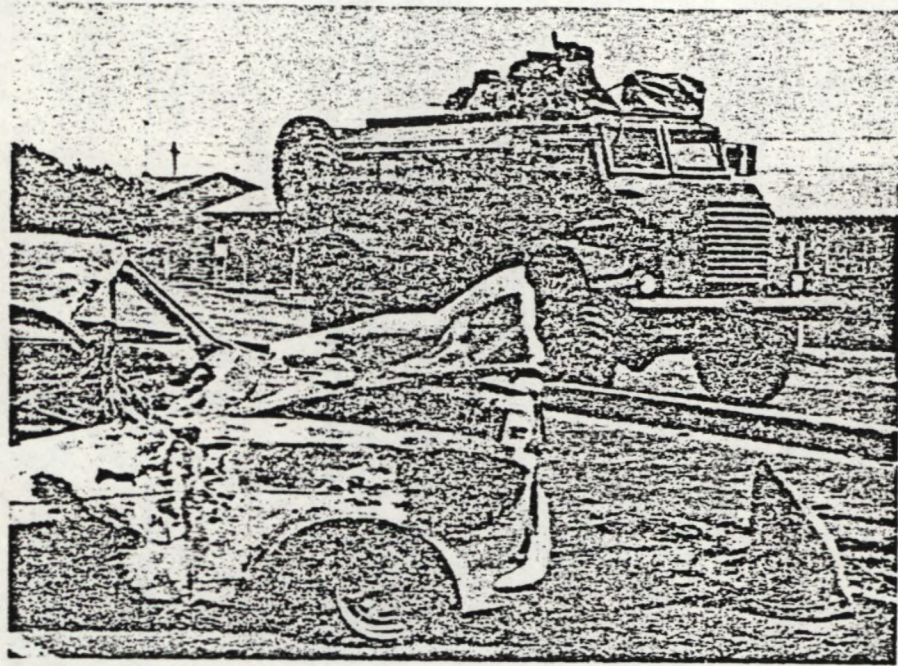


# JODAC NEWS

JOHANNESBURG DEMOCRATIC ACTION COMMITTEE Oct/Nov 1984



'Blatant declaration of war'

see story on page 3

## Release Terry, Maxine, and all detainees

JODAC members have been the target of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act in recent weeks.

Maxine Hart and Terry Sacos have been detained for nearly two months. Barbara Creecy, a leading member of Jodac and a Wits masters student, was held for a week after being told by the security police to present herself for questioning at John Vorster square.

Maxine and Terry are school social workers dealing with parents, children, teachers and social work students.

In their occupation they were confronted daily by the injustices of the Apartheid System. The schools in which they worked offer inadequate learning facilities for the pupils. The families live in small overcrowded houses and parents battle to pay for ever increasing rents and food costs. Over there it is not common to hear the maxim 'Hungry children cannot learn'.

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## Banning through the back door

1984, and the new constitution, the alleged 'reform' of the South African political structure, has ushered in the worst period of state repression since the dark days of 1976/77. So far this year, well over 600 people have been detained, with the figure escalating rapidly in the last month.

The police have been playing an increasingly provocative role in community protests. Many of the democratic leaders of students and township residents have been detained, and the police activity in crowd control has been offensive and brutal. In the community protests in the Vaal, East Rand and Soweto, over 80 people have died, and nearly 1000 arrested.

The security police have used the cover of the chaos and confrontation to sift through the prisoners, to detain and interrogate a number of activists and leaders. At this moment, there appears to be at least 50 people detained in the last two weeks, bringing the number in detention at the moment to over 170. This figure includes two JODAC members, Maxine Hart and Terry Sacco, both held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act (interrogative detention).

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee is deeply concerned for the safety of these section 29 detainees, who are held in solitary

confinement and subjected to intensive interrogation. A DPSC spokesperson points out that it's in these conditions that deaths in detention inevitably occur.

The DPSC also drew particular attention to the fate of the 15 detainees currently held under section 28 of the Internal Security Act (as well as the five others the police are seeking to detain under this section, including the three remaining in the Durban Consulate).

Under Section 28 Minister le Grange becomes the policeman, judge and jailer of his victims. The detainees are under 'preventative' detention, and are held if in the minister's opinion, 'there is reason to apprehend that the person will commit a security offence.' Or, if the minister believes they may endanger the security of the state. The detainees may make representations to a review board, but the reasons given for their detention are so vague, they do not know what accusations they are defending themselves against. Also, the minister need not give effect to any of the recommendations of the board.

One of the most sinister aspects of Section 28 detention is that all the detainees are automatically added to the 'consolidated list.'

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## Harrow Road Harassment

JODAC MEMBERS felt that in order to continue the fight against the new 'dispensation', we needed to protest against the persecution of those who were legitimately showing their opposition.

On August 31 six Jodac members stood on Harrow Road at 4.30 pm with placards demanding the release of our leaders.

One protester commented: 'I was amazed at the support shown by white South African motorists some of whom gave the thumbs-up sign.' Very soon the security police noticed the support we were getting from the passing motorists and they moved in. They took photographs and videos of the protesters and confiscated each placard. The police threatened investigation in terms of Section 57 1 (c) of the Internal Security Act.

As we were walking home we came across a host of other security policemen lurking in the side streets.

Altogether there were about 15 SP present ... for just six protesters!!!

We are not intimidated by such empty threats - Jodac shall continue to demonstrate its opposition to the apartheid state.

## EDITORIAL

THE MONTHS since the tricameral elections have brought, contrary to government expectations, an increased, rather than decreased level of resistance from all sectors of the oppressed community. Opposition to community councils, to increased rents, to retrenchments and unfair dismissals have resulted in major struggles being waged in the townships, the schools and the factories.

The response of the government to this has been a predictable one. In the face of mass refusal to accept apartheid's solutions to the country's problems there has been a vastly increased level of repression. All meetings criticising the government were banned for a month. UDF leaders were detained under Section 28. Many other activists have been detained under Section 29, and are kept in solitary confinement for unspecified periods of time. Two of our Jodac members are still detained under this section. And in many townships there have been many deaths and injuries. These have in many cases been attributed to police provocation and violence.

The violence that is inherent in apartheid however, has been manifested most forcefully of all in Operation Palmiet. This 'invasion' of the Vaal Triangle townships by the army and police, along with its hearts and minds campaign shows that the SADF, is not the neutral shield it claims to be.

This is particularly important for us in Jodac. The war that the SADF is waging is not only on a distant border, but right in the heart of urban South Africa. For the many young whites conscripted without choice or consultation into the army this poses agonising questions. Our wholehearted support for and involvement in the End Conscription Campaign is borne out of this. We do not want to be forced to take the side of minority rule in a civil war that is escalating daily.

Despite talk of reform and consensus it is clear that apartheid rule is inherently violent and inherently conflictual. Until the demands of the majority of South Africans are met, there will never be peace in our country.

## Beyers is back in the fray



Beyers Naude was recently unbanned after seven years of enforced silence. Jodac welcomes him and is sure he will continue to speak out against injustice

## Three jailed after 'in camera' trial

Trish and Derek Hanekom and Roland Hunter were arrested in December 1983 and sentenced in September 1984 to three years two months, two years and five years respectively.

All three accused appeared in the Magistrates' Court in Pretoria on April 26 1984 where they were remanded for trial in the Supreme Court in Pretoria on charges of High Treason and alternatively under the Internal Security Act.

It was alleged by the state that Roland Hunter, in the course of his work in the South African defence Force made available certain military information to persons associated with the ANC and that he was encouraged by the Hanekoms to do so, and they assisted him in setting up these contacts. It was further alleged that he obtained information from a computer belonging to the South African Defence Force about his sister.

It was alleged that Derek and Trish had made contact with persons in Botswana who were members of the ANC in 1981, that they had encouraged Roland Hunter to make certain information available to the ANC and that they had facilitated the passing of this information.

The three accused appeared in the Supreme Court in Pretoria on August 1, and the matter was postponed for trial on September 3. Then it was indicated in open court that certain negotiations were taking place between the Defence and the Prosecution which would result in a curtailment of the proceedings, and postponements were subsequently granted on a number of occasions.

At the first hearing on August 1, Mr Justice Curlewis ordered that the request for further particulars to the indictment which had been made by the defence and the further particulars which would be supplied by the Prosecution, should be regarded as secret documents and should not be published.

This order was confirmed on several occasions. When the trial commenced on September 24, an order was made that the trial be held 'in camera' which means that no portion of it or details as to the proceedings may be published other than by order of the judge.

The judge ordered on Tuesday September 25 that it be made known that Roland Hunter had been convicted of a charge under the Defence Act; Derek Hanekom had been convicted on a charge under the section of the Internal Security Act dealing with publications, and under a section of the Publications Act. Trish Hanekom had been convicted of the section of the Internal Security Act which deals with tape recordings and also under the Publications Act.

On September 27 the accused were sentenced. The judge ordered that it be made known that he had sentenced Roland Hunter to the maximum sentence permitted under the particular section of the Defence Act - a sentence of 5 years.

Derek Hanekom was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 20 months under the Internal Security Act and four months under the Publications Act.

Trish Hanekom was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 32 months under the Internal Security Act and six months under the Publications Act.

## Victory of unity

The recent reinstatement of the 464 dismissed Simba workers is a great victory, not only for the workers themselves and for the union, but also for solidarity between worker, community, student political and other organisations. The support shown by the progressive movement for the Simba workers' call to boycott Simba products undoubtedly played a part in their victory. This weeks' two-day-stay-away-with its massive support is likewise a victory for unity and solidarity between all oppressed South Africans.



# Bullets meet peaceful march

Shotguns, rubber bullets and teargas were the State's reaction to an organised, peaceful march by Vaal residents who were on their way to present petitions protesting against increased rentals to community councillors.

An eyewitness told Jodac News how this unjustified police action sparked off the resulting unrest which left an 'official' death toll of 30, with hundreds more injured.

He said that as people prepared to march quietly from Evaton's Roman Catholic Church, carrying signed petitions listing their grievances, police suddenly approached from the front and fired teargas and rubber bullets into the crowd.

'Panic-stricken people ran for shelter, but unfortunately children, pensioners and women who could not run quickly bore the brunt of the attack,' he said.

One incident in particular angered the people. Police armed with shotguns firing rubber bullets shot a six year old child - killing him instantly.

'We could not accept this blatant declaration of war, and people retaliated with the only weapons on hand - they started stoning the police.'

Those responsible for increasing the rentals - the community councillors - were sought out and their homes and vehicles were burnt. Shops belonging to the councillors and their supporters were looted and razed as anger boiled over.

'Most people were shot by the police from patrolling helicopters and the streets were filled with the wounded. Those who could not run away were pursued and dealt with.'

'Three youths who fled and sought refuge in a deep freeze were found days later, frozen to death, after someone shut the door on them,' said the eyewitness.

Harassment from shopowners led to the death of Joseph Sithole, a member of the Vaal Youth Congress, who was wearing a Release Mandela T-shirt. He was assaulted and died that same day.

Weeks have passed since the incidents, but the tension has not lessened, as none of the grievances have been heeded. The State and its stooges choose to ignore the real reasons for the uprisings, blaming instead 'certain elements,' organisations and individuals'.

A month earlier, residents in the Vaal Triangle had received notification that on September 1 their rent would increase from R55 to R60,90 and from R73 to R101. No reasons were given.

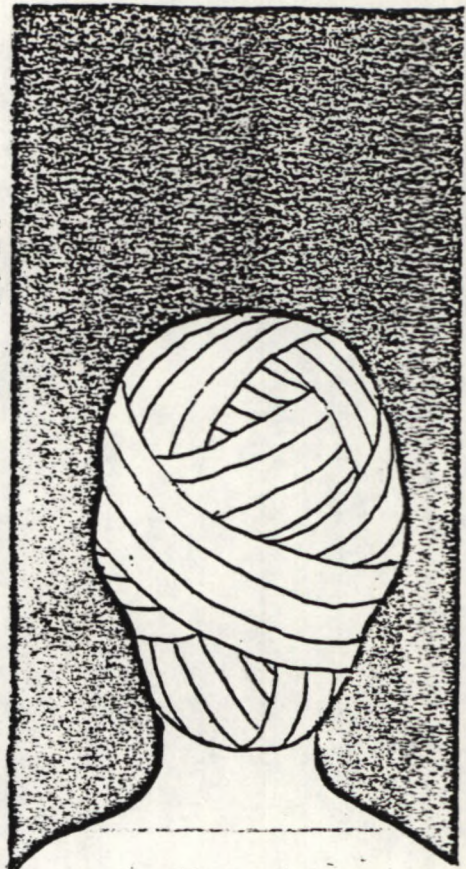
Concerned residents including youth, students and pensioners formed an Anti-Rent Committee. They discussed how they could present their grievances to the councillors.

The protests took the form of rallies held in the Anglican Church in Sharpeville, the Roman Catholic Church in Evaton and in community halls in Bophelong.

An Evaton eyewitness described how police attempted to stop the crowds from entering the church gates - and how everyone clambered and leapt over the fences instead.

Petitions signed by residents were prepared for presentation to the community councillors. The grievances included :

- High food prices, transport fares and the increase in GST should all be taken into account before rents were increased.
- There were no recreational facilities for the youth.
- Pensioners could barely afford the present rentals.
- Not enough creches were available for children.



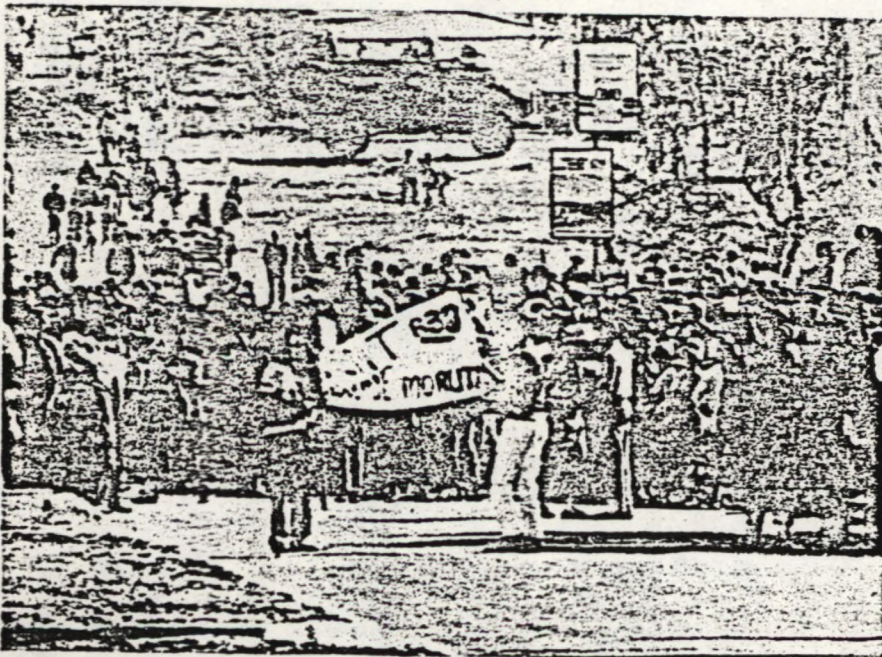
## Patrick strikes 'Terror' in racist hearts

Why is Patrick Mosi Lekota called 'Terror'? Not because of any violent exploits that this regime would describe as terroristic. Not because of the terror that he may stir in the hearts of racists. Alas, the answer has nothing to do with politics. 'Terror' derives his name from his prowess on the soccer field.

'It is activists like Terror Lekota who inspire the masses to take up their struggle for freedom,' said one UDF supporter during a recent interview. Born in 1949 in Kroonstad, Terror's early political activity was in the black consciousness movement. Together with eight other SASO and BPC activists, he was convicted of conspiring to commit acts that might have endangered the maintenance of law and order.

His six years on the Island were a period of intellectual and political growth. While retaining his belief in black liberation, like many other former BC activists, he started to feel the need for mass democratic activity on a nonracial basis. In the UDF, he has sought to widen and deepen the unity of all democrats, black and white, in the struggle to end apartheid.

Anyone who has heard 'Terror' speak will realise why the racists are so anxious to silence him. He is not only capable of moving his audiences, understanding their fears and longings. Terror uses his speeches primarily for educative purposes. No-one can listen to any speech without learning something new, without increasing their understanding of why things are as they are and how they must and will be changed.



Sharpeville residents marching in protest of rent increases.

# Constitutionalising Apartheid

TO the casual observer of the latest political developments it must seem, South African opposition is entering a new era of realpolitik. The decision of the PFP and the Labour Party to enter the tricameral parliament and President's Council has been hailed by some as a shift from principled protest politics to politics of negotiation and pragmatism. It is clear that there has been a marked change of approach by the PFP and other opponents of the government working within government structures. Only a few years ago, a number of senior PFP and Labour Party politicians were expelled or forced to resign from these parties when they advocated entering the proposed President's Council and tricameral parliament. The PFP in particular took a hard line on the President's Council (PC), saying they would refuse to serve on it as long as it excluded Africans. A member of the PFP parliamentary caucus, Japie Basson, was forced out of the party for accepting nomination to the PC. Yet now the PFP has agreed to serve on a President's Council which still excludes Africans. According to Pieter Schoeman, who is to represent the PFP on the PC, 'politics is about compromise and sometimes a man has to get his hands a little dirty.' The recent white referendum demonstrated the inherent tension between the PFP's Politics of Protest and its Politics of Compromise. The PFP's unqualified opposition to the new constitution and the nature of its objections aroused expectations that it would refuse to serve in the tricameral parliament. It opposed the constitution as a fundamental instrument of apartheid, and in particular because an opposition would be unable to function effectively in the new parliament.

Thus the PFP's decision to participate in the new parliament was widely interpreted, particularly in black communities, as a compromise of principles, and not only a tactical compromise. Dr Alan Boesak, as patron of the United Democratic Front, expressed the sentiments of many when he said that the PFP had made itself irrelevant by betraying the noble ideals it had displayed during the referendum campaign.

Those who are 'going in' put forward various arguments to justify their participation. These boil down to five points:

- It is crucial to have an effective opposition to the Nationalists in parliament.
- Parliament has to be used to push the Nats into further reform.
- The opposition has to act as a voice for the disenfranchised and negotiate on their behalf.
- A boycott strategy is negative and as such does not achieve anything.
- Finally although participation might be an unpleasant option, there is no other viable alternative.

Although these points are common to the PFP and say, the Labour Party's positions, the PFP wouldn't see itself in the same camp as the participating Coloured and Indian par-

ties. PFP MP, Tiaan van der Merwe, said that the Indian and Coloured parties going in 'were being co-opted into the process and execution of apartheid.'

Alex Boraine argued that there was a fundamental difference between being part of a parliament where there was a constitutional opportunity for the PFP to become the government in the white house, and being part of the Coloured house where there was no such possibility.

JODAC, and literally hundreds of other organisations, oppose participation in the tricameral parliament on the following grounds:

- It constitutionalises apartheid and is based on the denationalisation of the African majority.
- It helps legitimise a parliamentary dictatorship by the State President and the Nationalist Party and leaves no room for effective Opposition.
- It facilitates the NP's attempts to pursue a divide and rule strategy, and lends credibility to the facade of reform.
- It is not based on the will of the people.

## CONSTITUTIONALISING APARTHEID

The constitution builds into its very structures the principles of apartheid - white domination, separate and ineffective representation of Indians and Coloureds, and the total exclusion and subordination of the African majority.

It stands as the most anti-African constitution devised this century. It rests on the fulfilment of the homelands policy and the denationalisation of all Africans. Also it relies on oppressive measures such as the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act, for its implementation.

## LEGITIMISING A DICTATORSHIP

The intricate devices guaranteeing the systematic domination of the Nationalist Party - so systematic in fact that it has been dubbed a parliamentary dictatorship, include:

- The Executive State President is given dictatorial powers. He appoints and may dismiss the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. He nominates 25 people (out of 60) to the PC and may dismiss the PC. Appointees to the cabinet and Prime Ministership may be drawn from the military and big business as they need not have been elected to parliament.

The State President decides on matters to be discussed in parliament, in consultation with the cabinet. He is, however, not bound by this consultation. He decides what is 'own' and what is 'general'. All laws must be ratified by him. He can nullify any law, and can dissolve parliament at any stage. The 'control and administration of black affairs' vests in him. No-one can dismiss the State President; neither the opposition nor the courts have any control over his extremely wide powers.

- Standing committees will discuss and finalise the legislation before it appears in

parliament itself. They will be based on the 4:2:1:0 formula and opposition parties are not guaranteed a voice on these committees. Standing committee meetings will generally exclude the media. Public debates could be mere rubber stamps for decisions taken behind closed doors.

- The President's Council is the creation of the Nationalist Party's peculiar idea of 'consensus' - all parties being subordinated to the government's view. Of the 60 members, the opposition parties have ten, the State President appoints a further 15; and the remainder will be based on the 4:2:1:0 formula.

- The winning formula of four whites, two Coloureds, one Indian and no Africans which is reproduced in all 'joint decision making' bodies thereby ensuring white domination. To prevent opposition parties from the three chambers jointly defeating the Nationalist Party, the 4:2:1:0 formula excludes opposition parties from certain forums (such as the electoral college for State President) and only gives token representation in certain forums (such as the President's Council.)

Where legislation doesn't have support in one or more parliament, it gets referred for final 'resolution' to the PC. If for example the latest version of the Orderly Movement Bill is rejected by the Coloured house, it will be referred to the PC with its inbuilt white majority.

It is difficult for any opposition to justify its participation in the set-up outlined above and so lend credibility to a thinly disguised dictatorship.

## DIVIDE AND RULE

Except for the most starry-eyed verligtes, it is widely believed that P W Botha's 'reforms' are part of a sophisticated divide and rule

# SATV election c

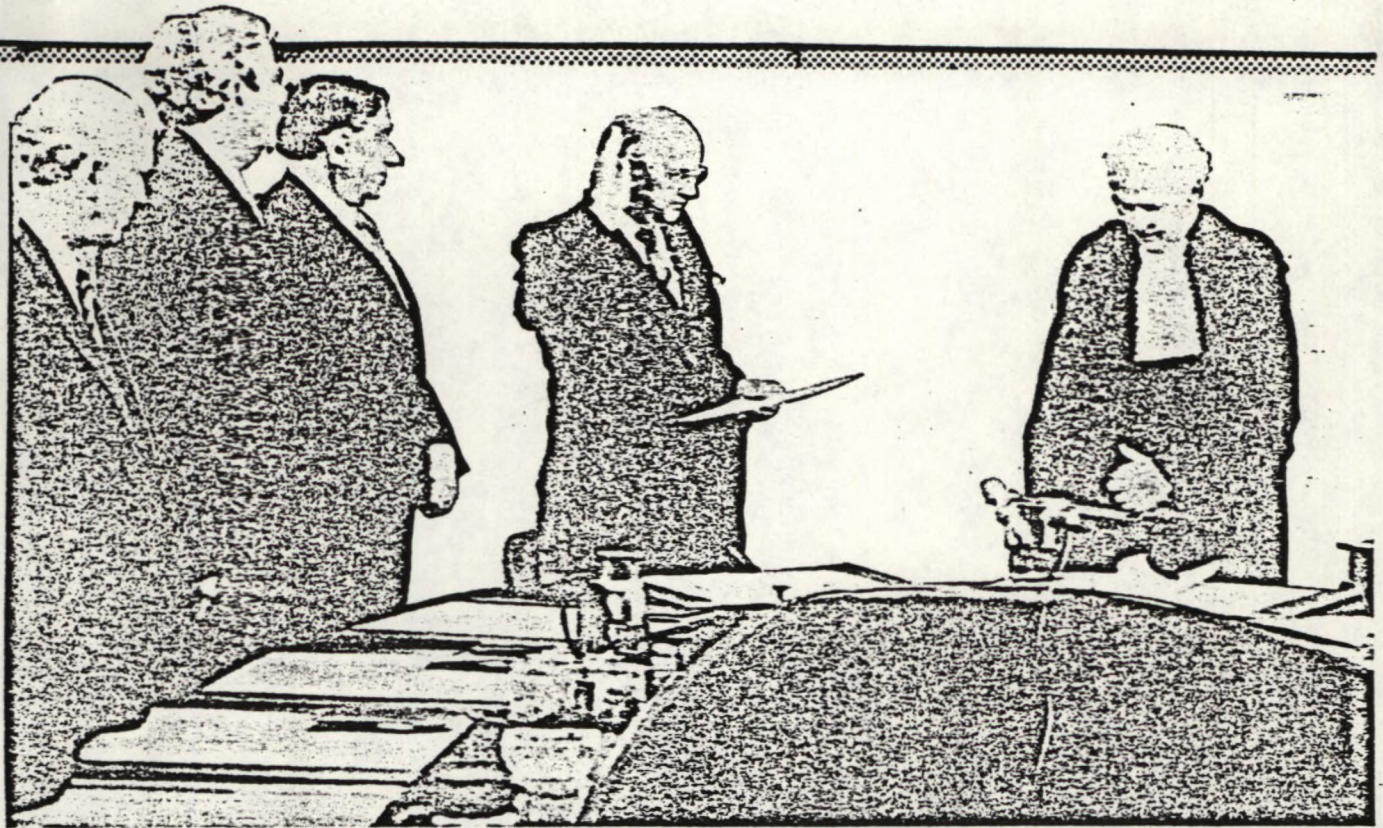
AFTER nights and days of viewing SABC television coverage of the coloured and Indian parliamentary elections, the JODAC media watchers concluded it was a case of 'monkey blind, monkey deaf, monkey dumb.'

The screen showed solemn figures who, after parading down carpeted aisles, enjoyed banquets and swore to carry out their parliamentary duties.

Yet, outside the range of the TV cameras people fled violence and teargas and watched scores of people being shoved into police vans.

This media portrayal/non-portrayal of reality can be expected to continue. Constitutional wizard, Minister Chris Heunis, has urged the South African press to adopt a style of 'consensus' journalism in keeping with the new negotiation politics. The press has been called upon not to emphasise 'conflicts and differences of opinions between groups.'

The JODAC survey found that SABC



strategy. Opponents of the constitution have argued that it is an attempt to co-opt coloureds and Indians as 'junior partners' of apartheid. This is true in two senses: firstly, certain elements in these communities are actually aligning themselves with apartheid. But even more important is that an attempt is being made to drive a wedge between these communities and the African majority, by making it seem as if the Coloured and Indian people, as opposed to a minority of opportunists, are siding with apartheid.

This is why the issue of military conscription is such an emotional issue in these communities. It is seen as an attempt to force Coloureds and Indian people into defending a system they abhor, and to take up arms against brothers and cousins.

This, then, is a fundamentally divisive constitution, which seeks to entrench, and not bridge, the divisions which colonial rule and apartheid have stamped so deeply in South African society. This is apartheid in its ripest form.

The constitution is an attempt to halt the strides which have been made in uniting people from all communities, against apartheid.

This is a further reason why the PFP's participation in the tricameral parliament is indefensible. It obscures the fact that there is a growing movement of democratic whites who have entered into the mainstream opposition to apartheid. Although relatively small in numbers, politically it is extremely important.

Participating in the tricameral parliament also lends weight to the illusion that this is the thin end of the wedge of reform and that pressure will force the Nats to reveal the thick end. The past years have taught that underneath the 'reform' facade lies intensified repression. The imposing of unacceptable changes from above can only be accomplished by repressing popular dissent. This is presumably what a member of the PC, Mr I Mayet had in mind when he said, 'There will be those who do not accept the proposals of the President's Council. These people will have to be met with an iron fist.'

#### THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Participating in the tricameral parliament is not based on the will of the people. Neither the majority of the people nor their leaders were consulted about the constitution. The constitution is explicitly designed to exclude the majority from having any say over their own lives.

None of the parties participating has consulted the people or their organisations. Thus for the PFP or any other party to claim, without a mandate, that they will negotiate on behalf of the disenfranchised, or act as their voice, is paternalism of the worst kind.

These parties are not in a position to negotiate for anyone. The real strength of the popular movement is being developed outside parliament. The government is trying to use its structures to block this movement and to avoid having to negotiate with it.

#### WHY BOYCOTT?

Government propaganda portrays the boycott of the elections as negative and violent, whereas it is both peaceful and positive. By boycotting the elections people will not only be showing that there is a massive rejection of the new constitution; they will be uniting South Africa's people across the divisions being imposed by the government. As for peace, the government's plans are a recipe for conflict and violence. How can people who don't want to fight in an unjust war, and refuse to be drawn into internecine factions, be accused of acting violently? Boycott is one of the only peaceful tactics remaining for the South African majority.

To refuse to boycott under any circumstances is to make a principle of participation, and results in the total compromise of ones principles. We believe that this is what the PFP has done.

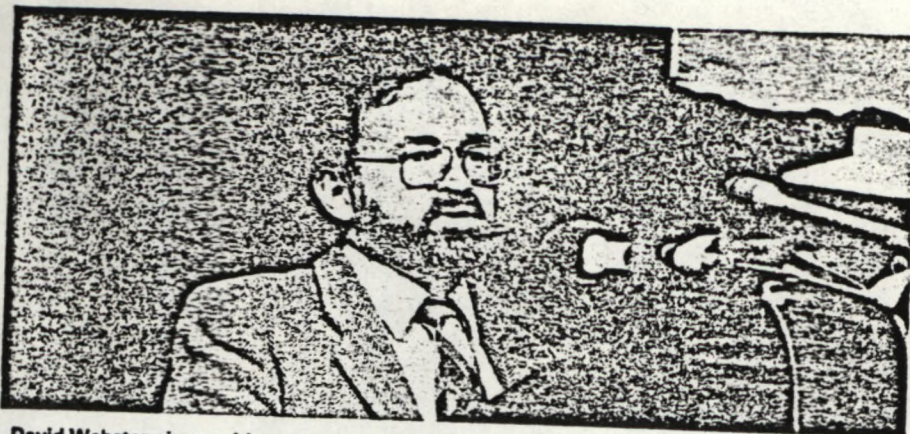
JODAC supports the United Democratic Front because it recognises that the real force behind change comes from those who are presently excluded from political decision making. Also the UDF responds to the racism of apartheid with non-racialism. The terms on which the injustices of the present are opposed will shape the solutions of the future. That is why non-racial unity and emphasis on democracy in the UDF is so significant. It is a momentum to which white democrats can and must contribute if they desire a non-racial democratic South Africa. Therefore Jodac supports the boycott of the Coloured and Indian elections, and joins the UDF in calling for 'Votes for all in an undivided South Africa.'

## coverage biased

television was guilty of not fulfilling its stated position. Just prior to the elections, Mr Riaan Eksteen, director-general of the SABC, said: 'If or how people vote isn't the SABC's concern. The SABC's responsibility is to provide voters with the relevant facts.'

In the JODAC survey of SABC election coverage, the following emerged:

- The greatest proportion of time was devoted to promoting a high percentage poll and discrediting the boycott position.
- No coverage was given to the allegations by the UDF, the PFP, and even the Solidarity party that many special votes were illegally cast. Yet both radio and television constantly reported that thousands of special votes had been cast.
- The JODAC survey also questioned the motives of the election competition, which encouraged people to state their reasons for voting, if it was not the SABC's concern whether or how people voted,



David Webster gives evidence on deaths in detention

## DPSC gives evidence on human rights to UN special commission

Recently, the Johannesburg-based Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC) was invited to Lusaka to give evidence before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights special working group on Southern Africa.

The Commission was investigating violations of human rights in various fields, including enforced removals, capital punishment, and detention without trial. Evidence was submitted by the South African Council of Churches, the Black Sash and Lawyers for Human Rights.

The DPSC sent two of its members, Dr Max Coleman and Dr David Webster, to Lusaka to present the views of families of detainees. They presented a detailed report on the Internal Security Act and its provisions, which allow banning and detention, as well as an analysis of how the law is used by the security police.

The Commission heard that, despite an apparent change in tactics by the security police, designed to keep down the number of 'officially' detained people in the period of 'reform', the number of detentions was constantly escalating (the figure of 453 in 1983 has been exceeded by 200 already in 1984).

The DPSC presented evidence that the changing police tactics included the increasing use of section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Act (an ordinary criminal law empowering the police to hold a suspect for 48 hours), and the use of a 'call-in' card system, which is a note left at a person's home requiring one to present oneself to a police station to be interviewed.

In both cases, the effect is to conceal the true number of detentions, and the extent of police interrogation.

The DPSC expressed the view that these tactics were as the result of an instruction from a high source, to clean up the security police image and track record during the implementation of the new constitution. These cosmetic changes were, however, transparent.

The evidence submitted gave an analysis of the victims of detention, and found that political and community workers, students and teachers, workers and trade unionists were by far the largest categories.

What they all appeared to share was an anti-apartheid commitment, and this seems the reason for their detention. The Security Police emerge as a political police, more concerned with keeping PW Botha in power, rather than security issues.

It was argued that detentions are used against people opposing the present Government, especially extra-parliamentary opposition.

The detentions themselves served to intimidate activists and their colleagues, to remove key leaders from their organisations, and to gather information about opposition groups.

This is attested by the fact that of the 453 detainees held last year, only 17 (that is 3,7 percent) were convicted of any offence in a court of law.

Other issues covered by the DPSC were torture in detention and deaths in detention.

It was argued that deaths were an inevitable consequence of a system which was totally closed, where the detainee is in solitary confinement, and under the control of the Security Police.

Alarm was expressed at the introduction of closed circuit television in the cells of detainees. The DPSC advocated the unconditional release of all detainees and the scrapping of the Internal Security Act.

Asked for comment on the trip to Lusaka, David Webster remarked that the DPSC felt the trip had been most worthwhile and that the Commissioners had been most impressive.

They included professors of International Law from Austria and Yugoslavia, high ranking diplomats from Chile, Nigeria and India, and the Deputy Chief of Justice of Zaire.

They listened to us with interest and sympathy, and asked us penetrating and well-informed questions about conditions in South Africa," said Webster.

"For our part, we presented them with an objective analysis of the state of detentions. We did not say anything in Lusaka we have not said here. In fact, our evidence consisted entirely of material we have already published in South Africa".

The findings of the Human Rights investigation will be published early next year.

## Dr Essop Jassat - A man of integrity

DR ESSOP ESSACK JASSAT is no newcomer to the politics of resistance.

A medical doctor and family man (he is married with three children) Dr Jassat (52) has been a key radicalising force in the Transvaal Indian community for three decades.

Along with the leaders of the non-racial democratic movement, he is currently held under Section 28 — the 'preventive detention' clause of the Internal Security Act — the second time he has been detained.

In the 1960's, he was also banned for a decade and served a short prison sentence for breaking his banning order.

Dr Jassat was born and raised in Vrededorp and attended school at the Johannesburg Indian High.

Inspired by such young firebrands as Ahmed Kathrada, Dr Jassat joined the Youth Congress Movement.

He played a leading role in the resistance of the early 1950's - including the Defiance Campaign, the May Day strikes and the campaign against Group areas.

In 1955 he enrolled at Wits where he was both a member of the SRC and Nusas, while continuing his TIC activities.

His qualification as a doctor was closely followed by the crackdown on the Congress Alliance in the early 60's.

In 1964, Dr Jassat was himself banned for ten years.

The crushing of the Congress brought the re-direction of his immense energies and humanitarian instincts into community organisations.

According to his friend, fellow TIC executive member and UDF national treasurer, Mr Cassim Saloojee, Dr Jassat's deep compassion for his fellows is rooted in Muslim conviction.

It was the 1981 campaign against the first elections for the SA Indian Council which put Dr Jassat back on the political map.

As chairperson of the Anti-SAIC committee, he spearheaded the mass mobilisation of Transvaal Indians against the elections.

At the first Anti-SAIC committee congress in March 1983, it was decided to resuscitate the TIC.

Dr Jassat became TIC president — an acknowledgement of his 'undisputed leadership of the Transvaal Indian community', as Mr Saloojee puts it.

And at its launch in Cape Town on August 20 last year, he was made a patron of the UDF.

The detention of Dr Jassat and other leaders of the democratic movement has provoked a national and international outcry.

Commenting on Dr Jassat's personal qualities, Mr Saloojee said 'he is not a man who talks a lot. But he inspires people and gives a sense of tremendous integrity'.

'It is people like Jassat who have kept alive the hope that through mass mobilisation and non-violent pressure, freedom can be brought to our land'.

# Survey shows need to take up military issues

JODAC'S recent Militarisation and Conscription Survey proved to be a very necessary task. It gave insights into the role of the SADF and revealed widespread ignorance on crucial issues.

All of the respondents thought Jodac should take up the issue of militarisation and conscription. All considered white conscription and the threatened extension of conscription to coloureds and Indians of equal importance, however in terms of Jodac's programme, white conscription is clearly our priority.

The survey exposed a fairly general ignorance of defence legislation. Many wrongly thought that an end-conscription campaign would be unlawful. While many knew of the existence of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) few knew what it was or did.

Samples of the more telling responses to key questions in the survey were as follows:

● On whether the role of the SADF had changed in recent years, many respondents pointed to the military's increasing aggressiveness as shown by its destabilising activities in neighbouring countries, and its growing influence in the framing of State policy through the State Security Council.

'Its internal policing activities are increasing; it is pushing a multi-racial line in preparation for the conscription of Indians and coloureds', said one.

Another respondent pointed to its increasing involvement and visibility in civilian areas - its representatives are increasingly vocal on political issues, for example Namibia.

Perhaps the most telling comment came from the respondent who said: 'As a black South African, I have no comment on the SADF - except that it is my enemy.'

● Asked whether and how the SADF had influenced the constitutional 'reforms', many respondents saw a link between the new parliament and the planned extension of the call-up to coloureds and Indians.

'The SADF needs manpower to buttress apartheid, and the constitution will provide this'; 'The SADF needs to create a state which is militarily defensible in the eyes of as many as possible'; 'Conscription can be seen as payment for tricameral opportunities', were different responses to this question.

One response saw the SADF's military muscle as a pre-requisite for 'launching unchallengeable reform'. The simultaneous timing of Operation Thunder Chariot and the opening of the new parliament would seem to confirm this.

● All respondents agreed that conscription should be opposed: 'The State has no right to conscript conscience in a civil war', 'people are being asked to defend a system which they consider unjust'. 'Conscription should be fought as a way of undermining the military-backed apartheid regime', 'conscription is the cornerstone of the army, the army is the cornerstone of apartheid'. Another response: 'It's our brothers we're being forced to fight - it's those that believe in freedom and justice. I support their struggle, I'm not prepared to shoot these people'.



● Most respondents admitted they did not understand the defence laws - and this was borne out by the responses to the question of how recent amendments to the statute books would affect an end-conscription campaign. In terms of amendments to the Defence Amendment Act of 1983, those who refuse to do national service and are not religious pacifists will receive a 6 year prison term.

Most believed that an end-conscription campaign would 'fill up the military prisons', however while it is unlawful to promote conscientious objection, this is not the case with opposing conscription, i.e. compulsory call-up.

# Operation Wonder Chariot

In a week when camouflaged police attacked miners and students with batons, sjamboks and guns - leaving an unofficial estimate of over 100 dead - 'Operation Thunder Chariot' was launched against a mythical enemy.

While the SADF was flexing its muscles, down the dusty plains of Lohatla in the North Western Cape, 50 000 miners were on strike, hundreds of thousands of students were boycotting classes and the black townships had become a battlefield.

Unlike the situation on the mines and in the townships, 'Operation Thunder Chariot' left no deaths and no detentions - and we are told that the 'enemy' was thoroughly vanquished.

For a week 11 000 troops, 75 fighter aircraft and 4210 armoured machines were hurled into action. The results were not entirely successful for the SADF.

Over 10 000 of those called up for 'Operation Thunder Chariot' did not bother to turn up. More aircraft were lost by 'own forces' than by the 'enemy'. At least 18 soldiers were injured - some seriously. In a paralled naval exercise in East London, a warship shelled a school by mistake!



But these incidents were lost in the wave of euphoria spurred on by SATV and the Press.

The fuel bill in the exercise amounted to R1,4m and the total cost may have passed the R100m mark.

But as Divisional Commander Brigadier George Kryz noted 'It is impossible to put a price on this exercise. Practising for war is much more expensive than being on a fishing trip.'

Why was a 'sortie' on this scale - the first divisional military exercise since World War 2 - undertaken at a time when South Africa is going through a period of recession?

According to the Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan, the answer is: 'To make sure South Africa's enemies think twice.' He added: 'With what we've witnessed in the manoeuvres, we could go right through to Cairo.' A comforting thought.

With defence expenditure comprising nearly 20% of the total budget no one really doubts that South Africa has a formidable arsenal of conventional military firepower, and the occupation of Namibia and Southern Angola, and the continuing reports of destabilisation leave little doubt that the SADF is prepared to use it.

Equally important, it is a demonstration to South Africa's allies that: 'we may have our internal problems, but we haven't lost our resolve. You can still rely on us to deal with the communist menace.'

But the fact that so many of those called up decided to stay at home, demonstrates that all is not well with the fighting resolve of young whites.



# 'Cancel the call- up

'We call for an end to conscription, we call for a just peace in our land,' is the demand of the Declaration to end conscription, recently launched nationally by the End Conscription Campaign Committee (ECC).

The ECC had its beginnings in 1983 when the Black Sash passed a resolution at its national conference, calling for an end to conscription. The Conscientious Objectors' Support Group (COSG) took up the call, initiated the ECC, and invited organisations to send representatives. The ECC cooperates with the UDF's Anti-Conscription Campaign, and has its target group those who are presently conscripted.

An umbrella body, the ECC has representatives from COSG, the Black Sash, Neusa, Nusas, Jodac, YCS, Cathsoc, The War and Peace Group of the Catholic Church, SUCA, Catholic Justice and Peace Group and the SACC Justice and Peace Group.

Jodac member and chairperson of the ECC, Benita Paulocevik said: 'There is a need for people to know about the ECC and its aims. The South African government portrays the military as a neutral defence force defending the country from external threats.

In fact, the SADF supports government policy. The idea of an external threat is a fallacy, as the only threat to the State is an internal threat from South Africans opposing apartheid.'

'The SADF does not have a protective function, it is itself a threat to peace and security. This has recently been highlighted when the SADF was employed to control resistance in the black townships, effectively participation in a civil war,' she said.

The ECC has now reached a point where, after its year of consolidation, it is ready to launch its campaign on a national basis in the form of a declaration calling for an end to conscription.

from pg. 1

## Release our friends

Being faced with the communities' problems on a daily level strengthened their commitment and resolve which was demonstrated by their enthusiasm and energy with which they approached their professional and JODAC work.

These detentions have disrupted carefully built up and nurtured relations which were characterised by love and trust.

All the communities with which Terry and Maxine have interacted have responded with anger and shock.

We in JODAC condemn the detention of these two committed and sincere members. We demand their unconditional and immediate release.

from pg. 1

## Banning through the back door

The 'listing of a person has many of the same consequences as being banned, crippling a politically active person.

A listed person may not be quoted - thus ending the political career of Patrick 'Terror' Lekota, the publicity secretary of the UDF, as well as the work of the other UDF and Natal Indian Congress activists presently held.

The minister may also place further restrictions on listed people, such as prohibiting membership of a named organisation, standing for parliament and, most serious of all, a listed person is disqualified from practising law. Five of the seven people detained in Durban on 1 August are lawyers.

Section 28 detention not only bypasses the courts and deprives innocent people of their liberty; it is 'banning through the back door'. 'Listing one's opponents effectively bans them from political activity without incurring the international approbrium of a direct banning order.

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