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34b, Illing Road,  
LADYSMITH, Natal.  
16th February, 1949.

The SECRETARY,  
Riots Inquiry Commission,  
c/o Magistrate,  
Magistrate's Court,  
DURBAN.

Sir,

I am a Native Male 43 years of age. I carry on business as a Native Medicine Man and Herbalist at the above address and also at Pietermaritzburg.

I now submit the following statement in connection with the recent riots at Durban and elsewhere.

Inter alia, the natives grievances are :

1. The natives are exploited by the Indians in every way i.e.
  - (a) Whenever a Native applies for a licence in respect of an omnibus, trade or occupation, his application is invariably opposed by an Indian, and as it is the Indians carry the monopoly in these trades and occupations, and the natives are ousted.
  - (b) We as Natives should have a preferent legal and moral right over Indians to matters in a land where we are aborigines and the Indians are foreigners and have no status in this Country and to reinstate us all the Indians should be deported or compelled to leave the Country.
  - (c) The overcharging by Indian traders and the black market trade by them to which Natives unoptionally are subjected to.
  - (d) That it is generally felt by the natives that the Indians indulge in bribery and thus achieve many an object or thing at the expense of the Natives, and this has a very far reaching effect and much more than is generally appreciated.
  - (e) The general maltreatment natives receive from Indians, the latter considering the former an inferior & race, dog-like and of no consequence.
  - (f) The fact that there is no law under which an Indian male can be punished for having sexual intercourse with a Native female. The law only provides for the punishment of the Native female.
  - (g) The degrading moral and social effect the permitted sexual intercourse by Indians with Native females. It can safely be said that about 75% of the venereal disease amongst Natives is due to the intercourse complained of.
  - (h) It is generally felt by the natives that the late Government and Europeans have more consideration for Indians and thus the Natives are not meted out with what is due to them as human beings and inhabitants of this land.
  - (i) The alarming birth rate of the Indians is also seriously viewed by the Natives who feel that in a very short space of time the little privileges that they now still enjoy will also disappear or be taken from them.
  - (j) The Indians - Chiefly the Madras Indian - harbour native girls for immoral and brothel purposes, and this is the chief reason why so many Madras Indians lost their lives and were injured during the recent riot.
2. If your Commission is desirous of obtaining evidence or opinion of interested persons as to any further probable developments as far as the two races mentioned is concerned I would be glad to be given an opportunity of making a further statement and to express my opinion.

Thanking you,

Yours obediently,

*S. Shengul*

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