

MASS SECRET DEPORTATIONS FROM JOHANNESBURG

Three Big Batches in One Week

JOHANNESBURG. THREE days last week the police carried out a large-scale and secret deportation of handcuffed African men from Johannesburg. Not a word of this has leaked out to the press or anywhere else.

New Age chanced on the story when a reporter meeting a train at the station came across a long line of over 80 Africans, most of them handcuffed in pairs, sitting on the floor of the balcony overlooking the platforms.

They were originally from the Transkei, Sekhukhuleni, Zeerust, the Protectorates and Portuguese East Africa, and all were being deported out of Johannesburg under escort to their homes.

Some of them, though born in country areas, had lived and worked in Johannesburg for as long as 15 years.

All those interviewed—before the police interfered with our reporter—had been taken into custody on their release from jail where they had served short sentences under the pass laws. Some were taken from the prison door to the Newlands cells and then to the station; one man from Alexandra Township had been released, allowed to spend one night at home, and then re-collected by the police the following morning.

None of the men had any luggage with them. Most of them were being sent out of the city without their wives or families knowing about this. They were men ranging from 20 to 55 years of age.

All seemed to have had trouble with passes or permits, but this seemed the sole reason for their deportation en masse from their homes and families.

Newlands police station seems to be the transit centre for this operation. But police there would give

no information about it.

Railway officials have seen deportation batches like this three days last week.

Whether the deportations are legal or not, no one will know, for they are conducted in such haste and in such a secrecy that no one has up to now had a chance to investigate.

SOMANA ARRESTED AGAIN

JOHANNESBURG. It was while he was reporting this story of the men deported from Johannesburg that New Age reporter Brain Somana was arrested again. (This is the fourth time since he joined our staff.)

Three plain clothes African detectives took away his notebook and camera, escorted him to the offices of the railway police, and then ordered him to Marshall Square. He spent two nights in the cells at the Fort.

On June 29, Somana will face charges of using obscene language, and contravening the Prisons Act.

MOKITIMI RELEASED

MASERU. MR. Mohau Mokitimi, the African youth leader whose conviction and sentence of six months under Basutoland residence and entry regulations sparked off mass demonstrations in Maseru in last year, was released on June 9, New Age correspondent Jones Kgaane reports.

Mr. Mokitimi has been granted a temporary permit to remain in Maseru. The permit was granted after Government officials had consultations with the Paramount Chief.

The permit, however, is conditional and can be withdrawn if he fails to report to the police at 9 a.m. each day. Mokitimi is also prohibited from attending or addressing any meetings, and from leaving the Maseru reserve area. He is, however, free to leave Basutoland permanently.

A charge under the passport regulations against Mr. Mokitimi has been withdrawn, and it is understood that he will apply for the return of his passport. Mr. Mokitimi also said that he had been forced to sign a statement denying that he had been ill-treated in the Maseru Central Prison.

RELEASED ON BAIL RE-ARRESTED

PORT ELIZABETH. MR. Sisa Dukada, who appeared in the Regional Court on a charge of perjury last Monday, was immediately re-arrested after he had been released on bail of R100. At the time of going to press it was not known what new charge have been preferred against him.

Dukada was the chief state witness in the explosives case where Strachan was convicted. At the trial he said that the statement he had made to the police incriminating Joseph Jack and Govan Mbeki were not true. He alleged that he had been assaulted and forced to make the statement.

Advocate M. Bennun, instructed by Mr. Ngwigwi, appeared for Dukada on the charge of perjury.

FROM HOMES INTO DUST



ABOVE: Government officials and police look at their handiwork. BELOW: Women and children sit forlornly beside their furniture after their homes have been demolished.



Court Orders Stay, But

DEMOLITIONS TO CONTINUE

"Not Dealing With Cattle," Says Counsel

Story and photos by Leonard Dzingi

DURBAN.

AN urgent application to stay the demolitions at Magaba-Ngejubane, near Umlazi, was granted by Mr. Justice Miller in chambers last Sunday, when he ordered that demolitions be suspended immediately if the authorities could not find alternative accommodation for those residents not illegally there.

The application was brought by Mr. Enoch Kumalo, who stated that he had returned home from work to find his home demolished and he did not have alternative accommodation. Affidavits from two other Umlazi residents said that they had left for work on Friday not knowing that their homes would be demolished.

Mr. Andrew Wilson, who appeared for Mr. Kumalo, said that the demolitions had not been made in accordance with the order of the magistrate, Umlazi, on June 20. The

magistrate had ruled that people entitled to be in the Durban area should be given alternative accommodation forthwith.

NOT CATTLE. The magistrate realised he was not dealing with cattle, but with human beings, for whom proper arrangements had to be made. He meant to make sure that homes were not destroyed until somewhere else had been found for the people to stay.

Mr. Wilson then referred to a statement made by Mr. Elston in his affidavit that as no one had come forward voluntarily to be removed in accordance with the magistrate's order, "I intend and have instructed that the removals hereafter shall be done by force in so far as it may unfortunately be necessary to comply with the aforesaid order."

VERY WRONG. Mr. Wilson said: "It is a regrettable statement to come from an officer in his position. It is entirely uncalled for, and to threaten the applicant with the use of force is very wrong. He is making wild allegations in his affidavit which he

knows are untrue." In a statement issued after the judgment, the chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner for the Durban area (Mr. C. C. Elston) said that though the judge's order would be complied with, the order would not affect the operations at Umlazi as alternative accommodation was available for those squatters who were entitled to be in the area.

PATHETIC. Over ten thousand people will ultimately be uprooted from their homes in the shanty-township of Magaba-Ngejubane. Demolitions began last week when the first fifty homes were bulldozed into the dust, leaving the tenants to sleep with their children in the open.

The scene at Magaba-Ngejubane during the demolition was pathetic as women and children, their menfolk away at work, rushed to get their few belongings away from the roaring bulldozers. The operation was carried out within a cordon of heavily armed policemen. Some distance away, but within sight of the

Continued in next column

Writers' Conference at Kampala

WHAT IS AFRICAN LITERATURE?

AFTER ten days of deliberation, criticism, talk, reading and discussion, the historical 'first-ever' Writers' Conference held at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, came to an end this week.

Under the auspices of the Mbari Writers and Artists Club in Nigeria and the guidance of the Congress of Cultural Freedom, forty-five African writers of English expression met on the Sande-wood greenery of Kampala's hills.

Poets, playwrights, novelists, short-story writers, radio-scripters, critics and publishers arrested a dramatic and inspiring moment in the phenomenon of history to feel the pulse of the African continent. And within the right of individual

self-expression they paused, to examine and scrutinise, criticise and seek guidance, using the springboard of togetherness to find a direction for the future of a new literature.

FLEXIBILITY. From the first Monday, gathered round in the low-ceilinged, cool room of the conference chamber, delegates set a mood of easy informality. The agenda itself lent flexibility, allowing for hours of discussion of Pidgin English in the dens of Lagos, the talking drums of Ghana, bloodshed in Alexander Township or the haughty habits of the Masai.

There were representatives from Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Dahomey, Rhodesia and the Cameroons. Also publishers from England and Langston Hughes and critic Saunders Redding from the U.S. From the West Indies came Barry Record and Arthur Dryton; French observers were Paulo Joachim and Bernard Folon of 'Presence Africaine'.

NIGERIAN POET

Christopher Okigba, a young Nigerian poet chaired the first session.

What is African Literature? he asked. Is it writing by authors with a dark skin? Or stories told by people of African descent? Or anybody dealing with African topics? Are they African plots, particular characters? What about roots and the apostles of Negritude?

The arguments that ensued were typical of the Conference. Hours of wrangling and criticism, diversified with torrents of new ideas, "the vendors of dark-skinned ne-gritude are those apostles who hide behind their own black smelly."

After all, writers are supposed to write and not talk, came the reply. The individual will choose his vehicle of self-expression, whether it be in English or Yoruba, Swahili or Zulu to make his writing tell his own experience. Writers will use language as a tool to express human experience bringing out the character of Africa.

MAIN STREAMS

At the end of each morning of criticism, the delegates broke up into three main streams: the Novel, Poetry and dramatic writing. Equally informal were the sessions of work colonies where writers would unite and discuss ideas, methods and their own work. In the evenings it became usual for some author to read his or her work.

South African writing took a major portion of the discussion periods. Zeki Mphahlele, South African author of "Down Second Avenue" and "African Image," pointed out that most literature from his country was obsessed with defiance and protest.

The South African is preoccupied with things that give him pleasure on the physical and emotional planes. His pace is set by the political atmosphere of strife and struggle. And his style often emerges temperamental, experimental, at times moody, violent, sometimes jazzy and evokes sensuous and racy images. Contrasted to this was the freer, easier and less tense West African writing—a taste of freedom with more eventuality.

ALEX LA GUMA

Much time was given to Alex La Guma's long short story, "A Walk in the Night", dealing with life in District Six. It has recently

In this article, exclusive to New Age, JOE LOUW gives a vivid picture of an historic conference

been published by Mbari, the first African publishing House in Nigeria.

This intense, fast moving story written with startling realism and accurate imagery, evoked many bravos from writers, especially those from West Africa. The message of protest is uniquely subtle, they commented, serving the purpose of literature with a greater impact of the reality of the South African scene.

ONE CAUSE

In the evenings, on the lawns, groups still huddled in the day's discussion, resplendent with the diversified colour of Africa.

There was Wole Soyinka, a playwright from Nigeria, descending a stair-case in all his national costumery, like a dust-coloured Karroo sand-storm . . . John Pepper Clark, unkempt, be-sandaled and wheedling a cigar, defending the lost cause of jungle-bound witch-doctor ancestor . . . Bloke Modisane, in English tweeds side-saddling and bemoaning "A portrait of Broke/or the role of a starving young artist"

Berets, sunglasses, sandals, goat-skirts or Ghananian drums, these writers have succeeded in one cause, they have set the pace for the literature of Africa with Freedom.

HELL HATH NO FURY . . .

JOHANNESBURG

It wasn't the custom of Xhosas to answer women; 'women are only fit for the sjambok', said a speaker at the meeting called last week to set up a Tembu Bantu Council—and that remark broke up the meeting.

The 'sjambok' speaker was Mr. F. Mathetha who took the hint of Chief Kaizer Matanzima of the Immigrant Tembus to set up an Urban Bantu Council. But his remark so infuriated the audience—many of them women—that he had to leave the platform and flee through the back door of the hall.

The meeting was held at the Sinawana municipal offices and the organisers tried to stop all non-Xhosa speaking people from entering. This did not work.

Mr. Mathetha said that he wanted a force of over thirty men to act as the police of the Tembu Bantu Council. This would put a stop to 'agitators' disrupting the meetings.

CHARGED UNDER COMMUNISM ACT

JOHANNESBURG

Mr. Bartholomew Hlapane appeared in court last week charged under the Suppression of Communism Act.

The State led evidence of finding a suitcase containing copies of a Sotho booklet in his possession. The case was adjourned to June 26.

TRANSVAAL GROUP AREAS CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG. OVER 250 Indians from all over the Transvaal attended an all-in conference on Sunday June 17, called by the TIC to discuss Group Areas.

It was pointed out by R. N. Bhoolia that 40,092 people out of a total population of 52,282 Indians in the Transvaal are now affected by the draconian provisions of the Group Areas Act. These people have been deprived of their homes and properties, and deprived of their livelihood.

The Indian Group Areas have been proclaimed so far out of Johannesburg that the people will be ostracised from the mainstream of social and economical life in Africa.

Mr. Paul Joseph expressed concern over the proposal to create one Group Area for Indians on the East Rand. He said that he had been unable to ascertain where this ghetto was going to be, as all the East Rand municipalities seemed to have differing ideas. Most of the municipalities could not even tell him how many Indians there were

under their jurisdiction. The resolution on Group Areas, which was accepted by the conference to "unite and oppose in every way the imposition of compulsory segregation and to devise ways and means of meeting the situation in defence of self respect and human dignity."

The resolution on the Asiatic Affairs Department rejects both this department and the proposed Consultative Committees. It demands "immediate full democratic rights for all South Africans, irrespective of race, colour or creed by the calling of a National Convention."

Another resolution called upon all the people of our country to stand firm in the face of grave attacks on their civil liberties and not to be intimidated or cowed by the powers that be.

TWO MORE BANISHED

JOHANNESBURG. TWO opponents of Bantu Authorities in Lichtenburg, Mr. Richard Molete and Mr. Klarius Segatle, have been banished from their homes to Kingwilliamstown.

Mr. Molete has a wife and five children; Mr. Segatle is the father of nine children.

Both men were detained during the 1960 Emergency and Mr. Segatle lost his teaching job as a result. Earlier this year Mr. Molete was charged, together with Mrs. Shulamith Muller, the attorney, with burning passes at Lichtenburg.

The charge against Mrs. Muller was dropped and Mr. Molete was discharged. Then

followed a court case against Mr. Molete arising out of a land dispute with his cousin Chief Kelly Molete of the African reserve near Lichtenburg. He was sentenced to a three month prison sentence for assault.

On the day of his release Mr. Molete was escorted to his home by Special Branch detectives and told to collect his belongings. Then the detectives fetched Mr. Segatle from his home in Rooijantjesfontein; the two men were handcuffed together and put in a police van to Johannesburg on their way to banishment in Kingwilliamstown.

VERWOERD PUTS ON THE SQUEEZE

**Swing To The Right—Or
Unity For Real Independence?**

AS a result of the resolution on "The Abolition of Colonialism" initiated by the Soviet Premier, Mr. N. S. Khrushchov, when he attended the session at the United Nations recently, the spotlight of world attention has been focussed on the High Commission territories as well as on all other dependent countries in Africa.

A committee has started inquiries into conditions in these three territories. Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle, President of the Basutoland Congress Party, has recently returned from New York where he gave evidence before this committee.

● It is believed that the U.N. committee intends to hear further evidence from petitioners in Africa itself and may even visit Basutoland and the other High Commission territories.

In Basutoland itself a Constitutional Commission has been appointed by the Paramount Chief, Moshoeshoe II, to make recommendations for a new constitution. The Commission is representative of all parties that have members in the National Council.

Already over 900 memoranda have been received by the Commission, but none of the political parties has yet submitted proposals. Perhaps the hesitancy to submit their proposals is the fear that each party has of being outdone by the other. With elections just over a year away, much depends on the reaction to any party proposals for a new system of government.

● This alone is indicative of how fluid the political situation is at the moment. It is difficult to forecast what the political alignment will be after the next general elections.

BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY

The Basutoland Congress Party, under the leadership of Mr. Mokhehle, has recently suffered setbacks by reason of the reactionary stand taken by its leadership. This has led to internal splits and disaffection which has weakened the organisation.

● Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle is too busy with personal vilification of individuals such as Dr. Letele, Joe Mathews and others, as well as the newly formed Communist Party, to devote time and attention to all the serious problems which beset Basutoland. The BCP has never set out a detailed, clear programme. Nevertheless in relation to the other parties, the BCP remains the main mass organisation.

Next in strength is probably the Basutoland National Party, led by Chief Jonathan Leabua. This party is considered to enjoy the support of the powerful Roman Catholic Church. Ever since its defeat in the last elections, the National Party has steadily gained in strength and the results of recent by-elections at district level, whilst not yet representing a challenge to the BCP, are nevertheless a warning.

● The anti-communism of the BCP is building up the most consistently anti-communist party, i.e. the Catholic National Party.

There are two other smaller parties, namely, the Freedom Party, led by the former deputy-leader of the BCP and editor of

"Mohlobani," Mr. B. M. Khake-tla, which has recently issued an interesting party manifesto. The other one is the "Marematlou" Party, led by Chief S. S. Matele. This is the party that stands for the preservation of chieftainship.

● There are rumours that the BNP, the Freedom Party and the Marematlou Party have been holding secret talks aimed at forming a United National Independence Party for Basutoland. If the difficulties arising out of competition for leadership are resolved this could be a formidable party of the Right.

The position of "Lekhote la Bafo" is not very clear because its public activities have been very limited in recent times. This party boycotted the last elections and its attitude to elections under any future Constitution remains unknown.

P.A.C.-LIBERAL TIE-UP

One of the most intriguing tie-ups in the political field is that of the former members of the PAC and the Liberals. The PAC has always been very vociferous in its condemnation of any co-operation between Africans and other groups and yet its members—there is a fair-sized group in exile here—do not scruple to work not only with but for the Liberal Party.

There are numerous illustrations of this both in South Africa and overseas. But an especially close relationship exists between Mr. Patrick Duncan and former PAC members in Basutoland. Mr. Ntloedibe, a man who has up to now regarded it as treachery for any African to sit at the same table as a white man, now holds the position of "responsible Editor" of the Basutoland edition of "Contact."

COMMUNIST PARTY

Overshadowing all these developments is the newly formed "Communist Party of Lesotho." This is the unknown factor of the present political situation in Basutoland. It has issued its programme which is the clearest enunciation of aims and principles of any party in the country.

● This party has called for a National Liberation Front of all patriotic parties to fight for immediate independence of Basutoland.

Despite the fact that various leaders, including Mr. Mokhehle, have continued to make violent anti-Communist propaganda against it, the Communist Party has pressed even more vigorously for a united front on the issue of independence—whatever difference may exist on matters of ideology.

It is unfortunate that the inter-party rivalry in this small country is diverting attention from the very serious problems facing the Basuto. At present negotiations are afoot between the British Government and the Republic concerning problems relating to High Commission territories. Basutoland is vitally affected by these negotiations and yet not one party has demanded to know what has been going on or asked to be a party to these negotiations.

In the meantime, to strengthen its hand at these negotiations, the South African government is engaged in little needling acts de-

INSIDE BASUTOLAND FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

signed to embarrass the Basutoland government and to illustrate the utter economic dependence of the territories on the Republic.

Threats have been made to return to the territories all Basutos presently employed in the Republic. This has already been done to a certain extent. Recruitment to mines from Basutoland has been restricted.

Discriminatory practices have been observed in regard to produce and wool exported from the territories to South Africa. The same has applied to maize imported into the protectorates.

● As a result a very serious unemployment position has arisen in Basutoland about which the British authorities is doing virtually nothing.

The agricultural position is bad and the greater part of the budget is absorbed in paying the salaries and allowances of civil servants.

The measures required to alleviate the position could only be carried out by a strong government which enjoyed mass popular support. There is no such government at present.

A visitor to Lourenco Marques who returned recently gave these graphic pictures to New Age with the comment that for extreme poverty and repression the Government of Salazar "beats Verwoerd by a long way." ABOVE: Workers on the Xinivane Sugar Estate, which is about 100 miles from Lourenco Marques. Their appearance and the clothes they wear gives one a clear picture of the conditions under which the workers live. BELOW: This photo of a plaque on a public building depicts, unwittingly perhaps, the savagery of the Portuguese colonial regime and, in sharp contrast, the unbreakable dignity of the African people.



IN SALAZAR'S AFRICA

A PORTUGUESE reader, one of the many brave democrats fighting the Salazar dictatorship, sent us this account of an interview at the docks in Lourenco Marques.

Evading the eye of the political (P.I.D.E.) I was able to interview a Mozambique labourer.

It was at the waterfront, in the evening, and a group of Africans were loading and unloading the ships. They saw us approach,

dropped their spades and called "in God's name" for cigarettes.

One of them, Fabiao, said he would answer questions.

'How old are you, Fabiao?'—'I am not quite sure . . .'

'Are you married?'—'Oh yes, yes . . . I am.'

He was smoking away at the cigarette.

'Children?'—'I have two.'

'When do you start work?'—'At 7 a.m. till 11.30 a.m., then from 3 p.m. till 11.30 p.m.'

'How much do you earn?'—'7 escudos (about 18 cents) each night

shift; the morning shift is less.'

'Where do you live?'—'Near the Airport (about 10 kilometres from his work.)'

'Do you walk home?'—'No, I go home only on Sundays. If I start after work I would arrive there at 1 o'clock in the morning, and would have no time to sleep or see my wife and children.'

'Then where do you sleep?'—'Over there, near the train engine that is warm right through the night.'

This is colonialism in Salazar's Africa.

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