

No Document
~~Police Raids on Waterval Compound~~

29th August 1969

MEMORANDUM

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As requested in connection with the recent police raids on Waterval Compound, I enclose copies of press cuttings reporting the incidents at the time. The pictures are not very clear, but if you wish to see the originals, Mr. Bolitho has them in his personal file.

Full details are set out in the attached copy of a report to the Management Committee which was not included in the Ordinary Agenda, but treated as confidential. A departmental report on labour for compound cleaning is also attached.

As a result of discussions with Col. Gouws of the Newlands C.I.D. arrangements were made to have consultations between the police and the Compound Manager, Mr. De Jager, prior to any future raids, and arrangements were made to ensure co-operation in taking steps to control any illegal activity in the Compound.

This appears to be working satisfactorily as there have been no further reports of incidents.

If you require any further information kindly let me know.

G. Owen Davies
G. OWEN DAVIES.

... by the contractor at Albertsville tip - the two Bantus' words for this contractor -
 The "11 loads of refuse" quoted are the result of a normal Saturday morning cleanup - cont.
 7/5/69

Dit kraak van die kakkerlakke

Deur Ons Stadsverslaggewer

Elf groot vrage vuilgoed is al uit die Waterval-kampong in Albertsville, Johannesburg, verwyder. Elke keer as 'n vrag in die sloot gegooi word, kraak dit van die kakkerlakke, het mnr. J. A. Powell, lid van die utiliteitskomitee van die Johannesburgse stadsraad, gister gesê.

Mnr. Powell het die kampong verlede week die vuilste plek in die Republiek genoem. Hy het gesê bier loop daar in strome en uit elke ding wat jy optel, val hope kakkerlakke.

Die polisie van Newlands het verlede week 'n klopjag in die kampong uitgevoer en op die grootste drankopslagplek afgekom wat hulle nog ont-

dek het. Hulle het geslag gelê op 5,000 gelling drankbrouers wat in 1,000 vate na die polisiekantoor in Newlands geneem is.

Mnr. Powell het verlede week by die maandvergadering van die Johannesburgse stadsraad beswaar gemaak teen die geraas Sondag by sokkerwedstryde in die kampong. Die kampong behoort aan die stadsraad.

Dit is in 'n blanke gebied en lê tussen Newlands, Triomf, Albertsville, Albertskroon en Greymont. Mnr. Powell het verlede week gesê allerhande siektes kan uit die kampong na die blanke woonbuurte versprei, want toestande daar is uiters onhigiënies.

Die stadsraad verskaf blykbaar ook geen kookgeriewe in die kampong nie, want in elke kamer is 'n paraffienstofie en elke inwoner kook glo sommer in sy kamer.

Mnr. Powell het gister gesê daar word glo nou gesê die polisie het die Bantoes, wat bedags hard werk vir die munisipaliteit, se rus verlede week met die klopjag versteur. Nou wil hy weet of die stadsraad al daaraan gedink het dat dieselfde Bantoes wat so hard vir die raad werk, saans as hulle tuis kom, met paraffienstofies moet spook om hul kos gekook te kry.

In 'n mynkompong bv., waar alles altyd silwerskoon is, is daar behoorlike kookgeriewe

of die kos word aan die inwoners verskaf. Hulle hoef nie self te sukkel om iets in primitiewe omstandighede gekook te kry nie.

Die Bantoes is ook geregtig op hul Bantoebier en as die raad 'n behoorlike drinkplek en die geskikte geriewe verskaf, sal dit nie vir die Bantoes nodig wees om 'n brouery in die kampong aan te hou nie. Onwettige drankhandel sal ook die nek ingeslaan word as die raad net behoorlike geriewe wil verskaf, het mnr. Powell gesê.

Verlede week het hy gesê as toestande in die kampong nie verbeter nie, sal verdere stappe gedoen word. In dié geval is sy beleid reg of weg.

Weeluisse wemel in Waterval-kampong



'n Stadsraadslid van Johannesburg, mnr. J. A. Powell, kyk na kriuelende kakkerlakke en weeluisse. Dié insekte wat enigeen laat grill, word saam met rommel uit die Waterval-kampong gery wat tussen blanke woonbuurte lê. Dié rommel word in opdrag van die stadsraad weggery en 'n paar honderd tree van die kampong af in 'n gat gegooi en toegestoot. Bantoes het gistermiddag op die rommel toegesak om te sien wat hulle kan wegdra. Een het 'n weeluis sa groot soos sy duim se kop gekry, het hy gesê. Oor die

Vieslike kampong word verskuif

Deur Ons Stadsverslaggewer

Die vuilste plek in die Republiek, waar „bier“ soos die Vaalrivier geloop en kakkerlakke in swerms gekrioel het, sal oor 'n jaar of wat nie meer bestaan nie.

Die Waterval kampong in Albertsville, Johannesburg, waarvoor belastingbetalers gedreig het om in opstand te kom, gaan verskuif word.

Dié aankondiging is gister deur mnr. A. B. Widman, LPR, voorsitter van die komitee vir gesondheid en geriewe van die stadsraad, in antwoord op 'n vraag op 'n nuuskonferensie gedoen.

Geldsake

Mnr. Widman het gesê die stadsingemeer het tenders ontvang vir 'n nuwe kampong wat by Anlea naby Industria gebou sal word. Dié kampong sal R700,900 kos en 1,390 Bantoes kan huisves.

In die nuwe begroting is geen voorsiening vir die kampong gemaak nie, maar mnr. Widman het gesê sodra die geldsake agtermekaar is, sal met die bouwerk begin word — waarskynlik teen die einde van die jaar of vroeg aanstaande jaar.

Mnr. J. A. Powell, lid van die utiliteitskomitee van die stadsraad, het op die maandvergadering van die raad in April gesê die kampong hoort nie in 'n blanke buurt nie. Dit lê tussen Albertsville, Alberts-Froon, Triomf, Newlands en Greymont. Hy het gekla oor die lawaai daar op Sondag wanneer honderde Bantoes na sokkerwedstryde in die kampong kom kyk.

Brousel

'n VP-stadsraadslid het in 'n tussenwerpsel gesê mnr. Powell moet die polisie introep. 'n Paar aande later het die polisie van Newlands 'n klopjag in die kampong uitgevoer en beslag gele op meer as 5,000 gelling drankbrousel wat in 1,000 vate by die polisiestasie aangekom het.

Mnr. Powell het die kampong toe die vuilste plek in die Republiek genoem en gesê hope kakkerlakke val uit alles wat 'n mens optel. Sodat drie dae later het die stadsraad, aan wie die kampong behoort, met skoonmaakwerk begin. Vragte volgde het gekla van die goggas toe dit in 'n sloot gegooi is.

• Vervolg op bl. 11, kol. 1.

Goggas al hondmak

• Vervolg van bl. 1

Mnr. Powell het gesê sy standpunt oor die kampong is reg of weg. Later het hy gesê die blankes van die omliggende woonbuurte hou die stadsraad verantwoordelik vir siektes wat in die gebied kan uitbreek, want allerhande siektes kan van die kampong af na die blanke gebiede versprei.

Gister het mnr. Powell gesê as die stadsraad nie gou maak met die nuwe kampong en die Waterval-kampong verskuif nie, sal Regeringshulp in geroep word. Die blankes van die gebied is bitter ontstoke oor die kampong en hulle gaan die toestand nie baie langer duld nie.

Mnr. Widman het gister gesê die kampong word intussen nog skoongemaak. Na verneem word, het die raad ook begin spuit om dit goggas dood te kry, maar die Bantoes kla glo self dat die goggas nog op die vloer rondloop nadat gespuut is. Dis oor die goggas al so mak geword het dat hulle nie meer wil trek nie, het mnr. Powell hieroor gesê.

VLEIS

Hy wou weet of die stukke pikswart vleis wat aan drade in die kampong gehang het, afgehaal is veer met die spuitwerk begin is. Die stadsraad verskaf blykbaar geen kookgeriewe in die kampong nie, en elke inwoner kook in sy kamer. In elke kamer staan 'n paraffienstofie en die potte en panne staan op die vloer rond sodat 'n mens nie daar kan trap nie.

In 'n tweede klopjag wat die polisie sowat 'n week gelede in die kampong uitgevoer het, is 68 Bantoes weens onwettige drackhandel aangekeer.

Hulle is bly dat die kampong verskuif gaan word, maar dit moet nou gou gebeur, want die blankes gaan die gemors nie veel langer verdra nie, het mnr. Powell gister gesê.

Acc (H5)

C. 00

Hostel report on tame bugs 'a lot of dirt'

THE "filthiest place in the Republic" — Waterval Compound in Johannesburg, according to the Afrikaans Press — is "as clean as my own home" says one of the 1,760 City Council workers who are furious at this "dirty" story about their hostel.

A front-page headline in Tuesday's Transvaler says: "Filthy Compound to be Moved"

The story described in picturesque terms the "filth and squalor" of the hostel and said that bugs ("goggas") had become so "tame" that they crawled about the floors without fear.

"Liquor flows like the Vaal River and cockroaches crawl around in swarms: vanloads of rubbish creaked with goggas when dumped in a ditch..."

But in a two-hour conducted tour of the hostel during which POST was allowed to "see any and everything: speak to anyone and take any picture," we could find no sign of the awesome filth described in the Transvaler report.

I was told by inmates that they bought food from a Y.M.C.A. canteen in the hostel: that they had several sporting clubs — including two football teams, the Eagles and Fighters: that they paid 20 cents a week for accommodation: that they had a large hall for recreation: hot and cold showers plus hot water for washing clothes and utensils.

Many of them are migrant labourers who have little or no ties with nearby townships such as Albertsville, Newclare and Soweto.

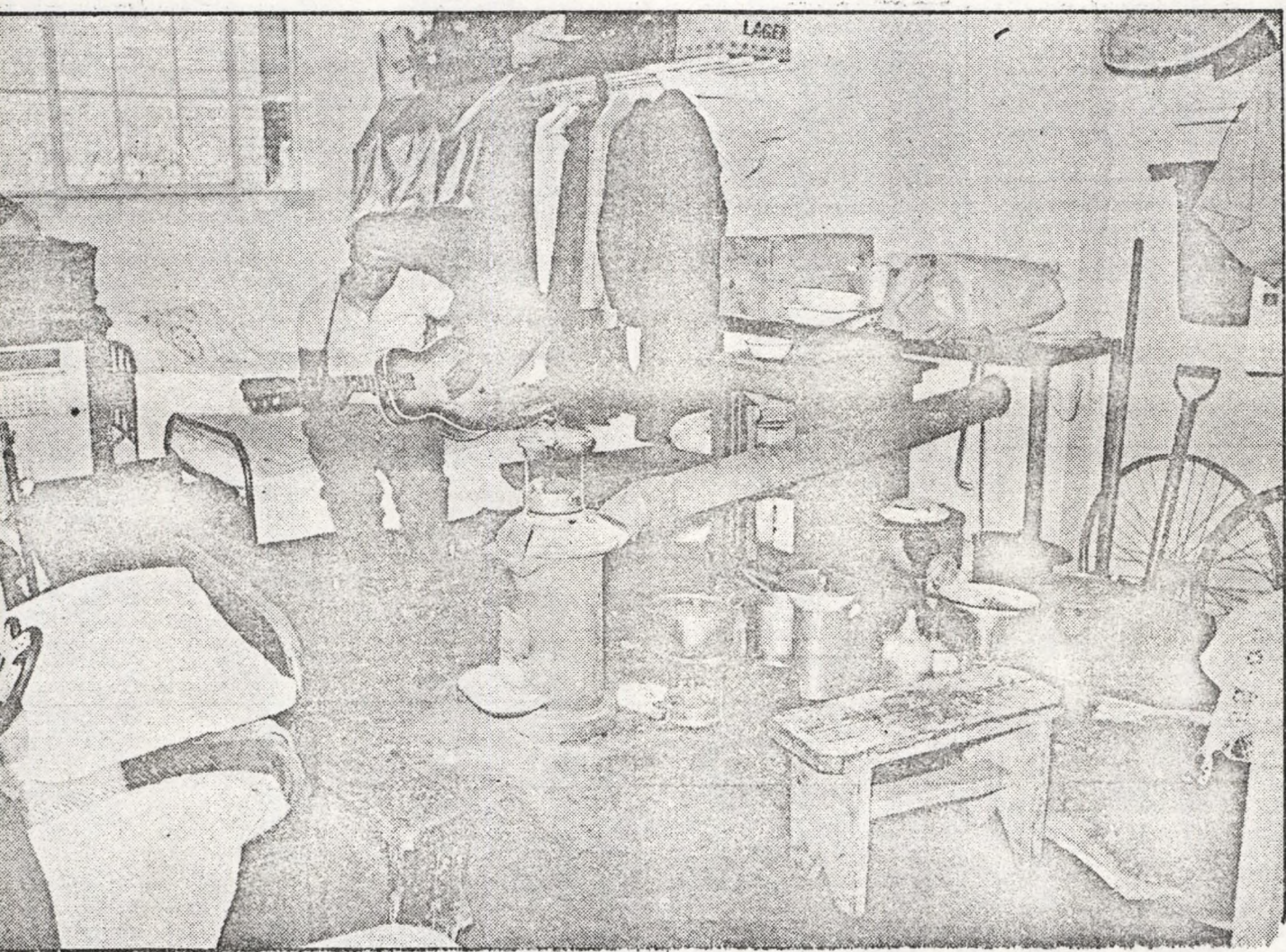
They complained bitterly of a recent police raid in which 68 men were arrested under the pass laws. In an earlier raid Newlands police claimed to have confiscated about 5,000 gallons of illegal concoctions which they took away in 1,000 gallon drums.

In one room I found a group of men drinking Council-brewed (and sold) maiza: they told me that the beer outlet was within the hostel complex.

Mr. E. C. de Jager, hostel superintendent, added that the Council supplied the hostel with 400 gallons of maiza a day.

THE STAR JOHANNESBURG WEDNESDAY MAY 28 1969

WATERVAL COMPOUND TO GO IN TWO YEARS



CITY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

WATERVAL COMPOUND.

The alleged conditions prevailing in the Waterval Compound (administered by the City Engineer's Department) have been the subject of a sustained attack in the 'Transvaler'. The matter has been thoroughly investigated. There is no question but that the press reports are grossly exaggerated, especially in regard to liquor. The Compound is under good control. There has been no previous trouble of any sort. Indiscriminate or injudicious exercise of powers vested in the police under the liquor laws could lead to serious discontent or unrest.

1. PRESS REPORTS.

The 'Transvaler' of 2nd May, 1969, carried a news report stating inter alia:

1. Councillor J.A. Powell had accompanied the Newlands Police on a raid on Waterval Compound at 2 a.m. on Thursday, 1st May.
2. Councillor Powell had conducted a long campaign for the removal of the compound, which was in a White area. At the previous Council meeting he had complained of the noise created by soccer matches.
3. Great quantities of liquor were alleged to be discovered. The paper published a photograph of a large collection of empty drums and claimed that 5,000 gallons of miscellaneous brews were confiscated.
4. Large numbers of cockroaches were discovered.
5. Cooking facilities were inadequate.
6. A Bantu was discovered cooking 'vetkoek' at 3 in the morning. When did he sleep, and how could he do his work?
7. Councillor Powell's policy could be expressed in the words "Reg of Weg".

The 'Star' on 1st May, 1969, carried a report that "5,000 gallons of home-brewed liquor was seized" and that 51 Africans were arrested for being in possession of dagga and stolen property.

These reports suggest an alarming state of affairs. Careful investigation and a calm assessment of the known and ascertained facts suggest that the reports are wildly misleading.

Immediately after the appearance of the above reports, the City Engineer requested the Medical Officer of Health to investigate the public health aspects; conditions at the compound were investigated; three interviews have been held with C.I.D. officers at Newlands police station.

2. CONDITIONS AT WATERVAL COMPOUND.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health is dealt with first in relation to the press reports regarding conditions at the compound. Although subsequent investigation suggests that much of this report has little real significance in respect of the permanent or generally prevailing conditions, they are given in full:-

- (i) Widespread cockroach infestation was found. Conditions were said to be conducive to infestation.
- (ii) The yard area was littered with food scraps, and refuse bins were full to overflowing.
- (iii) The toilet block was in an unclean state.
- (iv) Soiled papers, scraps and rags were found deposited in the main stormwater outlet from the building.
- (v) Rainwater heads have been used for disposal of slops from the first-floor verandahs.
- (vi) Waste-water stagnating in areas near wash-up where tarmac had broken up.

In general, "the conditions left much to be desired".

City Engineer's Comments on M.O.H's Report.

It is regarded as unfortunate that a report creating an impression as unfavourable as the above should be submitted without taking into account the views and explanations of officials concerned. Items (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) are dealt with first:-

(a) General Conditions at Inspection.

Point (ii):

The M.O.H's report does not take into account that the inspection took place when over 1,800 labourers had left for work, and the daily routine sweeping was in progress. The yard area was littered with scraps for the very good reason that the cleaners sweep the scraps from the rooms, across the verandahs on to the yard before collecting them into the bins for removal. The refuse bins were full to overflowing because the police had just previously removed dozens of bins, which appear in the 'Transvaler' photograph as "Konkas vir verskillende broufels". There had been no opportunity then to replace them.

Point (iii):

The toilet block had not yet been cleaned.

Point (iv):

It is in the nature of the drainage system of the compound that inevitably any solid material is washed to the sump in question, and this is cleared daily.

Point (v):

It is agreed that the design of the rainwater heads is such that the first-floor landings cannot be cleaned without dirt being washed into them. This, however, is a fault of design which can be rectified, and is no reflection on the Compound Manager on the general conduct of the compound.

Point (vi):

With a population of 1,890 Bantu, it is inevitable that the heavily-trafficked tarmac around the wash-ups should become damaged from time to time. Any holes will fill with water, but is emphatically denied that this is allowed to become stagnant. It is ridiculous to suggest that this is a serious point, but to avoid future trouble, instructions have been given to have a concrete surround to the wash-troughs built immediately.

(b) Labour Requirement for Hygiene.

One of the Health Inspector's observations at the toilet, referred to the tiles not being clean enough. The City Engineer does not claim that the cleanliness of the compound today reaches the standard set by

by his compounds in past years. But the reason for this must be pointed out. He is satisfied that the cuts in labour imposed by the Staff Board on the recommendation of the Organization and Methods Division are such that it is quite unreasonable to expect previous standards of hygiene to be maintained. The implications of 12½ years of continuous supervision by the O. & M. Division on the initiative and self-reliance of Cleansing Branch officials were pointed out in the City Engineer's report to the Management Committee on 12th May, 1969; in accordance with an agreement with the Director that these officials must be encouraged to use their own initiative and judgement, arrangements have now been made to bring the Sweeping and Compound Police complement at Waterval up to a level consistent with the standards demanded by the City Engineer.

All that remains of the M.O.H's report is cockroaches.

(c) Cockroach Infestation.

For the last few years vermin have been effectively controlled by insecticide spraying carried out by the City Health Department, at intervals not shorter than six months. As the last spraying took place in March, 1969, a reason for the degree of infestation existing in May has been sought. Two possibilities have been suggested:-

- (i) Migration from the recently-demolished area of Albertville, adjacent to Waterval.
- (ii) Whereas formerly the compound population changed gradually, now under the new call-in scheme, large batches of over 100 Bantu arrive from the homelands on a single day and may bring in vermin.

However, a more likely explanation is that the material used by the City Health Department in March ('Sefton') is specific for bed-bugs, but apparently not for cockroaches. When the compound was treated with a Dieldren material on 6th May, complete eradication of cockroaches was achieved. Thus the compound is now quite clear of cockroaches, and it appears that control is merely a matter of choice of the right vermicide.

3. LIQUOR.

(i) Quantities.

The figure quoted in the Press (5,000 gallons) is so fantastic

that only the gullible could accept it. One wonders how the 'Star' arrived at it. The Colonel of the C.I.D. at Newlands was not prepared to estimate the quantity seized. The figure quoted could only be derived by calculating the volume of every dust-bin, empty drum, fish barrel or other container seized by the police as if it had contained liquor.

(ii) Beer Supplies.

Beer for legitimate consumption is ordered from the N.E.A.D. brewery. It is prepaid, and no cash is handled when it is distributed. The maximum order of beer is 500 gallons (twice per week) as the stainless-steel vats at the compound cannot hold much more. This is equivalent on average to a distribution of less than $\frac{1}{3}$ gallon per resident. As about thirty percent do not drink, and some cannot afford it, the actual maximum taken by one person could be about 1 gallon, which is by no means excessive for the Bantu. Nor is it possible for more than minimal amounts of Bantu beer to be brought into the compound, as all containers are examined. It is, of course, in order for Bantu to purchase European liquor and consume it in the compound. It can be categorically stated that it is quite impossible for anything approaching the quantity claimed to have been present in the compound.

(iii) Possible Contraventions of the Law.

The C.I.D. have explained that the law may be broken in three ways, by:-

- (a) One Bantu selling his quota to another. This does happen. A late shift cleansing labourer may not be present when beer is distributed. He may ask a friend to buy for him, or may buy from a resident having unconsumed beer. This may be illegal, but it may well be asked whether this practice, if not abused, is in fact, harmful.
- (b) Adulteration to achieve potency. This is extremely difficult to detect.
- (c) Brewing in the rooms. It is very doubtful if this has taken place on any but a minor scale, and current measures will eliminate it.

(iv) Effect of Implementing the Law.

If the police discover either of the illegal acts (a), (b) or (c) above, they are entitled to seize or destroy all the liquor on the premises. Thus a single contravention exposed by a police trap (say, selling beer between employees in one room) can justify the seizure of all the legally-purchased beer in the whole compound. It is understood that on Sunday, 4th May, at about 11.30 a.m., when the residents were quietly lazing in the grounds, six traps were sprung, as a result of which much legitimate beer was destroyed, including a 40-gallon drum, ordered and paid for by Council Bantu employees for entertaining three visiting dance teams.

Such action is within the law, but it is pertinent to the Council's interests, and the morale of its employees whether the results justify the massive resentment engendered.

(v) Measures Taken.

To avoid all criticism, whether fully justified or not, the following steps have been taken:-

- (a) All containers have been eliminated, other than food utensils. Wooden vats, a prized possession, are stored by the Compound Manager under lock and key.
- (b) All visitors have been banned. The former check on non-residents sleeping in the compound - by seeing that no more Bantu than beds are in any room at 9 p.m. curfew - can never be fully effective, as there are night-shift workers, etc.; occasionally the compound houses employees of haulage firms contracting to the Council; vacant beds of employees on leave or sick may be occupied by others; and so on. The staff cannot examine every reference book at 9 p.m. nor would it be wise to make the attempt. But additional Compound Police will be employed to achieve as much control as possible.

Stopping of visitors at week-ends is undesirable from many points of view - there have already been complaints from the Churches - but if local residents wish to eliminate all risk of their servants purchasing beer from Council employees, it is the only way out. The long-term effect, however, may be to stimulate shebeens

elsewhere. This measure follows the provision of Para. 6 of Chapter VII of the Bantu Labour Regulations, which says that "if in the opinion of the Minister, the presence of a compound is not conducive to cordial relations with the local community, he may prohibit the use of such accommodation".

- (c) Strict disciplinary action will be taken against employees trading in beer or adulterating liquor.

Certain of these steps have brought about an undesirable reaction from the point of view of employee relations.

However, the investigations have helped to create an understanding with the C.I.D. at Newlands.

4. OTHER OFFENCES.

As far as can be ascertained, the nett result of the police action on 1st May has been:

- (i) Charges laid against a number of Bantu not entitled to be in the compound - many of which charges are believed to have been withdrawn.
- (ii) Two Bantu paid admissions of guilt for being in possession of 'Barberton'.
- (iii) One Bantu found guilty of being in possession of a very small quantity of dagga.
- (iv) One Bantu found not guilty of being in possession of 'Barberton'.
- (v) One case pending.

These Court decisions are a measure of the accuracy of the Press reports.

5. COOKING.

Waterval Compound was built when the Council supplied rations to its labourers; consequently, it has only mass-cooking facilities. This leads to cooking on Primus stoves in the rooms, which is strongly desired by tribal groups, but makes it more difficult to keep rooms clean. As the compound is soon to be moved, it is not considered desirable to spend money on building new kitchens.

6. NEW COMPOUND.

At the meeting of the Council on 27th May, 1969, it accepted a tender for the construction of a new compound near Industria, at a cost of R678,000, which will accommodate 1,390 of the 1,850 residents at Waterval. It will take two years to complete.

It is possible that by re-allocating funds, the scope of this contract could be increased, or even doubled, and so enable the whole complement to be moved.

In regard to other compounds, considerable sums have been provided in the 1969/70 Estimates for their rebuilding or improvement.

7. CONCLUSION.

The press reports and publicity attaching to the police raids on Waterval Compound have been grossly exaggerated, and have done considerable damage. The destruction of Bantu beer legally purchased has caused widespread discontent. The conditions in the compound are satisfactory, except for the absence of cooking facilities. Any imperfections have been of a minor order, and, as far as possible, will be rectified. As an alternative to the policy of "Reg of Weg", the Council has the more positive one, "Weg en Reg".

Mr. Bolitho
Ext. 242

/SR

C.E.

LABOUR FOR COMPOUND CLEANING

1. REQUEST FOR LABOUR

Following sensational reports in "The Transvaler" of 2nd May 1969, I investigated the Council's compounds, and particularly Waterval Compound, on 12th May 1969. I was satisfied that the labour available for cleaning Waterval Compound is quite inadequate to enable the compound to be kept in a decent condition.

I instructed the C.C.O. to request the Personnel Development Branch, Selby, to augment cleaning and police staff.

At a meeting of Compound Managers on 29th May 1969, the Compound Managers complained that the request for additional labour had not yet been dealt with.

Today (4th June 1969), i.e. after a period of over three weeks since the original request, the Chief Establishment Officer telephoned me to ask why the matter had not been referred to the O. & M. Division.

I advised him that in terms of the Council's resolution of the 10th December 1963: "Heads of Departments, in consultation with the Staff Board and, when considered necessary, the O. & M. Division, will effect any necessary changes".

The Chief Establishment Officer advised me that the Staff Board did consider it necessary to bring in the O. & M. Division.

2. PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE O. & M. DIVISION

In its report to Management Committee on 12th May 1969 covering "The Development of the Cleansing Branch", this department drew attention to the stultifying effect of 12½ years of continuous supervision by the O. & M. Division. It was pointed out that the Director himself had agreed that investigating minor requests for increases in labour was undesirable as it interfered with his proper function.

3. RECOMMENDATION

In the confidential report on conditions in Waterval Compound it is mentioned that steps would be taken to ensure that the old-time standards, which always were maintained in the Council's compounds, would be re-established by securing additional labour. The Board's view is that an O. & M. inquiry should first be held.

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