

We, the ~~signed~~, wish to place on record our belief that the tragic incidents of the last few days could have been avoided had channels of negotiation between the African mineworkers and their employers been provided.

We cannot accept statements that the strike was the work of agitators. The existence of serious economic grievances was fully established by the Lansdowne Commission, a considerable proportion of whose recommendations, designed to alleviate the position, were not implemented.

Plainly, the disturbances have arisen from economic issues of which the Government should have been conscious, ~~for which machinery~~ and for the constitutional settlement of which machinery could and should have been provided.

Failure to meet the situation in time has led to loss of life and serious personal injury to a large number. The facts themselves and the press presentation of these facts have left the impression that the authorities were relying solely on force to settle any dispute which might arise.

We feel the necessity to state our views in this regard, since policies which determine the existence of harmony or discord in our country remain the responsibility of the Europeans. We Europeans are seriously disturbed in our consciences by the policies which have given rise to this situation.

(Signed) Margaret Ballinger, M.P.
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Collection Number: A3299

Collection Name: Hilda and Rusty BERNSTEIN Papers, 1931-2006

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Collection Funder: **Bernstein family**

Location: **Johannesburg**

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