

35.2.1

Office of the Mayor.
Kantoor van die Burgemeester.
Johannesburg.

14th May, 1947.



J. D. Reinallt Jones, Esq.,
Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Mayor
(Councillor James Gray, M.P.C.) to
acknowledge receipt of your letter
of the 3rd ultimo, forwarding a copy
of the findings of the Council of your
Institute on Racial Attitudes.

The Mayor has directed me to
state that he was most grateful for
the loan of these papers, and to
.....return them to you with many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

16 MAY 1947

Received
or Attention
corded
acknowledged
Answered

MAYOR'S SECRETARY.

P.O. Box 2543.
Telephone 34-1727.

WM/RK/

File
1. Smith
2. Lupton
3. ...
4. ...
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Mayer

407, Union-Castle Building,
Lovejoy & Commissioner Streets,
Johannesburg.

18 APR 1947
Received
For Attention
Recorded
Acknowledged
Answered

16th April, 1947.

*Let Jack Gray
know
Whyte*

Mr. Q. Whyte,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Whyte,

In common with a number of people, I feel that the time has come for the Institute to consider ways and means of establishing closer contact with the general public, with the object of building up an enlightened public opinion on the numerous problems of racial relationships which confront us in this country, and particularly in the urban areas, where the conflict of racial interests is daily becoming more serious.

There has been a very marked swing in European public opinion since the beginning of the recent war in favour of a more liberal attitude towards the native. The problems arising from the greatly accelerated urbanization of the natives, which we have witnessed in the past seven years, and from the inevitable urge to improve their standard of living, are today common topics of conversation.

As a result of the publicity overseas in connection with South Africa's racial problems - much of it grossly misinformed - the average South African has developed an uneasy conscience about some of the restrictions and disabilities which are imposed on the native people in this country. They feel that there are grounds for improvement in various directions.

In the absence of any clear guide as to what form these improvements should take, nothing is done, and a lot of public goodwill is being wasted, instead of being canalised and brought to bear at those points where concessions in favour of the native are most urgently required.

Let me give you an example. In association with a number of like minded persons, I recently made a rough survey of the recreational facilities available to the urban native with particular reference to the domestic servant. We found that the facilities were negligible. We also found that the Municipal Non European Affairs Department have plans for the provision of certain facilities

/Page 2

① Keith Fleming
② Buchanan
③ Butt
④ ...
⑤ ...

*None other than
James Nkomo*

Mr. Q. Whyte. Institute of Race Relations Johannesburg.

which, if they could be implemented right away, would alleviate the position very considerably. We were informed, however, that there was little chance of the plans being put into operation, until the City Council felt that the bulk of public opinion (represented by political votes) was in favour of their adoption.

The average man in the street, on the other hand, agrees that the absence of recreational facilities is unsatisfactory, and that something should be done about it, not only for the benefit of the natives, but also for his own benefit in his numerous relationships with the native population.

The immediate need, therefore, is for some organization which has the ear of the general public, to draw their attention to those unsatisfactory social, economic and political conditions which are breeding inefficiency and dissatisfaction among the native population; and then to show how these conditions can be improved with resulting benefits to both Europeans and natives.

No public body in existence at the moment is more fitted to perform this task than the Institute of Race Relations, and to start a new organization with these aims in view would be merely duplication of effort and dissipation of energy.

The only drawback is that the Institute as at present organised has not sufficient direct contacts with the general public. To overcome this, I suggest that the Institute should establish in the larger urban centres Local Committees whose function would be to disseminate to the public the facts regarding Racial relationships which the Institute as at present constituted collects and in general to educate public opinion.

In addition it might be advisable to start Branch Committees in the suburbs of a city the size of Johannesburg. The object, throughout, should be to bring home to the ordinary citizen that the problem is one which vitally effects the future of his existence in this country, and is no longer a subject for academic wrangling between so-called negropholists and political reactionaries.

I feel that the Institute could devote its energies and money to no better purpose. Fact-finding investigations and scientific research into racial problems are very essential, but at the present juncture in this country, what is most urgently needed is that the conclusions arrived at through investigations

Mr. Q. Whyte Institute of Race Relations Johannesburg.

sponsored by the Institute and similar bodies, should be put into practice. To do this, public opinion must be aroused by an active campaign of propaganda. In this connection I enclose a number of pamphlets which we obtained from the Mayor of Chicago who has set up a Committee on Human Relations with the object of alleviating racial discord. While our problems in this country do not present a parallel case, the Chicago experiment does provide a number of ideas, particularly in the presentation of their facts which could profitably be followed by us.

May I suggest that we might discuss the matter in more detail at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

George Mosi

P.S. I understand from Mr Lewis, that you have already seen the pamphlets.

The Meeting will be held on Wednesday the 4th June, 1947 at 5p.m.

Lilo
MEMORANDUM RE THE FORMATION OF A
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON RACE RELATIONS

8 JUN 1947

A Mayor's Committee should be formed consisting of nominated representatives from the various organised bodies and sections in the community, e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Mines, Churches, etc.

The function of the Committee would be to act as a Liaison between the community on the one hand and the Non European Affairs Department on the other. It would act as a two-way channel.

- (a) Keeping the Non European Affairs Department advised as to movements in public opinion in racial matters.
- (b) Influencing public opinion along lines which would enable the Non European Affairs Department to put into operation the various plans which it has to improve the lot of the native community.

With a liberal and progressive Non European Affairs Department the latter function would be the more important.

The Committee which might consist of 30 - 40 people would then be divided into the following sub-committees of four or five members to investigate and report on the following matters. In doing so they would have the assistance of the Non European Affairs Department which has already investigated and prepared plans on most of the subjects.

(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT

- (a) Improving relations between natives and Police.
- (b) Eliminating sources of racial friction, e.g. European tram drivers and conductors on Native trams and buses; uncontrolled bus queues; Natives and Indians on European buses and in lifts.
- (c) Juvenile delinquency in the Townships - Youth Clubs, Night Schools.

(2) EMPLOYMENT

- (a) Recognition of Native trade unions by commerce and industry.
- (b) Expansion of Employment opportunities open to natives - in public service, railways, municipalities and private concerns on basis that natives should be served and catered for by natives.
- (c) Establishment of training centres for native domestic servants.
- (d) Establishment of minimum conditions of employment and wages in occupations not covered by Statute.

(3) HOUSING

- (a) Provision of land for acquisition by natives.
- (b) Employment of native artisans to build native houses.
- (c) Survey of housing conditions of native domestic servants.

from Mr. W. J. ...

Non-Europeans

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(4) EDUCATION

- (a) Improvement and expansion of facilities for native education - adult and primary.
- (b) Establishment of creches and nursery schools.
- (c) Encouragement of night schools in suburbs aimed at teaching literacy.

(5) HEALTH AND RECREATION

- (a) Expansion of native hospital facilities and training of native medical personnel.
- (b) Provision of more parks, clubs and sports fields by the Municipal Authorities.
- (c) Establishment of health centres and clinics.

(6) POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

- (a) Establishment and strengthening of Urban Native Council.
- (b) Increase in powers delegated to such councils in the various townships and their relationship with City Council.
- (c) Qualified Municipal Franchise and direct representation on Council.

(7) POPULAR EDUCATION ON RACE ATTITUDES

- (a) Public meetings and discussions.
- (b) Exhibitions, pamphlets and films.
- (c) Press support.
- (d) An education program to instruct the European child towards a more liberal racial outlook.

In making their investigations the various Sub-committees would act in conjunction with the last mentioned sub-committee to achieve the maximum publicity for their work.

Mr. O
File under A/RR/4/1

A/RR/4/1

FJvW/PW

Ref. No. A/Reg. 4/2

The Hon. Secretary,
Southern Transvaal Regional Committee,
Ashers Buildings,
Joubert Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Rheinallt Jones,

Mayors' Inter-racial Committees

During the discussion of the above subject by the General Purposes Committee at its meeting of November 28th, Mr. Rheinallt Jones asked whether there would be any objection to an approach from the Southern Transvaal Regional Committee to the Mayor of Johannesburg, similar to that made by Mr. Webb to the Mayor of Durban. Mr. Webb said that there was no objection, and the Committee endorsed the idea.

Yours sincerely,

F. J. van Wyk,
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR.

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