

*Secret*  
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20 Hereford Square,  
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1019

18 NOV 1960

15.11.60.

Dear Sir,

I wonder whether you could very kindly help me with some information. We are trying to ~~print~~ print a leaflet on the effect of apartheid on the teaching and practicing of medicine and nursing. It will revolve round 1. Medical Education. How many places for nonwhite medical students were there, how many are there now with only Durban? Under the Bantu education act does higher education carry them to University entrance? Will Durban continue or be replaced by a "tribal" college? Do you know the exact wording the non-white Govt bursary aided medical students have to sign to the effect that they will not treat white patients on qualifying? Under what bit of legislation is this signed? How many non white Doctors are there? How many African or Bantu ones, how many white?

2. Public health. Doctor patient ratios in white and native areas. Infant mortality rates in both (I heard in Alexandra township it is 50 % which hardly seems believable) Maternity death rates. etc. Hospital beds available to "Bantus" c.f whites

3. Under the act whereby people need a permit to live and or work in areas of different colour designation, are bantu areas being under-doctored?

i.e. are "sympathetic" or slightly anti-apartheid white doctors being refused permits to work there? Are there instances of such doctors being dismissed from gvt such as hospital appointments for their opinions?

Under the liquor laws, african Doctors need permits to buy methylated spirit. Do they get this?

4. By what legislation were the differential salaries as paid to Doctors in Hospitals implemented?

5. What is the present blood transfusion legislation. Is it only that it must be labelled or has the bit about not cross transfusing been implemented. It was I believe rejected by the S.A Medical Council?

Is there anything along these lines I have not mentioned because I am not yet aware of it?

You see the kind of thing I am after.

I would be most grateful for a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Glean College

Secretary

file  
D/E 9/11

22nd November, 1960.

The Secretary,  
Medical Committee Against Racial Discrimination in South Africa,  
20 Lansdowne Crescent,  
LONDON W11  
ENGLAND.

Dear Madam,

I am afraid that considerable research would be necessary to enable me to reply to all the questions in your letter of 15 November, and we are exceptionally busy at present and quite unable to undertake this. I will, thus, give you such information as we have available, and refer you to other sources.

1. There were no set numbers of places for Non-White medical students at the "open" universities, so far as I am aware. It depended upon the number of applicants with adequate matriculation passes. You could obtain enrolment figures at the Natal Medical School from the Registrar, University of Natal, Umbilo Road, Durban.
2. Under the Bantu Education scheme Africans write the same matriculation examination as do members of other racial groups.
3. There is no suggestion that the Natal Medical School should be replaced: in any case it caters for Non-Whites only.
4. You could obtain a copy of the loan bursary agreement from the Registrar.
5. In 1959 there were 7,789 medical practitioners, 416 interns and 1,371 medical students in South Africa. Included in these totals were 67 African medical practitioners, 18 African interns, 108 African medical students, and about 93 Coloured and Indian doctors. (I do not know the numbers of Coloured and Indian interns or students).
6. I have no recent information about doctor-patient ratios. You

.../might

might possibly obtain this from the Secretary for Health, Locarno House, Schoeman Street, Pretoria.

7. Infant mortality rates for 1958 were 29.4 for Whites, 132.3 for Coloured, and 65.1 for Asians. There are no reliable statistics for Africans because, although it is compulsory in theory, in practice large numbers of Africans do not register births. Registration of deaths is more complete. This inflates infant mortality rates. An average figure (probably inflated for the reasons given) for Africans in seven of the largest towns is 180.8.
8. You may be able to obtain maternity death rates from the Secretary for Health.
9. In 1958 there were about 21,535 hospital beds for Whites and 49,743 for Non-Whites. Since then several large new hospitals for Non-Whites have been provided.
10. Non-Africans require permits to enter African townships. Otherwise, Doctors do not need permits to treat patients in Group areas catering for persons of racial groups other than their own, although they would require permits to set up consulting rooms there.
11. The issuing of permits to buy methylated spirits is in the discretion of magistrates, so one can make no hard and fast statement; but I do not think that an African doctor would have difficulty in obtaining one if he really required the spirits for his work.
12. Salaries are not controlled by Government legislation, but are decided upon, in the case of general hospitals, by the four Provincial Administrations.
13. Regulations (not legislation) for blood transfusion services were gazetted on 20 May 1960. The race of blood donors must be printed on labels attached to containers of the blood. It was not made compulsory for a patient to be given the blood of of a donor of his own race.

I hope that this will be of some help. The Secretary for Health would be in a position to supply any further statistics that you

.../require

require. You might find it useful to ask the Secretary of the National Union of S.A. Students, 148 St. George's Street, Cape Town, to check any material you propose writing that deals with students.

Yours sincerely,

  
Muriel Horrell (Miss).  
Research Officer.

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