media representatives within organisations

Before this process was interrupted by State action the consensus appeared to be that the paper continues with its tough political stand but at the same time broadens coverage of more popular issues

This issue — termed an identity crisis by the Editor — remains unresolved

The attitude of the present Editor is that popular and political content cannot be effectively married to the satisfaction of political activists who influence community opinion

In addition he has also found it increasingly difficult to tone down the paper's content in a situation where political events are, in fact, propelling the paper to take a much stronger stand

A good example was the Mandela birthday celebrations where the Editor was prepared to print a colour poster in spite of the difficulties of the Prisons Act

The Editor's view is that the company should seriously pursue its plans of a mass circulating paper through other avenues

NEWSPAPER SALES

Sales of the newspaper remain buoyant in a highly competitive market

Figures increased appreciably after the banning of the paper. While a drop has been experienced, much higher sales are being maintained than experienced over the corresponding period last year

Sales continue to be influenced by the ongoing impact of television and recently, M Net, a mushrooming of free distribution newspapers, and the State of Emergency's influence on political activities

Weak areas identified include subscriptions, street sales, rural areas and international sales

Plans to promote sales in these areas include an ambitious subscriptions package and a drive into the rural areas

The paper continues to be well received in other parts of the country after national sales were launched prior to the banning

The potential for growth in national sales remains high in a largely untapped market

The challenge facing the paper is to maintain the sales advances made thus far to develop creative plans to promote sales and to build a sales base of a minimum

ADVERTISING

Advertising revenue for this year remains higher than the corresponding period last year

Increases at the beginning of the year and during a gloomy end of year financial year period were maintained by a drive for suburban advertising coupled with area sales promotions

However, support from the small black business sector and from organisations for advertisement supplements around political issues continues to decline. Organisations remain supportive but complain of a lack of funds

We still rely heavily for the bulk of our advertising revenue on supplements on politically-orientated issues

In the long term it is essential that a base for advertising revenue be built on commercial considerations

In the final analysis advertising revenue is linked to sales. The present sales increases maintained over a period of time will undoubtedly prove a welcomed boost for advertising

FINANCES

Our figures remain well within projections for the first two years

In spite of reduced income figures which remain below projected newspaper and advertising sales figures remain within projected levels as a result of cuts in expenditure

Cash flow remains a problem as a result of debtors demanding extended terms. During the banning of the paper special attention had been given to debtor collections and approximately R50 000 00 collected by the administration staff. For this they deserve a special word of appreciation

Ongoing efforts to ensure that the debtor balance remains within manageable proportions include more stricter credit control and a monitoring system of debtors which in turn includes telephone calls, personal visits and swifter legal action

In spite of our figures being within projections the long term viability of the project remains an issue for much concern

In order to improve the overall financial position of the company the Editor has recommended to the directors the launching of other publications especially an advertising freesheet

A feasibility study has been commissioned and the Editor hopes to make detailed proposals soon in this regard

Certainly the long term viability of the project will have to receive the urgent attention of the new directors

STAFFING

The two year term of office of the present editor Rashid Seria expires at the end of this year and Mr Seria has indicated that he will not be available to serve the paper in this position in the new year

The directors in consultation with the trustees of Ukwaziswa Trust have decided to invite Mr Moogsien Williams to succeed Mr Seria. Mr Williams assumes his position as from November 1 1988

Staffing a paper like SOUTH remains a problem. The banning of the paper and harassment creates tremendous insecurity

An ongoing contradiction remains the aspirations of many staff on the one hand for the company to fulfil its obligations in terms of the ideals of a progressive operation — and the inability of the company on the other hand to live up to these expectations

The company has very limited resources and depends on subsidies to cover its losses making it difficult to implement many of the ideals regarding salaries and working conditions

Staff are required to make abnormal sacrifices in terms of taking on additional responsibilities, working longer hours, earning below market rate salaries, utilising their own transport etc

A staffing strategy involving higher salaries, improved resources, restructuring to involve staff in decision making, creating meaningful avenues to address grievances continues to receive the attention of not only the directors but also the trustees of Ukwaziswa Trust

In view of the uncertainty facing the paper the strategy of the present Editor has been to keep staffing at a minimum, the concern being having to contend with a big salary budget should the paper be banned again

The Editor has instead explored specialisation — and investigated the employment of part time writers skilled in particular fields, examples being religion, sport, arts, book reviews etc

The training programme linked to the newspaper came to an end in June with three cadets being placed at The Star, The Cape Times and the Sunday Times

Training remains a priority in the newspaper industry where a very serious shortage of skilled professionals exists. The continuation of our training programme will have to be one of the main items on the agenda of the new board of directors

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is no doubt that the challenges facing the newspaper will increase. The major commercial newspapers have been terrified into submission by the government's banning of papers, thus placing added responsibilities on smaller papers like SOUTH

We face difficult times in which State action against the paper will most likely increase as attempts are made to woo people to vote in the October local government elections

In charting this difficult course the Editor and staff need our full backing and support

In conclusion I would like — on behalf of my fellow directors and all the shareholders — to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff and their families for all their efforts and hard work that have helped in making the paper a success

I would like to make special mention of the wives of the editorial staff for the sacrifices they made in allowing their husbands to work such inordinate times

I would also like to thank Mr Patrick Parrington who at the beginning served as a director and assisted in the structuring and systemisation of the project

And finally a few special words of appreciation to the Editor. Had it not been for his vision, planning and hardwork this project would not have seen the light of day, especially under repressive State of Emergency conditions

To edit a political newspaper in the Western Cape is not an enviable task. In all the difficulties and problems we experienced he always conducted himself with the dignity and graciousness becoming his position as Editor

His leadership and direction was instrumental in the newspaper hitting the streets every week, in sales finally moving up out of the doldrums and in financial figures being kept well within projections

If we read the balance sheet in terms of the gains and losses of SOUTH the above issues will in the final analysis count above all else

I feel it is essential for the long term survival, advancement and future development of the project that he continues to serve this paper in some or other capacity

To all the shareholders and the trustees, thank you for all your support, co-operation and assistance. We have particularly valued the contributions made by the trustees

26/8-1/9/88
w/ Mhale
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Reporter shot after BBC film

A CAPE TOWN journalist who lost her right eye after she was shot by an unknown gunman at the weekend has been discharged from hospital

Veliswa Mhlawuli, a reporter on *Grassroots* community newspaper, will not say whether she thinks the attempted assassination is linked to her appearance in the BBC documentary, *Suffer the Children*

The documentary provoked the South African government's ire.

Excerpts, including the interview with Mhlawuli, were screened on SABC-TV two weeks ago as part of a government-made film responding to the documentary's allegations about the detention of children

The case has parallels with the murder on January 25 of Sicelo Dhlomo, a volunteer worker for the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee

Shortly before Dhlomo was shot in the head, he was detained briefly by police and questioned about his appearance on an American television programme, *Children of Apartheid*

Mhlawuli believes the shot was intended to kill her. She was talking to a friend in a Guguletu street about 10pm on Saturday when she felt a sudden pain and collapsed

She "played dead" before flagging down a motorist who took her to the Guguletu police station, from where she was taken to Groote Schuur Hospital for emergency surgery. Police are investigating.

^{B Day 26/8/88}
Judgment reserved
on seized booklets

~~327~~ SUSAN RUSSELL (243)

JUDGMENT was reserved in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday in an application by Learn and Teach to retrieve from police 14 300 booklets containing an unsworn statement made from the dock by ANC leader Nelson Mandela during the Rivonia trial.

The booklets were seized on July 20 after the Divisional Commissioner of Police for the Witwatersrand ordered confiscation under section 9(2) of the media regulations which deals with acts aimed at overthrowing government

Learn and Teach asked the court for an order declaring the seizure invalid and ordering return of the booklets because, counsel argued, the reasons given on which the commissioner formed his opinion were not *bona fide*.

Media ^{9/15} hearing ^{Trunk} into blast picture ²⁴³

Staff Reporter

THE South African Media Council is to hold a hearing today into complaints it has received about a front-page picture in Rapport of a corpse mutilated by a bomb blast.

The picture was run on April 17

A Media Council spokesman said former appeal court judge Mr M A Diemont would preside over an investigating panel of two public representatives and two media representative of the council.

The venue is the Dutch Reformed Church's Information Centre in Grey's Pass, and proceedings, open to the public, begin at 10am.

The spokesman said the investigation was the first in connection with a section of the code which stipulates that "due care and responsibility shall be exercised by the media with regard to the presentation of brutality, violence and atrocities".

He confirmed that Rapport felt the picture was published in the public interest.

Bomb victim photos defended

By RENEE MOODIE

THE publication of pictures of the mutilated body of a bomb-blast victim on the front page of Rapport earlier this year was acceptable because it was in the public interest to see the dangerous realities of terrorism, the South African Media Council heard yesterday.

The council met in Cape Town to hear complaints about the publication of the picture, on April 17, of the body of an alleged terrorist who was said by police to have blown himself up in trying to plant a bomb in Pretoria on April 15.

The council reserved judgment on the hearing. Complaints were based on section 713 of the council's code of conduct, which states that "due care and responsibility shall be exercised by the media with regard to the presentation of brutality, violence and atrocities".

Mr L J Vosloo, of Fish Hoek, who appeared on behalf of nine other complainants, said the picture was in "extreme bad taste" and that, on the front page, it could be seen by all and sundry.

'Duty to the citizenry'

Mr A W Mostert, appearing for Rapport, said a survey done after the publication of the picture by Unisa's Institute of Criminology showed that of 1 200 readers polled, 8,8% (134) disapproved of the picture for various reasons and that 1 066 readers approved, in principle, of the placing of the picture.

"At the end of the day, an editor has a duty to the wider citizenry and must choose between protecting the public from horror or respecting the public's right to know," Mr Mostert said.

Publication of the picture would alert people to the horror and danger of the realities of terrorism.

In response to a question about the affect of publication of the picture on the dead man's family, Mr Mostert compared the picture of the alleged terrorist to the hypothetical publication of the picture of the mutilated body of an SADF soldier.

"In the case of the SADF soldier, this is a person who enjoys the support of the citizenry, and the editor would take into account the affect on his family and the public.

"But this man (in the Rapport picture) has the opprobrium of the citizenry and this weighs heavier than the harm to his relatives," he said.

Mr Justice M A Diemont presided and was assisted by public representatives Mr G Hugo and Mrs M N Loots, and media representatives Mr Michael Green and Mr E H Linington.

CARE Times. 3/18/88 (263)

Council to investigate church complaint

A COMPLAINT by the Church of the Province of South Africa against the Sunday Times is to be investigated by the Media Council.

The complaint arose from an editorial in the newspaper about Archbishop Desmond Tutu in which it was stated that the Archbishop was elected by "a handful of bishops".

The Church of the Province wrote to the Sunday Times requesting a correction. The newspaper responded by publishing an edited version of a

letter, the Media Council said in a statement to Sapa yesterday.

The council is being called upon to decide whether publication of the letter constituted adequate correction with due prominence in terms of the council's code of conduct.

The public hearing will be held on September 8.

Former Appeal Court judge Mr L de V van Winsen will preside over a panel of two public and two media representatives of the council. — Sapa

PRESS - 1988

SEPT. — ~~NOV.~~ DEC.

243 SMC
19/88

Namibian editor gets press award

Special Correspondent

NEW YORK — Gwen Lister, founder editor of the Windhoek newspaper *The Namibian*, has been chosen for the 1988 international journalism award given annually by the Third World news agency Inter Press Service (IPS), which receives assistance from UN organisations.

The award will be presented to her at a ceremony at the United Nations on September 13 that is expected to be attended by the Secretary-General, Dr Javier Pérez de Cuellar. A previous South African winner was Allister Sparks, who received the honour in 1985.

Miss Lister has had several brushes with the South African authorities and was arrested last June following publication by *The Namibian* of details of a proposed new police law.

The newspaper was launched with help from the European Economic Community after Miss Lister, a graduate of Cape Town University, was removed from her post as political editor of the *Windhoek Observer*, which was banned in 1984 in a dispute over some articles.



Sales . . . on the way up

According to the most recent AMPS survey for 1985, 54% of the readers of both *The Star* and, surprisingly, *The Citizen* are black, as are 47% of the readers of both the *Sunday Times* and *Sunday Star*.

Black readers are supposedly catered for by the "Extra" and equivalent special editions, but they often by-pass these for the main product

An example of the growth in black readership is *The Sowetan*, which grew by 31,1% in the year. With a circulation of 157 000, it has overtaken the 145 000 sales figure set by its predecessor *The World*.

The real print success stories are consumer magazines. Adspend in English consumer magazines increased by a huge 38,3% and by 29,5% in their Afrikaans counterparts.

Says Nasionale Tydskrifte marketing manager Louis Stander: "TV led to the demise of poorer magazines, but the leaders got better. Even with TV, *Huisgenoot* has a circulation of 518 000 and a leading 90%

penetration of the Afrikaans market. Reed says the final quarter of the year could be particularly beneficial to print. "Television advertising costs are demand-driven and the peak months are October, November and December. Many companies battle to afford air time

"Print advertising is much more flexible. Production costs are much lower and advertisers can move in and out at 48 hours notice. And there is a great deal of wastage on television as it is purely national.

"The advertising industry has been informed that regional TV is unlikely for many years, so we are planning on that basis," he says. ■

PRINT MEDIA

On the rebound

The latest ABC circulation figures (*Business* August 26) confirms there is still strong reader interest in newspapers and magazines, even if advertising support is less impressive

In particular, the previously static sales figures of *The Star* and *Sunday Times* have started climbing, by 9,2% and 3,8% respectively for the year to June.

Limits had previously been placed on the circulation of the *Sunday Times* through lower print orders but now, says Times Media deputy MD Roy Paulson. "We are letting the paper find its own circulation level. The only control we are placing is raising the cover price (now R1,80), but this has not prevented growth"

Says Media Shop MD Dick Reed. "Newspaper groups have taken their medicine and are reaping the benefits of streamlining and rationalisation of printing operations. They have adapted against the challenge of TV"

But adspend on newspapers was lower than for the media overall. In the year to end-June, overall adspend increased by 19,8%, for English daily newspapers by 16% and for English Sundays by 18,3%. The only compensation is that adspend in free newspapers increased by only 8%.

Times Media marketing services manager Gail York says newspapers haven't fully capitalised on the potential of black readership — yet circulations would be a lot sicker without them.

Handwritten note: 2/13/85

Handwritten circled number: 213

No more election adverts

243
Sowetan
6/9/88

THE *Sowetan* will no longer carry advertisements promoting the municipal elections on October 26.

It has become impossible to justify carrying these advertisements when the community we serve is barred from expressing its sentiments on the elections.

We will, however, carry stories on the elections. These will be carried primarily on the basis of their newsworthiness.

News in brief

6/9/88 *multifou* 243

Editor "was blindfolded"

THE editor of Skotaville Publishers, Mr Jackie Seroke, on trial for terrorism at the Kliptown Regional Court yesterday, testified that he was blindfolded, assaulted and kept naked without food and water after his arrest on September 9, last year.

Mr Seroke (28), is appearing with Mr Mandla Cele (24) and Mr Thembinkosi Khonongwe (24), on charges of terrorism, membership of the banned Pan Africanist Congress and possession of banned literature, arms and ammunition. They pleaded not guilty before Mr H

Hoffman on all counts.

Mr Seroke told the court that he was kept in solitary confinement, interrogated by the police daily and for long hours on each occasion and was not allowed to see a lawyer or his family.

He told the court that he was arrested at a roadblock near Koster at midnight on September 9, last year.

He said he was then taken to Protea Police Station in Soweto for interrogation and later he was kept at Jeppe Police Station in Johannesburg as an internal security act detainee under Section 29.

7/19/88
Paper to refuse
election ads

JOHANNESBURG
The daily Sowetan said yesterday that it would no longer publish advertisements promoting the coming municipal elections.

"It has become impossible to justify carrying them when the community is barred from expressing sentiments on the elections," it said in a front-page notice.

The paper said it would publish election news, "on the basis of newsworthiness" —

The Sowetan bans election adverts

SIPHO NGCOBO

JOHANNESBURG daily newspaper The Sowetan will no longer carry adverts promoting the coming October municipal elections "because these elections are not fair", editor Aggrey Klaaste said yesterday

Klaaste said banning the adverts was his own decision, caused by repeated complaints from readers.

He said the fact that the coming elections would be held in the middle of the state of emergency was proof enough that they were not fair.

"We cannot carry such adverts at such a time. These elections are mistimed. We are faced with the state of emergency which does not allow our people freedom to express their opinions about these elections. Therefore we do not see the need to carry the adverts."

He said his newspaper would continue carrying articles on the elections but only on the basis of their newsworthiness.

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Blawie
7/9/88

Inkatha has its eyes on buying City Press

INKATHA has its eyes on *City Press*, the biggest-selling black-oriented newspaper in South Africa — but an obviously embarrassed Nasionale Pers will have nothing to do with the organisation.

The purchase of the popular national weekly has been on Inkatha's agenda for some time, according to sources close to the newspaper.

They say Inkatha made overtures to Nasionale 18 months ago, but were rebuffed. According to one source,

By **THANDEKA GQUBULE**

the "proposals were revived as recently as two months ago".

Nasionale Pers chairman Ton Vosloo told the *Weekly Mail* there was "no truth in the rumour" *City Press* would be sold to Inkatha.

Yet senior staff members insisted there had been recent approaches — again turned down by Nasionale. Senior Inkatha members had publicly spoken of the negotiations and the or-

ganisation's desire to acquire the paper, they said.

The staffers said the attempt to purchase the newspaper was an attempt to increase Inkatha's urban following.

Inkatha first intervened in the mainstream newspaper market when it bought *Ilanga laseNatal* from the Argus Group in April 1987. This resulted in a walkout by journalists refusing to work for the organisation

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W/Mail
2-8/9/88

Sowetan stops ads promoting elections

The Sowetan newspaper will no longer carry advertisements promoting the October 26 municipal elections.

It said in a front-page article "It has become impossible to justify carrying these advertisements when the community we serve is barred from expressing its sentiments on the elections."

"We will, however, carry stories on the elections. These will be carried primarily on the basis of their newsworthiness."

● Editor's note: The Star, faced with a similar dilemma, has decided on a different approach. Like the Sowetan, it believes the Government restriction on calling for an election boycott makes it an unfair election. But The Star is against banning any view. Rather than deny its columns to pro-vote advertising it has opted instead for recording that the advertisements are one-sided (This election policy accords with The Star's normal editorial practice, which is to report all the political views it can.)

Restrictions

Once it was only the news that was censored. Now it's the advertising, too. The Government can urge people to vote in the local authority elections, the Government has made it an offence for anyone to invite them not to vote. So there are some advertisements we are not allowed to accept.

● Remember, too, that The Star is still restricted by emergency regulations in what it can publish editorially about some matters. This includes pictures and reports on current events.

28 243
CAPE Times 9/9/88

Published letter on Tutu inadequate, Council told

THE mere publication of a letter to the editor without any comment does not constitute adequate rectification of a report and could be regarded as the reader's view, Mr John Allen, media secretary to the Archbishop of Cape Town told the SA Media Council yesterday

The Media Council met in Cape Town to investigate a complaint by the Church of the Province of South Africa against the Sunday Times claiming that the newspaper had breached the council's code of conduct

The complaint arose out of a Sunday Times editorial about Archbishop Desmond Tutu which said in passing that the archbishop was elected by "a handful of bishops"

Mr Allen, who lodged the complaint on behalf of the church, gave evidence yesterday but the Sunday Times was not represented Mr Tertius Myburgh, editor of the Sunday Times, did how-

ever reply to the complaint in writing and two letters were submitted

The editorial was published on May 15, 1988 and Mr Allen wrote to the Sunday Times on May 20, 1988 asking for a correction and apology

He said he received no reply to the letter and instead of placing a correction the Sunday Times published an edited version of his letter of complaint in the "Live Letters" column of the newspaper on May 22

On May 24, 1988 the complainant wrote to the registrar of the council and contended that the Sunday Times had contravened section 32 of the council's code of conduct in that its comment had not been based on facts truly stated

Mr Myburgh contended that publication of the complainant's original letter (as edited) constituted sufficient correction and he regarded a request for an apology as an excessive demand. — Sapa

Reprievied journalists see new threat

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Star 10/9/88

THE Government's plan to introduce an official register for journalists conducting "news agency business" has been shelved — but Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha has indicated that new regulations to control sections of the Press are in the pipeline

Journalists have greeted the announcement not as a victory but as a renewed threat and have reiterated their rejection of preferential Government treatment for the mainstream Press

Mr Botha released a statement in Pretoria yesterday, making it clear he had decided not to reinstate emergency regulations which enforced the registration of all those engaged in "news agency business"

The regulations were published in June. Opposition to them mounted and they were "suspended" shortly before August 1, when the register was to have come into force

Yesterday Mr Botha said "In formulating the regulations pertaining to such 'news agency business' it was not intended to involve the so-called 'mainstream newspapers'. After publishing the regulations it came to my attention that certain of these 'mainstream newspapers' are involved in activities which may fall within the definition of a 'news agency business'."

SATURDAY STAR
REPORTER and SAPA

The regulations had consequently been suspended, Mr Botha said. Since then it had become clear that "the registration of persons carrying on a news agency business does not present a solution. Consequently it has been decided to repeal the relevant regulation forthwith"

He added that the problem the Government sought to address in the original regulation was still of "grave concern" and it was being investigated.

A substitute was being sought but it would not be introduced before discussions with the Newspaper Press Union and certain other parties

Mr Botha also announced that his powers to order the seizure of papers or recordings which he considered had broken the emergency regulations would be handed over to the Minister of Law and Order

The Editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, pointed out that opposition to the regulations had been expressed long before it became clear they could apply to the mainstream media

"It was the registration of any section of the media that we were opposed to. So far as the mainstream media is concerned, it is an untenable position for us to be exempted by the Government"

Mr Raymond Louw, chairman of the Save the Press Committee, commented "Insofar as Mr Botha plans to continue to find ways of acting against

some sections of the Press, while giving an 'acceptability status' to the establishment Press, I would like to warn the Minister that he will not win against the journalists. He is trying to single out for victimisation and he will destroy the credibility left to the mainstream Press"

On the transfer of powers of seizure to the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louw commented "It's very clear that the security authorities have now taken the matter out of the hands of Mr Botha who has been found to be 'incompetent' in dealing with the Press"

The Association of Democratic Journalists (Transvaal) asserted that the campaign against the original registration regulations had been fought on the basis that "Government control of any section of the Press was totally unacceptable to all those who uphold the right to be informed"

Journalists, the business community and human rights groups had fought the measures, the ADJ pointed out. They were supported by international Press bodies and foreign businessmen and governments

"We are confident that these same forces will close ranks against any new plan to victimise those journalists most critical of it"

Contentious media control rule scrapped

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CMT 7-75 10/9/88

JOHANNSEBURG — The government yesterday scrapped a contentious media control edict requiring the registration of freelance journalists and domestic news agencies, but said problems with the media remained a matter of "grave concern".

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha said the registration regulations that drew howls of protest from local journalists, publishers and business leaders had been repealed.

"It is already clear that the registration of persons carrying on a news agency business does not present a solution. Consequently, it has been decided to repeal the relevant regulation forthwith," Mr Botha said in a statement issued in Pretoria. He also said it had not been the intention to involve the so-called "mainstream newspapers".

He added that the principle of the problem that had been addressed in the clause was still being investigated, since it remained a matter of grave concern to the government — Sapa-UPI

243 8/day 13/9/88

Press clamps seen as erosion of democracy

POTCHEFSTROOM — Former Rapport editor Willem de Klerk says the general image of the Press is that it is the Devil's dirt and poison in the pot that has caused troubled race relations

He adds in the latest issue of Word and Deed, a Reformational Movement of Southern Africa publication, the media are "berated as stokers of revolution, inciters of groups and creators of polarisation and irreconcilability".

He points out there are more than 100 clauses in Acts intended to manacle the media

Emergency regulations drive the media further into a corner and still special regulations are promulgated empowering the Minister to warn and then close the media if they further a revolutionary climate

De Klerk says onslaught on the media is an onslaught on media freedom and, therefore, it undermines a pillar of democracy

He adds the freedom to know, to know more and to find out is seriously affected. The freedom to differ and to oppose is also seriously inhibited.

"This is further evidence of wear and tear of democracy in the direction of a dictatorship. The public is in the end the suffering party," De Klerk says

He says making difficulties for the media is an over-reaction and the media are not the primary stokers of irreconcilability. — Sapa

ALB
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Natal decisions overturned

Appellate Division upholds media gags

BLOEMFONTEIN — The legality of challenged clauses of the Government's media regulations was confirmed in Bloemfontein yesterday when the Appellate Division upheld appeals by the Government against judgments declaring sections null and void.

In upholding the appeals, the Appeal Court set aside decisions of the Natal Supreme Court and of the Durban and Coast Local Supreme Court.

In the first appeal, the State President, the Gov-

Court ruling 'mainly of academic interest'

By Tim Cohen

The Appellate Division's decision to uphold sections of the Government's media curbs, which had been struck down by two Natal courts, was mainly of academic interest, a media lawyer said yesterday.

Mr Paul Jenkins said the two Natal Supreme Courts had struck down the definition of "security action" and "unrest" in April last year.

He said the basis for striking them down was that both of the sections concerned were defined by reference to what would appear to a "reasonable bystander" to be "securing action" and "unrest".

In June 1987 those definitions were re-promulgated without reference to the "reasonable bystander", and in their present form were valid in law, he said.

The Appeal Court judgment was therefore largely of academic interest and did not affect the publication of matter on unrest and security action.

ernment of South Africa, the Ministers of Home Affairs and of Law and Order, and the Commissioner of Police had appealed against a decision of two judges of the Natal Supreme Court.

On April 24 1986 Mr Justice NS Page and Mr Justice B Galgut found that part of the regulations made by the State President on December 11 1986 were void and of no effect in law. The regulations were amended on January 29 1987. The judgment was given on an application by the United Democratic Front and the Release Mandela Campaign.

The second appeal was by the State President, Government, Ministers of Justice and of Law and Order, and the Commissioner of Police, against a decision of Mr Justice R N Leon in the Durban and Coast Local Supreme Court on April 28 1987.

This held that the definition of "subversive statement" in the regulations, as amended, was of no force and effect in law.

Mr Justice Leon had also held to be of no force and effect in law a notice by the Commissioner of Police, dated April 10 1987, that identified — for the purpose of definition of "subversive statement" — participation in any campaign for the release of persons detained under Sections 28 or 29 of the Internal Security Act and that identified types of participation deemed to be subversive.

The respondents in this case were the Release Mandela Campaign, its chairman Mr Dundubela Aubrey Mokoena, of Soweto, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, the Durban Detainees Support Committee and the Black Sash.

In the first appeal the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rabie, upheld the appeal with costs and dismissed a cross-appeal by the respondents.

Political memorandum

9-15/9/88 (243) w/mailed

A beating ... for reading the Weekly Mail

By CARMEL RICKARD, Durban

A HIGH school pupil covered in bruises and head injuries walked to the *Weekly Mail's* Durban bureau and claimed he had been beaten by a kwaZulu policeman for being in possession of the "World" section of the *Mail*.

The policeman told David Mabizela that the *World* was a banned newspaper, which was communist and written in a foreign language. Mabizela, a Ntuzuma matric pupil, has laid a complaint about his alleged assault.

kwaZulu police confirmed they are investigating a complaint of assault laid by Mabizela this week.

Mabizela made a statement to the KZP at the kwaMashu police station, alleging he was taken from his home in the middle of the night by a number of policemen. He alleged that before he was released some hours later, he was severely assaulted by a policeman, acting together with members of Chesterville's notorious A-Team.

Mabizela, who told the story to the *Weekly Mail* two days later,

said the police claimed he had buried an AK 47 in an open piece of land called "Sun City", but he denied this.

Mabizela also said that when police searched his room they took a copy of the Freedom Charter and of the *Weekly Mail*.

He said he was subsequently questioned about both. He claimed that when he said he had bought the *Weekly Mail* "in town" he was told he was lying and that it was a "communist paper".

In particular his attention was drawn to the front page of the new "World" section, which had a photograph of Fidel Castro. He was told this proved the paper was communist. Also, the writing next to the photograph of Castro was not in English. The *World* was banned many years ago, they added.

Lawyers acting for Mabizela are preparing to bring a civil action for damages on his behalf.

Al-Qalam still defiant despite seizure, raids

By CHARLOTTE BAUER

FAIZAL DAWJEE, editor of the Muslim monthly, *Al-Qalam*, has not been to work since police walked into the newspaper's Durban offices and seized the latest issue 10 days ago.

Since then members of the security police have arrived punctually each day at the *Al-Qalam* office to search it, confiscating documents, files and photographs from Dawjee's office and handing out receipts for the piles of material they take when they go.

Dawjee, who has been "keeping a low-profile", said despite the seizure of *Al-Qalam* and the "constant intimidation" of its staff, the strongly anti-apartheid paper would "not soften its line" — and would continue to call on people not to vote in the October elections.

It was an anti-election advert placed by the paper's own editorial committee which caused *Al-Qalam's* seizure under section 9 (1) of the Media Emergency Regulations last Tuesday.

The advert, which has run in both the July and August issues of *Al-Qalam*, advises readers: "You Have the Right Not to Vote!! ... Exercise Your Right!"

Police have told the paper's lawyers this contravenes regulation 5 of the Emergency, which deals with the publishing of "subversive statements".

Owned by the Muslim Youth Movement, the 14-year-old paper has been banned under the Publications Act three times in the past year.

Currently there is an appeal pending on the March issue of the paper, banned for running an interview with executive member of the African National Congress, Jacob Zuma.

Last year's bannings of the July and October issues were both related to anti-conscription stories — the second being a condemnation of the banning of the first.

Dawjee commented that the attacks on *Al-Qalam* and on the media in general "must be seen in the light of the government's increasing constitutional instability and its inability to counter the growing opposition to its sham reform initiatives and its repressive policies".

Run by Muslim fundamentalists, *Al-Qalam* has a circulation of 13 000 nationally. Dawjee said the paper opposed apartheid because it was "commanded by God" and that "Islam is the antithesis of what apartheid stands for".

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243

B/oom 12/9/88

NEWSPAPER WRITTEN FOR, AND BY, TEENAGERS

SA teenagers are to get their first serious newspaper and it will be written by an under-20 news team.

Scheduled to hit the streets on October 5, it is an independent publication called Early Times.

The publishers, Katz Laurent and Raphael, insist that although it will be non-partisan, the teenage editorial staff will be free to report on all issues of importance to the young.

Editor Robin Comley commented: "Similar projects in the US and Britain have been singularly suc-

cessful. A typical example of young people's awareness of major issues was when American teenagers went to report on the mechanics of a Democratic convention.

"Their brief was to get facts and figures on catering and logistics. They opted instead to interview Mondale and broke the news to the world that he was running for Vice-President, earning themselves a Pulitzer Prize in the process.

"The newspaper, a 24-page tabloid, will be published monthly at

first, but we intend making it a weekly as soon as it is practicable.

"Typical examples of the issues we have already tackled are child prostitution — from a child's perspective — and how to handle molestation," Comley said.


"We are particularly fortunate in that Standard Bank has subscribed to the publication for its 200 000 Autoclub members," she said emphasising that the bank would have no say in editorial policy. — Sapa.

Stoffel's good news:

I'll bury registration

Stoffel's bad news:

I've handed over to Vlok

16-22/9/88 w/mare

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THE changes to Emergency media regulations last week signalled important shifts in the way the press is likely to be handled in the crucial weeks leading to the October municipal elections

In a statement issued on Friday, Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha announced he was publishing a Government Gazette which would

- Repeal the clause requiring "news agencies" to register. This was a highly controversial clause which would require the registration of virtually anyone who provided news to a publication. It raised the much-feared spectre of an official journalists' register — the ultimate form of government control over the media.

- Transfer the power to seize a publication from his own department to the Department of Law and Order.

Although Botha will retain some powers under the media regulations (he will still be responsible for the suspension and closure of newspapers), key regulations have been handed over to the police.

The effect is to blunt his powers — and sharpen those of the minister and commissioner of police, who are likely to use them very differently.

Previously the police had the power to seize publications — and used it, as recently as August 5, when the *Weekly Mail* was seized.

But they could only do so if there was a clear and provable breach of the regulations — which can be tested in court, as the *Weekly Mail* did when it was seized.

Under their new powers, the police will only have to form the opinion that certain provisions have been breached — and this is much more difficult to test in court.

Legal experts expect these new police powers will be used in coming months, while the powers to close newspapers — which Botha retains — will be used less frequently.

In his statement, Botha hinted at an explanation for the changes when he said that the police were "of necessity, closely connected with" seizures. The suggestion was that since police would have to carry out a seizure, they should make the decision themselves.

However, the real reason probably had more to do with the failure of Botha's year-old press regime, a police desire to act more swiftly and firmly against the press and the resultant shifts of power within the cabinet.

Botha has attempted, over the past year, to codify a system of control over the press — an elaborate, bureaucratic, regime of warnings, second warnings, representations and, finally, closure.

The process was time-consuming and wearisome. Before a paper could be closed, Botha had to read endless reams of newsprint, issue carefully-worded warnings, hear extensive representations, and face the newspapers in court.

Moreover, the man appointed to head the new Directorate of Media Relations — Botha's "alternative" newspaper expert, Andries Engelbrecht — let the

An era of press censorship ended and another began last Friday, in a little-noticed paragraph tacked on the end of a statement by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, signalling an end to his legalistic efforts to curb the Press ... and a return to old-style strong-arm methods

team down. When asked to give grounds for warning a particular newspaper, Engelbrecht and his faceless panel of "experts" adopted a crude policy of objecting to the most obvious anti-government or pro-opposition articles.

There was no science to their methods. They warned "alternative" papers for doing things the "main-stream" press had also done, they objected to some fairly innocuous articles, and let by much more contentious ones.

Although this illogicality did not stop Botha from temporarily closing two publications, it severely dented the credibility of his machinery — particularly since he had proclaimed that it would be a scientific, objective process and not an arbitrary one.

He was further bedevilled by the fact



Stoffel Botha ... bedevilled

that Emergency regulations only last for a year, which meant his lengthy process had to be started afresh annually. It took Botha about six months to close *New Nation* and *South* and when they reappeared on the streets after the renewal of the Emergency in June, it was clear the entire elaborate process would have to start all over again.

Botha, Engelbrecht and the others who were delegated to deal with the "alternative" press chose a new tack: they went to the source of the news.

They introduced the concept of news agency registration — aimed clearly at the small news agencies springing up around the country.

But, with a style that has become typical of the Emergency regulators, they defined news agencies so widely that the regulation threatened all sorts of institutions — including businesses, public relations companies and "main-stream" newspapers.

Representatives of all of these interests protested strongly — and Botha was forced to suspend the regulation on the eve of its implementation. He let the matter lie for a few weeks, and last week withdrew it entirely.

It is clear that the continual pressure of public, professional and international protest took its toll on Botha's Emergency regime.

But he also made the error of regarding Emergency law as ordinary law. Emergency law is merely rule by decree, and elaborate and bureaucratic systems of control just do not fit into Emergency legislation.

So Botha had been thwarted in his bid to tighten control over the press. He had been given that role last August, when he formed the new Directorate of Media Relations, and a year later there were signs his strategy was falling apart.

He was also placed under severe pressure by the fiasco over the showing of the Richard Attenborough film, *Cry Freedom*. In that instance, too, the police felt obliged to step in to sort out what they viewed as blunders by Botha's department.

It is likely Botha came under severe pressure within the cabinet — particularly from the security forces which want firmer, stronger, quicker action against the press.

So, under pressure from many quarters and with evidence his media strategy was falling apart, he has handed crucial powers over to the police.

Is this simply a case of passing the buck, with another government department doing the same work?

Unfortunately, it probably has far more serious significance.

The police do not use elaborate methods. They tend not to resort to time-consuming, legalistic and bureaucratic procedures. It is they who have detained journalists, confiscated newspapers and threatened printers — and they can be expected to follow this quicker, more arbitrary path. The first signs of this can already be seen in the last few weeks, police have seized issues of *Weekly Mail*, the Western

Cape Council of Churches' *Crisis News*, *Learn and Teach* and the Muslim paper *Al Qalam*.

Moreover, police will be tempted to use the mechanism they understand and are used to: criminal court prosecution.

They will be emboldened by this week's decision by the Appellate Division to overturn a landmark media case known as the Page, Galgut decision.

Those two Natal judges knocked down a number of Emergency regulations last year, using the classic liberal view that laws were not valid if they were too vague and wide-ranging.

This is not a view that holds with the more conservative Appellate Division, which upheld the state president's virtually unfettered Emergency power.

Police probably also have their eye on the build-up to the October elections, and the growing calls for a boycott which have been made public despite their attempts to suppress them.

The end result is that what has been previously described as Stoffel Botha's technique of "death by a thousand pin pricks" may well be replaced by the minister of police's "dagger to the throat".

Anton Harber

243 B/day 22/9/88

Argus upsets newsprint buying system

THE Newspaper Press Union's collective agreement for the purchase of newsprint has been jeopardised by the Argus Group's decision to withdraw from the scheme and negotiate separately with the two domestic suppliers, Sappi and Mondi.

The five-year agreement — by which the NPU and SA's two pulp-product suppliers, Sappi and Mondi, establish prices and volumes — is set to expire at the end of this year.

Sappi GM André Vlok confirmed that some publishers had already approached him to negotiate separate terms.

CHRISTOPHER TUCHER

According to a Mondi sales manager, Argus has stated it can negotiate better terms on its own. The industry giant represents more than half of the 130 000 tons of newsprint for which the NPU negotiated last year.

Spokesmen for the suppliers speculated that the collective agreement had been terminated because Argus was taking advantage of recent laws against price collusion to extract itself from unfavourable purchasing terms.

Times Media (TML) Deputy MD Roy

Paulson said the contract had been negotiated in times of short supply, before Mondi had entered the newsprint market as a second supplier. Consequently, the price formula had been devised to compensate Mondi for transport costs from Durban.

"Prices have been higher because of Mondi's involvement," he said.

Although the NPU's demand represents more than 90% of domestic newsprint demand, Sappi's Vlok was not worried about future sales as more than half of production went to export markets.

Crime Times 22/9/88 (243) 000

Police 'sorry' for raid on reporter

Crime Reporter

A SENIOR police officer apologized yesterday to a Cape Town crime reporter whose home was searched in the early hours of the morning by members of the security police.

Three officers of the security branch arrived at the home of Argus reporter Mr Stephen Wrottesley at 5.30am saying they were searching for a "fugitive".

After a cursory search the policemen, whom Mr Wrottesley described as polite and quiet, left the Tamboers Kloof home

Mr Wrottesley said yesterday that he

had seen a senior police officer in the afternoon and had been assured that the incident was a misunderstanding.

"The officer said the search at my home had nothing to do with me personally," Mr Wrottesley said.

Mr Wrottesley is an accredited journalist who deals daily with senior police officers. His wife, Roz, is the deputy editor of Cosmopolitan magazine and they have two young children.

Police in Pretoria confirmed a security police action in the Western Cape, but could not say whether anyone was detained and did not confirm rumours that UDF official Mr Trevor Manuel was detained

Sasj hits at evidence clamp

243 26/9/88
Gruetm

THE Southern African Society of Journalists was appalled that the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, was considering preventing the publication of evidence presented at criminal and civil trials prior to judgment being passed, the national council of the SASJ said in a statement yesterday.

It said that "journalists, already restricted by a mass of draconian security regulations, are the eyes and the ears of the greater community. The overwhelming majority of trials are public, and if reporters or any member of the public can hear evidence in court at the time it is presented, the evidence must be published.

"The Minister knows very well that no newspaper will print all the evidence of the three-

week trial at its conclusion. How much more so if the case of a three-year trial?

"To prevent the publication of evidence during the course of a trial will as far as the general public is concerned have the effect of holding that trial in

camera, and justice will not be seen to be done.

"The minister's proposals appear to the SASJ to be a measure aimed at suiting the State as it moves deeper and deeper into crisis rather than the everyday individual on trial."

New Nation banning lifted

Cpt 7mks
26/9/88
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THE Publications Appeal Board has lifted the ban on the December 3-9, 1987 issue of New Nation (Vol 2, No 47) published by New Nation, Johannesburg.

The Directorate of Publications also announced that "The House on the Hill" by Jonathan Black was found to be not undesirable provided it was not knowingly sold, hired or lent out by libraries to children under 18 and was distributed only by bookshops, libraries and book distributors. Distribution through mail order is not allowed.

Similar conditions applied to Tim Sandlin's "Sex and Sunsets", while "Manner Liebe" by Von Matthias Frings und Elmar Kraushaar may not be displayed with any of the inner pages open for purposes of distribution.

A publications committee has ruled that "The Anti-Apartheid Reader" (edited by David Mermelstein), "Imperialism: The Last Stage of Capitalism" (N Lenin), "International Affairs No 2 February 1988" (The USSR Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the All-Union Znaniye Society, Moscow) and "Karl Marx, Frederick Engels Collected Works Vol 1-14, 18-22 24-50" (Lawrence and Wishart, London), were not undesirable provided they were "confined and made available in the normal manner in legal deposit and university libraries only".

A committee has, on review, ruled that "Socialism Utopian and Scientific" by Frederick Engels was not undesirable.

A committee has, from today, withdrawn the declaration that all future editions of "Parade and Foto-Action August 1988" (Thompson Publications Ltd, Harare) are undesirable.

During the past week 21 films were submitted for examination of which eight were unconditionally and 12 conditionally approved. One film, "Refugee", was rejected.

From Friday it was an offence to import and/or distribute the following publications/objects (name of author/producer in brackets)

Sex to Sixty "Handi Dandi" Vol 158 (SRI Publishing Co. Inc, Texas)

Delicious Sex (Gael Greene)

Amazon Quarterly Vol 3, No 2 Special Issue Sexuality (Amazon Press, Boston)

A Woman's Touch (edited by Cedar and Nelly).

Socialism. Theory and Practice, April 1988 4(177) (Novosti Press Agency, Moscow)

Let no one despise your youth June 16 — poster (Young Christian Students, Mayfair)

The Combatant, March 1988 Vol 9, No 8 (Plan Commissariat, Lubango)

Swapo Information Bulletin June 1988 (Swapo Department of Information and Publicity, Luanda)

The Student Voice of Namibia Vol 4, No 3 July-August 1988 (Nanso, Windhoek)

Mandate Special Edition 1988, South Africa. Vol 19, No 4 1988 (The United Church of Canada).

Legalize it — cassette (not stated) — Sapa

Vlok department is given media seizure powers

By DALE LAUTENBACH of The Argus Political Staff

THE Department of Law and Order is "not obliged" to answer questions about the implications of the transfer of the administration of two media emergency regulations to the department from Home Affairs, according to a spokesman, Brigadier Leon Mellet.

"I'm not obliged to answer all of these questions. Why should we give details of exactly how we operate?" said Brigadier Mellet in response to questions seeking clarification on the transfer.

The powers transferred to Mr Adriaan Vlok's department (regulations 3 and 9) are not banning powers but seizure powers. They are also not new powers or different from those which rested formerly in the hands of the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Stoffel Botha.

The only difference is the imponderable one of the difference in operational style between the two departments, Mr Botha and his "experts" having been painted as bureaucrats and Mr Vlok, being top policeman, less likely to beat about the bush.

A Rhodes University legal academic, Mr John Grogan, who does his best to keep track of the regulations as they apply to the media, says "I can't claim to know about the different *modus operandi* of the departments but, strictly legally, it doesn't seem to make a difference which Minister applies the regulations."

Regulation 3, "defining" the prohibitions on material for publication really acts as reference for anyone applying the media emergency regulations and it seems not to make a difference which Minister "controls" this provision.

Mr Grogan explains in layman's terms: "If you are told you may chop down a tree only if the leaves are red, then the redness of the leaves is the obligatory condition which has to be satisfied prior to chopping the tree down."

Therefore, regulation 3 is the red leaves (or most of them) to other parts of the regulations which provide for banning, seizure or, in Mr Grogan's metaphor, "chopping".

Regulation 9 is the other power now vested in Mr Vlok. It provides for the seizure "without prior notice" of any "publication or a tele-

vision, film or sound recording" if "the Minister or the Commissioner (of Police)" deems it necessary. It was in terms of this provision that the Weekly Mail was seized on August 5 and 6.

Mr Grogan points out that while the department has changed, the commissioner in any event formerly held that power and still does.

Again, the potential for change lies with the style of the Law and Order Department.

Referring to Brigadier Mellet's statement that he was not obliged to answer "all of these questions", Mr Grogan says: "We want to know what we can and can't do. One of the most pernicious aspects of rule by emergency decree is that they can jump out with different interpretations of the regulations and undermine all certainty."

"Scientific censorship"

The regulations which provide for closure and banning are 6 and 7 and these remain with Mr Botha and his staff.

"One little anomaly here is that Mr Botha has defended the regulations with reference to what he calls scientific censorship and all the experts in his department," Mr Grogan says. Mr Botha claims the public should be confident that his department has the expertise and the discernment necessary to decide on a newspaper's fate.

But the grounds on which regulation 9 (the seizure clause now with Law and Order) provide for the seizure of a publication are identical to the grounds which empower banning and closure (contained in regulations 6 and 7).

Mr Grogan's little anomaly now emerges. Mr Botha having said that his department has the "expertise", it is now necessary by implication for Mr Vlok's department to have similar experts if it is to administer regulation 9.

According to Brigadier Mellet, Law and Order has its experts. "We have highly qualified legal experts guiding the Minister," he said.

Not comforted

Their decisions would be made "legally" and "they" would deal with matters as they arose, said Brigadier Mellet.

Mr Grogan is not comforted. "To use the red leaves metaphor again, your red leaves in regulation 9 are so subjective that you don't need legal experts."

"In fact, it was Botha himself who said the courts were really not suitable venues for deciding the difference between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' opposition and that this was not a legal matter."

"Mellet's claim that legal people are making the decisions is not at all encouraging or convincing."

MKS
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Coetsee's evidence proposal slammed

By Claire Robertson

The suggestion by Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, that the Press be barred from reporting daily evidence at civil or criminal trials until after judgment has shocked journalists, lawyers and human rights organisations

At a meeting of the Association of Law Societies at Badplaas at the weekend, Mr Coetsee said the publication of evidence at a trial should possibly be prohibited until the court had pronounced judgment

He had given instructions that the possibility of such a ban be investigated, he said.

Mr Brian Currin, national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, said Mr Coetsee's suggestion was evidence of a further erosion of basic human rights in South Africa.

These curtailments would eventually destroy the system and the Government itself, he said

The national council of the Southern African Society of Journalists said it was appalled by Mr Coetsee's statement.

"To prevent the publication of evidence during the course of a trial, as far as the general public is concerned,

will have the effect of holding that trial in camera and justice will not be seen to be done

"The Minister's proposals appear to the SASJ to be a measure aimed at suiting the State as it moves deeper and deeper into crisis rather than the everyday individual on trial

"This proposal represents another serious inroad into freedom of speech in South Africa and the public's right to know," the society said

It said that the overwhelming majority of trials were public and, if reporters or any member of the public could hear evidence in court at the time it was presented, the evidence must be published

"The Minister knows very well that no newspaper will print all the evidence of a three-week trial at its conclusion How much more so in the case of a three-year trial?"

Mr Arthur Chaskalson, SC, a leading Johannesburg civil rights advocate, said: "Secret trials have always been associated with repression and injustice and any move toward secrecy must be condemned in the strongest possible terms"

● See Page 11.

Court reporters are treading a thin line

By **CLAIRE ROBERTSON**
Pretoria Bureau

Should newspaper reporters have carte blanche when it comes to reporting on the day's proceedings in the courtroom, or is there a duty to protect the good name of the accused?



Mr Kobie Coetsee . . . protection of individual rights is more sacred than the public's right to be informed.

Any trial lawyer who has ever defended a case that attracts public notice knows that he or she is fighting on two fronts in the courtroom and in the mind of the public

The second battle is fought apparently with few answerable rules, and defeat can be bloody. At stake is "the immediate jewel of (one's) soul" — one's good name

Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee has announced that, in the age-old dispute between protecting the individual's rights — and his or her good name — and the public's right to be informed, he has come down on the side of the former at the expense of the latter

That there is a conflict between the two was recognised by the Minister in his weekend statement, that it is almost impossible to decide which should take precedence is ruefully acknowledged by the country's leading legal brains, who also agree that court reports sometimes leave a damaging impression of the accused that lingers even after acquittal

Consensus

But in announcing that investigations are under way into the feasibility of barring newspapers from publishing on-day court hearings until judgment has been passed on the veracity of, or weight given to, evidence, the Minister has not found the solution

This was the consensus among legal academics canvassed by The Star after Mr Coetsee expressed concern that "unfounded allegations

(often) enjoy such publicity before judgment on the veracity of the allegation is passed as to cause incalculable damage to the party against whom they are made"

Professor Bill Whitaker, Dean of Law at the University of Cape Town, said the Minister should look beyond "an unnecessary" blanket prohibition of on-day reporting

"Is it not preferable to look for some sort of enactment which would permit some penalty to be imposed if the reporting is found to be unfair?"

Professor Chris de Beer, of

Potchefstroom University, concurred "There is a danger in publishing statements made by a witness which are totally false, but I do not know whether the solution is to ban the public *in toto* from the trial

"Perhaps the media should be asked to distinguish between what is relevant and what is not. It is simply not practical to limit the media to the law reports. If there is no healthy balance struck between (the right to) privacy and information, we should speak up about this"

Professor David Joubert of the University of Pretoria also agreed that a total ban on on-day court reporting was not the solution "Motor cars are dangerous, but we don't ban them

"If the newspapers are allowed to report unfettered on court cases, harm will be done, if they are not allowed to, this would also do harm. It is a difficult question to decide"

The Minister is looking for checks on court reports, the professors agree, up to a point, that these are necessary

They already exist. Court reporters were subject to the same code of reporting as journalists operating in other fields, said Mr Bob Steyn, registrar/conciliator of the SA Media Council, whose code of conduct sets out the ethics of reporting fairly

"The media shall be obliged to report news truthfully, accurately and objectively. News shall be presented in the correct context and in a balanced manner, without intentional or negligent departure from the facts whether by distortion, exaggeration or misrepresentation, material omission or summarisation"

Court reports cannot always carry both sides of the story on the same day. Court reporters may not anticipate evidence, nor look outside what is said in court for rebuttal of damaging statements

When both sides of a case do eventually come out they must both be reflected, said Professor Whitaker

Court reports had to be followed up, with reports follow-

ing contentious statements "given equal prominence and put in context", he said

Newspapers should be obliged to give equal weight to the rebutting statement or its rejection by the court

Thus they did not always do, said Professor Joubert "Newspapers are sometimes guilty of making a big splash of the testimony of certain witnesses, which, when found to be untrue, is published in a small piece on page 20"

If a court reporter — having written up the original, damaging evidence — missed rebutting evidence, the newspaper had a duty to correct this as soon as possible, said Mr Steyn

Personal pain

A newspaper could face litigation for failing to publish an acquittal after reporting on the trial, he said

The Media Council may censure or fine offenders, but it and the industry fiercely resist any attempted enforcement by Government of its own ethics

The issue of personal pain versus the public good is summed up in Kelsey Stuart's "Newspaperman's Guide to the Law" (4th edition), quoting Lord Atkinson in *Scott vs Scott* 1913

"The hearing of a case in public may be, and often is, no doubt, painful, humiliating, or a deterrent to both parties and witnesses — but all this is tolerated and endured because it is felt that in public trial is to be found, on the whole, the best security for the pure, impartial and efficient administration of justice, the best means for winning for it public confidence and respect"

The issue is as old as courts themselves, and has been faced by many western countries. None have ever succumbed to the temptation to close the courts to spare individual hurt, choosing rather to heed the statement by Lord Hewart in *R v Sussex Justices* 1924

"It is not merely of some importance but it is of fundamental importance that justice should not only be done, but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done"

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South 22/7/81
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Ignorance 'SA's greatest enemy'

SOUTH Africa's greatest enemy was the lack of information from within the country, independent MP for Claremont Jan van Eck (above) said at a Save the Press Campaign meeting in Stellenbosch on Monday night.

About 500 people attended the meeting organised by the Stellenbosch Aktuele Aangeleentheds Kring (SAAK). Other speakers were Cape Town attorney Essa Moosa, Jan van Gend, PFP MP for Groote Schuur, Wynand Malan, Leader of the National Democratic Movement; and Ms Dene Smuts, managing editor of Leadership magazine.

Van Eck said press restrictions were an attempt by the government to eliminate the option of a democratic and non-racial South Africa and had to be seen in the context of increasing confrontation between the state and the disenfranchised majority.

Van Gend said there had been a steady tightening of the screws on the press. Responsible reporting was interpreted as toeing the government line while effective opposition to apartheid was depicted by the state as irresponsible reporting.

Malan said press freedom was the "lifeblood of democracy".

The commercial press had a moral duty to support alternative media under attack from the state, said Moosa.

Awards for banned *Mail* advert

AMONG the clutch of advertising industry awards picked up by the *Weekly Mail* and its agency, Hunt Lascaris, at a presentation this week was one for a radio advert which the SABC has barred from its airwaves.

Despite banning it last year, the SABC was later forced to flight the advert one last time when it won the Association of Advertising Agencies' Ad of the Year Award. The advert has since collected more accolades, both here and abroad.

While the SABC has consistently refused to give the *Weekly Mail* any

official reason for taking the advert off the air one month after it began, the paper's managers believe the decision was a politically biased one. Attorneys are presently considering legal steps.

Other awards received by the *Weekly Mail* for the Hunt Lascaris advertising campaign include two Clio awards — one for radio and another for the newspaper's printed media campaign with artwork by Derek Bauer — a Craft Award and a medal from the International Advertising Festival of New York.

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W/Mail 349-6/10/88

Censoring of news 'leads to unrest'

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SJM
30/9/88

By Joe Openshaw

The suppression of news led to public unrest and unease and fostered a climate of uncertainty, Dr P J Muller, editor of *Insig* magazine and former assistant editor of *Beeld*, said at RAU yesterday at a conference on urban terrorism.

The conference was sponsored by the Sentrum vir die Ondersoek na Rewolusionêre Bedrywighede.

Dr Muller said that during the last general election the revolutionary climate had been over-emphasised in an effort to get people to the polls — with extraordinary political results

CYNICISM

"Something like that does not go unnoticed by the public and every time the threat to the country is used for manipulative purposes the seed of cynicism is sown."

The problem the press faced was that if it suppressed news or bent to make the task of the security forces easier, it undermined its own credibility and consequently became an untrustworthy accomplice in the fight against terrorism

"Analyse the way in which newspapers have covered acts of terror in this country over the past decade and you will come to the conclusion there is little reason for complaint about their handling of such news," Dr Muller said

Latest Amps roots out ghost readers

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TO ILLUSTRATE the changes, compare the readers per copy of the following magazines

	Amps '85	Amps 87/88
Car	7,4	4,0
Far Lady	8,4	5,2
Farmer's Weekly . . .	17,5	7,9
Scope	12,1	7,0
Keur... ..	7,6	4,9

BY CONTRAST, most daily newspapers show little change

	Amps '85	Amps 87/88
The Argus	4,1	4,7
Citizen	5,9	6,8
The Daily News.....	5,3	4,6
Sowetan	9,8	9,5
The Star	4,9	4,6
Beeld	4,2	4,1
The Cape Times.....	6,0	6,4
Die Burger	5,6	5,2

A GHOST has been laid to rest — that is the Newspaper Press Union view of the apparent hatchet job performed on magazine readerships by the latest edition of the All Media Products Survey (Amps).

Its view is that magazines have not "lost" readers while newspapers have held them, but that new readership research methodology has filtered out magazine "readers" who were never there.

Some newspapers, however, have not exactly helped create clarity on the readership issue

The latest Amps uses new readership methodology — so, with the goalposts repositioned, it is not possible to compare figures from previous Amps and the present edition to demonstrate "growth"

This factor was ignored by some

LYNDEN WRIGHT

readership "winners"

However, the overall picture is good for the press, as newly elected president of the NPU, Jolyon Nuttall, pointed out

He said last night "Several individual newspapers, using the old and new figures, have gleefully published their individual tallies of total readers compared with those of competitor newspapers

"But the really positive news for the newspaper industry is that, taken collectively, newspaper readership has now been shown to be on a par with or, in some cases, slightly better than magazine readership"

Mr Nuttall added "In general, publication — be it a daily newspaper or a monthly magazine — with a circulation of, say, 100 000 will deliver readership of about 400 000

"This redresses an imbalance that, like ghosts, has haunted newspapers for many years and cost them a huge amount of wrongly directed advertising expenditure

"I am confident media planners and media buyers throughout the country will be reviewing their media schedules to take this overdue correction into account"

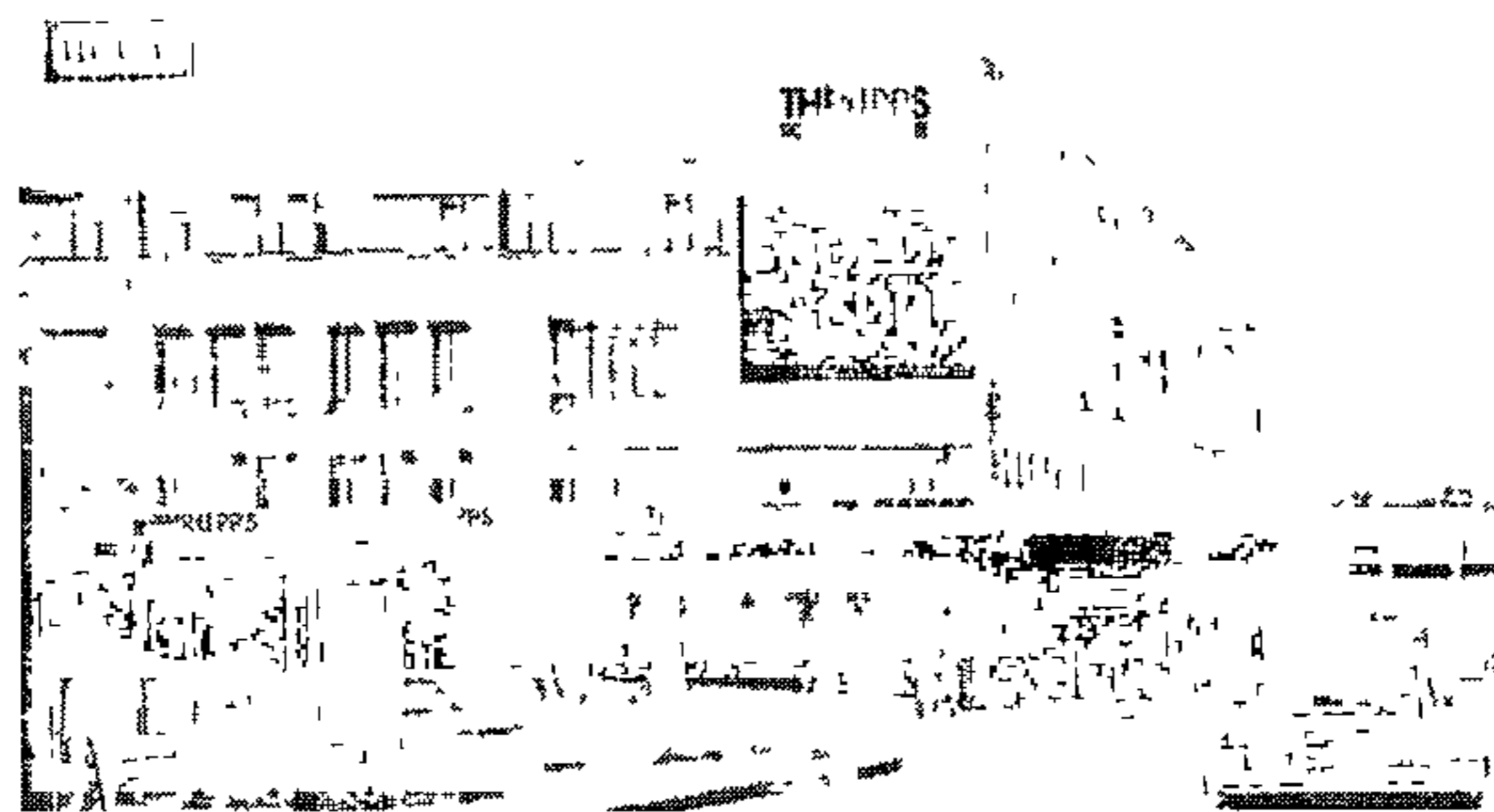
Commonsense

Whether that confidence will be justified by events has yet to be seen

But one thing is sure — a glance at the new and old figures (see table above left) shows that commonsense has been restored to the readership debate. The figures are believable.

But when has commonsense had very much to do with some media preferences in this country?

SOME SIGN The largest electronic sign in South Africa has been erected at Thrupp's corner, Rosebank, by Claude Adronics. It is computer-operated, can accommodate ads and messages up to 30 seconds long and can display graphics and logos. It will operate daily from 6 am to midnight. Designed to catch the eye of motorists on Jan Smuts Avenue, this sign could become a real traffic-stopper, particularly if the message in this artist's impression comes true



'People will see through propaganda'

Restricting the news is poison — Murdoch

Star 5/10/88

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By Robin Drew, The Star's
Africa News Service

VICTORIA FALLS — Tell it all, tell it straight. Make it lively and be true to your readers — that was the advice from Mr Rupert Murdoch, head of an information empire which has made him the best-known newspaper publisher in the world.

He gave it yesterday at a rare appearance on a public platform as the keynote speaker at a meeting of the Commonwealth Press Union attended by 150 newspaper owners, executives and editors from 19 countries.

Mr Murdoch's news corporation runs newspapers, television stations, magazines and film companies around the world.

Australian-born, he is now an American citizen and is constantly on the move.

The son of an Australian publisher, he grew up in the days of hot metal printing.

Now he is an enthusiastic supporter of the high technology world which is revolutionising communications and which, he says, will bring about a fundamental shift in power.

He believes that opening the world to instant news through satellite developments is at the root of the developed world's unprecedented economic expansion.

The world of the future would be an open world where international boundaries would count



Publisher Mr Rupert Murdoch at Commonwealth Press Union.

for far less.

Restrictions on the flow of information, whether in South Africa or anywhere else, are poisonous, he feels.

But how, he was asked by a questioner from Zimbabwe, would he relate this to Third World countries?

"You live in a highly controlled economy, but you will come out of it," was his reply.

Freedom was the greatest possible force for prosperity and a centralised controlled economy could not keep pace with an open system.

It would happen everywhere, he forecast.

And what about propaganda being beamed to a country? Could that be harmful?

Leave it to the people, was his answer. In the end they would see through it all.

Mr Murdoch urged people involved in the communications business to battle against attempts by politicians and bureaucrats to impede the smooth flow of news.

He talked of his plans for commissioning a satellite which would beam programmes to 13 million homes in 19 countries in Europe.

There were mind-boggling inventions around the corner. Televisions with built-in memories would build up a profile of their owners' viewing tastes and automatically record programmes which they might enjoy.

Journalists, by nature, were meant to have inquiring minds. But too many of them were bone lazy. This contributed to the flow of misinformation because reporters were content to take what was fed to them.

Recruits with mental energy were needed.

On cheque-book journalism: "I hate it because usually it is my cheque-book. It also means the reporters have been lazy. They should find out for themselves."

Was it the quest for profit or for doing good which drove him?

The answer "A bit of both. We do believe what we do is good, and has a social purpose. We have to make a profit to stay in business but there are no dreams of avarice."

It seems letter was fake, says Sowetan

PAB chief 'didn't write to newspaper'

243 Star 7/10/88

By Paula Fray

The chairman of the Publications Appeal Board, Professor Kobus van Rooyen, has denied sending a letter to the *Sowetan* newspaper, published yesterday, hitting out against the police seizure and banning of videos of the film "Cry Freedom".

Professor van Rooyen said in a statement issued to *The Star* last night that he was considering taking legal action following the publication of the letter by the *Sowetan* and other news-

papers

The letter appeared to be a fake, said news editor Mr Sello Rabothata

He said the newspaper received a call from Professor van Rooyen late yesterday morning denying that he was the author of the letter which had allegedly been written in his capacity as chairman of the Publications Appeal Board

The letter to the *Sowetan* said the board abhorred this abuse of power and dissociated itself from the issue.

The letter stated that the board's ruling was based on the

belief that the film did not in any way contribute to the promotion of racial hatred or misrepresent the facts and that the film had artistic merit.

The *Sowetan* is to clarify the issue in an article to be published today

In his statement last night, Professor van Rooyen said he had not written the letter, nor had he requested any other person to do so

"I refuse to identify myself with its contents which in any case contain factual errors. I regard the falsification as a malicious attempt to drive a wedge between myself and the authorities," he said

"The fact that other newspapers repeated the contents of this falsification stresses the gravity of my concern," he said. He said he was considering legal action

● On Tuesday morning the front door of Professor van Rooyen's Waterkloof home was set alight, causing damage estimated at R3 500

SA press besieged, says newsman

243 The Star's Africa News Service *Stav*
7/10/58

VICTORIA FALLS — The press in South Africa was under siege but there were some hopeful signs, a leading South African journalist told Commonwealth Press Union delegates here today.

Mr Patrick Laurence, specialist writer on The Star, said press freedom was restricted by more than 100 laws and by controls under the state of emergency

The emergency regulations cast a fine net over the press, constraining it severely.

Referring to the powers of the Minister of Home Affairs to suspend newspapers, he said these were wielded behind a facade of reasonableness and an appearance of the due process of law.

He termed absurd the Government's claims that revolutionaries used the freedom of the press to sabotage its extension of democracy to blacks.

But he said it would be a mistake to dismiss it as unimportant as it served to rationalise the Government's actions, ideologically "steading its hand as it prepares to wield the censor's knife."

Mr Laurence said that among the hopeful signs was the Government's lack of will, or ability, to enforce its own regulations vigorously.

There had been remarkably few prosecutions of newspapers or editors.

The Government had also abandoned its plans to force freelance journalists to register, seen generally as a move towards licensed journalism.

Another hopeful sign was that sooner or later much of the prohibited information found its way into print, sometimes between the lines.

A healthy sign was the growing number of black journalists who on predominantly white newspapers often formed a pressure group reminding editors of their duty to the whole of South African society.

'Sharpeville 6' judge sues papers

THE judge in the Sharpeville Six trial, Mr Acting Justice W.J. Human, is suing the Pretoria News and The Argus for a total of R270 000 for statements contained in articles allegedly suggesting the trial was a "charade".

The six were sentenced to death for the murder of a community councillor. Their sentence has sparked an international appeal for clemency.

EDYTH SU BRING

The judge is suing the Pretoria News for R150 000. He said he was bringing the action against the newspaper, its editor Mostert van Schoor and the Allied Publishing Company.

The claim involves two separate arti-

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Judge sues two papers for R270 000

cles published on March 17 and June 14. The first article was written by London barrister Louis Blom-Cooper, QC.

Judge Human said the article stated that "the fact I didn't find extenuating circumstances was just a charade designed to promote the government's policy of intimidation".

He said he was also considering action against the Independent in London for publishing the same article.

Van Schoor said yesterday "We are not making any statements". His legal

From Page 1

representatives would not confirm the proceedings.

The judge's legal representative said he was also suing The Argus, its editor Andrew Drysdale and Allied Publishing for R120 000 for an article quoting the London Times condemning the decision.

He said no trial dates had been set but the cases would be heard in the Transvaal and Cape Provincial Divisions.

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Censor chief furious

DANIEL SIMON

PUBLICATIONS Appeal Board chairman Prof J C W Van Rooyen says he is considering legal action against the Sowetan newspaper for publishing a letter concerning the film "Cry Freedom" he says he did not write

A large afternoon newspaper also published the letter

The letter says "the banning and the authoritarian actions of the SAP merely confirm the central message of the film, namely that excessive police action and the arbitrary abuse of power is rife in SA and threatens the very fabric of our society"

Van Rooyen said last night: "I did not write the letter or request anyone to do so and state categori-

cally that it is a falsification."

He said he regarded it as a malicious attempt to drive a wedge between himself and the authorities and was considering legal action against the Sowetan

The paper's news editor Sello Rabothata said they had received the letter, typed on a Publications Appeal Board letterhead, through the post last week

"We are taking it in good faith that Van Rooyen did not write the letter and in fairness will put his side across."

● Police are still investigating the arson attack on Van Rooyen's Waterkloof home on Tuesday

Sharpeville judge to sue two papers for libel

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W. M. H. C.
7-13/10/88

By TYLER PARRY

IN an unprecedented move in South Africa, the "Sharpeville Six" judge, Mr Justice WJ Human, is suing two South African newspapers for defamation and is considering acting against a third in Britain.

One of the offending articles, which appeared in the *Pretoria News* and the *Independent* of London, was by top barrister and president of the British Press Council, Louis Blom-Cooper, QC.

And, according to Human's legal representatives, employers at the Pretoria newspaper had been subpoenaed to appear on contempt of court charges in connection with the article.

Media lawyers say defamation proceedings by a judge against a newspaper is unprecedented in this country.

Human said this week that he had instituted defamation proceedings against the *Pretoria News* for R150 000.

The offending article, published on March 17, claimed that "the fact I did not find extenuating circumstances was just a charade designed to promote the government's policy of intimidation," Human said.

Human said he was also considering instituting proceedings against the *Independent* for publishing the same article. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, had agreed to represent him if he decided to proceed against the *Independent*, Human said.

Legal representatives for Human said the case against the *Pretoria News* involved two separate claims of R75 000 for two articles.

The second article on June 14 quoted international lawyer Geoffrey Bindman condemning the judge for sentencing the six to death, the legal representative said.

He said a defamation suit against the publishers of the Argus newspaper in Cape Town, Argus Printing and Publishing Company, and its editor, Andrew Drysdale, for R120 000 would be heard in the Cape Provincial Division.

The contents of this newspaper
have been restricted in terms of
the Emergency regulations

The club and the carrot

VICTORIA FALLS — The Australian sitting next to me leant over and stage-whispered a rejection of his former Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser. In doing so he used a four-letter Anglo-Saxon expletive to drive home his point.

"And you can quote me," he said with a bluntness that is characteristic of his national stock.

He was one of several Australian publishers who attended the Commonwealth Press Union conference which ended here yesterday.

He had been listening to Mr Fraser castigating South Africa for its apartheid race policies.

But, said the publisher, Mr Fraser's rhetoric was nothing but "electioneering" to prepare the way for him to become the Commonwealth's next Secretary-General.

The term of office of the present incumbent, Mr Shridath Ramphal, expires in July 1990. But a successor is likely to be chosen at the Commonwealth Head of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October next year.

It is an open secret that Mr Fraser desperately wants to get the nod. The tall former Australian premier was a co-chairman of the Commonwealth's eminent Person's Group which visited South Africa in 1986 in an attempt to bring about a negotiated end to the nation's conflict.

Mr Fraser's foes charge that his fierce attacks on South Africa are motivated solely by his ambition for high office beat-



APARTHEID: Malcolm Fraser believes only the Nazis were worse.

ing the anti-South African drum is recognised as a sure way to garner votes in the Commonwealth.

His friends, however, insist his tough stand on South Africa is not new and pre-dates his quest for the top Commonwealth post.

One of his staunchest allies is Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe. In his opening address to the conference, he praised Mr Fraser for being a "tireless and dedicated fighter for justice, peace and prosperity".

Mr Fraser delivered a speech filled with sharp criticism of South Africa's race

Aussie giants have opposite views on South Africa

PATRICK LAURENCE

He labelled its political system "the second most racist of the century", implying that its racism was exceeded only by Nazism.

Insisting the "boer" responds only to pressure — "A boer has never changed as a result of reasonable argument put to him by an Englishman" — Mr Fraser called for intensified sanctions as a way of diminishing the risk of even greater conflict.

Mr Fraser objected to the use of the term "violence" to describe the guerrilla war raging in South Africa, saying: "It is a taking-up of arms to fight for a fundamental right."

An Australian delegate, Mr Graham Wilkinson, clearly unhappy about the tack Mr Fraser was taking, asked Mr Fraser to give his opinion on the coup in Fiji, where a democratically elected government was overthrown by the Fiji army to forestall rule by Indians over native Fijians.



IMMIGRANTS: Rupert Murdoch says Australia needs more South Africans.

Mr Fraser replied carefully. Australia had "very little influence" on Fiji's military rulers, he said, adding that "behind the scenes" approaches were likely to be more successful than high profile speeches.

He ended by admitting that he "had no solution".

The delegate told the Saturday Star afterwards that his purpose in asking the question had been to help expose Mr Fraser's "tunnel vision" on the Republic for what it was.

Mr Fraser was one of two well-known Australians to deliver key-note speeches at

the conference. The second was Mr Rupert Murdoch, the publishing magnate who, starting from Australia, moved abroad to acquire control of major British newspapers — including *The Times* of London — and to build up his media empire in the United States.

Mr Murdoch and Mr Fraser are known to dislike one another. Certainly their appearances at the conference were arranged to avoid personal contact. Mr Fraser arrived the day after Mr Murdoch left.

As one conference organiser put it, the closest they got to meeting was when their aircraft passed in the air.

In an interview with the Saturday Star after he had delivered his speech, Mr Murdoch adopted a line which could hardly have been further from Mr Fraser's.

Asked about moves to isolate South Africa culturally and politically, he said: "I think it is an enormous mistake."

He explained: "We are moving to embrace our other enemies in the world — we have enemies such as Russia — and to have exchanges with them and, presumably, aim to imprecipitate them with our ideas and our freedoms. If that works for totalitarian countries then I believe we should do the same thing with South Africa if we disapprove of apartheid."

Condemning "hypocrisy in the West" Mr Murdoch said: "Australia refuses to fly its airline to South Africa and refuses to allow South African airlines to fly to Australia when, in fact, we should be advertising for South African migrants. "God knows, we need them."

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Cape Times, Saturday, October 8, 1999 5

SA newsman under fire at CPU congress

HARARE — Debate on South Africa dominated the Commonwealth Press Union congress here yesterday, with some delegates calling for the isolation of South Africa and comprehensive sanctions but with no agreement being reached on how to remove apartheid

A report by the official Zimbabwe news agency, Ziara, said delegates were disappointed by a white South African journalist, Mr Patrick Laurence, who had been invited by the CPU to speak on the situation in South Africa and the plight of black South Africans. Ziara said Mr Laurence said nothing about apartheid or its evils.

He also refused to endorse calls for total boycotts and ANC attacks on civilian targets.

And instead of giving an analysis of the situation in South Africa, he spoke about sports sanctions, which most delegates dismissed as irrelevant.

He was fiercely attacked by fellow journalists and delegates who charged that he was supporting apartheid and sympathising with the regime.

Against SA violence

"I thought you came here representing the blacks but I can see you are no different from any liberal South African," Mr Tommy Sithole, editor of the Herald, Zimbabwe's major daily newspaper, told Mr Laurence, to applause from other delegates, according to Ziara.

Mr Laurence said he was aware of all the problems and violence in South Africa and was against this violence.

He mentioned the on-going spate of bombings, which he said were killing innocent civilians.

A Tory member of the House of Commons all-party committee on foreign affairs, Mr Ivan Lawrence, was barracked by indignant black journalists when he asked Mr Laurence's opinion of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policy of aiding the frontline states to break economic dependence on South Africa.

On the subject of sanctions Mr Laurence said "If you can have a system of sanctions which rewards as well as punishes there is a case for selective sanctions aimed at specific targets, aimed at achieving specific goals" — Sapa and Own Correspondent

First SA teenage paper can become a 'national forum'

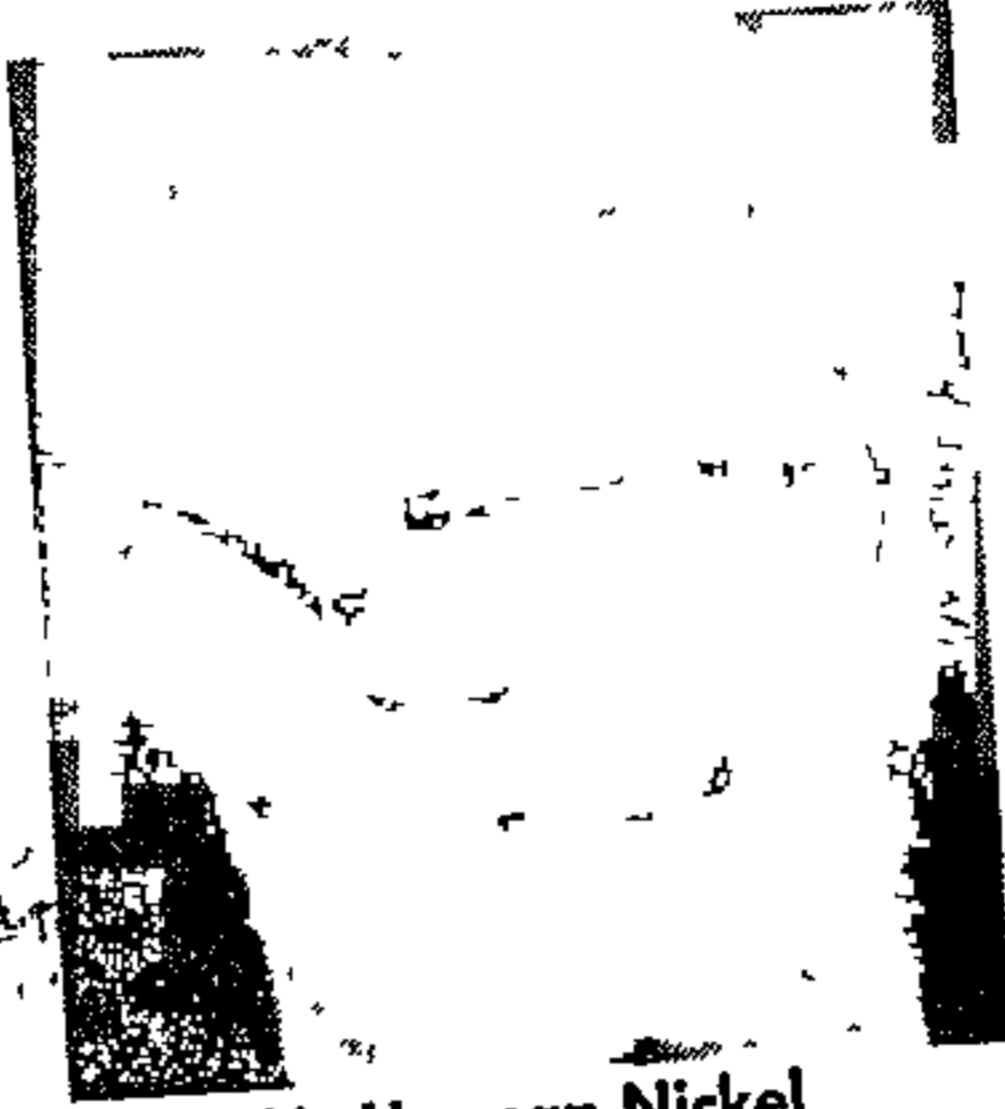
Star 10/10/88
243 By Melame Gosling

Early Times, South Africa's first teenage newspaper, could become the kind of forum young people needed which the country's political system had failed to provide, Mr Herman Nickel, journalist and former US ambassador to South Africa, said at the launch of the newspaper in Johannesburg last week.

Early Times, a monthly newspaper edited by 27-year-old Ms Robin Comley, is modelled on newspapers of the same name in Britain and the United States where the articles are written by teenagers.

Mr Nickel said the greatest contribution *Early Times* journalists could make to their country was to break down the barriers that apartheid had erected between young South Africans.

"The sooner the younger people of this country learn about each other's common humanity, the better they will be able to resist the teachings of hate and prejudice and the better off their country will be



Mr Herman Nickel

"If a new generation of South Africans are going to become one nation, they had better get to know each other. I cannot think of a more important task than this for the young journalists of *Early Times*."

Mr Nickel said open communication was the first requirement for intelligent decision making. Censorship was a "terrible danger to any country."

"Governments which engage in this usually succeed in putting blinkers on themselves in the process," he said.

Van Rooyen urges probe into letter

THE Chairman of the Publications Appeal Board, Professor J C W van Rooyen, has asked the State Attorney to investigate the publication, in the *Sowetan* on Thursday, October 6, of a letter purporting to have come from his office and signed by him.

In a statement released on Thursday and published in the later editions of *Sowetan* on Friday, Prof van Rooyen said he "did not write the letter or request anyone to do so and state categorically that it is a falsification."

Prof van Rooyen also said he refused to identify himself with the contents of the letter "which in any case contain factual errors."

He continued "I regard the falsification as a malicious attempt at driving a wedge between myself and the authorities; and to cause embarrassment to both myself and the Appeal Board

"I resent the fact that no attempt was made by the *Sowetan* to verify the authenticity of the document before publication thereof.

"The fact that other newspapers repeated the contents of this falsification, stresses the gravity of my concern"

On Friday, October 7, Sam Mabe, Assistant Editor of *Sowetan*, laid a complaint with the South African Police at John Vorster Square and asked them to investigate the source of the letter on behalf of the *Sowetan*

It is hoped that the South African Police will soon find the perpetrator.

Prof van Rooyen's denial that he wrote and signed the letter is fully accepted by this newspaper which has no wish to cause him any embarrassment.

However, it should be stated that the letter was published in good faith and the firm, though mistaken, belief that it was authentic

243 Sowetan 11/10/88

Commonwealth body condemns Pretoria for restricting press

Star 11/10/88

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HARARE — The Commonwealth Press Union has condemned Pretoria for the deteriorating political situation in South Africa and the continued suppression of press freedom

The CPU also expressed dismay at the high number of member-countries that do not enjoy the basic freedoms of expression

In a statement issued yesterday at the end of a week-long conference at Victoria Falls, the CPU called on Commonwealth governments to

recognise freedom of expression as an essential quality of life

“Following its consideration of reports from press sections throughout the Commonwealth, the CPU expresses its dismay at the high number of nations which do not enjoy basic human-right freedom of expression, including freedom of the press

“The CPU calls upon Commonwealth governments to recognise such freedoms as an essential quality of life in

both developed and developing countries and pledges itself to monitor the situations by all means at its disposal,” the statement said

The CPU, which represents more than 500 newspapers, said a shortage of newsprint was threatening publications in many member-countries

“The CPU therefore urges all Commonwealth governments to make every effort to ensure that newspapers and periodicals receive adequate and equitable supplies of newsprint.” — Sapa

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Afrikaans papers merge today

The Afrikaans press enters a new era today with the appearance of *Transvaler*, a Perskor-owned afternoon newspaper.

A merger between *Die Vaderland* and *Die Transvaler* — whose final editions were published yesterday — the broadsheet sees its main objective as being the promotion of Afrikaner unity, according to an editorial in the final edition of *Die Vaderland*.

Both newspapers had been born out of Afrikaner idealism, yet at the same time springing from Afrikaner disunity, the editorial stated.

"We find it suitable and significant that *Die Vaderland* and *Die Transvaler*, both so intensely part of the most serious Afrikaner disharmony, are uniting these days of a renewed volkswisdom. The task of Afrikaner unity would be fulfilled, it said, but the understanding and tolerance learnt in the past could be wisely applied in a positive and constructive future role of uniting all South Africans.

Under the editorship of Dr Gerrit Louw, *Transvaler* will be printed in Pretoria and Johannesburg and will be distributed in Transvaal and parts of the other provinces.

Rich history

Despite the new look, the newspaper has a rich history going back to 1915 when founded by the Noordelike Drukkers Vereniging, *Ons Vaderland* saw the light in Pretoria as a bi-weekly mouthpiece of the then National Party. Among its shareholders were General J B M Botha, Mr Tielman Roos and Mr N C Havenga. Although it clearly stated that it would not practise "hoog politiek" (high politics), it played a significant role in the early and unexpected NP victory in

In 1932, Noordelike Drukkers was taken over by Afrikaanse Pers Bpk and the paper was renamed *Die Vaderland*, also published in Pretoria. The paper lay with General Hertzog and the paper continued to support him after the fusion of the National Party and the South African Party in 1934.

In 1935 a new company, Die Afrikaanse Pers Bepers, took over Afrikaanse Pers. In the next year, *Die Vaderland* was moved to Johannesburg where it started publication as an afternoon paper on July 2. Its first editor was Dr Willem van Heerden, who resigned this year as chairman of Pers-

However, the relationship between *Vaderland* and Johannesburg was always on a good footing. In his doctoral thesis, Dr Johan de Villiers, an assistant editor on *The Star*, describes the situation "In 1939 Hertzog and Smuts parted ways over the war and Hertzog wanted neutrality and in 1940 he was supported by *Die Vaderland*. On February 1 1941 soldiers were in-

By ESMARE VAN DER MERWE,
Political Reporter

The characters of both *Die Vaderland* and *Die Transvaler*, soon to merge as *Transvaler*, have been moulded as mouthpieces of the dominant Afrikaner political party

involved in an attack on the building which housed the paper.

"The British reality demanded participation in the war, while that of the Afrikaner indicated either a neutral stance or even sympathy with the Germans.

"*Die Vaderland* was not yet backing the National Party, but was the mouthpiece of the Afrikaner Party which was led by Hertzog's former Finance Minister, N C Havenga. In the election of 1948 the Afrikaner Party and Malan's National Party formed an alliance and won. The Afrikaner Party was subsequently taken up in the more powerful National Party. *Die Vaderland* supported the Nationalist government. The Afrikaner was politically reunited and its main newspapers could speak with one voice."

After the 1933 split in Nationalist ranks, the NP in the Transvaal was left without a mouthpiece.

Organ of NP

A new company, Voortrekker Pers Bpk, was established and on October 1 1937 it launched *Die Transvaler* in Johannesburg as a daily organ of the NP. Its first editor was Dr H F Verwoerd, who later became Prime Minister.

Dr de Villiers notes "In the period of his editorship — from 1937-1948 — the paper faced an advertisement boycott and its building was also attacked by soldiers on February 1 1941. In this respect, therefore, its history is similar to that of *Die Vaderland*."

Both papers had to survive periods when, in the words of Dr de Villiers, the mobilisation of bias was distinctly against them.

He points out that in the case of *Die Transvaler*, the enemy had been identified as "holistic imperialism." Dr Verwoerd was much concerned about the establishment of a republic and the breaking of ties with the British empire.

The Afrikaans press in the north became consolidated on April 1, 1971, when Afrikaanse Pers and Voortrekker Pers were merged to form the Perskorparasie van Suid-Afrika Bpk (Perskor).

In effect, this meant that *Die Vaderland* and *Die Transvaler* came under the same control.

Now they are becoming one newspaper.

Die Vaderland . . . once supported Hertzog in his belief that SA should remain neutral during World War 2. Later it was to become the mouthpiece of the mainstream National Party.



SASJ welcomes acquittals

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12/10/88 Innetan

THE Southern African Society of Journalists has welcomed the acquittal of four journalists charged for participating in a placard protest against the introduction of a state register for freelance journalists

Acquitting the accused yesterday the magistrate, Mr M J C Tolken, said the demonstration did not contravene the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act because the four had participated in an "official function" following an official decision by their union.

Stein 12/10/84

Picketing journalists acquitted

Own Correspondent (243)

CAPE TOWN — Four members of the Southern African Society of Journalists who were arrested during a press freedom picket in front of Newspaper House in June have been acquitted of charges under the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act. Journalists Robert Houwing of *The Argus* and Chris Steyn, Peter Dennehy and Tina Coombes of the *Cape Times*, pleaded not guilty to demonstrating in the open air within the precincts of Parliament.

Acquitting the four, Cape Town magistrate Mr M J C Tolken said although the accused were demonstrating they were not holding an illegal gathering.

He accepted the defence argument that because the SASJ was an officially constituted body, and the decision to picket was taken at an official joint meeting of *The Argus* and *Cape Times* editorial chapels, the picket was therefore an "official function" of the SASJ as referred to in the Act.

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B/day
12/10/88

Curbs on SA media 'successful'

NEW YORK — SA's media curbs — "aimed to make its people voiceless and the rest of the world sightless" — had at least partly succeeded, Glenys Kinnock, wife of the British Labour Opposition leader, said yesterday.

The restrictions, imposed during a "violent period of anti-apartheid protests", had been obeyed by Western correspondents, although there were some

courageous exceptions, she said.

Addressing a UN meeting called to demonstrate international support for political prisoners in SA, she said it was no exaggeration to compare the situation in SA to the Holocaust

Lisbet Palme, widow of slain Swedish prime minister Olof Palme, said children of 11 and 12 years were tortured in detention in SA — Sapa-Reuter

Demo acquittal for journalists

CAPE TOWN — Four Cape Town journalists were yesterday acquitted of demonstrating outside Newspaper House against Press curbs, when magistrate M J C Tolken found that the "demonstration as such should be seen as an official function".

Cape Times reporters Chris Steyn, 28, of Vredehoek, Peter Dennehy, 30,

of Crawford, Cape Times graphic artist Tina Coombes, 27, of Constantia, and Argus reporter Robert Houwing, 24, of Claremont, were all acquitted of demonstrating on June 21.

The Sothern African Society of Journalists said in a statement it welcomed the acquittal

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Own Correspondent
12/10/78

Weekly Mail gets another warning

STW 13/10/88

(11)

By Lloyd Coutts

(243)

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, issued a warning to the *Weekly Mail* newspaper in terms of the media regulations.

A co-editor, Mr Irwin Manoim, said a letter received from the Minister yesterday stated that Mr Botha had read six issues of the newspaper since the confiscation of an edition earlier this year.

He objected to eight of the articles

These included a personal opinion piece by the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, the Rev Frank Chikane, an article on the constitution of the African National Congress, to which the Department of Home Affairs had contributed, and a story about a number of people refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force

TWO WEEKS TO RESPOND

Mr Manoim said the newspaper was given two weeks in which to respond to the letter. The Minister would then be empowered to suspend the newspaper.

He felt the warning was a pre-municipal election attack on the newspaper

"We spoke to the Minister in May. Several months passed and there was nothing, no indication that anything was being contemplated. Suddenly, two weeks before the election, there's this," he said

The newspaper had been unable to obtain legal advice yesterday as its attorneys were out of town

The *Weekly Mail* has been warned by the Minister on several occasions

Weekly Mail given final warning

THE Weekly Mail newspaper received its final written warning in terms of the media regulations from Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha yesterday, said co-editor Irwin Manoim.

The final warning was issued in terms of a new regulation — 7A1 — added to the existing media regulations in June.

Manoim said the new regulation stated that all previous warnings issued before the renewal of the state of emergency in June were still valid.

"This is our final warning and we have two weeks in which to respond."

He said Botha issued yesterday's final

13/10/88 DANIEL SIMON *[Signature]*
warning indicating he had read six editions of Weekly Mail and had found eight articles which promoted the image of the UDF, ANC and the PAC and demigrated the image of the security forces.

"This is the first time a warning letter for promoting the UDF has been issued."

He said the paper would send written legal argument to Botha.

Botha could then accept the argument, suspend the paper for three months, or impose a censor.

Weekly Mail warned

CAPE TIMES 13/10/88

Stoffel threatens to suspend newspaper

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JOHANNESBURG — The Weekly Mail was served its fourth and final warning yesterday by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

The newspaper's co-editors, Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim, said Mr Botha had warned them that he was contemplating action against the newspaper in terms of the emergency regulations

This letter gives the newspaper two weeks to make representations before Mr Botha considers publishing a gazette suspending the newspaper for three months, or imposing a censor on it

The editors said they would "explore every avenue to ensure the paper's survival"

Under the heading "Subversive propaganda", Mr Botha cited eight articles published in five recent editions of the newspaper

He accused the newspaper of "denigrating the security forces and of promoting the image of the United Democratic Front, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress"

The controversial newspaper, known for

its feisty reporting, political exposes and quick wit, received its first warning on December 19 last year. A second letter followed on March 3 and a further warning was published in the Government Gazette on April 26

Yesterday's letter was sent in terms of Section 7A (1), a new regulation which

allows the minister to take into account warnings issued to a publication during the previous state of emergency

The editors met the minister in early May to discuss the warnings

"We are perplexed at this sudden attack from the minister, who has been silent about our newspaper for the four months since that meeting. We do not believe the newspaper's policies have changed in recent weeks," Mr Manoim and Mr Harber said

"We can only surmise that this action is related to the forthcoming municipal elections. Mr Botha is threatening press freedom as a ploy to win ultra-right-wing votes

"This is an expensive way for him to win votes, particularly when his government is trying to show South Africans that it is serious and sincere about open discussions and negotiations, and when the country — and the issue of press freedom — is in the international spotlight

"The Weekly Mail is determined to fight this threat, and in consultation with its lawyers, will explore every avenue to ensure the paper's survival" — Sapa

14/10/88 FM

PAPERING OVER CRACKS

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It seems as if the row between P W Botha and the government-supporting Nasionale Pers (Naspers) newspaper group has been resolved. During his opening speech at the Cape National Party (NP) congress in George last week, Botha made a point of thanking the group for what they've done for SA.

Only a few weeks ago, at the party's Natal congress, Botha clashed heavily with one of Naspers' senior editors, *Beeld's* Willem Wepener, over the Johannesburg daily's editorial supporting the release of Nelson Mandela. Botha, in typical fashion, asked that the press group act against Wepener. However,

Naspers chairman Piet Cillie, a longtime friend of Botha, issued a statement stressing the independence of his group's editors.

Soon afterwards, Wepener again incurred the wrath of Botha when he called for a rethink on the Group Areas Act. Wepener retires within a year.

Cape Nat leader Chris Heunis also asked congress to accept a motion of thanks to Naspers. "Those who do not read one of Naspers' publications are politically poor," he remarked.

Naspers' flagship, *Die Burger*, was once again accepted as the official mouthpiece of the Cape NP.

Stoffel threatens suspension, censors

Mail planning to 'carry on doing job'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The editors of the *Weekly Mail*, the first newspaper to be affected under the "streamlined" censorship provisions of the latest state of emergency, intend to "carry on doing the job as best and as strongly as

we can" in spite of a threat of suspension

They spoke after receiving a final warning that the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, might suspend their publication or subject it to pre-publication Government censorship, because he considered it was systematically pub-

lishing material which promoted the image of banned organisations and undermined the armed forces

Because the *Weekly Mail* received a warning under the last state of emergency, the Minister is obliged to do no more than issue a single warning and hear representa-

tions from the publishers before he may put a notice in the Government Gazette suspending the paper for up to three months.

Co-editor of the *Weekly Mail* Mr Anton Harber said yesterday that the paper was considering various strategies to counter the threats

It is believed that court action might be one of the defences under consideration

Mr Harber said he considered that the paper functioned within the law at all times "We have always taken the view that Mr Botha is exceeding his powers in enforcing the regulations"

He said he believed that the fact the warning came immediately before the elections was not accidental

"I do believe it's tied to the pre-election period I think Stoffel Botha is trying to win votes — and it's a very costly way to win a few votes"

Mr Harber observed that the *Weekly Mail's* circulation had shot up sharply after the last warning was issued a few months ago. It now stood at 24 000

The *Weekly Mail* was also widely read abroad, he said.

The basis for Mr Botha's warning is found in seven articles and one advertisement appearing in six editions of the paper since August 1 — the day the Commissioner of Police ordered the seizure of an edition of the paper

Mother of three robs Reef bank

West Rand Bureau

A 39-year-old mother of three was found guilty in the Krugersdorp Regional Court yesterday of robbing a Krugersdorp bank of more than R5 600 on Wednesday

Hilde Charlotte Hen-Boisen, of Lui-paard Street, Krugersdorp, was caught in the women's toilets in the building adjacent to the bank several minutes after robbing it while disguised in an army uniform.

Hen-Boisen testified that she had walked into the bank building with the army clothes in a bag just before 9 am yesterday. She went into the toilet and put on the hat and the shirt, trousers and boots over her clothes.

She then walked into the bank, took a few bank slips from a side counter and

handed those, together with a note, to a teller.

Hen-Boisen told magistrate Mr Chris Eksteen that the note said: "Don't panic Smile. Hand over big notes in a bank bag or see disaster."

The teller did as she was told and the accused walked out of the bank and went back to the toilets where she took off the army clothes. She said she was still dressing in the toilet when she was arrested by the police a few minutes later.

She also said that she was unarmed throughout the whole incident.

The prosecutor, Miss N de Coupe, said the State had no objection to bail being granted and the court set an amount of R5 000. The case was postponed until October 20 for sentencing.

Pipers' farewell to Gordon Vorster

By Joe Openshaw

Pipers of the Light Horse pipe band played "Flowers of the Forest" as a farewell lament to artist Gordon Vorster yesterday during a moving funeral service at St Martins-in-the-Veld Church, Dunkeld

Artists, writers and actors were among the congregation of 250 who attended the service at which sculptor Eduardo Villa and actor Siegfried Mynhardt delivered tributes to Gordon Vorster (64), who died on Tuesday

"Gordon looked forward to his funeral and wanted pipers at it," his actress widow, Mrs Gina Vorster, said after

the funeral

She and Everhard Read also delivered a valdiction after which the pipers played "Amazing Grace"

There was a power failure halfway through the service and the organist could not accompany the singing of "Amazing Grace". The Rev Brian Germont, who conducted the service, then led the gathering through the hymn

"I'm sure Gordon would have wanted us to sing whether there was music or not," said Mr Germont

The pipers formed up outside the church and played "Chariots of Fire" as the mourners left

THE SUNDAY VISAST

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Stow 14/10/88

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THE history of South African newspapers is about to change forever — if four slightly dishevelled Afrikaners sitting smoking in a disembowelled branch of the Standard Bank in downtown Johannesburg are to be taken seriously.

The four say they are embarking on a publishing "patrol" to places unexplored by Afrikanerdom.

In a fortnight's time, they will launch *Vrye Weekblad* from their rented ersatz-Gothic lair. They think it will be the first fully Afrikaans newspaper committed to a "non-racial, democratic, united South Africa."

The latter-day *baanbrekers* believe the time is ripe for a national newspaper which "shakes off old taboos" and provides a home for the swelling numbers of Afrikaners committed to a new South Africa, a South Africa they will not necessarily run. The market is "already there," they believe, and just needs to be stimulated.

They are undeterred by the knowledge that white Afrikaners may be on the

In an ersatz-Gothic lair, four rebelle with a cause

Undeterred by the knowledge that Afrikanerdom is about to lurch further right in the municipal polls, four Afrikaans journalists plan a newspaper that will break out of the straitjacket. **SHAUN JOHNSON** reports

brink of their greatest electoral lurch to the right in the forthcoming municipal poll.

Vrye Weekblad (Independent Weekly), say its founders, sets out to recognise the "tremendous changes" in Afrikaner attitudes since the Info Scandal.

Founder Max du Preez — like his colleagues, a graduate of several Afrikaans and English newsrooms — says the shattering of the image of "honest lead-

ership", coupled with sustained black resistance, has resulted in numbers of Afrikaners wanting to retain their cultural pride while asserting themselves as Africans.

"I am not detribalised, and don't see any reason to be," he says "But at the same time, I see no conflict between being an ethnic Afrikaner, writing Afrikaans, loving Afrikaans, being Afrikaners in my environment — and not be-

ing a Nat, a racist, or in favour of white leadership." The new newspaper, he says, will have the side-effect of changing the image of Afrikaans as the "language of the oppressor". His three colleagues (the full launch team comprises six journalists), concur enthusiastically. All are wholly disillusioned with the party-political straitjacket in which the mainstream Afrikaans

press operates ("they're all form; mouthpieces of the Nationalist Party" and believe even the use of the language is stilted and inhibited ("the language of the church, not the streets").

The newspaper will not shy away from colloquialisms or direct political interventions — there will, for example be an editorial opinion column. But says Du Preez, "the golden thread running through the paper will be a strong sense of humour. We believe the Afrikaner has lost his sense of humour, especially politically."

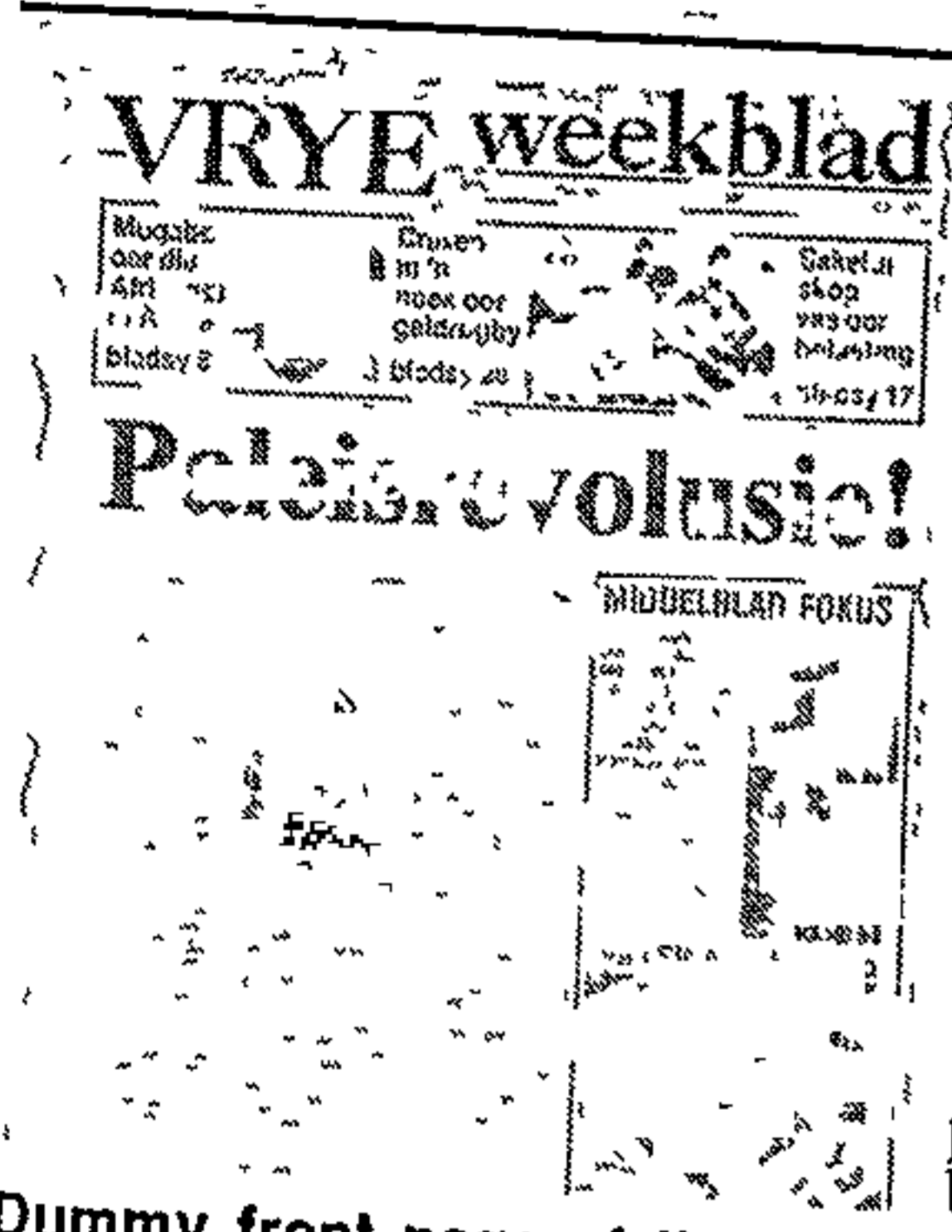
Vrye Weekblad doesn't intend to crusade, according to writer Victor Munnik. What the paper will do, however, is to provide a voice and a support structure for those who have broken — or are breaking — with traditional Afrikaner nationalism.

Vrye Weekblad sees itself as an outgrowth of the changes which have led for example, to Wynand Malan quitting the NP.

But the newspaper will "treat the Afrikaner, and Afrikaans culture, with re-

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16/ - 28/10/88



Dummy front page of the Vrye Weekblad

spect at all times," says Munnik. "We don't go for that bullshit that if you're right-wing, you're stupid. You're just wrong."

"But," says arts editor Chris Du Plessis, "they don't want to hear it from

non-Afrikaners That's where we come in

"There is tremendous need for reliable information in the Afrikaner community. They don't trust their leaders anymore ... they need the whole spectrum of news from (ANC leader Oliver) Tambo to (AWB leader Eugene) Terre-Blanche

"We want Afrikaners, whether right-wing racists or on the far left, to feel on a Saturday morning that if they didn't read *Vrye Weekblad* the day before, they are not equipped to take decisions"

In its cultural and sporting, as well as political content, the newspaper plans to break new ground. "Most Afrikaners don't even realise that African music has become very popular world-wide," says Du Preez, "they aren't told in any Afrikaans medium"

Du Plessis believes younger Afrikaners will bring pressure to bear on their parents once they are introduced to "alternative" Afrikaner cultural events by *Vrye Weekblad*

"They'll be asking why the papers never write about Johannes Kerkorrel, and there will be pressure from readers and viewers — even on *Netwerk*."

In this sense, Du Preez believes the venture is a threat to the mainstream Afrikaans media. "There will now be something to compare them to," he says.

The newspaper is constituted as a commercial company, Wending ("Turn") Publikasies, and includes among its directors Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa director Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, Stellenbosch Economics Professor Sampie Terreblanche, and Christo Nel, business consultant and PG Bison director.

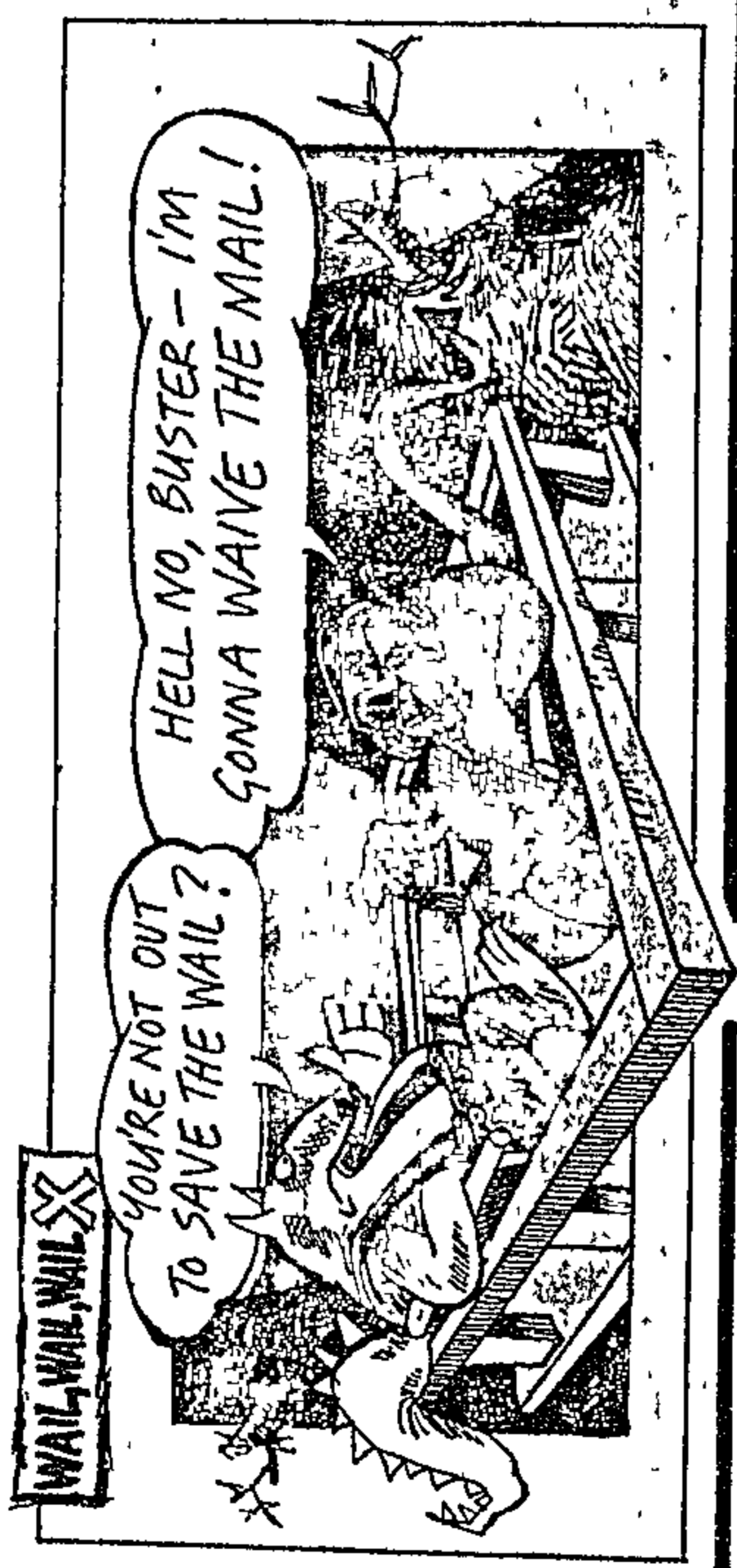
Du Preez concedes finances are tight, but is enthusiastic about the publication's prospects. "Some Afrikaner capitalists have indicated they will invest," he says.

Vrye Weekblad will start off on October 28 with a relatively modest circulation. Its founders hope for sales of 25 000 within two months, but are aiming much higher.

STOFFEL BOTHA VS THE WEEKLY MAIL

W.M.A.I.L.
14-20/10/88
243

YOU CAN MAKE IT UNHAPPEN



Vote **NO** before **October 26**

ON October 26, Stoffel Botha will decide whether to suspend the *Weekly Mail*.

As voters go to — or stay away from — the municipal polls, the Minister of Home Affairs will be casting his vote on the future of this newspaper.

But, to misquote the squirrel in his government's own election advertisement, YOU can make it unhappen.

Botha served a letter this week on the *Weekly Mail*, warning that he is considering suspending the newspaper — and giving the publishers two weeks to make representations to him.

He has warned the newspaper before, but this week's is the

● TO PAGE 2

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W.M.A.I.L.
14-20/10/88

Threat to close the Mail: We can make it unhappen

● From PAGE 1

final warning. In other words, this newspaper could be taken off the streets in a fortnight.

We don't know why he has suddenly decided to renew his attack on us after five months of silence. We can only believe that it is an election ploy to win votes.

In his letter Botha, citing eight articles in five recent newspapers, accuses this newspaper of denigrating the security forces and promoting the image of the United Democratic Front, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress.

These articles include an opinion piece by the Reverend Frank Chikane, an exposé of allegations of atrocities in Namibia, an article by academic Dr Tom Lodge entitled "Is the Spirit of Robert Sobukwe rising?", an American advertisement in support of the UDF, and reports on the ANC's new constitutional guidelines, including a commentary written on them by the PAC (but not the one we also published which was written by the Bureau for Information).

He has used a special new regulation which allows him to take into account warnings issued to a publication during the previous State of Emergency.

There is every sign that Botha's latest threat is a serious one.

So we say VOTE NO! Cast your vote before October 26 and cast it against

- Botha's latest onslaught on the press,
- His attempt to hide the news from you,
- His desire to silence his critics, such as the *Weekly Mail*

You will be voting for a REAL broadening of democracy, the right to know what is happening in your country, and the right of the *Weekly Mail* to continue to publish.

How to cast your vote Write to The Hon J C G Botha, Ministry of Home Affairs, Private Bag X141, Pretoria 0001, and tell him what you think of his threat to close the *Weekly Mail*

Staff of gutted Namibian get on with the job

By MARK VERBAAN, Windhoek

DESPITE the firebombing of the *Namibian* in Windhoek, staff of the pro-independence weekly converted a gutted corner of the newsroom and began working to meet their deadline. A group calling themselves the Wit Wolwe (White Wolves) have claimed responsibility for the bombing in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Amid the smoke-blackened walls, burnt carpets and a charred ceiling, journalists and lay-out artists worked through Wednesday night to get the newspaper to the printers by 4pm yesterday.

"People might as well realise now that it is going to take a lot more than burning down our offices to prevent us getting a newspaper onto the streets," said editor Gwen Lister.

Attacks of this nature are nothing new to the *Namibian*. This is the second arson attack in three years, and ball-bearings and bullets fired on numerous occasions have shattered the bomb-proof windows on the facade of the building.

The claim of responsibility by the Wit Wolwe came barely 18 hours after right-wing thugs, possibly attached to this extremist group, smashed a window at the newspaper's offices and hurled a handful of firefighters and a



Products of arson ...

'The White Wolves will hit you again'

Namibian weekly is warned

Picture: THE NAMIBIAN

bottle of acid into the newsroom. The smouldering blocks of firelighter destroyed two telex machines, a fax machine, two computers and several telephones.

The real damage, however, was caused by a thick layer of soot which covered the ceilings, walls and every piece of furniture.

Lister received a telephone call at home at 7.30 on Wednesday morning informing her that the offices had burnt down. Before breaking the

connection the caller said, "*Die Wit Wolwe sal julle weer bykom*" (the White Wolves will hit you again).

The Wit Wolwe are the same group which claimed responsibility for the recent bomb blast at Khotso House in Johannesburg.

By the time Lister heard about the bombing the fire had been burning for at least seven hours without any-one noticing.

Three fire engines were parked outside the newspaper's Leuwein Street

offices but there were no naked flames by that time. The firefighters and acid continued slowly to burn off fire equipment and desks until late morning. Damage is conservatively estimated at R100 000.

The Namibian churches, progressive groups, and interim government Justice Minister Fannuel Kozonguizi condemned the attack and expressed a desire to see those responsible brought to trial as soon as possible.

MAIL 107-291082 (23)

It's 'official' protesters cleared

By GAYE DAVIS,
Cape Town

THREE journalists and a graphic artist arrested while demonstrating in protest against the media regulations were this week acquitted of contravening the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act.

The magistrate, MJC Tolken, accepted the defence's argument that the four — all members of the Southern African Society of Journalists — were attending an official function of the organisation.

The Act prohibits open-air demonstrations in the vicinity of parliament except for official functions.

Tolken said the Act did not define "official function", which meant he had to rely on its ordinary meaning. Referring to dictionary definitions, he found the gathering was formal and

had the sanction of persons in office. It was common cause that by holding placards with slogans reading "No News is Bad News", "Emergency Your Right to Know", "Save the Press" and "Stop Stoffel's Gags" the four were demonstrating in the open air but were clearly not holding an illegal gathering.

The decision to demonstrate had been taken at an official meeting of the SASJ's *Argus* and *Cape Times* chapels.

The four were Robert Houwing of *The Argus* and Peter Dennehy, Chris Steyn and graphic artist Tina Coombes of the *Cape Times*.

WMAIL 14-20/10/88
to October 20, 1988

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Salman Rushdie to speak in SA

Weekly Mail Reporter
SALMAN RUSHDIE, novelist
and Booker Prize-winner, will
head the list of writers, pub-
lishers, academics, perform-
ers and photographers taking
part in this year's Weekly
Mail Book Week.

Rushdie, author of *Mid-
night's Children* and *Shame*,
will deliver a keynote address
on censorship and take part
in panel discussions in Cape
Town and Johannesburg. His
latest book, due to be
launched in South Africa at
the Book Week, is short-listed
for what could be Rushdie's
second Booker Prize.

He is being flown out for the
Book Week — now this coun-
try's main literary event — in
conjunction with the Con-
gress of South African Writers
and the British Council.

Under the theme "Writers
Speak", the week involves
discussions, readings, perfor-
mances, speeches, new book
launches and signings by the
country's leading literary fig-
ures.

Speakers include two other
Booker Prize winners, Nadine
Gordimer and John Coetzee;
writers Achmat Dangor, Nja-
bulo Ndebele, Richard Rive,
EM Macphail and Damon Gal-
gut; photographers Oble Obe-
rhoizer, Omar Badsha and
David Goldblatt; historians
Charles van Onselen, Peter
Dellius and Motlatse Tlabane;
and playwrights Malcolm Pur-
key, Gcina Mhlope and Neil
McCarthy.

The Book Week starts in
Cape Town's Baxter Theatre
on October 31 and in Johan-
nesburg's Market Theatre on
November 7. Booking opens
on Monday.

Mail hit by flight of advertising

Star 15/10/88

243

IF THE Minister of Home Affairs doesn't succeed in closing down the *Weekly Mail*, the beleaguered tabloid's advertisers might just do it for him

A "significant" number of advertisers responded to Minister Stoffel Botha's final warning to the newspaper this week by withdrawing advertisements and cancelling long-term contracts

Co-editor Anton Harber told Saturday Star that advertisers had reacted the same way when the paper received earlier ministerial warnings

He added "The number of ads this week is the highest ever Next week could be the lowest"

He said that the ministerial warning was disturbing, to say the least, but the backing off by advertisers represented an almost greater threat as it put the paper under severe financial strain

He was, however, confident the *Weekly Mail* would generate sufficient support to ward off the

CHRIS MOERDYK

possibility of closure in two weeks' time

Said Mr Harber "We have been warned before and we've argued back. We're still here"

But he was concerned at the number of advertisers who seemingly believed in the paper's editorial stance and its value as a media product yet took off like startled hares "every time the Government claps its hands"

Despite having its back to the wall, the tabloid, he said, was not looking for charity

Mr Harber added "We have a stable circulation and readership and are able to offer advertisers access to a unique and affluent market

"We are a valuable advertising medium"

Mr Harber said if the *Weekly Mail* was allowed to be closed down it could affect the future of many other South African newspapers

They might suddenly find themselves perceived as "liberal" and subject to the possibility of ministerial warnings and closure

Cannes do

THE Institute of Marketing Management is to host a preview of the Cannes award-winning film and television commercials tomorrow.

The function begins at 6 pm at Rosebank's Constantia Theatre and includes supper.

Admission is R35 for IMM members (R45 for non-members). With the popularity of the Cannes Awards having grown tremendously here in recent years, the organisers suggest that those who have not booked should arrive early.

BAN
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m

New prize

A MAJOR award, carrying R30 000 in prizes, has been announced by the Magazine Publishers Association to encourage excellence in magazine journalism.

It is sponsored by Mondi Paper Company Ltd and will be known as the MPA Mondi Award for Excellence in Magazines

There will be awards in eight categories, covering all aspects of magazine work, and an overall winner.

Each category winner receives R2 000, with the overall winner collecting a trophy and a R13 000 overseas trip.

Cabrio ea

CABRIO, the cosmopolitan chocolate bar from Cadbury's began walking off retailers' shelves like hordes of Lemmings even before its successful television campaign burst on to the small screen

Almost 6 million Cabrio bars were sold unsupported by advertising in the first four weeks of launch. A marketer's dream? No really. Just a question of some irresistible packaging design work

"Cabrio is a sophisticated chocolate — the packaging was de

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Nation-building plan launched

Rebuild SA for all, says editor

AN impassioned plea to South African blacks to embark on a "campaign that would rebuild South Africa "for all its peoples", was made by Mr Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the *Sowetan*, Johannesburg's black newspaper, last night.

Speaking at Shareworld, where a nation-building concept was launched with a dinner to raise funds for the Soweto Old Age Home, Mr Klaaste said nation building was "something like a unilateral declaration of independence in style", a shift in thought and in the crucial role blacks would play in the country's future.

He said "I have written somewhere that it is increasingly becoming the responsibility of blacks to save this country from certain ruination. It is our responsibility because it is also our country and we are, after all, in the majority."

"Even more pertinent, we have something within us, that makes us equal

WINNIE GRAHAM

to saving this country and perhaps the world"

It was Dr Nkwame Nkhrumah, in the heady days of African independence from colonialism, who exhorted black leaders to seek first the political kingdom. But, as one African country after the other gained independence, just as inexplicably, nation after nation tumbled.

The lesson it taught was that getting the political kingdom was not the means to an end. To be effective, lasting and democratic, political kingdoms needed power structures to underpin them.

"They needed a back-up of strong people who had clout economically and academically, who had the strength to realise the value of a free press, who had a spiritual and religious foundation.

"Such kingdoms, sadly, also needed a strong defence system, a respectable system of justice and strong security.

"Before 1948 the Afrikaners were a despised, oppressed people, their

lives as filled, perhaps, with suffering as the lives of blacks in the colonised states of the continent," he said.

"Their thinkers had a Calvinist, almost Germanic zeal which was, fortunately for them, alive to the fact that the political kingdom gathers most of its strength from subsidiary or parallel power structures.

"They placed people in key positions in the church, in the Broederbond, in business and finally in their political organisations. They built a power vult but they made one fatal mistake. They forgot the rest of us. Not only that, they hurt us," he said.

Leadership

While anger from the dispossessed was becoming simply too powerful to ignore, the monolith of Afrikanerdom was cracking. This had taught nation builders another bitter lesson. Had the Afrikaners done all the things they did for themselves for all in South Africa, they would have been in a comfortable leadership position today.

Because blacks were blessed with "an indescribable ethic to forgive and forget", they would, after the reconstruction of collapsed power structures, do good things not only for themselves but for all South Africans."

The Afrikaners were hoist by their own historical petard. They encumbered their people with a baggage of racial supremacy, a passionate claim to the ownership of the land and overlordship eternally over blacks. They kept on massaging "what should have been badly bruised consciences", by pointing to the general debacle on the continent.

"Not that South African blacks helped to nullify this stereotype," Mr Klaaste added. "One moment we are bowed, scrapping slaves, happy to lick the baas's hand. The next we are engaged in unbelievable acts of violence and, more irrationally, against ourselves. How could the average white person have confidence, nay respect, for such people?"

Agenda

"We have to show those people that when we talk of building, we include them in that happy future. We have no secret agenda. We will start helping rebuild the structures in all forms in our societies and when we run out of ideas, out of money, out of managerial skills, we will ask for help from our white friends."

The general manager of *The Star*, Mr Jolyon Nuttall, told the gathering he had been briefed and consulted by Mr Klaaste on the evolutionary stages of the nation-building idea.

Mr Klaaste had put his finger on the essence of the idea when he said the challenge for blacks was to eliminate the fear among the numerically few whites that if they handed power to the blacks they, the whites, would become victims of an incompetent, divisive society.

"Progress, real progress, usually requires someone to break out of the pack, to take up a position different from that occupied by 'them' and 'us'," Mr Nuttall added.

"It is only then that fresh initiatives bear fruit. I truly believe that what Aggrey Klaaste has started in his first term of editorship on the *Sowetan*, represents a new perspective of an old ideal. It is innovative and courageous."

Offices of Sowetan newspaper raided

PIETERSBURG — Security police raided the offices of the *Sowetan* in Pietersburg on Friday and confiscated several items, the newspaper said yesterday.

The raid, by about 10 policemen, was part of a general raid of the Workers Centre building, which also houses several trade unions.

A raid was conducted simultaneously at the offices of the northern diocese of the Lutheran Church, where the Community Advice Bureau is located.

BANNED ORGANISATIONS

Items confiscated from the *Sowetan* offices included a contact book, photographs and copies of speeches. A police lieutenant in charge of the raid said the telephone book was taken because it contained telephone numbers of banned organisations.

No reason for the raid was given.

The officer in charge, Lieutenant Fraser, said during the raid that police were investigating possible contraventions of the emergency regulations.

The offices of the Northern Transvaal Council of Churches were also raided and posters on the October 26 elections were confiscated, a council spokesman said. — Sapa.

US editors hit at SA press muzzle (243)

WASHINGTON — The American Society of Newspaper Editors has criticised the SA Government for its "consistent and arbitrary" press censorship.

The ASNE, in a letter the President, Mr P.W. Botha, expressed "urgent concern" over a

warning issued to the *Weekly Mail* by Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs and Communications.

It seems the intention of the Government is "to cripple inconvenient publications," the letter said — Sapa-AP

Police raided Sowetan offices

CAPL - Times 18/10/88 (243D)
PIETERSBURG — Security police raided the Sowetan offices here on Friday and confiscated several items, the newspaper reported yesterday

The raid was part of a general raid on the Worker's Centre building which also houses several unions

A raid was simultaneously conducted at the offices of the Lutheran Church where the Community Advice Bureau is located

Items confiscated from the Sowetan offices included a contact book, photographs and copies of speeches and minutes. A police lieutenant in charge of the raid said the telephone book was taken because it contained telephone numbers of banned organisations — Sapa

Journalists in demonstration

19/10/88

Staff Reporter

(543)

SMK

Members of the Association of Democratic Journalists picketed in the streets of central Johannesburg today, observing National Press Day and protesting at the Government's threat to suspend the *Weekly Mail*.

About 20 journalists took up positions on the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and in Simmonds and Harrison streets with placards bearing the slogans "Stoffel, the truth needs no licence", "Hands off the Mail (Press) (Media)", "Stop censorship", "Today the Mail, tomorrow . . ."

Crews from Visnews and Columbia Broadcasting System recorded the demonstration.

Last week, the Government used its latest emergency censorship provisions for the first time against the *Weekly Mail*.

It informed the newspaper's management that it was considering suspending it or imposing a censor upon it because the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, considered it was publishing material which undermined the armed forces and promoted the image of banned organisations.

The *Weekly Mail* was given a fortnight in which to state its case to Mr Botha, after which he could proceed with suspension.

October 19 has been marked as National Press Day for the last two years. It is the anniversary of the Government's banning 11 years ago of *World, Weekend World* and *Pro-Veritate*.

283 B/day 20/10/88.



About 30 people from the Association of Democratic Journalists demonstrated against Press censorship for about an hour in Johannesburg yesterday, the 11th anniversary of the closing of The World newspaper, the Weekend World and Pro-Veritate (the magazine of the Christian Institute). The demonstration was also to protest the threat by Information Minister Stoffel van der Merwe to close down the Weekly Mail by election day, October 26.

Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Copy Times 20/10/88
Picket for
Weekly Mail 243

JOHANNESBURG —
The Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ) held a picket yesterday to observe National Press Day and protest against the government's threat to suspend the Weekly Mail

About 20 journalists held placards with the slogans "Stoffel, the truth needs no licence", "Hands off the Mail", "Stop censorship" and "Today the Mail, tomorrow ..."

Last week the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, warned the Weekly Mail that he was considering suspending it or imposing a censor on it in terms of emergency regulations

National Press Day marks the banning of three publications — World, Weekend World and Pro Veritate — 11 years ago. — Sapa

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Methodists slate 'slant' in the media

CH-7415 20/10/88 (243)

QUEENSTOWN — The media, ranging from the South African Broadcasting Corporation to the "alternative" press, were attacked yesterday by the Methodist Church for "selective reporting".

The church condemned as slanted and biased the SABC's handling of the "Peace Church" document on TV in March and April and called it "a gross misrepresentation of our position in regard to peace".

Considerable anger was directed at the SABC during debates and a resolution urged Methodists "to be aware of the partisan nature of selective SABC reporting, especially in its repeated attacks on those churches openly committed to opposing apartheid and which have declared it a heresy".

The content of this resolution is to be conveyed to the director-general and the board of the SABC.

In a related proposal, the conference condemned what it called selective reporting in the media, including the "alternative" press of all political persuasions, which generally ignored statements and actions by the Methodist Church of SA and its leaders, a

QUEENSTOWN — The Methodist Church of Southern Africa has called on all independent countries in the region which impose the death penalty to set up full representative commissions of inquiry to examine all aspects of capital punishment.

A statement said the decision, taken at the annual meeting of the Church's Conference here yesterday, was directed at the governments of South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei and Venda.

The conference called on the heads of state of those states to use their prerogative to declare a moratorium on executions and for commissions of inquiry to include members of the legal, social work, religious and medical fraternities — Sapa

church statement said .

The statement said this presented negative propaganda about the church.

The way in which the SABC had "sought to censor the proclamation of the Gospel by refusing Methodist ministers freedom of expression in services that are broadcast, and in news coverage", was also deprecated.

The conference agreed that, in doing this, the SABC was trying to dictate the response of all Methodists to the actions of their church.

Dimension, a Methodist newspaper, was commended to Methodists as a medium which sought to reflect the life, witness and thinking of the Methodist Church "in all its diversity" — Sapa

YESTERDAY: Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, Mr Murphy Morobe and Mr Vusi Khanyile at the Press conference.

conference at the

To Page 2

R5-m damages claim

THE former mayor of Atteridgeville, Mr Joseph Tshabalala, is claiming R5 million damages from the editor of *City Press* newspaper following an allegedly defamatory front-page article which appeared at the weekend.

Mr Aaron de Waal Horak, a spokesman for Couzyn, Hertzog and Horak, lawyers acting on behalf of Mr Tshabalala, yesterday confirmed that a letter of demand was

By MONK NKOMO

served on the newspaper on Tuesday. The lawyers warned in the letter that unless payment was received within 14 days, summons would be issued.

Mr Tshabalala claims R5 million "as compensation for defamation and damages for financial loss which our client is sure to incur as a result

of the pernicious statements contained in the article".

Mr Tshabalala claimed damages from the editor of *City Press*, Mr Khulu Sibuya, Mr Solly Morathi and Mr Elias Maluleka, both reporters, and *Nasionale Pers* for the front page story that appeared on Sunday, October 16

City Press news editor, Mr Len Kalane, yesterday said that they had not yet received the letter

from Mr Tshabalala's lawyers "We will go through the proper channels immediately after receiving it," Mr Kalane said.

In the letter Mr Tshabalala denied that.

● He was a senior member of the South African Defence Force — "a very serious statement which endangers our client's personal safety and that

● To page 2

SWO R5-m claim

● From page 1

of his family".

● He was introduced to the KwaNdebele government at a ceremony by Brigadier Lerm,

● He personally earns R343 000 a year — R1000 a day from the KwaNdebele government,

● He received a letter from Transkei's former prime minister Miss Stella Sigcau, to the effect that funds should be made available to him whenever he required them;

● There is an investigation as to alleged misappropriation of funds or that any misappropriation did take place,

● His affairs were being investigated by the commercial services unit of the police;

● Mrs Soobiah Govender was fronting for him;

● Mrs Govender lived in Waterkloof;

● The *People's Paper* was operated from 247 Schutte Street; and

● The United People's Forum was a charitable institution, which required registration.

tarts next Tuesday

Methodists attack media

Staff Reporter

(243)

The South African media, ranging from the SABC to the "alternative press" of all political persuasions, came under heavy fire from the Methodist Church yesterday for selective reporting

In a resolution at its annual conference in Queenstown, the Church criticised the SABC for its television handling of the peace-church document in March and April this year, and condemned the presentation for being slanted, biased "and a gross misrepresentation of our position in regard to peace"

Considerable anger was expressed at various stages during conference debates about the SABC

The resolution urged Methodists "to be aware of the partisan nature of selective SABC reporting especially in their repeated attacks on those churches that are openly committed to opposing apartheid and have declared it a heresy"

The content of the resolution is to be conveyed to the director-general and board of the SABC

In a related proposal, the conference condemned selective reporting in the media, including the so-called alternative press, which it said generally ignored statements and actions by the Methodist Church and its leaders

This had the consequence of presenting negative propaganda about the Church

MWASA

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa (MWASA) joins with all other (Media) organisations to condemn the infringements on press freedom in South Africa / Azania.

Today we commemorate press freedom day in memory of all newspapers which have been banned by the government. Here we remember World, Weekend World, Weekend Post, Pro-Veritate. We also regrettfully remember the bannings and detentions of journalists like Zwelakhe Sisulu, Joe Thloeloe, Juby Mayet, Mike Norton, Phil Mthimkulu, Mathatha Tsedu, Charles Ngakula, Thenji Mthintso and others.

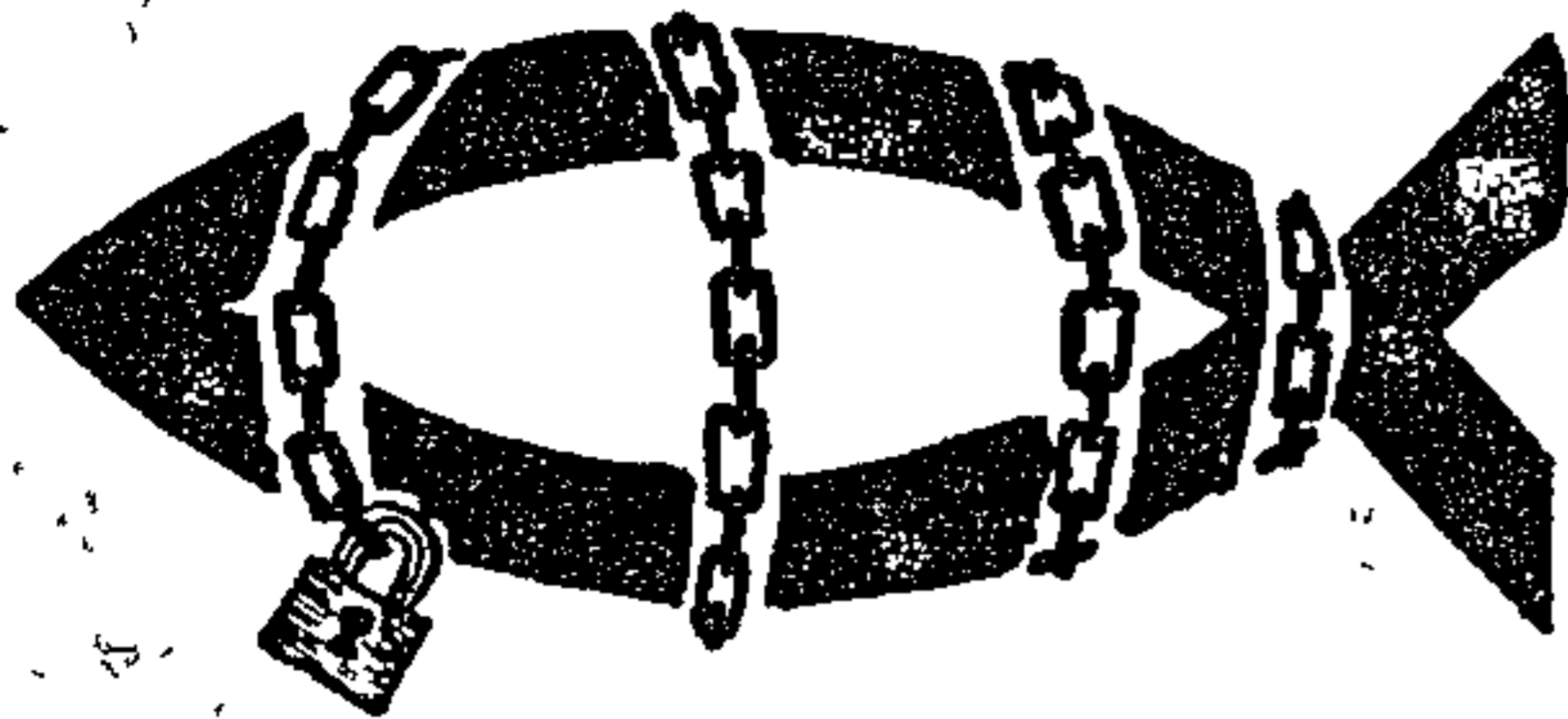
We remember the extended detentions of Brian Sokutu and Zwelakhe Sisulu. More and above everything else, we painfully remember the brutal and untimely death of comrade Makompo Kutumela, a journalist from Pietersburg. We also remember the many journalists who were forced to go into exile.

MWASA demands that the minister of home affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, immediately and unconditionally withdraw his "final" warning to the Weekly Mail. Media workers will continue to uphold the right to inform and to be well informed.

MWASA salutes SOUTH for taking the initiative, despite mass repression, to allow the people to voice their sufferings, their aspirations and to reflect on their history.

243 South Oct 20-26/1988

Free the Fish



STAND FOR THE TRUTH

Biggest media crackdown

THE biggest modern-day crackdown against the media.

This is how the actions against newspapers, journalists and editors eleven years ago on October 19 have been described

On that day two newspapers, a journalist organisation, and an editor were banned, and several journalists detained

This besides the 17 black consciousness organisations the government banned

Besides banning the Soweto newspapers, the World and Weekend World, its editor, Percy Qoboza, was detained.

The Editor of the East London Daily Dispatch, Mr Donald Woods, campaigning at the time

against Steve Biko's death in detention, was banned for five years with the Rev Beyers Naude, chairman of the Christian Institute at that time

In spite of the temporary setback after the banning of their union, called the UBJ, journalists regrouped to establish the Writers Association of South Africa (WASA) WASA became the forerunner of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA)

Earlier, the government had acted against the UBJ's newsletter, the Bulletin, which graphically highlighted the first killings in Soweto in 1976

Among the journalists detained were Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the Sowetan, Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of the New Nation, Joe Thloeloe, deputy editor of Sowetan, and Marimuthu Subramoney, managing editor of Press Trust

Later, senior WASA officials including Sisulu, Subramoney, Charles Ngqala and Philip Mthimkulu were banned

THE WESTERN CAPE BOOK GROUP

We note with deep concern

- * the continued intervention by the state in all aspects of media work, be it printing, publishing or distribution
- * the seizure and banning of books and other publications
- * the continued harassment and restrictions placed on writers and journalists such as Veliswa Mhlawuli
- * the threat of closure of the Weekly Mail
- * the arson attack on Open Books

We therefore

- * continue to support the aims and objectives of the Save the Press Campaign
- * call on all like-minded citizens to do the same.
- * call upon the government to respect the freedom of the media

Tom Parkes
C Wildeboer
Penguin Books
Work in Progress
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Joan Yarnold
Marie Philip
Glenda Younge
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Department of Adult Education
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Why unity is needed

ABOUT 30 journalists staged a one hour picket in central Johannesburg this week to protest against the government threat to ban the Johannesburg based Weekly Mail

The journalists carried placards with slogans like Hands off Weekly Mail, and calling for the unconditional release of New Nation editor Zwelakhe Sisulu and other detained journalists

Police filmed the proceedings

The protest was meant to coincide with October 19, which is being commemorated as National Press Day, said Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ) president Cecil Sols

Final warning

The Weekly Mail was served with its fourth and final warning by the Minister last week, warning that he was contemplating action against the newspaper in terms of the emergency regulations

The newspaper has two weeks to make representations before Botha considers publishing a Government Gazette suspending the newspaper for three months or imposing a censor

In Cape Town, the Save the Press Campaign pledged its support for all media groups facing government action under the emergency regulations

"The threat against the Weekly Mail again indicates the need for national unity of media groups," said coordinator Munsoor Jaffer

"The media community stands to benefit from the kind of alliance we have seen in the Western Cape

The Campaign, launched in May, has about 40 affiliates in the Western Cape

SPECIAL SERVICE

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out —
because I was not a Jew

Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out —
because I was not communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out —
because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for me —
and there was no one
to speak out for me "

— Pastor Niemoller (Victim of the Nazi's)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Town invites you all to a mass at St Marys Cathedral Roeland St Time 3pm Date Sunday October 23 as an act of support for the Catholic Bishops of South Africa

Warning
to Mail
angers
pressmen

The Star Bureau

LONDON — The International Press Institute has sent telexes to the South African Government protesting against the warning given to the *Weekly Mail* and a rightwing attack on the offices of *The Namibian*.

Mr Peter Galliner, director of the institute, wrote to Home Affairs and Communications Minister Mr Stoffel Botha to object "most strongly to the warning sent by you to the *Weekly Mail* on October 12.

"The institute wholeheartedly supports the right of all journalists in South Africa to seek and impart information and (supports) the public's right to know.

"Your final warning to the *Weekly Mail* is a total violation of this right and we deplore the arbitrary way this publication may now be closed or forced to submit to censorship."

The IPI urged the Government to stop its campaign of "harassment and intimidation against it and similar publications that take a clear editorial position against apartheid".

In another telex, directed to President Botha, the IPI condemned the attack on *The Namibian* by the rightwing "Wit Wolwe" group and urged immediate steps to investigate this "cowardly" attempt to silence the newspaper.

● See Page 15.

Star survey generally praised

Star 27/10/78

By ESMARE VAN DER MERWE
Political Reporter

The Star's recently conducted public opinion survey on the Group Areas Act, black political representation and other political issues is met with widespread reaction from parliamentary and extra-parliamentary groups. The poll, a major initiative by The Star to help break South Africa's political logjam, is generally praised as a true reflection of political feelings in the country. The hope was expressed that the findings would contribute to political reform. The poll, conducted by Marketing & Media Research, was designed to identify common ground among people of all races on the central question of our time: How can South Africa be saved?

One of the major findings was that while 80 percent of those surveyed wanted the Group Areas Act abolished immediately, 80 percent wanted it repealed in time or modified to suit local requirements. Only 18 percent wanted the Act retained. Although The Star repeatedly tried to obtain government reaction to the survey, no comment was forthcoming. Mr F W de Klerk, Minister of National Education and National Party leader in the Transvaal, said he had not had time to study the results and, therefore, would not comment. The same response was given by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Education and Development Aid. Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and Mr Puk Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, could not be reached for comment. The reactions received were:

Dr Denis Worrall, leader of the Independent Party wants to compliment The Star and its sister newspapers for undertaking this survey. It is a very laudable public service. "Regarding the results, the need which they underline is clear: the country needs bold and forward-looking political leadership which has the interests of all South Africans at heart, which will get on with the job of scrapping apartheid, which will revive economic growth and tackle the challenges of educating and housing a rapidly-growing population. "It needs a leadership which will broaden its support base in creative ways in order to neutralise the numerically small right-wing element in our society. "Such leadership is not forthcoming from the NP and, obviously, not from the CP. What is needed is a new political alignment which cuts across the political colour line and provides a viable, alternative political home to disenchanted members of the NP."

Mr John Kane-Berman, director of the SA Institute of Race Relations "If the findings were correctly reported, the survey has blown up in The Star's face. "The only person who will be happy about the results is the leader of the CP, Dr Andries Treurnicht. The results, in fact, indicate that only 26 percent of the people canvassed want apartheid abolished immediately, while it is not a priority to 74 percent. "Even among Africans the abolition of apartheid is not a priority according to the survey — only 36,6 percent regarded it as a key priority. "Recent studies have indicated that although most whites want the Group Areas Act retained, they do not object when black people move into their areas. Our studies indicate that racial prejudice is eroded by inter-racial contact."

Mr Wynand Malan, leader of the National Democratic Movement "It is significant that the largest single group of people — 36 percent — want apartheid abolished immediately. In total, more than 80 percent of those surveyed want reform. "What is more important, however, is that the country is in serious need of leadership in order to

"Surveys conducted at the beginning of 1985, before the abolition of the Mixed Marriages Act, found that 80 percent of the population wanted those measures retained. In July, one month after the Act was abolished, only 20 percent regarded it as a mistake. Thus, 60 percent adapted within a period of six months simply because of leadership."

"There is a major opportunity for leadership towards abolishing apartheid. "When people say the abolition of apartheid in terms of discrimination is not their first priority, it is not to say they are not in favour of the abolition of apartheid."

"That indeed is the gut expression of those people surveyed without necessarily articulating it directly."

"To that extent, issues are less important to all than a commitment. It is commitment that remains lacking — especially among the major actors."

"The message to ordinary people is clear: Do your own thing. Do it now. No-one else will do it for you."

Mr Fred Rundle, Conservative Party leader in Johannesburg "The survey is a total farce. If it were conducted among whites only it would have found that 90 percent of all whites want the Group Areas Act retained. "Obviously blacks want the Act scrapped, but in white areas only — not in their own. "As far as black political rights are concerned, we also want them to have their rights. But they must rule themselves in their own areas."

Mr Boetie Abramjee, acting leader of the National People's Party "Our party can use this survey very well because it highlights the need to do away with the Group Areas Act. "But I don't think the Government is going to take much notice of the findings because they constitute the opposite opinion to the one the Government holds."

"We will use this survey in debates and public meetings wherever possible."

Dr Zach de Beer, leader of the Progressive Federal Party "Obviously I am pleased with the findings but, with respect to The Star, there is nothing surprising about the results. "That most of those surveyed want the Group Areas Act abolished immediately or over time indicates that people generally realise apartheid is outdated. This attitude signifies a step in the right direction."

"The Government is in serious need of leadership in order to

tion to the survey findings since it is only interested in white opinion."

Mr Peter Mansfield, associate director of the kwaZulu/Natal Indaba "The findings of the survey are broadly in line with those of similar surveys conducted on behalf of the Indaba. These include opposition to the Group Areas Act and positive emphasis on the need for education and economic development."

Mr Danie van Zyl, National Party leader in the Johannesburg City Council "Every law promulgated in Parliament should be amended from time to time to suit the requirements of a particular area or group. The law should be updated and maintained for the benefit of the people."

"This survey is a true reflection of people's feelings as it was scientifically conducted by a non-political institution. It shows what people want, and we will give them that."

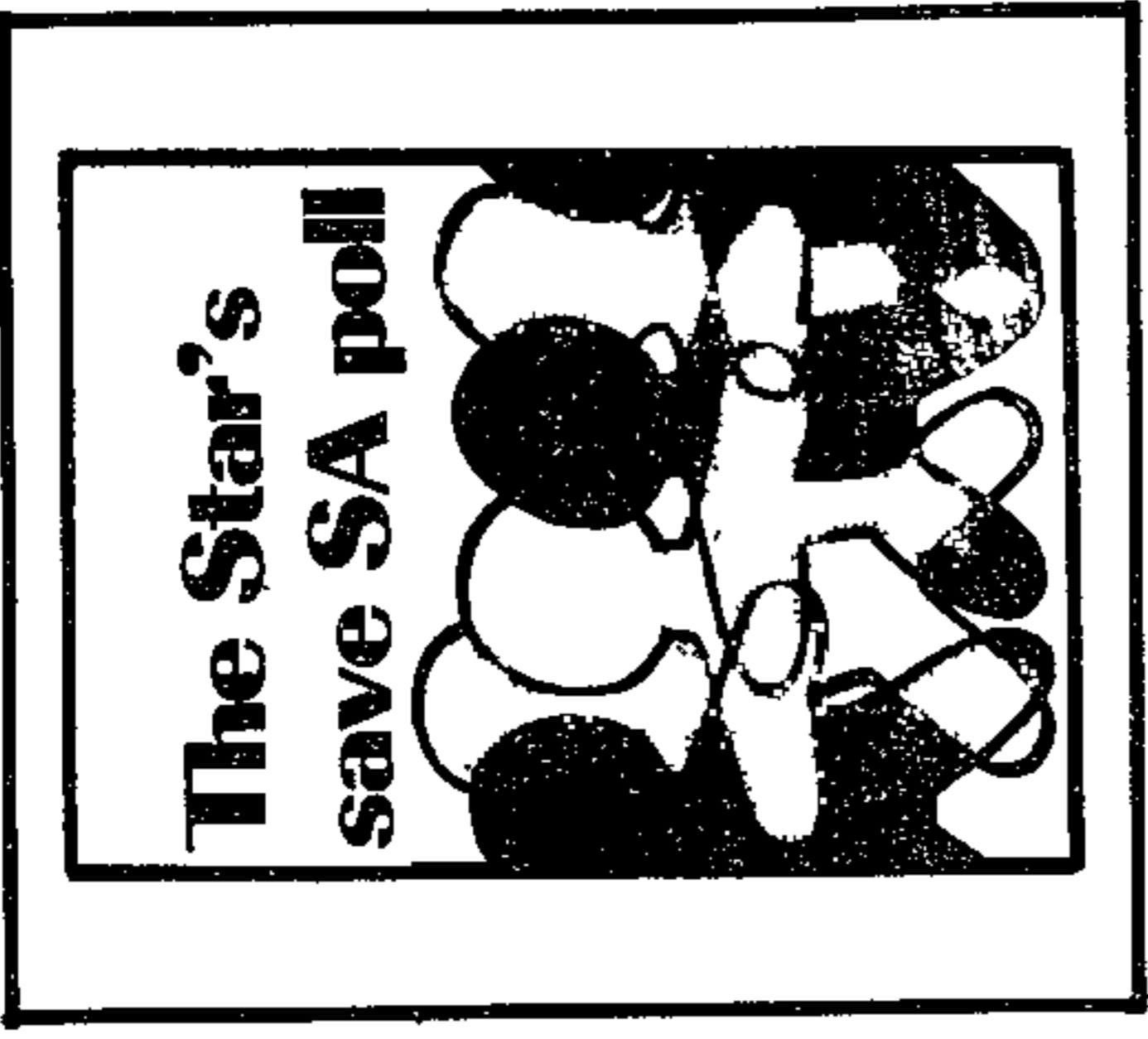
Mr Piroshaw Camay, general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions "The survey results prove the truth which Nactu has advocated all along — that the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act have no place in our society and should be moved from the Statute Book. "The NP and the CP should take heed."

Mr Tony Leon, Progressive Federal Party leader in the Johannesburg City Council "That the NP is completely out of touch with the desires and fears of ordinary people is proved by the finding that the majority of Reef residents regard apartheid as the major stumbling block. This survey is clear proof that the PFP's vision of a non-racial society based on standards and safety has vast support."

Mr Cassim Saloojee, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress and chairman of Actistop "The results of the survey contradict what Mr P W Botha said about the majority of whites, coloureds, Mr Cassim Saloojee and Indians being in favour of the retention of the Group Areas Act."

"But the repeal of the Act should not depend on the feelings of the minority of people. The fact is that the Act has had a devastating effect on the majority of people in the country. The Act should be repealed because it is the basis of the immorality and injustices of apartheid."

"White people who oppose apartheid should not remain a silent minority. They should join the majority of South Africans who want to see the establishment of a morally just and



neutralise the numerically small right-wing element in our society. "Such leadership is not forthcoming from the NP and, obviously, not from the CP. What is needed is a new political alignment which cuts across the political colour line and provides a viable, alternative political home to disenchanted members of the NP."

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Frontline to appeal against banning

99-7MB
21/10/88
243

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Frontline editor Mr Denis Beckett said yesterday that he would appeal this week against the banning of the September edition of his magazine

The Directorate of Publications banned the edition late last week. Mr Beckett said he would find out the reasons today and immediately lodge an appeal

He said he believed the banning was caused by publication of a debate between a black youth and an AWB member. "The black was explaining why he understood political violence — justifying violence for political rights. The AWB member was justifying violence for pursuit of survival," Mr Beckett said

"There is a need to understand why the people who hold such views are there — a need to understand positions we wished were not around. We can't just wish them away."

Why the Weekly Mail

243 ~~200~~ Star 21/10/88

By NORMAN CHANDLER

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, can kill a newspaper simply by signing a piece of paper. But the implications are rather more complex. For example, he might unleash yet another wave of international opinion against South Africa at a critical time in its affairs.

On municipal election night next Wednesday, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, will go to bed knowing that he holds the fate of a vibrant newspaper in his hands.

Over breakfast the next morning he will have to decide whether or not to suspend the *Weekly Mail* for three months or place a censor in the newsroom of the three-year-old newspaper.

If he does sign away the life of a vigorous proponent of John Citizen's right to know, it will be a piece of paper that will have far-reaching implications for press freedom in South Africa and could unleash a battering of international opinion directed against this country at the precise moment when detente with Africa is taking shape.

Either way it will be yet another nail hammered in the coffin of press freedom in South Africa.

Mr Botha has accused the *Weekly Mail* of having "fomented feelings of hatred or hostility" towards the security forces and having "promoted the public image and esteem" of restricted organisations.

If he decides to suspend publication, he will to all intents and purposes have killed off the *Weekly Mail* as its parlous financial situation will not allow it to survive for three months without income of any sort.

If Mr Botha brings in a censor, he need not do so immediately. It can be done at any time until the end of the current state of emergency in June next year, but until he does so the newspaper's editors will be kept in suspense, not knowing whether or not their publication will be summarily closed if something they print doesn't appeal to the Minister.

"It will be like a Sword of Damocles," says Anton Harber, co-editor with Irwin Manoim.

The two have been warned in terms of the media emergency regulations on three previous occasions "but now he (Mr Botha) is very serious about this threat".

"What one has to realise is that, if he decides to act, this is the end. All he has to do is sign a piece of paper," says Harber.

In terms of the state of emergency, a Cabinet Minister has the right to decide on whatever action he feels is necessary — and in this case, Mr Stoffel Botha is the man who must make up his mind.

But the *Weekly Mail* is not going down without a fight.

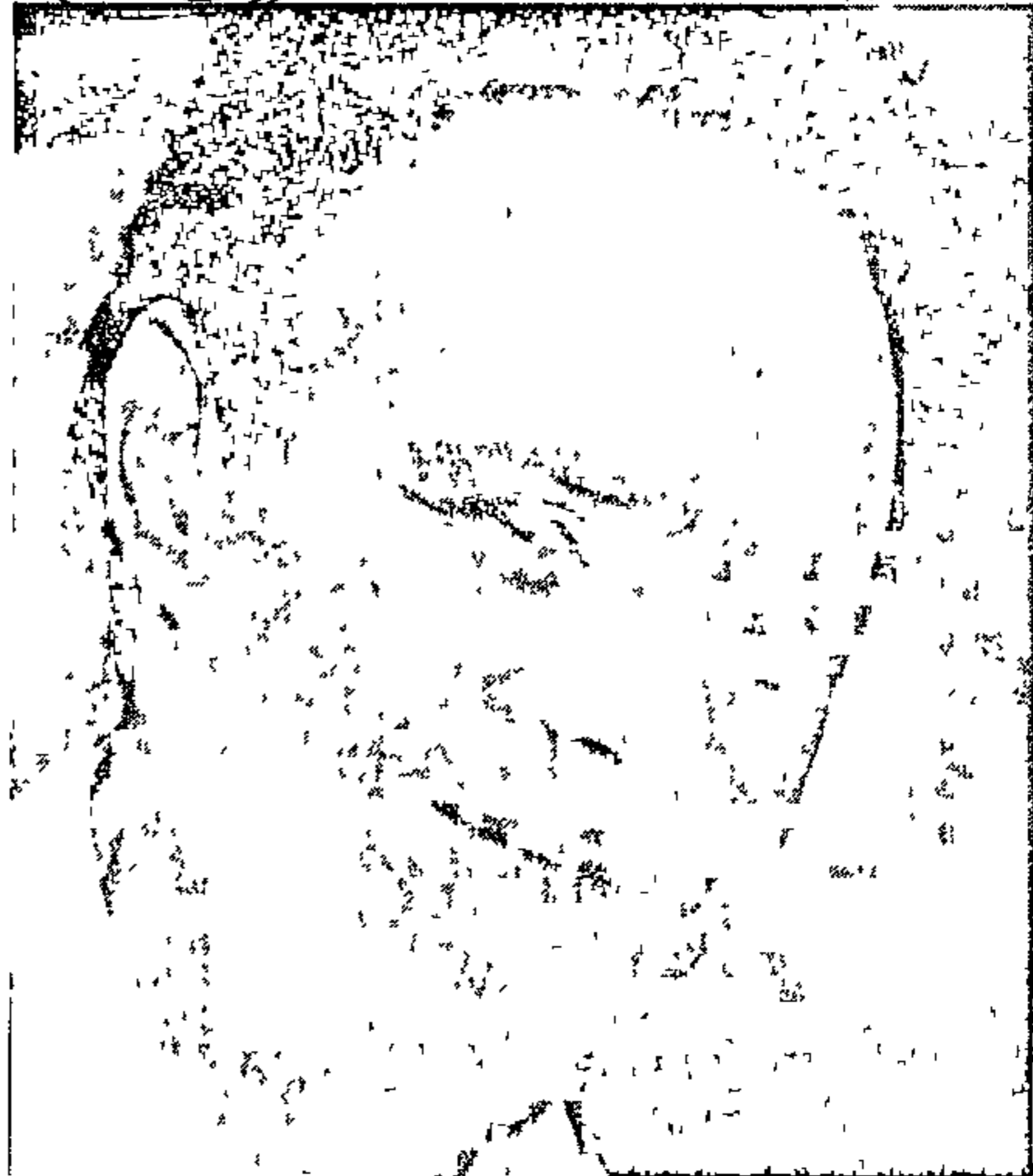
The publication's co-editors have lived through three previous attempts to muzzle them.

Although Harber is despondent at what is now happening, lawyers have already submitted argument to the Minister,

and the editors have requested a meeting with him.

"We have told him that we are contesting his suggestions (that the newspaper is guilty of the various charges made). We are telling him he has erred in his judgment. We have told him that he has failed to take notice of the newspaper as a whole and that he has picked out isolated and specific articles on which to base his claims," Harber and Manoim say.

They find it astonishing that the Minister "has formulated an opinion" about the *Weekly*



Irwin Manoim ... the Minister has erred in his judgment by picking out isolated articles.



Anton Harber

The paper for a changing South Africa

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY MAIL

Price R1,50
South Africa (R1,34 + 16c GST)
Elsewhere R1,50 and over

Volume 4, Number 39. Friday October 14 to Thursday October 20, 1988

THE GREAT SCHLEPP

Gus Silber braves the celluloid pop guns of TV's Blood River coverage

Page 14, Arts Section

THE ODDER COUP

Join in the romps of the adorable pair, PeeWee and Plik.

In our new cartoon strip on Page 11

STOFFEL BOTHA vs THE WEEKLY MAIL

Mail by isolating "a few sentences or paragraphs"

"We don't set out to promote any organisation," they say, in reference to the ministerial claim that the newspaper had promoted the cause of a restricted organisation.

Harber adds "We are also arguing that this is such a critical time for South Africa's relationships with the outside world. In the light of that, it will be a very major diplomatic and political error to suspend our paper."

The contemplated action

comes as no surprise to the country's beleaguered press.

South Africa once stood alone on the African continent as the bulwark of press freedom — but that has gone in today's political climate as the creeping hand of Government threatens to throttle the newspaper industry.

It's an action which the press here, and in many other parts of the world, has had to fight as governments everywhere attempt to muzzle newspapers and in so doing, deprive the public of the right to know.

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Mr Botha an NP... no conflict and the list of C... him, had th for months

The her this tion and South wer the Minister

the Weekly Mail must live

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Star 21/10/88

CHANDLER

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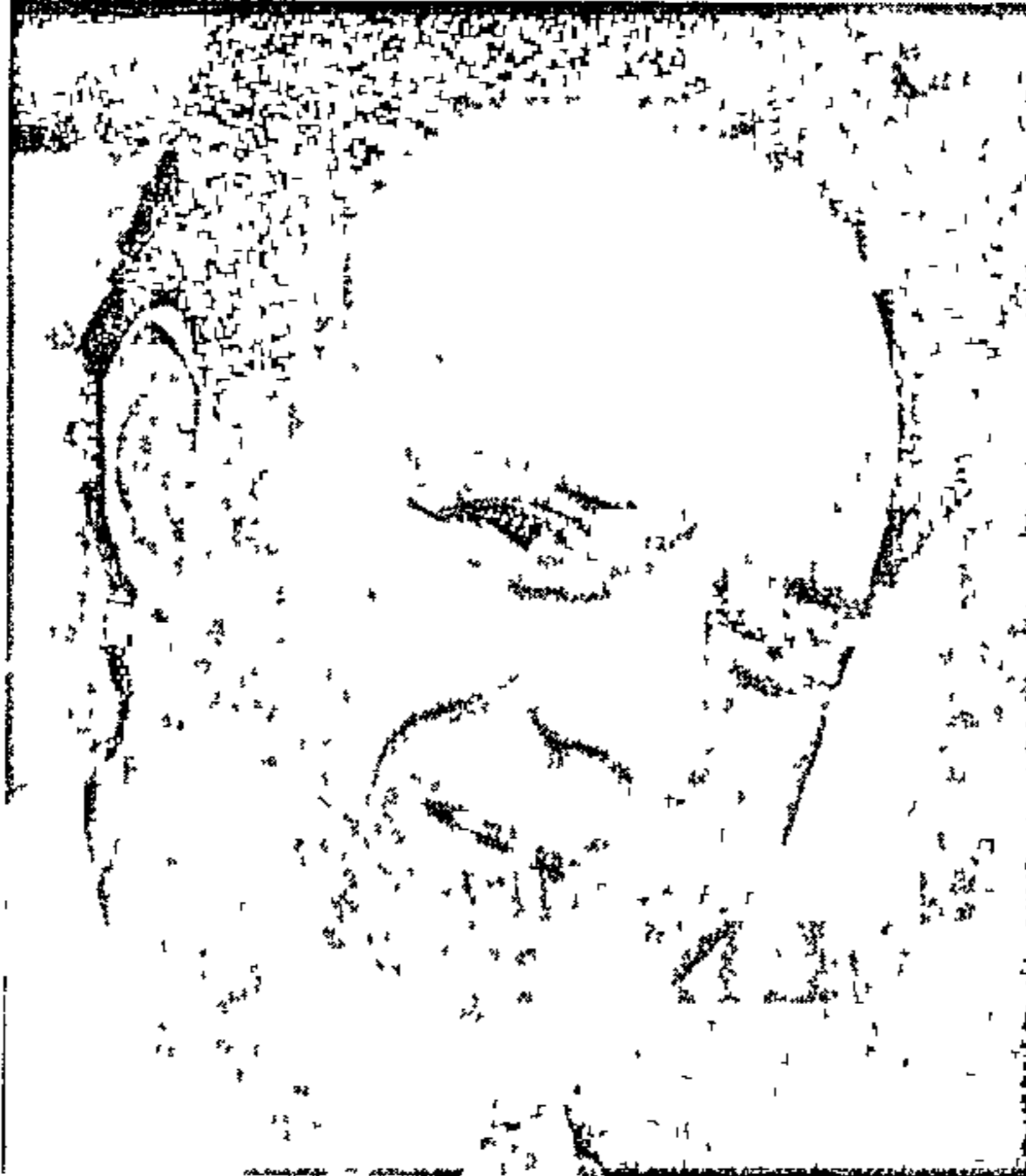
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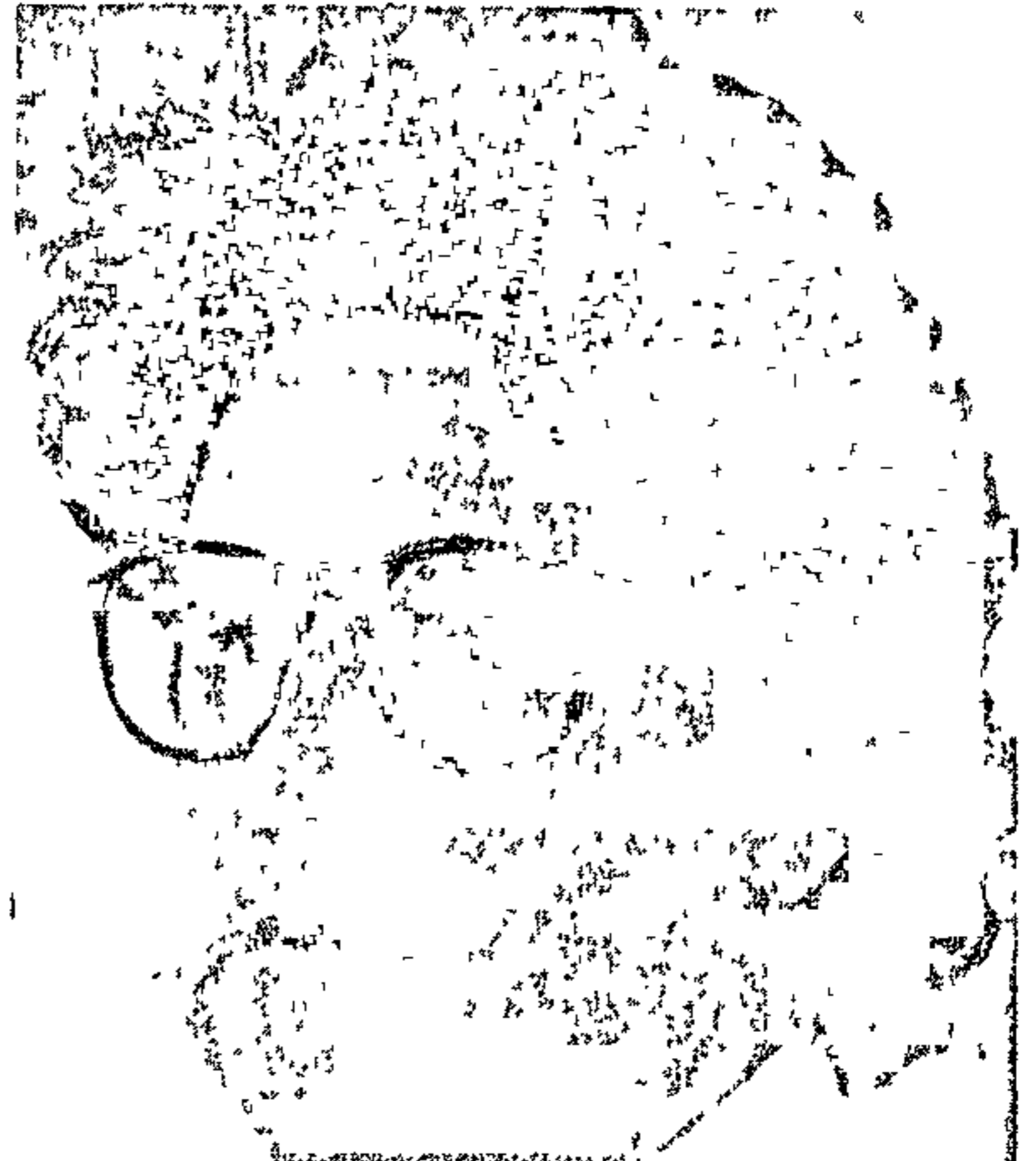
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Anton Harber ... under the Sword of Damocles but fighting to save his newspaper from closure.

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South Africa
(R1,34 +
16c GST)
Elsewhere
R1,50 and tax

WEDNESDAY MAIL

The paper for a changing South Africa

Volume 4, Number 39. Friday October 14 to Thursday October 20, 1988

SALMAN RUSHDIE IN SA
The famous novelist will be key-note speaker at the Weekly Mail Book Week
See PAGE 3

THE GREAT SCHEFF
Gus Silber braves the celluloid pop guns of TV's Blood River coverage
Page 14, Arts Section

THE ODDER COUPLE
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The October 12 notice of in-
tent to the Weekly Mail could
be heralding a broadside on the
mainstream publications
Mr Botha, who in August told
an NP congress that there was
no conflict between himself
and the press, has, like a long
list of Cabinet Ministers before
him, had the press in his sights
for months
The temporary closure ear-
lier this year of the New Na-
tion and the Cape newspaper
South were two examples of
the Minister's powers

Three journalists are in de-
tention and a fourth detainee
under the emergency regula-
tions now faces security
charges
Only this week, police raided
the Pietersburg office of the
Sowetan
Earlier this year the Minis-
ter tried to force the registra-
tion of mainstream news-
papers, such as The Star, but
backed down when faced with
pressure from publishing
houses
And a Cabinet colleague, Mr
Kobie Coetsee, suggested that
the press be barred from re-
porting daily evidence at civil
or criminal trials until judg-
ments are delivered
The Government has been
condemned by the former edi-
tor of Rapport Mr Willem de
Klerk
The National Party's impa-
tience with the media mani-
fested itself for the first time in
1950 when the prime minister
of the day, Dr DF Malan,
called for the registration of
journalists — and calls were
made for deportation of foreign
reporters for allegedly abusing
South African hospitality

ber 21 to October 27, 1988

The Mail: One pen-stroke from closure

2233
12 MAR 14
21-22/10/88

THE *Weekly Mail* is one pen-stroke from closure.

Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha will need no more than a signature to close the *Weekly Mail* at any time he chooses, from next Wednesday on.

He may choose to act immediately, or to string out the waiting period ... for days, even months.

The letter the minister delivered to the paper last week was the last step in a complex system of warnings under Emergency regulations. All that is left for him to do now is to consider representations from the newspaper — due on October 26 — and make his decision on its future.

He need consult no one. He has to apply his mind to the matter, read the representations, and then publish his decision in a Government Gazette.

His choice will be to suspend the newspaper for up to three months, impose a censor on it, or allow it to continue indefinitely under threat.

There is every sign that the minister is serious about his latest warning to the three-year-old publication. Diplomatic and other sources indicate he intends to act soon against the *Weekly*

Whatever happens, we'll be back

A THREE-MONTH suspension will not be the end of the *Weekly Mail*.

While the paper does not have a large financial base, and will struggle to survive through the period, contingency plans have been made.

A key factor will be whether the journalists, the readers, the subscribers and the advertisers can hold together during three months of silence.

● We intend to return. We will do all in our power to ensure that those who have subscribed will not lose their money.

● Various special offers have been made. If you buy a friend a Caroline Cullinan calendar (See PAGE 4), you're also helping the *Weekly Mail* to come back.

It is illegal for the newspaper to publish a substitute or continuation of the *Weekly Mail*. However, plans are being made for the staff to take up other forms of publishing — of both news and other material — during a period of suspension.

Although these plans are not yet definite, one thing is clear: the newspaper and its staff are not going to disappear.

The question this raises is: can Stoffel Botha be dissuaded?

When he last threatened the newspaper, in April/May, there was large-scale and high-level reaction, locally and internationally. Botha faced appeals not to act against the publication from top business leaders, a number of governments, including South Africa's major trading partners, and

thousands of ordinary citizens who protested in some way.

After meeting the newspaper's editors, Botha declined to carry out his threat and the matter lay in abeyance — until last week, when he suddenly issued another warning.

The *Weekly Mail* is now drawing up further representations, to be served on him before the Wednesday deadline. The newspaper is also con-

sidering court action.

And protests are pouring in. The powerful American Society of Newspaper Editors, the World Press Freedom Committee and the Committee for the Protection of Journalists are some of the organisations that have called on the government not to act against the *Weekly Mail*.

There have also been a number of major initiatives from diplomats and members of the business community.

The Save the Press Committee in Johannesburg has also called on Botha to reconsider and the Association of Democratic Journalists held a picket in central Johannesburg.

Weekly Mail would be the third newspaper to face a suspension imposed by Botha. Earlier this year, both South and New Nation were closed for short spells. Both have since returned to the street.

Weekly Mail has faced all sorts of action — seizures, threats of prosecution, petty harassment of its drivers, bomb threats aimed at its printers — but it has never come so close to actual closure.

Starbridge could help conquer fear

Star 22/10/58
CARINA le GRANGE

IT WAS because of the intense polarisation between different race groups that The Star had to do something to "close the gap between the races" and launched its regular column "Starbridge", a senior reporter of The Star said in Johannesburg last night.

Winnie Graham was speaking at the annual prize-giving of Coronationville High School on "The Star's contribution to inter-racial communication".

"How could we build a nation when we knew so little about each other, when fear and hatred dominated much of our thinking and understanding?

"I don't suppose there is any other place in the world where a newspaper has deliberately embarked on a special communications campaign, but then, nowhere else in the world have people been so effectively divided," she said.

Because of this division, people seldom have the opportunity to meet socially, and as a result, all sorts of misconceptions have evolved.

"We would like the peoples of South Africa to realise that basically we are all much the same. We have much in common. Let's build on this."

She quoted the Editor-in-Chief of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, who said the column must make the people face up to realities and to the fact that no matter how much violence and counter-violence is employed by any faction in our society, people still have to live together.

Mrs Graham said she had been overwhelmed by the number of people who have, "in their own quiet way", been building bridges between the races.

"The truth is we are all Africans — white, coloured, Indian or brown — and if we want to make a future for our children, we have to get started now. We South Africans have never been afraid of hard work. The bridges we have to build may not be physical structures — but they will cost even more effort to construct.

"But think of the end result: how rewarding the fruits of our labour will be," she said.

Starbridge could help conquer fear

Star 22/10/88
CARINA le GRANGE

IT WAS because of the intense polarisation between different race groups that The Star had to do something to "close the gap between the races" and launched its regular column "Starbridge", a senior reporter of The Star said in Johannesburg last night.

Winnie Graham was speaking at the annual prize-giving of Coronationville High School on "The Star's contribution to inter-racial communication".

"How could we build a nation when we knew so little about each other, when fear and hatred dominated much of our thinking and understanding?"

"I don't suppose there is any other place in the world where a newspaper has deliberately embarked on a special communications campaign, but then, nowhere else in the world have people been so effectively divided," she said.

Because of this division, people seldom have the opportunity to meet socially, and as a result, all sorts of misconceptions have evolved.

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"But think of the end result: how rewarding the fruits of our labour will be," she said.

Sowetan launches new campaign to rebuild society

Staff Reporter

South Africa's main newspaper for blacks, the *Sowetan*, launched a new "Nation Building" campaign with a dinner at Shareworld at the weekend.

Mr Aggrey Klaaste, editor of the *Sowetan*, said the campaign would highlight the new roles blacks could play in a future South Africa. Mr Klaaste was the main speaker at the dinner to raise funds for the Soweto Old Age Home.

In the vital roles blacks would assume, whites had to be shown that they would be included in the happy future of a new concept of nation building, Mr Klaaste said.

LOSS OF CONFIDENCE

"We have no secret agenda," Mr Klaaste said. "We will start by helping to rebuild the structures in all forms in our societies. And when we run out of ideas, money or managerial skills, we will ask for help from our white friends."

Afrikaners, who were an oppressed and despised people before 1948, suffering perhaps as much as blacks under colonial rule, were quick to point out the debacle of post-independent black Africa when "nation after nation tumbled".

South African blacks had not helped to nullify such stereotype, Mr Klaaste said.

"One moment we are bowed, scrapping slaves . . . the next we are engaged in unbelievable acts of violence and, more irrationally, against ourselves," he said.

The result was a loss of confidence and respect among average whites for such blacks.

One lesson to be learned from Dr Kwame Nkrumah, first leader of independent Ghana, was that black leaders needed more than to seek their political kingdom first. For such a kingdom had to be underpinned by other power structures, economic, religious, academic and spiritual, even strong defence, security and justice systems, he said.

Praising Mr Klaaste's novel concept and fresh initiative, Mr Jolyon Nuttall, manager of *The Star*, told the gathering the essence of the nation building idea was a challenge to blacks to eliminate fears among the whites.

CA 100 24/10/88

Shocking picture slammed

Staff Reporter

A COLOUR inset picture of the victim of a bomb blast on the front page of Rapport on April 17 this year, was "shocking and disgusting and was published for the sake of sensation"

This was the finding of a committee of the Media Council which heard several complaints regarding the publication of the picture and another big colour picture of the blast victim

The Media Council committee found that the editor had not exercised proper discretion and care.

As far as the bigger picture was concerned, the Media Council decided though it was "shocking", it could not be found that the editor had not exercised proper discretion and care

Rapport was ordered to publish the findings yesterday

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WEEKLY MAIL TO CALL FOR FOREIGN HELP ON THREAT

THE Weekly Mail is expected to call on foreign governments this week for help in its bid to thwart a threat by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha to suspend it.

Co-editor Anton Harber said at the weekend he had been in touch with "virtually all the embassies" in SA. He would brief embassy staff on the newspaper's predicament this week.

Harber and co-editor Irwin Manoim

PETER DELMAR

have appealed for protest from a wide range of organisations to dissuade Botha from suspending the newspaper for a three-month period or imposing a government censor.

They said: "The gagging of the media is only part of a wider pattern of

repression. But it is a crucial part, for it removes the actions of the security forces from public scrutiny, stifles debate about opposition politics and strategies and creates the illusion that problems do not exist."

Senior diplomatic sources confirmed at the weekend they had been in touch with Harber and that their governments were deeply concerned about Botha's threat.

for South Africa

Poll evoked strong feelings

Star 24/10/84
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Referring to The Star poll on what should be done to save the country, Helen Tyson, research director of Marketing and Media Research, said "Never before have we conducted a survey that has evoked such strong emotions and provoked such widespread reaction"

Mistrust, suspicion, paranoia — and even open aggression directed towards interviewers — were among the most common feelings displayed when selected respondents were approached and asked to fill out their questionnaires

"Even when people were assured that the poll had not been commissioned by any political organisation, that the respondents had been selected at random, that they could complete the questionnaires personally, place them in secret ballot type envelopes and boxes and that they were not required to give any form of identification there was still a frightening level of mistrust," she said

In some areas, Roodepoort and Kempton Park in particular according to Ms Tyson, people said they "did not want to get involved in politics" and, in other areas, such as Soweto, some residents believed that the questionnaire was a disguised method of forcing people to vote

In isolated cases when questionnaires were presented to respondents, they were taken to be vetted by township street committees or other political organisations. Only if they received approval from these organisations would the respondents fill them in. This was despite the fact that, on every multiple-choice question, all shades of opinion were represented

One interviewer was threatened with a gun by an irate respondent who felt outraged at seeing the ANC mentioned in his questionnaire

And, in a similar incident, the name "P W Botha" evoked such anger and suspicion that the respondent rounded up friends to question the interviewer about what she was doing

At the other end of the scale there were the enthusiasts who submitted literally pages of suggestions on how to save the country, and others who telephoned with comments — and even congratulations — on the project

Others, similarly inspired, wanted the interviewers to come in for tea to discuss the survey, the country and the future

A policeman approached declined to complete his questionnaire. Even though it was anonymous, he still feared he would lose his job if he did so. He apologised to the interviewer

CA 11-7-118 25/10/88

Editor in court over Sharpeville Six report

PRETORIA — The editor of the Pretoria News, Mr Mostert van Schoor, yesterday pleaded not guilty in the Magistrate's Court to a charge of contempt of court

The charge arose from an article headlined "The Six Deep worry about legal principle" which appeared on March 17 this year, concerning the Sharpeville Six who were sentenced to death for the murder of a Lekoa town councillor

An alternative charge of criminal defamation was withdrawn against the Pretoria News and its editor According to the charge sheet, the proceedings were sub judice when the article was published

The report contained "allegations, accusations, views and/or remarks" which injured the dignity and authority of a legal official

Mr Van Schoor said the case of the Sharpeville Six was "one of public importance which had attracted considerable attention both inside SA and overseas" The article was published because it was highly topical at the time, and offered the view of a distinguished English barrister There was no intention to bring the judiciary into contempt — Sapa

Editor pleads not guilty to contempt charge

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25/10/88

THE editor of the *Pretoria News*, Mr Mostert van Schoor, yesterday pleaded not guilty in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court to a charge of contempt of court

The charge arose from an article headlined "The six Deep worry about legal principle" which appeared in the newspaper on March 17 this year, concerning the so-called Sharpeville Six who were sentenced to death for the murder of a Lekoa town councillor

An alternative charge of criminal defamation was withdrawn against both the *Pretoria News* and its editor.

According to the charge sheet, at the time of the publication the proceedings were sub judice

The article contained "allegations and/or accusations and/or views and/or remarks" which affected the dignity, honour or authority of a legal official in his legal capacity

The report also allegedly involved itself with the process of the law as the case was sub judice

Finally it was alleged the report attacked the

good name of a person/people

After pleading not guilty, Mr van Schoor contended that the case of the Sharpeville Six was "one of public importance which had attracted considerable attention both inside South Africa and overseas

"The article was published because it was highly topical at the time, and offered the view of a distinguished English barrister. There was no intention on the part of the *Pretoria News* to bring the judiciary into contempt or to prejudice any pending proceedings," he said — Sapa

Snatcher wounded

AN alleged bag-snatcher was shot and wounded after grabbing a woman's handbag and fleeing in Durban's Ordnance Road yesterday, not far from the site of the city's newest hotel, the City Lodge.

A police spokesman said that an off-duty policeman had seen the man grab the woman's handbag and run. He gave chase and fired a shot which struck the man in the leg. A man was arrested.

8/11/88
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Mail editors appeal to Govt

S + ✓
26 / 10 / 88 By Dawn Barkhuizen (243) ~~207~~

The editors of the *Weekly Mail* will today submit a 14-page representation to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, appealing to him to meet them, and arguing against the threatened suspension of the newspaper.

Two weeks ago Mr Botha declined to meet with co-editors Anton Harber and Irwin Manoim after giving the newspaper its final warning.

"In view of the fact that the decision regarding our suspension rests solely with Mr Botha, we would be very disturbed if he again refuses to meet us — this would show just how arbitrary his actions are," Harber said.

"We don't believe Mr Botha is taking enough account of the nature of the newspaper and its readership."

In terms of the final warning Mr Botha issued to the *Weekly Mail* two weeks ago, he is empowered to close the newspaper for three months as early as today.

Judiciary robust enough to stand criticism — editor

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — The South Africa judicial system was sufficiently endowed with respect for its role to be able to weather even robust criticism, the editor of the Pretoria News, Mr Mostert van Schoor, told a Pretoria court

Mr van Schoor appeared yesterday in a regional court on a charge of contempt of court arising from the publication by the Pretoria News in March this year of an article by British barrister Mr Lous Blom-Cooper QC expressing concern about the verdict and sentence in the Sharpeville Six case

The State alleges that the article made statements affecting the dignity, prestige and authority of five appeal court judges and the presiding judge in the Sharpeville Six case in their official judiciary capacity, that it affected the dignity of the Supreme Court and that it interfered in the processes of a sub-judice case

COMMON CAUSE

The article was vetted, sub-edited and placed by an assistant editor of the Pretoria News, but Mr van Schoor said he would have published it "although that does not mean I associate myself with (the views contained in) it"

Asked to say why he thought the piece was used on the day of the hearing of an application for a stay of execution for the five men and a woman sentenced to death for common

cause with the killers of a Le-koia town councillor, Mr van Schoor said

"I believe that in this case we were dealing with extraordinary circumstances

"Claims were being made abroad about the judgment . . . which had been the subject of intense political, diplomatic pressures on South Africa, threatened sanctions against South Africa, threatened severing of diplomatic relations with South Africa, things that would have a drastic affect on the lives of South Africans

"At the root of this was the controversial judgment

"The role of the free Press in keeping the public informed on these things is fundamentally important"

MOTIVES

Cross-examining Mr van Schoor, prosecution advocate Mr Dion van Wyk said "You know that you are allowed to criticise judgments but you are not allowed to impute biased motives to a presiding judge"

"When imputing improper motives on the part of a presiding officer, you are going on to very dangerous terrain"

Mr van Schoor said "This argument (about the death sentence for a finding of common cause in a killing) had been going on if not for years, then certainly for months in the Press, from public platforms This was the centre of the debate The debate was common and current knowlege."

(Proceeding)

D-day dawns for the Weekly Mail

TODAY is D-day for the Weekly Mail, the independent weekly newspaper threatened with suspension by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha

The Weekly Mail's editors will make their final representations to the Minister today but Botha is not expected to decide before tomorrow at the earliest whether to suspend the newspaper for up to three months or impose a government censor.

Co-editor Irwin Manoim said yesterday Botha had refused an interview with him and co-editor Anton Harber. They had had no indication when he would announce his decision on the Mail's fate.

"No one knows when the axe is going to fall. Keeping people waiting is a handy way of breaking staff morale."

Manoim said, however, that staff remained optimistic and had made a number of contingency plans to see out a possible three-month suspension. These included doing research work.

Speculation that Mail staff members would bring out a fortnightly magazine was unlikely to materialise, he said.

Manoim confirmed Harber had held meetings with "almost all" the European embassies in SA. He said some had agreed to take up the Mail's cause with the Foreign Affairs Department.

B/day 26/10/88
PETER DELMAR

Diplomats interviewed by Business Day said their governments were particularly concerned about the latest threat to the Mail and warned that SA's recent diplomatic achievements could be severely undermined by a move to suspend the newspaper.

□ IP leader Denis Worrall yesterday appealed to Botha "not to do something which will weaken our already attenuated democracy, damage a major institution and hurt a quality newspaper".

Journalists and politicians, Worrall said, generally had an adversarial relationship, with both sides wanting something the other could not offer: pragmatic considerations.

He said the Mail's well-educated, high-income readership was unlikely to be at the forefront of any revolution "I suspect that they are better equipped than the readers of most newspapers in this country to detect humbug, distortion and propaganda when it is presented to them."

"The IP believes that South Africans will best be able to adapt to the changing realities of our situation if they are exposed to all points of view and all information."

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'Don't suspend us plea' by Mail editors

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The editors of the Weekly Mail are to submit a 14-page representation today to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, appealing again for him to meet them and arguing against their threatened suspension

"Thereafter we will hold our breath and wait for the axe to fall," co-editor Mr Anton Harber said today

"It is difficult to predict the

whim of one man. We are preparing for the worst eventuality"

Two weeks ago Mr Botha declined to meet Mr Harber and co-editor Mr Irwin Manoim after giving the newspaper its final warning

"In view of the fact that the decision regarding our suspension rests solely with Mr Botha, we would be very disturbed if he again refuses to meet us — this would show

just how arbitrary his actions are"

Mr Harber said the representation comprised a detailed argument setting out their position

"We do not believe we have published subversive propaganda. We don't believe Mr Botha is taking enough account of the nature of the newspaper and its readership and we feel he has taken a few selected articles out of context"

The warning procedure against the newspaper began last December

Mr Harber has held meetings with most European embassies in South Africa, many of whom have agreed to take up the Mail's cause with the Minister of Foreign Affairs

In terms of the final warning Mr Botha issued to the Weekly Mail two weeks ago, he is empowered to close the newspaper for three months from as early as today

SA 26/10/88

Judiciary able to weather criticism'

By Claire Robetson,
Pretoria Bureau

The South Africa judicial system was sufficiently endowed with respect in its role in the country to be able to weather even robust criticism, the editor of *The Pretoria News*, Mr Mostert van Schoor, told the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday

He was appearing on a charge of contempt of court arising from the publication in March of an article by British lawyer Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, expressing concern over the verdict and sentence in the "Sharpeville Six" case.

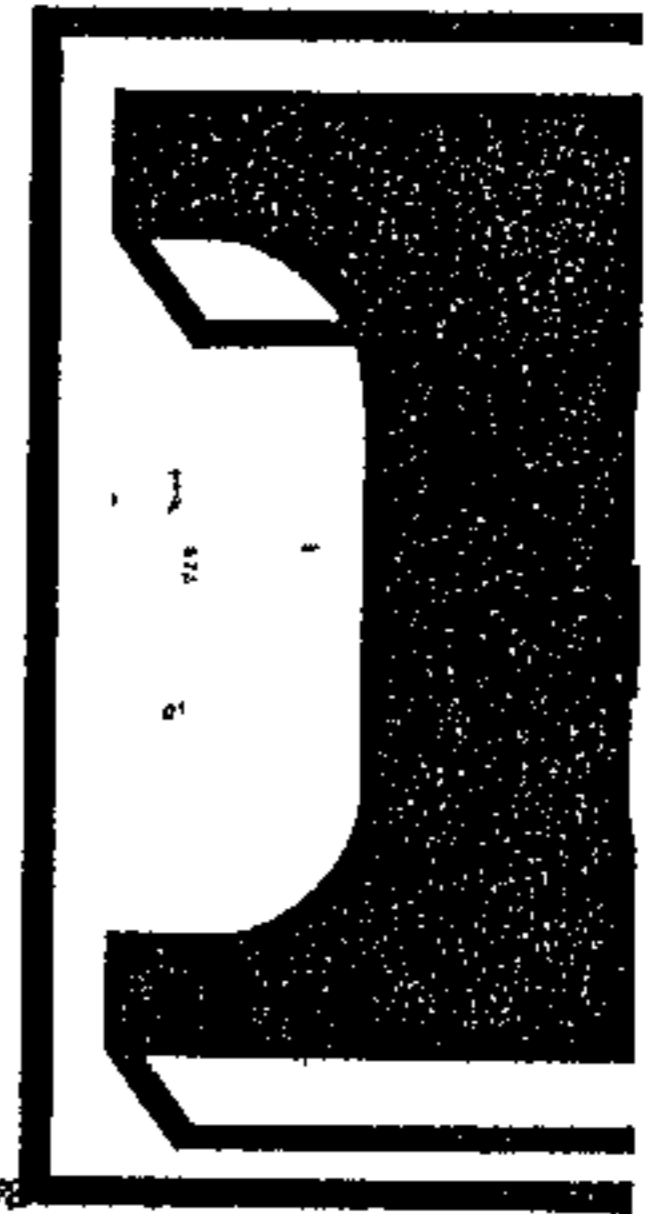
PRESTIGE

The State alleges that the article made statements affecting the dignity, prestige and authority of five Appeal Court judges and the presiding judge, and interfered in the processes of a *sub judice* case

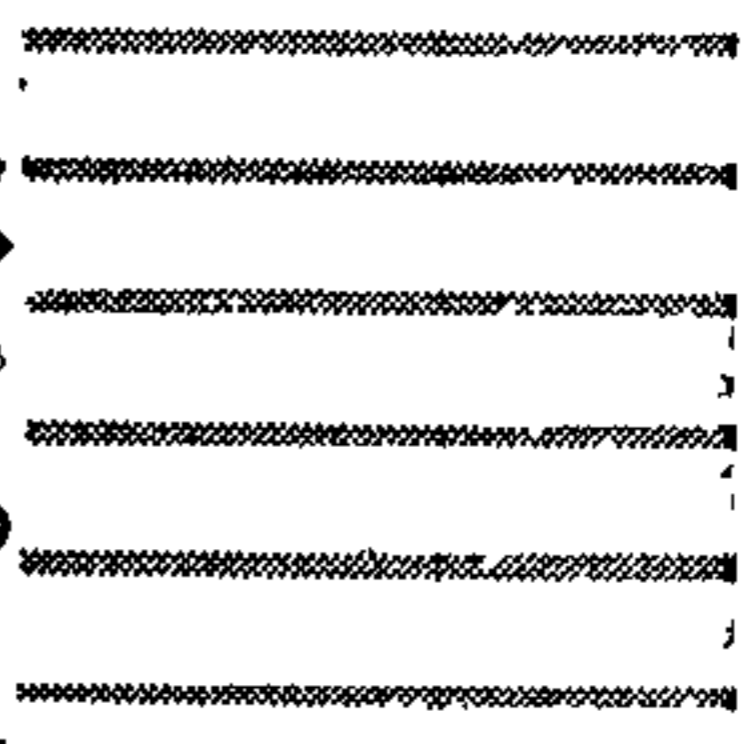
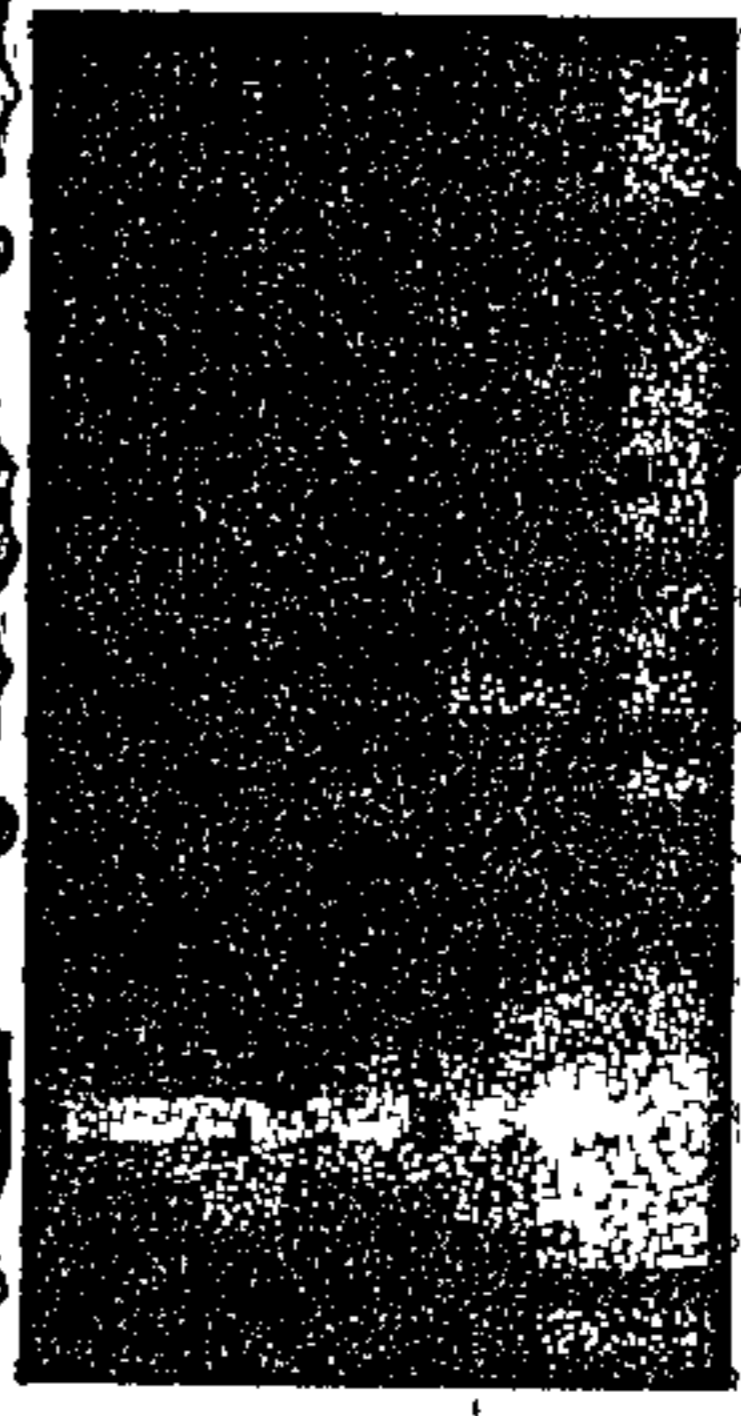
The article was vetted, sub-edited and placed by an assistant editor of *The Pretoria News*, but Mr Van Schoor said he himself would have published it, "although that does not mean I associate myself with (the views contained) in it"

Asked to say why he thought the article was used — on the day of the hearing of an application for a stay of execution for the five men and a woman sentenced to death for common cause with the killers of a Lekoa town concillor — Mr Van Schoor said. "I believe that in this case we were dealing with some very extraordinary circumstances.

"Claims were being made abroad about the judgment . . . which had been subject to intense political, diplomatic pressures on South Africa, threatened sanctions, threatened severing of diplomatic relations



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* Extra long life

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court arising from the publication in March of an article by British lawyer Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, expressing concern over the verdict and sentence in the "Sharpeville Six" case

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"Claims were being made abroad about the judgment ... which had been subject to intense political, diplomatic pressures, on South Africa, threatened sanctions, threatened severing of diplomatic relations, things that would have a drastic affect on the lives of South Africans"

'CHARADE'

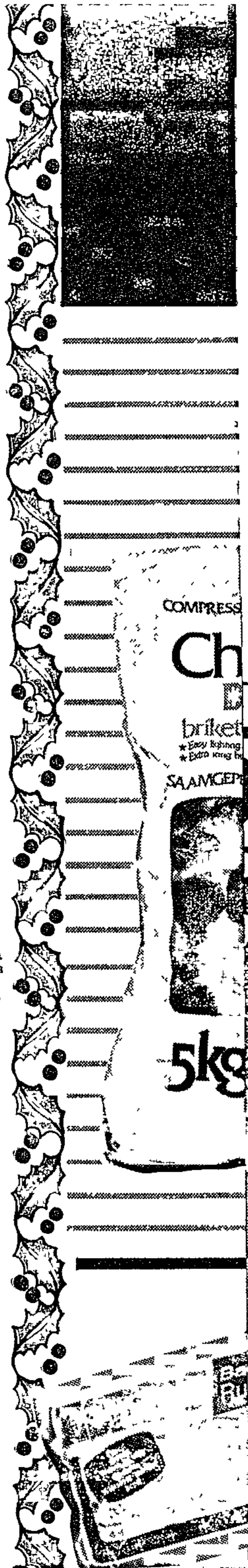
He said he did not associate himself with the sentiment expressed in the article that the conviction of the Sharpeville Six lent credence to a claim by *The Times* newspaper of London that the South African judicial system was a "charade"

Cross-examining Mr Van Schoor, Mr Dion van Wyk said "You know that you are allowed to criticise judgments, but you are not allowed to impute biased motives to a presiding judge

"When imputing improper motives on the part of a presiding officer, you are going on to very dangerous terrain"

The hearing continues.

Kistner is



CHK 743 26/10/88 243

Judgment was controversial - editor

PRETORIA.— The editor of The Pretoria News yesterday agreed there were certain "awkward areas" in an article published in the newspaper, criticising the judgment in the so-called Sharpeville Six trial by an acting judge of the Supreme Court here.

While under cross-examination in a Pretoria Magistrate's Court, Mr Mostert van Schoor who, with the newspaper, is facing a charge of contempt of court, was asked whether the article should not have started alarm bells ringing, especially as, at one point, the judicial system was labelled a "charade".

"Yes, I think it needed careful looking (at)," Mr Van Schoor said

Mr Van Schoor was asked whether he knew that the press was allowed to criticise a judgment, but it was not allowed to impute certain motives to the presiding officer.

He said sanctions were threatened against the country as well as the breaking off of diplomatic relations, should the Six be hanged, and this could have had a "very, very drastic" effect on the lives of South Africans.

"At the root of this was a controversial judgment."

He added that he believed the judicial system was a "robust" one.

The case continues. — Sapa

Fresh Press curbs may be on way

PAGES
26/10/88

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Political Staff

THE government is preparing a further clamp on the Press to curb publicity for acts of terrorism, which it sees as ANC propaganda.

Senior government sources said today various options aimed at preventing future talks with the ANC were being considered, including new legislation.

New legislation could also limit reports on acts of terrorism.

The disclosure follows statements by President Botha that discussions with the ANC should be considered as treason.

He has referred to consideration by the British government of legislation preventing media interviews with the IRA.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, last week hinted at action to prevent a repetition of the Lusaka safaris.

WITBANK BLAST

One source said there was concern about the "favourable publicity" the ANC was receiving from talks with various organisations and individuals while the population was at the same time being intimidated by terrorism.

The ANC's "violent propaganda" was being helped by the way acts of terrorism such as the Witbank bomb blast were reported.

The government was worried about how the SABC and two Transvaal newspapers had prominently used the Witbank explosion.

"It is not that we want to keep information away from the public. They will be given the information but it will not be dramatised.

"Terrorism thrives on publicity. A lack of publicity could contribute towards stopping it."

Four years ago President Botha instructed the SABC to play down terrorism reports.

Sources also indicated possible charges under the state of emergency regulations were being considered against people involved in discussions with the ANC.

The main thrust of the limitations were in terms of regulations making it an offence to promote the cause of the ANC.

Trial of editor: what does the word 'charade' mean?

Pretoria Correspondent

An assistant editor of the *Pretoria News* took the word "charade" to mean "a process", rather than a "bluff".

This was the evidence given yesterday in the trial of the newspaper and its editor, Mr Mostert van Schoor.

Both newspaper and editor have pleaded not guilty to a charge of contempt of court which arose from an article, published on March 17, in which the conviction and sentence of the so-called Sharpeville Six, was criticised by a British barrister.

Assistant editor Mr Andre Meyerowitz, who approved the publication of the article under the heading "The Six: deep worry about legal principle", was cross-examined by State prosecutor Mr D van Wyk, on the meaning of the report's last paragraph.

One particular sentence in the article, which was highlighted during questioning, read: "The (judge's) failure to find extenuating circumstances lends credence to the claim that the judgment on the Sharpeville Six is a charade, designed to serve the purposes of the State through intimidation."

Mr Meyerowitz said he understood "in this context", that the purpose of the State was to keep the peace and to maintain law and order. The death sentence was intended to deter people from committing violent acts.

Referring to the use of the word "charade", Mr Meyerowitz said a judgment was a form, or process, that had

to be gone through before the imposing of sentences.

He added that "warning bells" had rung when he read the last paragraph.

But after looking carefully at it, "I found in it mention of a claim, and it wasn't a claim the author makes, it was a claim which was held in some quarters so that I felt our readers should be informed about it ...

"I didn't see anything in it that I thought might offend a court or might be disrespectful ..." and I approved that paragraph for publication."

Earlier, while giving his evidence-in-chief, Mr Meyerowitz denied that the article had been published recklessly, and was shocked it could be suggested the article had been published to bring the judiciary into disrepute.

He added that he believed it was "extremely important" for South African readers to be able to see the article, as there had been suggestions that should the Six be executed, there would be further harsh sanctions and the breaking of diplomatic ties.

"I think this affects South Africans very, very much."

When asked why he thought it necessary to publish in South Africa claims made abroad, Mr Meyerowitz said: "Here was an article ... which gave South African readers a clear view of what was being said overseas about us and our courts ... and I, for one, felt our people should know about it.

"They should have the opportunity to know ..."

The hearing continues.

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Pretoria News editor quizzed on editorial

PRETORIA — Editor of the Pretoria News Mostert van Schoor, on his third day in the witness stand in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday, was questioned about an editorial published on March 18 praising the judiciary

He was asked about a paragraph questioning "the wisdom" of Minister for Information Stoffel van der

Merwe, who held a Press conference highlighting the reasons for the convictions and sentence of the Sharpeville Six at the time the case was still proceeding in court

Magistrate W A J van Zyl asked Van Schoor whether this meant the newspaper had been aware that at the time the case was still sub judice Van Schoor confirmed this and said

he had made this clear when giving evidence on Tuesday

Yesterday's session was marked by sparring between the prosecutor and the counsel for Van Schoor and the Pretoria News, with the magistrate questioning the relevancy of some of the prosecutor's cross-examination. — Sapa

Weekly Mail in the balance

DIANNA GAMES

THE Weekly Mail's fate is in the balance after its editors gave Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha the newspaper's final representations late yesterday

Editors Irwin Manoim and Anton Harber have no indication of what action Botha is likely to take against the publication for what government sees as contentious editorial

There has been no direct communication with Botha and, said Manoim, Botha had made it clear he was not prepared to speak to them until he had read the representations

He added, "We're right on the edge of the cliff and have no idea when we will get the final push"

It is possible the Mail's suspension

could be gazetted tomorrow or the Minister could wait a few weeks before acting. Manoim said Botha might even do nothing

The Mail received its first warning from government in December. A further warning was served in March and another in April.

Manoim and Harber met Botha in May to discuss his threat and nothing further was heard until the October 12 warning

The Minister can now suspend the newspaper for three months by signing an order or impose a government censor.

(243) B/day 27/10/88

PRETORIA — The assistant editor of The Pretoria News took the word "charade" to mean "a process", rather than a "bluff", the Magistrate's Court here heard yesterday in the trial of the newspaper and its editor, Mr Mostert van Schoor

Both The Pretoria News and the editor have pleaded not guilty to a charge of contempt of court which arose from an article, published in the newspaper on March 17 this year, in which the conviction and sentence of the so-called Sharpeville Six was criticised by a British barrister.

Assistant editor Mr Andre Meyerowitz, who approved the publication of the article under the heading "The Six: Deep worry about legal principle", was cross-examined by state prosecutor Mr D Van Wyk on the meaning of the report's last paragraph.

One particular sentence in the article, which was highlighted during

Pretoria News denies charge

questioning, read "The (judge's) failure to find extenuating circumstances lends credence to the claim that the judgment on the Sharpeville six is a charade, designed to serve the purposes of the state through intimidation"

Commenting on the meaning of this sentence, Mr Meyerowitz said he understood "in this context" that the purpose of the state was to keep the peace and to maintain law and order. He believed the death sentence was intended to deter people from committing violent acts.

Earlier Mr Meyerowitz denied that the article had been published recklessly — Sapa

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CME Times 27/10/88

Fate of the Weekly Mail in balance

CNY TRANS

27/10/88

243

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The fate of the Weekly Mail was in the balance last night after its editors gave the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, the newspaper's final representations late yesterday.

The editors, Mr Irwin Manoim and Mr Anton Harber, still have no indication of what action, if any, Mr Botha is likely to take against the publication.

There has been no direct communication with Mr Botha on the issue and, said Mr Manoim, Mr Botha had made it clear he was not prepared to speak to them until he had read the representations.

It was possible the Mail's suspension could be gazetted this Friday or

the minister could wait a few weeks before acting while the issue blew over. Alternatively, said Mr Manoim, Mr Botha may take no action at all for the moment.

"This is possible judging by the way he has dealt with us in the past. He pushes us and then leaves us alone."

The Mail received its first warning from government in December last year. A further warning was served in March and yet another in April, published in the Government Gazette. Mr Manoim and Mr Harber met Mr Botha in May to discuss his threat and nothing further was heard until the October 12 warning which is the most serious the Mail has faced.

The minister can now suspend the newspaper for three months by signing an order.

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MORE CLAMPS ON PRESS LIKELY

THE Government is set for a further clamp on the Press to cut back on what it sees as African National Congress propaganda, particularly in publicity for acts of terrorism.

And it is considering various options for halting future talks with the ANC, including application of state of emergency regulations or new legislation

Bombings, talks with ANC targets

Senior government sources indicated yesterday that new legislation was being investigated that would limit reports on coverage of acts of terrorism.

This follows statements by President P W Botha that discussions with the ANC should be considered as treason. He has also referred to consideration by the British Government of legislation preventing media interviews with the IRA while Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, who hinted at action against the Lusaka safaris last week, has pointed to Israeli legislation which permits only the media to speak to the PLO

Talks

Sources said yesterday there was concern about the favourable publicity the ANC was getting from talks with various organisations and individuals while the

population was being intimidated at the same time by acts of terrorism

One source said the ANC strategy of "violent propaganda" was being assisted by the manner in which acts of terrorism, such as the Witbank bomb blast, were reported

The source said there was concern in the Government about how the SABC and two Transvaal newspapers had prominently used the Witbank explosion

He said. "It is not that we want to keep information away from the public. They will be given the information but it will not be dramatised.

"Terrorism thrives on publicity. If it gets no publicity it could contribute towards stopping it"

Four years ago President P W Botha instructed the SABC to play down reports of acts of terrorism

Sources also indicated that possible charges in terms of the state of emergency regulations against people involved in discussions with the ANC were being considered

The main thrust of the limitations were in terms of regulations making it an offence to promote the cause of the ANC

'Satanic' book by Rushdie (243) has Muslims deeply divided

By Carina le Grange, Religion Reporter

Some factions of the Muslim community are up in arms over the impending visit of the noted author and Booker Prize nominee Salman Rushdie to speak at *The Weekly Mail*-sponsored Book Week, scheduled to open this weekend

British author Mr Rushdie this month published his latest book, *Satanic Verses*, which, Muslims claim, distorts Islamic history and is blasphemous.

Book Week is held under the auspices of the newspaper, but is mainly organised by South African publishers and also involves participation by the Congress of South African Writers

The director of the African Muslim Agency, Mr Mahomed Farid Choonara, who opposed Mr Rushdie's visit, said he had appealed to *The Weekly Mail* to cancel the invitation to Mr Rushdie, who will deliver a speech on censorship, the theme of Book Week

In conjunction with other Muslim organisations, including the Transvaal Council of Muslim Theologians, Mr Choonara is also placing advertisements in newspapers condemning Mr Rushdie's visit

Co-editor of *The Weekly Mail*, Mr Irwin Manoim, told *The Star* this week that Mr Rushdie had been invited long before the book was published. He said the author was invited for his outspoken views on racism and censorship

He said a meeting had been arranged with the Islamic Council to discuss the issue

'Unhappy'

The national president of the Muslim Youth Movement said yesterday that while the choice of Mr Rushdie was "unhappy", it called on all Muslims not to advocate "banning and censorship as this would go contrary to our struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa"

Mr Choonara said he "could not say how people would respond if the Prophet of God has been called a bastard. No intelligent, sensible Muslim would sit back without responding"

Mr Manoim said the Book Week organisers were in a difficult position as the point of Mr Rushdie's visit was to speak about censorship "and we are being called upon to censor an author".

Weekly Mail to 'go ahead' and publish

CMT Trips 28/10/88 (243)

PRETORIA — The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, has received the Weekly Mail editors' representation urging him to meet them and arguing against the newspaper's threatened suspension, a spokesman for the minister said yesterday.

He added that no decision had been taken yet.

The Weekly Mail's co-editor, Mr Anton Harber, said yesterday that he planned to go ahead with today's edition as usual. The paper is printed every Thursday night and goes on sale on Friday.

Mr Botha two weeks ago declined to meet Mr Harber and co-editor Mr Irwin Manoim after giving the newspaper its final warning in terms of the emergency regulations. This final warning empowers Mr Botha to close the newspaper for three months.

Mr Harber said the representation comprised a detailed argument setting out their position. He did not believe the newspaper had carried subversive propaganda.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said in Cape Town yesterday that the suspension of the Weekly Mail would constitute a further demonstration of the government's totalitarian nature.

This newspaper, he said, was one of

Meeting called to support Mail

LEADERSHIP'S managing editor Ms Dene Smuts, Argus deputy editor Mr Deon du Plessis and Weekly Mail reporter Ms Gaye Davis will speak at a Stand by the Mail meeting at lunch-time in the city tomorrow.

The Weekly Mail is under imminent threat of closure by the government.

The meeting will be held at 1pm in St George's Cathedral Hall. The organizers, the Save the Press Campaign, have asked all Mail readers to attend if they can.

The Save the Press Campaign recently successfully protested over the registration of "news agencies".

Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha has given the Weekly Mail its "final warning" in terms of Emergency Regulations, and has now taken all the prescribed steps preceding the suspension of the paper.

those which would prevent whites from ever being able to say in the future "We didn't know" — Sapa

THE Mirror
Bophuthatswana

new, independent weekly
— appeared

New paper appears in Bophuthatswana

for the first time yesterday, with the publishers and editor-in-chief emphasising that it was not a "parastatal" publication

The newspaper, published by Craft Press Group subsidiary Text Publications in Babelegi, is a sister publication to the Mafeking-based Mmabatho Mail.

Editor-in-chief Lawrence Mayekiso said in Bophutha-

28/10/85

THEO RAWANA

tswana there were none of SA's constraints "We want to publish in full what other publications cannot. We are not a parastatal publication and we will have freedom to criticise — but we won't get out of our way to criticise unnecessarily."

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23/10/85
23/10/85

Pretoria News judgment is postponed ²⁴³¹

Pretoria Correspondent

The trial of *The Pretoria News* and its editor on charges of contempt of court is drawing to a close in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court

The newspaper and its editor, Mr. Mostert van Schoor, have pleaded not guilty to the charge, which arose from the publication of an article on March 17 this year criticising the sentence hand-

ed down in the case of the Sharpeville Six. Yesterday, after assistant editor Mr. Andre Meyerowitz — who had decided the article in question should be published — had finished giving evidence, the magistrate, Mr. W. A. J. van Zyl, agreed that the case be postponed until this morning to give the State prosecutor time to prepare his argument.

NOT GUILTY

The Weekly Mail's reply to Stoffel Botha

SHOULD the *Weekly Mail* ignore allegations of security force abuses in Namibia or Angola?

And if the SA Defence Force is investigating those allegations, should the newspaper ignore that too?

These are questions raised by the *Weekly Mail* in representations submitted this week in response to the threat by the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, to close the newspaper.

The *Weekly Mail* publishers produced nine pages of careful argument challenging Botha's suggestion that it had systematically published 'subversive propaganda'.

They also asked Botha to meet the paper's editors. The Minister said last week that the time was not appropriate for such a meeting, but the newspaper has repeated its request.

"We received your recent (warning) letter with some degree of surprise and disappointment," the publishers said, pointing to the fact that the Minister had been silent about the newspaper for five months.

"Our newspaper is an independent and critical publication not a purveyor of one brand of criticism against apartheid and the present National Party government."

"We believe that we produce a weekly newspaper which provokes thoughtful and necessary debate regarding the current South African condition."

The paper is read, the editors argued, by a wide range of leading academics, trade unionists, businessmen, politicians, professionals and community and church leaders. "These are agents of change in our society. Surely we do not wish to restrict their information but rather to make it as broad and as wide-ranging as possible."

The Minister had objected to two kinds of material: coverage of security force action, particularly allegations of abuses, and reports of restricted or banned resistance organisations.

Both of these could be found in the mainstream press more than in the *Weekly Mail*.

"In Afrikaans and English daily newspapers, there are continual references to the activities and utterances of unlawful organisations, predominantly the ANC, and continual reports of allegations of maltreatment of detainees and others at the hands of the security forces."

"We continue to fail to understand why the *Weekly Mail* is singled out in

regard to the publishing of such matters," they said.

Dealing with individual articles cited by the Minister, the publishers said:

● Two of the articles cited by the Minister dealt with the ANC's new constitutional guidelines and allegedly promoted the public image or esteem of the banned organisation.

These guidelines had been published in a number of newspapers, including *Business Day*, *The Sowetan* and *The Star*. The *Weekly Mail* report was a "relatively sober analysis" including hostile comment from significant leadership figures in our country.

"We cannot understand how such critical and analytical pieces can promote the image and esteem of the ANC any more than the daily, sensationalistic coverage of, for example, Dr Danie Craven's talks with the ANC."

One complaint was about a PAC state-

ment which was highly critical of the ANC's constitutional proposals. "We cannot agree with your understanding of this piece. It is published in the context of a general debate about the ANC proposals."

"The context makes it clear that the intention could never have been to improve the esteem or image of the PAC," they said.

● Another article, "Is the spirit of Robert Sobukwe rising?" (August 5-11), was by Dr Tom Lodge, "a respected political scientist (who) holds no brief for the Pan Africanist Congress and whose analysis is fundamentally objective."

● A report headlined "A Matte in Maputo" (September 23-29) was alleged to have enhanced the image of the ANC. Written by one of 14 Stellenbosch students who visited Maputo during that month, it dealt only in passing with their discussions with the ANC.

On allegations that the *Weekly Mail* had fomented feelings of hatred or hostility towards the security forces, the editors charge that Botha has taken no account of the nature of the newspaper and the perceptions of the likely reader.

"Our newspaper is not a mass circulation daily. It is an in-depth weekly review of current events, political development, arts, sport and the economy with an average sales figure of approximately 25 000."

The likely reader was "a serious and highly literate person who in all probability reads widely and does not merely rely upon the *Weekly Mail* for information."

"Such a reader is able to balance copy which is critical of the security forces with material that is found in other publications."

"The SADF itself recognises that these abuses take place and has constituted a tribunal to investigate the allegations and try the offenders," they said.

Reporting of alleged atrocities in the Angola/Namibia conflict was responsible reporting as long as it was well-researched and the editors had reasonable grounds for believing the allegations to be well-founded, they added.

In the report on allegations of misconduct in Namibia, it was significant that the story ended with the description of an ordinary citizen injured in a Swapo attack. "There are suggestions of atrocities on both sides and ultimately the real victims are those ordinary citizens caught in the middle," they said.

The final article objected to was an opinion piece written by the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, the Reverend Frank Chikane. This represented a single and personalised view which was well known and had been widely publicised by the media, including SABC.

"By citing this article, you leave us with no conclusion to draw other than that merely quoting Frank Chikane or allowing him to put his personal view is impermissible."

The representations end by noting that the publishers had been advised there were grounds to attack Botha's warnings in court and listed the legal grounds for such an attack.

However, the publishers said they hoped this would not be necessary, and that the Minister would agree to meet the editors.



Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT POUR IN

THE *Weekly Mail* has received a flood of support letters and statements. A number of foreign governments, businessmen, trade unions, local and international anti-censorship organisations and others have made representations to Botha urging him not to close the paper.

Among the reactions were: ● US Ambassador Edward Perkins issued a statement saying "The position of my government on freedom of the press is well known. The United States deprecates any attempt to censor the press, for its end result is to rob all citizens of their right to be informed."

● The Reverend Frank Chikane, general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, and the author of one of the articles cited by Botha in his warning, said "Restrictions on the truth are a recipe for disaster."

"One of the articles cited is an opinion piece I wrote on the harassment of my family by the police. The double-speak of the state is again clear."

"My article is supposed to stir up hatred against the forces, yet it was a word-for-word factual account of actions that took place, it merely ex-

posed the truth about the situation and experiences of my family (and echoed the experiences of many other families) that are raided and subjected to such harassment."

"Rather than my article being a problem, it is the action of the security forces that stirs up feelings of hatred and hostility against the security forces," he said.

"One cannot stop a volcano from erupting by not reporting about it. Rather the reports should be a barometer or indicator, for all the residents of our country to gauge the danger we face if the root cause of the crisis in our country is not dealt with as a matter of urgency."

"Without such barometers as the *Weekly Mail*, some will slide towards the destruction unknowingly," he said.

● The American Society of Newspaper Editors' Bill Kovach, who is also editor of the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, urged the Minister to take no further steps against the paper. "Actions such as those taken against the press in South Africa render the form of free government transparent and reveal an authoritarian sub-

stance," he said in a statement.

● The International Federation of Journalists, representing more than 150 000 journalists, joined the call, saying actions against opposition newspapers "are a testament to the fact that a free press, the bedrock of any democracy, is not safe in the hands of South Africa's present rulers."

● The World Press Freedom Committee in Washington expressed dismay at the action against the *Weekly Mail*, saying it "could only damage the image of a country in the world."

● Dr Denis Worrall, leader of the Independent Party, urged Botha "not to do something which will weaken our already attenuated democracy, damage a major institution and hurt a quality newspaper."

● The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), in an appeal to Botha, warned that "violations of press freedom remove the very foundations of dialogue."

● *Index on Censorship* warned in its letter to Botha that "the domestic and foreign press in your country are already heavily censored, to apply further gags would be a backward step."

The Weekly Mail and the Minister

THE Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, said last night that he had not yet made a decision on the future of the *Weekly Mail*.

Asked by a reporter, he said he had not yet had time to read representations submitted by the newspaper after his threat to act against it.

There is no time limit on Botha's response. The matter now lies entirely in his hands — he can suspend the paper at any time

without any further warning.

● *Weekly Mail* subscribers are assured: even if the worst happens, we will be back, and your subscription will continue from the day the suspension ends.

● Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday added his voice to the protest against the threat to the *Weekly Mail*, saying "a government decision to suspend the paper would constitute a further demonstration of its totalitarian

nature and an act of fear and insecurity."

"The newspaper (*Weekly Mail*) is one of those which will prevent whites from ever being able to say in the future: 'We didn't know.' It has explored the limits of the law in its effort to publish the news."

For further reaction to the threat to the *Weekly Mail*, see PAGE 11.

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WMAIL 28-3 NOV 1988.

Weekly Mail 'needs public support' (24?)

CAPE TOWN — *The Weekly Mail*, which is under imminent threat of closure by the Government, needed the support of its readers and public if it was to fight the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, "back from the precipice", a meeting in Cape Town heard yesterday

Ms Gaye Davis, a *Weekly Mail* reporter, told the "Stand by the Mail" meeting — organised by the Save the Press Campaign and attended by about 100 people — the newspaper was on sale as usual, and there had been no word from Pretoria.

The newspaper has been served with a final warning in terms of the emergency regulations. Mr Botha is currently consid-

ering representations from the newspaper's editors and is empowered to close the paper for three months

"Stoffel Botha is the master of the pregnant lull. That is part of the process built into the new regulations — the whole thing is so polite. There are letters and then a warning. There is flurry of activity, there are protests and then people forget, but the axe is still there," said Ms Davis

Deputy editor of *The Argus*, Mr Deon du Plessis, said a principle worth carrying forward into South Africa's future was to let the press print "what it damn well pleases" within the confines of its usual

legal restraints

"Journalists have their imperfections but they are professionals. The Press should be left to them and the consumer who can decide what newspaper he likes. The reason we are here today is that another class of person is seeking to pre-empt over newspapers," he said

Former editor of *Fair Lady* magazine and managing editor of *Leadership*, Ms Dene Smuts, said the Press needed to explore the concept of democracy and to challenge basic assumptions about democracy to get to the roots of the sickness in our society — Sapa

Paper to fight closure threat

Staff Reporter

THE Weekly Mail — which is under imminent threat of closure by the government — needed the support of its readers and public if it was to fight the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, “back from the precipice”, a lunchtime meeting heard yesterday.

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“Stoffel Botha is the master of the pregnant lull. That is part of the process built in the new regulations — the whole thing is so polite. There are letters and then a warning. There is a flurry of activity, there are protests and then people forget, but the axe is still there,” said Ms Davis.

“We fought Stoffel back from the precipice before. We believe we can fight off the suspension. But we need your support,” she said.



STAND BY THE MAIL ... Ms Dene Smuts, managing editor of Leadership magazine, addressing a lunchtime meeting in support of the Weekly Mail. On the platform with her were Mr Moegsien Williams, co-ordinator of the Save the Press Campaign, and Ms Gaye Davis, Weekly Mail reporter.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

Mr Deon du Plessis, deputy editor of the Argus, said a principle worth carrying forward into SA's future was to let the press print “what it damn well pleases”, within the confines of its usual legal restraints.

“Journalists have their imperfections but they are professionals. The press

should be left to them and the consumer, who can decide what newspaper he likes. The reason we are here today is that another class of person is seeking to preside over newspapers,” he said.

Mr Botha and his team of “scientific advisers” were motivated by political consid-

erations, he said.

Ms Dene Smuts, former editor of Fair Lady magazine and managing editor of Leadership, said the press needed to explore the concept of democracy and to challenge basic assumptions about democracy to get to the roots of the sickness in our society.

(243) STW 29/10/88

Criticism of 'Six' case permissible, magistrate is told

SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENT

Judgment in the case in which the *Pretoria News* and its editor are facing charges of contempt of court was reserved in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday until February 10 next year

Both the newspaper and editor Mr Mostert van Schoor pleaded not guilty to charges of contempt of court which arose from the publication on March 17 this year of an article in which the sentence handed down to the so-called "Sharpeville Six" was criticised

Mr A Chaskalson SC, counsel for the newspaper, and Mr Van Schoor, argued before magistrate Mr W A J van Zyl yesterday that it had been legitimate to criticise judgment on the basis that it did not deal with extenuating circumstances — which would have entitled the judge to impose prison sentences rather than death sentences

In the article, the judge was criticised for failing to find extenuating circumstances in the case of the six people who were convicted of murdering a Lekoa deputy mayor during rioting in black townships in the Vaal Triangle area

Mr Chaskalson said there had been no discussion on the question of indirect participation — that although the Six had been part of the mob which had stoned and burned the deputy mayor, they had not been directly involved in causing his death — by neither the Pretoria Supreme Court judge nor the judges in the Appellate Division who had dismissed the appeal

The advocate said that although neither of these courts had dealt with this question, "this doesn't necessarily mean the court was wrong. It means simply that the court remained silent on that issue"

Mr Chaskalson then quoted from the 1988 *South African Journal of Criminal Justice*, in which the judgment had also been criticised

"The entire discussion of legal issues and its application to the Sharpeville Six case is relevant. It expresses criticism for which grounds exist and it is well within what is permissible according to the rules of contempt of court"

Mr Chaskalson then "translated" the sentence which was submitted by the State to be the most important to its case

He said the sentence, which read, "The failure to find extenuating circumstances lends credence to the claim that the judgment on the Sharpeville six is a charade, designed to serve the purposes of the State through intimidation", meant "In the interests of the State, the courts hearing the Sharpeville Six case decided that people should be made to fear the consequences of joining riotous and murderous mobs"

● For details of weekend sport on TV see Back Page.

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CALL

So far, so good for Weekly Mail

w/t ARGUS 29/10/88
Weekend Argus Reporter

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THE Weekly Mail had fought Mr Stoffel Botha back from the precipice before but was finding it more difficult now, the newspaper's Cape representative, Gaye Davis, said at a meeting of Save the Press

The meeting was held to protest against government threats to the Mail

In terms of a third and final warning the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, is empowered to close the newspaper for three months.

"We are on the streets and have had no word from Pretoria. But I don't want anybody to feel reassured," said Ms Davis

The Mail was an independent newspaper not al-

lied to or financed by a political group or union and would have serious cash problems to cover costs during a suspension, she said

Deon du Plessis, deputy-editor of The Argus, said a class of person other than the trained, professional journalist was seeking to preside over editorial space which he described as "some of the most precious real estate in South Africa"

This space was managed according to the simple principle that all voices should be aired within parameters, he said

Although journalists were sometimes vague, sloppy and guided by political motives, a good journalist would test whether something was the truth and acknowledge that all sides should be heard

"No matter how scientific Mr Stoffel Botha and his evaluators are, they are motivated by political considerations of party and power politics"

LAERSKOOI **HENDRIK LOUW** PRIMARY SCHOOL
MOTOR COMPETITION — FOR A DONATION OF R5
WIN THE FOLLOWING

Charles

'Mail needs public aid'

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Sometan
3/10/88

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Gaye Davis, a *Weekly Mail* reporter,

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Principle

"We fought Stoffel back from the precipice before. We believe we can fight off the suspension. But we need your support," she told the meeting.

Deputy editor of *The Argus*, Mr Deon du Plessis, said a principle worth carrying forward into South Africa's future was to let the Press print "what it damn well pleases," within the confines of its usual legal restraints.

"Journalists have their imperfections but they are professionals. The Press should be left to them and the consumer, who can decide what newspaper he likes. The reason we are here today is that another class of person is seeking to preside over newspapers," he said —
Sapa

By Sara Martin 243

A new Afrikaans newspaper supported by top Afrikaans academics will appear on Friday

Vrye Weekblad is to be sold nationwide

It is owned by Wending Publikasies Beperk, whose directors are Messrs Max du Preez, Christo Nel, Chris Otto, Van Zyl Slabbert and Sampie Terreblanche

Says Mr Max du Preez, who is also the editor "It fulfils the dream of many frustrated Afrikaans journalists to start a new independent, professional Afrikaans newspaper"

He said that for a long time Afrikaans journalists had been unhappy with the alliance of the Afrikaans press to the National Party

"As a professional journalist, you have only one choice — the English press But that, too, has frustrations You are not writing in your own language and for your own community"

Mr du Preez said the idea of a new Afrikaans newspaper came last year after the talks with the ANC in Dakar.

"Frustrated senior Afrikaans journalists were upset with the way the event was reported in the Afrikaans press and decided that a new newspaper was needed to report events as they really happened, with no distortion"

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Vol. 281

PRETORIA, 1 NOVEMBER 1988

No. 11570

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

No. 2267

1 November 1988

ORDER UNDER THE MEDIA EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, 1988

I, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister of Home Affairs, hereby issue under regulation 7 (3) (ii) of the Media Emergency Regulations, 1988, the order set out in the Schedule.

J. C. G. BOTHA,

Minister of Home Affairs.

SCHEDULE

The production or publishing, during the period from the date of publishing of this order up to and including 28 November 1988, of all further issues of the periodical *The Weekly Mail* is hereby totally prohibited

No. 2268

1 November 1988

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 7 (1) OF THE MEDIA EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, 1988

I, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister of Home Affairs, hereby issue a warning to persons concerned in the production, compilation or publishing of issues of the periodical *Free Azania* that the matter published in that periodical and the way in which matter is published in that periodical, in my opinion, are causing a threat to the safety of the public or to the maintenance of public order or are causing a delay in the termination of the state of emergency

J. C. G. BOTHA,

Minister of Home Affairs

GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTEMENT VAN BINNELANDSE SAKE

No. 2267

1 November 1988

BEVEL KRAGTENS DIE MEDIANOODREGULASIES, 1988

Ek, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister van Binnelandse Sake, reik hierby kragtens regulasie 7 (3) (ii) van die Medianoodregulasies, 1988, die bevel uit in die Bylae uitengesit.

J. C. G. BOTHA,

Minister van Binnelandse Sake.

BYLAE

Die voortbrenging of publisering, gedurende die tydperk vanaf die datum van afkondiging van hierdie bevel tot en met 28 November 1988, van alle verdere uitgawes van die periodieke publikasie *The Weekly Mail* word hierby geheel en al verbied

No. 2268

1 November 1988

KENNISGEWING KRAGTENS REGULASIE 7 (1) VAN DIE MEDIANOODREGULASIES, 1988

Ek, Jan Christoffel Greyling Botha, Minister van Binnelandse Sake, rig hierby 'n waarskuwing tot persone wat by die voortbrenging, samestelling of publisering van uitgawes van die periodieke publikasie *Free Azania* betrokke is dat stof wat in daardie periodieke publikasie gepubliseer word, en die wyse waarop stof in daardie periodieke publikasie gepubliseer word, volgens my oordeel, 'n bedreiging vir die veiligheid van die publiek of vir die handhawing van die openbare orde of 'n vertraging in die beëindiging van die noodtoestand veroorsaak

J. C. G. BOTHA,

Minister van Binnelandse Sake.

Judgment of Media Council draws the line on horror

The SA Media Council's adjudications are, generally speaking, rather summarily reported in the press. Except where a newspaper chooses (with questionable propriety in my opinion) to contest an adjudication in which it has been criticised, there is little by way of analysis or evaluation.

It may be worthwhile, therefore, for this column to take a look at the council's finding against *Rapport* on complaints about pictures it published on April 17

Two pictures, dominating the front page, showed in full colour the shattered remains of a black man, described by the police as a terrorist, who was blown up by a bomb he was in the act of placing near a cinema complex in Pretoria. One of the pictures showed a severed limb lying to one side. The rest of the



Ombudsman

JAMES
McCLURG

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Do you have a complaint about the editorial content of The Star? Were you bothered, offended or puzzled by a headline, a picture or the handling of a particular news item or article? This newspaper's Ombudsman, the distinguished media personality James McClurg, is at your service to consider and adjudicate on readers' complaints. Write to: The Ombudsman, c/o The Editor's Secretary, The Star, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

body was mainly a bloody pulp. There were many complaints from readers. Two of these complaints resulted in this adjudication.

I attended the hearing and was impressed by the informality, backed by an essentially orderly procedure, with which the council conducts its proceedings.

In particular, every consideration was shown to the two complainants, who, not being lawyers, were naturally at a disadvantage compared with the skilled and eloquent advocate who argued *Rapport's* case.

The alternate chairman of the council, Mr Justice Marius Diemont, a former judge of appeal, and four

other members, constituted the committee for the hearing.

What the committee had to decide was whether *Rapport* had breached the council's code of conduct, binding on all newspapers affiliated to the SA Newspaper Press Union, by failing to exercise "due care and responsibility with regard to the presentation of brutality, violence and atrocities".

A judgment of this kind was no simple task for the council, just as it is no simple task for editors — or for the British Press Council, which has to grapple with it against the background of IRA violence.

It was recalled that in an editorial published a week after the controversial pictures, the editor said

the photographs had been published "with hesitation", but asked how there could be sufficient awareness of such a dreadful deed if South Africans did not "see and grasp the full extent of its atrociousness". This, I believe, is the crux of the arguments advanced, with much greater complexity of course, by *Rapport*.

Pointing out that this was a test case and new terrain for the council, Mr Justice Diemont examined both photographs in detail their size, the use of colour, their placing on the front page. Had the editor put the public interest high on his list of priorities? Had he shown sufficient awareness of the sensitivity of some people — family, friends, children?

With one member dissenting, the council decided that one of the pictures — interestingly enough, the bigger one — did not, overall, breach the code. But it was unanimous in taking a strongly adverse view of the second picture, describing it as "unnatural" in that the corpse was being held up, apparently for purposes of publication.

Its conclusion was that this "artificial" picture had been published for the sake of sensation and the editor had not shown due circumspection and care with regard to its presentation.

These are severe words. It would be wrong to rejoice in *Rapport's* discomfiture. But I have no doubt at all that the council's finding was correct and salutary.

From *Rapport's* side it was submitted that if the council intervened in this matter, it would create greater confusion and editors would "need a crystal ball" to determine what view it was going to take in any particular case.

With all consideration towards editors, I am glad that the council did not accept this argument. It is surely clear that there is a line to be drawn in the presentation of horror and violence.

Ban on Weekly Mail under fire

Sar 2/11/84

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There has been an avalanche of protest against the month-long ban imposed on the *Weekly Mail* yesterday by Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha. Journalists, newspaper managers, churches and human rights organisations have condemned the measure.

The suspension is a crippling blow to a courageous newspaper says Newspaper Press Union president Mr Jolyon Nuttall.

It deprives South Africans — particularly the thinking variety — of a valuable source of opinion and information. I urge the Minister of Home Affairs to recall the *Weekly Mail* from the cooler and let it resume its place in the scrum.

Fearlessly

Mr Bob Kerronan, president of the Southern African Society of Journalists, said "The *Weekly Mail* has fearlessly carried on its task of informing its readers of events which the Government is obviously determined to stifle.

"The State has not been able to silence the truth through the courts simply because they

realised the newspaper was not breaking normal laws. Instead Minister Stoffel Botha has taken the arbitrary and reprehensible decision to close the newspaper for a month.

The president of the Association of Democratic Journalists (Transvaal), Mr Cecil Solis, said the suspension was an indication that the Government intended to continue closing channels for democratic expression.

"The *Weekly Mail* is playing an important role in informing sections of the white community, the business sector and people abroad about events and developments in the country at large and especially in black residential areas. This ban — and any repeat of it — can only contribute to further polarisation of our already divided society."

STAFF REPORTERS

The decision yesterday by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to suspend publication of the *Weekly Mail* for a month has drawn an avalanche of protest and, in various quarters, it has been dubbed "reprehensible", "incomprehensible", "arbitrary" and "abominable". The Council of Churches said the ban would not "prevent the apartheid volcano from erupting".

The chairman of the Transvaal Save the Press Committee, Mr Raymond Louw, described the suspension as "abominable and without justification".

He said "We wish to remind the State President and the Home Affairs Minister that, in Zurich last month, the State President announced that he

stop the apartheid volcano from erupting".

The SACC called on "freedom loving" South Africans to stand by the paper and ensure that it emerged from suspension with even greater strength.

The Human Rights Commission issued a statement "with pressing its resentment with this latest interference with the right to freedom of expression and with the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas".

It concluded "The public is being subverted by a Department of Interference with Information".

Inconceivable

Black Sash Transvaal chairman Mrs Ethel Walt stated "It is inconceivable that the thoughtful in-depth articles of the *Weekly Mail* pose any threat to the security of the State or that they postpone the lifting of the state of emergency."

"Why any government would wish to retain power if it is able to do so only by banning information, knowledge and the

A spokesman for the National Democratic Movement said the action was "incomprehensible".

"This is a further sign of the deterioration of freedom of speech, press freedom and the right of the people to be informed," the NDM said.

The South African Council of Churches issued a statement declaring that the ban "will not, as we have said before,

exchange of ideas, is a mystery indeed. Such hard-won power can hardly be worth the effort of retaining it".

Independent politician Dr Dennis Worrall commented "The ban is extraordinarily foolish. It weakens our already attenuated democracy, damages the institution of the Press and hurts a quality newspaper and hurts Africans, if they are to react intelligently to the challenges they face, need all the information they can get."

He added "I can understand Mr Stoffel Botha doing this because, quite frankly, he's one of the most limited people in South African politics".

Professor Gavin Stewart, head of Rhodes University's department of journalism, said "The Government needs the information it can get from the *Weekly Mail* and similar publications more than anyone else does."

"A negotiated future for South Africa is the core of the Government's reform policy — but one simply cannot negotiate without information."

"To pretend that one can sanely negotiate an intelligent solution out of ignorance is ridiculous," he said.

Mail ban sparks strong reaction

The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — Britain and the United States have condemned the four-week ban on the Weekly Mail

The British Foreign Office said it "strongly opposes" the government's decision

It made its feelings known to the South African authorities during a meeting between Foreign Office Minister of State Mrs Lynda Chalker and South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Kobus Meiring

Mrs Chalker said the British government considered the move a further blow to Press freedom

The Argus Foreign Service reports from Washington that America has also roundly condemned the suspension, calling for an end to the gag on South Africa's news media.

SHORTSIGHTED

The move angered both pro and anti-sanctions American politicians and the Reagan administration

The US State Department called on the government to "end its suppression of the media and to allow its citizens access to the information and ideas they need to debate their country's future"

Dr Denis Worrall, leader of the Independent Party, said today that the banning was "shortsighted in the extreme"

He said a statement by Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs, that the continued publication of the newspaper threatened public safety or the maintenance of public order was ridiculous

His statement that its continued appearance delayed the ending of the state of emergency was "surely dishonest"

All this further restriction on freedom of speech and publication did was to weaken the already attenuated democracy, damage a major institution and to hurt a quality newspaper.

FREEDOM

"The man simply does not understand the nature of Press freedom or how journalists work"

The Save the Press Campaign, (Western Cape) said the news came "as no surprise"

"The State appears quite happy to catapult the country into a Dark Age of disinformation, censorship and suppression of opinion

"We stand by the Weekly Mail staff in the suspension period and urge other publications under constant threat from the Minister of Home Affairs to fill the void and not let up in their pursuit of the real truth in South Africa

"The muzzling of the Mail means South Africans will be told even less about the abuses of apartheid or the initiatives of anti-government organisations."

CONDEMNED

The president of the Southern Africa Society of Journalists, Mr Bob Kernohan, said. "This step by Minister Stoffel Botha is condemned in the strongest terms by the SASJ and the hundreds of South African journalists it represents

"The Weekly Mail has fearlessly carried out its task of informing its readers of events in the country that the government is obviously determined to stifle

"The State has not been able to silence the Weekly Mail through the courts simply because it realised that the newspaper was not breaking the law. Instead, Minister Botha has taken an arbitrary and reprehensible decision to close the newspaper for a month

"November 1 1988 will go down in the history of South Africa as the day the government tried to snuff out another light, so adding to the darkness of suppression and oppression

UK, US slate ban on Mail

LONDON — Britain and the United States have come out strongly against the ban on the Weekly Mail

The British government said the restriction was a "further blow to press freedom in South Africa"

Britain's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, was expected to join the outcry at a meeting with her South African opposite number, Mr Kobus Meiring, at the Foreign Office yesterday

Mr Meiring was giving Mrs Chalker a briefing on developments in South Africa, including the municipal election results and Angola-Namibia peace negotiations

The banning was reportedly prominent on British radio and TV

The US embassy in Pretoria said it deplored the decision to suspend the Mail

"It is the embassy's conviction that the press plays an essential role in any democratic society, and that press freedom, inconvenient as it may be on occasion for governments, is nevertheless inseparable from democracy itself," it said

Last night decisions on the immediate future of the Mail were still being taken, following the announcement that the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, had banned the paper for 28 days

Mail co-editor Mr Irwin Manoim said the publishers still had to meet lawyers to decide if the next course of action included petitioning the courts

The 25 000 circulation Weekly Mail would lose a lot of revenue, since traditionally November was the biggest advertising month for newspapers, he said — Own Correspondent and Sapa

British and Americans protest after Government action

Banning of Mail condemned

Star 2/11/88
Staff Reporters
and Sapa

The American and British governments have led a flood of protest over the banning for a month yesterday of *The Weekly Mail*.

Newspaper unions and church and human rights organisations have also protested after the Government action

In London the British Foreign Office said it "strongly opposes" the decision to ban *The Weekly Mail*

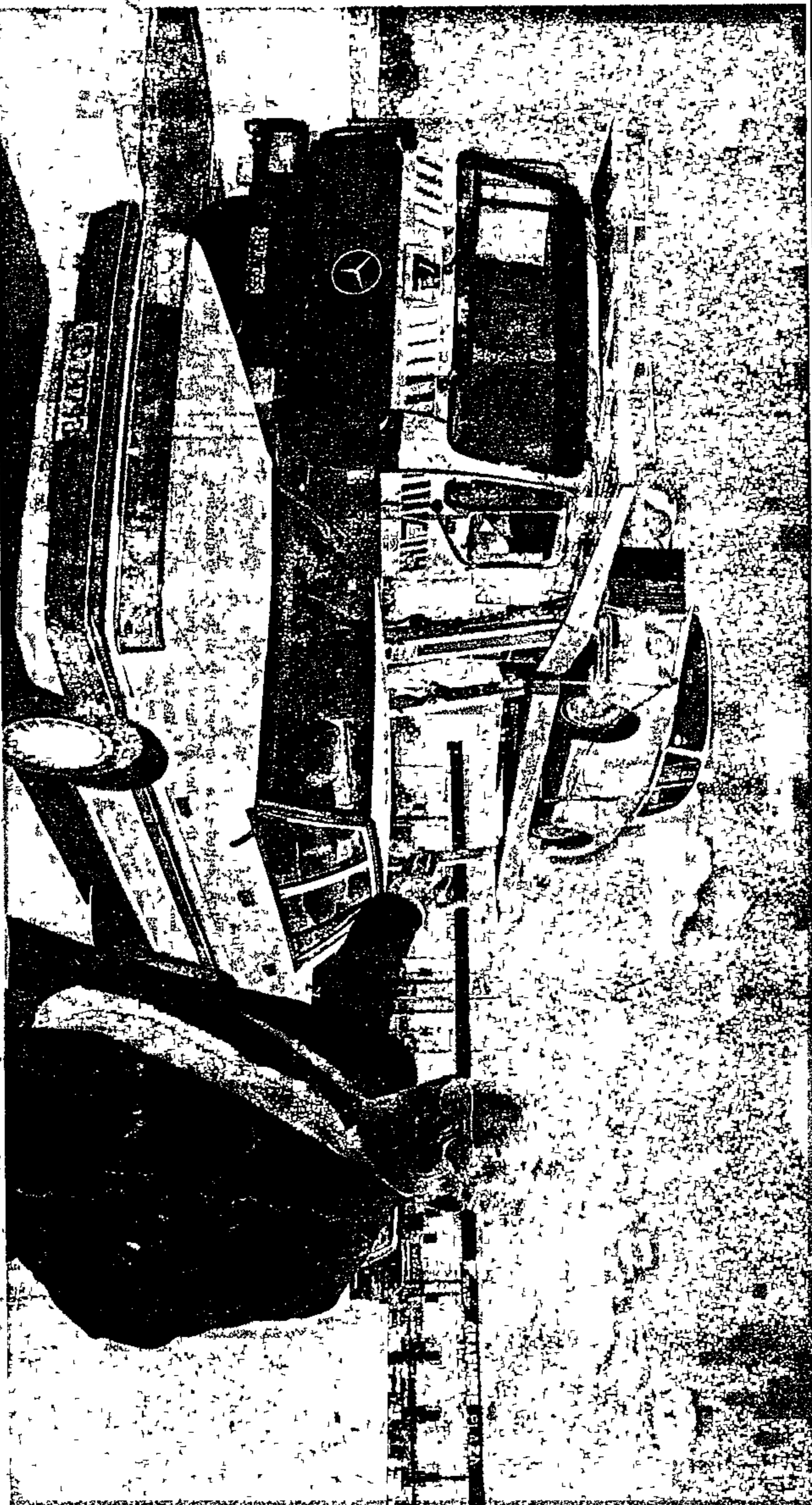
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In Washington the United States condemned the suspension, calling for an end to the Government's gag on South Africa's news media

Under Secretary of State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman said the US deplored the suspension, calling on the Government to "end its suppression of the media and to allow its citizens access to the information and ideas they need to debate their country's future"

Yesterday *The Weekly Mail* was banned from publication for a month in terms of an order published in a Government Gazette

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2
3



Tolcon managing director Mr Ron McLennan... "those who do not want to pay the toll charges can use the Golden Highway, which is actually a shorter route than the N1."

Black Sash link to axing of non-racial
Eloff in favour of non-racial
Grasmere toll plaza users to get free passes



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Yesterday *The Weekly Mail* was banned from publication for a month in terms of an order published in a Government Gazette.

'Justified'

The order, signed by Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha, was made in terms of the media emergency regulations.

Mr Botha said yesterday he was convinced that his decision to close the newspaper until November 28 was justified.

The Weekly Mail co-editor Mr Anton Harber said the Minister's decision was "incomprehensible".

"We find it extraordinary that the Minister should judge the situation to be so serious that he needs to close us down, but not for more than four editions."

Mr Harber said the newspaper would "keep fighting" and "would be back".

Mr Harvey Tyson, Editor-in-Chief of *The Star*, said the ban would affect every South African and would hurt the country abroad.

A spokesman for the National Union of Journalists in Britain said the NUJ condemned the ban "Journalists in South Africa already work in an atmosphere of fear and suppression and this will make the situation worse."

"Journalists are being forced further and further into self-censorship."

Mr Philip Spender, editor of *Index on Censorship*, the London publication which monitors censorship worldwide, said the ban was "a shocking step".

● See Page 15.

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WEEKLY

MAIL

2/11/88
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Paper to
street
one man

BAN

By ALI MPHAKI
and SAPA
THE Weekly Mail
was banned for one
month under the
state of emergency
regulations by
Minister of Home
Affairs, Mr Stoffel
Botha, yesterday.

The ban was published in a special edition of the Government Gazette, which also contained a warning to the publishers of the periodical Free Azania, that the published matter endangered public safety and order. It was the most serious move the Government has taken to quell the anti-apartheid Press since introducing sweeping media controls in June 1986. This is the second time the *Weekly Mail* has been taken off the streets.

Order

In a statement yesterday, Mr Botha said the newspaper had "continued with the systematic or repetitive publishing of matter which in my opinion has or is calculated to have the effect of causing a threat to the safety of the public or to the maintenance of public order or is causing a delay in the termination of the state of emergency".

• To page 2

Old folk await payout



SOME of the pensioners who arrived early yesterday morning at the pension payout centre in Diepkloof, Soweto, waiting for their turn to receive their bi-monthly pension allowance.
Pic MBUZENI ZULU

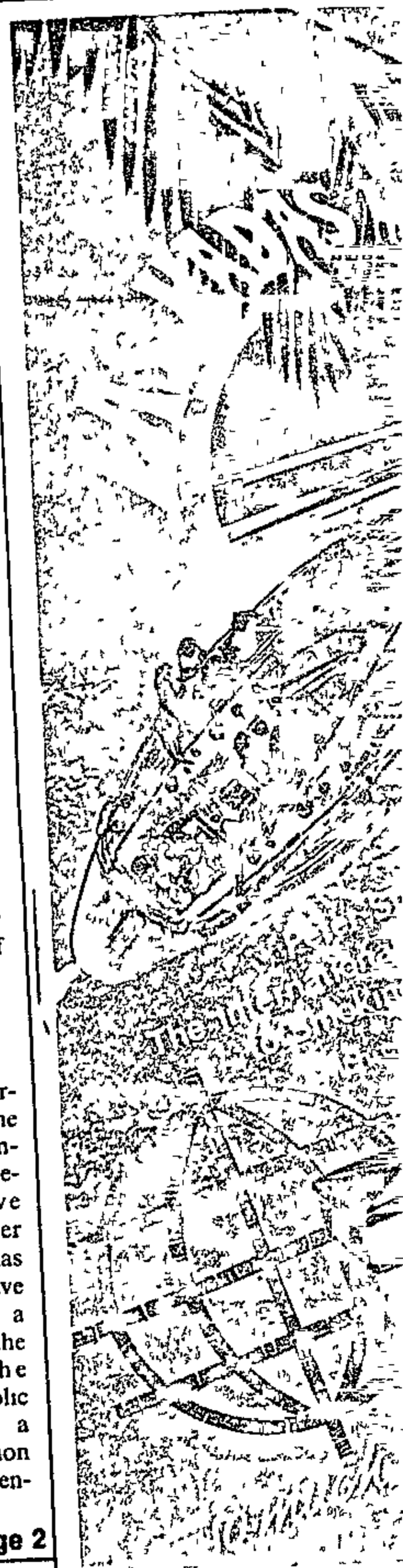
Elderly women hacked to death

TWO elderly women, both aged fifty, were hacked to death with a panga at Ga Matlala

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

The police said the

said The police also reported another slaying in Seshego township where a 44-year-old man



Weekly

Mail

banned

● From page 1

Mr Botha said. "I have carefully considered the circumstances pertaining to the *Weekly Mail* and I am convinced that my decision is justified."

He said that this step followed a warning to as well as a previous discussion with the publishers of the *Weekly Mail*. "At present there are thousands of registered periodicals. To date I have only had cause to issue similar orders in respect of two other periodicals," the Minister said

The order to suspend the *Mail* was delivered in terms of the provisions of regulation 7 of the Media Emergency regulations and prohibits the *Weekly Mail* from being published from yesterday up to and including November 28

The *Mail* is the third newspaper to be banned by Botha. *New Nation* and magazine *South*, were each temporarily suspended earlier this year. Under emergency powers, Botha can suspend for up to three months any publication he deems to be subversive

The *Mail* co-editor, Irwin Manoim, said the newspaper had been bracing for a three-month suspension after a series of warnings from Mr Botha.

"We are pretty sure we can survive this. We have had 13 months to mull over this possibility," he said

Meanwhile, anti-apartheid organisations have condemned the Government for taking this drastic step.

Paper is 'threat to public safety'

Star 21/11/88

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STAFF REPORTER

The *Weekly Mail* systematically and repeatedly publicised material which posed a threat to public safety and delayed the termination of the state of emergency, Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha said yesterday

Following his decision to close the newspaper, Mr Botha said "I have judged the circumstances surrounding *The Weekly Mail* carefully. I am convinced that my decision is fully justified.

WARNED

"In terms of Regulation 7 of the Emergency Media regulations, I find it necessary to prohibit the publication of *The Weekly Mail* from 1 November up to and including 28 November 1988

"This step follows a warning as well as a previous meeting with the publishers of *The Weekly Mail*

"There are presently several thousand registered periodical publications. Up until now it has only been necessary for me to serve similar orders against



Mr Stoffel Botha . 'convinced my decision is justified'.

two other periodical publications"

● The publishers of the periodical *Free Azania* were yesterday issued with their first warning that Mr Botha was considering suspending them. The notice to this effect was contained in the same Government Gazette as that which included *The Weekly Mail* order. It noted merely that *Free Azania* was considered by the Minister to endanger public order.

Star 3/11/88

Rushdie visit: paper is ⁽²⁴³⁾ ~~is~~ threatened with violence

By Clare Harper

At the same time that *The Weekly Mail* was under attack from the Government, it found itself caught in a controversy over the proposed visit by renowned writer Salman Rushdie, co-editor Mr Anton Harber said yesterday

Rushdie was invited to speak next week at a Book Week to be held under the auspices of *The Weekly Mail*

Mr Harber said that threats of violence, directed at Rushdie and *The Weekly Mail*, had been received daily over the telephone. The threats were "fairly consistent and serious enough for us to be concerned", Mr Harber said.

"It is striking that freedom of expression is being attacked from both sides — by a Government that doesn't like our views, and by right-wing organisations and individuals who threaten violence because they don't like the views of Salman Rushdie."

Mr Harber said he found both these situations equally appalling and "the product of narrow-mindedness and intolerance"

He said *The Weekly Mail* was to meet religious people who objected to Mr Rushdie's views. Asked whether Mr Rushdie was still coming, Mr Harber said discussions were still going on.

● The Congress of South African Writers, co-sponsors in *The Weekly Mail's* "Book Week", has withdrawn its invitation to Rushdie, the newspaper said yesterday.

The newspaper said in a statement "We acknowledge that the Rushdie novel, *The Satanic Verses*, has angered many Muslims. We accept that the Muslim community has every right to voice that anger and to protest peacefully," the newspaper said — Sapa

Star 3/11/88

Mail ban irrational, says co-editor

By Clare Harper

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stofel Botha acted against *The Weekly Mail* at a crucial time in South Africa's relations with the outside world, co-editor Mr Anton Harber said yesterday

He was speaking at a press conference the day after Mr Botha banned the newspaper from publication for a month

Mr Harber said the Minister was throwing South Africa's relations with the outside world into confusion and bringing his Government's bona fides into doubt "as they run around the world talking grandly about reform, constitutional change and release of political prisoners"

"We believe — and see no evi-

dence to the contrary — that this is just an irrational act of narrow-mindedness and intolerance We say to Mr Botha Come out from behind your veil of secrecy and show us that this is not the case Give us your full reasons for this action and let us see how considered and informed your view is"

Although the ban was a serious problem and would drain the paper's resources, "we have thought very carefully about how we will deal with it and we will survive it," Mr Harber said

"We believe that the fact that Botha felt he could only do it for a month is a small victory for us — and for all those people who supported us and joined the call

to prevent this action

"This does not detract from the seriousness of the situation — and how major a blow he has struck against the press and the reading public," he said

Co-editor Mr Irwin Manom said the staff would be working on single-issue publications on censorship, a dossier on human rights and a wrap-up of the news of the year in SA

"The philosophy of this newspaper has always been to fight back against restrictions We are not proposing to hibernate during this period of banning"

Despite the ban, editorial, administrative and advertising staff would be paid Mr Manom said legal action was unlikely

3-10v 3/11/88
Mail boss
to speak
on ban (243)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The co-editor of *The Weekly Mail* newspaper, Mr Anton Harber, is to address the "Right to Speak" conference in Durban at the weekend

The conference has been organised by the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa)

Mr Stoffel Botha, Minister of Home Affairs, yesterday closed *The Weekly Mail* for a month

Idasa's regional director Mr Paul Graham said that following warnings to the newspaper, "we asked him specifically to speak on how *The Weekly Mail* could regain its right to speak, to suggest ways other people could support *The Weekly Mail* to regain the right to speak, and to regain the right to speak in their own areas of influence

The conference is to be held at the Univeristy of Natal on Friday and Saturday and is open to all

Paper ban: An elusive reason

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Star 3/11/88

PATRICK LAURENCE takes a look at the banning of *The Weekly Mail* newspaper, and echoes the question that is on the lips of many: Why, why, why?

Articles which are acceptable in mainline newspapers are deemed subversive when they appear in *The Weekly Mail*, even though more than 75 per cent of the publication's readers are university graduates — and thus trained to assess information critically.

That is a central point in the paper's written representation to Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha after he issued a final warning to it.

The response to Mr Botha's warning was submitted in a vain bid to dissuade him from suspending the newspaper.

The Weekly Mail noted that Mr Botha had objected to two broad categories of articles, those which, in his judgment, promoted the image of unlawful or restricted organisations, and those which he deemed to have denigrated the security forces.

"The two kinds of material to which you have objected are those which find their way into the mainstream press on a more regular basis than in our publication," *The Weekly Mail* said in its letter to Mr Botha.

"Yet those newspapers do not receive warnings under the Media Emergency Regulations and are not under threat of closure. Occasionally they are prosecuted under police or defence laws, but are able to defend themselves in open court.

"Why is it that *The Weekly Mail* cannot be treated in the same way?"

ANALYSIS

Denying that it had promoted the image of the ANC, *The Weekly Mail* analysed an article cited by Mr Botha as an example of one which enhanced the ANC.

The article dealt with the ANC's latest constitutional proposals and contained "strong critical comment from different political traditions in South Africa"

Weekly Mail analysed an article cited by Mr Botha as an example of one which enhanced the ANC.

The article dealt with the ANC's latest constitutional proposals and contained "strong critical comment from different political traditions in South Africa"

The mainstream press, with a much larger circulation and a generally less educated readership, could carry "sensationalised" accounts of Dr Danie Craven's talks with the ANC without incurring Mr Botha's wrath, even though senior Cabinet Ministers criticised the South African Rugby Board president for improving the ANC's image

But a "sober analysis" in *The Weekly Mail* of the ANC's constitutional plans was deemed subversive, although it included "hostile comment from significant leadership figures" ranging from Mr Oscar Dhlomo, of Inkatha, to Dr Zach de Beer of the Progressive Federal Party.

Another article held by Mr Botha to have promoted the image of an unlawful organisation was written by political analyst Dr Tom Lodge of the University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Lodge addressed the question of whether there had been a revival in the fortunes of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC)

"It is clear from a reading of the article," *The Weekly Mail* told Mr Botha, "that he (Dr Lodge) holds no brief for the PAC and that his analysis is fundamentally objective"

SECURITY

Yet another article objected to by Mr Botha was based on a PAC statement criticising the ANC's constitutional proposals

Mr Botha judged it to enhance the PAC's image

The Weekly Mail countered

"It was published in the context of a general debate about the ANC proposals. The context makes it clear that the intention could never have been to improve the esteem or image of the PAC"

On articles which Mr Botha deemed to have denigrated the security forces — largely articles focusing on alleged atrocities and abuses committed in Namibia and Angola — the newspaper made two broad points that neither territory was covered by the emergency regulations, that similar reports were published at times in the mainline press

The Weekly Mail said "We cannot accept that these reports have the effect of stirring up feelings among our readership of hatred towards the security forces"

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CENSORSHIP

The *Weekly Mail* banning has again focused international and local attention on press restrictions and State control of the media, with Government under fire from several quarters ...

Press is reflection of society ^{Star 5/11/88} ⁽²⁴³⁾

DURBAN — Effective dialogue cannot take place through a media that is in the pocket of the state, a political party or special interest group, the editor of the *Natal Witness*, Mr Richard Steyn, told the Idasa "Right to Speak" conference at the University of Natal yesterday.

Although admitting the commercial press had serious shortcomings, Mr Steyn said it was much more satisfactory than its ideological counterparts "as it provides satisfaction"

Mr Steyn said South Africa exhibits all the characteristics of a society under siege

"Inside a psychological laager drawn up to keep out hostile influences, we are force-fed on the mythology that external forces have mounted an "onslaught" against which a "strategy" has to be devised in self defence," he said "That strategy makes deep inroads into the right to speak"

The problem with any "total strategy", Mr

Steyn said, was that it took power away from elected politicians and put it into the hands of the security establishment

"I have no hard evidence to prove this, but I would guess that action against newspapers such as *The Weekly Mail* is inspired not so much by politicians such as Stoffel Botha or Stoffel van der Merwe as by the security establishment."

He said emergency regulations were so vague that editors often have to weigh up not

what a court might interpret the law to be, but how some police officer might understand it

Free speech cannot survive in a society without a vigorous press, he said

"However much we theorise about media freedom or the press' right to speak, ultimately the press will be as free as the law of the land

"The right to speak is an essential element in any society in transition towards democracy," he said — Sapa

Freedoms 'must be cherished'

DURBAN — Without freedom of speech there could be no democracy, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town, Dr Stuart Saunders, said yesterday.

In his opening speech to the Idasa "Right to Speak" conference, Dr Saunders also condemned the restricting and banning of people and organisations.

"Who knows who will be prevented from speaking in 20 years' time and

who will make the decisions in this regard," he said.

(243)
"Even limited freedom must be preserved and cherished. Civil liberties, once removed, are often not restored by a succeeding government."

Whites shielded from SA reality

243
DURBAN — Censorship operates to shield and protect white South Africans from reality, a senior researcher for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Mr Gilbert Marcus, said yesterday.

Those realities include the facts that the majority of the population is living in "squalor and poverty", and that years of oppression are giving vent to violent anger on an unprecedented scale.

Speaking at the "Right to Speak" conference, Mr Marcus said censorship ensured that the white population was kept ignorant of the root causes of black anger and black aspirations.

"It also serves to preserve prejudices, myths and misconceptions which have been carefully nurtured over many decades."

Describing South Africa as a society devastated

ed by censorship, Mr Marcus said it manifested itself in less obvious ways than the outright banning of books.

"It is precisely because South Africa is not a democracy that successive South African regimes have sought to curb dissent by suppressing opposing ideologies."

Mr Marcus criticised the press for imposing its own unique form of censorship by the inclusion of certain items for publication and the exclusion of others.

He also found it "sinister" that separate ethnic editions for black readers were developed.

"A form of press apartheid has come into being in South Africa," he said. "The selection of news according to editorial perceptions of racial preferences is the by-product of apartheid."

...maternal twins have special significance
"I've always wanted to see them," said

age of three months They had been joined
above the ears and it took three hair trans-

completing through Unisa She has just be-
come engaged

'Nation Building' editor grilled

EDITOR of *Sowetan*, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, was interrogated at midnight on Thursday by security policemen about his "Nation Building" concept — a philosophy applauded in many circles

"I was rather taken aback by the junior status of these cops who

Star 5/11/86
PAT DEVEREAUX

seemed to have no idea (or tried to appear ignorant) about Nation Building," said Mr Klaaste

"The type of questions asked for about 40 minutes was Who did I work for? Who was be-

hind the campaign of Nation Building? And who were the members of the organisation?"

Mr Klaaste launched the Nation Building campaign two weeks ago and the text of his speech was published in *Sowetan*, while extracts appeared in *The Star*

A manifesto was issued explaining that Nation Building means "picking up the pieces and rebuilding all structures that have collapsed in black communities"

President of the Newspaper Press Union, Mr Jolyon Nuttall, condemned the police action,

saying "I find it remarkable that a well-respected editor should be subjected to this form of harassment

"*Sowetan* is a full member of the NPU and the question of Nation Building has been fully expanded in the paper"

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off Jan 15 5/11/12 (263)
Sash protests at Mail ban *27*

JOHANNESBURG — About 50 members of the Black Sash staged a placard protest along Jan Smuts Avenue yesterday morning, denouncing the banning of the Weekly Mail this week

The Weekly Mail silenced

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6/11/88
UP news
P. 11/11/88

Four more bodies banned

By KERRY CULLINAN
FOUR more organisations have been banned in the past week, and the government has warned that more organisations could join the 23 organisations silenced this year alone

The most recent casualties are the Azanian Coordinating Committee, Soweto Students' Congress, Transvaal Students' Congress and the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress

They join 17 organisations, including the UDF, that were banned on February 24. Cosatu was restricted from taking part in political activities at the same time

A spokesman for the Minister of Law and Order, Brigadier Leon Mellet, ascribed the latest bans to "an upsurge in revolutionary activity in certain quarters", and added that "more could come"

He said that the police had the security situation well under control and would never allow a 1976-type situation to develop in South Africa again

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission said this week it was concerned by the scant media coverage of the bans

Since the National Party came to power in 1948, over 50 organisations have been banned

Angry world and local reaction to one-month gag of newspaper

By KERRY CULLINAN
MINISTER of Information Stoffel Botha may have silenced the *Weekly Mail's* name for a month, but he will not be able to silence the people who put the newspaper together, said co-editor Irwin Maniom in reaction to the paper's one-month suspension

"We believe - and see no evidence to the contrary - that this is just an irrational act of narrow-mindedness and intolerance," added Anton Harber, the paper's other editor

Harber challenged Botha to give reasons for the suspension, and contended that the Minister did not even read the *Weekly Mail* himself

"The articles he objected to are legal," added Maniom

"But we are not intending to change our approach, which is to publish as much as we can within the law," he added

The 30 *Weekly Mail* staffers have unanimously agreed to stay together during the month and will continue to generate news and work on other publications. A publication on censorship in South Africa and a human rights dossier - both for overseas publication - will be produced, as well as a news wrap-up for the year, which will be sold in South Africa

While both editors expressed that the month-long suspension would seriously deplete the resources of the self-financing paper, they were adamant that



See, hear and talk no evil: Freedom of expression has been dealt another blow.

they would survive
"This is not a fight we will ever give up," said Harber

He added that, while the paper had been offered financial assistance, the staff was determined to avoid handouts and would continue to work to generate income

Meanwhile, the paper has been flooded by support messages from all over the country, as well as from overseas

Both the British and US governments have expressed their dismay at the ban, while Cosatu, student and youth organisations and the director of CNA Gallo have expressed support

The *City Press* editor and staff, as well as *South Business Day* and *Vrye Weekblad* staff have expressed solidarity

In a message to the *Weekly Mail*, *City Press* acting editor ZB Molefe said "Unless the *Weekly Mail's* right to publish is protected, South Africa

will have an even worse time making judgments and decisions

"What your publication stands for is this precious right. We stand with you in this dark hour for South Africa's Press in general and the *Weekly Mail* in particular"

The Association of Democratic Journalists said the ban showed the government's determination to close channels for democratic expression, while the Media Workers' Association of SA called for the unconditional lifting of the ban

The Human Rights Commission, Black Sash, the PFP, National Democratic Movement and Independent Party have also lashed out at the ban

The Southern African Catholics Bishop's Conference, owners of *New Nation*, which has recently come back from banishment, said "Having ourselves experienced similar action, we can sympathise fully with you and your staff"

No logic to Stoffel Botha's behaviour

STIPULATED 6/11/78

ABOUT five minutes after the Weekly Mail was suspended for a month, I received what was to be the first of many identikit phone-calls from sympathisers. It went something like this:

"You're so lucky! Only ONE month! Aren't you relieved?"

Yes, we are indeed lucky. We could have been banned for three months. Or forever. We could have had a censor wheeled in to peer at each article before publication. We could have been detained. Who knows, we could even have been bombed.

Rejoice

But wait... the Government has just shut down a newspaper. Why is it that perfectly sensible people consider this reason to rejoice?

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, author of the Weekly Mail's suspension notice, is to be congratulated on the skill with which he has changed bad luck into its opposite.

He does this by applying a simple formula. Speak loudly and carry a small sjambok. First, the bellicose speech. Then the anxious wait. Then the wrist slap.

Is there logic to this behaviour? Indeed there is. The yawn factor. There is a limit to the number of times that even the most passionate free-speaker can hear of the imminent death of the Weekly Mail and still shed tears.

This week's suspension of the

by Irwin
Mannoim

co-editor of the suspended Weekly Mail



Weekly Mail is the culmination of a slow, nay, leisurely process, which started 13 months ago with a letter requesting that copies of the newspaper be forwarded for scrutiny by a faceless committee of experts, well schooled in the syntax of subversion.

In May, the Minister published a notice in the Government Gazette, part of a peculiar ritual of his own invention, in which grievances are formalised by appearing in the solemn grey uniform of the government printer.

When a film like the Biko one, Cry Freedom, portrays celluloid unrest, it becomes equivalent to unrest itself. When the Weekly Mail debates options for the future, it has plotted revolution.

This is a dangerous strategy. When dissent is outlawed, it simply changes its form. When debate ceases to appear in newspaper columns, it moves on to the streets. Those who objected to the elections last month registered their votes in a more savage form. With the limpet mine. Those who objected to the boycotters registered their votes in the same way. With petrol bombs in church halls.

If the Government cannot tell ideas from deeds, then it cannot express astonishment that its rivals on left and right, cannot tell the difference either and choose to write their ideas, not in the columns of the newspapers, but in blood.

There was a huge public outcry. The Minister responded with a series of ferocious speeches, in Parliament and on television, in which he coined such memorable terms as "revolutionary journalist", "organised hysteria" and "media terrorist".

There was hardly a sane observer who did not believe that the Weekly Mail's final hour had come.

Accusing

But the Minister seemed to forget about us, and we, about him. Until two weeks ago, when an artifact from a bygone era arrived, a letter with a familiar accusing tone, warning us that there would be no more warnings. This week the Minister acted. We were declared undesirable for the month of November, although we may return to respectability in December. After all the hue and cry, it seemed to

many rather lament. What do we learn from this strange and drawn-out ritual? That the Minister is an amiable enough Oom, whose bluster disguises a kindly heart?

Insidious

Perhaps, but the effects are more insidious. The heart of it is confusion. No pattern is discernible. We have no idea why the Minister acts now and not yesterday, why against this victim but not that one, why this article offends but that one does not.

The result is anxiety and turmoil. There has not been a month this year when the Press has not faced some threat, whether the registration of all journalists, or the registration of only freelance journalists, the closure of one newspaper or another, the seizure of publications or raids on newspaper offices.

The pressure cannot but have its effects. It drains energy and resources. Editors become part-time journalists and full-time lawyers or lobbyists. Planning becomes impossible when the unknowable future shrinks to just a fortnight away. Morale sags.

Dangerous

This Government does not have a difficulty with the Weekly Mail. It has a difficulty with reality. It cannot discern between the word and the deed. To report on stone-throwing is tantamount to throwing stones, to warn of looming crisis is to precipitate it.

ARGUS 7/11/88 243

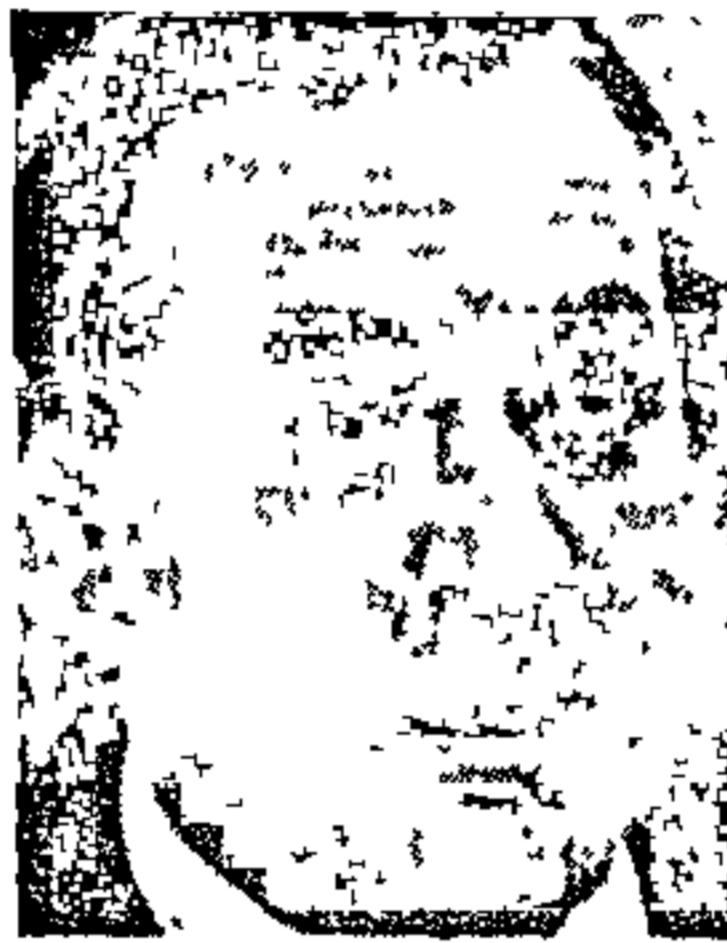
Foreign media 'thieves, enemies'

JOHANNESBURG — In a bitter shouting match with journalists, Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha described the foreign media as "thieves and enemies" who know "absolutely nothing" about South Africa

Mr Botha held the raucous exchange with journalists during a hostile question-and-answer period after his speech at a Saturday night dinner given by the Foreign Correspondents Association

"I am sick and tired of a lot of foreign representatives descending on my country and picking up on all the dirty work instead of all the beauty, promise and goodwill," Mr Botha said after an argumentative exchange with one journalist

"You don't understand Africa. You don't understand African aspirations. You don't understand African history."



Mr Pik Botha

The 400 people attending included foreign and local journalists and their guests, such as US ambassador Edward Perkins.

"I accuse you of being superficial I accuse you of glibly gliding over the African realities of which you know nothing, absolutely nothing," Mr Botha said

Asked about last week's suspension of the Weekly Mail newspaper, Mr Botha

said he supported the move He described the newspaper as one of the most "vicious" he had seen and it contributed to "more violence in this country"

At the end of the hour-long impromptu debate, the host offered to thank Mr Botha, but he refused to accept Instead he returned from his seat to the podium and quoted a speech by Paul Kruger, formerly President of the Transvaal

"(Kruger's) opening words were, 'friends, citizens, thieves and enemies' And that is how I look at you this evening" The audience responded with boos, hisses and shouts of "go home" Mr Botha left shortly afterward, before desert was served

● A spokesman for Mr Botha said last night the Minister did not walk out of the dinner. He said Mr Botha left near midnight after excusing himself because he had other work to do. — Sapa-AP and The Argus Political Staff

Mail: <sup>9M-
TAP
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EC ²⁴³
reprisal
factor?

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Diplomatic pressure on Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha, may have persuaded him to suspend the Weekly Mail newspaper for one month and not the three-month period he was entitled to impose, diplomatic sources said at the weekend.

The 12 member countries of the European Community issued a strongly-worded statement at the weekend condemning the government's decision to suspend the Mail.

"The 12 reiterate their belief that the freedom of the press is a constructive agent, rather than an impediment to the peaceful process of reform in SA."

Sources disclosed that virtually all the European missions in SA would have been shut down if the government had rejected a joint representation made earlier this year on behalf of the so-called Sharpeville Six.

Police yesterday confirmed the detention, in terms of the emergency regulations, of eight people who protested on Friday in Pretoria against the banning of the Weekly Mail.

They had not been released by late yesterday.

Pik 'stormed out in fury at newsmen'

CM- files 7/11/88 (243) 30/1/88

JOHANNESBURG — In a bitter shouting match with journalists, Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha described the foreign media as "thieves and enemies" (quoting Paul Kruger) who knew "absolutely nothing" about South Africa.

Mr Botha was involved in a fierce exchange with journalists during a hostile question-and-answer period after his speech at a banquet held by the Foreign Correspondents' Association on Saturday night.

"I am sick and tired of a lot of foreign representatives descending on my country and picking up on all the dirty work instead of all the beauty, promise and goodwill," Mr Botha said after an argumentative exchange with one journalist.

"You don't understand Africa. You don't understand African aspirations. You don't understand African history," he added.

"I accuse you of being superficial. I accuse you of glibly gliding over the African realities of which you know nothing, absolutely nothing," Mr Botha told the audience.

The 400 people attending included foreign and local journalists and their guests, such as US Ambassador Mr Edward Perkins and PFP leader Dr Zach de Beer.

The exchanges had become heated

after Mr Botha was asked why the editor of New Nation, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, was still in detention.

Asked about the suspension of the Weekly Mail, Mr Botha said he supported the move. He said the newspaper was one of the most "vicious" he had seen in his travels around the world and said it contributed to "more violence in this country".

Asked why members of an extreme right-wing white group were not detained as were many anti-apartheid activists, Mr Botha said "Don't be stupid. It's not a question of arresting a few people and that's the end of it."

"There are whites in this country who can put together a more efficient violent organization than the ANC."

One of the directors of the recently launched liberal newspaper, "Vrye Weekblad", Mr Christo Nel, strongly objected to the minister's accusations of ignorance and shallowness.

"I know what is happening in this country," said Mr Nel, adding that "We will never be South Africans until I can vote with my fellow black South African in the Cape".

At the end of the fierce impromptu debate, Mr Botha thanked people at his table but refused to allow a vote of thanks to be proposed by a foreign pressman. He stormed out before dessert was served — Sapa-AP

Police interrogate editor

CAPE TOWN 7/11/88
JOHANNESBURG — Sowetan editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste intends complaining "at the highest level" about a midnight visit by security police on Friday

Mr Klaaste was interrogated for about 40 minutes by two policemen about his "nation building" initiative which has been well received in many circles.

"I was shocked to be confronted by two security policemen banging at my door. If they wanted to scare me and my family they certainly succeeded. I was scared they had come to detain me," he said.

243 (22)
Mr Klaaste said he was asked a lot of "stupid questions"

"I was asked if 'nation building' was an organisation, if it had any members and who they were. Surely if the security police wanted to talk to me they could have asked me to come to their offices at a reasonable time?"

A police spokesman said that "for obvious reasons" they would not divulge who did the questioning.

Nation building, a manifesto explains, is "picking up the pieces and rebuilding the structures which have collapsed in the black community" — Sapa

Weekblad: Funds for a year

974 7/11/85 263 3000
JOHANNESBURG — The first Afrikaans anti-apartheid newspaper hit the streets on Friday, splashing a story of the imminent release of Mr Nelson Mandela on the front page.

By Thursday the editor, Mr Max du Preez, had "mortgaged his life away" to put out the first edition of Vrye Weekblad (Free Weekly), but by Friday sufficient funding had been secured for publication for a full year, a senior member of the staff said.

The publication underscored the deep ideological divisions in the Afrikaner community over the pace of reform and offered for the first time an Afrikaans newspaper that is not staunchly pro-government.

One staff member said the weekly had already gained support among Afrikaans-speaking academics and some financiers but had "not exactly been met with open arms" among conservatives strongly opposed to equal rights for blacks.

Emerging after Afrikaner academics held controversial talks with the outlawed African National Congress in Dakar last year, the new weekly takes an anti-apartheid posture rivalling that of the Weekly Mail.

On Tuesday the government suspended publication of the Weekly Mail for a month for allegedly waging a "systematic" campaign to promote dissident organizations.

"As a professional journalist, you have only one choice — the English press," Mr Du Preez said "But that too has frustrations. You are not writing in your own language and for your own community."

Friday's 30 000 copies carried the banner headline "Mandela: A New Era" and said the jailed ANC leader "will definitely be a free man soon".

Quoting unidentified sources, the weekly said Mr P W Botha informed government leaders in Portugal and bankers in Switzerland on a European visit last month that Mr Mandela "will be home before Christmas".

It also reported November 14 as the most widely mentioned date for his release.

Hostile press for Pik Botha

JOHANNESBURG. — Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha got a hostile press at the Foreign Correspondents' Association's annual dinner on Saturday night — but it's under debate whether he angrily stormed out.

Reports that Mr Botha left angrily after facing hostile questions, boos and hisses have been denied, "in the strongest possible terms" by his department.

"In fact the minister replied to the venomous attacks on himself and the government of SA for more than an hour," a Foreign Affairs statement said yesterday.

Mr Botha left the dinner at 11 45pm, the statement said, after excusing himself because he had further work to do.

"The minister took his leave from Mr Peter Hawthorne, chairman of the FCA, and other guests at his table.

"Mr Hawthorne thanked the minister for making time available, despite his heavy schedule, to the foreign correspondents."

The statement said members of the FCA were dissatisfied at the bad manners of other guests, who were not members but "who consisted of SA radicals with an axe to grind and thought this was the occasion to do so".

"The radical guests dominated the dinner to the extent that members of the association did not have a chance to put questions," it said.

Mr Hawthorne said the way the evening had ended was regrettable but a formal apology to Mr Botha was not considered. He said the Foreign Minister had indicated on his arrival that he would have to leave early and he had not stormed out.

He denied Mr Botha's statement that the evening had been taken over by "radicals".

● Pik 'stormed out in fury at newsmen', Page 3

Mail silenced, but not staff

THE Weekly Mail (WM) staff will pursue independent publishing ventures during the 28 days in which the newspaper may not be published, WM co-editor Irwin Manoim said yesterday.

The WM was banned on Tuesday by Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha because, in his opinion, it had systematically published matter which threatened the safety of the public.

At a Press conference yesterday, Manoim said the WM staff would continue to generate income by offering news to other publications and by producing a variety of commissioned single issue newspapers on subjects like Censorship in SA, Human Rights in SA and a wrap-up of the news of the year in SA.

The publications would still carry the WM label, he said.

7/11/88
MANDY JEAN WOODS *B/W*

"It has always been our philosophy to fight back and we do not propose to hibernate. Botha may have silenced the newspaper, but he has not silenced the staff," he said.

The WM decided not to challenge the banning order in court because of the length of closure.

"Our lawyers advise us that by the time the paperwork is done, the banning period will be over, and because the probability of overturning the ban has been diminished following the reversal of key judgments by the courts in the past year," he said.

The 25 000 circulation newspaper will incur a major loss in revenue.

● See Page 3

Black Sash protest

ABOUT 50 members of the Black Sash staged a placard protest along Jan Smuts Avenue in Johannesburg Friday morning, denouncing the Government's banning of the *Weekly Mail* last week.

Placards read "We stand by the *Weekly Mail*" and "Save the *Weekly Mail*" — Stop Stoffel".

Transvaal co-chairman of the Black Sash, Mrs Audrey Coleman, said her organisation believed everybody was entitled to his opinion and the *Weekly Mail*, which has been banned for a month, had a right to exist.

"We don't even know what is going on in this country and the *Weekly Mail* served an important function."

19/11/50
Mrs Audrey Coleman

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PIK ^{is aware} STORM

AT ^(circled) DINNER ^{(circled) 243}

A GRIM-FACED Foreign Minister, Pik Botha, angered by bitter clashes on detentions, closure of newspapers, and police brutality, stalked out of the Foreign Correspondents Association annual dinner in Johannesburg on Saturday night.

Stung by ribald laughter, hisses and barbed questions from some of the 300 diners in the elegant Johannesburg Sun Hotel, Mr Botha retaliated by addressing them as Paul Kruger addressed the uitlanders of Johannesburg last century, as "friends, citizens, thieves and enemies"

In an effort to break off the exchanges, he at one point said he had to leave as he was flying to Ethiopia in the morning

Aides later said he had been joking

Erupted

The row erupted during question time after Mr Botha had delivered a speech on what it means to be a South African today

The exchanges became heated when Mr Botha was asked why the editor of *New Nation*, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, was still in detention

Mr Botha accused the foreign Press of being superficial and shallow

"I am sick and tired of a lot of foreign representatives descending on my country and picking up on all the dirty work instead of all the beauty,

Foreign Press sting Minister

promise and goodwill of this country"

Mr Botha, caught off-guard by the fierce questions flung at him, retorted with angry answers, telling the crowd. "Most of you don't know a thing about South Africa and Africa and don't understand what being an African is all about.

Objected

One of the directors of the recently launched liberal newspapers, "*Vrye Weekblad*", Mr Christo Nel, strongly objected to the Minister's accusation of the ignorance and shallowness of the audience.

"I know what is happening in this country," a defiant Mr Nel said, adding that "we will never be South Africans until I can vote with my fellow black South African"— Sapa

Sowetan lawyers seek reason for grilling Editor

By SY
MAKARINGE

LAWYERS acting for the *Sowetan* have been instructed to write to the Commissioner of Police and seek an explanation why junior members of the security police were sent to interrogate the editor of the newspaper, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, in the middle of the night on Thursday.

The president of the Newspaper Press Union, Mr Jolyon Nuttal, has also registered his objection to the incident and intends raising the issue at a meeting to be held with the police liaison committee on December 1.

Mr Klaaste said yesterday he was asleep when two members of the security police arrived at his Diepkloof Extension home and banged at his door. He said they interrogated him on his Nation Building initiative for about 40 minutes.

Members

"They asked me if Nation Building was an organisation and if it had any members I told them it was not an organisation. I did not know what to say, I just gave them a vague idea of what Nation Building was all about," he said.

He said the two policemen — one white and the other black — were of "junior status" who seemed to have no idea of what the concept of Nation Building was all about.

Launched

The Nation Building campaign was formally launched at a fund raising dinner at Shareworld about two weeks ago. The concept, which has received an overwhelming support from the black community, simply means "picking up the pieces and rebuilding all structures that have collapsed."

Condemning the police action, Mr Nuttal, said "I find it remarkable that a well-respected editor of a newspaper should be subjected to this form of harassment."

'Diplomatic role in lighter ban on Mail'

PETER DELMAR

B/dog 2/1/88
DIPLOMATIC pressure on Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha may have persuaded him to suspend the Weekly Mail newspaper for just one month and not the three-month period he was entitled to do, diplomatic sources said at the weekend.

The 12 member countries of the EC issued a strongly worded statement at the weekend condemning government's decision to suspend the Mail and calling for an end to Press restrictions.

"The recent ban on the circulation of the Weekly Mail, despite the 12's *dé-marche* on October 26, can only aggravate the existing tensions and polarisation," the statement said.

"The 12 reiterate their belief that the freedom of the Press is a constructive agent, rather than an impediment to the peaceful process of reform in SA."

In a top-level joint representation last month, the local European embassies appealed to Botha not to take action against the Mail.

It is understood that no threats were levelled against the SA government.

● To Page 2 →

'Diplomatic role in lighter ban on Mail'

However, the sources disclosed that virtually all the European missions in SA would have been shut down if government had rejected a joint representation made earlier this year on behalf of the so-called Sharpeville Six.

"That possibility could not have been far from Mr Botha's mind when he considered the Weekly Mail," one diplomat said.

B/dog 2/1/88
DAN SIMON reports that police yesterday confirmed the detention in Pretoria on Friday in terms of the emergency regulations of eight people at a protest demonstration against the banning of the Weekly Mail.

They had not been released by late yesterday.

● From Page 1 ←

SA agents behind theft of tapes — US claim

Call Times
7/11/88

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Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The Voice of America, the US government overseas radio service, has publicly accused South African agents of being behind the chronic disappearance of scripts and tapes of programmes prepared for broadcast to Angola and Mozambique, the New York Times reported yesterday

VOA director Mr Richard Carlson said "We have no absolute proof it was the South Africans, but logic tells me it was"

A Portuguese employee of the service, Mr Antonio Augusto da Silva Vicente, was fired after security officers concluded that he and his wife, Juliana, had delivered tapes to the SA Embassy in late 1986.

Materials started disappearing again last April and again this year "This led us to conclude that SA might again be interfering," said Mr Gregory Piro, chief of VOA's Portuguese division

A South African Embassy spokesman, Mr Eli Bitser, categorically denied that the SA government "knew anything" about the alleged thefts "Nor could we have benefited from such activities," he said

Mr Da Silva, who now works for the SABC in Johannesburg, also denied the charges Mrs Da Silva, currently with the SA Embassy in Lisbon, declined to answer questions

The material in question dealt with such topics as US relations with Mozambique, and VOA officials said they may have been used to discredit a freelance contributor to the service in Maputo

There has been a long feud within the service In recent years, a number of Portuguese expatriates who lived in pre-independence Mozambique and Angola have been replaced by journalists more sympathetic to the current governments.

Senator Jesse Helms, the senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has complained that broadcasts are biased in favour of Luanda and Maputo and against Unita and Renamo

Mr Marcos Samondo, a Unita representative in Washington, disputed Helms's claim, as did Mr Charles Wick, who heads the US-Information Agency which controls VOA

Last year, the US-SA Leadership Exchange Programme (Ussalep) charged that SA agents may have stolen computerised records.

CP 7/18/88
**Mail may
take Pik
to court**

JOHANNESBURG — Weekly Mail co-editors Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim are consulting lawyers about legal action against the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, after it was reported that Mr Botha told foreign correspondents at the weekend the Weekly Mail was one of the most "vicious" newspapers he had seen and that it "contributed to more violence in this country"

"There is not a shred of truth to Mr Botha's allegations," the editors said yesterday "To report on violence is very different from orchestrating it."

In Pretoria, the Japanese Embassy said in a statement that its government "strongly requests the government of South Africa to rescind the suspension immediately" — Sapa

243 Staff Reporters (243) Stev (243)
The use of the emergency regulations to detain a group protesting against the suspension of *The Weekly Mail* has drawn condemnation

The picket protest took place in Pretoria on Friday afternoon. It involved students at the University of Pretoria, members of the Black Sash, the Young Progressives and individuals

At least eight picketers were detained and had not been released by late yesterday

It is understood that

Arrest of protesters draws condemnation

urgent court action is being considered to procure their release

Mr Raymond Louw, chairman of the Save the Press Committee, said the organisation protested "vigorously at the outrageous treatment of the people who were demonstrating against the closure of *The Weekly Mail* in a perfectly legal manner"

The Young Progressives have also ex-

pressed their condemnation of the police action against the picketers. They have called on the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, to order the detainees' release

● Sapa reports that *The Weekly Mail's* co-editors said yesterday they were shocked to hear of the detention of the eight

In a statement they called for the immediate release of the "unfortunate victims".

Editors may sue Pik Botha

The editors of *The Weekly Mail*, Anton Harber and Irwin Manom, are consulting lawyers about possible legal action against Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha after it was reported Mr Botha told foreign correspondents this weekend that *The Weekly Mail* was one of the most "vicious" newspapers he had seen and that it "contributed to violence"

"Not satisfied with his Government's decision to silence us, Mr Botha now attacks us by making public allegations that are both unfounded and defamatory," the editors said.
— Sapa

Canadian aid for SA Press

The Canadian government has awarded R100 000 to the newly created Media Defence Trust and a further R60 000 to the Anti-Censorship Action Group

According to a statement released

by the Canadian Embassy, both the grants were intended as important elements in the Canadian action plan for the implementation of the Commonwealth strategy to counter the effects of increasingly severe censorship on respected journals.

Sowetan editor questioned: Minister apologises

243 By Paula Fray 8/11/88

The Ministry of Law and Order has apologised to the editor of the *Sowetan* newspaper for his late-night interrogation last Thursday by two junior members of the Security Police

The editor, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, said yesterday that Brigadier Leon Mellet, press secretary in the Ministry of Law and Order, "called and apologised on

behalf of himself and the Minister for the incident"

Mr Klaaste said he accepted the apologies

The president of the Newspaper Press Union (NPU), Mr Jolyon Nuttall, said he received a call from the Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, who apologised for the incident and said the matter was being "investigated fully"

The incident will, however, still be on the agenda at the NPU-SAP liaison committee meeting on December 1, Mr Nuttall said

"The matter is being investigated and we are expecting a report back," he said

The incident occurred soon after the launch of the newspaper's "Nation Building" initiative, which Mr Klaaste says has had a "phenomenal response" from the public

MINISTRY APOLIGISES TO EDITOR

THE Ministry of Law and Order has apologised to the editor of the *Sowetan* newspaper for his late-night interrogation last Thursday by two junior members of the security police.

The editor, Mr Aggrey Klaaste, said Brigadier Leon Mallet, Press secretary for the Ministry of Law and Order, "called and apologised on behalf of himself and the Minister for the incident."

The president of the Newspaper Press Union, Mr Jolyon Nuttall, said he received a call from Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok who apologised for the incident and said the matter was being "investigated fully."

The incident will, however, still be on the agenda at the NPU-SAP liaison committee meeting on December 1, Mr Nuttall said.

"The matter is being investigated and we are expecting a report back," he said.

The move comes amid growing public support for the editor and the newspaper's "Nation Building" initiative and follows an instruction to the *Sowetan's* lawyers to write to the Commissioner of Police.

The lawyers were to ask why junior members of the security police were sent to interrogate Mr Klaaste on Thursday night.

The policemen — one white and one black — woke Mr Klaaste up on Thursday night at his Diepkloof Extension home and questioned him for 40 minutes on his much publicised initiative of Nation Building.

243 B/daw 8/11/88

Weekly Mail angered at comments

Editors weigh up legal action against Botha

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THE Weekly Mail says it is considering legal action against Foreign Minister Pik Botha for his comments on the paper during the controversial Foreign Correspondents' Association dinner at the weekend.

Co-editors Irwin Manoim and Anton Harber referred to Botha's comments that the paper was one of the most "vicious" he had seen and it "contributed to more violence in this country".



● HARBER

A Weekly Mail statement said "Not satisfied with his government's decision to silence us, Mr Botha now attacks us by making public allegations that are both unfounded and defamatory."

"There is not a shred of truth to Mr Botha's allegations. To report on violence is very different from orchestrating it."

It added they believed Botha should be asked to show whether his allegations had any more sub-

DIANNA GAMES

stance than those made by Information Minister Stoffel Botha and they were consulting lawyers about legal action against Pik Botha

Botha could not be reached for comment yesterday

Sapa reports the Foreign Correspondents' Association board yesterday expressed regret at incidents during the question-and-answer period at the dinner.

The board said it dissociated itself from actions that "broke the standards of professional conduct, or that represented a discourtesy to the invited speaker"

Chairman Peter Hawthorne said they had not examined the possibility of a formal apology to Botha

One of the questioners at the dinner, Mike Hanna, from Britain's Channel Four TV, said yesterday that, by choosing the topic — What it is like to be a South African — and moving out of his portfolio, Botha had laid himself open to some justifiable questions.

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60% transportation rebate and subsidized housing for key personnel And now they're showing returns by growing here We've now opened a branch of the Ciskei Peoples Development Bank in Johannesburg

The new office will supply all the necessary information and provide a contact point It will serve as a window into Ciskei and all we have to offer So

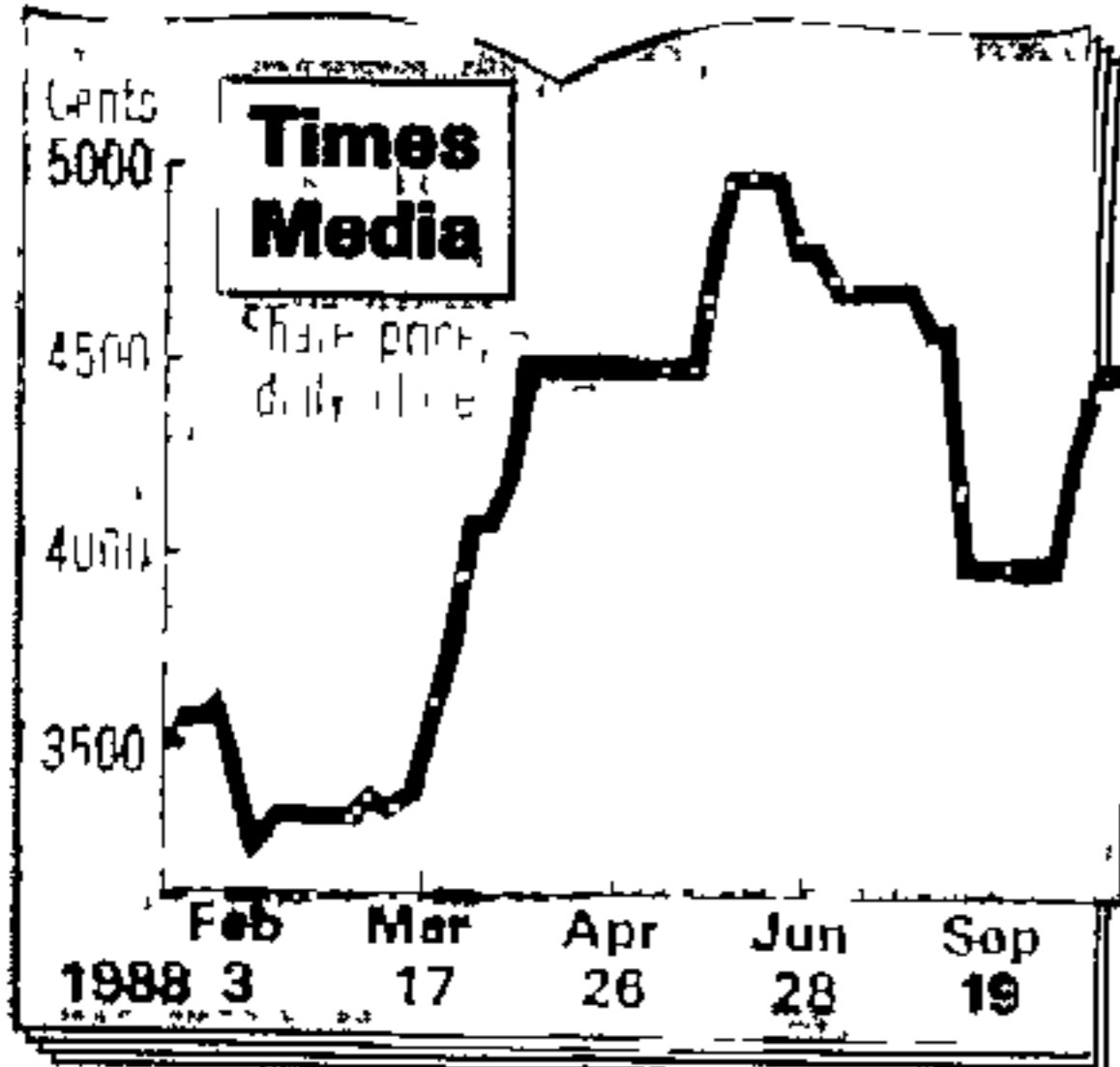
while we certainly do encourage you to come down and see our incredible growth and enormous potential for yourself, the new office will provide advance guidance

A lot of familiar names are making it in Ciskei Shouldn't you broaden your horizons too? Call Cheryl le Roux in Johannesburg on 4930224 for more information

Ciskei Peoples Development Bank



You can make it in Ciskei.



Graphic FIONA KRISCH Source JSE

Times Media profits soar

CASH-FLUSH Times Media Ltd (TML) achieved a 54% jump in operating profits on a 19% rise in turnover in the six months to September, despite a highly competitive market.

The strong profit performance has, however, exhausted the assessed tax losses and provision for tax — calculated at a rate of 35% for the full year and providing for R7,3m at the halfway stage — resulted in earnings rising only slightly to 707c a share from an untaxed 705c a share in the previous comparable

8/11/88 LIZ ROUSE (243)

half-year.

As forecast by chairman Pat Retief in his last annual review, TML shareholders are assured of dividend growth despite the company becoming liable for tax. The interim dividend has been raised by 50c to 150c, making cover 4,7 times, down from 7,1 times in the pre-

● To Page 2 →

Tax damper on Times Media profits

vious comparable half-year

The increase in the interim dividend is proportionate to the 52% growth in pre-tax profit to R21,5m from R14,2m.

The 300c dividend total for the year to March 1988 was covered 4,5 times by earnings of 1 335c a share.

TML's high liquidity and limited demand on capital should enable dividend cover to be reduced further.

Retief and MD Stephen Mulholland say in their interim report that trading conditions are buoyant but higher interest rates and the import surcharge are expected to reduce the level of economic activity in coming months.

TML — whose stable includes Business Day, The Sunday Times, Financial Mail, Cape Times, Evening Post and Eastern Province Herald, and has interests in Natal Newspapers, Pretoria News and M-Net — achieved a turnover of R90,35m (R75,66m) with operating profits up at R19,54m (R12,68m). Operating profit as a percentage of turnover improved from 16,8% to 21,6%, a return achieved by few companies.

TML's surplus cash brought in R1,77m interest income (R146 000 in the previous comparable half-year). But dividend income declined to R721 000 (R1,82m) as a result of reduced dividend income from 49%-owned Robinson & Co.

The interest charge of R505 000 (1987 half-year R480 000) includes a R481 000 (R376 000) charge on the shortfall in capital contributed to the joint operations with Argus Printing & Publishing. This shortfall is not reflected as a liability because TML is not obliged to reduce it.

Shareholders' funds now total more than R54,6m and net asset value has grown to R27,13 from R21,58 at the end of March. At the current market price of R45, market capitalisation is R90,6m.

Shares were trading as high as R65 before the October 1987 crash but fell to a low of R29 in November 1987. At the current price of R45 the stock is underpriced on an historic earnings yield of 29,7% and dividend yield of 7,8%.

● From Page 1 ←

CAPL Times 9/11/88

743 BOTHA

Press chief resigns over Pik heckling

JOHANNESBURG. — The chairman of the Foreign Correspondents' Association resigned yesterday because of hot-tempered exchanges between reporters and Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha at the organisation's annual banquet.

Mr Peter Hawthorne, a correspondent for Time magazine, said he had been involved in inviting Mr Botha to address the banquet on Saturday and felt responsible for the behaviour of some of the audience

Mr Botha delivered a speech at the banquet, then fielded questions from some of the 300 diners in a session punctuated by hisses, heckling and bitter exchanges.

Several of the exchanges involved South Africans who were invited to the dinner as guests and were not members of the correspondents' association.

However, Mr Botha directed several scathing remarks at foreign journalists, saying at one point "I accuse you of being superficial I accuse you of

gliding glibly over African realities of which you know nothing"

Among the topics raised by the questioners were the government's temporary ban of the Weekly Mail newspaper, its policies of racial separation and the prolonged detention without trial of newspaper editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu

Board members of the correspondents' association, which has more than 100 members, issued a statement on Monday expressing regret at the incidents and dissociating themselves from "actions that broke the standards of professional conduct or that represented a discourtesy to the invited speaker"

Mr Hawthorne, in his statement yesterday, said: "There are no more than a couple of dozen people based in South Africa who are truly foreign correspondents worthy of an association."

Some newspaper editorials yesterday depicted foreign journalists in SA as hostile and ill-mannered

Beeld described the foreign press corps as "a bunch of privileged and intolerant know-it-alls" — Sapa-AP

BBB

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Rushdie visit cancelled after death threats



● RUSHDIE

THREATS by members of the Muslim community to kill author Salman Rushdie have resulted in his sponsors withdrawing an invitation to him to come to SA.

London-based Rushdie's surrealist novel, *The Satanic Verses*, has been banned in India, the Middle East and, as of last Friday, in SA.

MANDY JEAN WOODS

He was invited to SA by the Congress of SA Writers (Cosaw) and the Weekly Mail (WM) Book Week Committee as guest speaker at the WM Book Week.

Nadine Gordimer will replace him as guest speaker

WM manager Clive Cooper said a number of telephone callers had threatened to kill Rushdie if he came to SA.

Cosaw said it was with regret it had advised Rushdie not to come.

On Tuesday, Fatima Meer withdrew from the WM Book Week because of pressure from the Muslim community

CAP Ticks

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Resolution on Mail for Stoffel

JOHANNESBURG — A resolution calling the month-long closure of the Weekly Mail an "outrageous affront on the people's right to know" and "an attack on the freedom of the press", will be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

The resolution, passed yesterday at a meeting called to protest against the restriction on the newspaper, also called for the immediate lifting of the ban.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Murray Hofmeyr, chairman of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments, one of South Africa's biggest mining companies

He said the closure of the Weekly Mail would have an impact on business by silencing the free exchange of ideas between management and labour which was of "inestimable value"

Meiring to face wrath of UK Foreign Office on Weekly Mail

LONDON — Hours after the Weekly Mail was banned UK Deputy Foreign Minister Lynda Chalker came face to face with her South African counterpart Kobus Meiring at the Foreign Office in London late yesterday afternoon.

Earlier the UK government condemned the closure of the newspaper as a "further blow to press freedom in SA". Meiring was to give Chalker a full briefing on developments in SA. He was expected to receive a blunt British view in return.

The International Press Institute said the closure of the Mail was disturbing evidence of government's determination to "attack Press freedom".

IAN HOBBS

The banning, which was reported prominently on British radio and TV, was also condemned by the National Union of Journalists.

MANDY JEAN WOODS reports that decisions on the newspaper's future were still being taken late last night by its editorial staff.

Co-editor Irwin Manom said the publishers still had to meet with lawyers to decide on the next course of action.

In a statement yesterday Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said he was convinced his action was justified.

"The Weekly Mail has continued with a systematic or repetitive publishing of matter which in my opinion has, or is calculated to have, the effect of causing a threat to the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order and delaying the termination of the state of emergency."

Stating the move, IP leader Denis Worrall said he was not surprised Botha had taken such a step.

"As ambassador in London I know he caused the embassy there and embassies elsewhere in the world great difficulties and embarrassment. The man simply does not understand the nature of Press freedom or how journalists work," he said.

The US Embassy, Cosatu, the Anti-Censorship Action Group, Nusas, the Foreign Correspondents Association, the SA Society of Journalists, Vrye

Weekblad, the SA Students Press Union, the PPP and the Association of Democratic Journalists, among others, also issued statements condemning the ban. Sapa reports that the publishers of the periodical Free Azania were yesterday issued with a warning in terms of the Media Emergency Regulations, in the same edition of the Government Gazette that shut down the Weekly Mail. Botha Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha warned the publishers of Free Azania that the published matter endangered public safety and order.

Banning

8 in court after protest against Weekly Mail ban

PRETORIA — Hours after Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok was notified an application would be made to the Supreme Court yesterday for the release of eight people detained at a protest meeting on Friday, they appeared before a Pretoria magistrate, legal representative Bill Scealess said.

They were held in terms of the emergency regulations after protesting in Sunnyside against the banning of the Weekly Mail.

The eight — Patrick Malewa and Zacharia Ranzedi (PFP), Minette Caarstens, Laura Best, Helene Zaaïman and Cornelia Scholtz (Students for a Democratic Society), Kerry Harris (Black Sash) and Libby Lloyd (freelance journalist) — were warned to appear in court on December 7. — Sapa.

ing 10/11/85

Rushdie — for some groups censorship is a fine thing

STV 11/11/88

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At the very moment last Tuesday when the *Weekly Mail* received a copy of the Government Gazette suspending the newspaper for four weeks, an extraordinary meeting was taking place in the paper's Johannesburg offices.

On one side of the table were representatives of the *Weekly Mail* and the Congress of South African Writers (Cosaw), who had jointly invited Salman Rushdie, the renowned London-based writer and Booker Prize (and, as of this week, Whitbread Prize) winner, to South Africa to speak at this week's Book Week.

On the other were representatives of the Muslim community, ranging from leaders of conservative religious organisations to organisations closely tied to the tricameral parliamentary system, such as the Africa Muslim Agency, to "progressive" anti-apartheid bodies such as the Transvaal Indian Congress

United call

This signalled a crucial development. The Muslim community, left and right wing, had united in a call for Rushdie not to come to this country. Although all shared this view, there were variations on the theme: some welcomed the banning of his book and were lobbying for the withdrawal of his visa exemption, some were simply worried about division in the community, others were delivering threats of violence so thinly-veiled that they were probably in breach of the law.

The fact that victims of censorship found themselves on the same side of the negotiating table with those who were relishing the opportunity to use state machinery was just one of many anomalies.

None of them had read the book and few of them felt this even mattered. The Saudi Arabian government had issued an instruction that Rushdie be hounded wherever he was, this had been relayed through mosques and Islamic organisations in South Africa, and the content of the book seemed no longer relevant to the discussion.

The *Weekly Mail's* position was fairly simple. Rushdie had been invited long before the publication of the Book, "The Satanic Verses", which caused such an uproar. There had never been any intention to offend anyone's religious sensibilities, he was chosen because of his standing as a writer and because of his active concern over the issue of censorship.

Striking irony

The most striking irony of all was the theme of Rushdie's proposed keynote address at the Book Week: "Wherever they burn books, they will also in the end burn people." The local call to burn his book, however, was frustrated by the fact that the State obliged by banning it before there were even copies in the country.

Rushdie's book, *Weekly Mail* argued, may be controver-

BY ANTON HARBER, co-editor, and
CHARLOTTE BAUER
of The Weekly Mail

sial and there may be many people who disagree strongly with it. However, the man had a right to his point of view and a right to express it.

Perhaps, it was suggested, the offended Muslims could recognise this principle. The Book Week organisers, in turn, would recognise their right to protest, to express their anger and disagreement with him, and would even offer a platform for face-to-face debate.

The organisers were particularly worried about having to be forced to accept the protection of the South African Police. There was little doubt Rushdie would need some kind of physical "shield" during his visit, but the symbols conjured up by the image of Rushdie flanked at every step by the SAP were cause for alarm. It was suspected they might show less tolerance of protest than the Book Week organisers.

There was to be no deal. Rejected, too, was the idea of signing a joint statement suggesting that "all parties share an abhorrence of the iniquity of the South African censorship system, and condemn any attempt to use the issue to divide the progressive movement."

As Mr Mahomed Choonara of the African Muslim Agency, and a key organiser of the call to stop Rushdie, put it: "We are simply not here to compromise."

It also became clear that active anti-apartheid organisations such as the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses were not prepared to alienate a section of their constituency — even if it meant sitting on the side of those who were attacking both the *Weekly Mail* and freedom of speech.

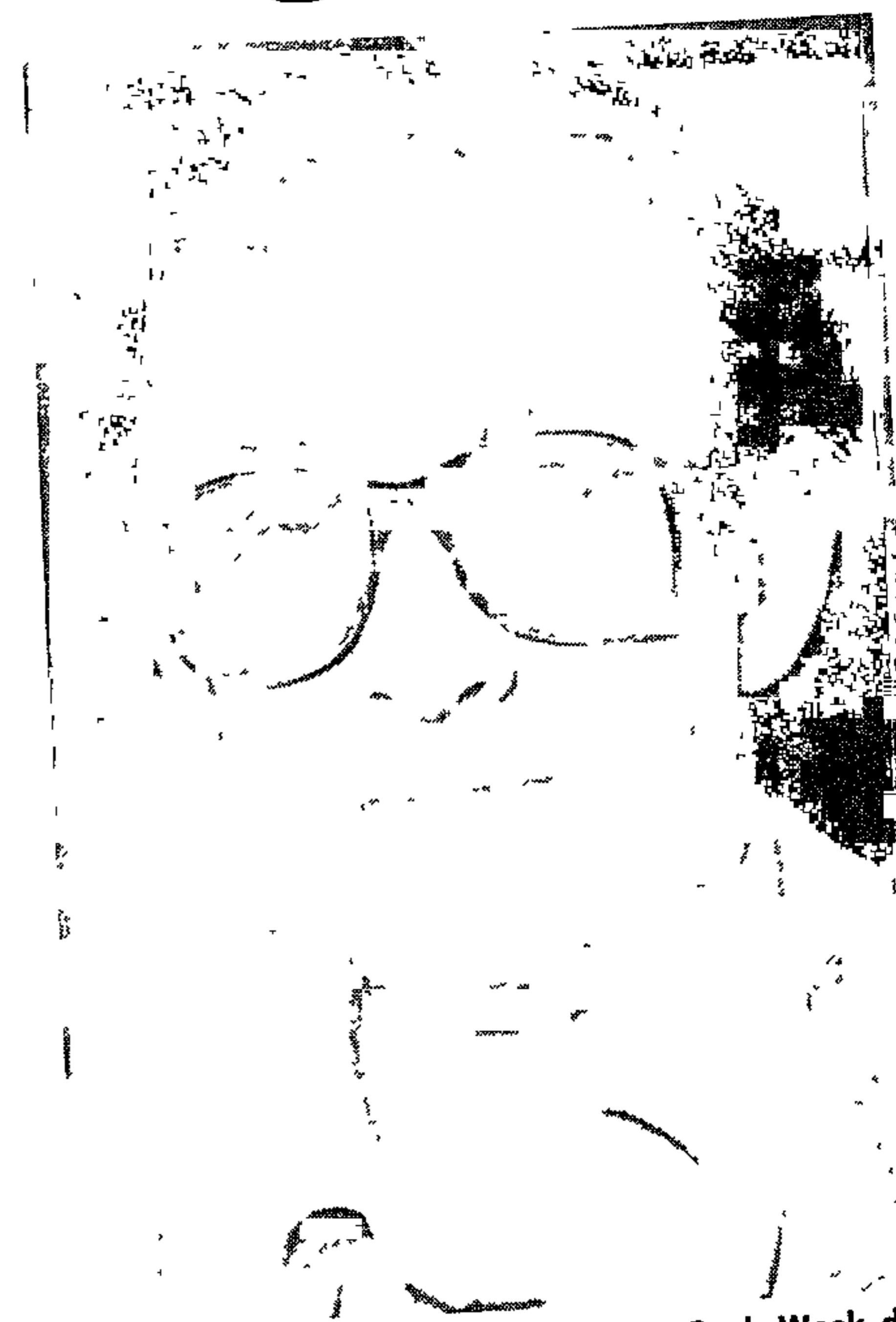
Cultural boycott

The next day, Cosaw withdrew its invitation, advising Rushdie "with great regret" that he should not come.

"It is obvious that there are certain elements within the Muslim community who will not stop at anything in their attempts to disrupt Salman Rushdie's visit," the Cosaw statement said. Without the support of Cosaw, Rushdie's visit would have contravened the cultural boycott.

The newspaper expressed its disappointment and anger. "To top the restrictions placed upon us by the State, we are being censored by the intolerant tactics of a section of the Muslim community," the statement said. It added that the *Weekly Mail* had not itself withdrawn the invitation and would make every effort to ensure that his opinions on censorship would still be heard.

For the *Weekly Mail* there were a few simple lessons to be drawn from the experience. The first was that the right to freedom of speech is under attack from many quarters, not just the State.



Salman Rushdie ... did participate in Book Week despite the withdrawal of his invitation.

"Both these attacks are the result of intolerance and narrow-mindedness, and both must be condemned in the strongest terms," a newspaper representative said.

Most striking, however, was the realisation that the anti-censorship fight was rather low on the agenda of resistance movements.

For the *Weekly Mail* this points to a clear priority: unless these movements seriously commit themselves to freedom of speech, the fight against censorship under this Government will be lost — and we will not be laying very strong foundations for the next.

In the midst of this sordid affair, one fact has been forgotten. Despite all the threats and the trauma, Rushdie did participate in the debate — by special telephone link with Johannesburg on Monday night. The censor's victory was, at least, not absolute.

Knocking in the night



What frightens our friends abroad, especially those in business, and inclines them towards the spurious but emotive logic of sanctions, is not that our government takes firm — sometimes brutal — action against perpetrators of violence. It is that in SA ordinary people disappear in the night for what are held out to be reasons of security.

So when the editor of the *Sowetan*, a vibrant newspaper with a growing circulation, is visited at the dead of night and subjected to a 40-minute interrogation by security policemen for no apparent reason, we alienate more friends abroad and prejudice further economic ties. It is an infringement of privacy and dignity that demands public justification.

As far as we can make out, Aggrey Klaaste has fallen under the suspicion of the authorities because he advocates that blacks forsake the dubious advantages of the violent capture of the political kingdom and seek instead prosperity and the personal liberties it will inevitably bring, through their own economic upliftment.

We have long held this view — and take it to be what government itself stood for when advocating free enterprise. The president of the Free Market Foundation is also a

deputy governor of the Reserve Bank and his arguments for economic upliftment do not differ materially from Klaaste's

The suspension of *The Weekly Mail* — a journal not distinguished for its insight or social relevance — also plays into the hands of government's enemies and alienates our friends. Such action is on par with Foreign Minister Pik Botha's tirades last Saturday night at the silly young men who work part-time for journals abroad and masquerade as foreign correspondents. He was asked some sensible questions from correspondents of stature; yet he did not give one straight answer and behaved as badly as his callow foes.

The free flow of information and of ideas is fundamental to the functioning of free markets. If government denies that, then it is no better than the Conservative Party. The way this economy is being run into the ground suggests capitalism has yet to find a champion in Pretoria.

New Zealand deregulated in about two weeks. Its currency first plunged and then firmed to become the fifth strongest in the world. Well — it may be an undistinguished country but it certainly shows what can be done quickly by a determined government. □

Closure 'affront'

11/11/85
S. Africa
A RESOLUTION calling the month-long closure of the *Weekly Mail* an outrageous affront on the people's right to know and an attack on the freedom of the Press," will be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha.

The resolution, passed yesterday at a meeting called to protest against the restriction on the newspaper, also called for the immediate lifting of the ban. (243)

The meeting was addressed by Mr Murray Hofmeyr, the chairman of one of South Africa's biggest mining companies, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. (BWA)

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He said the closure of the *Weekly Mail* would have an impact on business by silencing the free exchange of ideas between management and labour which was of "inestimable value."

The closure would be seen inside and outside the country as an attempt to suppress a view unpopular with the Government and "our friends abroad will despair of us."

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The president of the World Alliance of

Reform Churches and the moderator of the NK Sending Kerk, Dr Allan Boesak, said while the South African Government did not like the truth and would not abide criticism, the closing of papers like the *Weekly Mail* was inevitable.



Weekly Mail co-editor Mr Anton Harber and fellow staff-members at a Save the Press meeting held to protest against the one-month banning of Weekly Mail. In the middle row are (left to right) Mr Musa Zondi, Mr Shaun Johnson, Mr Mzimkulu Malunga and Mr Harber. *Star 11/11/88* **243** **327** • Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

Weekly Mail 'helped labour relations'

By Sally Sealey and Janet Heard

The *Weekly Mail* had helped the business community to improve relations between management and labour, said Mr Murray Hofmeyr, chairman of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI), at a Save the Press

meeting against the banning of *Weekly Mail* yesterday

Addressing a crowd of 150 people at the Central Methodist Church, Johannesburg, Mr Hofmeyr said "*Weekly Mail* has helped this process vitally by enabling ideas to be floated on either side

VALUE

"The free exchange of ideas in the industrial relations context is of inestimable value and the closure of *Weekly Mail* will not only deprive the business community of this benefit, but will further alienate those whose co-operation and good-

will is essential for economic advancement for all"

Dr Alan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, added his voice to those against the one-month banning of *Weekly Mail*

"*Weekly Mail* does not create news, but simply reports the truth, which people cannot avoid seeing and which the Government cannot run away from"

He challenged Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha to a debate as to whether the removal of *Weekly Mail* or the removal of the Nationalist government would

solve South Africa's problems

Co-editor of *Weekly Mail* Mr Irwin Manom said the latest emergency regulations included 18 pages dealing with curbs on the media, far more than all the other regulations put together

LAWYERS

"The focus has shifted from the elimination of unrest to the suppression of speech"

He said banning of publications put pressures on editors to become part-time journalists and full-time lawyers and lobbyists

Mr Gabu Tugwana, acting-editor of *New*

Nation, which was recently banned for three months, said he was aware of what it was like to run a newspaper which had been restricted

"Bannings are a total destabilising factor to newspapers. They still have to pay rent and the staff become insecure. Long-term advertising revenue is often lost due to the uncertainty," he said

● A resolution passed at the meeting calling the month-long closure of the *Weekly Mail* an "outrageous affront on the people's right to know and an attack on the freedom of the press", will be sent to Mr Stoffel Botha

'Paper a benefit to business'

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B/dun
11/11/88

JCI boss slams Weekly Mail ban

JCI chairman Murray Hofmeyr yesterday praised the Weekly Mail as a forum for improving industrial relations.

He told a Johannesburg meeting protesting at the paper's one-month banning that it had helped to improve management-labour relations by enabling ideas to be floated on either side.

"The free exchange of ideas in the industrial relations context is of inestimable value. Closure will not only deprive the business community of this benefit but further alienate those whose co-operation and goodwill are essential for economic advancement for all," he said.

Hofmeyr said that, by speaking in the strongest terms possible against the ban, he was restating views expressed by many businessmen in representations to Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches president Allan Boesak said protests against government actions against the people should continue despite their regularity. Protests were important so that one did not "become used to the appalling

DIANNA GAMES

misuse of government power"

He added the Weekly Mail's banning had been inevitable because the paper appeared to have more influence than government felt it should.

Boesak said when government said SA was a democracy, the paper said it was not true because 80% of the people did not think so.

"And when government says we have a revolutionary situation, the Weekly Mail asks why, and the government gets upset."

He said it was also true SA was a racist, oppressive society that needed to be radically changed.

Boesak said government members were able to keep their seats only "by the power of the gun".

Nelson Mandela was the true leader of SA, he said.

The meeting resolved to pass on to Botha a call for the paper's unbanning. It also pledged that any further banings would be fought.



Allan Boesak (right) and Murray Hofmeyr... protesting publicly at ban on Weekly Mail.

Assurer warns on acts of terrorism

KAY TURVEY

THE possibility of injury or death from acts of terrorism could no longer be excluded in any analysis of individuals' life assurance requirements, said AA Life's marketing deputy GM Bruce Howard in a statement yesterday.

Howard said indiscriminate acts of terrorism could not be avoided by insurers and now, more than ever, policy-holders would have to pay particular attention to this in their life assurance planning.

"When it comes to accident and disability benefits, the policy wording often excludes this type of cover," he warned.

Terrorism and its consequences had become of increasing concern and statistics gave rise to hard thinking, Howard said. Since May 1985, more than 750 people had been injured and 105 killed in terrorism attacks on civilian targets. In the past three years, the incidence of indiscriminate bombings increased by nearly 400%, and before the 1988 municipal elections, 51 bomb blasts occurred in September and 37 in October.

PW's 'lack of leadership' is splitting Govt

Star 12/11/84

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THE Government is caught up in a crippling split involving infighting and backstabbing, the new Afrikaans language weekly, *Vrye Weekblad*, reported yesterday.

In its second edition, the newspaper said in a front page lead story headlined "Cabinet crippled by split" that State President's reform process had degenerated into "an even bigger farce" and his Cabinet's ability to effectively administer the country was being further undermined by "unsavoury infighting".

The two chief characters in the split were the Constitutional Development Minister, Mr Chris Heunis, and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha, it was claimed.

But the main cause of the problem was "intense frustration" with President Botha's lack of leadership.

Quoting a "National Party source", *Vrye Weekblad* said Mr Botha's "bombastic and dictatorial" style and inability to lead had disunited his Cabinet.

The report said there are indications that even the National Intelligence Service, which is responsible for state security, is also involved in the split.

Elements within the Government and the State Security Council are seriously concerned that the infighting will cripple the Government while South Africa experiences its worst political and economic crises.

Crucial decisions, such as the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the addressing of black aspirations, are being pushed into the background while "political streetfights" continue, said the article.

Supporters of Mr Heunis felt he is being made the scapegoat for Government failures such as the proposed National Council, in which most black leaders refuse to participate, and the trilogy of Group Areas Bills, the promulgation of which the Labour Party effectively stalled.

His supporters claim Mr Heunis handled both matters strictly in accordance with full Cabinet decisions.

Vrye Weekblad alleged that stories in the press concerning the removal of Mr Heunis from his post to fill the administrative position of Prime Minister, to be replaced by Mr Pik Botha as "chief reformer", had emanated "directly from the camp of Mr Pik Botha and Mr Pietie du Plessis, Minister of Manpower".

The newspaper said Mr Pik Botha is winning the fight so far, although his outburst in front of 300 people at the foreign correspondents' dinner last Saturday caused him "to lose some points".

Mr Heunis, during informal discussions with journalists this week, said of the dinner incident that the behaviour of the foreign correspondents was unfair, but the situation "looked bad for both sides".

Mr Heunis welcomed the journalists with the words, "I'm glad to see you survived Saturday night".

Vrye Weekblad said the journalists were surprised at what they saw as Mr Heunis's open sarcasm.

Fen club

Vrye Weekblad said it had received confirmation this week that the "club" of Pik Botha supporters within the NP caucus, exposed by *Financial Mail* last year, still existed.

Meanwhile, a long-time Pik Botha supporter, Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis, is believed to have distanced himself slightly from the Foreign Minister so he will not be dragged under in the event of a sudden reversal of fortune by Mr Pik Botha.

Mr du Plessis and other Cabinet Ministers "who are eyeing the throne" — Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and Minister of National Education Mr F W de Klerk — are, according to one *Vrye Weekblad* source, viewing the Pik Botha/Heunis

Govt lawmen study CP apartheid bid

THE Government is studying the legal implications of the Conservative Party's threat to turn back the clock and restore Verwoerdian apartheid in towns under its control

Conservative town councillors elected in the recent municipal elections meet behind closed doors in Pretoria today to hear how they must set about segregating every possible public facility in their districts

Their leaders have confirmed that the meeting will discuss reinstating apartheid

360011

DAVID BRAUN

Political Correspondent

wherever it has been dismantled at local government level

This means apartheid signs which reserve separate facilities for whites will again appear on park benches and public toilets in the more than 90 local authorities the CP now controls in South Africa

Government spokesmen have so far refused to comment on the CP's plans. But

they are studying the legal rights of town councils to segregate facilities which have already been opened for the use of all races

Privately, the spokesmen say the Government will use its central powers to ensure the CP cannot execute its plans, except where municipalities have absolute control over certain facilities

By this is meant that there is no way the

TO PAGE 2

The night Pik's pud turned sour

IT HAS been denied by all involved that Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha stormed out of the Foreign Correspondents Association dinner last Saturday night.

However, it may truthfully be said that he "deserted" the function. And in doing so, he missed his just desserts.

Just what sweet delicacies did the Minister forfeit by his hasty departure?

With the help of the Johannesburg Sun hotel it

was discovered that at least one serving of "Bavarois with Fresh Fruit and Chocolate" went begging when Mr Botha hightailed his way back to Pretoria.

The hotel explained the sweet finish to the evening consisted of a basket of biscuit dipped in chocolate and filled with fresh fruit. Whether it removed the bile that the evening produced among many guests, one can only speculate.

SUE VALENTINE

Perhaps the Minister's wife, Helena, might like sometime to prepare the dessert for a candlelit supper to make it up to him for what he missed.

Mr Botha, of course, also missed the vote of thanks that was to have been given by the FCA board member, Mr Graham Leach, of the BBC.

Mr Leach said he hadn't prepared any for-

mal speech as it was his duty to respond to Mr Botha, but he was going to mention the four-week banning of the newspaper *The Weekly Mail*

"I was certainly going to mention *The Weekly Mail*. It would have been inappropriate for a gathering of international correspondents not to mention the suspension of a paper which the FCA board had described as 'responsible, restrained and operating within the law.'

"On a lighter note, when Pik Botha reminded everyone that I was the journalist who asked him the question about the possibility of South Africa ever having a black president I was going to remark that he had had his revenge."

The FCA chairman, Mr Peter Hawthorne, a *Time* correspondent, resigned his chairmanship because of the rumpus, saying he felt responsible for what had happened

that a response... not saving what it entails

Mr Torvo...

...of east and south...

243

Star 12/11/84

12/11/84

he elections
ict between
-old father.

our of his ex-wife's estate after fa-
ther and son entered into a contract
to dissolve the family business.

"birdie".

REPORTS Sapa, Own Correspondent

Lesotho editor arrested

MASERU — Newspaper editor Johnny Maseko, 29, was arrested yesterday after he published reports which accused the Lesotho Finance Minister of improper dealings with an Italian company, his lawyers said.

They said Maseko, editor of The Mirror, an independent weekly newspaper, was taken into custody yesterday morning. Police declined to comment on the case.

Maseko was charged two weeks ago with criminal defamation for a series of articles which appeared in September concerning Finance Minister Evaristus Sekhonyana.

Maseko appeared briefly in court on Friday, but did not plead and was released on bail of R100.

Construction

The articles said Sekhonyana in 1981 authorised the transfer of millions of rand into a Swiss bank account for an Italian construction firm operating in Lesotho.

The government subsequently accused the Italian firm, Banco, of failing to complete building projects it had been paid for. Company officials fled the country and the firm was liquidated. — Sapa-AP.

8&R 620

Gordon wins Man

Media Council reiterates objection to Mail closure

Staff Reporter

SUSPENSION of the Weekly Mail has galvanised the Media Council into reaffirming its objection to the "arbitrary closure or suspension of newspapers"

The council, the watchdog body of the media, also resolved at its biannual meeting in Cape Town yesterday to "seek an early interview" with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha

The council was specially concerned that no "specific reasons" were provided for the Mail's suspension

The editor of the Daily News, Mr Michael Green, proposed the motion, which was seconded by the editor of the Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, and amended by the editor of the Sunday Times, Mr Tertius Myburgh.

The resolution was passed without any objection, though during discussion before it Mr Frans Wessels, a media representative for Pesskor, indicated that he would prefer the Media Council not to make a statement.

"The fact remains that it was warned three times and carried on regardless," he said

The Media Council and the minister were getting on well at present, and he hoped to keep it that way, Mr Wessels said.

The chairman of the five-year-old Media Council, the Mr Justice Louis van Winsen, said earlier in the proceedings that he had noticed a new preparedness on the part of the minister to "see our point of view and

respond to it"

The Media Council had privately asked Mr Botha not to require "news agencies" to register and he had subsequently withdrawn this regulation

But the council's alternate chairman, Mr Justice Marinus Diekmont, said he believed Mr Botha had withdrawn the registration regulations simply because "they were in a bit of a mess"

The council had made no progress

with the minister "other than that we were polite to each other", he added

Yesterday the council also discussed a ministerial suggestion that publication of "untested evidence" in court cases should be "restricted"

Mr Justice Van Winsen said he gathered that the minister was "not wedded to the idea" but wanted it considered

"I take it he means untested by

dence which ought to be disclosed, may not be disclosed. His remarks met with unanimous approval

According to the conciliator's report, 183 formal complaints were received by the council this year; bringing the total over the five years of its existence to 663. The figure for 1988 was boosted "by a rash of 98 complaints about back-page pictures and text in the Windhoek Observer"

Another sign of the times is that the council was called on for the first time to adjudicate on complaints relating to the exercise of due care and responsibility in the presentation of brutality, violence and atrocities

5/11/88

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Cape Times, Tuesday, November 1, 1988

STEV 15/11/84
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Paper's listing is deferred.

Finance Staff

The Argus group has deferred the listing of its newspaper division on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange against the background of the prevailing bear market.

The managing director of the newspaper company, Mr Peter McLean, says. "It is well known that the JSE is in a bear phase and many economists predict that the bottom of the market is still some way off and we could see share prices sharply lower than current ones.

Inflation

"In addition, high interest rates, the increased petrol price, import surcharges, the low gold price and predicted higher levels of inflation next year indicate that the economy will perform poorly in 1989.

"The climate for a successful share listing could hardly be less encouraging and the board took the obvious decision," says Mr McLean

He says the board will look at the question of a listing again when market conditions are more favourable

PW threatens action on Press sources

AK645
15/11/88

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From TOS WENTZEL
Political Correspondent

PRETORIA. — President Botha has threatened to take steps to force newspapers to disclose sources of political speculation.

A spokesman for the President's office said today there was no addition to the comments made by Mr Botha last night at a public meeting in Pretoria.

The spokesman could not say whether Mr Botha would choose to comment further or whether he would deal with the issue when he addressed the Transvaal National Party congress again today.

Addressing about 1500 people last night in Pretoria City Hall at the opening of the Transvaal National Party congress, he again expressed irritation about recent reports of a possible Cabinet reshuffle and of tension among ministers.

Referring to reports on the SABC's sponsorship of a film which is said to be a flop, he said he was now even being drawn into the film industry.

Mr Botha criticised the weekend Press particularly

The wrong perceptions usually started just before the weekend and reached a climax on Sundays

There had been attempts to play ministers off against each other and other nasty things had been written about them.

He intended talking to the Media Council and the Newspaper Press Union and he felt they could put things right.

"If they do not want to, we can help them."

South African legislation provided only partly for this in criminal cases, but he thought the matter could be taken further

"Unknown beings"

People could be besmirched by some "unknown beings" who whispered in the ears of journalists

He paid tribute to Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development, as someone who had done more than anyone else for reform

Mr Botha also lashed out at people who, he said, gave fi-

nancial aid to South Africans to talk to terrorist organisations outside the borders. He indicated that he could name them at some stage

Mr Botha said the actions of the government would be tested by the electorate but he did not indicate if he was contemplating calling an election.

Sanctions

Mr Botha also attacked Conservative Party moves to reintroduce segregation and apartheid signs in municipal areas it controlled

The CP did not consider the international implications of its actions under circumstances in which South Africa had to fight off sanctions moves.

Mr Botha also announced that he would sign the Free Settlement Areas Bill on the recommendation of the President's Council

● The Conservative Party, meanwhile, is seething at remarks by President Botha Dr Andries Treurnicht said in a brief interview that he had taken note of Mr Botha's speech and would issue a full statement later.

● The PFP spokesman on the media, Mr Dave Dalling, said Mr Botha had made yet another threat against that section of the Press which annoyed him

"Mr Botha owes it to the public and to the media to define more precisely what he is complaining about and what he intends doing about it"

Lost opportunity

● The leader of the Independent Party, Dr Denis Worrall, said Mr Botha lost "another superb opportunity" of getting a positive message across.

"This was President Botha at his worst, threatening the Press, threatening people with exposure along McCarthy-like lines, all indicative of a government that has clearly run out of ideas," he said.

"The occasion was extremely well attended by foreign correspondents and journalists, eager for some indication of the government's position on Nelson Mandela and other developments of interest. But President Botha once again disappointed"

Star 17/11/88

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Newsmen are like jackals, says Botha

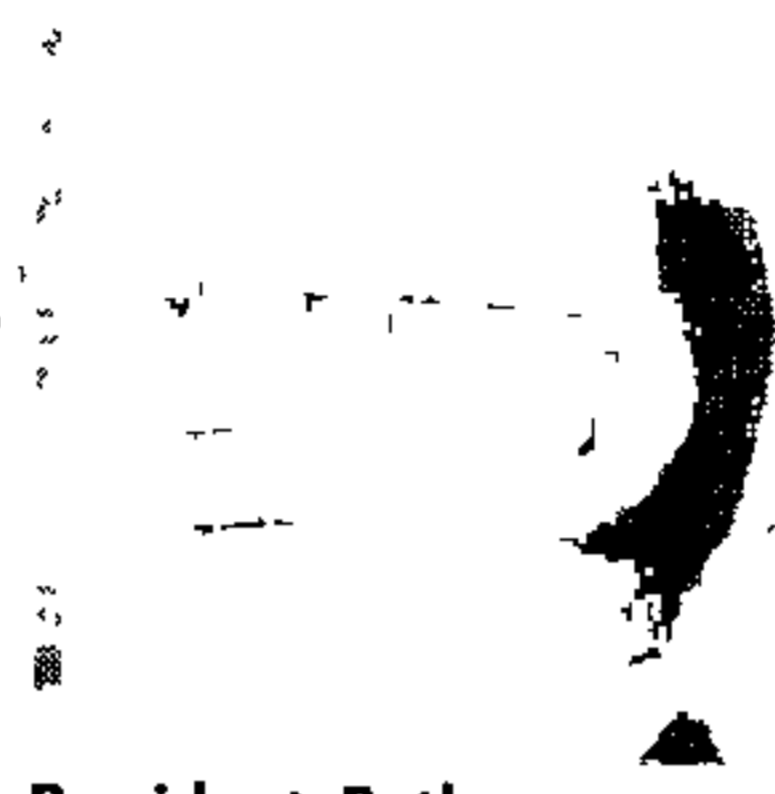
By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

Seldom has a political congress produced such a steady stream of attacks on the media as the one in Pretoria this week.

Even the Government's supporters in the media were shocked at the tone and content of President Botha's attacks on the press, which took up more time in his speech at the start of the congress than did his criticism of the Conservative Party, ANC communist terrorists and foreign meddlers.

Mr Botha's use of terms such as jackals and *lunsrieme* (slimy ropes used in the control of trek oxen) earned him a slap from *Beeld*, which said that newspapers had until now never used such derogatory language to describe politicians.

Beeld wondered where South Africa would be if the newspapers had not for years acted as South



President Botha . . . angered by news reports.

Africa's conscience

The Government would possibly do better if it took cognisance of the variety of images which were carried daily by newspapers in order to stay in touch with what was going on in the country, the newspaper said.

President Botha appeared to be greatly annoyed by newspaper speculation on a variety of subjects, but particularly about reports suggesting differences between his Ministers.

He said it was apparent to him that certain newspapermen

started to get on heat on Thursdays so that by the time the weekends, and particularly Sundays, came they were ready to offload all their fantasies on South Africa.

He singled out *Rapport* (although he did not actually name it) as being a poor version of the *Sunday Times*.

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister who has political responsibility for the media and who has the power to close down publications, singled out *The Star* for a particularly venomous attack.

He claimed *The Star* was not loyal to South Africa and he warned that the newspaper could go the same way as the *Rand Daily Mail* (which was closed down by its owners after it ran into financial difficulties).

These comments were greeted with loud cries of "hear, hear" from the delegates.

Star 17/11/88

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Speech is target of Govt attacks

DURBAN — The focus of the emergency regulations had shifted from the suppression of unrest to the suppression of speech itself, the co-editor of the suspended *Weekly Mail*, Mr Irwin Manoim, said at a public meeting in Durban last night.

Mr Manoim told the meeting, held under the auspices of the Association of Democratic Journalists, that the Government was no longer concerned with the repression of violence.

"That is mere ritual noise. What they are interested in now is the silencing of dissenting voices, of speech itself."

"At the root of the problem are the regulations themselves, which allow no difference between a riot and a peaceful protest."

"Our rulers cannot tell the difference between a riot and a tea party."

"When a group of people gather in Johannesburg's unrevolutionary far northern suburbs for a party in honour of Nelson Mandela, it prompts a military operation of war zone proportions."

To the Government, reporting on stone-throwing was tantamount to throwing stones and to warn of looming crises was to precipitate them, he said.

This was a dangerous strategy.

"When dissent is outlawed, it simply changes its form. When debate ceases to appear in newspaper columns, it moves on to the streets," he said.

— Sapa.

Stoffel questions Star's loyalty to S Africa

Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha yesterday launched a major attack on The Star, questioning its loyalty to South Africa and warning that the newspaper should be careful that it did not go the same way as the *Rand Daily Mail*

At the Transvaal National Party congress in Pretoria, the Minister started his speech by attacking people who used the privilege of their passports to attack South Africa overseas

He went on to say that a person did not need a passport to damage SA's interests

"We are also dealing with a subtle agent at our bosom. It is the practitioners of a type of journalism who demonstrate everything except patriotism to their fatherland," he said

"I refer here to the creation of suspicion about national service. A good example of such a report appeared in The Star on July 27 1988, which said: 'Many youngsters do not see the Angolan war as a simple pa-

Stov
17/11/88
By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

triotic duty and nothing else. The flight of the best and the brightest is a reality. What needs to be done about it? Accept another reality. South Africa cannot afford conscription any more. Even when this country was engaged in a world war, military service was voluntary.

"Another example of dubious journalism is the association of the South African Government with the Nazi regime. Look for example at the comment of Harvey Tyson, editor-in-chief of The Star, in The Star of August 1 1988. 'Security encourages all of humanity to associate white South Africa with Nazi-style atrocities. Security no longer means the SA Defence Force or the SA Police, it has nothing to do with personal or public safety. It is more like the SS — secret security for the sake of

secret power'

"We can also look at a further report in The Star of July 26 1988 under the headline 'ANC calls for resistance to new Government restrictions'. I quote two extracts from this report

"The ANC called for resistance and defiance to the virtual bannings of South Africa's anti-apartheid organisations'

"The ANC calls on the people of South Africa to rise to this new challenge as never before by adopting a posture and defiance to the tyrannical measures,' the statement said"

Mr Botha said that to give such publicity to such ANC propaganda in these times did not augur well for South Africa

It questioned the loyalty to South Africa of those involved

He said "This newspaper better be careful that it does not go the same way as the *Rand Daily Mail*"

● See Pages 6 and 10

Nat paper hits at media swipe

Political Staff

CAPE TIMES 17/11/88 (243) ~~247~~

PRETORIA. — Beeld, the Transvaal Nationalist daily newspaper, has once again thumbed its nose at President P W Botha.

Beeld and Mr Botha clashed head-on in August over the paper's attitude on the release of Mr Nelson Mandela and the state of emergency.

Mr Botha launched another sweeping attack on the media this week at the Transvaal National Party congress here to which Beeld replied editorially yesterday, without mentioning Mr Botha's name however.

It suggested that politicians should not constantly break down the credibility of the press as they may yet have to use the same press to put their own

The press was not responsible for the country's problems, or did somebody want to suggest the problems would not exist if nobody knew about them. The press had many faults, said the editorial, but so had politicians.

"We are ourselves sometimes surprised at the amount of attention we got in times when there are so many other urgent issues crying out to be addressed," said the editorial.

"Perhaps the government would do better to use the assortment of images presented daily in the press to keep in touch with what is going on in the country. Who knows, we may not then have needed the state of emergency to handle the situation."

PW threat worries ²⁴³ council

CAPE TOWN — The South African Media Council viewed with grave concern remarks the State President, Mr P W Botha, is reported to have made on Monday night in Pretoria, the council's conciliator-registrar, Mr Bob Steyn, said today

"The State President is reported to have said he was contemplating steps to force journalists to disclose their sources in certain circumstances," Mr Steyn said

"He is also reported as saying that the Government will intervene if the Media Council and the Newspaper Press Union cannot control certain journalists more effectively and that he intends having discussions with the Media Council," Mr Steyn said in a statement — Sapa

● See Page 10

Judge orders Beeld to publish apology

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Star 11/11/84
Pretoria Correspondent

The *Beeld* newspaper has been ordered by a Pretoria Supreme Court judge to run a prominent photograph and apology in its edition today after yesterday publishing the wrong photograph of a man whom they claimed was the father of the man who allegedly went on the Pretoria shooting spree, "white wolf", Mr Barend Hendrik Strydom

The temporary interdict was made late yesterday afternoon after the man whose photograph appeared on the front page of *Beeld* under the headline "Sy AWB — Pa", Mr Dawid Petrus de Bruin of Pretoria North, was threatened by "aggressive members of the public" and feared for his life

THE MEDIA COUNCIL SUSPENSES THE WEEKLY MAIL

CAPE TOWN — The South African Media Council yesterday criticised the suspension of *The Weekly Mail* and announced it would seek an interview with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, to discuss the matter.

A resolution, unanimously adopted by the council at its 10th meeting, said it objected to arbitrary closure or suspension of newspapers and that no specific reasons were provided for the action against *The Weekly Mail*.

Own Correspondent

15/11/88

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The full text of the resolution reads: "Arising from the temporary suspension of *The Weekly Mail* the Media Council reaffirms its objection to the arbitrary closure or suspension of newspapers. "Council is especially concerned that no specific reasons were provided for the action against the newspaper. "Council will seek an early interview with the Minister."

The motion was proposed by the editor of *The Daily News*, Mr Michael Green, and was seconded by the editor-in-chief of *The Star*, Mr Harvey Tyson.

The council also prepared the way for an investigation into the suspension of *The Weekly Mail*.

A resolution was passed calling on a sub-committee, whose brief it is to investigate and report to the public on any threat to the flow of information, to take note of the *The Weekly Mail* suspension.



Mr Michael Green, editor of *The Daily News* proposed the action.

Man stabbed outside disco

A man was stabbed to death after he and two friends were attacked by four knifemen and women outside a Johannesburg discotheque at the weekend, police said.

A spokesman said Mr Louis Mashigo (23) was killed in the incident outside the Ongani disco on the corner of Delivers and Pritchard streets just after midnight on Saturday.

Windhoek Observer fined ²⁴³

copy 7/12/88 21/11/88
THE Namibian newspaper the Windhoek Observer has been fined R2 000 for contravening the Media Code of Conduct.

The first complaint, emanating from the SWA Police, concerned presentation of brutality and violence, relating to the publication on January 23 of photographs of rocket attack victims in the Oshakati area; on April 23 of three photographs of the body of a Mr Franz Gilge of Windhoek; and on April 30 of the naked body of Miss Vanessa Kock of Omaruru.

The second count against the Observer embraced about 50 complaints from various parts of Namibia and concerned the publication of obscene or lascivious matter. — Sapa

'Weekblad' talks to the lawyers

STW 21/11/88 (243)
Staff of the *Vrye Weekblad*, South Africa's new weekly newspaper, are to seek legal advice today following the receipt of a letter from the Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee informing them that he was considering various steps before registration of the newspaper could be approved.

Vrye Weekblad received the letter last Friday, in which Mr Coetsee said he was considering determining the amount to be paid before the paper could be registered. This could be up to the maximum amount of R40 000.

Mr Coetsee said in his letter the action was being taken in terms of the Internal Security Act, adding that reports in the paper's first two editions indicated *Vrye Weekblad* could possibly be used as a medium to express the views of unlawful organisations. —
Pretoria Bureau

Weekly may have to pay R40 000 to register

JOHANNESBURG. —
The new Afrikaans
weekly newspaper, Vrye
Weekblad, could be re-
quired to pay a registra-
tion deposit of up to
R40 000, or be refused
registration altogether,
the editor, Mr Max du
Preez, said yesterday

A letter from the Min-
ister of Justice, Mr Ko-
bie Coetsee, on Friday,
as the third issue hit the
streets, stated that he
was considering deter-
mining an amount to be
paid before the registra-
tion of the newspaper
could be approved.

The letter indicated
registration was being
withheld and the news-
paper had until Novem-
ber 24 to respond

"We can scrape togeth-
er R40 000, but the fact
that he might go the
short route and just
close us down is fright-
ening," Mr Du Preez said
yesterday.

Mr Coetsee said in his
letter that the action was
being taken in terms of
the Internal Security
Act, and he believed five
reports published in the
first two issues of Vrye
Weekblad indicated the
newspaper could possi-
bly be used as a medium
to express the views of
unlawful organisations

Mr Du Preez said the
Internal Security Act
provided for a registra-
tion deposit of up to
R40 000

The Act also gave the
minister the power to
ban the newspaper,
through the Government
Gazette

Threat to now paper

Soweto
2/11/88
243

AFTER just three editions, the *Vrye Weekblad*, an Afrikaans weekly, last week received a threat of closure from Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee.

A notice received at the paper's offices on Friday the Minister stated he was withholding registration of the newspaper as it "could be used to express the views of illegal organisations as defined by the Internal Security Act of 1982."

The editor, Mr Max du Preez, has been given until November 24 to make written representation.

Reports

We cannot see how any reasonable person can regard the reports mentioned as not fair and balanced, and it is most definitely inside the law.

If the Minister regards reports such as the *Vrye Weekblad's* policy statement (*Vrye Weekblad*, laat hoor 'n nuwe stem/*Vrye Weekblad* lets a new voice hear) as a threat to the safety of the State, then the Government can never again stand up and say they believe in a free Press, Mr du Preez said yesterday.

243 B/duy 21/11/88

Closure shadow falls on another newspaper

AFTER only three editions, the Afrikaans weekly newspaper, Vrye Weekblad, has been threatened by government in the growing clampdown on left-wing publications

Editor Max du Preez said yesterday the newspaper could be required to pay a registration deposit of up to R40 000 or be refused registration.

A letter from Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee on Friday said he was consider-

**MANDY JEAN WOODS
and EDYTH BULBRING**

ing determining an amount to paid before registration could be approved

The letter indicated registration was being withheld and the newspaper had until Thursday to respond

"We can scrape together R40 000 but the fact that he might go the short route

and just close us down is frightening," Du Preez said yesterday

Coetsee said in his letter the action was being taken in terms of the Internal Security Act and he believed five reports published in the first two issues indicated the newspaper could possibly be used as a medium to express views of unlawful organisations.

Du Preez said the Act provided for a registration deposit of up to R40 000

market value of the
rse and her foals.
s claiming damages
58 000 which, he said,

and the syndicate were not
aware of this transposition and
believed, until May 1986, Sweet

The Palm

The hearing continues

Media council fines newspaper

E CAPE TOWN — The Namibian newspaper, the Windhoek Observer, had been fined R2 000 for contravening the Media Code of Conduct, SA Media Council chairman Mr Justice Louis van Winsen said at the weekend.

He said this resulted from a police investigation concerning the publication of photographs and textual matter in several issues of the Windhoek Observer from January to August this year.

The newspaper was also reprimanded for infringing clause 2.6 of the code and ordered to publish the council's adjudication with reasonable prominence.

The first complaint, emanating from

the police, concerned the presentation of brutality and violence and related to the publication on January 23 of photographs of rocket attack victims in the Oshakati area.

Publication of these photographs was found by the council to be in contravention of clause 7.1.3 of the council's code "in that the Observer failed to exercise due care and responsibility in the presentation of scenes of brutality, violence and atrocities" The second count against the Observer embraced about 50 complaints from various parts of Namibia and concerned the publication of obscene or lascivious matter — Sapa.

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in

Property deal of Minister's son investigated

Afrikaans newspaper may face banning

CAVE TIPS 22/11/88 2143

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The editor of the new Afrikaans weekly newspaper, Vrye Weekblad, Mr Max du Preez, said yesterday that the paper's lawyers were positive that the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, intended to ban the publication under the Internal Security Act.

Mr Du Preez said this was the interpretation by the lawyers of a letter received from Mr Coetsee on Friday.

He said the newspaper management was planning to make an urgent written submission to Mr Coetsee and intended to see him before Thursday.

Mr Du Preez said the last time a newspaper was banned was in 1977

when The World was closed down. He said the newspaper hierarchy wished to make it clear to Mr Coetsee that it was not interested in furthering the ends of revolution or in becoming anyone's mouthpiece.

"We will ask him to consider suspicions we have that the NP is unhappy about our reporting."

The threat to the newspaper had come a lot quicker than the owners had envisaged.

Mr Coetsee said in his letter to the Vrye Weekblad that five reports published in the first two issues indicated that the newspaper could possibly be used as a medium to express the views of unlawful organisations.

Pakendorf hits at restrictions on SA Press

Sowetan 22/11/88 243
THERE is one golden rule which those in authority should meet rule as you would be ruled Would we wish to be ruled as we rule? Would we tolerate it if anybody else ruled us as we rule others?

These questions are posed by Harald Pakendorf in an article in the November issues of *Word and Action*, a publication of the reformation movement of Southern Africa

In it he deals extensively with the Government's attitude and that of the State President, Mr P W Botha, to the Press in this country.

He quotes Mr Botha, before he became Prime Minister, as saying "Without a healthy, awake and critical press no authority can give of its best To curtail that role of the Press is a certain path to disaster for the State".

Disaster

Mr Pakendorf asks why then has Mr Botha chosen to take the State on this "certain path to disaster?"

Pointing out that the Press has virtually no freedom of expression in matters concerning a wide range of subjects dealing with defence matters, strategic minerals such as oil and unrest, without the approval of the authorities, he writes that as a result the average South African does not have a full realisation of what is happening in the country

Lack

The media also was itself contributing to lack of information available to the public. There were still opportunities for the newspapers to report a lot more than they do at present The SABC was even worse

"We, everyone of us, does not know truthfully how the other (sections) live, what they think" and about their hopes for the future," he writes — Sapa

Afrikaans weekly to discuss closure threat

2/10/88

BRONWYN ADAMS

REPRESENTATIVES of the progressive Afrikaans weekly, Vrye Weekblad, would meet Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee tomorrow to submit a written proposal and discuss the possible closure of the newspaper, a newspaper spokesman said yesterday.

Editor Max du Preez said the closure was threatened in terms of the Internal Security Act.

He said he believed the minister would register the paper and a fee of R40 000 could be scraped together. However, he was worried about what would happen after the paper had been registered.

JAYNE LA MONT reports from London the International Press Institute yesterday protested to President P W Botha and Coetsee over the threatened closure.

IPI director Peter Galliner said the message he had sent to the two men had called for Vrye Weekblad to be allowed to publish "without further harassment or intimidation".

The IPI — which represents journalists, editors and publishers of newspapers, radio and TV throughout the world — said it deplored the action against the weekly newspaper.

Rushdie rumpus raises questions about censorship

*Call 712/243
24/11/88*

243 *[Signature]*

THE Salman Rushdie rumpus has obscured the real issue not whether there should be censorship but what its parameters should be in our country

For the truth is that many of us — myself included — have become morally smug in our opposition to the Nationalist Government's censorship of whoever or whatever it sees as a threat to its policies

And because we quite rightly do not want any truck with the Nats and their onslaught on our few remaining civil liberties, we tend to see the withdrawal of Rushdie's invitation to speak in South

arms of victory or defeat. Instead, anti-apartheid activists and academics should look at the questions the Rushdie rumpus has raised as a challenge, to re-examine our standpoints, to reach broad consensus on what type of censorship should not be acceptable in our country. For whether we admit or not, almost all of us act as censors in some way.

Let's look at some of the many questions raised by our inconsistencies. All South African papers — including those which have condemned Muslims for opposing Rushdie's visit and which claim they oppose censorship — practice censorship.

For example, few major newspapers bother to publish even the results of matches played under the banner of the A Council on Sport (Sasos). No newspaper in South Africa will publish pornographic pictures, least of all those involving children.

Most of us tone down language that we consider vulgar, offensive or inflammatory.

No South African newspaper publishes one of the most widely used four-letter words in the English language.

Even more significantly, all newspapers in SA — and indeed in Britain and elsewhere — are a variety of publishing articles in which people are defamed.

If we in newspapers or politics fear defaming others, why do we condemn Muslims who believe passionately that Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* defames the Prophet of Islam?



PIK BOTHA ... if the Weekly Mail sues him, are they hampering his freedom of expression?



HELEN SUZMAN ... How many of us would support a ban on her entering another country?

By AMEEN AKHALWAWA, Editor of the Lenasia-based Indicator

(Admittedly, few Muslims in South Africa have read the novel but they have accepted the interpretation of others abroad.)

An interesting side issue has arisen over the question of defamation and freedom of expression. The Weekly Mail, a prospective co-host of Rushdie, believes Muslim de-

mands that his invitation be withdrawn amount to censorship.

Stoffel Botha has suspended the Weekly Mail. His colleague Pik Botha allegedly makes some remarks about the Weekly Mail during a controversial dinner hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Association in Johannesburg. The newspaper de-

be sued. I am not criticising the Weekly Mail in the same circumstances my newspaper would do the same.

But could this be interpreted as depriving Pik Botha of his freedom of expression? Or can we justify it on the grounds that the Bothas are part of a government that goes around making questionable claims?

who support that group disrupted a meeting called by the Progressive Federal Party in Lenasia. Does the PFP not have a right to be heard?

Extra-parliamentary organisations support the Indian government's decision to bar apartheid "collaborators" — those serving in the tricameral parliament especially — from India.

Are "collaborators" not being denied freedom of speech and of movement? How many of us would honestly support a ban on Helen Suzman — an acknowledged champion of civil liberties — entering another country on the grounds that she is a "collaborator"?

A crucial question not being addressed is that concerning the circumstances of the Rushdie invitation. His prospective co-hosts have admitted that the invitation was issued long before they had any inkling of the contents of *Satanic Verses* or that it would offend Muslims in the way it did.

Implicit in this is that had they known beforehand they might not have invited him. Would that then not have been censorship?

For in events such as these, the hosts usually invite people with whose views they agree broadly. Rushdie was invited because of his known opposition to censorship, to colonialism and racism.

If a person who supports censorship, colonialism and racism is not invited, is he/she being censored? Should he/she be censored at

If a writer had been invited to speak at a meeting and the hosts discovered that he had subsequently written a novel attacking, for example, Nelson Mandela and his family would the invitation have stood?

By withdrawing an invitation, are we withdrawing a right or privilege?

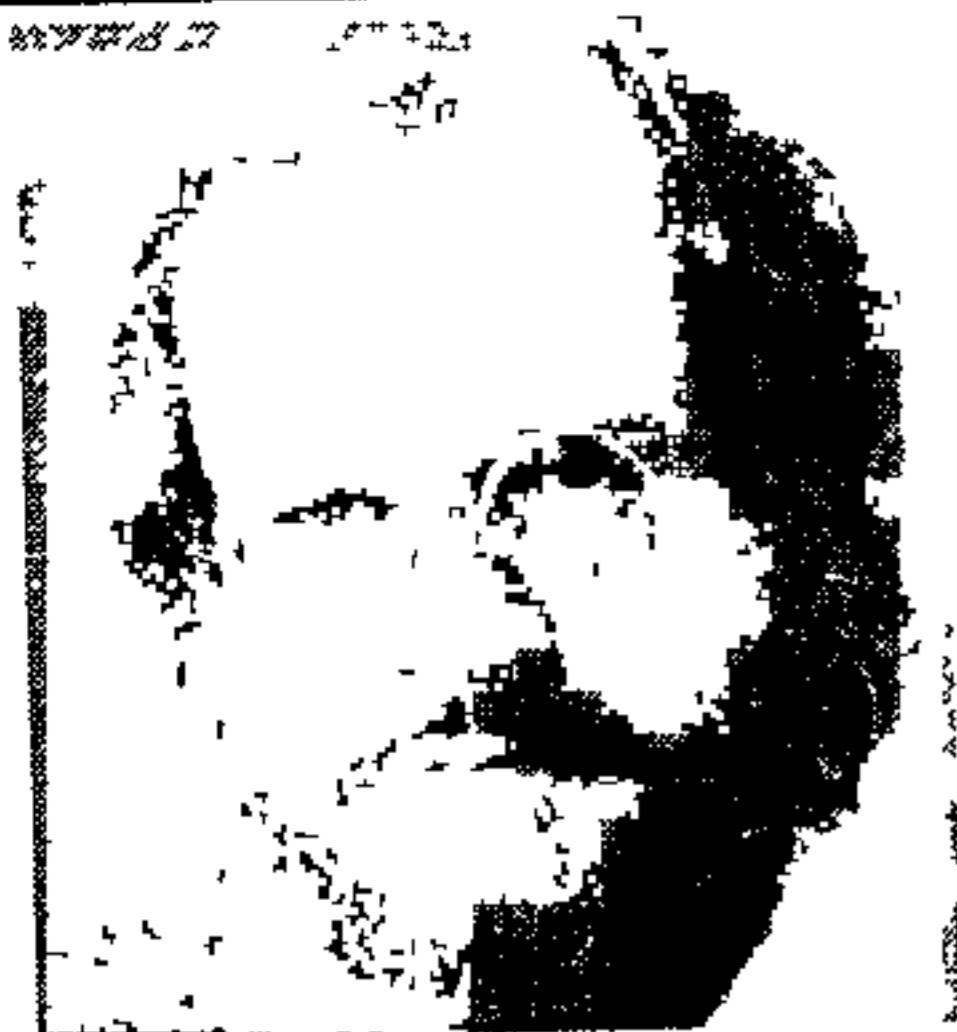
If we support the isolation of South African sportspeople — even those who oppose apartheid — are we not depriving them of the right of expression and association?

When the Weekly Mail asked my opinion at the start of the Rushdie rumpus I said he should be allowed to come, but that Muslims equally had the right to challenge his views and to demonstrate against him.

In the end, after listening to both sides, I began to believe that withdrawal of the invitation was withdrawal not of right but of a privilege. But I am not convinced. So many questions have arisen that I don't pretend to have answers.

And lest it be misunderstood, I stress that a vociferous opponent and direct victim of the government's censorship machinery, I am not trying to justify or defend its actions. I condemn them.

That does not alter the fact that we need to justify ourselves out of our moral complacency. The Rushdie rumpus has given us a wonderful opportunity to address the questions if we are better understood ourselves — and contribute towards the creation of a more just society.



Mr du Preez heard nothing from Minister.

Newspaper still under a cloud

(243)

When it went to press last night, *Vrye Weekblad* had received no word on its possible banning from the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said its editor, Mr Max du Preez

The Afrikaans weekly newspaper was warned by Mr Coetsee in terms of the Internal Security Act after only two editions

Mr Coetsee threatened either to close the paper or demand a deposit of up to R40 000 against its future closure. The newspaper immediately made representations and requested a meeting between Mr Coetsee and Mr Du Preez

"We have heard nothing from the Minister," Mr

Stey
25/11/88

Staff Reporter

Du Preez said yesterday

In the lead article on its front page today, the newspaper says the last time the Internal Security Act was invoked against a newspaper was when *World* was banned in 1977

Today's newspaper also carries an abridged version of its reply to the Minister and a cartoon lampooning Mr Coetsee and the State President, Mr P W Botha

● See Page 15

FMML 25/11/88 (243)

The DET saga continued when Judge Leonora van den Heever and her two assessors travelled to the Karoo town last week to hear evidence on alleged irregularities in the department

Focus of the evidence is the *Cradock Courant* CC, which had been owned — at the time of the alleged irregularities — by DET deputy Director General Jaap Strydom's son, Thinus, and the company's printing contracts with the DET. The *FM* first reported on these matters on July 22

In her opening address Judge Van den Heever refused an application by advocate Sedwin Toweel, counsel for Thinus Strydom, that cross-examination be allowed. She also rejected an application that the evidence before the commission be heard *in camera*. But she cautioned journalists present that evidence led was not tested — as would be normal in a trial

Judge Van den Heever later allowed one unidentified witness to give evidence *in camera*.

In his evidence, a former employee and printer of the *Cradock Courant*, Quartus van Rensburg, told the commission how a payment for outstanding salaries was made after he had complained to Strydom Snr about a lack of funds at *Cradock Courant* CC. An Allied building society deposit slip which was handed in to the commission as an exhibit showed that Van Rensburg's account was credited with a payment from the DET. Strydom Jnr had signed the deposit slip

Van Rensburg first met Strydom Snr in 1985 during the time of the black unrest and consumer boycott in Cradock, the commission was told. During this meeting — in a hotel with Strydom Snr, Thinus, a Cradock auditor, Philip Gerber, DET official Jan Vermaak and the commanding officer of the Cradock Commando, Botha Marais — Van Rensburg was told by Strydom Snr of plans to start a newspaper in Cradock. At the time

DET COMMISSION (243)

Birth of a newspaper

The story of how a country newspaper was formed to do government business in the small Karoo town of Cradock by the son of a senior public servant, and the peculiarities of its financing, unfolded last week before the commission into alleged irregularities in the Department of Education and Training

FMML 25/11/88

P.T.O.

Registration blues

Vrye Weekblad, the new Afrikaans "alternative" weekly, has caused enough unease in government circles to be threatened by closure after three editions. But it may have six weeks' grace before the wrath of Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee falls upon it. That would be the time given for a committee appointed by Coetsee to scrutinise forthcoming editions of the paper — and if it is found "guilty" of contravening the Internal Security Act, another three weeks to *Vrye Weekblad* to appeal to the minister.

Coetsee, however, may in the interim decide to turn on the financial pressure. He has the discretion to demand a registration fee of between R10 and R40 000 from a newspaper.

Vrye Weekblad, already strapped for cash, would be in an extremely tight corner if even a lower fee than the maximum is demanded. So far its income has depended largely on well-wishers, one full-page ad, a few smaller ones, certain signed guarantees, and the sale of no more than 40 000 copies.

As the *FM* went to press, staff members were meeting legal representatives to discuss the crisis. Registration date for the paper was November 24.

Meanwhile, a contributor to last week's *Vrye Weekblad*, *Rapport's* Martin Welz, has been warned off writing for the paper by his employers. At the same time, *Rapport's* sister publication, *Die Volksblad*, scathingly attacked Welz's report on the transactions of a Bloemfontein businessman as a "smear".

Surprisingly, it would seem that Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, the bane of the *Weekly Mail*, has so far stayed out of this particular fray.

... vancy

Vrye Weekblad 'no threat to State'

ARGUS 25/11/88
The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — Vrye Weekblad, under threat of closure, was "in no way a threat to the safety of the State", seeking as it did reconciliation, not revolution, according to the newspaper

Today's edition — the weekly Afrikaans newspaper's fourth, and the second since Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee warned that he was considering steps against the paper in terms of the

Internal Security Act — carries an edited version of a reply to the Minister

In informing Vrye Weekblad that he was considering either banning it or demanding a deposit of up to R40 000 against its possible closure, the Minister listed five articles

The content of several of these had appeared in the "commercial Press" — including establishment Afrikaans papers Vrye

Weekblad pointed out

"Vrye Weekblad is a responsible, professional newspaper which wants to contribute to a prosperous, peaceful South Africa where democracy, law and order will triumph," the article said

It intended to become a full member of the industry's own watchdogs, the Newspaper Press Union and the Media Council

The newspaper has requested a meeting with Mr Coetsee

CPA T... P 243
25/11/83

C:

Charge ~~withdrawn~~
against newspaper

PRETORIA. — Transvaal attorney-general Mr Don Brunette yesterday issued instructions to withdraw a charge in terms of the Prisons Act against the Pretoria News after the newspaper published a cartoon of jailed ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela. The cartoon represented a portrait of President P W Botha which turned into a Mr Mandela look-alike. — Sapa

Muffle threat to a new fresh voice

Star 25/1/88

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By CLAIRE ROBERTSON
Pretoria Bureau

The Vrye Weekblad made history this month when it became the first newspaper in recent times to be threatened with closure after only two editions.

With this in mind, a group of Afrikaans journalists began to lobby support last year for the idea of *Vrye Weekblad*. This year they quit their jobs, raised a bank loan, found an office, and a computer — and someone who knew how to get it to produce a newspaper.

They formed a company — Wending Publikasies — and assembled directors including former Progressive Federal Party leader Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, Johannesburg businessman Mr Chris Otto, and Professor Sampie Terreblanche of the University of Stellenbosch.

The staff of eight brought out the first edition on November 4 under the banner "We conceal nothing."

In it, an article by Mr du Preez explained the paper's ethos "At present, all the large Afrikaans newspapers are partners of the National Party, while the only other primary news source, the SABC, is controlled by the State. This relationship between governing party and media must necessarily have an inhibiting effect on reporting.

"We say the Devil take the Total Onslaught which is manipulated to keep South Africans in the dark. Afrikaans-speakers are not children, and they are not stupid. We have a right to know what is going on in our country, and what those who govern and our fellow citizens think and do."

The newspaper pledged to provide the views of "Eugene Terreblanche to Oliver Tambo" — but this did not mean it was without its own views.

"We believe in an open, non-racial democracy, the sovereignty of the law, basic human rights such as freedom of speech and association, the rejection of all forms of violence, free enterprise without exploitation, negotiation, reconciliation and national unity, and responsible, effective and clean government at all levels.

"We believe in the future of South Africa, and we believe that Afrikaans-speakers have an important role to play in the road to this, and in the new South Africa after apartheid."

Now Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee has warned that he is considering closing the paper or demanding a deposit of up to R40 000 against its closure.

An alternative Afrikaans voice to the Government-sympathetic press groups has long been the ideal of many Afrikaans journalists, says *Vrye Weekblad* editor Mr Max du Preez.

Like his fellow journalists on *Vrye Weekblad*, he started his career with *Nasionale Pers*.

His journalistic pedigree is impressive, including being a parliamentary correspondent and Namibia bureau chief for *Nasionale Pers*, as well as posts on *Die Burger* and *Beeld*.

"Intense frustration" with working for the established Afrikaans press led him to work for the English press, first for *Financial Mail* — as political editor — and as political correspondent for *Business Day*.

"But we reasoned we are Afrikaans, and have the right to write in Afrikaans," says Du Preez (37). And Afrikaans-speakers have the right to know what is going on."

off the Times 25/10/88
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Journalist calls for 'tougher' newsmen

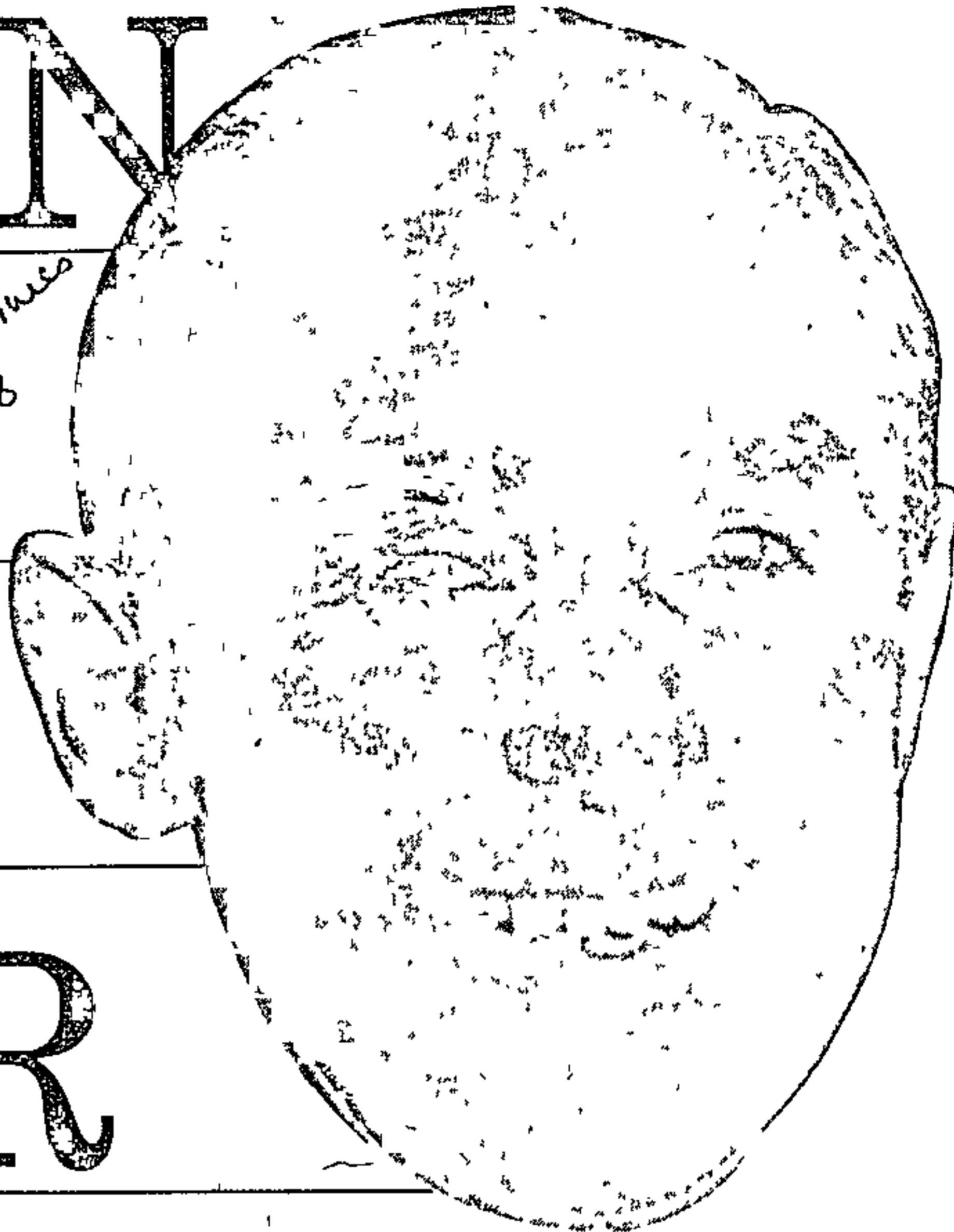
AMSTERDAM — A former deputy editor of the Rand Daily Mail, Mr Benjamin Pogrund, has launched an international campaign aimed at changing media owners' attitude towards their South African-based foreign correspondents

He wants foreign media owners to launch a combined "get tough" campaign for their South African-based foreign correspondents to "stop the South African government dictating to journalists"

"Journalists are no longer getting first-hand news from the battlefield so to speak, from the black community, from the victims of riots which are still going on, and this is causing a vast distortion of the still very grim South African reality"

Speaking to the Netherlands Society of Journalists this week, he said there might be some initial government reprisals against such "tougher" foreign correspondents, but these would eventually die out in the face of united action by a "get tough" group of foreign media owners. — Sapa

A MAN FOR THE HOUR



243
27/11/88

6 In any society a free Press is, in my view, indispensable to the proper administration of justice. Judges cannot arrive at correct judgments unless they are made aware, through the media, of what is happening in society, what people are freely saying and thinking 9

READERS of these words who are used to illiberal statements emanating from the wielders of public power in this country and a reticently conservative judiciary may be mildly startled to learn that the speaker is none other than South Africa's future Chief Justice, Michael Corbett.

When it is realised that he made that speech in 1979 while formally opening the first international conference on human rights in South Africa at the University of Cape Town, his appointment becomes all the more remarkable.

While there tends to be an aura of mystery surrounding the personalities of our judges, it is right and proper that the holders of such public office should be critically appraised by the people whom they are intended to serve. What kind of man is our new Chief Justice (from February 1 1989) and how significant is his appointment?

Respected

Mr Justice Corbett was brought up and educated in the southern suburbs of Cape Town. He joined up at a young age to fight in the Tank Corps in the Second World War and on his return to civilian life he completed law degrees at both UCT and Cambridge.

After practising as an advocate at the Cape Bar for 15 years, he was made a judge in Cape Town in 1963, and was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1974. He is one of the most widely respected and senior judges in the country, extremely conscientious, skilled, courteous and principled.

These facts alone point to his suitability for the office of Chief Justice. But the South African legal system and judiciary are in a peculiarly difficult, some would say critical, situation today.

High-profile political trials constantly bring the courts into the public spotlight — not always to the enhancement of their reputation as agents of justice.

While judges are bound to apply some vicious and unjust laws, there is a growing perception among many in this country (and outside it) that the courts have failed to exploit inherent vagueness in the law to protect the individual, par-

Hugh Corder

Professor of Public Law at the University of Cape Town, assesses South Africa's new Chief Justice



ticularly in the "state security" and "emergency rule" areas.

Many observers might claim that the damage done to civil liberty in such cases over the past 18 months will be difficult to repair. To restore public belief in the image of judicial independence is an enormous challenge. How, if at all, will the appointment of Judge Corbett as our 18th Chief Justice affect this situation?

Directly, he can do little. The head of this country's judiciary cannot wield the sort of overtly political power such as the Chief Justice of the United States does. He performs a largely symbolic role under the Constitution Act, presiding at several important stages in the life of Parliament and the election of the State President.

Administratively in the Appellate Division, the Chief Justice is responsible for the allocation of judges of appeal to hear cases. There have been times when it has seemed that some judges were not being assigned to certain types of cases.

It is now possible that the group of judges which has sat on most appeals arising out of the emergency may find its composition varied from time to time.

Indirectly, Judge Corbett's influence is likely to be far greater. He will have at least four-and-a-half years as Chief Justice in which he will probably be the dominant figure in the most important appeal cases. Through the system of precedent as it operates in our law, the opinions of the Appellate Division bind all other courts.

It is important to realise that judges make choices about the meaning of legal rules in the light of social policy and conditions, especially when balancing state and individual interests. In doing so they are influenced by their own experiences and perceptions.

The significance of Judge Corbett's appointment lies in the type

of man he is. His participation in the activities of the civil rights movement known as the Torch Commando in the late 1940s, his educational background, and his consistent and vocal support for the introduction of a Bill of Rights stamp his values as liberal in the South African context.

This approach to the inherent importance of civil rights is borne out in several of his judgments, sometimes as a lone dissenter from majority judicial viewpoint in the case.

Yet, perhaps Judge Corbett's most important quality is his seriousness of purpose and relatively wide exposure to a diversity of political opinion.

His activities off the Bench and the circles in which he moves ensure that he is more in touch with the fears and aspirations of a greater range of South Africans than any other Chief Justice since Henry Fagan in the 1950s.

Acceptance

His position is further strengthened by his clear vision of the limits of the judicial role. Judges must be, in his words, "persons of the highest calibre, both as jurists and in their capacity to formulate wise decisions on matters of fundamental social policy", yet they must maintain "a fine balance between the need to protect constitutional rights and liberties and the danger of too great an interference in the affairs of the executive and legislative branches of government".

He is also acutely aware that the Supreme Court's effectiveness depends on its legitimacy, its broad acceptance by society.

The years which lie ahead will determine whether the judicial system retains (or regains?) legitimacy in the eyes of most South Africans.

It will be an uphill battle, given

socio-political conditions as they exist.

No serving judge is better able to attempt to preserve what is good in our legal system than Michael Corbett. (Whether conservative legal structures will adapt sufficiently well to changing demands is another question.)

His appointment as Chief Justice, never a foregone conclusion despite his ability and seniority, indicates that a small measure of good sense still survives in the upper echelons of government.

A-G ²⁴³⁷
~~clears~~
Stew 25/11/88
newspaper

Pretoria Correspondent

The Attorney-General of the Transvaal, Mr Don Brunette, yesterday issued instructions to withdraw a charge in terms of the Prisons Act against the *Pretoria News*, after the newspaper published a cartoon of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

The cartoon represented a portrait of President P W Botha which through a process of transformation, resulted in the face of a man who was supposed to have been Mandela.

In terms of the said Act, no photograph or cartoon of a prisoner may be published without the consent of the Prison Department.

The intention of the Act is to protect the prisoner and his family, Mr Brunette said.

He said the State had previously tried to prosecute in a similar case but had failed.

He added that the cartoon, drawn by a cartoonist in Amsterdam was not intended to represent the prisoner but rather the State President, Mr P W Botha.

Minister defends Press ⁽²⁴³⁾

THE Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr Leon Wessels defended the Press against a snide attack at a breakfast briefing in Durban at the weekend.

9/11/88
During question time a man in the audience described newspapers as "pernicious trouble-makers" and welcomed state of emergency media regulations that censored newspapers as now they were forced to report "news."

reference
Mr Wessels described the points as "thorny" and said "one should always remember" that the Press was the life line of politicians.

"I must acknowledge and say we have wonderful friends in the media and we appreciate the role they are playing as we are in need of them to carry the message to the citizens of the country," he said.

Threat by Minister

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MINISTER of Information Mr Stoffel Botha has threatened to sue *New Nation* and editor of the *Weekly Mail* Anton Harber for a total of R100 000 for remarks published about the Minister this month in the newspaper and Mr Harber received letters from Mr Botha's

lawyers claiming R50 000 from each, to be paid within 14 days or the Minister would sue Mr Harber confirmed *Sowetan* 29/11/88. Mr Harber said he would not pay the money and was prepared to go to court.

906 Times

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November 30, 1938 9.

Star sued for defamation

JOHANNESBURG —

The Minister of Home Affairs and of Communications, Mr Stoffel Botha, is demanding R100 000 from The Star arising from a magazine feature and a reader's letter which he claims were defamatory

He is demanding R50 000 for each

His claims are being handled by the State Attorney

Simultaneously the police are investigating two further charges against The Star, one in terms of the Police Act and the other in terms of the Prisons Act — Sapa

SOWETAN REPORTS

THE Minister of Home Affairs and of Communication, Mr Stoffel Botha, is demanding an amount of R100 000 from *The Star* arising from a magazine feature and a reader's letter which he claims were defamatory.

He is demanding R50 000 for each

His claims are being handled by the State Attorney, while simultaneously the police are investigating two charges against *The Star*, one in terms of the Police Act and the other in terms of the Prisons Act. In a separate incident, police made a pre-dawn search of at least one *Star* journalist's home

Letter

The details of the Minister's defamation claims were set out in a letter from the State Attorney last week in

SOWETAN Reporter

which he referred to comments made in a letter published in *The Star* on November 14

The Minister says in the claim that the allegations contained in the letter seriously defame him. The letter criticises him for banning the *Weekly Mail*, and for not resigning over the manner in which the film,

Cry Freedom was banned.

There are four points in the readers' letter in which, he says, are defamatory (243)

The second claim, also for R50 000, concerns a lighthearted feature entitled "gossip", which appeared in the *Sunday Star* on November 13 and which, the Minister claims, is defamatory and has seriously impaired his dignity.

Sowetan



Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu

Two years of 'silence' for editor Zwelakhe Sisulu

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

ONE of South Africa's best known journalists, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, has this week been in detention for more than 710 days. Mr Sisulu, editor of the fiercely anti-government New Nation, which was banned for three months earlier this year, was detained on December 12, 1986, under the emergency regulations, and had by this week spent almost two years in prison without trial. He was taken from Diepkloof prison where he is being held, in June this year, and admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital where he was treated for depression in the psychiatric section, under 24-hour-police guard. Speaking from their Soweto home last night his wife Mrs Zodwa Sisulu, a radiographer,

told how her husband's detention had affected their family.

She said their children Moyikwa and Zowa "suffered bouts of depression and silence because of their father's prolonged detention." Their schooling was also being negatively affected.

"Although they seem to understand when we tell them that the government thinks their father cannot be at home because he is a threat to the state, they cannot really understand why he has been taken away," she said. "It is difficult to explain to them why Zwelakhe has been in prison for so long because even I cannot give them any specific reasons or explain in concrete terms."

Mrs Sisulu said it was very hard for their

children growing up without their father, since "Zwelakhe is not a passive father and always made time for them and had special activities which he shared with them, although he had a busy schedule."

Mrs Sisulu said the children were allowed to see their father once a week but could not accept that they had to speak to him through a glass and that they could not touch him.

She said the visits were traumatic for the children since the family had to go through "many checks" before they saw Mr Sisulu. They however insisted that they wanted to visit him.

She had not realised that the visits were so traumatic until she noticed that her daughter Zowa could not sleep on the Sunday night

before visiting her father. "I was undecided at first whether I should continue exposing the children to prison and whether I should allow them to miss school every Monday."

"But I spoke to their teachers who advised me to allow them to go because they were both very quiet and disturbed at school on the day that they were supposed to visit."

Mrs Sisulu said her husband was "very strong" and that prison had not broken his spirit.

"The uncertainty of not knowing when he husband would be home affected her most. I cannot make any plans or start any project because I never know when he will be home," she said.

Jailed editor 'paying price for opposition'

Star 1/12/88 Star Bureau

(243)

LONDON — Zwelakhe Sisulu, the jailed founder-editor of *New Nation*, is "a highly articulate opponent of the South African Government paying a bitter price for the expression of his views", according to Max Hastings, editor of Britain's leading conservative newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*

"There has never been any suggestion that he is involved with violent opposition," said Hastings, paying tribute to Sisulu in BBC-2's new series on international-prisoners of conscience last night

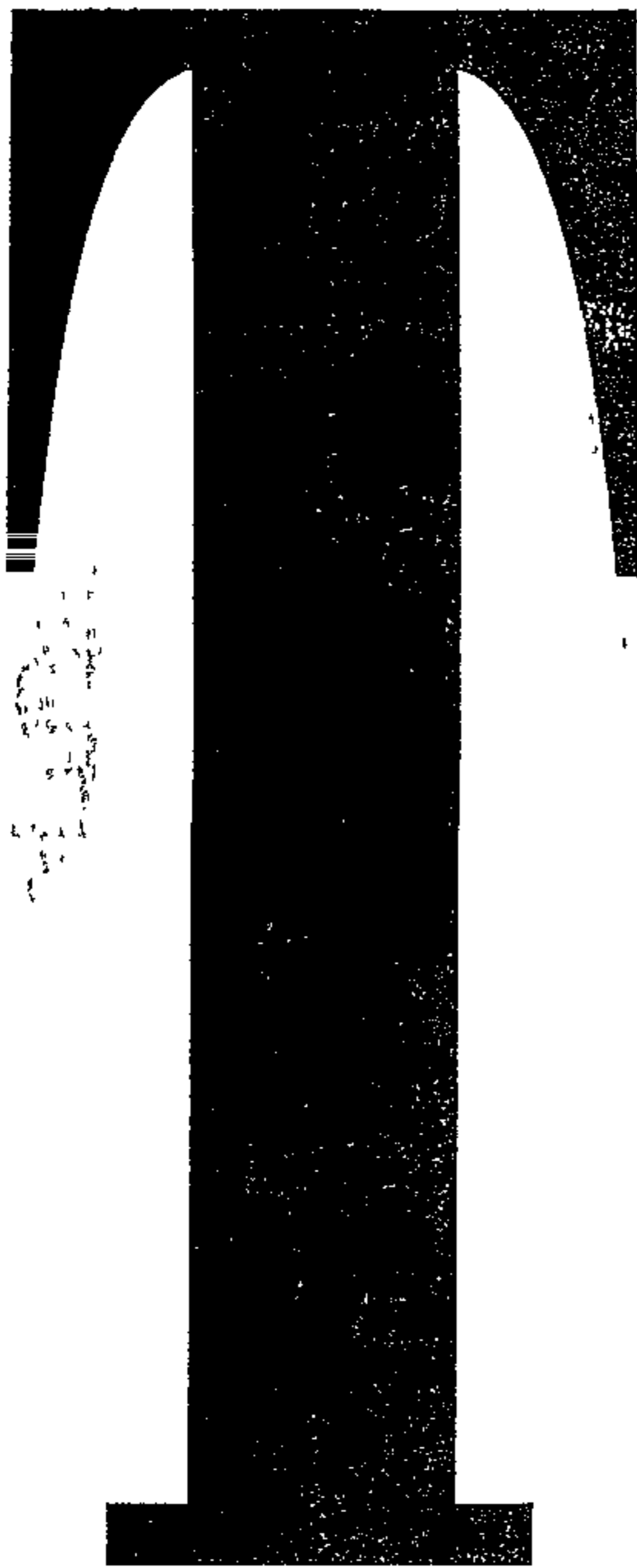
He said, as a fellow-journalist interested in South African affairs, he felt "a personal concern" about Sisulu's situation. He said although Sisulu had not been charged with any crime, he had been held for 23 months

"He's certainly strongly critical of the South African Government," said Hastings. "Not long ago Sisulu said 'I take the view that no reporter can be objective and no newspaper can be neutral. For newspapers to be acceptable, they must reflect social reality'."

(243) (200)

Star 1/12/88

DEAR PRESIDENT BOTHA



The Weekly Mail comes back to life tomorrow after a month's enforced closure.

But your government's threats to press freedom have not abated.

The following are just some examples of the treatment of the South African media during 1988.

- **JANUARY** The Emergency regulations are altered; the Home Affairs Minister need provide no more substantial grounds for closure of a publication beyond listing the objectionable items and indicating why he has taken each item into account
- **FEBRUARY** Durban *Press Trust* offices are raided and searched by government officials in connection with a proposed interview with banned ANC leader Govan Mbeki; Three *Saamstaan* staffers are "restricted" (ie virtually banned); An edition of *Al Qalam* is banned; 17 organisations are restricted and, with them, media coverage
- **MARCH** *New Nation* is suspended; Editions of *South*, *Saamstaan*, *Grassroots* and *Al Qalam* are banned
- **APRIL** *Weekly Mail*, *Saamstaan*, *Grassroots* and *Out of Step* are all warned by Government Gazette
- **MAY** *South* is suspended
- **JUNE** *New Era* receives a warning; The *BBC* is threatened with expulsion after a programme comments on torture of children, The registration of news agencies is included in the new Media Emergency Regulations
- **JULY** The registration of news agencies is withdrawn for re-drafting
- **AUGUST** Editions of *Crisis News*, *Al Qalam* and *Weekly Mail* are seized
- **SEPTEMBER** Publication of calls for a boycott of the municipal elections is prohibited; Publication of a person's name in the Government Gazette now suffices to officially 'restrict' a person; Many are detained or restricted in the run-up to the elections
- **OCTOBER** An edition of *Frontline* is banned
- **NOVEMBER** *Weekly Mail* is suspended; *Free Azania* is warned by Government Gazette; The Editor of the *Sowetan* is quizzed at midnight by two policemen at his home; Legislation is threatened to force newspapers to disclose their sources; *Vrye Weekblad* is warned that its registration is being investigated, as are Internal Security Act contraventions
- **DECEMBER** *New Nation* Editor, Zwelakhe Sisulu will complete two years in detention without trial.

This suggests a policy of attacking the more vulnerable publishers of unwelcome reports. Your government seems bent on the arbitrary punishment of criticism as if it were tantamount to subversion. This would be a barbaric mistake, and we urge you to refrain from assaulting press freedom, to relax the controls on the media and to return to a policy of reform.

Yours sincerely,

PHILIP SPENDER, Director & Managing Editor of Index on Censorship, on behalf of leading editors, writers and professionals around the world

2 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP

**INDEX ON
CENSORSHIP**

JOHANNESBURG — *2/12/88 (263)*
The independent Afrikaans weekly newspaper, the Vrye Weekblad, has been asked by the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, to lodge a deposit of R30 000 — the highest amount so far asked of any newspaper — before a registration certificate would be issued by the Department of Home Affairs

Paper must lodge deposit of R30 000

In a statement yesterday, the editorial staff of the Vrye Weekblad said they believed Mr Coetzee's decision to demand R30 000 was part of decision by the government and the National Party to wage a "vendetta" against the newspaper

The Vrye Weekblad sent a written representation to Mr Coetzee last Wednesday and on Monday the newspaper's editor, Mr Max du Preez, and its legal representative met the minister and senior officials

"The meeting took place in a very pleasant and friendly atmosphere

"We were under the impression the the minister accepted our bona fides and understood what Vrye Weekblad as a professional newspaper was trying to achieve," the statement said — Sapa

Star 21/12/88
(243)

Newspaper must pay big deposit

Staff Reporter

The Minister of Justice has demanded a deposit of R30 000 from the new Afrikaans weekly *Vrye Weekblad*, before the Department of Home Affairs will issue it with a registration certificate.

In a statement yesterday the newspaper's editorial staff said "After the events of the last two weeks, no one can blame us for beginning to believe that the Government and the National Party have decided to wage a vendetta against us.

BALANCE

"We were under the impression that the Minister accepted our bona fides and understood what *Vrye Weekblad* as a professional newspaper wanted to achieve. Fair and balanced reporting on all national issues to promote national reconciliation in an open, democratic society."

The deposit — the highest demanded from a South African newspaper — has been described as unreasonable by the newspaper's editor, Mr Max du Preez.



Back in business . . . Weekly Mail co-editors Irwin Manoim (left) and Anton Harber relax after completing the first edition since the paper was banned four weeks ago. ● Picture by Herbert Mabuza.

Weekly Mail 'comes out fighting' after ban

Star 2/12/88

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WMA

The Weekly Mail "came out fighting" today after being banned for a month at the discretion of Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha

Co-editors Mr Anton Harber and Mr Irwin Manoim, who were last night putting the finishing touches to an edition featuring a story on Unita and its southwards movement within Angola, proclaimed the paper "the biggest yet"

Mr Harber said "We return to the streets with more advertising and more subscribers than when we were suspended

"Our morale is high and we are

By Dan Side

determined to continue with our task of keeping South Africans informed. We are coming out fighting as usual"

But Mr Manoim said *The Weekly Mail* still did not know its exact position with regard to Mr Botha and the emergency regulations

"He still declines to tell us what his problem is with *The Weekly Mail*, he still leaves us in the dark about what we can or cannot do. The situation is still dependent on his personal whim

"We might have offended Mr

Botha, but we did not break any law. Our crime was to criticise the Government and raise questions about its policies and behaviour. We will continue to do this."

But, said Mr Harber, "the month of enforced silence has been marked by a flood of solidarity and support from foreign governments, human rights bodies, businessmen, churches, editors, political organisations and ordinary concerned readers".

Among the countries raising objections to the ban, he said, were the European Community nations, the Scandinavian countries, the US, Switzerland, Israel and Japan

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CAPT. Tink, 2/12/88

Dhlomo's appeal upheld

BLOEMFONTEIN —
The Appeal Court here has allowed an appeal by Dr Oscar Dhlomo, secretary-general of Inkatha, against an exception taken by Natal Newspapers (Pty) Ltd and the editor of the Sunday Tribune, Mr Ian M Wylie, to a claim for R20 000 damages arising from a March report in the Tribune.

The Durban and Coast Local Supreme Court on May 21, 1987 upheld the exception and dismissed Dr Dhlomo's claim. Yesterday the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rabie, upheld Dr Dhlomo's appeal. — Sapa

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EVERY litre helps to fatten a public service pay packet

W/C ARS 3/12/88

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by FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Weekend Argus Political Staff

EVERY time motorists fill their petrol tanks from January 16 they will be paying for public servants' salary increases, says the Progressive Federal Party's finance spokesman, Mr Harry Schwarz

He warned in an interview that the further 10c-a-litre price increase would hit the economy hard at a time when new sanctions threats against South Africa were looming abroad

The increase — most of which will go towards financing additional State spending, mainly on salaries and wages — would result in price rises on virtually every front

Fuel prices affected everything connected with manufacturing and distribution, including food and most other goods

The rate of inflation would increase and spending patterns would be affected

"Highly undesirable"

Even though the price increase would come into effect only on January 16, it would "cast a shadow over Christmas as far as the public is concerned"

The increase was in the present brittle state of the economy. The real issue was whether it was a proper means of taxation — "our view is that it is not"

Mr Schwarz, who returned last week from the United States, warned that South Africa was not out of the woods as far as sanctions were concerned

The optimism expressed by some people following the election of President-elect Mr George Bush might be misplaced, he said.

There was a danger that the tough Delums sanctions Bill might be introduced in the United States next year. It would have an easy passage in the House of Representatives and Senate voting was likely to be on party lines

The big question was whether the new president would veto the Bill and, if so, whether there would be enough votes to uphold his veto in the Senate

The proposed US legislation, if passed, will impose an almost total trade embargo on South Africa and make it an offence for Americans to hold investments in South Africa

The Conservative Party, with its apartheid drive in Boksburg and other municipalities, was worsening the sanctions threat

"Without any doubt the CP's action will harden attitudes towards South Africa. There has been worldwide media coverage and Boksburg has become a world name and a symbol of reaction to reform on the part of a section of the white population," Mr Schwarz said

The test the government was facing was what will Nationalist-controlled councils do to get rid of their own apartheid signs?

Sisulu 'free', but can't edit New Nation

243
3/12/88
GHT tracks

JOHANNESBURG — The editor of the weekly New Nation newspaper, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, was unexpectedly released yesterday after 720 days of emergency detention.

But he was served with strict restrictions which will prevent him from taking up his job again.

After his release, Mr Sisulu was able to face press cameras at his lawyer's offices but, because of the restrictions placed on him, he did not talk to journalists.

Another long-standing emergency detainee, Mr Eric Molobi, national coordinator of the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC), was also released yesterday and also served with restrictions.

Mr Sisulu's surprise release about 2pm yesterday followed an announcement earlier by a spokesman for the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, that he would be freed.

His lawyer, Ms Priscilla Jana, said at the press conference that Mr Sisulu was not party to his sudden freedom and that "he had no say whatsoever in his release".

Former detainee Mr Mohammed Valli, who has been free since he and two others emerged from the US Consulate in Johannesburg where they sought refuge following their escape from hospital, told reporters Mr Sisulu's restrictions were the "harshes ever" imposed on an activist.

In terms of the restrictions, Mr Sisulu cannot return to his position on the New Nation. He may not partici-

pate in any process leading to the publication of any material or take part in interviews with journalists.

He is furthermore restricted to his home at night, may not be in the company of more than 10 people at any time, he may not leave the boundaries of Johannesburg without the permission of the police, and he has to report daily to the police in Soweto.

He has also been restricted from taking part in 10 anti-apartheid organisations. He may also not enter any educational institution and he may not attend gatherings convened "to attack, criticise or to protest" any acts or policies of the government or local authorities.

The release of Mr Molobi, who has been in detention for more than a year, was disclosed in a statement by his lawyer, Mr Azhar Cachalia.

Mr Cachalia said his release came after representation had been made for his release by, among others, the West German government.

He also been released subject to certain stringent conditions.

At yesterday's press conference, Mr Valli said people should not "be fooled" by the number of detainees released.

"It looks like a flood but while there have been a number of releases there have also been a number of new detentions." He said the releases were the result of European bankers applying pressure on the government when President P W Botha visited Europe recently to "rollover loans" — Sapa and Political Staff.

'New methods' to silence press (243)

Star 6/12/88
The Government had tried and exhausted a long strategy to silence the media and would now adopt other methods", *Weekly Mail* co-editor, Mr Irwin Manoim, told the 11th annual congress of the South African Student Press Union (Saspu). He said the Minister of

Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, had "gone too far" in his attempts to marginalise the alternative press, resulting in the formation of "Save the Press" campaigns.

The 1988 Sapu president, Miss Carol Paton, said campus newspapers

had the potential to develop a "relationship of exchange" with readers that other newspapers would find impossible.

Miss Alex Kuhn, formerly editor of *Wits Student*, was elected president for 1989. — Sapa.

Minister lays charge against newspaper

Stav
6/12/88

Pretoria Bureau

243

The Minister of Manpower and of Public Works and Land Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis, last night laid a charge of criminal defamation against the owners of the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper *Rapport* over a report alleging he had misused personnel in his department for personal gain.

A spokesman for the Sunnyside police station, in Pretoria, confirmed today that the Minister had laid the charge at about 6 pm last night.

Mr du Plessis said he had laid the charge against the newspaper, its publishers and a reporter over the weekend report of the alleged misuse of staff.

Rapport referred to Mr du Plessis's son, Johan, and two officials in his department who had allegedly allowed themselves to be misused.

Rapport named Mr du Plessis's administrative secretary, Mr Jan van Tonder, and his chauffeur, Mr Dries van der Merwe. Mr van der Merwe allegedly took leave to work on Mr du Plessis's

farm when the farm manager died.

Mr du Plessis said he had also ordered his legal representatives to begin an immediate civil case against the parties involved.

He said Progressive Federal Party leader Dr Zach de Beer's plea for a public inquiry into the allegations, while the Advocate-General was still investigating the matter, suggested a motion of distrust in the Advocate-General.

Mr du Plessis scoffed at a call for his resignation by the deputy leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg.

He said he could understand if Dr Hartzenberg had a problem, but if the CP MP was unhappy with the way the department was being handled he could address the matter during the Budget debate.

Mr du Plessis advised Dr Hartzenberg rather to give urgent attention to Boksburg and the threatened takeover of the CP by the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

CPC 2015 6/12/88
243

Govt 'went too far' with press gags, says editor

JOHANNESBURG. — The government "had tried and exhausted a long strategy to silence the media and would now adopt other methods," Weekly Mail co-editor Mr Irwin Manoim told the annual congress of the South African Student Press Union (Saspu).

Mr Manoim was delivering the opening address to the congress at the University of the Witwatersrand which ended yesterday.

He told the congress, held under the banner "Gags won't stop us" that the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, had "gone too far" in his attempts to marginalise the alternative press and had inadvertently attacked the press at large.

"This has forced newspaper editors to talk to one another and forced the formation of Save the Press campaigns," he said. — Sapa

Handwritten vertical text on the right margin of the clipping.

1-7/12/88

243

JOHANNESBURG — When *New Nation* became the first newspaper to be suspended in March, I was amazed that their staff did not use the free time more productively.

Why, I wondered, were they not busier with projects to upgrade skills and equipment? Why did they not put their energies into rethinking strategies, bringing out new publications?

I now understand why. Because what a suspension does is destroy morale. It takes away the single purpose for an "alternative" newspaper's existence, the reason why its staff willingly put up with long and punishing hours for less pay than they'd get elsewhere.

No newspaper, no sense of belonging. A team of journalists sitting on the sidelines, able to watch, but not to report. The organisation wilts. People stop coming to work.

But *Weekly Mail* was more fortunate than *New Nation*. We had the benefit of hindsight. We could learn from the experiences of others, and we did, adopting a near-religious zeal for the principles of "stick together. Don't fall apart. Keep busy."

Emergency

We probably overdid it. Everyone had to be at work on time as usual, every day. Dozens of projects were created to keep people busy, far more than we could cope with. Deadlines were policed. An emergency training scheme was set up to improve skills and everyone was roped in, either to train or to be trained.

"I'll be so glad when this break is over," complained one staffer at conference. "At least I won't have to work so hard."

But there are other perils to suspension which no amount of hindsight can change. The most serious is money.

The *Weekly Mail* could ride through November on its cash reserves. But the effects of a month with no advertising revenue and precious few new subscriptions will be felt later, in February or March, when those reserves have been depleted.

Stoffel Botha has united his opponents

From IRWIN MANOIM, co-editor, WEEKLY MAIL

understood this and its early attacks on the "alternatives" were aimed at driving a wedge between the two sections.

For a while, it seemed to work. A delegation of Newspaper Press Union executives met the government last year and issued a statement agreeing that the country was in a state of crisis and that the press would have to behave responsibly. The unspoken premise was clear, the mainstream press was responsible, the "alternative press" was not.

Stoffel Botha might have succeeded in exploiting this divide, but he went too far. His attacks on us

have become an attack on the press at large. The turning point came with the registration of freelancers and news agencies in July this year. At first, mainstream editors ignored the issue, convinced that it was aimed only at the "alternative" agencies and therefore did not matter.

When the *Save the Press* committee in Johannesburg arranged a meeting with editors, there was little interest. Most editors sent their apologies. Those who attended could not understand the fuss.

It took their lawyers to convince the publishers of the major newspapers that

the registration threat hung over everyone, that even the largest companies would have to apply for their "licences" and that a "licensed" press would have credibility with no-one.

For the first time, both mainstream and "alternative" press united on an issue. And for the first time we succeeded. The registration issue was quietly scrapped.

What the registration issue did was bring home a realisation among mainstream newspapers that the "alternative" press were more than mere scruffy fringe publications. We were the frontline in a war aimed at everyone.

The generous coverage of the suspension of the *Weekly Mail* is the first result of this new spirit. Newspapers and radio stations have gone out of their way to be of help, keeping the issue of censorship before the public eye and offering to help wherever they could.

Some have been particularly generous. *The Star*, for example, handed over a page each week to the *Weekly Mail* staff. *The Sunday Tribune*, the *Natal Witness* and *Radio 702* provided expansive coverage.

It is easy to carp that the *Weekly Mail* was the fortunate exception. Where was the generosity when *New Nation* and *SOUTH* were closed?

Which is fair enough. But the truth is that it was only after those two papers were closed that the "alternative" press realised the need to make serious efforts to lobby the mainstream editors and form *Save The Press* committees. Allies have to be earned.

Ultimately, all the "alternative" newspapers will benefit from the changed climate. And we will all need any help we can find. For the pressures on us have only begun. Next year, the stakes will be higher.

But when the crunch comes again next year, we can count on the whole press standing together as a single unit with a single voice, willing, if one member is hurt, to speak out.

That is the legacy of Stoffel Botha: he has united his own opponents.

Mainstream

Has Stoffel Botha succeeded then? Ironically no, his attempts at weakening the "alternative" press may have had the opposite effect. The constant attacks on the "alternative" press, far from marginalising it, have brought it closer to the mainstream press for the first time.

The *Weekly Mail* was the first of the "alternative" weeklies, begun in early 1985 as an explicit criticism of the "blind-spots" of mainstream journalism.

We made no secret of the fact that we considered the mainstream press lacking, particularly in its coverage of extra-parliamentary politics and of what was later called "township unrest".

The result, not surprisingly, was intense animosity between "alternative" and mainstream newspapers. The "alternatives" lost no opportunity to swipe at the bigger newspapers, which responded either with scorn or condescension.

The government

263 Interview with ANC unbanned

DURBAN — The Publications Appeal Board has declared the March-April edition of Al-Qalam not undesirable.

It had earlier been banned by the committee of publications on grounds that the ANC's military struggle had been "explained away" during interviews with the banned organisation's leaders.

Attorneys for Al-Qalam said the committee of publications had concluded that the publication indicated sympathy for the ANC which could lead to the escalation of "the present revolutionary climate"

Lawyers said the committee had also objected to a call for the release of political prisoners and the "flowing language" used

Weekblad 'has 243 5/12/84 got the money'

Mr Max du Preez, editor of the *Vrye Weekblad*, said yesterday he hoped to pay by today the R30 000 deposit demanded by Home Affairs Minister Mr Stoffel Botha for the registration of the newspaper.

He said the money had been collected from private donations.

"Individuals have just called in with the money and said they could not allow the State to do this to us (close the paper)," Mr du Preez said.

He said an edition would be published on Friday, by which time the paper would be registered.

He is due to appear in Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on January 25 to face charges of publishing an unregistered newspaper and also charges of quoting banned SA Communist Party leader Joe Slovo.

He said police had told him they were no longer investigating a charge against him of publishing a picture of Nelson Mandela. — Sapa

PHOTOGRAPH BY ...

NEW editor appointed

Star 8/12/88
Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Mr Brijlall Ramguthie (43) has been appointed editor of the weekly newspaper *Post Natal* (243)

He succeeds Mr Dennis Pather (43), who has been appointed senior assistant editor of *The Sunday Tribune*

Mr Ramguthie started his career on *The Leader* newspaper in 1965 before joining *Post Natal* in 1969 as a general news reporter

He was appointed

sports editor before being made news editor, serving in the two capacities for six years and won a Thomson Scholarship to study in London for three months

He was appointed acting editor of *Post Natal* while Mr Pather spent a year studying at Harvard University

Mr Pather started his career on *Drum* magazine before joining *The Leader* and then moving to *The Daily News* and *Post Natal*

Weekblad (243)
pays R30 000
to register ^{Stav} 1/1/58

The editor of the recently launched Afrikaans weekly, *Vrye Weekblad*, Mr Max du Preez, said yesterday that the R30 000 deposit demanded by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, for the registration of the newspaper had been paid.

He said he hoped the newspaper would be officially registered later in the day — Sapa

LATE NEWS

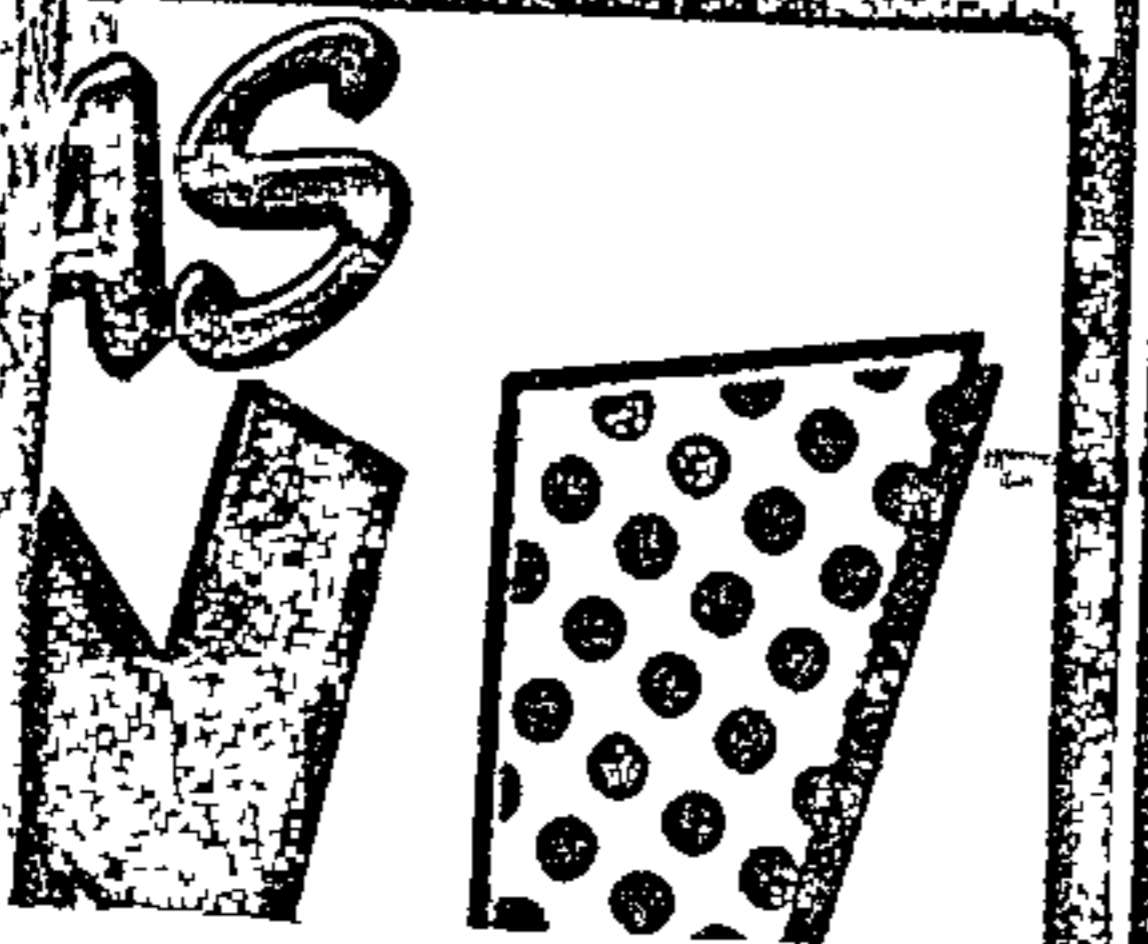
Sowetan 8/2/88

Record sale

WE'VE done it. Hit the 200 000 mark, thus making us the second biggest daily in the country. And we are still going up... and up... and up.

To be exact we sold 203 393 copies of your favourite newspaper on Monday. And for that record sale we thank all the *Sowetan* readers and promise an even bigger and brighter paper.

(243)



243 B WMAIL
2-8/12/88

Kobie tells new weekly: R30 000 or you're out

VRYE WEEKBLAD, the independent Afrikaans weekly ordered yesterday to pay the highest security deposit in South African publishing history — has lashed out at government "arrogance" but is determined to continue publishing

In a letter to *Vrye Weekblad* yesterday, the Home Affairs Department informed the newspaper that "in terms of the Internal Security Act, the Minister of Justice has decided that a deposit of R30 000 is required before a registration certification is issued". The highest known deposit previously asked was R20 000, which was required of the *Sowetan* and *New Nation*.

Editor Max du Preez told the *Weekly Mail* the development was "a heavy blow for a small, young company", but believed the newspaper "had been given some breathing space".

This is a reference to fears, following an earlier letter from Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee, that separate action was being contemplated in terms of the Internal Security Act. Said Du Preez after a meeting with the minister and his aides in Pretoria on Tuesday: "It looks like that was just *skrikmaak* (scare tactics)."

(Welkom) was damaged by arsonists, police reported yesterday

SA 7-15 8/2/88 243 307
Vrye Weekblad pays up

JOHANNESBURG. — The editor of the recently launched Afrikaans weekly, Vrye Weekblad, Mr Max du Preez, said the R30 000 deposit demanded by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, for the registration of the newspaper was paid yesterday morning.



New setback for Vrye Weekblad

8:30
9/11/88 By Paula Fray

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Hours after the recently launched Afrikaans weekly *Vrye Weekblad* paid a R30 000 deposit — demanded by the Minister of Home Affairs — and was registered on Wednesday, their printing company cancelled their contract

The editor, Mr Max du Preez, said that "out of the blue" the original printing company asked them to pay their account in full and pay a "deposit" of R100 000

They were unable to pay the R100 000 deposit and the contract was cancelled

"We are talking to two different companies at the moment — Perskor is printing this week's edition as a one-off project," he said

Earlier yesterday, Mr du Preez said the deposit demanded by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, was paid on Wednesday and the newspaper was officially registered

Mr du Preez said the deposit was required in terms of media and security laws as an assurance of good behaviour. The money had been donated by supporters of the weekly newspaper

The deposit was not linked to the state of emergency press regulations used to ban three other opposition newspapers for periods of one to three months

"This has nothing to do with the emergency. It is just part of a vendetta to stop us publishing in Afrikaans and it will not work," he said

He believed the newspaper was being singled out for "special attention" as it was in Afrikaans. "If you have an informed Afrikaans population then the Government is really in trouble. It is in their interest to keep the Afrikaner in the dark."



Mr Max du Preez, editor of *Vrye Weekblad* . . .
"This has nothing to do with the emergency. It's a vendetta that will not work."

Present structure of TML ensures dividend growth

St 2/12/88

243

The transformation of Times Media over the last two years is nothing short of spectacular considering the drastic press curbs, the emigration of good journalists and previous poor management. It proves that there is no such thing as a bad business, only bad management.

In Times Media's latest annual report, chairman Mr Pat Retief says management has learned to cope with the vicissitudes of operating in the unpredictable and often turbulent conditions prevailing in the country.

What he doesn't say is that the previous management's old boy network nearly steered Times Media (then SA Associated Newspapers) on to the rocks. Enter new MD Steve Mulholland whose hatchet measures did the trick.

New and old presses were sold to liquidate the crippling debt and today the group is free of borrowings and flush with cash resources.

The printing and distribution of publications is now handled in a joint venture partnership with The Argus Printing and Publishing Company where substantial savings are benefiting the bottom line. With the group's new lean look, shareholders are set to benefit from increased dividends.

Sales reached R154,32 million (1987 R120,88 million) with operating profit R23,7 million (1987 R13,45 million). Investment income — dividends and interest received primarily from the 49 per cent interest in Natal's Robinson and Company increased to R4,02 million (1987 R772 000) while interest expense declined sharply to only R886 000 (1987 R4,17 million).

The hefty tax losses brought forward meant no tax was necessary. The bottom line totalled R26,84 million (1987 R10,04 million) giving earnings per share of 1 335c (1987 501c). Dividends were increased to R3 (1987 R1).

Profits retained for the year alone were R20,9 million more than the balance brought forward of R20,42 million. Advertising and circulation revenue increased and with cost controls resulted in operating profits as a percentage of sales increasing 11,1 percent to 15,4 percent.

The restructuring of the group by selling off fixed assets and contracting out many necessary services has enabled management to concentrate on the performance of its principal assets — its people, says Mr Retief, who perceives staff morale and loyalty at a high level. Since Directors Emoluments increased from R809 000 to R1,49 million I hope salaries of loyal staff followed suit.

The Sunday Times, a major contributor to profits, enjoyed its most successful year where both circulation and advertising improved. The Financial Mail

Bottom
Line

MICHAEL MENOF



performed well and Business Day benefited from the JSE new listings mania.

The Pretoria News is well on the way to recovery and the magazine People broke even in less than a year. The EP division produced a record performance and the Cape Town and Natal publications produced profits ahead of budget.

Times Media has a 23 percent share in M-Net and contributed a further R3,3 million during the year to finance start-up costs. The group's five percent investment in Radio 702 produced steady dividend income.

The printing and distribution joint venture with the Argus saved significant expenditure and investment in fixed assets. The arrangement helps both, not forgetting the Argus holds 40 percent of Times Media.

The shortfall in capital contribution by Times Media to the joint venture at end March 1988 totalled R7,77 million (1987 R8,84 million) but was compensated by an interest payment of R791 000 (1987 R692 000) on the shortfall. Times Media benefited by R1,4 million (1987 R683 000) share of income from the joint printing operation.

Capital employed at end March 1988 has virtually doubled to R43,4 million (1987 R22,45 million). Working capital has improved significantly to R21,29 million (1987 R5,78 million). Current assets of R42,45 million include cash resources of R21,08 million. There is no debt.

The excellent results of 1987 and 1988 were assisted by no tax payable. At end financial 1988 TML had an assessed tax loss of R10 million. But the interim figures to end-September 1988 reflected the considerable impact of resumption of tax payments on earnings.

The economic and socio-political issues make budgeting and forecasting difficult, says Mr Retief. However, Times Media is budgeting for a further improvement even though the spectacular result of the past two years are simply not possible, he says.

The present structure should ensure a growth in dividends. The present net worth per share is R21,58 against the JSE price of around R47. Clearly investors are expecting big things from Times Media where management has displayed considerable skill and flair.

Times media has demonstrated that the newspaper industry is capable of producing enhanced profits no matter what obstacles it has to face.

PRESS IS ACCUSED

THE MEC in charge of hospitals and roads in the Cape, Mr André van Wyk, yesterday accused the Press of "politicising" the transfer of Dr Jocelyn Kane-Berman, chief medical superintendent of Groote Schuur.

He also reiterated there was "no chance of the decision being reversed". *Sowetan*

"You are doing Dr Kane-Berman a disservice," he said. *8/12/88*

"Exaggerated" reports of the amount of interest shown in the transfer of Dr Kane-Berman and the "politicising" of the issue, militated against her re-instatement, he said.

He said he had told Dr Kane-Berman personally that "one never knows what the future brings" but at this stage there was no chance of her re-instatement.

Masa has claimed Dr Kane-Berman's transfer is contrary to the Geneva Convention which does not allow politics to influence health care.

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WMMU
23/12-12/1/89

Journalist to testify in trial

By MBULELO LINDA

THE state plans to call Port Elizabeth journalist and state of emergency detainee Brian Sokutu as a witness in the impending trial of the Eastern Cape "UDF 30"

This was revealed by Sokutu's lawyer, who said the police had also demanded that the detained journalist sign a sworn statement about a report he wrote during a memorial service for the former general secretary of the South African Communist Party, Moses Mabhida

The service was held at the Dan Qeque stadium in New Brighton two years ago.

The Police Public Relations Division in Pretoria has refused to confirm or deny the report

Last week, it was revealed by lawyers that about 30 emergency detainees, among them key figures in the UDF's Eastern Cape leadership, would face treason charges.

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Paying to appear

Another shock faced the editorial staff of the beleaguered Afrikaans alternative weekly, *Vrye Weekblad*, this week when they were told by their printers, Hendlers, a subsidiary of Publico, that a guarantee of R100 000 would henceforth be required to ensure that the newspaper reaches the stands. Up to last week the deal with Hendlers was that Wendling Publikasies Bpk, *Weekblad's* holding company, would pay for each edition.

At the same time editor Max du Preez and his attorney visited Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee in Pretoria after Coetsee's warning that a registration fee of up to R40 000 may be levied against the newspaper. Coetsee has the discretion to determine an amount between R10 and R40 000 as a deposit which will be forfeited should the newspaper be banned.

The *FM* understands that Coetsee, after listening to their representations, indicated that he would inform the newspaper about

his decision as soon as possible. *Vrye Weekblad* was considering legal action against Coetsee on the grounds that their registration is being unreasonably delayed.

Their failure so far to be registered forms part of four criminal charges currently being investigated against *Vrye Weekblad* by the security branch of the SAP at John Vorster Square. The other charges relate to

- Publication without permission of a picture of ANC leader Nelson Mandela (It is the same picture used in a Bureau for Information publication *Talking with the ANC*);
- Quoting the ANC's Joe Slovo directly or indirectly, and
- Failure to display the *Vrye Weekblad's* imprint in two editions.

Meanwhile, the newspaper has received some funds. It is understood that the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for SA has made a contribution and that funding from another source is on the way. However, this may not be enough to cover printing costs, a deposit for registration, and last but not least this month's salaries.

Last week's edition of the newspaper has also sealed the fate of journalist Martin Welz of the Afrikaans Sunday *Rapport*. After having been warned by editor Bob van Walsem against contributing to *Vrye Weekblad*, Welz again wrote for the newspaper last week.

Last Saturday morning Welz, who unravelled the housing deals of Bloemfontein businessman Frik Siebert in two consecutive editions of *Vrye Weekblad*, was told by Van Walsem that he had been fired. Siebert had meanwhile committed suicide. Welz first submitted the Siebert exposés to *Rapport*, but was told that legal advice was against using the story.

It seems Welz is contemplating legal action against his alleged unfair dismissal. This would make it the second time in 14 months that a former employee of *Rapport* has sought legal redress after having been dismissed by Van Walsem.

Another *Rapport* journalist, Pieter Schoombee, has been asked in a letter by Van Walsem to explain an interview that he conducted with maverick Nat MP Albert Nothnagel for another "alternative" local newspaper, *South*. The political views expressed were an embarrassment to *Rapport*, Schoombee was told.

The suspended *Weekly Mail* was due to reappear this week. ■

Du Plessis: Paper apologises to AG

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Rapport has written to the advocate-general, Mr Piet van der Walt, apologising for the way his name was coupled with aspects of a report about property transactions involving companies associated with Mr Johan du Plessis, son of the minister of manpower

The report on December 4 contained allegations that the office and position of the minister, Mr Pietie du Plessis, had been misused in the interests of the Du Plessis companies

The minister has denied the allegations and stated he intends taking legal action against Rapport

Rapport said yesterday it had not yet received notice of any legal action

Documentary evidence

Referring to the advocate-general, it said it had written the letter at his request, apologising for any mistaken impression given

The newspaper added that its report on December 4 was based on documentary evidence made available to it

Rapport also reported yesterday that Mr Johan du Plessis had accompanied a group of policemen when they rarded the home of his father-in-law and former business partner, Mr Johan Morsner, to seize tapes and documents concerning certain transactions

Mr Morsner was te managing director of Natprop from July 1986 to March 1987, Rapport said — a company in which Mr Johan du Plessis had a strong interest.

Police comment on the report could not be obtained yesterday

Sisulu may challenge general election

From MONO BADELA
JOHANNESBURG — Zwelakhe Sisulu, 38, editor of the New Nation, may challenge the order which gagged him on his release from emergency detention last Friday

His wife Zodwa says her husband is "extremely disturbed" over the order which prevents him from working as a journalist.

"He is going to discuss the matter with an advocate to see whether some of the restrictions can be set aside," said Mrs Sisulu

"He must return to his job. He has been a journalist all his working life, he is equipped for no other job

"If he is banned from entering the newsroom, it means he can't work while the state of emergency is still in force. And we do not see the emergency being lifted in the near future"

Sisulu and six other anti-apartheid activists, including National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) national co-ordinator Eric Molob, have joined scores of anti-apartheid activists restricted on their release from detention.

The order restrains his movement, utterances, occupation, attendance at educational institutions, presence at gatherings and participation in specified organisations

Sisulu, father of a son and daughter, must report daily to the officer in charge of Orlando police station in Soweto between 6am and 9am and between 2pm and 5pm.

Lawyer Priscilla Jana told a press conference he could not leave his



Mrs Albertina Sisulu and a relative's child greets Zwelakhe shortly after his release

home between 6pm and 6am.

Besides being barred from attending and addressing gatherings, Sisulu cannot enter any publishing house or help with the compilation or preparation of its publications, or contribute any material for

publication. He may also not give interviews to journalists

"Although he has been house-arrested before, the fact that he has to report to the police twice daily is inhuman and is demanding a lot from him," said Jana

Sisulu was detained for 721 days — his second detention, under emergency regulations. In 1981 and 1982 he spent 251 days in solitary confinement before being released without trial

Sisulu was the founding president

of the Writers' Association of South Africa and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa. He is a founder member of the Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ)

Meanwhile, MARLAN PADAYACHEE reports from Brussels that the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has called for the release of journalist Brian Sokutu following the release of Sisulu at the weekend.

Aidan White, general secretary of the 150 000 member IFJ, welcomed Sisulu's release, adding "All others must be released including Brian Sokutu, the journalist who has been held the longest"

He said the release of Zwelakhe Sisulu had come after a "long and painful ordeal which would be intolerable in any decent society"

He said the IFJ and its affiliates, including the SA Society of Journalists and the Media Workers Association of South Africa, had been campaigning for Sisulu's release since he was arrested at the start of the state of emergency

"Let us hope we will now have the release of all others detained without trial," he added

"The ordeal which Sisulu has gone through must not be repeated"

"He is one of South Africa's leading journalists and a courageous trade unionist. Yet he has been incarcerated for years because he is a reporter who will not be silenced by the tyranny of apartheid"

"Only when everyone is free will the South African Government be able to talk of Press freedom in the country."

must credit
who made

"defence" of South Africa
on matters like sanctions

is that people should be able to live where they would create immense hardship for their recently tol
Q 2. Pres

Inside ceases publication

Sowetan 14/12/88

THE monthly magazine "Inside South Africa" is to cease publication and the final issue will appear this week (243)

A spokesman for the proprietors, Iris Publications said in a statement in Johannesburg today

"As a small independently-owned publication, *Inside South Africa* has been an unqualified editorial success with a steadily growing circulation

"However, in the current intensely competitive advertising Market Place ISA, owned by a small group of journalists with limited financial resources, has

been unable to compete with the publications owned by the large established publishing houses

"The proprietors have consequently decided to

withdraw *Inside South Africa* from publication. All commitments will be met and the magazine's subscribers will receive refunds of unexpired subscriptions" — Sapa

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December through January*

The widest range of high quality clay bricks. Plus tiles, sand, cement and

Appointment

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WEEKLY MAIL THROWS GAUNTLETS OVER MANDALA

BY THEMBA MOLEFE

THE *Weekly Mail* newspaper which last week published photographs of Nelson Mandela has challenged the Government to clarify its position on his imprisonment

This follows a statement by the Department of Prisons yesterday, that despite recent changes of the terms of Mandela's imprisonment his photographs may not be published

Sapa quoted a spokesman for the department as saying that Mandela's position "had not changed"

The *Weekly Mail* published six photographs of the jailed African National Congress leader, one featured prominently on the front page, stating that photographs of him could now be published

because he was no longer considered a prisoner by the Government

On December 8, Mandela was moved from Constantiaberg Clinic to a house on the grounds of a prison in Paarl He is recovering from tuberculosis

The State President, Mr P W Botha, has said Mandela would not go back to jail while the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, has said Mandela was still a prisoner and that the terms of his imprisonment were being eased and that he would be transferred to "suitable, comfortable and secure living accommodation"

In terms of the Prisons Act photographs of a prisoner may not be published without the permission of a Commissioner

It may also not be published unless it was taken prior to his arrest and may be published only within 30 days of the date of conviction

An editor of the newspaper, Mr Anton Harber, yesterday told the *Sowetan* that the newspaper published the photographs legally

He said the Government "cannot have it both ways" by saying that Mandela would not go back to prison and yet saying he is still a prisoner

"What the Government is doing is to play a double game in which it is fooling the world into believing Mandela is no longer in prison"

The Prisons Department has not said whether action will be taken against the newspaper

President Botha sues newspaper for R100 000

MGUS 15/12/88

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The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — President Botha is suing the recently registered Vrye Weekblad for alleged defamation and has demanded R100 000 damages and an unconditional apology before Monday, the newspaper said today

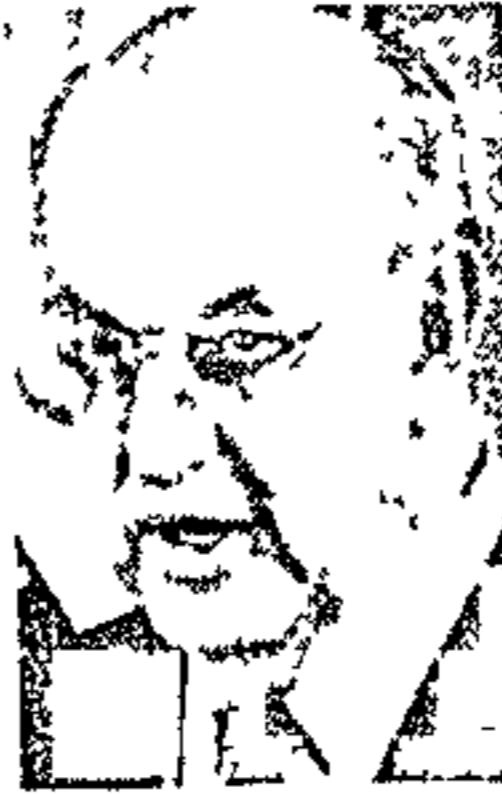
Vrye Weekblad said it would not pay any money. It was prepared to fight the case in court, the newspaper said in a front-page article.

Mr Botha alleges that Vrye Weekblad attacked the office of the State President and injured "his character in his personal capacity"

Mr Botha's lawyers, De Klerk and Van Gend of Cape Town, who wrote on behalf of Mr Botha to the editor of the newspaper, referred him to an article headlined "Pik, PW en die Mafia-baas", which appeared in the November 11 edition

The lawyers said a claim of association was made between their client and the "infamous Mafia-boss Vito Palazzolo"

They said it was clear the article was aimed at, and was publicised with the motive of, attacking the office of the State President as well as to dishonour his character in his personal capacity



Mr P W Botha

The correctness of the article was denied and the lawyers said it was "devoid of truth".

"Our client's dignity in his official capacity as well as in his personal capacity was defamed by the headline and content of the aforesaid article," the lawyers said

The amount of R100 000 and an unconditional apology was demanded before December 19.

The editor of Vrye Weekblad, Mr Max du Preez, said the article was based on an affidavit made by a Pretoria accountant, Mr Clifford Frederick Bentley, which was taken by police on February 17

The affidavit was then read by Warrant Officer Andre Fouche at the Harms Commission in Cape Town

By ZWELAKHE SISULU

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9-15 Dec 88

"The bleak future that so many have warned about for so long is now with us"

THESE were the last words that Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of *New Nation*, was allowed to write for his newspaper on December 11 1986

He was writing about the new press curbs announced that week.

But his chilling prognosis could well have applied to his personal future — the next day he himself became a victim of the Emergency regulations. He was detained and held for two years before being released last weekend.

On his release, he was so severely restricted that he said through a representative (he cannot make press statements himself) that it would have been better to stay in prison.

His restrictions prevent him from working for his own newspaper. They even prevent him from giving interviews, writing articles or assisting in any way with material for publications.

But this need not stop him being heard. He expressed his views in many editorials, articles and other publications before he was restricted.

For example, in his final editorial, he wrote:

"From now on, the voice of majority will not be heard, and the actions of repression will not be seen. All this is done in the name of law and order."

"It would, however, be folly to see this latest action as simply an attack on the media — that would be too simplistic. It is in fact an attack on the South African people as a whole, because it robs them of their fundamental right to know."

"It is the height of self-delusion for the government to believe that introducing new press curbs will be the magic wand that it needs to wipe the slate clean — and continue as if nothing has happened."

"How can this government be blind to the fact that decades of repressive legislation have not produced subservient and blind automatons — but men and women who cherished the ideal of freedom and peace, and who were prepared to pay the ultimate price in the process of that struggle?"

"Autocratic regimes will come and go, but man's desire to be free and determine his own future, is constant and permanent, and cannot be trammelled by even the greatest force."

A few weeks earlier, he had written about the continuing reports of unrest deaths:

"The brutalisation of South African society is horrifying."

"Incidents such as the death of people in the continuing violence, which would have received prominent coverage a year ago, now go unnoticed on the inside pages of newspapers — if at all."

"The death of children is now routinely announced as one would the weather forecast."

"Yes, you might say, the government is responsible, yes, all this can be blamed on the State of Emergency."

"But what are those South Africans who are concerned about the situation doing about it?"

"The vociferous protests of a few months ago when the Emergency was declared have died — but the violence has not."

"Our passivity and silence will make us the bedfellows of repression."

Just two weeks before his own detention, he devoted this editorial to the plight of child detainees:

"More than 20 000 people — aged between nine and 74 — have been detained during the current unrest."

"It is the children we want to focus on."

"A memorandum prepared by the Black Sash tells the tale of unimaginable brutalisation of children and their families."

We quote the unquotable editor. Legally ...

Our rulers hope to have silenced Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of *New Nation* moved last week from a detention cell to imprisonment in his own home.

Our rulers are mistaken. Sisulu's eloquent pen lives on on this page.

"When many of the children were detained, their families were not informed. Nor were they told where their children were being kept."

"Is this not the spectre of tyranny, if it's not tyranny itself?"

"What type of society is this that tolerates the random detention of children held under the most harsh and inhuman conditions?"

"From the government there has only been a contemptuous silence on the fate of these children."

"What future awaits this country if its children, the very fruit of the nation, are subjected to such brutality?"

"While children are being removed to the dark dungeons of this country's prisons, the grown-ups — those responsible for this deformed society — walk the streets. They are free men and women, and the victims languish in jail."

"If the security of the state can be threatened and its legitimacy questioned by mere children, then surely this must be seen as a symptom of the country's problems, rather than the cause."



Zwelakhe, with mother Albertina — also restricted — greets a nephew after his release. Photo ANNA ZIEMINSKI

"Yes, we have to agree with the former president of the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, that in South Africa there is more concern over cruelty to animals than cruelty to children."

"Or is it because these children are black?"
"Tomorrow the same people will plead innocence, and say they did not know that these horrors were happening in their midst."

"And while all this happens many of our countrymen sit silently, im-

Leadership: De Klerk 'has reservations'

PROPOSED leader for the new left party, former Rapport editor Wimpie de Klerk, says he has 'definite reservations' about assuming leadership

De Klerk returned from England yesterday. Reacting to PFP leader, Zach de Beer's suggestion that a PFP leadership would be more appropriate, De Klerk said he would discuss the issue with representatives of the NDM and IP

"The movement must be allowed to gather momentum without overrating the leadership issue," he said

However, he agreed with IP co-chairman Jannie Momberg, saying that the

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Brent Melville
and Roger Smith
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new party should not be a "disguised" PFP, and "leadership must come from outside"

IP leader Denis Worrall expressed surprise at De Beer's comments on the leadership issue but refused further comment "at this stage".

Leader of the NDM, Wynand Malan, said all parties concerned had decided to go back to their leadership committees for broader mandates, and that he did

not believe any PFP statements to be appropriate prior to their January 14th meeting

De Beer yesterday said that in view of the steering committee meeting next month, he did not think the issue should be discussed in the meantime

About earlier comments that he did not think De Klerk fitted the requirements for leading the new party, De Beer said he had not intended to create any impression of personal criticism of De Klerk, for whom he had the highest respect

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Key Market Movements — DEC 20 to DEC 21

Press freedom anomaly

27/12/88
While developing countries and Mikhail Gorbachev are trying to move towards greater openness, democratic nations are becoming more rigid with regard to censorship. 243

LONDON — Western-style democracies, including Britain and the United States, are curbing press freedoms and damaging the prospects of countries now striving for greater openness, says a world media organisation.

The International Press Institute, reviewing 1988 in its monthly bulletin, says countries with a strong tradition of press freedom are showing a worrying trend towards State interference. At the same time, the Soviet Union and many developing countries are struggling to sweep away limits.

Heartening strides

"The hopes and encouragement of nations which are on their way towards more freedom and who rely on an example from countries with a democratic system must not be crushed by governments in the free world, who should be guardians of press freedom.

"The Soviet Union has made heartening strides towards a more open press. But is the process truly irreversible?" the IPI asks, suggesting the West could help Soviet journalists by protecting its own freedoms.

It says a chain of legal actions and legislation by Margaret Thatcher's government has eroded press freedom in an "extraordinary year for the British media".

It condemns the British government's unsuccessful bids to ban publication in Australia of "Spycatcher", the memoirs of former secret service official Peter Wright and its ill-fated attempt to outlaw publication of extracts in UK newspapers.

October's ban on radio or TV interviews with Northern Ireland guerilla groups and their sympathisers constituted the most severe peace-time broadcasting censorship ever in Britain, the IPI says.

Six journalists backed by the National Union of Journalists have applied for the ban to be declared illegal.

Similar action is to be taken in Northern Ireland's High Court by two other journalists.

The IPI also attacks new draft official-secrets legislation, which allows prosecution of journalists for reporting official "State secrets" even if this unearths crime or malpractice by government officials.

The United States and Canada are criticised for inserting in their recent free trade agreement a clause stipulating that any Canadian journalist wishing to work across the border for a US employer must have a college degree and three years' experience.

"This rule has been in American immigration regulations for the past 20 years. But this was the first time that it had been enshrined in an international accord," IPI says.

The US Supreme Court, it says, further compromised press freedom in many journalists' eyes by upholding the conviction of a former intelligence analyst for giving a satellite photograph of a Soviet ship to a British magazine.

The IPI says an Australian court ruling, obliging a journalist to reveal his sources, dealt a blow to press freedom there.

In Turkey, which the IPI describes as a prime example of a nominal democracy, newspapers and magazines were being banned and journalists convicted in courts.

While Western-style democracies allowed freedoms to be whittled away, emerging democracies in South America, Asia and Africa were struggling to consolidate freedoms.

The IPI names Taiwan and South Korea as two countries where there has been strong progress — Sapa-Reuter.

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Police probe press curb charges ⁽²⁴³⁾

Police are investigating various charges relating to possible contraventions of the press emergency regulations by the Maritzburg-based *Natal Witness* newspaper.

"During the past week a number of articles have appeared, especially in the *Natal Witness*, regarding an incident on Saturday, December 17 1988, when there was a confrontation between bus passengers and residents of Caluza (near Maritzburg) residential area, during which two persons were killed," said a telex released by Pretoria police at the weekend.

The telex gives a detailed account of the police version of the incident in which buses, containing alleged Inkatha supporters on their way to a meeting, were allegedly stoned by bystanders. Members of the police in a

patrol vehicle "attempted to defuse the situation"

"The policemen were also attacked by some of the residents and were forced to fire a number of shots in self-defence," said the police.

Editor of the *Natal Witness*, Mr Richard Steyn, said yesterday his newspaper has received no direct notification of any possible contraventions.

"We reported the event referred to within the ambit of the emergency regulations," he added.

This follows an earlier report that police were investigating another possible contravention of the media regulations by the *Natal Witness* concerning publication of an article on August 4 on the refusal of 142 conscripts to serve in the South African Defence Force.

SA 25/12/88