D/E/14/2

W.O. 219

MH/PMB

The Editor, "The Star", JOHANNESBURG.

5th July, 1950.

Sir.

The South African Institute of Race Relations was very much interested in the letter by "Veal" in your issue of 3rd June. "Veal" was concerned over the tsotsi question and suggested that tsotsis should be rounded up into camps and made to help in soil conservation work, or should be sent to the farms or mines.

This Institute has for long pointed out that juvenile delinquency is an inevitable result of present conditions in African townships. Children are bound to get into tromble when they cannot be admitted to schools because of shortage of accommodation, when they have no adequate recreational facilities, when they have little home life because very often both parents are forced to work. Then there is so little differentiation in wage rates between adults and youths under wage Board determinations that employers generally prefer to employ adults, and youths find it difficult to get work.

Bedides pressing for increased educational and recreational facilities, better economic opportunities and more housing, the Institute has urged that a National Vocational Training Service be established for African youths in the first place and later, for the youth of other racial groups. The Social and Economic Planning Council endorsed the idea of such a service and the Commission on Technical and Vocational Education agreed.

The suggestion is that an organization be created to provide educational and vocational training for African youths between the ages of 14 and 19 who are not attending other educational institutions nor at work. The scheme would aim at helping the youths to attain to satisfactory standards of fitness, knowledge, health and discipline, as well as cultivating in them moral incentives and attitudes. After training, the lads would be assisted into employment advantageous to themselves and useful to the country. The scheme would be a purely voluntary one.

It is recommended that two pilot camps be established, one rural and one urban, and as experience is gained the scheme could be extended gradually throughout the country. Youths would be admitted,

with the consent of their parents or guardians, to the camp nearest their homes, for stated periods varying from one to three years according to the nature of the training to be provided.

A survey of employment opportunities for trainees would be necessary, and the organization should have power to enter into contracts for work to be done under training conditions. Trainees would be remunerated on a progressive basis in accordance with the work done by them.

The scheme would cost a considerable amount. The value of the work done by trainees would off-set some of the cost, and the saving in maintenance of reformatories and prisons, staff for these and police, would off-set a lot more. Certainly some such scheme is essential if we are ever to solve the problem of juvenile delinquency.

F.J. van Wyk.
ACTING DIRECTOR.
S.A. INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS.

QW/Dar.

14th December 1950.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice, Palace of Justice, PRETORIA.

Sir,

Along with local authorities and responsible African persons themselves, the Institute has been greatly concerned for a number of years about the extent of juvenile delinquency and unemployment of African youth in our reef locations. It is estimated that there are some 20,000 unemployed youths in Johannesburg.

Some years ago the Institute drew up a scheme, which it called the African Vocational and Technical Training Scheme, in collaboration with officials from Native Affairs Department and other bodies and persons. The Constitution and framework of it was completed and it was submitted to various Government departments but not, I think, to yours. It has also been submitted in evidence to commissions of inquiry on more than one occasion. The principle of the scheme has been endorsed by the Social and Economic Planning Council and by the Commission on Technical and Vocational Education.

In view of the Government and public interest in the position in our Native townships I am enclosing a summary R.R. 89/47 of that scheme. My Institute will be very grateful if you would give the idea your consideration and I would be very glad to forward to you the Constitution as it was elaborated.

The scheme is fundamentally educational in character and voluntary.

Yours faithfully.

Quinting Whyte



By beantwoording meld asb. In reply please quote J. 21/18.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.-UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

week,

Ministerie van Justisie, Ministry of Justice, Uniegebou, Union Buildings, Pretoria.

18 DEC 1950

Quinton Whyte, Esq.,
Director:
The S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

In the absence, on leave, of the Honourable the Minister of Justice, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter no. D/E/14/2 of the 14th instant, with annexure, and wish to inform you that the matter will be brought to his notice when he resumes duty on the 12th January, 1951.

Yours faithfully,

RATE CONSTANT.

D/E/14/2

12th June, 1953.

The Hon. the Minister of Native Affairs, Union Buildings, PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

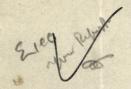
Native Youth Camps

On behalf of the General Purposes Committee of the Institute, I write to welcome the announcement of the proposed establishment of Native Youth Camps. As you are no doubt aware, this Institute has been urging the formation of such centres since 1945 and it was with very great appreciation that my Committee read the press statements outlining the scheme. My Committee has also asked me to offer any help or co-operation that you may consider that the Institute can give.

During the Committee's discussion of the plan, it was suggested that the co-operation of Location Advisory Boards should be enlisted as strongly as possible by keeping them in touch with developments and by consultation. The Institute makes this suggestion for it is anxious that the scheme should meet with every success.

Yours truly,

Quintin Whyte





UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.-UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No. D.1/3.A.

Dear Sir,

KANTOOR VAN DIE MINISTER VAN NATURELLESAKE.

Room 103 (West Wing),

Union Buildings.

PRETORIA.

June 15th, 1953.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 12th, 1953, ré Native Youth Camps, and to inform you that it has been brought to the attention of the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs.

Yours faithfully,

The Director, South African Institute of Race Relations. P.O. Box 97. JOHANNESBURG.

NATIVE YOUTH CAMPS WILL BE ESTABLISHED:

- The South African Cabinet had already made money available for the establishment of native youth camps where there would be opportunities for urban Native youths particularly, to discipline themselves and adapt themselves socially, Mr. C. W. Prinsloo, Chief Information Officer of the Department of Native Affairs, said in an interview this week.
- (ii)
 A committee will be appointed soon to visit various Native trust farms and to decide where it will be best to establish the youth camps.

 The engineering section of the Department is also working on plans for such camps.
- Mr. Prinsloo said the Minister had asked the Department 18 months ago to examine the question of youth camps. A memorandum had been submitted to the Cabinet for approval in February. The idea was that these camps should have the same good effect that the S. S. B. (Special Service Battalion) had had on European youths. The camps were being planned in accordance with this educational pattern. The camps would fit into the wider pattern of the native labour bureaux and the young Natives who had completed their courses would be placed in productive work with the assistance of the Native labour bureaux. The youth camps were aimed at social education and had no connection with any form of punishment.

EXTRACT FROM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY MAY 22, 1953.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT NATIVE YOUTH CAMPS:

Selected Native Trust farms in South Africa will be to save from recourse to crime young Natives who are hampered by unemployment and bad social conditions in the cities. These camps will not take the place of schools or reformatories. They will be under European superintendents with Native staffs and the boys will be built up physically and morally with good food and disciplined outdoor work such as tree-planting, soil reclamation and gardening. If any of the youths show a special aptitude or any particular skill, he will be put in touch with the organisation which can best train him. The others will be passed back into normal society through the Native labour bureaux system (for placing Native labour in employment as described in previous Newsletters).

While in the camps, the youths will be clothed free and may be paid (XIV) an allowance after a time, although this has not definitely been decided on. Nobody can be compelled to go to these camps. The Minister and Department (XN) of Native Affairs prefer to rely on persuasion rather than compulsion. Only as a last resort will legislation be adopted. The scheme is expected to win the approval of law-abiding and respectable urban Natives to whom the unemployed Native youths have become a social menace. Money for the scheme will be voted in the next budget. Meanwhile a committee of the Department of Native Affairs will select suitable sites on Trust farms. almost certainly be in the Transvaal Province, as the scheme is intended to provide primarily for unemployed youths in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging triangle. The engineering division of the Department of Native Affairs has been instructed to plan accommodation for these centres. The accommodation will be as simple as the requirements of health permit.

* * * * * * * *

1) M. When a. attached is the Report which Probuelled to Apr. asked us to note to the humsles of Nature affairs (a) welcoming the scheme, (6) of ferming the histitule's Co-operation; (c) suggesting that hocalin Advising Boards he kept in kurch with developments and consulted. Do you wish to unte a Shall 9:19n Aprilians) 2) FOW

(6)-(e) And Youch Camps for Amouns

- (1) The Institute has been presence for the establishment of youth camps, more or less on the lines of the SSB, mice 1945.
 - (ii) The Institute gave evidence to the Committee on Juvenile Unemployment & fave the Committee a blue print for the puch camps.
 - (iii) There camips are now The idea has now been approved & 9 Whomy hi wenters will be unwested in these two entracts in

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Mrs. M. O'Connor,
Honorary Secretary,
Bloemfontein Joint Council,
7, Catherine Mansions,
Zastron Street,
BLOEMFONTEIN.

Dear Mrs. O'Connor,

Thank you for your letter of December 11.

The question of identity eards for African women is being discussed by the Institute's Executive Committee in January and I shall then also bring to the Committee's notice your own letter and your Council's request that we should take the matter up with the Government. I shall write to you again sometime in January.

Apart from the corrective camp which the Department of Native Affairs has established for delinquent African youths, we have no knowledge of other camps. We are, however, writing to the Department of Native Affairs for information and I shall write to you when we have received it.

With Christmas greetings,

Yours sincerely,

for information Just 1811/55

F.J. VAN WYK ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. Mu We

7.Catherine Mansions,
Zastron St.,
Bloemfontein.
11.12.55.

Mr F.J. van Wyk,

Assistant Director,

S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

DEC 1 4 1955

Dear Mr van Wyk,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee meeting of our Joint Council last week the matter was discussed of the apparent unrest of African women about the Registration cards they will be expected to carry. The European members were under the impression that this unrest might arise through lack of understanding of the pos--ition, but the African members assured us that it went deeper than that; that, in fact, noone knew what form these cards would take, that it had proved impossible to get information from the Native Administra--tion Department about the cards, and that it was deared that they will be used to prevent the influx of women into urban areas, and that it would be more difficult for the women to follow rheir husbands, This would lead to a further break-up of family life, and the Council felt that this was so important that the Institute should be asked to take the matter up with the Government and get a clarification of the position. I am therefore passing the request on to you.

There is also amother matter about which I am anxious to get information, and that is Labour Camps for native youths which I am

The question arose in connection with providing occupation for non-European youths during the school holidays. If you have any information about such schemes I should be glad if you would let me have it.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. 6' Connor.

Hon. Sec. Bloemfontein Joint Council

DEIND

22nd December, 1955.

The Secretary for Native Affairs, P.O. Box 384, PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

"LABOUR CAMPS" FOR AFRICAN YOUTHS.

One of our members has written to us for information about "labour camps for African youths". She advises us that such camps "were run at a certain factory at Tzaneen". She is interested in occupations for Non-European youths during school vacations. We informed her that we had no knowledge of such camps, apart from the youth camp which your Department had established, but that we would write to you for information. We would be most grateful for any information which you may have.

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte.

Telegraphic Address \ "BANTU".



No.7.6/27.6

P. O. Box 384.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA. - UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Tel. 26421 - 121

torer blace

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,
DEPARTEMENT VAN NATURELLESAKE,
PRETORIA.

29-2-19565

MAR 1 1956

Dear Sir,

"LABOUR CAMPS" FOR NATIVE YOUTHS.

With reference to your letter of the 22nd December, 1955, I have to inform you that this Department has no knowledge of labour camps for Native youths.

It is regretted therefore that I am unable to assist you in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Director,
South African Institute of
Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG?

AFRICAN EXPLOSIVES AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED 40 FOX STREET JOHANNESBURG POST OFFICE BOX 1122 TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS TELEPHONE 33.6101

"EXPLOSIVES JOHANNESBURG"

OUR REFERENCE AGA/MEW

YOUR REFERENCE

8th March, 1956.

The Technical Officer. South African Institute of Race Relations, P. O. Box 97, JOHANNESBURG.

MAR 1 4 1956

Dear Miss Horrell,

Further to our telephone conversation to-day, I am enclosing copy of the newspaper cutting in regard to the Government scheme of a labour camp at Elandsdoorn. We should be glad to have any further information on this project and in particular an indication as to the regular wages the Government anticipates paying to these youths as they progress and go out to work for neighbouring farmers.

I appreciate that it may be a little early for any information to be available but will be glad of any assistance which you can give us in this matter.

> Yours sincerely, als arbus.

(A. G. Arbous) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (PERSONNEL)



Directors: Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, D.C.L., Ll.D. (Chairman), Sir Alexander Fleck, K.B.E., F.R.S. (British) (Deputy Chairman), E. A. Bingen (British), S. P. Chambers, C.B., C.I.E. (British), Dr. A. G. W. Compton, M.C., Major-General I. P. de Villiers, C.B., M.C., A. M. Hagart (Managing Director), R. B. Hagart, H. J. Joel (British), S. Leith, G. M. Mason (British), H. F. Oppenheimer, M.P., Col. Sir T. Ellis Robins, K.B.E., D.S.O., E.D. (British), Dr. E. Taberner, C. F. Todd, John F. Voelcker, H. S. Whitworth.

Alternate Directors: G. E. Hughes, C.M.G. (British), Dr. James Taylor (British), J. Morrison, H. P. Rudd, A Wilson.

Distributed to

D/P

15th March, 1956.

The Administrative Assistant (Personnel),
African Explosives and Chemical
Industries Limited,
P.O. Box 1122,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Arbous,

Thank you for your letter AGA/MEW of the 8th March, dealing with the camps for African youths at Elandsdoorn. It was certainly news to me that these youths may later be required to work for neighbouring farmers. I will try to find out what the Department's plans are, and let you have any information that I can obtain.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss) TECHNICAL OFFICER. NE 14/2

15th March, 1956.

The Secretary for Native Affairs, P.O. Box 384, PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

YOUTH CAMP AT ELANDSDOORN.

According to a recent press report (Star, 5th March 1956) the youths in the camp at Elandsdoorn will, after an initial period of training in practical skills, be sent to work for neighbouring farmers and will receive regular wages while so employed.

I wonder whether you will be kind enough to let me know whether this is the case, and if so, on what types of work the youths will be employed on the farms, and what their wages will be?

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte. DIRECTOR.

Ologins of my

17th August, 1956.

Mrs. H. O'Connor,
Hon. Sec. Bloemfontein Joint Council,
7, Catherine Mansions,
Zastron Street,
BLOEMFONTEIN.

Dear Mrs. O'Connor,

I am referring back to a very old letter of yours, dated 11th December, 1955, about Labour Camps for African Youths. We did get a reply from the Department of Native Affairs to the following effect.

"LABOUR CAMPS" FOR NATIVE YOUTHS.

With reference to your letter of the 22nd December, 1955, I have to inform you that this Department has no knowledge of labour camps for Native youths.

It is regretted therefore that I am unable to assist you in the matter."

We did not inform you before because Mr. van Wyk in effect had said we had no knowledge of any other camps.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,

: 2/KIM - PLC -· >) 4/# 22 Angral 1758 Plen Miss Mondel. 8 questioned De Wet Nel on Tuesday about the fortune of the Niephloof Reformatory using in Allmanis upot for the purpose.

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but you may be interested

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Ke eneanwhite. It is to be

taken over by the Pepartmet
of Native Affano and the
pupils will be transferred
to different schools according
to ethnic grouping. The
present site of Piephloof
would be suitable for
handing over to the Group
Thens Board.
Yours suicevely,

lasti Rubmi

7ie DPP 2

25 August 1958.

Senator the Hon. L. Rubin, The Senate, CAPE TOWN.

Dear Senator Rubin,

Thank you for your depressing letter about Diepkloof.

Do you think that there is any possibility at all that the Government might be persuaded to change its mind? We requested an interview with Dr. Eiselen to discuss this and other matters, but he replied that he would not be returning to Pretoria until after the Session. Then, on 25 July, we asked Mrs. Matthews to arrange for a deputation of Cape Town members of the Executive Committee to meet him. We asked that they should urge that Diepkloof should be retained as well as Elandsdoorn and the proposed new youth camps.

Yours sincerely,

4

Muriel Horrell (Miss)
TECHNICAL OFFICER

PHONE 2211. at Camil Mtgs while P.O. BOX 700,

When a Camil Mtgs while P.O. BOX 700,

Company of the Control of

Dear Mr. Whyte,

Do you know of any vocational training centre in the Union which might act as a pattern to us in East London?

Rotary are investigating whether a small start can be made for such an institution here.

There was a strong recommendation for the establishment of a training centre after the riots in 1953 but, owing to all the difficulties involved, nothing has so far been done.

Pressure by law-abiding Natives against the Tsotsis both here and in Queenstown has brought the matter to the fore and Rotary are prepared to look into this matter as a project.

23 2101

Lewis?

How we at up.
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How employeed
Cortract works do.
Tood - Cunches.

Yours sincerely,

All

T. B. KING

DE114/2

22 January 1959.

T.B. King, Esq., P.O. Box 700, EAST LONDON.

Dear Mr. King,

I am sorry not to have replied before now to your letter of 8 January 1959, but have been away at our annual meetings in Cape Town.

Vocational training for Africans has now been taken over by the Department of Bantu Education. Things are at the moment in a state of flux as a Departmental Committee of Enquiry, headed by Mr. Frans de Villiers, is investigating the whole matter.

I would thus suggest that your first step should be to discuss the possible establishment of a vocational training school in East London with the local representative of the Bantu Education Department.

If the Department is unwilling to establish such a school itself, it might consent to the establishment of a school by private interests such as Rotary, or by the Municipality, but the school would have to be registered with the Department. It would, thus, be essential to obtain Departmental approval of the project before proceeding with plans.

The Johannesburg Municipality established a vocational training school for Africans in Orlando in 1942, which for some years was subsidized by the Government. Then, in 1955, after the Bantu Education Act had been passed, the Municipality was given the choice of handing the school over to the Department, or of accepting a 75 per cent subsidy on salaries subject to the observance of various conditions relating to curricula and salaries, or of running the school entirely at its own expense. It decided on the last course.

This Orlando school provides four or five year courses in carpentry, brick-laying, tailoring, plumbing and drain laying, and as motor mechanics. The Government Department of Labour conducts trade tests for the carpenters and brick-layers, issuing certificates to those who qualify. Successful students taking other courses are issued with Municipal proficiency certificates, not recognized by the Government.

The carpenters, brick-layers and plumbers receive their practical training in municipal housing schemes, and the motor mechanics in servicing municipal vehicles. The tailoring students are employed on making uniforms for the municipal African band and for municipal police, on making clothers for African children in crêches, etc. Character training is an important aspect of the courses.

Students pay a fee of £7. 10. 0 a year. The Municipality runs the school at an annual loss of £14,000 - and there are only about 240 students at any one time. A vocational school is, thus, an expensive project for private interests to undertake.

If the Department is unwilling to establish a vocational school in East London but is prepared to allow the municipality or Rotary to do so, detailed information about the running of the Orlando school could be obtained from the Manager, Non-European Affairs Department, P.O. Box 5382, Johannesburg.

Best wishes for your success.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte

PHONE 2211.

P.O. BOX 700, EAST LONDON.

28/1/1959

Mr. Quintin Whyte, S. A. Institute of Race Relations, P. O. Box 97, JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Whyte,

Thank you very much indeed for your comprehensive and illuminating reply to my query about vocational education.

I have referred this matter to the Chairman of the relevant Committee, Mr. Fred Cooper.

Yours sincerely,

V 1.-1

other correspondence

1 5 AUG 1960

B.A. 284.

No 76/276

Telegrafiese Adres Telegraphic Address "BANTU"

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.-UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

P.O. Box

Tel. 26421 -

DEPARTEMENT VAN BANTOE-ADMINISTRASIE EN -ONTWIKKELING,

DEPARTMENT OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

PRETORIA.

1 1. 8. 1960

The Director, S.A. Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir.

BANTU YOUTH CAMPS.

- Your letter No. 1/2 of the 10th June, 1960. refers.
- The Minister has appointed a Committee of Enquiry into the operation of Bantu Youth Camps and the matter raised by you will, no doubt, receive consideration.

Yours faithfully.

SECRETARY FOR BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

Albert. Ithut we had beeren correspondence ? 4.0.

and he marais about this question. ? —

light training for young comean

laces who are not in school. If so,

please ple this with the orbi

corresp. Thanh ru 2/62 6th February, 1962.

Mr. A.S. Marais, Director, Non-European Affairs Department, Boksburg Municipality, BOKSBURG.

Dear Mr. Marais,

We regret to hear that your scheme for young African juveniles is encountering difficulties, and while we, and no doubt you also, would consider that the desirable aim is to have all African children go to school, the Institute is nevertheless of the opinion that in the present circumstances, your scheme of part-time light employment, combined with gradual induction into discipline, is valuable. The Institute hopes that it will be possible for you to obtain the necessary exemption from the Department of Labour to continue your valuable experiment.

The Institute realises, of course, that such exemptions cannot be given to any but officially recognised bodies which are endeavouring to rescue non-school-goers before they fall into undesirable habits.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte, Director.

DE 14/2 - YOUTH CAMP SCHEMES

6/5/62 Le file AREC/3/3- RECION OFFICE re: Places of Safety for Invenile Headers notte refered to July 1962 Executive Her reply d.d. 29/1762 - from H/O asoliphet w/s/12 Min La tem peraining 3 (a) Minutes of MATTHE COASTAN LEGION (MR 56/62 - 7th May, 1962

Collection Number: AD1715

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

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