

For Indonesia, a Dutch Occupied West Irian is Like A DAGGER AT THE HEART

INDONESIA'S claim to the Dutch-occupied part of its territory has suddenly become news for the daily press. During the twelve years since the Indonesian government first asserted its sovereignty over the whole of Indonesia, little has been heard of this matter in the West, yet for the Indonesian nation it has always been a question of life and death.

When, in 1949, the Indonesian liberation army defeated the Dutch colonialists after four years of grim struggle, the former Dutch East Indies became the United States of Indonesia and, a year later, the Republic of Indonesia with President Sukarno at its head. The Dutch reluctantly agreed to renounce all claims to sovereignty over the territory of their former Asian colony and, in fact, withdrew their remaining troops and administrators.

But their army continued to occupy one part of the former colonial territory—that which they call 'Dutch New Guinea' and which the Indonesians refer to as



President Sukarno

the province of West Irian. The province constitutes one-fifth of the area of Indonesian territory.

For four years the Indonesian Government tried to negotiate with the Dutch on this issue. They politely insisted that foreign troops had no business on Indonesian soil, and in the interests of peace offered safeguards for Dutch economic rights and concessions.

DUTCH REPLY

The Dutch reply to these proposals was to incorporate the territory of West Irian into the Kingdom of the Netherlands! Needless to say, the western press, which is now shedding crocodile tears over the Indonesian campaign to win back the stolen province, raised no objection to this crude Dutch provocation.

The Indonesian reaction to this turn of events was to take the matter to the United Nations, where it was discussed annually from 1954 to 1957. But each time the voting bloc of NATO countries and their satellites prevented the resolution calling on the Dutch to leave the Indonesian province from gaining the necessary two-thirds majority.

DIRECT ACTION

Thereafter, the Indonesian government decided that if West Irian was to be reunited with the motherland, direct action would have to be taken. The Dutch government had replied to every peaceful move for the settlement of the question by increasing its

occupation forces in 'New Guinea.' It therefore became clear that, just as Indonesia as a whole had had to win its freedom by force of arms, so the last province under colonial domination would never be relinquished voluntarily by its unrepentant imperialist rulers.

Nevertheless, the Indonesians continued to hope that actual fighting might be avoided. Economic measures were taken against the Dutch in Indonesia; their assets were frozen until such time as they withdrew their armed forces from Indonesian soil. It was all to no avail. The Dutch government obviously wanted a showdown.

REAL MOTIVES

One might wonder how to account for Dutch intransigence in what was so obviously a lost cause. Leaving out of account the usual imperialist cant put out by Dutch Foreign Minister Luns, to the effect that the Dutch have a 'civilising mission in New Guinea,' a 'duty to the Papuans,' and so forth, one must look elsewhere for the real motives of his government.

Undoubtedly, the one hundred million dollars invested by the Netherlands New Guinea Petroleum Company have helped to stiffen official Dutch attitudes in the face of considerable opposition from ordinary taxpayers who do not see why they should foot the bill for these untimely adventures in colonialism.

NO SECRET

But more important is the role which West Irian plays in Dutch plans to recover their huge investments in the rest of Indonesia which have been confiscated by the Indonesian state. Many of the Dutch colonialists who were forced to leave the rest of Indonesia in 1957-58 left with the cry, "We will be back," and they have never made any secret of their determination to use West Irian as a base for aggressive acts against the Indonesian Republic.

Armed insurrections by former members of the Dutch colonial army in Eastern Indonesia and plots to assassinate Indonesian political leaders have been organised and supported from 'Dutch New Guinea.' While this dagger is poised at the Indonesian Republic, the Republic lacks the security which it needs to carry out its plans for national development.

But the decisive factor determining the extreme provocativeness of the Dutch attitude has undoubtedly been the strong support which it has always received from its imperialist allies. The intensely reactionary Australian government, which is afraid that its own exploitation of the rich eastern part of New Guinea will be endangered if the Dutch go, has played a particularly shameful part in stiffening Dutch policy on West Irian.

In fact, on two occasions when the Dutch appeared to be ready to see reason, they suddenly reverted to their old position after strong appeals from Canberra.

N.A.T.O. ARMS

The British government, reflecting the traditionally strong ties between Dutch and British capital in South-East Asia, has always been hostile towards the new Indonesian Republic, and is worried about its colonies in North Borneo. Official American circles, dominated by cold war strategy, have made no secret of their intense dislike of President Sukarno's policy of neutralism and co-operation with the communists on certain domestic matters. It has therefore not been difficult for the Dutch to divert a steady flow of

NATO arms to their base in West Irian and to gain the sympathy of most of the western press.

In this way, Dutch propaganda about the 'New Guinea' question is circulated widely and repeated by every ignorant newspaper hack from Chicago to Cape Town. According to the Dutch, the people of West Irian are not of the same race as the people of Indonesia—but only a special kind of imperialist logic could deduce from this the right of members of the Dutch race to rule 'New Guinea.'

As a matter of fact, the population of Eastern Indonesia consists of a mixture of cultural and physical types. The people of Ambo and many other islands in the Moluccas, for example, are physically different from Malays and belong to the same human group as many of the inhabitants of 'New Guinea.'

On the other hand, many of the people in the developed coastal areas of West Irian are of Malay origin. With the rest of Indonesia, the people of West Irian share the Indonesian language as the common vehicle of inter-group communication and, above all, they share their experience of Dutch colonial oppression which leads them to join hands in the common struggle for freedom.

DEATH CAMP

In Indonesia, it is not the names of Belsen and Buchenwald which evoke a spontaneous reaction of horror in ordinary people, but the name of Boven-Digul, the death camp which the Dutch colonial administration established in the remotest and unhealthiest part of West Irian before the war. Here, many Indonesian patriots, trade unionists and independence fighters met their end. When the Japanese freed the survivors in 1942, nobody thought that within 15 years the Dutch would reopen the camp, but this they did, and it remains their ultimate answer to the growing resistance movement which has been developing within West Irian itself.

PUPPET STATE

Nobody in his right senses is likely to take seriously the Dutch plan to establish a puppet state in West Irian. Quite apart from the fact that the Dutch have always gone out of their way to withhold educational opportunities from the inhabitants, West Irian has been part of Indonesia for far too long to make this plan workable now.

Centuries before the Dutch appeared on the scene, West Irian was part of the old Indonesian kingdom of Tidore with its capital in the Moluccas, and the Dutch occupied it only as a result of their domination over Tidore. In fact, until 1949, the Sultan of Tidore was formally recognised by the Dutch as the ruler of West Irian. There was never any question about this province's affiliation with the rest of Indonesia until the Dutch suddenly decided that they needed a base from which to threaten the new Indonesian Republic.

To the Indonesian people, West Irian has become the symbol of their incomplete national liberation. While an independent Indonesian government exists, foreign oil companies continue to run a state within a state on their concessions in Sumatra and Borneo, and the old Dutch rulers continue to hold in bondage the easternmost province of the country.

But the modern world is getting impatient about these survivals from a bygone era, and the completion of the Indonesian revolution of national liberation is now in sight.

THIS IS BANTU EDUCATION

Pictures by ERNEST COLE



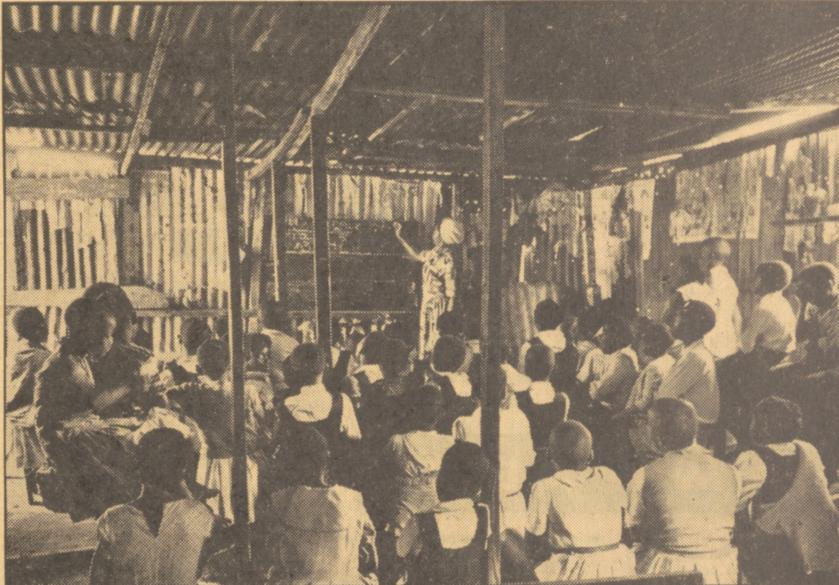
LAST week South Africa's Bantu Education schools, which have been so loudly praised by Verwoerd's Government both here and abroad, opened for the new term.

But the truth of Bantu Education is very different from the handouts of Dr. Verwoerd and his friends in the Pretoria Information Office.

TOP LEFT: This wooden building is ice-cold in winter and suffocatingly hot in summer, yet the teachers and the children say that it is better than no school at all. The girls are doing the regular Friday re-smearing of the floor with cow-dung so that it is not too dusty on Sunday, when the shack is used for church services.

TOP RIGHT: Benoni City Council was about to demolish this old hall in the Wattville Location when they acceded to a desperate appeal from the School Board and decided to turn it into a school instead. Four classes of the Lesabe School crowd into it each day, while outside the hundreds of children who have been unable to gain admittance play in the dust.

BOTTOM RIGHT: This shack has been a school for 10 years, despite the fact that each parent pays the Benoni City Council 2/- a month towards a new building. The reason a new school has not been built is that the Government wants the location closed and the people moved to Council houses where they will no longer own their land.



DEATH OF 1960 LANGA VICTIM

POLICE bullets fired at Langa during the 1960 emergency have claimed yet another life, that of Jeremiah Nombidah, a young man in his twenties. Mr. Nombidah, who was permanently disabled by a random shot through the head, died at Ngqeleni last month after a long period of illness and extreme poverty.

In 1961, after drawn-out representations by the Institute of Race Relations through an attorney, the authorities eventually agreed to grant him a disability pension of R2 per month, provided he first returned to the Transkei. This he did, only to find that he had to re-apply for the grant from there.

His plight was desperate. In a letter to his attorney in Cape Town he wrote: "I would like to know how you are carrying on with the case . . . But trouble is that I hunger. Try means so that I should eat, I don't know what I will eat now before I sleep . . . I pray God that we should live till meet again. Please send me a blanket, I have none here, cold plays with me."

Among the organisations which came to his aid were the Institute of Race Relations, the Society of Friends and the Defence and Aid Fund. Their efforts helped ease the burden of Jeremiah's last few months of life.

stand against UN and international opinion.

It is not in the least repentent. It is proceeding with its policies as usual. It is determined to remove the few civil liberties left in South Africa as soon as possible and to intensify the pace of apartheid.

Nationalist Members of Parliament have given notice of private Member's Bills. Mr. H. J. van Wyk, for example, is reintroducing a private Bill to amend the constitution of the University of the Orange Free State. This Bill will abolish the conscience clause in the constitution and enable the university authorities to exclude persons like non-Christians, Catholics, Jews and atheists from the teaching staff.

SLOGAN

Another Nationalist, Mr. Pelsner, wants to abolish the jury system, and Mr. Blaar Coetzee is congratulating the Government on establishing a Department of Information and is calling on all South Africans "to defend the good name of South Africa at all times."

South Africans who imagined the Nationalist Government was beginning to weaken under local and international pressures and was looking for an escape from its policies were mistaken. Dr. Verwoerd's slogan for 1962 is: Full steam ahead with apartheid!

PARLIAMENT: The Mixture As Before

THE Nationalist Government is going to defy its critics at home and abroad and continue with its apartheid policies.

This is the message which was broadcast to the world last Friday at the opening of the Republican Parliament.

Although the opening address consisted of an attack on the United Nations, plus some comments of the state of the country's economy, instead of the customary outline of legislation, Cabinet Ministers afterwards gave notice of the following Bills:

● A Bill to amend the Electoral Consolidation Act and the Separate Representation of Voters' Act—this Bill will make it more difficult to check malpractices at elections.

CENSORSHIP

● A Bill to "prohibit the production and dissemination of publications and objects that are undesirable"—this is the familiar Publications and Entertainments Bill which is being reintroduced and which provides for censorship of books, periodicals, paintings, photographs, etc., and for control through the courts of newspapers.

● A Bill to establish a National Education Advisory Council—and thus extend Christian National Education to areas, particularly English-speaking areas, which have resisted it so far.

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

the future of the world lies in the White nations standing together in a solid bloc against the Non-White and Communist nations.

The opening address at Parliament spoke about U.N.'s "progressive deterioration," its "threat" to peace and justice, the "weakened position" of the Western nations, etc.

UNREPENTANT

The Nationalist Government is trying to stampee all White South Africans into a last-ditch

CATO MANOR INDIANS MUST GO

DURBAN.

THE fate of thousands of Indian families at Cato Manor was sealed last week when the Minister of Community Development, Mr. W. P. Botha, refused a plea that the June 6th 1958 Proclamation, which declared Cato Manor a white area, be set aside.

In a letter to the Cato Manor Ratepayers Association, the Minister said that he was not prepared to repeal the Proclamation. The minister said that the Indian people of Natal have had "ample opportunity to develop in their own areas." The Minister further called upon the Indians to co-operate with the Gov-

SENTENCE REDUCED!

JOHANNESBURG.

THE Appeal Court last week REDUCED A FINE OF R400 WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OF ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT TO R4 when Sam Magalefa and Titus Moalusi appealed against their convictions on a charge of incitement in connection with the end-of-May demonstrations last year.

This drastic reduction in their sentence came after eight months of long hours wasted in the courts, loss of pay through non-attendance at work, and worry and concern on the part of their families.

ernment to implement the hated Group Areas Act, saying that if the Indian people co-operated the "implementation of this policy will be achieved in a very short time."

Ever since the Proclamation the Indians of Cato Manor have made every endeavour to get the Proclamation repealed.

The Government's decision will mean that thousands of settled Indian families, some of whom have lived in Cato Manor for several decades, will be uprooted and placed in undeveloped areas.

The Cato Manor Ratepayers' Coordinating Council which is spearheading the fight against the Government, resolved at a meeting last week to take the Cato Manor issue to the United Nations.

BOMBS CASE: BAIL REFUSED

From Zola Nqini
PORT ELIZABETH.

FOUR men appeared in court last week in the preparatory examination into allegations under the Explosives Act.

The accused are Messrs. Harold Strachan, an art lecturer; Govan Mbeki, a journalist and co-accused in the Pietermaritzburg Leaders' case; Joseph Jack, an ex-Treason

WORKERS CLASH WITH LANDLORDS

JOHANNESBURG.

ALTHOUGH both sections are united in total opposition to Government plans to declare Vrededorp white, strong dissension between working-class and property-owning members of the Indian and Coloured communities was revealed at a Group Areas Protest meeting held in that suburb last week.

The poorer section say, at the same time as claiming their right to remain in Vrededorp, that the land there must be used for a Council Housing Scheme for workers' flats.

They complain that their landlords are charging exorbitant rentals for tiny homes, and that because of the terrible shortage of housing tenants are often forced to pay double the rent-control price. (Allegations have been made that receipts, however, are made out for the fixed rate.)

The meeting of over 700 people was called because the Group Areas Board has asked for replies and representations by February 19, after which it will make a ruling on the area. A section of Vrededorp has already been declared White.

Mr. Yusuf Cachalia, the ex-secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, told the excited audience that it was vital that they did not split on this issue. This was a National question that must receive maximum opposition from all who wanted to stop Government legislation.

Trialist, and Hlolimpi John Soyeye, all of Port Elizabeth.

In opposing application for bail the prosecutor produced a letter from the Attorney-General strongly urging that the accused be not allowed out on bail. The prosecutor also handed in an affidavit stating that the Special Branch had information, the source of which could not be disclosed, that the accused would not stand trial if allowed bail, and that they would leave the Republic.

The Defence attorney then appealed to the court to grant him permission to present affidavits from the accused on the following day. In replying affidavits each of the accused stated that he had no intention of leaving the Republic and not standing trial.

Dismissing their applications the Magistrate said that the court had not been satisfied that the accused would stand trial if granted bail. The court, he said, attached great importance to the "secret information" mentioned in the Special Branch affidavit and the letter of the Attorney-General.

The Magistrate said that there was nothing against Soyeye except the evidence before the court, and he would therefore grant him bail of R200 on condition that he reported at a police station daily.

WITNESSES

The State expects to call 30 to 40 witnesses during the preparatory examination. So far, 20 have appeared. Some of the witnesses stood in the witness box for three minutes to answer three questions: Do you know Mr. Strachan? Does he usually sleep at your place? Did he sleep at your place on this particular night?

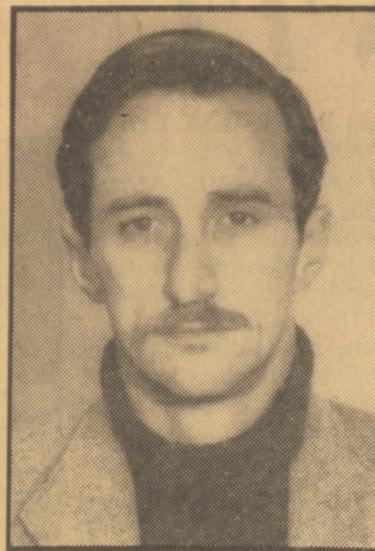
BANNING DID NOT STOP THEM

CAPE TOWN.

OVER 800 people attended the African Youth League's protest meeting at Nyanga West on Sunday, following a magistrate's ban on the Youth



Joseph Jack



Harold Strachan



Hlolimpi John Soyeye

Emily Zamba, a servant of the Strachan's, was closely questioned about the movements of Mr. Strachan—if he had slept at home on particular nights and if he had any African friends who visited him. Strachan, she said, had slept at home on the nights in question and she had not seen Africans visiting him. Questioned about the charred remains of a powder found on the stoep, she told the court that she had cleaned the stoep but did not know the powder.

Some of the articles mentioned in court were not available as exhibits. The prosecutor said the articles had been sent to Pretoria for analysis and would be available at the next hearing.

The defence reserved cross-examination of the witnesses for a later stage and the case was remanded for February 6.

Mr. Collin Jankelowitz of Noach, Jankelowitz and Zartz appeared for the defence.

meeting that was to have been held at Langa on the same day.

Copies of the banning order were served on the people believed by the Special Branch to be connected with the meeting, when in fact none of them were involved. Nevertheless, the Youth League finally cancelled the Langa meeting, deciding at the last moment to hold one at Nyanga West instead. This meeting, although organised at 2 hours notice, turned out to be a great success.

An enthusiastic audience listened to the speakers' fiery speeches advocating Non-co-operation and urging the people never to allow the government to establish Urban Bantu Councils.

Mr. E. Loza, one of the Youth leaders, speaking on non-co-operation said: "It is high time the people unanimously rejected all government institutions aimed at oppressing the Africans." He urged the people not to serve on African School Boards and Committees and warned the teachers against allowing themselves to be used by the government to serve poison to their own children.

Mrs. Mabece, speaking for the Women's League, appealed to the women to co-operate with the Women's League Deputation to the City Council which will demand the immediate improvement of sanitation in Nyanga West which because of its unhygienic state has aroused great anxiety among the location mothers.

"We demand that the City Council provides better sanitation; our children die from many diseases," she said.

A resolution protesting against the banning of the meeting, rejecting the Bantu Councils and denouncing the Nationalist projected African removal scheme was passed.

APPEARED IN COURT

BASUTOLAND UNITY COMMUNISTS' CALL

MASERU.

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lesotho (Basutoland) in a statement issued this week said that to split the forces of the nation and to weaken them in the face of imperialism is to betray the struggle.

The statement was issued after the Executive Committee of the Central Committee had examined the results of the recent conference of the Basutoland Congress Party, and reports of the liberation movement and trade unions in Basutoland.

The committee agreed that conditions were extremely favourable for a major advance to freedom in Basutoland. On the world arena the socialist system was turning more and more into a dominant factor of world development in the interests of peace and social progress.

The statement continued: "Anti-Communism is a weapon that the imperialists have used over and over again in order to divide the people in the fight for freedom. The use of this weapon by persons who are supposed to be fighting for freedom is usually the signal for a sell-out to imperialism."

DISASTROUS PATH

"The present leadership of the Basutoland Congress Party has wittingly or unwittingly embarked on the disastrous path of anti-Communism. This negative feature exhibited itself at the recent conference of the BCP and resulted in a completely unproductive conference. The proceedings were employed to advertise in the most ostentatious manner a futile campaign against the seven-week (at the time) old Communist Party of Lesotho and against Communism in general.

"Communism is the most powerful force in the world today. This is precisely because it offers the only way of solving the urgent problems facing mankind. It is no longer possible to threaten or intimidate communists. Least of all can this be done in Lesotho where individual communists have played a major role in the liberatory struggle long before the present leadership of the BCP became active in politics."

"The Communist Party considers that the people must not be diverted into the path of sterile ideological quarrels with one another. The enemies of the Basotho are British Imperialism and its ally—aggressive White South African Imperialism. Those are the forces which we have to unite to fight."

LIBERATION FRONT

"The Communist Party calls upon all the people to work for the formation of a broad national liberation front of all progressive organisations and groups; to build up the organisations that would naturally constitute such a front—the

BCP, the Lekhotla La Bafo, the Communist Party, and the trade unions and women's and youth movement; to avoid splits in the liberatory movement on the basis of principled struggle for freedom.

The Communist Party considers it is vital for every Mosotho to work for unity in order that we achieve immediate independence and the setting up of a democratic government prepared to work in the interests of the masses."

ALL-AFRICAN DIAMOND MINING VENTURE

JOHANNESBURG.

WELL-KNOWN sports promoter John Dube has just formed the first all-African diamond-mining company in Southern Africa. To be known as the SPARTA DIAMOND MINING COMPANY, it will prospect in the mountainous Mokhotlong district of Basutoland and have head offices in Maseru.

The company plans to employ about 2,000 men at the diggings, as well as a large staff in Maseru. It has applied for its own diamond cutters' licence so that the sale of the finished product can be handled in Basutoland as well, instead of through Johannesburg.

Mr. Dube, who featured prominently in the news recently when he suggested the promotion of a multi-racial boxing tournament in which Sergeant Arlow would take part in Maseru—and was forced to abandon the idea as the result of strong protests from all over South Africa—is not going to concentrate entirely on the new diamond business.

He plans to continue coaching the soccer team that he is managing—North Hampton United F.C.—which has affiliated to the non-racial Transvaal Professional Soccer League.

Mr. Dube hinted to New Age that as soon as there was capital available he would bring out the holder of the world lightweight boxing champion, Joe 'Old Bones' Brown, to fight against South Africa's Enoch 'Schoolboy' Nhlapo, and that the venue would almost certainly be Basutoland.

UP MY ALLEY

IT beats me.

A bird of pale plumage who passed himself off as one of those across-the-border Coloureds tags onto a nut-brown maid and they do what is known as going-steady. They are said to have dat ole black magic called love. Juliet seems to accept Romeo as a fair-skinned nie-blanke.

The next thing—up pops villain Immorality Act, twirling his moustache and cackling with triumph. Lover boy takes the high jump—six months.

But lover boy had this coloured gal, he mixed with coloured people, went to their parties, etc. etc. etc. Yet he prefers jail rather than admit he was Coloured—to save his family from the "stigma" of being labelled Coloured.

What I'm trying to figure out is—was lover-boy on the level? Was this true love? I leave it to you. It beats me.

But you must have heard the other one about this crazy mixed-up land of ours.

Here in C.T. a non-white woman had to look like blazes for a job as a domestic. All prospective madams turned her down because she was too white! She got a job

eventually. It reminds me of the white slave racket.

Likewise and once again. A white woman got four months for bigamy. So what? It also turned out her second husband was an Indian. So the beak on

BY ALEX
LA GUMA



the bench puts in another penny's worth after passing sentence by saying that now she and hubby might even be charged under that Immorality Act, and added another tuppence worth: "I can't see you turning back now that you have lived as an Indian. Perhaps God will forgive you for your folly—I cannot."

All this, like Parliament, has given me a bad pain in the neck. So long.

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.