

Hilda Bernstein

From: "Hilda Bernstein" <hilda@bernstein57.freemove.co.uk>
To: "Strasburg Toni" <Tonistras@aol.com>
Sent: 30 June 2002 05:08 PM
Subject: M&G

Dear Howard,

My family were distressed by the obituary that Ben Turok wrote about my father, Rusty Bernstein. It is full of factual inaccuracies as well as being quite impersonal, saying nothing of the man apart from his politics. I would have thought that someone who lived in our house for 9 months during the treason trial would have something more to say about the kindness, gentleness and universally recognised humanity of the man, and of his great love for his family - his wife and four children.

Regarding the factual errors:

My father did not attempt to make a living as an architect after Rivonia. He was immediately re-arrested in the court on his acquittal. Bail was negotiated by the leading barrister and after the police came to arrest my mother a few days later - they made a dramatic escape across the border to Botswana and later to England. All this is well documented in books written by both of them and several other Rivonia trialists.

To say that my father's 'inspiration withered and his writing ceased' in exile is very far from the truth. He wrote prolifically for many journals including the African Communist, while working full time as an architect in London. His much acclaimed memoir, 'Memory Against Forgetting' was published only two years ago when he was already 80 - hardly a cessation of writing or a withering of inspiration.

Nor did he become 'an observer of the movement.' As many have testified, he remained active and committed in the ANC and SACP and was recognised as a great teacher by many of those now in leading positions in South Africa. As late as 1989 he spent a year at Mazimbu, the ANC school in Tanzania, setting up a political school for ANC leaders. During 1994 election period, he worked full time at the ANC election press office in Johannesburg.

My father never sought recognition or high office, he was widely acknowledged to be a most modest man and while not one for small talk, 'taciturn' is not a word anyone who knew him well would use.

It is ironic that here in England your sister newspaper the Guardian could publish such a full, sympathetic and factually correct obituary, as did The Times and The Independent - and yet the Mail and Guardian, perhaps South Africa's leading paper published such an impersonal and hurried obituary. It is doubly ironic that the SABC news also seems unable to check their facts and reported that my father died at home in Johannesburg. Reading Ben Turok has caused my mother considerable extra distress at a very difficult and sad time. We, Rusty's four children wonder why you did not find someone who knew him better to write his obituary for while obituaries do not necessarily need to be uncritical, they should at least convey the essence of the person and the facts of his life.

I trust that you will at least correct the factual errors if nothing else.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Strasburg (Bernstein)

Architect of the Charter

OBITUARY: RUSTY BERNSTEIN

There are individuals in every political movement who tend to take a back seat and yet are major drivers. Such was Rusty Bernstein, the Rivonia trialist who died this week. He was a powerful intellect, analytically perhaps without equal, and a writer of great talent.

Rusty was one of the architects of the Congress Alliance of the 1950s, consisting of the African National Congress, South African Indian Congress, South African Coloured People's Organisation, South African Congress of Democrats and South African Congress of Trade Unions. He was also a leading force in the Communist Party, which had gone underground.

My association with Rusty began in 1955 at a secret conference of the Communist Party held in a Johannesburg factory owned by Ruth First's father, where about 20 delegates met to discuss our future. Rusty presented a report and I was immediately impressed by his calm lucidity and objectivity. As we moved towards the Congress of the People, which adopted the Freedom Charter, I learned that he had crafted the Call to the Congress, an inspired poetical document.

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also a document that remains the principal statement of African National Congress policy to this day. No one has ever challenged it.

Rusty was best known for his articles in the radical journals *Fighting Talk*, *Liberation* and *New Age*, which influenced many cadres throughout the country. These policy pieces were reinforced at many small secret meetings where the real work of the movement was conducted and where Rusty was invariably given the task of strategist.

I was privileged to stay with Rusty for nine months during the Treason Trial where I became one of the family with Hilda, his famous wife, and the four children. I found him to be a taciturn person, not given to small talk, who kept his obvious political passions under control. Hilda was the one to burst out in the indignation that subsequently found expression in a series of widely read books.

Rusty was an accused in the 1956 Treason Trial and subsequently in the Rivonia Trial, where he was the only trialist not convicted. His acquittal followed a long period awaiting trial in Pretoria Local Prison.

Rusty Bernstein with

That the state failed a surprise, as Rusty was member of Umkhonto recall a rendezvous with in central Johannesburg and Jack Hodgson he canisters that we use Rivonia Street Post Office to my arrest and imprisonment.

After the Rivonia arrangement was declined, earn a living as an arch branch harassment discipline into exile in the U.S.

There, his inspiration his writing ceased. Even political talent seemed he became an observer ment to which he had life. He was asked to assist with various unions, but the conditions tious and he returned to

This is perhaps the place to remind that Rivonia a small contingent of lives who threw in

in Trial. Photograph: Sunday Times

the ANC without reservations, even when membership was open only to Africans. They did so out of an overwhelming sense of social justice and, in many cases, from a powerful belief that socialism would come to South Africa through the agency of the black working class.

It is a belief that history has not treated kindly, but which survives nevertheless.

I have always felt that Rusty should have been recalled to Johannesburg by the ANC in 1990, so that he could have played the kind of crucial role he was capable of in building the new South Africa.

The least we can do now is recall the life of this brilliant man who withstood the battering of the apartheid state for so long.

Ben Turok

Ben Turok, the former National Secretary of the South African Congress of Democrats, is an African National Congress MP

Anne Mame

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ It was welcoming to read Tony Strasburg's response to Ben Turok's obituary on Rusty Bernstein. Her letter also corrected some of the factual inaccuracies although omitting one and that is that he forgot to mention that my late brother James Kantor was also acquitted during the course of the Rivonia Trial. It is too easy to forget those whose lives contributed, in whatever small way, to the demise of the apartheid regime even though they were not famous or publicly acclaimed. And in Glenn Frankel's book, Rivonia's Children, one learns of the breakdown Rusty had during this period and the collective decision by the movement to ensure his acquittal, a point that exemplifies the democratic decisions that were made by the leadership.

The obituary suggested that once in exile Rusty's life was a failure. Tony Strasburg's letter rectifies this obvious inaccuracy. He remained as committed as ever to the demise of the apartheid regime and worked to achieve this end, as Tony sets out although all too briefly.

Rusty Bernstein was a very human person, humorous with smiling eyes and a very gentle man. In all the years I have known Rusty I could never describe him as taciturn. He never sought public recognition, as was the case with such luminaries as Oliver Tambo, and Walter Sisulu, (and may I add my late husband's name, Harold, to this list). Rather it was the commitment to a movement based on their intellectual grasp and understanding of the factors responsible for such a repressive regime that drove Rusty and others like him in their continuing struggle. Memory Against Forgetting, Rusty's detailed, fascinating and important recollections in which he provides an highly relevant account of the political developments and movements over several decades provides confirmation of this. His was an intellectual response to the evils of the apartheid system and his life was dedicated to its eradication.

It is too easy to gloss over the extreme sacrifices made by a generation fast dying out and the spirit in which they did so. The establishment of the Lilliesleaf Trust, on the site of the farm where the Rivonia arrests took place, will ensure that this aspect of our history will not be forgotten. The Trust will ensure that this remains in the collective memory but it will also become a site of learning bearing a living testimony to the lives of people such as Rusty Bernstein. words)

(404 words)

Obituaries

White fighter in South Africa's black freedom struggle

Lionel Bernstein

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, who has died aged 82, was one of the most influential and dedicated of the small group of white revolutionaries who supported the black liberation movement in South Africa.

He played a crucial role in drafting the 1954 African National Congress (ANC) freedom charter, which remained its central, though ambiguous, policy statement during the years of exile and imprisonment of its leaders. He coined the document's opening slogan "Let us speak of freedom", and gave its contradictory demands a sense of bold purpose with stirring phrases like "the people shall govern" and "all shall be equal before the law".

In 1956, Bernstein was among 150 people charged — and acquitted — in the so-called treason trial. Seven years later, he was arrested again, this time with Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders, and charged with plotting revolution. In the subsequent Rivonia trial, Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki were jailed for life, though Bernstein was eventually acquitted. He and his wife then spent 25 years as banned people, only returning to South Africa in 1990, when the ANC was, itself, unbanned.

Bernstein's life story was the more moving because he was a private and reticent person with broad interests, and without an obvious political temperament. Unusually self-effacing, and with a gentle charm, he could easily have achieved success in his first career as an architect; and he was a sensitive and highly articulate writer, as he revealed in his candid memoir *Memory Against Forgetting* (1999). He was, quite simply, impelled to leftwing protest by his sense of outrage at the segregation and oppression of black people.

Bernstein's parents, Jewish immigrants to South Africa, both died when he was eight, and were not politically-minded. He attended Hilton College, a private school in Natal, and read architecture



Bernstein . . . at the Rivonia trial (top) and in retirement

from 1937 to 1941 at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He was briefly a member of the South African Labour Party — then an all-white party supporting segregation, which taught him a lot about political careerism. He joined the South African Communist party (SACP) in 1938, together with Hilda Watts, the courageous campaigner from England whom he later married, and with whom he had four children.

Rusty soon showed his efficiency as a full-time party official; but he lacked, he thought, the outgoing style and rhetoric to inspire others, and became impatient with the party bureaucracy. He joined the South African army in 1943 as a gunner, and served in north Africa and Italy until 1946.

Back in Johannesburg after the war, he became immersed again in communist activity, and wrote the bulletins for the momentous 1946 strike of black miners, which was brutally suppressed, and for which he was charged with sedition. He worked in an architects' firm, where he designed South Africa's first drive-in cinema; but he was disillusioned by ugly, new, all-white office-blocks, and more

concerned about the wretched slums and shack towns growing up in the black townships.

Soon after the Nationalist party, pledged to apartheid, took power in Pretoria in 1948, the communists were harassed and restricted; when the party was banned in 1950, Rusty and his colleagues went underground. As the only multi-racial party, the SACP acquired a heroic reputation among blacks, in the forefront in the fight against racism; and the quiet and thoughtful Bernsteins were always welcoming to the black ANC leaders, including the firebrand Mandela.

Rusty remained unobtrusive: he was never a great orator, and preferred listening to talking. In retrospect, he thought the flourishes of the freedom charter were overblown, and worried that it had drifted out of the ANC's control. But its generalised statements effectively rallied a wide range of supporters, without being too specific about socialism or nationalisation, beyond the much-disputed phrase: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white".

Restricted by bans and harassment, in 1955 Rusty resigned from his lucrative architectural partnership. He and Hilda were now totally committed to the struggle; the treason trial he faced the following year continued off-and-on for four years; after the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, both he and Hilda were detained for five months, then banned, and put under house arrest.

During the day, however, Rusty was able to escape to the secret resistance headquarters in a farm at Rivonia, outside Johannesburg, where the ANC leaders, including Mandela, were plotting a rash new military stage of revolution. Rusty was worried about the recklessness and gung-ho spirit, and sceptical of the military thinking. But he was committed to his colleagues, and when the police raided the farm, he was caught and charged with planning revolution and sabotage.

He then endured a long, tense trial, and the disclosure of embarrassing documents about the rash adventure, knowing that he might be sentenced to death. Although found not guilty in 1964, he was quickly rearrested and put back in prison, before being released on bail.

Rusty and Hilda now decided they must finally escape, and, helped by loyal friends, they slipped out of their house at night and were driven over the Botswana border, eventually making their way, via Zambia and Tanzania, to Britain.

In exile, the Bernsteins were joined by their supportive family, while Rusty worked as an architect in London. After 17 years, he retired, first to Herefordshire, and then to Kidlington, near Oxford, where he and Hilda lived in a small, modern house filled with African artefacts. For a time, Rusty conducted seminars in Moscow and taught briefly at the ANC college in Tanzania; Hilda wrote vivid books about their experience in the struggle.

It was not until 1990, when the ANC was unbanned and Mandela was released, that they could return home. Four years later, Rusty stood with the other Rivonia veterans on the terrace of the Union Buildings, in Pretoria, to celebrate the first democratic South African government, under President Mandela. "We are, perhaps, the luckiest generation on earth," he wrote, "for we have seen the peaceful triumph of the cause to which we have devoted our lives."

Back in England, Rusty continued to be respected for his integrity and sacrifice. His memoirs — too little publicised — provide one of the most revealing and readable accounts of the South African struggle, full of humour, wry irony and significant detail. It is a story not just of heroic resistance to ruthless persecution, but of a warm individual, with a strong and talented family, who faced a challenge to their whole livelihood which they could not evade.

Bernstein is survived by Hilda and his four children.

Anthony Sampson

Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein, architect and freedom fighter, born March 5 1920; died June 23 2002

Fast-on caring bishop at anti-apartheid struggle

Obituary

Robert Edward Davies

RAAF chaplain and ninth Anglican bishop of Tasmania. Born Birkenhead, England, July 30, 1913. Died Hobart May 17, aged 88.

ROBERT DAVIES will be remembered as a smiling and humorous character who served as bishop for 18 years.

He was the eldest of 10 children who came to Australia with his parents in 1928. His father, a publican, came to join his father-in-law who had migrated to start the co-operative movement in the Newcastle area.

Young Davies attended Cessnock High School but left at the age of 13 to help his father in the family stores. He studied at night school and eventually completed accountancy studies.

At 20, he decided to become a priest after doing youth work in Cessnock and realising that it was through the priesthood that he could help others. He was accepted for training by the bishop of Newcastle, made a deacon in 1937, ordained soon after and appointed to the staff of Newcastle cathedral.

The Depression years were particularly tough for the people of Newcastle and the young priest is remembered for delivering daily food parcels to the unemployed and their families camped on Nobby's Beach. He became an unofficial employment agency for the locals.

In 1941, Davies was sent to the Middle East as the 'H' chaplain to help establish clubs, hostels and leave centres for servicemen.

In 1942 he was appointed Australia's first chaplain to RAAF squadrons in North Africa and the Middle East. He was later joined by two other Australian chaplains, or 'sky pilots', John MacIntyre (Roman Catholic) and Fred McKay (Presbyterian). The three priests joined troops at the frontline for the invasion of Sicily and Italy.

These were the early days of field chaplaincy. Known as the 'Terrible Three' by air force personnel, they demonstrated Christianity with their sleeves rolled up. The chaplains got on remarkably well and befriended the ministers to all seven Australian squadrons in the Middle East. It was this experience that made Davies such a keen proponent of field chaplaincy.

The three chaplains were on the scene just after a crash or other traumatic event, providing understanding and help, as well as the practical needs of providing recreation and social centres at the unit quarters, boosting morale, and encouraging the men to keep in touch with their families.

Davies had the gift of being able to relate openly and honestly with people. This accounts for his sustained ministry after the war, particularly among returned personnel.

He continued his interest in the RAAF, attending his last reunion early this year.

After being discharged, he was appointed vice-warden of St John's College at the University of Queensland. Appointed by his mentor, bishop Ernest Burghman, he was rector of St John's, Caberfera from 1949 to 1983. During this period he met his wife Helen Boucher. They married at St John's in 1953.

During 1963-69 he was at St John's in Wagga Wagga. He was appointed rector and later promoted to archdeacon. He was an innovator and turned Wagga into a model parish.



Sky pilot: Davies, during World War II, demonstrated Christianity with his sleeves rolled up

In 1960 he advanced to the strategic position of warden of St John's Theological College at Morpeth, NSW, where his gifts for ministry could be communicated to the next generation of young clergy.

While at the college, Davies was consecrated assistant bishop of Newcastle. Students came to study and receive their priestly formation from all over the country. There were 77 students at Morpeth in 1961.

Davies presided over an institution which came the closest in the Anglican Church of Australia to having an authentically national theological seminary: It was a buoyant time of confidence and optimism and many of his former students rose to prominence. The Primate of the Anglican Church, Peter Carnley, is one of them.

Davies saw the importance of professional training in pastoral skills. He included first-hand experience for trainees of a couple of weeks in a hospital, encountering life-threatening illness and death at first hand.

This was a ground-breaking exercise in what has since become known as clinical pastoral

education. It was Davies who triggered its introduction in theological education in Australia.

He was a great pastor. He was also a preacher and a gifted communicator; and he loved to spin a yarn. His was certainly a carefully prepared and powerful preaching ministry.

Some of his one-liners are still quoted, such as the experienced priest who was asked by a newly ordained curate what he should preach about — "Preach about God and preach about 20 minutes," was the reply.

Enthroned on May 24, 1963, as the ninth bishop of Tasmania, he served for 18 years and remained a part of diocesan life for another 20 years after his retirement, as a much loved colleague and friend.

He will be remembered as the smiling bishop, the humorous bishop and, above all, the caring bishop.

He is survived by five brothers and sisters; daughters Elizabeth and Margaret; and four grandchildren. He was buried in Hobart.

Robbie Rea

Obituary

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein

Anti-apartheid activist. Born Durban, South Africa, March 5, 1920. Died Kidlington, England, June 23, aged 82.

RUSTY Bernstein was one of the small group of mainly Jewish, white South African communists who played a decisive role in shaping the African National Congress. He was largely responsible for drafting the freedom charter, the ANC's bible for 50 years. Many also see his hand in Nelson Mandela's famous "No Easy Walk To Freedom" speech from the dock, for Bernstein was a talented writer, unselfish in his efforts to help others and never one to seek glory or the limelight.

Born into a wealthy family in Durban, he was orphaned at the age of 12 and farmed out, together with his three siblings, to various aunts and uncles. This hardship was considerably sharpened by being sent to board at Hilton College, a private school run on muscular Christian lines.

Although Bernstein excelled academically, he hated the school's ethos. Through the influence of a sympathetic teacher he became an eager communist, meeting his future wife, Hilda, in the Communist Party of South Africa.

Hilda was already very much a star of the CPUSA, often being seen as a South African version of the Spanish party La Pasionaria, in complete contrast to the quietly thoughtful and humorous Bernstein, but it was to be a lasting and successful partnership.

Although Bernstein qualified as an architect at Witwatersrand University, his political life meant that he designed few buildings.

After graduation he volunteered for the army, serving in North Africa and Italy with the 6th South African Division, and playing a role in the co-servicemen's organisation, the Springbok Legion, which from its inception was under communist control and became a front organisation after the war with Bernstein a key member of the editorial team of its journal, *Fighting Talk*.

By this time, his talent with words was obvious to all and he was chosen to head the propaganda section of the party's Johannesburg office, from which he played an important part in the 1946 miners strike, producing its strike bulletin which led to his conviction for sedition and aiding an illegal strike. With the outlawing of the CPUSA in 1952 Bernstein quietly reassociated the South African Communist Party. He also helped set up a front organisation, the Congress of Democrats, which enabled communists to continue working publicly until this, too, was banned.

Inevitably, the Bernsteins were then caught up in all the great trials and protests of the apartheid era, including the 1963 treason trial, the 1966 state of emergency when he was detained for five months without charge and the 1968 Rivonia trial. He was harassed, picked up under house arrest, underwent 90 days of detention in solitary confinement, and endlessly harassed. He was found not guilty at Rivonia and freed but re-arrested in court and set out on bail. At this point he and Hilda took the most fateful decision of their lives to break bail and flee to Britain.

It was clear that if they stayed they and

their children would face a life of endless harassment, intimidation and ostracism. On the other hand, the SACF had told its cadres to stay put and there was bitter criticism of those who left.

There was a sense in which he never recovered from the decision to leave and a feeling that he had failed his comrades, even though he worked ceaselessly for the ANC cause.

Always hard up and far more talented than many who jostled for power within the exile movement, he was simply not willing to use his elbows or push himself to the front.

But he was willing to confront his own and his party's mistakes with an honesty that others found uncomfortable. His memoir *Memory Against Forgetting*, published in 1989, was a better book than most struggle biographies.

In 1994 he returned to South Africa to run the ANC's press office during the first democratic election, a time of high excitement and exhilaration.

He and Hilda returned to South Africa on a number of occasions. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Natal in 1998.

He hoped to be invited back to play a role in the new South Africa but, characteristically, was unwilling.

The Bernsteins were caught up in all the great trials and protests of the apartheid era

ing to be pushy. There was, too, a sense of frustration as the new government made avoidable mistakes.

In truth, there was now a younger black generation, ambitious for jobs, position and power, impatient of older white exiles. Many of those exiles in turn showed a degree of self-regard and a sort of respect for righteousness but Bernstein was too sensitive to fall into that trap.

In the end, he and Hilda settled near Oxford and accepted that no further call would come; that the fight of 1963 had indeed been the great caesura of their lives. Few made more sacrifices for the sort of South Africa that he and so many others wanted. Few were able to contribute more than he did.

He is survived by Hilda, two sons and two daughters.

The Times



Talented: Bernstein was harassed and jailed but undeterred

Debate

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Anniversaries

EVENTS: On this day in 1967 the first hole-in-the-wall cash dispenser in Britain went into operation at Barclays Bank, Enfield. Unlike modern machines it was activated by inserting a voucher whose purchase code the machine could read. Westminster Bank had been the first to announce it was developing this innovation, but the Barclays dispenser was up and running weeks before its rival's. De La Rue, maker of the Barclays dispenser, was soon attracting interest from banks as far afield as Chicago and Moscow.

In 1976 Palestinian terrorists hijacked a Boeing Airbus with 216 passengers aboard (about a third of them Israeli), and forced it to land the following day at Entebbe, Uganda. In 1984 a march of miners and supporting trade unionists passed off peacefully in London, organisers putting numbers at 50,000, while the police gave a more modest estimate of 10,000.

BIRTHS: Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a writer who made poetic use of his black American heritage to describe plantation life in the Mid South with both humour and pathos, was born on this day in Dayton, Ohio, 1872. The child of parents who had been slaves in Kentucky, he took mental jobs to support himself as a writer, and was fortunate to win the favour of the black writer Frederick Douglass, who found him work as a literary agent at \$4 a week. Dunbar sold copies of his first volume of poems, and by 1893, to his lift customers in order to recoup his printing costs. He went on to enjoy successes in the USA and England with readings of his poetry.

LOUIS XII, King of France 1498-1515, born in Blois, 1462. Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish nationalist, was born in 1846, and leader of the campaign for Home Rule, born in Avonbeg, Co Wicklow, 1846. Helen Mirren, film and stage actress, scholar and author who was the subject of William Gibson's play *The Mirror*, Walker, born in Tusculum, Alabama, 1880.

DEATHS: Sir Freddie (A.L.) Ayer, one of the most influential British analytic philosophers of his day, died in London on this day in 1979. Ayer, who was also one of the system of ideas put forward so strikingly in his first book, *Language, Truth and Logic*, when he was in his twenties, remained the abiding foundation of his ideas thereafter. He wrote the preface to his autobiography, *Philosophy and the Imagination*, in 1940, while serving with the Welsh Guards. He was Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford 1979-84, and had a regular media personality, appearing regularly on television's *The Brains Trust*. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

William Dodd, preacher and commentator on the Bible, was hanged for forgery in London, 1777. James Smithson, English scientist who provided the funds to found the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, died in Genoa, 1829. Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), who had been jailed on charges of treason, was hanged in Carthage, Illinois, 1844.

Birthdays

Earlier this month Beth Chatto was appointed success to horticulture. She had no formal horticultural training, but learnt from her husband, who was an expert on plants' natural habits. They did not

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Obituaries

RUSY BERNSTEIN

Exiled South African Communist who drafted the ANC's key document, the Freedom Charter



UNCORRECTED BYLINE: MALVAIRE APICHA

Rusy Bernstein was a member of a small group of whites who fought with black South Africans against apartheid and, endlessly harassed despite this, he was to serve continuously on the board of the banned African Communist Party from 1979 to 1990. He was found not guilty at Rivonia and freed but re-arrested in court and held on trial. At this point he and Hilda took the most fateful decision of their lives — to break bail and flee to Britain. It was clear that if they stayed they — and more importantly their children — would, at the very least, face a life of endless harassment, intimidation and ostracism. On the other hand, the SACP had told its cadres to stay put and there was a sense of frustration as he watched the new Government making many avoidable mistakes. In truth, there was now a younger black-generation, ambitious for jobs, position and power, impatient of older white exiles. Many of those exiles in turn showed a degree of self-regard and a sort of explicit self-righteousness, which made them few friends, but Bernstein was both far too honourable and too sensitive to run any risk of this.

In the end, he and Hilda settled near Oxford and accepted that no further call would come, that the flight of 1964 had indeed been the great caesura of their lives. The sadness is that few made more sacrifices for the sort of South Africa that he and his party's mistakes had not allowed. He is survived by his wife, Hilda, and by two sons and two daughters.

Rusy Bernstein, anti-apartheid activist, was born in Durban on March 5, 1920. He died in Kidlington, Oxfordshire, on June 23, 2002, aged 82.

THE AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA
Johannesburg District

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By the time his talent with words was obvious to all, and he was chosen to head the propaganda section of the party's Johannesburg office, which he played an important role in the great miners' strike of 1946, producing its Strike Bulletin, which led to his arrest and conviction for sedition and aiding an illegal strike.

With the outbreak of the CPSA in 1952, Bernstein played a major role both in quietly resurrecting an illegal underground party — the South African Communist Party (SACP) — but also in setting up a front organisation, the Congress of Democrats, which enabled Communists to continue working publicly until this too was banned.

Inevitably, he was arrested, and taken to the cells of the apartheid era, including the 1955 Treason trial, the 1960 state of emergency (when he was detained for 90 days without charge) and finally the 1963 Rivonia trial. He was banned, placed under house-arrest, underwent 90 days of detention in solitary confine-

ment, and endlessly harassed despite this, he was to serve continuously on the board of the banned African Communist Party from 1979 to 1990. He was found not guilty at Rivonia and freed but re-arrested in court and held on trial. At this point he and Hilda took the most fateful decision of their lives — to break bail and flee to Britain. It was clear that if they stayed they — and more importantly their children — would, at the very least, face a life of endless harassment, intimidation and ostracism. On the other hand, the SACP had told its cadres to stay put and there was a sense of frustration as he watched the new Government making many avoidable mistakes. In truth, there was now a younger black-generation, ambitious for jobs, position and power, impatient of older white exiles. Many of those exiles in turn showed a degree of self-regard and a sort of explicit self-righteousness, which made them few friends, but Bernstein was both far too honourable and too sensitive to run any risk of this.

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DONALD SILK

Solicitor and campaigning City of London councillor

DONALD SILK fought an epic battle to bring voter power to the governance of the City of London. Twice he was elected as an alderman, twice he was rejected by the Court of Aldermen. One of his leading and most relentless opponents was Sir Bernard Walry-Cohen, one-time Lord Mayor of London. Because City aldermen could succeed almost automatically to the Lord Mayorship, Sir Bernard and his fellow aldermen had a veto over who was 'suitable' and who was not — and never mind the voters.

Silk first won a seat on the Common Council for the Cripplegate Within ward in 1974. He served on more than half a dozen corporation committees, including the crucial but quietly named, Aldermen and Rates Committee, and realised that ultimate power lay with the aldermen. So at the next election in 1979 he stood for the office of alderman in the Aldersgate ward and was convincingly elected. But a year later the Court of Aldermen refused to admit him.

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Donald Silk, solicitor and City of London Common Councillor, was born in Durban on September 1, 1920, and died on cancer on June 1, 2002, aged 73.

Anti-apartheid activist Rusty Bernstein dies

The Associated Press

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, the white anti-apartheid activist who stood trial for sabotage along with former South African president, Nelson Mandela, died on Sunday in Johannesburg at the age of 82. Bernstein, an architect and writer, was a former leader of the South African Communist Party, and with his wife Hilda, was among a number of Jewish intellectuals who campaigned against the apartheid regime. Charged with Mandela and 16 other activists in 1963 with sabotage and the attempted overthrow of the South African government, Bernstein was later acquitted after spending the year of the trial in prison. "He made a deliberate and considered choice to forgo what could have been a life of comfort and ease to join forces with his fellow South Africans in the fight for democracy and freedom," Nelson Mandela said.

Ha'aretz

26 June

He played with Daddy Dave's Revue on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City during summers in the late 1930s. In the late 1940s, he toured the East Coast with various big bands as a singer and instrumentalist.

After his retirement, he and his wife of 60 years, Lillian Conrad of Bethesda, operated L & G Collectibles in Bethesda.

Other survivors include three daughters, Sandra Humphrey, Victoria LeStrange and Cynthia Cain, all of Gaithersburg; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Patricia A. Ballinger **HRS Official**

Patricia Ann Kennedy Ballinger, 74, who worked at the Health and Human Services Department from 1970 until 1992 and retired taking calls from the public about privacy issues concerning school records, died June 20 at her home in Annandale. She had emphysema.

In the 1990s, Mrs. Ballinger was a part-time administrative assistant at Northern Virginia Community College. She also worked at information kiosks at tourist stops run by the Virginia Tourism Corp.

She was a Salt Lake City native and a 1949 graduate of the University of Utah. She was a homemaker in San Diego before settling in the Washington area in the mid-1960s.

She was a member of Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington and sang in its choir. Her other memberships included the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Order of the Eastern Star and Job's Daughters, a Masonic group.

Louise trial Frye, 80, manager of Christopher's Restaurant in Alexandria from 1974 until 1992, died of cancer June 21 at her home in Chantilly.

Mrs. Frye, who was born near Warsaw, Va., came to the Washington area in 1940. She had attended Strayer Business School.

Her husband, Richard B. Frye, whom she married in 1942, died in 1974.

Survivors include two sons, Richard and Christopher, both of Chantilly; a sister, Dora Leiss of Alexandria; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mary-Louise Turner **School Employee**

Mary-Louise Turner, 88, an administrative assistant in the 1950s and 1960s in the guidance department of Gunston Middle School in Arlington, died of pneumonia June 11 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. She had Alzheimer's disease.

Mrs. Turner, who lived at the Fairfax at Fort Belvoir, was a former member of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington. More recently, she attended St. Michael's Catholic Church in Annandale.

Mrs. Turner was born in Boston. She was a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and an officer of the Washington chapter of its alumni association. She also belonged to Gamma Phi Beta social sorority.

In the 1940s, she was a stationery saleswoman with the Woodward & Lothrop department store. Her interests included writing of poetry.

Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Claude Turner of Fort Belvoir; two daughters, Claudette Thompson of Charlottesville and

compared her husband on his Navy assignment until settling in the Washington area in 1971.

She was a member of St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, its ladies boutique arts and crafts fundraising group and the altar linen guild, which cared and cleaned for altar cloths.

She did fundraising work for Marian Homes, a group home for the mentally retarded in Fairfax County.

Survivors include her husband, retired Navy Cmdr. Carl C. Kaczmarek of Fairfax; four sons, retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Kaczmarek of Virginia Beach, Timothy Kaczmarek of Charlottesville and Carl Kaczmarek Jr. and Mark Kaczmarek, both of Clifton; two daughters, Kathryn Kaczmarek of Culpeper and Karen Alvarez of Fairfax; three brothers; a sister; and nine grandchildren.

James Penniman Rogers **Production Engineer**

James Penniman Rogers, 81, a retired Washington Post production engineer, died of heart disease June 23 at Outer Banks Hospital in Southern Shores, N.C.

Mr. Rogers began his career at The Washington Post in 1955, and he retired officially in the late 1970s. But he continued to do consulting work for the newspaper in retirement. He helped design the addition to The Post's building on L Street NW and worked on the design of the newspaper's Springfield plant.

Mr. Rogers, a 40-year resident of Oakton, moved to Southern Shores three years ago.

He was born in Lynn, Mass., and

11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Wilmer D. 'Will' Confehr **USIA Accounting Official**

Wilmer Daniel "Will" Confehr, 95, who retired from the U.S. Information Agency in 1977 as a systems accountant, died of congestive heart failure June 22 at his home in Bethesda.

Mr. Confehr joined USIA in 1956. His jobs included chief of the Informational Media Guarantee Program's fiscal staff, which handled international currency exchange rates and payment of contracts for agency libraries, books, films and other media to foster understanding of the United States in foreign countries.

He was a native of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., and a 1929 commerce and finance graduate of what is now Pennsylvania State University.

In the 1930s, he did auditing work on Wall Street in the wake of the 1929 stock market crash.

During World War II, he did auditing work for the Army and handled contracts with colleges in the South. He retired from the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel in 1967.

He settled in the Washington area after the war and worked for the Veterans Administration, where his positions included survey officer.

His memberships included Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda and the Fossils, a men's organization.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Edith Bennett Confehr of Bethesda; two sons, Clinton B. Confehr of Franklin, Tenn., and Peter A. Confehr of Novato, Calif.; a brother; and three grandchildren.

DEATHS

Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein **Apartheid Opponent**

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, 82, a white anti-apartheid activist who stood trial for sabotage along with former South African President Nelson Mandela, died June 23 in Johannesburg. No cause of death was reported.

Mr. Bernstein, a former leader of the underground Communist movement, and his wife, Hilda, were among a number of Jewish intellectuals who joined the struggle against the racist apartheid regime. He was one of 16 activists, including Mandela, charged in 1963 with sabotage and the attempted overthrow of the South African government.

The accused in the so-called Rivonia Trial

used the courtroom to put the apartheid state on trial. Mr. Bernstein was acquitted after spending a year in prison during the trial. He smuggled messages to his wife and the movement in the shirt collars of his laundry, which he was allowed to send out of the prison. The other accused were sentenced to life or lengthy prison terms.

Pierre Werner **Luxembourg Prime Minister**

Pierre Werner, 88, the former Luxembourg prime minister whose blueprint for a common European currency inspired the creation of the euro, died June 24, the Luxembourg government said. No cause of death was reported.

Mr. Werner's 1970 plan for nations in the Eu-

ropean Economic Community to develop a shared currency was not taken up at the time. But it provided the inspiration for a later generation of politicians to create the euro, which entered into circulation in 12 European Union nations Jan. 1.

In 1953, Mr. Werner was appointed finance minister, and in 1959, he became prime minister, a position he held until 1974. In 1979, he was again elected prime minister, and he held the post until his retirement from politics in 1984. He was widely credited with helping Luxembourg evolve into one of Western Europe's richest nations by developing its role as a banking and finance center even as its traditional steel industry declined.

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The Washington Post

June 26, 2002



'Let us speak of freedom': Bernstein (and daughter) on his acquittal in 1964 *Sunday Times SA*

Lionel Bernstein

Independent-minded anti-apartheid campaigner

LIONEL BERNSTEIN was one of a very small band of Communists who committed virtually their entire lives to fighting South Africa's harshly inequitable racial system. Whatever the final reckoning about their role in the country, one thing is certain: the Communist Party played an important part in the African National Congress's adopting the ideal of a multi-racial South Africa.

As a member of the South African Labour Party, I clashed with the Communists; but I learnt to respect the integrity and single-mindedness of the taciturn Bernstein, known as "Rusty", and his equally devoted and distinguished wife, Hilda Watts.

It is instructive to compare the experience and roles of the Communists in South Africa with those of the anti-Communists in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Both were engaged in a seemingly hopeless struggle against ruthless regimes. Both endured long periods of imprisonment, the hardships of clandestine life and social ostracism, and the sacrifice of family life. Both closed their minds to unpleasant behaviour on the part of their allies for the sake of the wider cause. Rusty Bernstein's life embraced all these experiences.

He was born into a middle-class family in Durban in 1920, one of four children of Jewish immigrant parents, who died when Rusty was eight. He was educated privately at Hilton College, and then studied architecture at the University of Witwatersrand from 1937 to 1941.

He joined the then dormant South African Communist Party in his late teens. Except for a period when he served as a gunner in the South African Artillery in the Italian Campaign in the Second World War, the whole of his career, spanning 60 years, was

devoted to the Party – first as a paid official, and later as a senior member of the Central Committee. When the Communist Party was banned in 1960, Bernstein helped to launch it underground. He neglected his profession of architecture, as well as the interests of a growing family.

After the war, he became a founder member of the Springbok Legion, an ex-servicemen's organisation formed to campaign for democratic rights for all. He edited its publication, *Fighting Talk*, and wrote extensively for Communist publications.

With his wife, Bernstein had been arrested for the first time in 1946, and convicted of aiding an illegal strike of black miners. Ten years later, together with 150 others (including Chief Albert Luthuli and Nelson Mandela), they were arrested and charged with treason. The trial lasted four years and ended in their acquittal.

In 1960, after the Sharpeville massacre, both Rusty and Hilda were again arrested under the Emergency regulations. On their release they were banned and subjected to restrictions, including being forbidden to meet with other people. Yet more stringent restrictions followed in 1962 when Bernstein was placed under house arrest.

On 11 July 1963 Bernstein, with 10 other leaders, was arrested at Lilliesleaf Farm, the headquarters of the high command of Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK), the liberation army of the ANC newly established by Nelson Mandela. Bernstein was not himself a member of the high command of MK. In his 1999 autobiography *Memory Against Forgetting*, he revealed for the first time that he and two other members of the CP Central Committee (Bram Fischer and Yusuf Cachalia) were initially opposed to the decision to launch an armed struggle – a decision they

thought had been taken without sufficient consultation. It was typical of his independent-minded honesty that Bernstein opposed the most prominent of his colleagues, Joe Slovo, as well as Mandela.

After his arrest, Bernstein was placed under 90 days' detention, and kept in solitary confinement. His minutely detailed account of this form of torture must stand as one of the most moving descriptions of the agonies of such imprisonment ever written.

At the end of 90 days he was re-arrested and charged, with Mandela and nine others, in what came to be known as the Rivonia Trial. It ended with Mandela and seven others being sentenced to life imprisonment. Since there was no proof that Bernstein was involved in planning the armed struggle, he was acquitted, but threatened with re-arrest. He and his wife made a hazardous escape into exile, but without their children.

Later the family was reunited in England. Bernstein worked as an architect in London for 17 years before retiring to Herefordshire and then Kidlington in Oxfordshire. He died in exile, partly because he and his wife were not prepared to be separated again from their children.

Rusty Bernstein will be remembered for many reasons, and not least as drafter of the seminal Freedom Charter, which was adopted by the anti-apartheid coalition the Congress of the People in 1956. It begins with the words "Let us speak of freedom".

COLIN LEGUM

Lionel ("Rusty") Bernstein, architect and political activist: born Durban, South Africa 5 March 1920; married 1941 Hilda Watts (two sons, two daughters); died Kidlington, Oxfordshire 23 June 2002.

Francisco Escudero

Basque composer of steely purpose

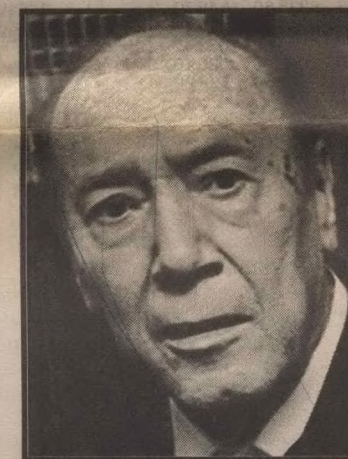
FOR MOST of his long life, the Basque composer Francisco Escudero was a large fish in a small pond; he lived just long enough to see the release, this spring, of a two-disc anthology of his major orchestral scores, recorded last September a month after his 88th birthday, receive a stream of encomia from the world's critics – it was, for example, "Editor's Choice" in *Gramophone* last month.

Escudero was born in Zarauz, a small coastal town just outside San Sebastián; and his Basque roots were to remain important to him all his life. His first musical instruction was overseen by his mother, and at nine he showed enough aptitude to take lessons in piano, harmony and composition with Beltrán Pagola; the same year, 1921, he began to acquire practical experience of music-making, playing oboe and flute in the municipal band.

His compositional career began in earnest in 1929, when he was 17, with a string of pieces for piano, later lost in the Spanish Civil War, and in 1931 he went to Madrid, to the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música, to study with Conrado del Campo, who has likewise recently been re-discovered on CD. Within a year he had won a scholarship that would take him to Paris, to study composition with Paul Dukas and harmony and composition with Paul Le Flem; he also took courses in conducting in Paris and Munich with Albert Wolff.

The first work of Escudero's to make an impact was his String Quartet in G, composed in 1936-37 under the trying conditions of the civil war; the work earned the praise of Maurice Ravel shortly before his untimely death. Escudero fought in the Basque forces during the civil war; when Bilbao was taken by the nationalists, he took refuge in France, where he continued to study and to compose until it was safe to return.

After a period supported by stipends in Madrid, during which he wrote the Ravelian choreographic poem *El sueño de un bailarín* ("A Dancer's Dream", 1944), he returned to Bilbao, where he taught music at the Santa Casa de Misericordia and conducted the local choral society, marking his return to his native sod in 1946 with the *Concierto vasco* ("Basque Concerto") for piano and orchestra, where the debt to Ravel – in this instance the Concerto in G – is again audible; it won the Manuel de Falla National Prize in 1947.



Escudero: religious themes
Fermin Lara / *El País*

In 1948 Escudero entered a public competition and won the chair of harmony and composition at the Conservatorio Superior de Música in San Sebastián, where he took over from Beltrán Pagola, the teacher of his childhood music lessons. He was named director in 1962 and remained there until his retirement in 1982, at which point he was at last free to devote himself entirely to composition. His teaching during those three decades was of enormous local importance.

He was also active as a practising musician during his academic career, winning a conducting competition for bandmasters in 1954, conducting the Schola Cantorum de Nuestra Señora del Coro in San Sebastián from 1959, founding the City band of San Sebastián in 1960 and conducting it until 1969, during which period he was conductor also of the Guipúzcoa (San Sebastián) Chamber Orchestra.

And still he found time to compose, his musical language toughening as it abandoned the folk elements of his earlier scores and embraced serial technique, spiced with rhythmic inventiveness and inventive instrumental sonorities. Having left Ravel behind, Escudero's music now sounded rather like that of a younger French composer, Olivier Messaien, and it shares Messaien's sense of ritual, which it enhances with a steely sense of purpose that Messaien often lacks.

Religious themes featured regularly in Escudero's music. His "elegiac oratorio" *Illeta* (1952-53), which sets a funerary Basque text by Xabier Lizardi, won the Iparaguirre Prize in 1953, and the symphonic poem *Aránzazu* (1955) won the Aránzazu Prize in the year of its composition (*Aránzazu* is a shrine which marks the spot where the Virgin is set to have appeared in a thorn-bush). His *Sinfonía sacra* for oboe, cor anglais, bassoon and strings (1992) portrays the events of the Crucifixion with startling literalness: the three cockcrows that remind the grieving St Peter (represented by the bassoon) that Christ's prophecy of betrayal has come true are unmistakable.

He also dedicated much time to opera. His three children's operas from 1948-50, *Pulgarcito*, *Pinocho* and *Florindo y la princesa encantada*, were all written for the Casa de Misericordia in Bilbao. His mature operas were the fruit of internal compulsion. He spent six years, from 1957 to 1963, on the opera *Zigor!*, on a Basque theme, although there was no local operatic tradition and thus little likelihood of a stage presentation; it was not heard until four years later, in a concert presentation in Bilbao.

Zigor! was succeeded two decades later by the powerful four-acter *Gernika* (1982-86), first performed in 1987 at a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the flattening by German bombers of the ancient holy city of the Basques, an atrocity made famous in Picasso's painting of the same year.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Francisco Escudero, composer: born Zarauz, Spain 13 August 1912; died San Sebastián, Spain 7 June 2002.

Bernstein gave all to freedom struggle

Sunday Independent 30.6.02

BY CAROLINE HOOPER-BOX

Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, a stalwart of the struggle and one of the drafters of the Freedom Charter, died at his home in Oxford, England, last Sunday.

Born in Durban in 1920, one of four children of European immigrants, Bernstein studied architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand and served in the South African armed forces as a gunner in Italy in the second world war.

He played a leading role in the Communist Party, and was a member of the central committee until 1991. Throughout his career he was an active writer, contributing to political journals, and was responsible for much of the propaganda issued by the liberation movement.

Late in 1956, Bernstein and 150 others were arrested and charged with treason. The infamous Treason Trial lasted for more than four years, after which all of the accused were discharged. Bernstein and his wife

Hilda were detained under the state of emergency in 1960.

Bernstein had been under house arrest for nine months before his arrest at Liliesleaf farm in Rivonia in 1964. A co-accused along with Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others at the Rivonia trial, he was found not guilty and placed under house arrest again. He and his family fled to Britain.

He is survived by his wife, four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Stalwart: Rusty Bernstein helped write the Freedom Charter PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN HOGG

Sunday Times
30. 6. 02

Rusty Bernstein

A reluctant revolutionary who escaped a life sentence

LIONEL "Rusty" Bernstein, who has died at his home in Oxford, England, at the age of 82, was an introspective, self-effacing architect who wrote the most resounding clarification call for democracy of our time, the Freedom Charter.

One of the SA Communist Party's leading intellectuals, he was forced underground when it was banned in 1950. He was tried for treason in 1956 and discharged after the trial had dragged on for three years.

He was part of the committee that ran Umkhonto weSizwe when it was formed, and played a key role in establishing its secret headquarters on Lilliesleaf farm in Rivonia in 1961.

Although MK was the armed wing of the ANC/SACP, Bernstein opposed the idea of shifting the struggle up a gear from sabotage to guerrilla warfare. While Joe Slovo and Govan Mbeki agitated for the formal adoption of guerrilla warfare by MK, Bernstein, along with Walter Sisulu, fought to delay this by arguing that it could not become policy without the endorsement of the ANC and SACP.

It was almost certainly their refusal to give way on this crucial point that saved the Rivonia trialists from the gallows after they, including Bernstein but excluding Nelson Mandela, who was already in jail, were arrested in 1963. Their fate hinged on whether the state could show that guerrilla warfare had become the official policy of MK or not. Thanks to Bernstein and Sisulu, that had not yet happened.

Mandela and most of his co-accused were found guilty of sabotage, but not high treason, which would have carried a mandatory death sentence.

Prosecutor Percy Yutar could pin nothing on Bernstein, however, and he was discharged. That, too, was an extremely close call. Bernstein had written a stinging critique of Operation Mayibuye, Slovo and Mbeki's blueprint for the violent overthrow of the government. He thought it was *Boy's Own* stuff, based on fantasy rather than a realistic assessment of the situation. Fortunately, instead of taking his scathing retort with him to Lilliesleaf on the day of the arrests as he'd intended, he hid the document in his garage.

Although police searched the garage after his arrest they did not find it. Had they done so, this piece of pa-



FREE: Rusty Bernstein and daughter Toni after his acquittal in 1964 at the Rivonia treason trial. After fleeing SA, he never lived there again

per would have linked Bernstein incontrovertibly to MK and he would almost certainly have been sentenced to life along with the others. Instead, he was released and fled the country.

Bernstein was born in Johannesburg on March 5 1920. At the age of 12 he was orphaned. His mother had cancer and his father died in England of pneumonia after rushing her there for treatment. She died months later.

Bernstein, called Rusty because of his curly red hair, stayed with aunts and uncles until being sent to Hilton College in the Natal Midlands, one of SA's most exclusive boarding schools. All Hilton did for him, he said, was give him a thin veneer of good manners, an enduring hatred of physical exercise and a tolerance of ghastly food.

In spite of this apparent ill match he came top of his class in 1936 and went

on to study architecture at Wits. Under the influence of his Latin teacher at Hilton and fellow architecture students he became a communist. He was also powerfully influenced by the Spanish Civil War. He supported the republican cause ardently and would probably have joined the International Brigade if he'd been old enough.

In 1939 he became a member of the SACP, then only 500-strong, and an unwavering fan — in spite of the labour camps, mass executions et al — of Stalin and the Soviet Union. He followed the Moscow line unquestioningly and remained a Marxist to the end.

Having fought as a gunner in North Africa and Italy during World War Two, he began to build a career as an architect, designing houses, office blocks and Johannesburg's first drive-in cinema.

When the SACP was banned in 1950

and he helped reorganise it as an underground movement, his life became increasingly dangerous and insecure. He was listed as a communist in 1954 and came under constant police surveillance. His court appearances on various charges increased, his commissions dried up and his attempts to build a private practice foundered.

He spent more time on underground work, less time on his profession, and relied more and more heavily on his wife, Hilda, to help him support their four children.

He had met Hilda, an immigrant from England and five years his senior, when he joined the SACP. They married the moment he turned 21. She was as committed to communism and the fight against apartheid as was he.

From the early 1950s their life was one of fear and secrecy. Police raids on their house in Observatory, Johannesburg, became more frequent. An amateur carpenter, Bernstein built a false bottom for Hilda's desk, a secret panel in the kitchen and slots on top of the kitchen door where they hid notes of meetings and forbidden literature.

For all the tension, it was not a lonely life. The Bernsteins formed part of a close-knit clique — Joe Slovo, his wife Ruth First, Bram and Molly Fischer and others — who lived close by and socialised regularly.

Bernstein was, nevertheless, a private, solitary man who disliked parties and small talk, and loved reading, carpentry and opera. He was an unlikely and reluctant revolutionary. Not a naturally adventurous spirit, he admitted to being totally unambitious.

The only three things he really wanted to achieve, he once said, were to sing like Maria Callas, write like Jean-Paul Sartre and be a full-time beach bum. "These I know I will never be able to achieve and consequently I never really try," he wrote.

He spent 88 days in solitary confinement (no reading or writing allowed either) after his arrest in Rivonia, and smuggled increasingly desperate notes (written inside shirt collars and sent out with the laundry) to Hilda. Some she later published and they show a man very close to the edge.

After fleeing SA the Bernsteins never lived in the country again. Bernstein is survived by Hilda and four children. —

Chris Barron

White revolutionary who helped to rid South Africa of apartheid

LIONEL (Rusty) Bernstein, who died on June 23rd, aged 82, was one of the most influential and dedicated of the small group of white revolutionaries who supported the black liberation movement in South Africa.

He played a crucial role in drafting the 1954 African National Congress (ANC) freedom charter, which remained its central, though ambiguous, policy statement during the years of exile and imprisonment of its leaders. He coined the document's opening slogan "Let us speak of freedom", and gave its contradictory demands a sense of bold purpose with stirring phrases like "the people shall govern" and "all shall be equal before the law".

In 1956, Rusty Bernstein was among 150 people charged – and acquitted – in the so-called treason trial. Seven years later, he was arrested again, this time with Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders, and charged with plotting

revolution. In the subsequent Rivonia trial, Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki were jailed for life, though Rusty Bernstein was eventually acquitted. He and his wife then spent 25 years as banned people, only returning to South Africa in 1990, when the ANC was, itself, unbanned.

Unusually self-effacing, and with a gentle charm, he could easily have achieved success in his first career as an architect; and he was a sensitive and highly articulate writer, as he revealed in his candid memoir *Memory Against Forgetting* (1999). He was, quite simply, impelled to left-wing protest by his sense of outrage at the segregation and oppression of black people.

He was born on March 5th, 1920. His parents, Jewish immigrants to South Africa, both died when he was eight and were not politically-minded. He attended Hilton College, a private school in Natal, and read architecture from 1937 to 1941 at the University of



Lionel Bernstein . . . "Let us speak of freedom"

the Witwatersrand.

He was briefly a member of the South African Labour Party – then an all-white party supporting segregation, which taught him a lot about political careerism. He joined the South African Communist Party (SACP) in 1938, together with Hilda Watts, the courageous campaigner from England

whom he later married, and with whom he had four children.

Rusty Bernstein soon showed his efficiency as a full-time party official; but he lacked, he thought, the outgoing style and rhetoric to inspire others, and became impatient with the party bureaucracy. He joined the South African army in 1943 as a gunner, and served in North Africa and Italy until 1946.

Back in Johannesburg after the war, he became immersed again in Communist activity, and wrote the bulletins for the momentous 1946 strike of black miners, which was brutally suppressed, and for which he was charged with sedition. He worked in an architects' firm, where he designed South Africa's first drive-in cinema; but he was disillusioned by ugly, new, all-white office-blocks, and more concerned about the wretched slums and shack towns growing up in the black townships.

Soon after the Nationalist Party, pledged to apartheid, took power in Pretoria in 1948, the Commu-

nists were harassed and restricted; when the party was banned in 1950, Rusty Bernstein and his colleagues went underground. As the only multi-racial party, the SACP acquired a heroic reputation among blacks, in the forefront in the fight against racism.

Restricted by bans and harassment, in 1955 Rusty Bernstein resigned from his lucrative architectural partnership. He and Hilda were now totally committed to the struggle; the treason trial he faced the following year continued off-and-on for four years; after the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, both he and Hilda were detained for five months, then banned, and put under house arrest.

During the day, however, he was able to escape to the secret resistance headquarters in a farm at Rivonia, outside Johannesburg, where the ANC leaders, including Mandela, were plotting a new military stage of revolution. When the police raided the farm, he was caught and charged with planning

revolution and sabotage. Although found not guilty in 1964, he was quickly rearrested and put back in prison, before being released on bail.

The Bernsteins now decided they must finally escape, and, helped by friends, they slipped out of their house at night and were driven over the Botswana border, eventually making their way, via Zambia and Tanzania, to Britain.

Rusty Bernstein worked as an architect in London. After 17 years, he retired, first to Herefordshire, and then to Kidlington, near Oxford, where he and Hilda lived in a small, modern house filled with African artefacts. For a time, he conducted seminars in Moscow and taught briefly at the ANC college in Tanzania; Hilda wrote vivid books about their experience in the struggle.

It was not until 1990, when the ANC was unbanned and Mandela was released, that they could return home. Four years later, Rusty Bernstein stood with the

other Rivonia veterans on the terrace of the Union Buildings, in Pretoria, to celebrate the first democratic South African government under President Mandela.

"We are, perhaps, the luckiest generation on Earth," he wrote, "for we have seen the peaceful triumph of the cause to which we have devoted our lives."

Back in England, Rusty Bernstein continued to be respected for his integrity and sacrifice. His memoirs – too little publicised – provide one of the most revealing and readable accounts of the struggle, full of humour, wry irony and significant detail. It is a story not just of heroic resistance to ruthless persecution, but of a warm individual, with a strong and talented family, who faced a challenge to their whole livelihood which they could not evade.

Rusty Bernstein is survived by his wife Hilda and four children.

Lionel (Rusty) Bernstein: born 1920; died, June 2002

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Obituary

Argus 27/2/2002

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Man who sacrificed privilege for freedom

RUSTY Bernstein was educated at two elite schools and a top university, but in what he later called "an accident of discovery" during a school debate, he took on a truly revolutionary path for someone who was so privileged.

Bernstein, 82, died at his home in Oxford in England on Sunday. On hearing the news, former president Nelson Mandela immediately sent out a statement saying: "The ... society we are building today owes much to the efforts of persons like Rusty Bernstein. He made a choice to forgo what could have been a life of comfort to ... fight for democracy and freedom."

"Rusty was a brave and committed comrade, a clear thinker and a person of whom we hold fond personal memories."

Bernstein was born in Durban

RUSTY BERNSTEIN

Born: 5 March 1920

Died: 23 June 2002

to European immigrant parents who died when he was fairly young. He was brought up by relatives in Natal and was educated at King Edward's School and Hilton College, and later as a part-time student at the University of the Witwatersrand. He became an architect and designed South Africa's first drive-in cinema.

He joined the Labour League of Youth in 1937, and later joined the Communist Party, becoming a party official and secretary of the Johannesburg District.

Bernstein was married in 1941 and had four children. He also served as a gunner in the South

African artillery in Italy during World War 2.

After returning from Italy, Bernstein and his wife Hilda produced a Strike Bulletin for the African Miner's Strike and were both arrested and convicted of "sedition". Bernstein - who some considered almost self-effacing - was a powerful writer and wrote extensively for the African Communist, edited the ex-servicemen's paper Fighting Talk and contributed to a number of political journals.

Bernstein drafted the Freedom Charter which helped rally supporters of the African National Congress - and which was signed 47 years ago this week. And his autobiography Memory Against Forgetting, published just a few years ago, is seen by many as a definitive work on early South African struggle politics.

He was a founder member of the SA Congress of Democrats in 1954 and later helped establish the underground SA Communist Party after the Communist Party was banned. The SACP has called his contribution "gigantic".

In 1956 Bernstein and 150 others were arrested and charged with treason and they shuttled to court in Pretoria on and off for our years before being discharged. Both he and his wife were also arrested and detained after the Sharpeville massacre. They were banned in 1960 and less than two years later, he was placed under house arrest.

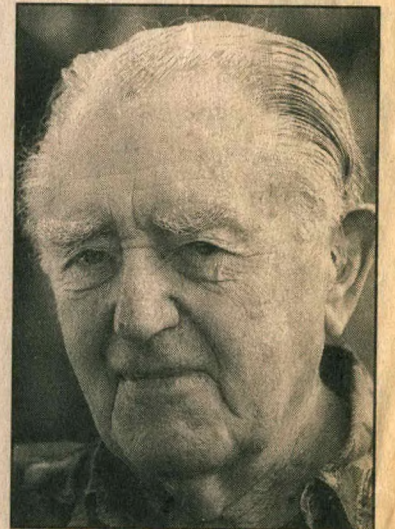
Bernstein and 10 other prominent ANC leaders were arrested in Rivonia in 1963 and he was held in solitary confinement for three months. He was charged with Mandela and others in what became the Rivonia Trial, but

was found not guilty.

He was re-arrested and released on bail and he and his wife escaped to Botswana, leaving their younger children in the care of their eldest daughter Toni Strasburg, 21, who had just married.

They ended up in England, where their children joined them. Bernstein worked as an architect in London and after retiring, lived in Herefordshire and Oxford. He also conducted seminars on history for ANC members in Moscow and helped establish a school of politics at the party's Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania.

Bernstein leaves his wife Hilda, two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Ryan Cresswell

'Comrade': Rusty Bernstein

W. G. Wilkinson, 60, Kentucky Governor Who Faced Scandals

LEXINGTON, Ky., July 5 (AP) — Former Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson, a self-made millionaire who helped create Kentucky's lottery and overhauled the state's public schools, died today. He was 60 and lived in Lexington.

Mr. Wilkinson, a Democrat who was governor from 1987 to 1991, had been battling a recurrence of lymphatic cancer that was first diagnosed while he was in office. He died at St. Joseph Hospital a day after suffering a stroke, his lawyer, Robert Brown, said.

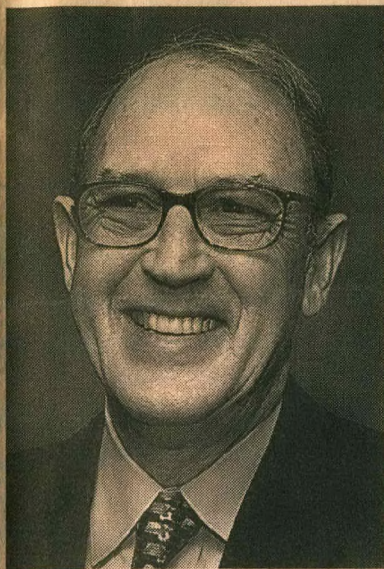
"His courage and leadership, when faced with the inadequacies of funding for Kentucky schools, will be his legacy," Gov. Paul Patton said.

Mr. Wilkinson, whose business empire collapsed in bankruptcy last year, started a used-book store as a teenager that grew into a national company. At its peak, Wallace's Bookstores operated 91 stores on 60 college and seminary campuses.

His administration helped create the Kentucky Lottery, which he had pushed as an alternative to higher taxes, and the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act, which set high performance standards, held schools accountable for their results and greatly increased school financing.

Mr. Wilkinson was dogged throughout his administration by questions about whether he used his office to advance his business interests.

After he became governor, he was accused of getting a state-regulated company, Kentucky Central Life Insurance, to pay an inflated price for a money-losing hotel he owned in Frankfort.



Associated Press

Wallace G. Wilkinson

Kentucky Central later went bankrupt, and the state insurance commissioner sued Mr. Wilkinson. The former governor paid \$11 million to settle the case in 1999.

Mr. Wilkinson's appointments secretary, who also was his nephew, went to prison in a bribery scandal. A federal grand jury also investigated Mr. Wilkinson, but he was never charged and denied any wrongdoing.

Last year, a group of creditors sued to have his companies seized.

The lawsuit touched off a highly public bankruptcy in which Mr. Wilkinson admitted that his debts exceeded assets by more than \$300 million. His main companies were liquidated, and many of his holdings were auctioned.

He is survived by his wife, Martha, and two sons, Andrew and Glenn, both of whom live in Florida, where Mr. Wilkinson and his wife also kept a home.

Lionel Bernstein, 82, Is Dead; On Trial With Mandela in '64

By PAUL LEWIS

Lionel Bernstein, a white South African Communist and anti-apartheid campaigner who stood trial for treason in 1963 alongside Nelson Mandela and seven others, died June 23 in his home in the English village of Kidlington in Oxfordshire. He was 82.

The so-called Rivonia trial, named after the defendants' secret resistance headquarters near Johannesburg, ended in June 1964 with Mr. Bernstein's acquittal. He had been charged with planning a campaign of sabotage against the South African government. Mr. Mandela and the other defendants were sentenced to life in prison.

Released, rearrested and then released on bail, Mr. Bernstein, who was known as Rusty, escaped with his wife, through Botswana to Britain, where he practiced as an architect in London. He did not revisit South Africa until 1992, after the ban on Mr. Mandela's African National Congress was lifted.

Two years later, Mr. Bernstein returned again, to welcome the inauguration of South Africa's first full democratic government under the leadership of Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Bernstein was born March 5, 1920, into a middle-class family in Johannesburg. He studied architecture at Witwatersrand University from 1937 to 1941. After briefly joining the South African Labor Party, which then supported segregation, he became a member of the South African Communist Party in 1938.

In 1941 he married the former Helen Watts, who was also a Communist and who survives him, along with two sons, Patrick and Keith, and

two daughters, Toni and Frances, all of whom live in England.

He served in the South African Army during World War II.

In 1946, he was charged with and convicted of sedition for actively supporting a black miners' strike, but was given a suspended sentence.

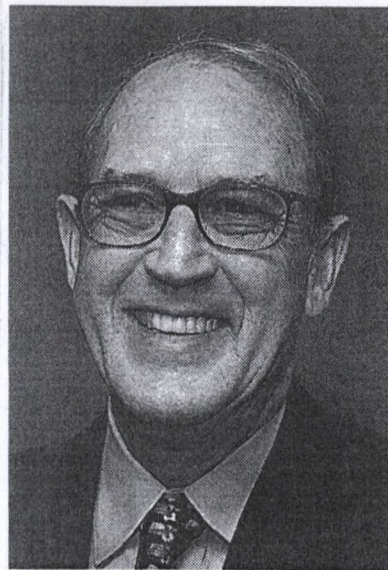
When South Africa's Nationalist government banned the Communists in 1950, Mr. Bernstein and his fellow Communists went underground and threw themselves fully into the struggle against apartheid.

He worked closely with leaders of the African National Congress and helped draft the Freedom Charter, approved by the congress in 1956, which called for a nonracial South Africa but also for the transfer of the country's mineral wealth, banks and industry to "the ownership of the people as a whole."

He was arrested and charged with treason in 1956, along with 150 other African National Congress supporters, and was eventually found not guilty. But the government continued to harass him and to subject him to restrictions.

On July 11, 1963, he and 10 others were arrested at Lilliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, and he was accused of planning sabotage. Rivonia was the headquarters of the Umkhonto we Sizwe, or Spear of the Nation, the African National Congress's military wing, which had been recently established by Mr. Mandela.

But Mr. Bernstein was not a member of that wing, and in his 1999 autobiography, "Memory Against Forgetting," he contended that he had opposed the decision to resort to violence.



Associated Press

Wallace G. Wilkinson

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But Mr. Bernstein was not a member of that wing, and in his 1999 autobiography, "Memory Against Forgetting," he contended that he had opposed the decision to resort to violence.

Dear Hilda. As promised. Typical Troki
Lovely to see you again on Sunday
C

Peter Scott, A

Lionel Bernstein

COLIN LEGUM pays eloquent tribute to Lionel ("Rusty") Bernstein's role in the elaboration of the non-racial ethic in the major current in the resistance to apartheid, which continues to be reflected in the governments of both Presidents Mandela and Mbeki [Obituaries, 27 June]. Unfortunately he omits the problematic side to this heritage, still every bit as relevant to the present and the future of South Africa, writes Paul Trewhela.

On 14 December 1989, six weeks before the unbanning of the African

National Congress and the South African Communist Party (which held his longest-lasting allegiance), Bernstein made a speech at Dakawa camp in Tanzania in which he praised the critical spirit in which ANC exiles had expressed their opinions. Speaking in his role as director of political education in the ANC, he commended a spirit of "unheard-of openness in the ANC". A young ANC member, Siphon Phungulwa, had insisted that the mandate of democratic elections be respected within the organisation. "In my

opinion," said Bernstein, following Phungulwa's heated remarks, "the meeting was conducted in the spirit of perestroika and glasnost, a spirit that requires truth about things."

Ten days later, on Christmas Eve, the ANC leadership in Lusaka sent two of its senior representatives to Dakawa, one of them the SACP leader Chris Hani, to dissolve representative committees freely elected by all the exiles. Bernstein made no public protest, and by his silence endorsed this undemocratic act. Critical members of the ANC fled

Tanzania, fearing repressions, some to Kenya, others via Malawi to South Africa. Not long after his return to South Africa, Siphon Phungulwa was assassinated after leaving the ANC office in Umtata in the Transkei.

The background to this traumatic event in South African political history, on the immediate eve of the release of Mandela, was that ANC exiles in Tanzania - then the largest grouping of exiles anywhere in the world - had dared to elect two "undesirables" to the highest freely elected body in the region, the Regional Po-

litical Committee, in September 1989. Both men had emerged less than a year earlier from the ANC prison camp, Quatro, in Angola, and had been tortured and imprisoned following the mutiny in the ANC army in Angola in 1984 - a mutiny which had demanded, among other things, democratic elections in the ANC.

There has been no public accounting by the ANC for its quashing of elections by its own members. The hand of Uncle Joe Stalin, revered for so long in Bernstein's party, continues to weigh heavily.

Brian Bunting

From: "Adrian Lackay Kaapstad" <ALackay@NASPERS.COM>
To: <bbunting@anc.org.za>
Cc: <sxako@parliament.gov.za>
Sent: 27 June 2002 03:38
Subject: Bernstein

For attention: Mr Brian Bunting

Below please find my article on the life and history of the late comrade Rusty Bernstein as it appeared in Beeld today, June 27, 2002. My details follow the article. It was a pleasure speaking to you yesterday.

Many thanks

Adrian Lackay

Die nuus dat mnr. Lionel (Rusty) Bernstein Sondag in die + ouderdom van 82 aan 'n hartaanval in Londen dood is, is Maandag deur oudpres. + Nelson Mandela se kantoor bekend gemaak.

Mandela en Bernstein was in + 1963/'64 mede-aangeklaagdes in die Rivonia-verhoor. Mandela en sewe ander + aktiviste is lewenslang tronk toe gestuur op aanklagte van sabotasie en + hoogverraad en Bernstein is vrygespreek.

Onmiddelik ná sy ontslag + uit polisie-aanhouding is Bernstein, waarskynlik as intimidasietegniek, op 13 + Junie 1964 weer in hegtenis geneem. Hy het borgtog gekry, maar het van sy huis + in Observatory, Johannesburg, uitgewyk na Europa waar hy tot met sy dood gewoon + het.

Maar, sê 'n vriend en jare lange kollega in die Suid-Afrikaanse + Kommunistiese Party (SAKP), Bernstein se patriotiese wortels lê diep + verskans in die onmiddellike politieke geskiedenis en kan ook gevind word in + Suid-Afrika se nuwe Grondwet.

Bernstein, 'n toegewyde Marxist en SAKP-lid, + was een van die organiseerders van die People's Congress wat op 26 Junie 1955 + in Kliptown, op 'n oop stuk veld tussen Soweto en Eldoradopark, gehou is. Die + doel was om "die volk se gevoel" onder alle rassegroepe te toets en insae te + gee in die opstel van 'n dokument wat 'n politieke en ekonomiese raamwerk vir + 'n "bevryde" Suid-Afrika moes skep.

Die kongres het volgens + geskiedskrywers meer as 3 000 afgevaardigdes vanuit die SAKP, die ANC, die + Indian Congress, die Coloured People's Congress, die Congress of Democrats, die + Federation of South African Women en die South African Congress of Trade + Unions gelok.

Ondanks die sterk onderliggende beginsels van veelrassigheid + wat die kongres gekenmerk het, beweer kritici soos die historikus Saul Dubow + dat die samestelling van die Vryheidsmanifes wat by Kliptown aanvaar is, deur + "wit Marxiste" onder leiding van Bernstein "beheer" en "gemanipuleer" is. +

Mnr. Brian Bunting, 'n vriend van Bernstein, onthou egter dat die ANC en + SAKP sedert 1954 alle grondvlakstrukture versoek het om "voorstelle te + mobiliseer" vir 'n moontlike handves.

Dié oproep, bekend as The + Call, het volgens die Amerikaanse navorser Glenn Frankel gelui: We call the + people of South Africa, black and white let us speak together of freedom! . . . + Let us speak of freedom.

2002-07-01

“Allerlei skrywes het die organisasies bereik, + op die buitekant van koeverte, op stukkies papier en karton. Ander het hul + idees deur die party verkondig. Rusty Bernstein het die taak gekry om al die + voorstelle in 'n dokument te vervat. Dit was nooit sy eie idees nie,” het + Bunting vertel.

“Rusty het 'n konsepdokument na 'n laatnag-vergadering + buite Durban in 'n stowwerige skoolsaal gebring. Die saal was belig deur 'n + enkele gaslantern wat die gesig van mnr. Albert Luthuli, die vernaamste hoof + van die ANC, verlig het terwyl hy die dokument gelees het. Dit was 'n roerende + toneel; daarna het die komitee eenparig Rusty se dokument sonder enige + verandering aanvaar,” skryf Frankel in sy boek Rivonia's Children.

Die + hoofbepalings van die manifes is in Bernstein se samevatting van die voorstelle+ opgesom as die oortuiging: “Suid-Afrika behoort aan almal wat daarin woon + swart en wit en dat geen regering regmatig op gesag aanspraak kan maak as dit + nie op die wil van die mense (volk) gegrond is nie”.

Die manifes het in + tien klousules voorspel dat die land nooit vooruitgang sou geniet nie totdat + elke volwassene vir openbare verteenwoordigers of 'n wetgewende gesag sou kon + stem, en totdat almal gelyke menseregte, grond, beskerming deur die wet en + vrede en veiligheid sou kon geniet.

Vir die apartheidstaat was die dokument+ én die kongres 'n bedreiging. 'n Groot aantal polisiebeamptes het op + Kliptown en die byeenkoms toegesak, onthou Bunting.

Bernstein en sy vrou, + Hilda, ook 'n toegewyde politieke aktivis, is saam met adv. Bram Fischer en die+ eertydse SAKP-leier, mnr. Joe Slovo, deur 'n hofbevel verbied om aan die + kongres deel te neem. Hulle kon net as toeskouers die vergadering van onder 'n + paar bome op 'n afstand dophou.

Die polisie het die besonderhede van + kongresgangers afgeneem en met 'n aanslag begin wat tot die marathon-verhoor + bekend as die Treason Trial van die laat jare 50 sou lei en waarin ANC-leiers + uiteindelik op aanklagte van hoogverraad in 1961 vrygespreek is.

+ “Speurders het (by Kliptown) op elke dokument in sig beslag gelê en ook + op kameras, films, geld en pamflette . . . Hulle het selfs die spyskaart van 'n+ sopkombuis sop met vleis en sop sonder vleis vasgelê,” skryf Frankel. +

Die apartheidsmasjinerie het onverpoos probeer om leiers soos Bernstein by + hoogverraadklagte te betrek en drie maande later het die regering toegeslaan. + Die huise en kantore van 'n aantal prominente leiers en organisasies is in een + van “die grootste polisieklompjagte in die Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis” + deurgesoek.

Uit die Bernstein-huishouding in Regentstraat is nie minder nie+ as 369 artikels verwyder. Op 5 Desember 1956 is 156 aktiviste onder wie + Bernstein, Mandela, Slovo en Walter Sisulu in hegtenis geneem en aangekla van + hoogverraad. Die staat verloor dié hofstryd (die Treason Trial) + ná meer as vier jaar.

Vir die Bernstein-egpaar was dit net die begin+ van polisie-intimidasie. Ná die Sharpeville-menseslagting van 1960 is + albei in hegtenis geneem ingevolge die noodtoestand. Bernstein is vyf maande + later vrygelaat toe die noodtoestand opgehef is, skryf die SAKP in 'n huldeblyk+ oor Bernstein se lewe.

Later dieselfde jaar is Rusty en Hilda onderwerp + aan verskeie beperkings op hul vryheid van beweging en die reg om ander te + ontmoet. In 1962 is Bernstein in huisarres geplaas en kon sy huis net

tussen + 06:00 en 18:00 verlaat.

Op 11 Julie 1963 is Bernstein weer saam met Mandela+ en die oppergesag van die ANC in hegtenis geneem. Bernstein is vir 90 dae + afsonderlik aangehou en was uiteindelik een van die beskuldigdes in die + Rivonia-verhoor die enigste een wat later vrygespreek sou word.

Volgens die+ ANC-nuusbrief Sechaba was die getuienis teen Bernstein, soos ook in die geval + van mnre. Ahmed Kathrada en Raymond Mhlaba, ``baie lomp".

``Daar word + geglo dat die regter vooraf besluit het om een (beskuldigde) vry te spreek om + só die regverdigheid van die verhoor te bewys. Bernstein, die enigste + wit, middelklas-mens, het die lotery gewen."

Volgens Bunting het die + Bernstein-egpaar besef hulle sou nooit weer vrye burgers in Suid-Afrika kon + wees nie. Rusty het die grens oorgesteek na Botswana. Hilda het 'n + polisieklompjag ontduik en ook landuit gevlug. Hul kinders is in die sorg van + familie gelaat totdat hulle een vir een met hul ouers in Londen herenig is.

+ Uiteindelik is van die Vryheidsmanifes se bepalings ná demokrasie + vervat in die inleiding van die nuwe Grondwet van 1996. In 'n verklaring + vandeeweek het Mandela se kantoor gesê die nie-rassige karakter van die + struggle en die samelewing wat Suid-Afrika vandag bou, is te danke aan die + pogings en bydraes van mense soos Bernstein.

Bernstein word oorleef deur sy+ vrou en vier kinders.

Adrian Lackay
Politieke Verslaggewer/Political Reporter
Beeld
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Cape Town 1-7-02

Dear Hilda,
Here with the Beeld article I showed you about. Not a bad effort is it? The quotations from me are not 100% accurate, but never mind. I think the overall impact is positive.
I do hope you are keeping well and as forward looking as possible. I know exactly how you are feeling,

Love,
Brian

2002-07-01

Obituaries; PASSINGS; Lionel Bernstein, 82; Anti-Apartheid Activist Was Tried With Mandela

The Los Angeles Times; Los Angeles, Calif.; Jun 27, 2002;

Abstract:

The onetime head of South Africa's Communist Party, [Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein] was one of 16 activists, including [Nelson Mandela], who were charged in 1963 with sabotage and the attempted overthrow of the South African government. The accused in what came to be known as the Rivonia Trial used the courtroom to put the apartheid nation on trial.

Full Text:

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Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, 82, a white anti-apartheid activist who stood trial for sabotage along with former South African President Nelson Mandela, died Sunday in Oxford, England, of a heart attack.

The onetime head of South Africa's Communist Party, Bernstein was one of 16 activists, including Mandela, who were charged in 1963 with sabotage and the attempted overthrow of the South African government. The accused in what came to be known as the Rivonia Trial used the courtroom to put the apartheid nation on trial.

Bernstein spent a year of the trial in prison and was later acquitted. The other defendants were sentenced to life or lengthy prison terms.

An architect by profession, Bernstein eventually distanced himself from the Communist Party and moved with his family to England after learning that South African security police planned to arrest his wife.

His story was later told in the book "Rivonia's Children: Three Families and the Cost of Conscience in White South Africa."

Credit: From Times Staff and Wire Reports

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