

CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st

6.30 p.m.

Following upon the Christian Action
Annual General Meeting
there will be an open meeting on

**The Racial Situation in
South Africa**

Speakers:—

F. H. LAWTON

LOUIS BLOM COOPER

*observers on behalf of Christian Action and the
Bar Council at the*

**SOUTH AFRICAN
TREASON TRIAL**

Admission, by ticket only, FREE.

*Tickets from:—*The Secretary, Christian Action,
2, Amen Court, London, E.C.4, (CITY 6869).

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CHRISTIAN ACTION: Fund for Legal Defence, etc. in South Africa.

Press Conference on return of Gerald Gardiner, B.C.,
from South Africa.

Chairman: Canon L. John Collins

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT:

CHRISTIAN ACTION follows a consistent policy in regard to the racial problems in South Africa.

Immediately the news was received of the arrest of 140 South Africans (European and Non-European) on charges of treason Christian Action, with the support of the Movement for Colonial Freedom and other interested bodies, established a Fund for the following purposes:-

- a) To provide for legal defence for the accused.
- b) To give practical assistance to the dependants of those arrested, the majority of whom are Africans.
- c) To ensure, as far as possible, a fair trial for the arrested persons.

In pursuit of the third purpose, Christian Action invited Mr. Gerald Gardiner, B.C., to visit South Africa as an observer of the preliminary hearings in Johannesburg, and provided the money necessary for this purpose.

We are in the closest touch with those responsible for the Fund now being raised in South Africa under the inspiration of the Bishop of Johannesburg. Distribution of money subscribed to the Christian Action fund will be effected in co-operation with the Committee of the South African Fund.

The total required is not yet known: but it is likely to be not less than £50,000. Christian Action is aiming to raise, as its first target, £10,000.

The total raised for the Christian Action fund has already passed a £1,000.

Christian Action has invited a number of people to act as a panel of sponsors for this fund, and up to the present, the following have agreed to serve:-

The Bishop of Birmingham	Mr. Benn Levy
Mr. Penner Brockway	Mr. David Low
Lady Violet Bonham Carter	Miss Rose Macaulay
Miss Phyllis Bottoms	Sir Compton Mackenzie
Lord Papington	Mr. William Plomer
Mr. Gerald Gardiner	Mr. Raymond Payne
Sir Kenneth Grubb	Paul Russell
Professor Max Gluckman	The Bishop of Sheffield
Mr. Victor Gollancz	Mr. George A. Sutherland
Lord Hanningford	Mr. John Tilney
Mr. Trevor Huddleston	The Reverend Secretary.

Donations to this special fund should be sent to
Christian Action, 2, Amen Court, London, E.C. 4.

CHRISTIAN ACTION

CHAIRMAN:
THE REVEREND
CANON L. JOHN COLLINS
TELEPHONE: CITY 6869

SECRETARY:
FREDA NUEL
2 AMEN COURT, LONDON, E.C.4
22nd December 1956

Dear Mr. Editor,

I would be very glad if you would kindly send a representative to meet Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., on his return from South Africa.

Mr. Gardiner went out to South Africa for Christian Action, to observe at the preliminary hearing of the treason trials which opened in Johannesburg on Wednesday last, December 19th.

He was also authorised to observe on behalf of the three political societies of lawyers in England, and of the Generall Council of the Bar of England.

Mr. Gardiner will make a statement and will be pleased to answer any questions put to him.

The time of this conference will be 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 27th at 2, Amen Court, E.C. 4.

Yours sincerely,

L. John Collins.

P.S. Information for Photographers: Mr. Gardiner will arrive back from South Africa at London Airport (North) on the South African Airways plane, Flight S.A. 218, due to land at 11.35 a.m. on Sunday, December 23rd.

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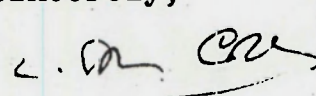
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SECRETARY:
FREDA NUELL
2 AMEN COURT, LONDON, E.C.4

24th January, 1957.

We are arranging a public meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, February 4th, at 7.30 p.m., in support of our South African Defence and Aid Fund, the purpose of which is to gain further support for the fund.

I am delighted to be able to say that Father Huddleston will be present to speak, together with Mr. Gerald Gardiner, who will speak in relation to his visit to South Africa for the preliminary trials in Johannesburg, Mr. Jo Grimond, Mr. James Callaghan and Mr. Fenner Brockway.

It would be the greatest possible help in making this meeting a success if you could be present on the platform. It has been necessary to arrange the meeting at very short notice; but in the hope, nevertheless, that it may be possible for you to join us on this occasion I enclose two platform tickets for your use.

P.S. Following upon my letter yesterday, I now enclose further letter(s) for the press which I much hope you will be willing to sign; also an envelope for its return.

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CHAIRMAN:
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SECRETARY:
FREDA NUELL
2 AMEN COURT, LONDON, E.C.4

25th January 1957

My dear Sir,

The racial situation in South Africa continues to deteriorate and remains a great burden to the Christian conscience. Christian Action, as probably you will have seen, is raising a fund to provide for the legal defence of the 156 opponents of apartheid recently arrested on charges of subversive activities against the state, and to aid their families. We hope also to help to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake.

We are in close touch with the Fund set up in South Africa under the trusteeship of the Bishop of Johannesburg, Dr. Alan Paton and others, and including among its sponsors the Archbishop of Capetown and Dr. J.B. Webb, ex President of the South African Methodist Conference. Money subscribed to the Christian Action fund will be distributed through and in consultation with this Committee.

In support of this fund we are arranging a public meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, February 4th at 7.30 p.m. At this meeting Father Huddleston will be present to speak, together with Mr. Gerald Gardiner, who will talk about his visit to South Africa for the Preliminary hearings, supported by other speakers from the sponsors of the fund.

I would be immensely grateful if we might have your support for this meeting; and if you could draw the attention of your people to it, encouraging them to come, it would be of the greatest help. Tickets (2/6 reserved and numbered, 1/- unreserved) are now available from this address.

It has been necessary to arrange this meeting at very short notice and anything you can do to make it known would be specially valuable.

Yours sincerely,

L. John Collins.
L. John Collins.

P.T.O. for
list of sponsors

PAGE RELEASE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCASTING BEFORE
20.00 hrs G.M.T. Monday 17th December .

SOUTH AFRICAN TREASON TRIALS

THREE SOCIETIES OF LAWYERS SEND OBSERVER

MR GERALD GARDINER Q.C. IN JOHANNESBURG

It was announced in London this evening that three political societies of lawyers in England had united to send Mr Gerald Gardiner Q.C. to Johannesburg to attend the preliminary hearing of the treason trials which open on Wednesday, 19th December.

Mr Gerald Gardiner, who is an Executive member of the General Council of the Bar of England, is authorised to say that he is also observing on behalf of that body.

Mr Gardiner left London on Saturday morning for discussions in Amsterdam with the International Commission of Jurists. He flew on from Amsterdam on Sunday morning accompanied by Dr A.J.M. van Dal, Secretary General of the International Commission and reached Johannesburg this (Monday) afternoon.

There is no possibility of Mr Gardiner or any other Commonwealth lawyer appearing for the defence, since by the rules in South Africa a barrister must pass an examination in Afrikaans before being allowed to appear in Court. Mr Gardiner will however attend the preliminary hearing as a legal observer and will on his return report back to the organisations concerned on the charges against the accused and on the evidence adduced to support them.

It was made clear that Mr Gardiner was attending solely in a legal capacity and does not intend to make any statement in South Africa while the trial is 'sub judice'.

The action taken by the three societies of lawyers is indicative of the interest and concern felt throughout the world. Altogether 149 men and women have been arrested and held in custody during the last 10 days on unspecified charges of treasons. Among those arrested are two advocates briefed for the defence of those taken into custody during the first raids. These barristers are Mr Bokwe, the only African barrister allowed to practice in the Transvaal, and Mr Slovo, who appeared in the applications for bail before Mr Justice Breeler.

END.

For further information, as and when it becomes available, please contact the Spokesman for "Justice". Tel GNS 9428.

Mr. Gerald Gardiner Q.C., who has returned from Johannesburg where he has been watching the opening of the preliminary proceedings of the South African treason trials, said to-day:-

"I have not expressed any opinion whatever in South Africa. I have merely been watching the proceedings on behalf of Christian Action, of which I am a member, the Bar Council, the Inns of Court Conservative and Unionist Society, the Society of Labour Lawyers, and the Association of Liberal Lawyers. I have seen and talked to leading members of the Johannesburg Bar, the Bishop of Johannesburg and others representing different points of view.

While I can express no personal opinion on the subject the view of those best qualified to judge is that the Nationalist party now in power in South Africa has made some judicial appointments otherwise than on merit, I did not meet a lawyer who was not gravely disturbed at what he regarded as the consequent lowering in the standard of the Bench. Moreover the definitions of "communism" and "communist" in the Suppression of Communism Acts are so wide that the Acts could be used to oppress any citizen who opposes the policy of apartheid - that is to say who opposes the party in power. In addition, if a man is put on certain lists - a process which results in the loss of fundamental civil rights - he is presumed by law to have been rightly so listed unless he proves the negative. When in addition trial by jury is abolished in a case such as the present, and the Government is entitled to have it tried by a special Court, it will be realised how far what we ordinarily call civil liberties are in question.

The accused include a number of prominent Christians both European and non-European, and the Bishop of Johannesburg has organised a fund (the Trustees of which are the Bishop, Mr. Alan Paton, author of "Cry, The Beloved Country", the Hon. Frank Lucas, a former Judge, and Mrs. Ellen Hellman of the Institute of Race Relations) supported by the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Bishop of Durban and others in order, to use their own words, "That all the accused should be able to secure the best legal representation available and that during the course of what probably will be lengthy proceedings, their families and dependants may be protected from hardship and suffering".

While most of those who have so far subscribed to the fund in South Africa have felt obliged to do so in pound notes, because no one knows which of the opponents of the party in power will be the next to be attacked, it is hoped that no one in this country will feel similarly obliged. . .

^{According to}
Christian action, which is in close touch with the Bishop of Johannesburg, has opened a fund here to provide legal defence, to help the families and to assist to secure a fair trial, and contributions may be sent to them at 2 Amen Court, E.C.4."

PRESS STATEMENT.

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~~Lord Farquhar. (4)~~
~~Professor Max Gluckman. (6)~~
~~Mr. Victor Gollancz. (7)~~
~~Fr. Trevor Huddleston. (9)~~
~~Mr. David Low. (10)~~
~~Sir Compton Mackenzie. (11)~~
~~Mr. William Plomer. (12)~~
~~Earl Russell. (14)~~
~~Mr. GERALD GARDNER. (5)~~
~~Mrs. Phyllis Bottome. (3)~~
~~Lady Violet Beaumont-Carter. (2)~~
~~Lord Hemmings. (8)~~
~~Mr. Raymond Hughes. (13)~~
MAJORITY TILNEY 15

*Donations to the Secretary
CHRISTIAN ACTION,
2 AMEN COURT, LONDON,
E.C.4.*

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