

Federation of South African Women,
(Transvaal Region)
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG

If ever any act of the present Government in South Africa has revealed completely their cruel and destructive attitude towards the African people, it is the unsavoury incident of the closing of the School conducted by the Anglican Church in Sophiatown.

Overnight, six hundred children from the first grades up to Standard Six were thrown out onto the streets to complete their unfinished education in the school of street gangs, of idleness, day after day, week after week, year after year.

Public outcry brought a temporary reprieve from the Native Affairs Department. The word "forthwith" should have been omitted! But the letter was sent over the signature of Dr. Willie Eiselen, Secretary for Native Affairs - is the public expected to believe that this was a typing error? But the school is still to close - does it make any real difference that it can continue to exist for a bare two months?

Here was a model school, efficiently run, financed by the sacrifice of poor and hard-working people, a place where six hundred children received not only the priceless advantage of the education of their parent's choice but also food to supplement their meagre home diet; and control and discipline so badly needed in Johannesburg's slum townships. But the school did not teach Bantu Education - therefore the government could not tolerate its existence.

Let the world see and understand this act! Let the world judge the true meaning of Verwoerd's Bantu Education, designed to deprive the African child of dignity, of independence, of culture, of truth. Let the world speak out in horror at the vicious and unprincipled acts of this race-mad government.

The Federation of South African Women, recording its shock and disgust at this act, at the same time appeals to all European mothers in South Africa:- We say to you: Think if it were to happen to your child or children - how would you feel? Imagine if your child should find his schoolgates closed in his face; every mother must appreciate what this means.

Mothers of South Africa! Protest against the closing of schools; against the persecution of teachers and of parents who try to give their children a little education at home. Protest against the wall of darkness that is being built around African children.

Work for the repeal of the Bantu Education Act. Demand full, free education for every child in South Africa, education based on true, progressive principles. Truth will triumph in the end - help to make that day come nearer!

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