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1) BACKGROUND TO RUNNING AWAY

B7.1.5

Leavg thru bckdr ef home & SA (Botswana) -
how come to sch position?

Story not unique - personal experience will
illuminate general policies, attitudes.

Take '48 as startg point - Nat gvt ws white backlash
to Af. demands arisg frm ind. rev. & war.

Active in politics many yrs before - Council, Mine
strike, however -

BIG UPSURGE OF 50's: ANC + allies. Big nat. campgns.

Defiance Campaign - boycotts (bus, potatoes) -
COP - Womns anti-pass Campaigns - Zeerust, Sek,
Meang of 'Nat. Lib. movement' - alliance.

Each activity met wth increased police activity
plus new laws. No overall blanket ban placed on
most orgs & ind, bt gradually increasg bans &
interferenfe.

2) WHAT 'BANNING' MEANS

A. My own, 1953. Immrd. cause, the Peace conf.

Gathrgs & orgs (about 30) nevr to belong to, hold off
included Womns Fed, PTA. Ban applies to all mtgs,
public lectures, evn classes (art group)

B. Bans are tailored to fit - teachrs frm schools,
wkrs from factories, lawyers frm courts,
journalists frm writing (own case - how I usd to
write at window) *New pattern of banning: chose own*

LEWIN: Unique nt only in nature, bt in grim
uncertainty of extent - Dudley case.

Quote

- * Alphonse Jacquesson sentcd to imprison, fr plg^{bridge}
- * Dr. Jasset convctd because forg^t to report busy day
- * Dr. Aziz sentc fr entrg location fr ill patient

- * Ignatia Mtwalane, special permissn to attend King Edw. fr birth, advice police in labr.
 - * J. Arenstein, kerbside cafe
 - * Professr Beard, sittng in kitvhn o hse party
 - * Amy Reitstein (nursry schl teachr baned) fr going to cinema
 - * Indian directf o Dbn mineral factry workg frm parked car
 - * P. Hujl - seen in bar of Cape Twn club wth 1 othr persn, latr playd billiards. Acquttd on appeal, so billiards OK, bt not bridge, nr tennis.
 - * Solly Nathie, met 2 othrs to discuss daughtrs weddg
 - * Af. who movd outside gardn fence, talkd to 1 person
 - * Shanti Naidoo
 - * Anne Tobias, guilty o attdng gathrg: 'If any 2 people who hve been bannd cme togethr fr cup o tea, they cld, between thm, formulate vast schemes. They cld thn meet othr friend & convey t schemes so tt t whole country wld know about it before long.'
- A. Hain to child's birthday pty, Buntags to some prize-givg, Hujl to christng*
- C. BESIDES BANS: Home watchd, phone tappd, lettrs interfrd wth - all thgs taken fr grantd by you, dangerous or even illegal.

Mch done nt by law, bt by intimidation:

- Couple who wrote to Star
- Employrs visitd (bannd cant get jobs, ex-pol. prisonrs also, leave)
- Friends keep away - Mannie's mthr.
- Guilt by assoc - people take the hint.

Raids on homes: 360 bks. Idiocy (films, Marx, reconstruction o Brit - bt causd us to underestimate them)

D. BREAKING THE BANS: We didnt observe thm, bt tried nt to be caught. *New pattern of behaviour - choose yr own Moral Standards - law provides NO GUIDE LINES.*
Talkg on phone. Notes in diary. Returng home frm meetgs at same time. Talkg to children.

Police aware o ths. Anti-apartheid activty continued. New laws.

3) INCREASED CLIMATE OF TERROR

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- 55 - COP, Treasn Raids at end of yr,
- 56 - 156 fr treason. 4½ yrs. Many leave country.
Bt ANC still legal, altho increasg police interf.
- 60 - Sharpeville, turng point. Jail, 20,000.
Apartheid in jail
ANC, PAC, bannd. End to 'non-violent' era.

- 62 - Sabotage Act, many acts peaceful protest cld be
defind as sabo, punishable death. Minister nw had
fantastic powrs over individual lives -

HOUSE ARREST. Ban on communicatg. Total or partial
confinemnts.

What it meant - children's friends; pool; holidays;
R's difficulties in wk (factories, reps comg
to house).

63 I also forced to leave job.

- 63 - Rivonia. 90 days. Trial, escape.

4. THE WHITE NON-CONFORMIST - WHY WE DID IT.

Nkosi in Courier: 'The profoundest, most compellg
impulses o SA s ciety hve always been, & still are,
twrds amalgamation. Ths is perhps t fact least frequentl.
notd abt SA evn by thse most oppsd to t doctrine o
apartheid....'

Much NP legislation shws this, cn only be understood
in ths light (latest Political Inteference Act)

In fct, strikg thing is nt incompatability o races bt
tendency always to mve close, to integrate, only
very strong legisl. needed to stop ths process.

The 'Noncomformists ' are in fact ansrg deepest need o
SA life.

Ths is clue, bt nt explanation, of 'why we did it' -
why nt enjoy climate, country, pool, physical joys?

Gradual process - didnt begn by sayg: give all, even
home & children, fr principles

Necessity to decide where to take stand. (Brusse)

Some societies dont make such sharp confrontations:

SA, because of heightnd divisions, enormous contrasts in livg standards, forces you to do ths. forces you furthr & furthr along road - eithr of silence, acquiescence, or of revolt against apartheid. *Once you hve taken one road, no longer a matter of choice.* Ws life intolerable? Only in last 2 yrs. We hd immense joy frm our involvemnt wth Af struggle.

TWO STREAMS - one, non-conformg wth W. attitudes, children & 'Boys & Girls', proud to be different, Afs in homes.

Bt in othr sense, involvd wth life of all people, as are all W's in SA - bt they wont see it. - Their lives conditioned as mch as ours - fear & silence, like Germans - livg a collective lie. (Vorstr believes wht banned & silence does nt exist - indeed, nevr existd, but like

5. DICHOTOMY OF LIFE IN SA

Hard to combine image of: banished, bannd, imprsiond, silenced, killd / prosperous life in sun of thrivg, richest land in Africa....

producg 43% total mineral output all Af.
2/3 gold non-soc countries
industrial complex wthout parallel - TWICE as much steel, electricty, as rest of Af combin

Then why? because could nt accept skin colour as crixtterion of man's worth.

6. UNESCO & HOMO SAPIENS

1964 Document on nature of race, eminent spec:
"All men livg today belong to a single species, homo sapiens, & are derivd frm common stock"....
"The biological data givn above are in open contradiction to t tenets o rascism. Racist theories can in no way pretend to hve any scientific foundation."
Oct 67, experts frm 18 countries new statement made necessary by chages in wlrld today:
"Racism greatly falsifies t knowledge o human biology
Problems arisg frm socalled 'race' relations are

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social in origin rather than biological. Exponents of racism faced with the exposure of the falsity of biological doctrines, find new stratagems for justifying the inequality of groups. Whenever racists fail in their attempts to prove the source of group differences lies in the biological field, they fall back upon justification in terms of divine purpose, cultural differences, disparity of educational standards or some other doctrine which would serve to mask their continued racist beliefs."

(de Klerk, Transvaal Museum.

Prof. J.J. Duyvener de Wit, who holds chair of Zoology at University of O.F.S.: 'There is no scientific proof to substantiate the theory of evolution.' He explains reasons for resemblance between manlike primates & early man was that after the Fall, part of the human population underwent a process of spiritual, & consequently physical, degeneration.)

Racial superiority ideas deeply rooted not only in S.A.W's, but in advanced, technologically dev. countries, where people are imbued with sense of their technical advantages & a conviction of their racial superiority.

→ *embodied*
Yet racial arrogance of West is old only as power of West is old, a few centuries of registered history & a mere moment of human time.

~~And so on~~
Civ is composite, an accretion of experiences & ideas beyond race or region, & term 'Western Civ' ultimately meaningless.

Europe reads with letters & counts in numbers to come from crossroad of Africa & Asia.

Man himself springs from Africa: in Nthn Tanzania, 2 million yrs ago, differentiation between man & animal 1st occurred - ability to make & use tools.

India, China, Egypt, Africa, from these countries we have evolved most of what has become our civilisation

All these things, true here as everywhere, become thousand times magnified in S.A., where racism stripped of protective veneers, becomes simple matter of degree of pigmentation of skin

7. APARTHEID MAKES COLOUR ULTIMATE GUAGE.....

the only measure of everything:

- * right to vote, hold public office, be MP, councillor, magistrate, judge
- * type of work, wages, degree of skill
- * place & type of residence; whethr you may own house or nt, own land
- * marriage - health (kwashiokor, IMR, TB) - life expectancy
- * education, career, social status

NOT: ability, educational achievemnt, not cultural developmnt, not diligence, not character, not ambtion & drive - only race

So SA holds up distortg mirror to all humanity:
THIS IS ALL OF US, with worst features dreadfully exaggerated

S⁺⁺ situation is crucial precisely because concernd so overwhelmgly wth race...Crude White Supremacy doctrines correspond to radical realities of power & wealth in wrld as a whole

Perspective changes: our wrld ws SA, almost only SA - outside wlrld only concernd us as it touchd our problems.

Now we see wld is large, SA shrinks; yet the problems take up same pattenrs

Gordimers image of gap between committd & indifferent as Sahara, whose faint trails fade out in sand . . . but once down there you find ancient caravan trails connectg humn destfny no matter how much distance a man tries to put between himself & the next man.

SA epitmises struggles, hopes, fears, beliefs, everywhere

What drove us was deep inner conviction, conscience. But what made it possible was collective action, our depend ence on each othr...George Sand#.

"Humanity is outraged in me & with me. Let us not dissimulate nor try to forget this indignation which is one of the most passionate forms of love."

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