

AFRICAN SAYS HE WAS KIDNAPPED AND MADE TO WORK UNDER SLAVE CONDITIONS

I WAS working in a factory till I lost my job earlier this year. In April I was given a permit to seek work. I was looking around for a job. Some days before my permit was due to expire I was arrested in Alexandra Township in the street by a police raiding party. They demanded to see my pass. I showed it to them. They said they were looking for just such people with permits to seek work.

I asked if they were arresting me because my permit was in order.

They said: "We'll give you a permanent job." This was said by an African constable.

They handcuffed me and took me to the police station. There were 20 of us altogether. We were

The pass laws are being used to kidnap city Africans and force them to the farms, and every week countless men caught in the pass law dragnet find themselves sent out to the platteland as cheap farm labour.

Mr. M— was one of a group of 20 Alexandra Township Africans who were shipped off to a farm in the Springs district, though he had in his possession a legal permit to seek work.

Mr. M— told the Johannesburg reporter of New Age the full story of his arrest, his detention in the cells, the ultimatum presented to him to go to a farm or be sent to Leeuwkop, and the conditions on the farm to which he was eventually sent.

This is Mr. M—'s story:

searched. I again produced my reference book and showed it to the sergeant in charge. He said: "This permit shows you are looking for work. We will give you a permanent job." He said this job would be on the farms. I said I did not wish to go to the farms.

He said if I did not want to go to a farm I would have to go to Leeuwkop for two years.

We were kept in the cells for two days. During this time my wife came to the station and brought £5 to pay my fine. But the police would not accept this, and

said I was going to be given a permanent job.

NO TRIAL

In those days we never saw a magistrate or came up for trial. Then we were taken from the cells to the Labour Bureau in one of the townships. A contract was written out, and we were asked who wanted to go to Leeuwkop for two years. Nobody said they wanted to go to Leeuwkop.

The contract was read to us. It said we would work on a farm for six months for £3 10s. a month. They took our fingerprint marks on the contract form.

We were then lined up outside the office to await the lorry. When it came—a truck closed on the sides with mesh—we were pushed in. We were taken away in the

clothes we wore there and then, and were given no opportunity to collect any of our possessions.

The lorry drove into the Springs district, and after a while we arrived at a farm, climbed out of the lorry and were counted by an African as we stood in line.

IN BARE HANDS

Our meal was brought to us in a large tin, and it consisted of coarse porridge and unpeeled potatoes. We were given one potato each and were allowed to take a helping of porridge—but in our bare hands. I could not eat the porridge.

Then we were called up and each given a sack, which we were told were our blankets. We said we could not use sacks, and we were shown that everyone was using sacks. The workers on the farm slept in a stable-type of building. We slept in rows, close to one another, our feet touching the feet of the man in the opposite row.

Many of the men on the farm were from Alexandra, Sophiatown, Pimville and other parts of Johannesburg. There were also Nyasas and Rhodesians.

That first night the people told us how they were beaten. They said—"Well, you are men. You will see for yourselves."

HIT WITH STICK

The following morning they ordered the new men to stand aside, and a European foreman with a stick in his hand came up to us. He counted us by knocking us on the head with the stick so— one (a blow on the head), two (a blow), three (a blow), and so on down the line.

They told us to jump on a truck pulled by a tractor. We were driven to a bean field and each shown a furrow and told how to work. As we worked we were thrashed by the foreman. Africans were guarding us, and the European hit us with a sjambok. He rode on horseback, holding the reins in one hand and the sjambok in the other. We had to race. We were given no water to drink, and at mid-day porridge was brought, emptied on the grass, and we had to pick it up from there.

Some were so tired from the weeding that they could only stretch out on the ground, and they ate nothing. On the very day we started work some of the men managed to escape—some from the fields and others from the compound.

I worked for only two days, then on the third day I managed to escape and I made my way back to my home.

CRY OUT AGAINST BOOK BANS!

IN his crusade against all progressive thought, the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Dönges, last week included two of the world's great classics in his list of publications whose importation into South Africa is banned on the grounds that they are "indecent, objectionable or obscene."

They are "Candide," by the spiritual father of the French Revolution, Voltaire; and "Mademoiselle de Maupin," by the 19th Century French poet and novelist Theophile Gautier.

Though both works are universally accepted as masterpieces of the world's treasury of literature, any South African ordering one from an overseas bookseller renders himself liable to a fine of £1,000 or five years' imprisonment or both.

The Government Gazette announcing the bannings appeared last Friday. On Monday officials of the Department of the Interior announced that the banning of "Candide" was a "mistake."

One wonders how such a "mistake" comes to be perpetrated. The banning order was signed by Dr. Dönges himself. Can it be that he does not know what he is doing, that he signs notices banning books without even taking the trouble to find out what he is banning?

Or did someone really manage to convince the Minister over the week-end that this time he had gone a bit too far?

The banning of "Candide" is apparently now to be revoked, but Mlle. du Maupin will remain on the black-list. There is no "mistake" about that, even though Gautier, the man who first gave currency to the notion of "art for art's sake," enjoys a reputation in the world of letters almost as great as that of his countryman, Voltaire.

The Nationalists claim to be defending "Western Civilisation" against the advance of the Non-European "barbarians" in South Africa. By their actions, such as these bannings, the Nationalists are daily making it clear they are ready to destroy civilisation rather than share it with the Non-Europeans.

THEIR METHODS

The list of bannings published in last week's Government Gazette also throws light on the methods used by the censors to determine what should and what should not be banned. Most of the 81 items banned are examples of the litera-

By BRIAN BUNTING

ture of sex and violence; but 33 of the publications are political.

And 29 of these publications were those seized from the editor of New Age, Mr. Lionel Forman, when he returned to this country from overseas in January, 1954. Though their importation at that time was perfectly legal, they were seized by the customs officials, together with many other publications and gramophone records (folk music from many countries), and held for further investigation.

A lengthy correspondence was exchanged between Mr. Forman's lawyers and the Board of Censors, and Supreme Court action had to be threatened before, about two months ago, after nearly a year and a half, six publications were returned to him.

One of them was "The Road to Life," by Soviet educationist Makarenko, describing the way in which delinquent youth had been rehabilitated after the 1917 revolution. The book had been mutilated by the South African censors. Passages throughout the book had been underlined in red ink, and illiterate comments had been scrawled in the margin by someone apparently seeking to establish that the book was written in code or had some subversive connotation.

Five weeks ago Mr. Forman's gramophone records were returned to him—five of them broken. And now the remaining items have been banned by notice in the Government Gazette.

A perusal of the list indicates it is the Government's intention to ban anything that deals in any way with conditions in the socialist countries, including purely factual and statistical material.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

One of the publications banned is a report of the session of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. devoted to the physiological teachings of the scientist J. P. Pavlov; another is a summary of the Czechoslovak Budget; a third is a description of the Hungarian Five-Year Plan; and so on.

Mr. Forman, who had worked at the headquarters of the International Union of Students in Prague for two years, brought back with him a deal of I.U.S. material, all of which has been banned, including "Minutes of the meeting of International Union of Students, Warsaw, 31st August -

17th September, 1951."

Other of Mr. Forman's books banned include "A History of the U.S.S.R." by Andrew Rothstein; "High Treason, the Plot Against the People," by Albert E. Kahn; and "Students Unite," by John Clews.

It is doubtful whether the censors even bothered to read the last book, "Students Unite," merely deciding that because it was in Mr. Forman's possession it ought to be banned. Because it is an anti-Communist book written as an attack on the International Union of Students by the student correspondent of the Manchester Guardian!

Two other books banned last week—they are the only two political publications which did not belong to Mr. Forman—are publications of the Council on African Affairs—"Eight Million Demand Freedom: What About it General Smuts?" and "Stop South Africa's Crimes."

BIRDS OF FEATHER

It is perhaps significant that in the same week that these publications were banned in South Africa, the Council on African Affairs itself announced in New York that it was to dissolve, owing to "continuing Government harassment."

Birds of a feather—Eisenhower and Strijdom—evidently act together in their attempt to smash the freedom forces which are growing apace throughout the world today.

MOST SERIOUS

But the most serious aspect of these bannings is the fact that they are apparently being accepted without protest by anybody except those directly affected. Already, as a result of the bannings, South Africa has been cut off, not only from all knowledge of what is happening to one third of the human race living in the socialist countries, but slowly also from all that is best and most progressive in the culture of the Western countries as well.

Voltaire's Candide is not the first classic to be banned. Rabelais has also been banned. So also have the novels of men like Erskine Caldwell, James Aldridge and James T. Farrell been banned. And scientific treatises on the race question published under the auspices of the United Nations

Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation. And many, many others.

NO THANKS

It would be bad enough if the question of what we read were to be left in the hands of the Minister himself. Dr. Dönges may be well educated, but he is obviously unenlightened, and posterity will not thank him for his contributions to the advancement of human knowledge and culture.

But it is not even Dr. Dönges who decides. He merely signs on the dotted line which has been typed for him by his underlings on the Board of Censors—and a more narrow-minded, bigoted, prejudiced and ignorant collection of individuals it would be hard to assemble, if one is to judge by the results of their work as published in the Government Gazette.

One asks himself: can it be that South Africans are satisfied to allow their reading to be censored in this way? Can even the most ardent Nationalist supporter thrill with pride to think that he is now allowed by kind permission of Dr. Dönges to have Voltaire's Candide on his bookshelf? Is this the final proof he needed to convince him that everything is for the best in this best of all possible worlds?

THEIR SCIENCE

Amidst all the shouts and fury about the Senate Bill, where is one still, small voice to complain about the book bannings? Our politicians, our newspaper editors, our authors and poets, artists and actors, archbishops and university professors, who have signed petitions or attended meetings protesting against the murder of our Senate—why has not a single one of them raised his voice in protest against the murder of the right to read and think what we please?

Let us hope they will still do so, that a worthy attempt will be made to express the mounting indignation of the mass of the people against this silent invasion of our intellectual freedoms. Should the "intellectual leaders" of South Africa, however, continue to preserve a discreet or apathetic silence, it will become ever more clear that it is the task of the liberation movement in this, as in all other spheres, to create the conditions under which all our people will be able to live in honour, self-respect and freedom, without Dr. Dönges' censorship!

FLU is serious

For each hour you walk about and work with an attack of Flu on you, at least an extra day will be spent either in bed or in a state of half health. Flu damages and weakens the system—don't under-estimate or try to ignore Flu.

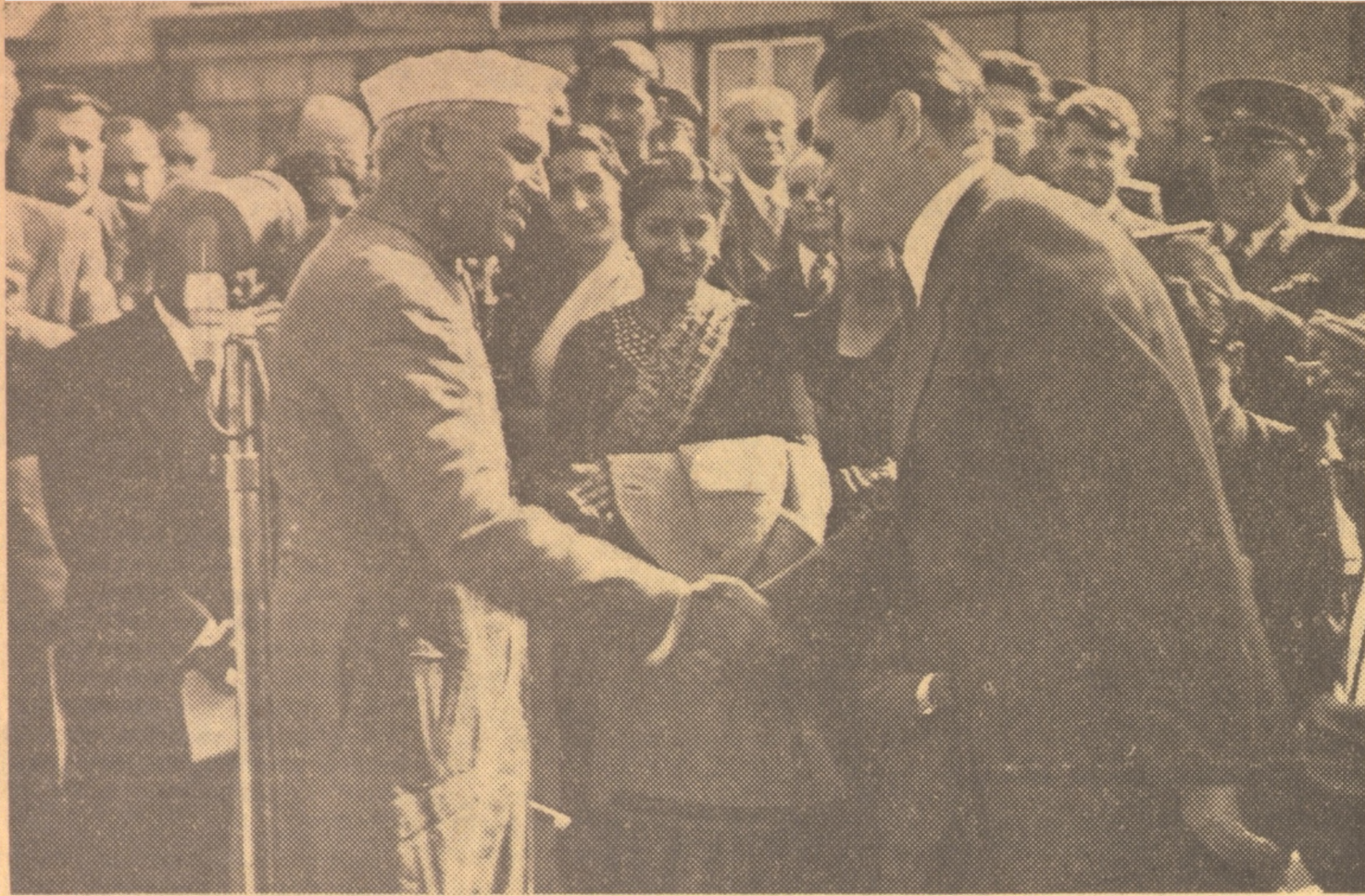
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Mr. Nehru is greeted at Prague Airport by Czech Premier Siroky. Mr. Nehru was on his way to Moscow, where he had important talks with the Soviet leaders, who offered to send experts to assist India in developing atomic energy.

Natal Inter-race Soccer

Currie's Fountain, Durban SUNDAY, 3rd JULY, 1955

NATAL COLOUREDS v.
NATAL INDIANS

1 p.m. (Juniors)

ST. JOHNS v. CRIMSON
LEAGUE

(Cape Town (Durban Indians)
Coloureds) 2.15 p.m.

NATAL COLOUREDS v.
NATAL INDIANS

3.30 p.m. (Seniors)

SUNDAY, 17th JULY

NATAL AFRICANS v.
NATAL COLOUREDS

2 p.m. (Juniors)

NATAL AFRICANS v.
NATAL COLOUREDS

3.30 p.m. (Seniors)

SUNDAY 31st JULY

NATAL INDIANS v. NATAL
AFRICANS

2 p.m. (Juniors)

NATAL INDIANS v.
NATAL AFRICANS

3.30 p.m. (Seniors)

SEE NATAL'S BEST IN ACTION!

GEO. SINGH.

Secretary.

OPTICIANS

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All Roads Lead To Kliptown

(Continued from page 1)

● Kliptown itself will be festooned with banners and slogans and none approaching the area will be able to miss the assembly site.

● Many delegations will enter the freedom site under banners announcing from which part of the country they have come.

● The route to the assembly site will, at certain points, be lined by members of the public who will greet the delegations en route.

● Johannesburg families in townships and locations will act as hosts to the delegates coming from outside Johannesburg and the Reef, and the Federation of S.A. Women has accommodation arrangements in hand.

● The assembly itself will be in two main sessions, starting on the Saturday at 2 p.m., and on Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m.

Coloured Youth Congress

The Cape Congress of Coloured Youth was formed in Cape Town over the week-end, when officials were elected and a programme of activities drawn up.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting, an organiser said the Coloured youth of the Cape must be closely allied to the African National Congress Youth League and to the S.A. Indian Congress Youth League in the fight for a free South Africa.

The motto "Youth, Forward to a Free South Africa!" was adopted. Four delegates were elected to the Congress of the People.

TWO NEW PAMPHLETS YOU MUST READ!

New Life in China

by Ruth First, a 32-page illustrated booklet 1/-

Olive Schreiner

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Add 1d. for postage in each case.

OBTAINABLE FROM P.O. BOX 436, CAPE TOWN

Schools Boycott Prosecutions

IN KLIPTOWN, two leading women members of the African National Congress, Mrs. Doreen Motsabi and Mrs. Lucette Mbalate, were discharged at the end of the crown case in a prosecution under the Riotous Assemblies Act and for assault, arising from the school boycott in Moroka.

The two women still face charges of trespass.

The crown called a large number of witnesses but withdrew at the end of its case.

IN NATAALSBRUIT the case was heard last week of the first group of 21 women charged, during the school boycott, with disturbing the peace. The 21 accused were crowded into the tiny courtroom, some sitting on the steps of the dock, even behind the magistrate, while the case proceeded.

The second batch of 21 women accused, who will be tried next month, sat in the sun outside the court during the trial.

The crown withdrew against 14 of the women, and the other six were sentenced to fines of £2 each.

Before the case opened, representatives from the Federation of South African Women, the African and Indian Congress, and the Congress of Democrats addressed the women on trial and brought them greetings from these organisations.

IN BENONI huge crowds, many wearing African National Congress uniform and the green, black and gold rosette, packed the court for the case of 52 people charged with taking part in a procession without permission during the boycott demonstrations against Bantu education, and on the day, April 16, when the Benoni people boycotted the visit of Dr. Eiselen.

The accused were tried in two groups: one of six and one of 46.

The defence took exceptions to the charges and without any evidence being led, the crown withdrew.

As the 52 men and women left the courtroom there were scenes of great enthusiasm among the large crowd.

THE DEATH has occurred in Johannesburg of Mr. L. T. Mvabaza, the "grand old man of Pimville" and one of the founders of the African National Congress. Mr. Mvabaza was a leader of most of the early struggles of the African people, among them the "bucket strike" just after World War I. He was also a member of Congress delegations to England.

STRAUSS: Unconditional Surrender to the Nats.

By PETER MEYER

LAST week, the United Party, to its eternal shame and disgrace, sold out on the Coloured voters. All its miserable "liberals," with the exception of Dr. Bernard Friedman, sold out as well.

Not satisfied, the United Party then held a caucus meeting behind closed doors, and kicked Dr. Friedman out. Again, the "liberals" sold out. They left their former comrade to fight his own battle.

No wonder that even that staunch supporter of the Nationalists, Mr. Blaar Coetzee, turned on them with withering scorn, and said: When I was kicked out, at least my friends stood by me.

NO SINCERITY

For four years, since Malan first tried in 1951 to remove the Coloured vote with the illegal Separate Representation of Voters Act, we have had lofty speeches and high-sounding pledges from the United Party. We know now that not a word of it was uttered in sincerity.

But not even the Nationalists thought the United Party would sell out without as much as an excuse. It is all quite open and unashamed. We had been warned, of course, by the "Cape Argus" that a sell-out was being hatched. It told us less than a fortnight ago that the non-White South African could not expect the United Party to go on fighting on his behalf any longer!

I do not propose discussing the United Party any further, or its seven "liberals"—Fourie, Steytler, Cope, Suzman, Williams, Butcher and Swart. Their action will never be forgotten. The Coloured people will never forget it, nor will all those hundreds of thousands of decent South Africans, White and non-White, who still value political integrity in spite of the dark age of fascism that has descended upon us.

The supporters of the United Party, and they still include some Coloured people, have been taught a bitter lesson. Not only has the United Party betrayed them, but their "own" M.P.s—the Du Toits, Bloembergs, Starckes, Lawrences, Russells and all the others—have also surrendered.

TO THEIR CONSCIENCES

I mention the names of the seven "liberals" because they had signed the statement that brought about Dr. Friedman's expulsion from the United Party caucus. They withdrew when the United Party turned the screws on them, and they left Dr. Friedman alone on the field of battle. We leave them to their consciences.

We can also safely leave Strauss to—the Nationalist Party. They have got him where they want him. After this major surrender, his party will fall rapidly into decline. The ailing heart of the United Party has finally stopped beating. No one will regret the passing of Strauss and his gang from the political scene. His role was to capture the leadership of a large section of the anti-Nationalist forces and lead them into a Nationalist ambush.

Last week Strauss issued a statement saying that the United Party could not promise now to put the Coloured people back on the common roll if the Nationalists should take them off. Why did he make this statement?

TOTAL SURRENDER

Don't believe the story that it was merely political expediency or a question of tactics. It goes much deeper. The publication of that

statement signalled not only a surrender on the Coloured vote, but the abandonment of the whole fight against apartheid. The position, simply, is that the United Party now supports apartheid. If you doubt this, watch the United Party's actions from now on. It is total surrender.

Why should this total surrender occur at a time when Strydom's extreme measures, by all calculations, should be uniting the United Party instead of weakening it?

The answer that Strauss would probably give for his changed behaviour is that he believes that the Government's attack on the constitution and the courts has alarmed many Nationalists, and that the task now is not to rally Opposition supporters, but to woo over these supposedly frightened Nationalists.

The fact is that the collapse of the United Party is due precisely to the extreme nature of Strydom's measures. Strydom has smashed the United Party by hitting it with one fascist blow after the other; and the United Party has lost its power of resistance by one demoralising surrender after the other.

NO HEART

When it talks, therefore, of betraying the Coloureds in order to win the much bigger prize (!) of a victory against the Government at the polls, it is really looking for an excuse to hoist the white flag. The United Party no longer has the heart to fight. It does not want to struggle any more. It knows it is beaten.

I am talking now of the Parliamentary front of the United Party. The supporters of the U.P. still have plenty of fight left in them, but their leaders won't let them come to grips with the Nationalists. Now they are being told that they must sell out the Coloureds to save their own skin.

Perhaps enough of them may see through the deception. Perhaps they will remember the lessons of Nazi Germany: that any group (the U.P.) which sells out another group (the Coloured people) to save its own life never gets what it wants. It is merely a matter of time before its own head is chopped off. Surely modern history has driven this lesson home?

From now on, Parliament ceases to play its predominant role in our political life. It becomes merely a place where impatient Nationalists will churn out their police laws. The concept of Government and Opposition disappears, and in its place comes the New Order.

That is the lesson of the 1955 Parliamentary session: The Sword of Struggle passes to the People.

Arnold's Xmas Hampers

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