

Thousands Arrested In Mass Police Raids

Govt. Bid To Prevent May 29 Stay-Home

WITH only a few more days to go before the massive anti-republic demonstrations, the police are throwing their whole weight into their own campaign of intimidation. Thousands of people have been arrested all over the Union, in what the authorities describe as "routine" operations against so-called "vagrants and tsotsis."

In JOHANNESBURG alone 1300 Africans were arrested in two days.

Nearly all those arrested and appearing before the Native Affairs Commissioner's Court in Fordsburg are being remanded in custody for at least a fortnight.

Then the convoys of trucks and police vans carry the men to Modder B jail, on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Five Native Commissioners, sitting in five crammed courts, last week rushed through cases at the rate of about one every two minutes.

From early morning dozens of police pick-up trucks and vans shuttled between numerous Rand jails, where the Africans had been detained, and the Commissioner's Court.

When the New Age reporter visited the Court one morning, hundreds of men who had been picked up on alleged pass offences were crowded into small cages in the yard. They were surrounded by barbed wire and chicken wire, and stood or sat uncomfortably on the floor.

Asked when their cases would be heard, a police officer said that they would first be remanded for 14 days and sent to Modder B prison.

"We are arresting 70 a day here in Joh'burg alone and the courts are too busy to hear the cases now. In any case they are all tsotsies and loafers and must go back where they came from," he said.

WOMEN AND BABES

Outside the building there were a large number of women patiently waiting to find out what had happened to those near and dear to them. Many had babies on their backs or were accompanied by

school-age youngsters. The policeman at the door refused to allow them inside, and they watched for their men when the kwelas arrived with fresh loads or left for Modder B.

VIOLENCE FEAR

In DURBAN the African people are angry. Reports reaching New Age indicate that if the raids continue they may lead to large-scale violence in the City.

Last week three African "Black Jacks" and a European City Constable had to flee for their lives when angry people stoned them as they raided fruit vendors at the Central Bus Terminal.

A statement issued by the Joint Congresses in Natal said that the police raids were obviously aimed at intimidating people in the face of the overwhelming support received for the call for action by the National Action Council.

"We cannot accept the statements by the Government that these raids are routine and we condemn this latest move by the authorities as yet another indication of the jack-boot march to a fascist republic", the Congresses said. "We demand that all those arrested during these raids be released forthwith."

LEAFLETS

In the meantime the National Action Council has issued 50,000 leaflets calling on the people to "Defy Intimidation."

The leaflet, headed "Victory is Ours", states that the Nats are on the run. Only a Government which was losing its grip on the country would do what the Nationalist Government was doing. "Rally to the call for action on May 29, 30, 31," the leaflet ends.

In the EASTERN CAPE mass arrests have been made in New Brighton and Zakele in Port Elizabeth. Hundreds of Africans were collected from streets and homes.

DISPLAY OF FORCE

Prior to the raids there was a display of force with jet planes which flew over the city several times.

Police have also questioned many leaders. Among them was Mr. Ray Mhlaba, who was warned that as

one of the people directing the plans for the general strike next week, he would be prosecuted if there was trouble. Mr. Mhlaba was also telephoned by an unknown person who told him he would be arrested under the detention Act.

Mr. Erasmus and Mr. D. Brutus, members of the planning committee of the Coloured Convention, were also among those visited by the Special Branch.

Messrs Canzibe Ngxixi and Stanley Marwanqa were asked what part they had played in the recent bus strike and boycott.

"HELL!"

Urgent messages from the TRANSKEI describe the position there as: "The police are giving us hell."

The homes and offices of well-known former members of the banned ANC and PAC in EAST LONDON and GRAHAMSTOWN were visited by the Special Branch during the recent union-wide raids.

Mr. George Komani of East London was taken to the Fleet Street police station where he was held for questioning. He was released later. No political arrests were made but some documents were taken during the raids.

"DANGEROUS WEAPONS"

In Grahamstown police confiscated what they said were dangerous weapons. They said they were endeavouring to curb the activities of "tsotsis." One man was arrested for being in possession of dagga and another for refusing to stop his car at a police road block.

The court of the Bantu Commissioner at Langa, CAPE TOWN, was kept busy every day last week as hundreds of Africans held in the mass raids appeared on pass offences.

Police in cars, vans and riot-trucks have been active at bus-stops and railway stations, piling people into their vehicles and rushing them off to the police stations.

United Front Call in Tanganyika

DAR ES SALAAM.

S.A. United Front representatives in Dar Es Salaam have called on Africans in East and Central Africa to hold demonstrations in support of those to be held in South Africa next week.

In a statement to all African organisations and people in East and Central Africa, Mr. J. J. Hadebe and Mr. G. Radebe said: "You are hereby called to hold demonstrations in your own areas in sympathy with your people in the Union of South Africa. Pass resolutions and send them to the Government of the Union."

The people in these areas have also been asked to send messages of support to Mr. Nelson Mandela, Secretary of the National Action Council in South Africa.

S.A. SUPPORT FOR EICHMANN

JOHANNESBURG.

Johan Schoeman of Broederstroom, South Africa's most vocal Nazi supporter and Jew-hater, has published a booklet in which he says he has offered £100 for Eichmann's defence. He appeals to others to do the same.

The booklet praises Eichmann for the work he did in trying to rid Germany of the Jewish people.

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN SOUTH AFRICA!



This poster for the film "Oceans 11" shows film stars Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra walking down the street next to a figure that has been blacked out. The missing man is Sammy Davis Jr. but because he is a Negro, South Africans must not be allowed to know that he can walk in the company of White men. This poster was on display at the Colosseum Theatre, Cape Town, last week.

UP MY ALLEY

WHAT'S all the panic about? . . . Why, even the Mayor of Cape Town has got herself a .45 and gone and joined a shooting club . . . Last week I cheered her, but this week I'm jeering her . . . It's no use saying shooting clubs are not political either . . . Whites seem to be under the impression that the black hordes are going on the rampage . . . Come off it, folks . . . Lay them pistols down . . . Shooting clubs only help to pour oil on the fire . . . And we expected better of the Mayor in this time of tension.

THE other day I slipped quietly into an alley and took an inventory of the contents of my briefcase . . . Result: one stale sandwich, one scratch-pad, blank typing paper, half-bottle of cough mixture, one envelope covered with mysterious symbols (probably code), ball-point pen and one pencil without a point . . . And all these are supposed to be the tools of an intimidator . . . Phew! From now on I'm going to carry a golf-bag.

SO, clutching my briefcase under my arm I joined a queue in one of the suburbs . . . Several ladies escorting a convoy of small children eyed me suspiciously . . . I strengthened the grip on my briefcase and tried to look as innocent as possible . . . The queue shuffled forward . . . A man in a white

coat came down the line, looking at everybody, and peered at me . . . The queue moved on . . . Somebody said: "Here!" . . . My heart froze, I held on to the briefcase . . . "Hold out your hand." . . . I held out my free hand, holding on to the precious briefcase with the other . . . "Next please," said a lady in a starched white uniform . . . And by then I had swallowed my polio sweet.

I SEE that Spanish dancer Luisillo and his troupe will not upset themselves about events in this country while they are on their tour . . . Only interested in

By ALEX LA GUMA



art, said the maestro . . . Us blacks are also interested in art . . . I wonder whether we'll get a chance to see them doing their stuff.

IN Cuba Castro is prepared to exchange rebel prisoners for bull-dozers . . . It'll be a push-over, somebody remarked.

FIRST POLITICAL ARRESTS—BAIL REFUSED

THE following arrests have taken place in the last week—apart from the ugly police swoops for passes, permits, beer, bread-knives and pokers (so-called 'dangerous weapons'):

Ahmed ('Kathy') KATHRADA—Transvaal Indian leader, former treason trialist, arrested in a Fordsburg street at 10 a.m. on Thursday morning; removed to Marshall Square by the Special Branch; lawyer refused access to him. Charge: unknown.

Thomas T. NKOB—former national organiser of the banned African National Congress, arrested in Bloemfontein. Bail refused.

Gabriel DICHABA—New Age sales agent, arrested in Bloemfontein. Bail refused.

John K. NKADIMENG—Arrested as he entered Sekhukhuneland after applying for a permit on May 3 to visit his mother. The police took him into custody because his car left the main road, they said. Bail refused. Case adjourned to June 2. Police threaten charges additional to the permit contravention. Defence application for bail to the Supreme Court being prepared.

6 YOUNG INDIANS from Pretoria and Johannesburg are still in cus-

tody after their arrests in Pretoria a fortnight ago.

Sam MAGALEFA and Titus MOALUSI of Western Native Township—arrested after a leaflet distribution. Bail refused.

ARRESTED AND RELEASED

Newly elected Liberal Party vice-chairman Drake KOKA arrested, held for 24 hours, then released. No charge pending.

New Age street-seller Hosiah TSEHLE arrested, New Age bundle in his hand, poster round his neck, by police squad car. Released not long after on the order of Special Branch Colonel Spengler himself.

NOT ONLY NEW AGE BUT EVERY PAPER IN TOWN IS CARRYING STRIKE NEWS, HE TOLD HIS POLICE INFERIORS!

Four students of the University of Cape Town were arrested recently on an allegation of painting May 29 strike slogans on city walls. They were released on R20 bail.

Several members of the Coloured action committees in the Peninsula were detained by the police when discovered distributing leaflets in connection with the anti-republic demonstrations. Four of them, including three young women, were kept overnight in the cells and released the next morning.

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.