

## Voices from S. Africa

The following letter has just  
been sent to the Press:

### "The Defence & Aid Fund

established by Christian Action has played a magnificent part in the task of relieving the hardship inflicted upon a growing number of people by acts of the present government in South Africa.

The Treason Trials drag on interminably. We are glad to report that we in this country have raised approximately half of the £100,000 that has so far been spent on the defence and maintenance of the accused, but we do not know what we would have done without the most generous support of men and women in Britain.

Unhappily, indications are that the need for that support will grow, not diminish, as time goes on.

We seem in South Africa to be living through a period in which our rulers tend more and more to regard opposition to apartheid as treasonable. More and more people

are being charged with offences of an anti-apartheid nature; they are being charged more hastily, and punished more heavily. The need for adequate legal defence will therefore be even greater in the future than it is today. Swift administrative action against African men and women (invariably of a kind which denies those affected any recourse whatsoever to a Court of Law) leaving families without means and children without care, is being resorted to more frequently.

Your readers may know, for example, that African women are now compelled to carry passes, euphemistically termed "reference books". Many South Africans fear that African women will now be liable to an evil which has for so long afflicted African men, namely to be stopped in the

streets, and to be hauled off to police stations, sometimes to be absent for many days. This is bad enough for men, but it is much more to be feared for wives and mothers. It is expected that many women will be involved in such offences, and in demonstrations against the law.

The operation of the apartheid laws creates almost daily new demands for the relief and rehabilitation of its growing number of victims; demands that cannot, in the name of ordinary humanity, be denied.

For these reasons we call upon your readers to support the Defence and Aid Fund so that it may continue, in the future, to enlist the aid of British generosity for one of the most deserving causes to be found in the Western world today.

Yours faithfully, Joost Capetown, Ambrose Johannesburg, A. J. Lutuli, G. M. Naiker, Alan Paton, Leslie Rubin"

### And we the undersigned

beg you with all our hearts to respond,  
as honour may prompt you,  
to that appeal

Richard Acland, Herbert Agar, Altrincham, Peggy Ashcroft, Eric Baker, Jill Balcon, A. Wedgwood Benn, Norman Bentwich, Aneurin Bevan, Leonard Birmingham, Louis Blom-Cooper, Boothby, Phyllis Bottome, Maurice Bowra, Boyd Orr, Benjamin Britten, Fenner Brockway, Barbara Cadbury, George Cadbury, James Callaghan, Violet Bonham Carter, Hugh Casson, Lewis Casson, Barbara Castle, Richard Church, L. John Collins, Frank Cousins, Johnny Dankworth, Hugh Delargy, Ernan Forbes Dennis, Tom Driberg, Robert Exeter, Faringdon, Bud Flanagan, Dingle Foot, Michael Foot, Gerald Gardiner, Max Gluckman, Victor Gollancz, Bryan Green, Anthony Greenwood, Derrick Greeves, James Griffiths, Jo Grimond, Kenneth Grubb, Gilbert Harding, John Hatch, Jacquetta Hawkes, Hemingford, Philip Hendy, Barbara Hepworth, Trevor Huddleston, Leonard Hutton, Julian Huxley, W. J. Huxtable, Augustus John, Pamela Hansford Johnson, Laura Knight, F. H. Lawton, Benn Levy, Cecil Day Lewis, Kenneth Little, Glyn Llandav, Kathleen Lonsdale, Lucan, Humphrey Lyttelton, Compton Mackenzie, George Macleod, William Manchester, Kingsley Martin, Stanley Matthews, Robert Mennell, Cliff Michelmore, Nathaniel Micklem, Henry Moore, John Neville, John Osborne, Pakenham, W. R. Matthews, Morgan Phillips, John Piper, William Plomer, J. B. Priestley, Ravensdale, Peter Rawlinson, Herbert Read, Albert E. Richardson, Flora Robson, Russell, W. E. Sangster, Michael Scott, Leslie Sheffield, David Sheppard, Sydney Silverman, Edith Sitwell, Donald O. Soper, Mervyn Southwark, Stanley Spencer, George Sutherland, A. J. P. Taylor, Sybil Thorndike, Michael Tippett, Arnold Toynbee, Laurens van der Post, Josephina de Vasconcellos, Vicky, C. H. Waddington, M. A. C. Warren, Leslie Weatherhead, Alan C. Don, H. Howard Williams, Tom Williams, Juliet Rhys Williams, Henry Willink, Colin Wilson, Harold Wilson, Barbara Wootton.

### Remit to the national fund as below:

The Defence and Aid Fund, Christian Action,  
2 Amen Court, London, E.C.4

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