TREASON ARRESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

CHRISTIAN ACTION SPECIAL APPEAL

CHRISTIAN ACTION is raising a special fund in connection with the arrests of 155 persons (European and Non-European), on charges of high treason, in South Africa. The main purposes of the fund are:

- (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, that the conscience of the world is kept fully alive to what is happening.

SPONSORS of the Appeal include:

Professor Norman Bentwich Lady Violet Bonham Carter Fenner Brockway Lord Faringdon Professor Max Gluckman Jo Grimond Lord Hemingford Benn Levy Lord Lucan Sir Compton Mackenzie The Reverend Dr. N. Micklem William Plomer Earl Russell The Reverend David Sheppard Goorge A. Sutherland John Tilney Harold Wilson

The Bishop of Birmingham Phyllis Bottome James Callaghan Gerald Gardiner Victor Gollancz Sir Kenneth Grubb Father Huddleston, C.R. David Low Rose Macaulay The Bishop of Manchester John Neville Father Raymond Raynes, C.R. The Bishop of Sheffield The Reverend Dr. Donald Soper The Reverend Dr. Leslie Weatherhead

Chy W.

The Fund has the full support of the Movement for Colonial Freedom and other interested bodies.

DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED: please send to The Secretary, Christian Action, 2, Amen Court, London, E.C.4.

We urgently appeal on behalf of the Defence and Aid

Fund established by Christian Action in connection with the

arrest in South Africa, in December 1956, of 156 leading

opponents of Apartheid on charges of treason. The purposes

of the Fund are to provide for the best possible legal defence

of the accused - they are on trial for their 1 ves - to aid

their families and dependents and to help to keep the consience

of the world alive to the issues at stake.

the Preliminary Hearings are not yet completed 61 of the accused (selected from the 156 without rhyme or reason, it would seem,) in the same senseless way as the 156 were originally chosen for arrest) were released a month ago with no compensation. This makes an immediate and urgent call upon the Fund for their rehabilitation after a year away from their homes and places of employment. And for the 95 remaining

on trial costs of defence grow heavier and heavier as the case drags on. But it is the desperate pli ht of the facilies and dependents of the accused which must compel the maximum contribution to the Fursi from every immediative citizen of these islands.

Material hardships, separations army fast less - including mothers from yourse children, loss of a colognent, insullity to pay nice purchase instalments and ronts, interrupted studies, broken nones, erecked hopes: these and other cruci difficulties are the lot of everyone involved in this wicked trial. And so long as their ordeal lasts even those who may have a job to go hack to (and many have been dismissed their jobs) are unable to provide for themselves of their dependants.

This trial in South Africa is very much our concern. For not only does the policy of Apartheid show a shocking disregard for Christian and liberal principles in human relationships; but also with these men and women on trial South African democracy and free

The world over

accuses of treason those who claim the freedom to speak out in public their belief that the Charter of Human Rights ought to be applicable to all men regardless of their colour, creed and race.

Here, then, by proving our support to the Defence and Aid Fund is an opportunity for doing something practical, immediate and of lasting import in defence of those principles for which we stand.

We have raised in Britain approximately \$40,000 - including the special gift sent by the Labour Party to the South African Labour Party for the Fund in Johannesburg. 6 But we are advised from South Africa that a total of £150,000 in all will be required. Will you please send your maximum contribution (cheques payable to Christian Action) to The Secretary, S.A. Defence & Aid Fund, 2 Amen Court, London, E.C.4.

We would offeel a thought the defen a did Fine whither by Che Art - connect will the arrest in the 1916, 9 166 hat; Offends of Markeil a charge of treason. Represent the are to provide for the bast possible legal deform waccone from a tral for this - to aid the family a defendant, of a Shelf the morning work aler the The true hos lashed for men the after Per true dropped in for a great 61 1 thaccount were on not get affected. without company (schill, it would see in the Tome sensols con a to 152 were rywell chow promoter) were relieved a unkapo with no conformation. This makes an nopul call up - 110 France po this robobilities of the agent away & the Romes at places of offert. alforings remains a tral coto of defre for heave or heave or Weardrapon. But it s the polight of the families of depolate of thaccount and huns e-fal themasin continue & & fall for every importer citizen of the slands. habit hardships, shanks among fainter inter mount in children - los proples to while they prop his produce

wholes of rent, intemples thinks, - the contraction of writed lifes: then at one could prose difficulties on with ? way me worked is the wicked trial. and so long as the ordered losts even then who may have a job byo but to fall many have bee drining the jobs) an ath & proof on thoute a this family defendants. Retrieble Tan this of the information in our concern to not of is in a medicine; in it is for the tody of the source of the state of the source of th who clai the freed to speak out puthic this thing the withhet 1the Right & applicable to all men myandon of motions cred a race. Hen, the, of pains a report to the white for is soported for an elypsichal, mundrate - 9 hoch that detrie y then mintes promites or word. special gift sent by Klabos Part 6 th Antity to lot lay for to fel i Thomby - but was advised for but The a 18h 1 fitosoo wall will h yours. ent of flow our for maxim: and have (channe prot other the poly the horty, SA och with Find, 2th Cont, Luchen Rel 4

MEMORANDUM

The Fund raised here in Britain has now reached just short of £60,000. About £15,000 has been raised in the United States of America, and in South Africa something like £30,000.

The money subscribed has been allocated through the Committee in South Africa of which the Bishop of Johannesburg is Chairman. This Committee originally set the Christian Action target at £10,000; later raised it to £20,000, and then £50,000. But owing to the long drawn out proceedings it is now nearly two years since the arrest of the original 156 accused - the need for money grows and becomes more urgent. The Bishop, on behalf of his Committee, now asked for at least another £50,000, for rehabilitation purposes and if necessary for continuing the defence, should the Attorney General decide to go on with the trial.

Of the £58,000 received into the Fund, £48,500 has been allocated in South Africa through the Committee members out there, for defence and aid purposes. Roughly £4,000 has been spent on propaganda, advertisement, expenses of meetings, administration, etc. There is a balance of approximately £6,000 waiting to be called upon by the Committee in South Africa. Owing to the difficulties out there, and the possibility that at any time the Government might decide to proscribe their fund, we keep the balance over here until its actually needed for expenditure.

Our accountants are at present busy on the Christian Action accounts. We hope shortly to be able to give you have should you require it, an accurate statement of income and J expenditure.of the Treason Trial Fund.

In addition to money required for the purposes of the Treason Trial, the Bishop of Johannesburg hopes that we will raise another £50,000 to help in other similar cases in South Africa. The mass trial is becoming now the technique of the South African government. Here are two examples of what is at present happening and for which money is required:

(a) The mass trial on charges of murder of 210 Africans in Sekhukhuneland. Here, in a riot caused by Government efforts to impose Chiefs sympathetic to their Bantu Authority Act over a people who were loyal to Chiefs opposed to the Act, seven people were killed. The police forthwith rounded up 210 of the Africans involved and put them in jail on charges of murder. Each one of these is now facing the probability of the death sentence, unless they can be given adequate defence.

ofras

Lan Le

(b) The case of 34 people accused of arson. Here, where the Bishop of Johannesburg was able to supply some money for defence purposes, 17 of the accused were at once acquitted. But the rest are still on trial, the first management of the Bishop's letter: "There were three cases of arson, in which 34 people were accused, and as a result of adequate defence 17 were acquitted and one received a suspended sentence."

The Bishop goes on to say "In two cases of public violence involving 25 people, 4 were acquitted, and in a murder charge now proceeding in which 5 persons were charged, 2 have already been acquitted. There is a further action pending against 44 persons for public violence. I am quite sure that the fact that these people have been properly defended has secured the acquittal of a certain number and in all probability a lighter sentence in many other cases because they have had someone to present the thing fairly before the Courts. As you will appreciate, in a number of cases involving a lot of accused, the expenses have been extremely heavy. However, the £1,000 which I have been able to give the lawyers today has considerably eased the position, especially as most of the accused are very poor people and have very slender financial resources."

In responding to the Bishop's request for a Fund with a total target of £100,000, Christian Action is widening the terms of reference for the Fund.

The terms of reference of the present Fund are, you will remember, as follows:

"A Fund raised in connection with the Treason Trial in South Africa for the legal defence of the accused; to aid their families and dependants; and to help to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake."

Our proposed new terms of reference will run roughly as follows:

"A Defence and Aid Fund the purposes of which are (4) to carry on the purposes of the Treason Trial fund and (5) by the provision of legal aid to safeguard freedom and human dignity in Southern Africa, whenever and wherever they may be endaggered by or in legal proceedings brought under unjust legislation or at the suit of governments or persons reasonably suspected of arbitrary or oppressive conduct; and to support, sustain and comfort the families and dependants; and (3) to help to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake.

4

MEMORANDUM

Concerning the South African Treason Trial

- 1. It should be borne in mind that the trial places in issue all the major events in the history of race relations in South Africa during the years 1952 to 1956, and those years were crammed with such events, reaching back to the Defiance Campaign and including the present efforts of the African people to resist the introduction of "passes" for women and the implementation of the "Bantu" education system.
- 2. The participation of the ninety accused in these events is alleged to constitute high treason or alternatively "the advocacy of communism" as defined in the Suppression of Communism Act, a definition which includes, for instance, any effort to bring about a political, social or economic change by illegal means, e.g., by an African woman refusing to carry her "pass".
- 3. The Crown evidence at the preparatory examination (excluding adjourments) took over nine months to lead. It consists of over 8,000 pages of evidence, the records of two to three thousand speeches and some 20,000 documents. We believe the bulk of this evidence will be led again at the trial and to that will, of course, have to be added the evidence for the defence. Though matters will proceed more expeditiously at the trial, it must be anticipated that the trial will last for not less than nine to twelve months.
- 4. The work of preparing for trial is enormous. The sorting and classifying of the documents and speeches is not yet completed, though six Counsel have been fully occupied for over four months, and a number of Counsel have assisted "pro amico" or for something like nominal fees. The prospect of taking some ninety accused through the part they played in the events on which the Crown relies, is appalling. The fees should be considered in the light of these facts.
- 5. In every case the fee being paid to Counsel, both in respect of preparation for trial and as a retainer, represents considerably less than Counsel would have earned in the period at his own practice. Counsel would, in a commercial matter of any magnitude, certainly charge considerably more than the fees they are being paid.

The Counsel briefed all have busy practices. When the Treason Trial ends, they will have been working on it full time for a period of more than a year. It will be many months after the end of the Trial before their work and their income return to normal.

NOTES FOR NEW BASIS FOR S.A. & D. FUND

From The Bishop of Johannesburg:

CHRISTIAN ACTION

SPECIAL 1952 APPEAL

The Council is appealing for an immediate special fund of £15,000. Present income is barely sufficient to keep going what is already in hand and quite insufficient for any expansion of our usefulness. The fund is needed for the following purposes:—

- (a) To continue the experiment of holding Forums about current affairs by men and women renowned in public life; and in particular Forums in which capital, management and workers discuss their problems together in an agreeable atmosphere and against a background of common purpose.
- (b) To enable the movement to play its part in the industrial life of the nation—with the aid of and in co-operation with management and workers, to bring Christian principles to bear upon the problems of industry. Christian Action would like to be able, at the invitation of industry, to do everything possible to help forward all efforts to humanise the processes of industry.
- (c) To publish a series of pamphlets based upon the findings of expert study groups.
- (d) To put the quarterly Christian Action News-letter and Review on a sound basis.
- (e) To appoint an assistant to the Chairman whose task will be to build up support in local areas throughout the country. At present many calls for help and guidance have to go unheeded.
- (f) To enable Christian Action to send delegates abroad to selected international conferences.

CHRISTIAN ACTION is an undenominational and non-party organisation. Its supporters include Anglicans, Free Churchmen, Friends, Roman Catholics, and men of goodwill without denominational allegiance; Conservatives, Liberals and Socialists.

Kindly send cheques to :—The Honorary Treasurer, Christian Action, 2, Amen Court, E.C.4.

The Subscription List has been opened by the following donations:-

				~	
Anonymous			 	100	
Messrs. Barclays Bank Ltd	d. (Trustee	Dept.)	 	100	
Messrs, Richard Thomas			 	100	
Lady Duckham			 	100	
Mr. J. Arthur Rank			 	100	
Sir George Schuster			 	100	
Mr. C. Jackson Cole			 	75	
British Empire Steel Produ	ucts Co. Lt	d.	 	26.	· 5s.
Sir Clive Baillieu			 	25	
Messrs. Boots Pure Drug	Co. Ltd.		 	25	
Mr. Ian Bullen	1		 	10.	10s.
Mr. Herbert Agar,			 	5	
Lady Parmoor			 	5	
Mrs. Emmie Tillett			 	5	
Major Beddington Behren	s		 	5	
Mr. Leslie Hale			 	5	

CHRISTIAN ACTION

CHAIRMAN: THE REVEREND CANON L. JOHN COLLINS

SECRETARY: FREDA NUELL

2 AMEN COURT, LONDON, E.C.4

TELEPHONE: CITY 6869

South African Treason Arrests Appeal

Appeal Sponsors: Professor Norman Bentwich The Bishop of Birmingham Lady Violet Bonham Carter Phyllis Bottome Fenner Brockway, M.P. James Callaghan, M.P. Canon L. John Collins Tom Driberg Lord Faringdon Dingle Foot, Q.C. Margery Fry Gerald Gardiner, Q.C. Professor Max Gluckman Victor Gollancz Joseph Grimond, M.P. Sir Kenneth Grubb Lord Hemingford Father Trevor Huddleston, C.R. Benn Levy David Low The Earl of Lucan Rose Macaulay Sir Compton Mackenzie The Bishop of Manchester Robert Mennell The Rev. N. Micklem Henry Moore John Neville Lord Pakenham William Plomer Father Raymond Raynes, C.R. Earl Russell The Bishop of Sheffield The Rev. David Sheppard The Rev. Donald Soper

George Sutherland

Harold Wilson, M.P.

The Rev. Leslie Weatherhead

One hundred and fifty-six leading opponents of apartheid are now awaiting trial in South Africa on charges of treason and sedition. Some of them have already lost their jobs. Most are in no position to pay for legal aid. The position of many of their dependants is serious indeed. Christian Action has, therefore, started a special fund to provide help for all who need it.

The preliminary hearings, the preparation of the cases for the defence, and the trial itself will probably take not less than six months; and it is estimated that at least £50,000 will be required before midsummer.

Christian Action is working in closest touch with the committee responsible for a similar fund in South Africa, where the trustees include the Bishop of Johannesburg and Dr. Alan Paton, author of Cry the Beloved Country.

The response to this appeal, I am glad to report, is already most encouraging. In particular the Movement for Colonial Freedom has given its full support from the beginning.

I ask you to do all you can to help with this appeal. All money received will go to the special fund, whose objects are: (a) to provide for the legal defence of the accused; (b) to give practical help to dependants, most of whom are Africans; and (c) to help to ensure that the conscience of the world is kept fully alive to the issues at stake.

Please send any donation to The Secretary, Christian Action (earmarked for the South African Appeal Fund), 2 Amen Court, London, E.C.4.

L. Volu Colleis.

L. John Collins

Appeal Suonsors:

South African Treason Arrests Appeal

One hundred and fifty-six leading opponents of apartheid are now awaiting trial in South Africa on charges of treason and sedition. Some of them have already lost their jobs. Most are in no position to psy for legal aid. The position of many of their dependents is serious Indeed. Christian Action has, therefore, started a special fund to provide help for all who need it.

The preliminary hearings, the preparation of the cases for the defence, and the trial itself will, probably take not less than six months; and it is estimated that at least £50,000 will be required before midsummer.

Christian Action is working in closest touch with the committee responsible for a similar fund in South Africa, where the trustees include the Bishop of Johannesburg and Dr. Alan Paton, author of 'Cry the Belove Country's.

The response to this appeal, I am glad to report, is already most encouraging. In particular the Movement for Colonial Freedom has given its full support from the beginning.

I ask you to do all you can to help with this appeal. All money received will go to the special fund, whose objects are: (a) to provide for the legal defence of the accussd; (b) to give practical help to dependants, most of whom are Africans; and (c) to help to ensure that the conscience of the world is kept fully alive to the issues at stake.

Please send any donation to The Secretary, Christian Action (carmarked for the South African Appeal Fund), 2, Amen Court, London, E.C.4.

L. John Collins (Canon of St. Paul's)

DEFENCE AND AID FUND

THE DIFENCE AND AID FUND was established by Christian Action in December 1956. When news broke that 156 leading opponents of apartheid had been arrested in South Africa on charges of high treason, the Fund was immediately launched in order to provide money for defence of the accused and aid for their families and dependants.

In the past four years the Treason Trial has dragged on. Sixty-five of the accused were acquitted after the preliminary magis trate's bearings: a further 61 laterhad their indictment quashed by the Righ Court, though they have never been formally acquitted; the remaining 30 are on trial in Pretoria now - a trial which has alrea dy lasted for more than eighteen months.

In July 1958 the terms of reference of the Fund were extended to meet, similar needs that were increasingly crising as a result of oppressive laws and arbitrary legislation, both in South Africa and also in the Federated Territories, The Treason Trial Fund was renamed the Defence and Aid Fund.

The total so far raised by the Defence and Aid Fund is £190,000.

We are, therefore, in sight of our Third target (the first was set at £10,000, the second at £100,000 and the third, for the end of 1960, at £200,000).

At the r equest of hr. Paton and others on the spot in South Africa and the Rhodes has we have set a fresh target for the end of 1961 of another £200,000.

Allocations to date have been as follows (figures approximate; the audited accounts up to June 1960 will be available at the Annual General Meeting).

Treason Trial	£	65,000
The Rhodesias		8,000
Other Defence & Aid in South Africa (including Sharpeville Emergency and Refugees)		74,000
Under Object 4 of Terms of Reference		14,000
Administration costs		13,000
Earmarked Balance		20,000

Allocations are made through Committees in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. In South Africa there are two committees - one for the Treason Trial and the other for Defence and Aid.

DEFENCE AND AID FUND

THE DIFENCE AND AID FUND was established by Christian Action in December 1956. When news broke that 156 leading opponents of apartheid had been arrested in South Africa on charges of high treason, the Fund was immediately launched in order to provide money for defence of the accused and aid for their families and dependants.

In the past four years the Treason Trial has dragged on. Sixty-five of the accused were acquitted after the preliminary magis trate's hearings: a further 61 laterhad their indictment quashed by the Righ Court, though they have never been formally acquitted. The remaining 50 are on trial in Pretoria now - a trial which has alrea dy lasted for more than eighteen months.

In July 1958 the terms of reference of the Fund were extended to meet, similar needs that were increasingly arising as a result of oppressive laws and arbitrary legislation, both in South Africa and also in the Federated Territories. The Treason Trial Fund was renamed the Defence and Aid Fund.

The total so far raised by the Defence and Aid Fund is £190,000.

We are, therefore, in sight of our Third target (the first was set at £10000, the second at £100,000 and the third, for the end of 1960, at £200,000).

At the r equest of ar. Paton and others on the spot in South Africa and the Rhodes ias we have set a fresh target for the end of 1961 of another £200,000.

Allocations to date have been as follows (figures approximate; the audited accounts up to June 1960 will be available at the Annual General Meeting).

Treason Trial £ 65,000

Nother of the Rhodesias 8,000

Other Defence & Aid in South
Africa (including Sharpeville,
Emergency, and Refugees) 74,000

Under Object 4 of Terms of
Reference 14,000 Press

Administration costs 13,000 Freedom

Earmarked Balance 20,000

SOUTH AFRICAN TREASON TRIAL

Canon Collins (Chairman of Christian Action) announced that The Christian Action Defence and Aid Fund has now passed the £20,000 mark.

This information was given by Canon Collins at a private farewell reception given on behalf of Christian Action to Mr.

Aminu Kano (President and Leader of the N.E.P.U. Party, and the leader of one of the delegations to the recent London conference on Nigerian independence). The reception was attended by sponsors of the Defence and Aid Fund.

On advices from South Africa, the target for the Fund has now been raised to £50,000.

It is now estimated that, in all, £150,000 will be required for the legal defence of the 156 accused and to provide for them and their families and dependants; towards which total, it is hoped, Christian Action will provide £50,000 from Great Briatin.

Reports from South Africa emphasise the urgent need. Legal costs, despite the generosity of the South African Bar, will be extremely heavy: and the plight of the accused and their families and dependents grows daily more desperate.

It is not difficult to imagine the ill effects of this long drawn out trial upon the spirit of the accused: but it is heartening to learn that their morale remains high, despite the strain and boredom of having to attend court five days a week, morning and afternoon month after month.

Indicative of the worsening situation for the accused is the fact that even members of the professional classes, who ur to the present have been able to meet their own personal e have now to ask for help from the Defence and Aid Fund. For example, when recently, the Preliminary Hearings were adjourned for a month and the accused allowed to return to their homes for the first time since Christman, everyone living outside Johannesburg had to ask for aid in order to any their fares etc: the fund paid out over £1,000 for this purpose alone.

The list of 44 sponsors of this special appeal by Christian Action is an impressive one. Among the more recent additions to the list are: The Bishop of Chichester, Sir Maurice Bowra (

), Sir Henry Willink () and Mr. Jemes Griffiths ().

The longer the South African Covernment prolongs this trial, with its cruel effect upon the 156 accused and their dependants, the greater may be the total of money finally needed. Plans for raising more money include two charity concerts in the autumn (one jazz and one straight music) and a charity auction.

is arranging an auction of gifts of books given by their authors, and of pictures and paintings given by their artists. Already they have received a number of gifts including works by Lewis Hunford, Rose Macaulay, T.S. Eliot, Christopher Fry, and Ren Nicholson.

"Hundreds of thousands of people see in Apartheid a shocking disregard for Christian and liberal principles in human relationships, but feel impotent. What can we do? they ask. Here then is an opportunity for doing something practical, immediate and of healing import.": this is the message of the Sponsors of the Fund to the people of Britain.

Jo A Remis

MEMORANDUM.

Since Sharpeville, Christian Action has received for the Defence and Aid Fund approximately £40,000. The work of the Fund continues to expand. Added to the needs of the Treason Trial and the support of the families of the victims of the Sharpeville shootings are many other similar cases where men and women are suffering because of racial discrimination laws in South Africa. We have been helping with refugees who have go away from South Africa. A further call on the fund has come from Southern Rhodesia from detainees there.

In additio to the work of the Defence and Aid Fund, our race relations work continues and increases. Calls for help in many individual cases come our way and we have a special fund which provides scholarships for three Africans from South Africa, studying over here, but is fully committed and if you make any mention of it, don't encourage others to ask for help! We have to turn down a good number of requests for educational grants.

The Cala Sona enterprise is now remarkably well established with six families in residence and two more likely to join them within the next few months.

Collection: 1956 Treason Trial Collection number: AD1812

PUBLISHER:

 ${\it Publisher:-} \ \textbf{Historical Papers}, \ \textbf{The Library}, \ \textbf{University of the Witwaters rand}$

Location:- Johannesburg

©2011

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.