

28-4.2

*Mr. Row
The Insp.*

FJvW/ZL.

9th May, 1949.

The Acting Clerk,
Committee on Slavery and Protection of Native Races,
32 Tavistock Square,
LONDON W. C. I.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of the 15th February to Dr. Edgar Brookes, we asked Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones to give his opinions on the matters you raised. He submitted a statement to our Executive Committee who approved it. I enclose a copy of his statement and also a copy of the Institute's pamphlet "The South West Africa Question" to which he refers in the statement.

The Institute is considering sending an investigator to South West Africa shortly.

Yours truly,

Quintin Whyte

THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA QUESTION.

In response to the enquiry of "The Committee on Slavery and the Protection of the Native Races" the following notes are submitted. Unfortunately, I am about to leave for the Orange Free State and will immediately on my return have to proceed to the Copperbelt, N. Rhodesia, so that these notes can only deal briefly with the efforts of the Rev. Michael Scott on behalf of the Non-European inhabitants of South West Africa.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Scott's volume In Face of Fear is so badly constructed for it must have made it very difficult for anyone not acquainted with the historical development of the present situation in South West Africa to obtain a clear picture of it.

If the Union's administration of South West Africa is tested only against the background of the German occupation of the territory it is impossible not to agree that the Union Government has brought a considerable measure of security and protection against injustice and ill-treatment to the Non-European peoples of the territory.

The crux of the situation is the Land Question, and Mr. Scott is right in pressing the issue, for there will be no goodwill between the Non-European peoples and the Europeans until a fair settlement is reached.

But there are important points to be kept in mind; (1) the Herero are the most discontented, and this is because, before and after the Germans came, they claimed sovereignty over practically the whole of the territory. This claim was based on the fact that they made predatory raids into the areas occupied by other tribes and were the most powerful people. Any claim of theirs would require very careful scrutiny before justice could be done. (2) Unless the complete withdrawal of the European population is demanded, there must be adequate provision for European occupation of land for a well developed agrarian economy. (3) The Non-European peoples cannot advance civilization without European aid: their subsistence economy will not support the agencies for their advancement nor will it support them as they rise in the scale of living. European aid of a philanthropic character only will not go far. It is only by enabling the Non-Europeans to contribute progressively to the increasing National income of the territory, through well-organized agricultural development of the Reserves and through the employment of Non-Europeans under very much improved conditions on European farms, on the mines and elsewhere in employment under Europeans, that there can be any hope of European aid through taxation etc. (4) For the foregoing reasons, the Non-European peoples cannot all be occupiers of land as in the past, and any settlement of the land question must take this into account.

Our experience in the Union doesn't encourage hope that any fair settlement of the question can be secured or that, even if the Government were generous, it would be able to withstand the opposition of the European farmers, or that, even if it could the Herero and other tribes would be satisfied. If the United Nations had jurisdiction over the territory and proceeded to re-allot the land between the European and Non-Europeans (and between the Non-Europeans themselves) it would probably not be able to prevent

great bitterness in racial relations.

As the Union has refused to submit the territory to United Nations' trusteeship and has now integrated it within the Union's parliamentary system the responsibility for pressing for as fair a settlement of the land question as possible rests upon the Union, and the Institute of Race Relations should initiate a study of the land situation in South West Africa to formulate proposals for submission to the Government.

Another matter calling for action is the unsatisfactory conditions for Native labour on the farms. The recently published report of a committee appointed by the South West Africa administration emphasized the need for reform. The Anglo-American Corporation which has taken over diamond mines formerly controlled by Germans, has been anxious to raise Native wages but the farmers have protested strongly on the ground that the mines already take away their labour. (Radical improvements in living conditions on the mines have been effected). Efforts are now being made by the farmers to secure measures to coerce immigrant workers from Angola to go to the farms in South West Africa instead of the gold mines of the Witwatersrand where their wages are much higher. Farm labour wages have not risen since the early years of this century.

Education, health services, and social welfare generally are very backward in the territory, and the criticisms of the Permanent Mandates Commission are, generally speaking, still valid (See the Institute's pamphlet The South West Africa Question).

The replies of the Union Government to the Questionnaire of the Trusteeship Council are, in the main, factually correct; but an independent investigation would have amplified the replies with other facts to show the inadequacy of the Administration's vision and resources in men and money to carry out a progressive liberal programme for the advancement of the Non-European peoples.

Another matter that requires attention is the status of the Non-European inhabitants of South West Africa. This is dealt with in the above-mentioned pamphlet. In view of the political integration of South West Africa with the Union and the legislation for the naturalization of Germans, it has become imperative to clear up the status of the Non-European.

In the Union Senate, the Government and the United Party Senators opposed Senator Brookes' motion asking that some form of direct representation in the Union Parliament for the Non-European peoples of South West Africa. The Government-nominated Senator to be appointed by the Governor-General to represent their interests will be no more active on their behalf, if as active, as those so appointed to represent the Africans of the Union. It behoves the Institute of Race Relations to take active interest in the welfare of these people and to present their needs to those in authority, whether in South West Africa or in the Union.

In conclusion, it should be said that the Rev. Michael Scott's representation of the case of the Herero and other Non-European peoples in

South West Africa in the document In Face of Fear was substantially correct. Unfortunately, he does not easily work with others. Agencies which hold extreme views and take extreme action took advantage of his unwearied devotion to the cause of the under-dog, with the result that his name was identified with their activities and it was made impossible for bodies and individuals who do not share the extreme views to work with him, and it certainly provoked hostile reactions in the public mind as well as in the minds of cabinet ministers and government officials.

On the other hand, the Institute's pamphlet, which gave much the same facts, had considerable effect both at United Nations and in South Africa.

The moment has come for the Institute to work out a policy and a programme for the advancement of the Non-European peoples of South West Africa as it has done with such fruitful results for the Non-European peoples of the Union, and to press these on the Government and the people of the Union of South West Africa.

J. D. RHEINALLT JONES.

22.4.49.

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If the Union's administration of South West Africa is tested only against the background of the German occupation of the territory it is impossible not to agree that the Union Government has brought a considerable measure of security and protection against injustice and ill-treatment to the Non-European peoples of the territory.

The crux of the situation is the Land Question, and Mr. Scott is right in pressing the issue, for there will be no goodwill between the Non-European peoples and the Europeans until a fair settlement is reached.

But there are important points to be kept in mind: (1) the Herero are the most discontented, and this is because, before and after the Germans came, they claimed sovereignty over practically the whole of the territory. This claim was based on the fact that they made predatory raids into the areas occupied by other tribes and were the most powerful people. Any claim of theirs would require very careful scrutiny before justice could be done. (2) Unless the complete withdrawal of the European population is demanded, there must be adequate provision for European occupation of land for a well developed agrarian economy. (3) The Non-European peoples cannot advance in civilization without European aid: their subsistence economy will not support the agencies for their advancement nor will it support them as they rise in the scale of living. European aid of a philanthropic character only will not go far. It is only by enabling the Non-Europeans to contribute progressively to the increasing National income of the territory, through well-organized agricultural development of the Reserves and through the employment of Non-Europeans under very much improved conditions on European farms, on the mines and elsewhere in employment under Europeans, that there can be any hope of European aid through taxation etc. (4) For the foregoing reasons, the Non-European peoples cannot all be occupiers of land as in the past, and any settlement of the land question must take this into account.

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J.D. RHEINALLT JONES

22,4,49.

-----oOo-----

FJvW/EO.

29th March, 1949.

Mr. Rheinallt Jones,
c/o Union Corporation,
44, Main Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Rheinallt Jones,

Senator Brooks has forwarded a letter which he received from the Committee on Slavery and Protection of Native Races, London, to us for disposal.

The Committee would like to have our views on the following matters:-

1. Michael Scott's document "In Face of Fear" presented by him to the United Nations on behalf of the Herero people of South West Africa. ~~He tells me that copies are available in South Africa from Mr. Oliver Walker, Witwatersrand University and Mrs. F. Levson, 2, Tyson Road, Johannesburg.~~
2. The South African Government's reply to the Herero in the matter.
3. Michael Scott's article of August 1948 in the British African Monthly.

Mr. Whyte tells me he thinks you have read Michael Scott's document and I should be most grateful to have your opinions on it. Have you any suggestions to make on points (2) and (3)?

Yours sincerely,

F. J. van Wyk,
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR.

To

Christmas Greetings
and Best Wishes
for 1949

from

The President, Executive Committee and Staff
of the
South African Institute of Race Relations

Box 97,

Johannesburg.

• Mr. Van Wyk.

Re: Committee on Salvery etc.

Get R.J.'s views on Michael Scott's document which I think R.J. has and has read. The other two matters you and Mr. Walker and Miss Horrell must deal with between you.

24.3.49

QW.

QW/DAR.

25th March 1949.

Acting Clerk,
Committee on Slavery and Protection of Native Races,
32 Tavistock Square,
LONDON W.C. 1. ENGLAND.

Dear Sir,

Dr. Brockes has handed on your letter of the 15th February to this Institute to deal with and I write to acknowledge its receipt. I shall ask my colleagues, Mr. van Wyk and Mr. Walker to deal with the matter as I am going on leave tomorrow. You will hear from them shortly.

Yours truly,

Quintin Whyte
DIRECTOR

Mr. Whyte



17th March, 1949.

Quintin Whyte, Esq.,
P.O.Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

My dear Quintin,

I shall be grateful if you could deal with the enclosed letter of the "Committee on Slavery and Protection of Native Races of the Society of Friends."

The information is not at my disposal and I thought that the Institute will probably have better facilities than I for obtaining it. The letter has not been acknowledged.

I should add that the writer forgot to enclose the copy of "A Case for Bechuanaland", as mentioned in his postscript.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. B. Breda

Received	24 MAR 1949
For Attention	
Recorded	
Acknowledged	<i>ack. 24/3/49</i>
Forwarded	

COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY AND PROTECTION OF NATIVE RACES

OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(Appointed by Meeting for Sufferings)

Clerk :
THOS. A. TWYMAN
17 Canon Hill Road
Coventry

32, Tavistock Sq.,
London, W.C.1.

Assistant Clerk :
MOSA ANDERSON
Charlton Cottage
Peaslake, Surrey

15.2.1949.

Dear Sir,

As the Acting Clerk of the Friends' Committee on Slavery and the Protection of Native Races, I have been asked by that Committee to renew our subscription (£1.1.0.) to your Institute, and also to enclose a document being prepared by the Antislavery Society in connection with a proposed delegation to the Commonwealth Relations office on the subject of South West Africa. Our Committee, as you will see, is one of the bodies supporting the delegation.

I am also requested to ask for your views on the following matters:

1. Michael Scott's document "In Face of Fear" presented by him to the United Nations on behalf of the Herero people of South West Africa. He tells me that copies are available in South Africa from Mr. Oliver Walker, Witwatersrand University and Mrs. F. Levson, 2, Tyson Road, Johannesburg.

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Yours sincerely,

Fred Inaie

Acting Clerk.

x Coming under separate cover

(See over

COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY AND PROTECTION OF NATIVE RACES

OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(appointed by meeting for 1847)

Wm. A. W. ...
H. A. ...
C. ...

17 Canal Hill Road
Cape Town

2.

P.S. I enclose a copy of "A Case for Bechuanaland" in case you do not have a copy.

Senator Edgar Brooks,
President,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
C/o The Senate,
Cape Town.

Mr. F. J. van Dyke

Here is a response to your letter of 28th March. I have been through the documents again but see no point in taking up items of detail. I have therefore concentrated on the main issues & suggested lines of action for the Institute, so that the London people may see that we are the people to tackle these problems.

I hope you will find it sufficient for the purpose.

W. J.

THE S.A. INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

(INCORPORATED)



President:
Mrs. A. W. Hoernlé, B.A.
FJvW/EO.

Vice-Presidents:
Professor D. D. T. Jabavu, B.A.
Advocate D. B. Molteno.

Director:
Quintin Whyte, M.A. (Hons.)

Telephones: 44-4368/9
Telegrams: Ubuntu

19 STIEMENS STREET,
BRAAMFONTEIN,
P.O. BOX 97
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ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR.

WORK DONE SINCE 1929

Legal Aid Bureaux for the poor

Literacy classes for adult Non-Europeans

Joint Councils of Europeans and Non-Europeans

Cost-of-living enquiries among Non-Europeans

Industrial relations enquiries for employers

Ten-year Plan for Native Education adopted by British Government

Helped to secure training in South Africa of Non-Europeans as doctors

First National Nutrition Conference, 1939, leading to State Nutrition Council

First National Penal Reform Conference, 1945

400,000 word Handbook on race relations in South Africa in preparation

Regular memoranda and pamphlets bearing on race problems

See also proposed w. enquire means to get my idea letter to go to the instead of down (Chabon Comm. report)

~~Memorandum~~ Memorandum

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Germanus ~~claim~~ came, they claimed sovereignty over practically the whole of the territory. This claim was based on the fact that they made predatory raids into the areas occupied by other tribes & were the most powerful people. Any claim of theirs would require very careful scrutiny before being justice could be done. (2) Unless the complete withdrawal of the European population is demanded, there must be adequate provision for European occupation & land for a well developed agrarian economy. (3) The Non-European peoples cannot advance in civilization without ~~the~~ European aid: their subsistence economy will not support the agencies for their advancement nor will it support them as they rise in the scale of living. ~~Therefore they cannot advance if they are brought into the developing economy of the Europeans~~ European aid of a philanthropic character only will not go far. It is only by enabling the Non-Europeans to contribute ~~to~~ progressively to the increasing national income of the territory, either through well-organized agricultural development of the reserves ^{and} through the employment of ~~the~~ Non-Europeans under very much improved conditions on European farms, ~~as well as~~ on the mines & elsewhere in employment under Europeans, that there can be any promise for the ~~best~~ hope of ~~progress~~ European aid through taxation, etc. ^{in the mining regions.} (4) ~~the~~ Non-European peoples cannot all be occupiers of land as in the past, ^{any settlement of} & the land justice must take this into account.

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P.T.O.
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P. Thirion

If the non-European peoples of South West Africa are to be helped, we must accept the fact that the overwhelming body of white opinion in South Africa is determined not to put South West Africa under United Nations ^{the security of the Union has} ~~under~~ existing conditions. ~~They have~~ since been threatened ~~by~~ from South West Africa & they are determined not to let any other nation have entry there, ~~either~~ ^{any} Russia or India. The task of raising the non-Europeans in S.W. Africa must be undertaken ~~is~~ by the Union & it is to the Union government ~~that~~ & by Union citizens that representations should be made on their behalf.

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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