

MAR 25 1960

M.H.
J.M.



After the shooting at Sharpeville, corpses littered the ground, two in the foreground, others near the ambulances in the background.

MASS SLAUGHTER BY POLICE

Bloody Reprisals Against Anti-Pass Demonstrators

News and Pictures By Joe Gqabi

JOHANNESBURG. THE FIRST DAY OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST PASSES BROUGHT FRIGHTFUL REPRISALS FROM THE POLICE IN THE AREAS WHERE THE PEOPLE CAME OUT EN MASSE IN ANSWER TO THE CALL TO STAY HOME FROM WORK AND HAND IN THEIR PASSES AT THE POLICE STATION.

At Sharpeville Township and at Langa a total of 70 were killed and several hundreds wounded.

Sharpeville Township (Ver-eeniging) saw one of the ugliest bloodbaths ever. At one stage we counted 34 bodies (including those of at least eight women) lying about the ground in front of the Sharpeville police station as though on a battleground.

They seemed all dead, many with bullet head wounds. Some of the injured were shot in the back, some had more than one bullet wound.

Ver-eeniging Hospital was deluged with ambulance loads of wounded who had to be treated on the lawns outside the hospital, so many were there crowding the casualty room and wards.

The police firing was without any warning, some told New Age. Saracens were on the scene and some said the firing had been from them, though we have not confirmed this and the police denied it.

This murderous shooting was done from behind a wire fence into the centre of the crowds standing about the police station.

THE POLICE SAID, AS JUSTIFICATION, THAT THEY WERE BEING STONED AND FIRED UPON, BUT ON THEIR OWN ADMISSION ONLY THREE POLICE WERE INJURED ON MONDAY.

A police official pointed to scratched paintwork as evidence of stoning. Their attitude seemed to be: "Demonstrate or throw stones at even our Saracens and we will teach you a lesson."

PITIFUL SCENES

There were tragically pitiful

scenes after the shooting. Women wailed and sobbed over the dead (Continued on page 4)



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LANGA'S NIGHT OF TERROR

From Fred Carneson and Alex La Guma

CAPE TOWN.

AT least five people were killed and an unknown number injured during a night of clashes between the people and the police at Langa last Monday.

The trouble started when police

arrived at a peaceful mass meeting called by the Pan Africanists at the New Flats at 6 p.m. The people were unarmed, as they had been specially asked not to bring any weapons. About 6,000 people were present at the meeting.

As all meetings had been banned under the Riotous Assemblies Act, the police tried to break up the meeting. Members of the crowd told New Age they heard no order to disperse, and they deny emphatically police reports that firing first came from the crowd.

ATTACK LAUNCHED

The police launched an attack with batons and shortly afterwards started firing on the crowd.

As darkness fell, the incensed people hit back. Police were stoned and buildings were set on fire. The labour bureau, administrative offices, library, market hall and schools were gutted.

Saracens and armoured cars were operating in the township throughout the night, and bursts of firing were heard. Army units were called in to help the police.

On Tuesday morning a tense atmosphere persisted in the township. The police were going from door to door ordering the people to work and beating those who refused. There were reports of people being lined up and herded to the station like cattle.

We ourselves saw a man whose face was streaming with blood after being beaten by a policeman.

Sporadic bursts of shooting continued to take place.

Soldiers in the township made no secret of the fact that they were ready to "shoot kaffirs." We heard

a number of disgusting remarks from them.

One soldier said to us as we went (Continued on page 4)

ANC STATEMENT ON AFRICANIST CAMPAIGN

JOHANNESBURG.

An ANC statement issued on Monday night expressed severe shock at brutal police violence which serves only to incense and inflame the people. Could not methods be used to disperse crowds without killing and maiming people?, asks the statement.

The authorities are keen to use any excuse to shoot fear into the hearts of the people, concludes the ANC.

The ANC says its national anti-pass campaign is aimed to prepare the people for a powerful, united national action which alone can destroy the pass law system which is at the root of oppression. This cannot be done by ill-defined forms of action, less still by action in isolated areas.

While the ANC cannot oppose any people's spontaneous demonstrations, it is convinced that ill-organised, ill-defined action can cause harm and reduce the struggle's effectiveness. The ANC feels it cannot call on or encourage people to participate in the ill-defined PAC campaign.



The injured crowded on the lawn in front of the Vereeniging hospital.



A queue of African demonstrators who have left their passes at home surrender themselves to the police in Philippi near Cape Town.



Guarded by a policeman armed with a sten gun, another large crowd of demonstrators wait their turn to surrender themselves to the police.

SOBUKWE STATES HIS CASE

JOHANNESBURG. PAN AFRICANIST president Mr. Mangaliso R. Sobukwe announced at a press conference held last Friday that his congress would start a "sustained, disciplined non-violent campaign against the pass laws on Monday March 21." Mr. Sobukwe told newspaper reporters "as long as the campaign is on, nobody will go to work." Africans would leave their passes at home, and would surrender themselves at chosen police stations under the leadership of local Pan Africanist Congressites. The leaders would tell the police: "We do not have passes. We will not carry passes again. Millions of our people are arrested under the pass laws so you had better arrest us all, now."

"These are my orders," said Mr. Sobukwe, "and if we must win these orders must be faithfully carried out."

Asked how long the campaign would last, Mr. Sobukwe said "till our demands are met." Nobody would call off the campaign except the national president himself who would do so at public meetings of the people.

Mr. Sobukwe said if passes were left at home this would mean the people had divorced themselves mentally from the passes.

DEMANDS

Africanist demands were for the total abolition of the pass laws, a minimum wage of £35 a month or £8.3.4d. a week throughout the country, a guarantee that no worker would be dismissed as a result of this campaign, and an assurance that leaders would not be victimised as the result of the positive action by the African people.

As a change from their former policies of "go it alone" and not being interested in fighting "isolated issues," the Africanists have sent letters to the African National Congress and to the Liberal Party inviting them to create history by taking part in the campaign.

Mr. Sobukwe said he offered an opportunity to all those "non-African individuals and groups who have expressed themselves to be bitterly opposed to the pass laws to participate in this noble campaign."

A letter to the Commissioner of Police from Mr. Sobukwe announced the start of this campaign and asked for instructions to the police to do nothing that would lead to violence, and not to give "impossible" commands to the people.

"The usual mumbling by a police officer of an order requiring the people to disperse within three minutes, and almost immediately after a baton charge, deceives nobody and shows the police up as sadistic bullies."

The police should have no diffi-

culty, says the letter. "We will surrender ourselves to the police for arrest . . ." The letter ends: "Hoping you will co-operate to try and make this a most peaceful and disciplined campaign."

Leaflets issued by the Pan Africanists say "If ONE man is arrested for not having a pass, you will stop there and then and tell the people

you do not have passes either. Demand that they arrest you all.

At this stage of the campaign "All men will go to jail under the slogan NO BAIL NO DEFENCE NO FINE. The women will be assigned their historic role.

In the first phase of the struggle they must see to it that ALL MEN GO TO JAIL."

EDITORIAL THE ARLOW SCANDAL

TO WHAT DEPTHS HAS MORALITY SUNK IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT A KILLER CAN BE TREATED AS A PUBLIC HERO?

Last week Sgt. Arlow and Constable Hattingh were convicted in court of the unlawful killing of an African, Fothane, whom they alleged to be the Pretoria "panga" man. Arlow was fined £75 and given a sentence of a year's imprisonment suspended for three years; Hattingh was fined £25.

To judge by the press reports, there are some people who feel Arlow and Hattingh have done no wrong—and there may even be a few newspapers among the number of their admirers. To these people, Arlow and Hattingh were doing a wonderful job in the first line of internal defence "to maintain baasskap or leadership," to quote the words used by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Erasmus, only the week before.

In the eyes of these white Supremacists, the only mistake Arlow and Hattingh made was to get caught. At worst they regard their offence as a technicality, and they probably wish there were more like them in the police force who could be relied upon to hunt down passless "kaffirs" with relentless efficiency.

A CRIMINAL

Let us express here and now our disgust at the way in which some sections of press and public have treated Arlow since his conviction and sentence last week. Here is a man condemned in court by a judge as a criminal and found to be a liar, but who yet is given a reception to rival that accorded to public favourites like Princess Margaret and Mr. Jones. His photograph is plastered over the front pages of newspapers, and his views have been quoted as though they were worthy of consideration by decent people. We are told he has hopes of remaining in the police force, and his only fear is that his suspended sentence will prevent him from taking a shot at the next "dangerous criminal" he happens to tangle with.

This from a man who has only just been convicted of culpable homicide and who still faces other charges connected with the death of an African in the police cells at Brooklyn is extraordinary enough. It would appear that Arlow has been sufficiently encouraged by the public reception accorded to him to believe that there is no call upon him to mend his ways. Neither he nor Hattingh have shown the slightest remorse at the fact that the African Fothane lost his life, that a wife lost her husband and a

child its father, as a result of their illegal action.

In all the circumstances we can only express our regret that both the tone of the judgment and the sentence in this case may have left the public, however erroneously, with the feeling that the bench takes a lenient view of their offence.

GOVT. TO BLAME

There are too many trigger-happy policemen in South Africa today, and they have been encouraged to go too far by Mr. Swart's notorious instruction to "shoot first and ask questions afterwards." Arlow himself is reported to have shot dead 13 people during his 12 years in the police force. In evidence he was alleged to have said: "I speak once to a kaffir and then shoot," "I only speak once to a Native and then my revolver speaks." Defence counsel asked another police witness: "Isn't it an average sort of joke among young constables in the barracks to say that they want to shoot a kaffir?" To which the answer was "Yes."

Speaking of the contradictions in the police evidence, the Attorney General himself, in argument, said: "Twenty years ago when a policeman went into the witness-box, one could stake one's reputation on his telling the truth. Unfortunately that is not so today. There is a minority who will commit perjury in order to get a colleague off."

Thus in the eyes of the general public, it was not merely Arlow and Hattingh who were on trial. The conduct of the whole police force and the administration of justice were involved in their case and must share, equally with the two men, the responsibility for their crime. In the last resort it is the Nationalist Government itself which, by fostering an attitude of contempt and even hatred towards the Non-White peoples, has created the mental climate in which the crime of an Arlow and a Hattingh becomes possible.

At the present time, therefore, when relations between the people and the police could hardly be worse, it would not have been out of place for Mr. Justice Ludorf to make it abundantly clear that the sort of crime for which Arlow and Hattingh were convicted simply cannot be tolerated in South Africa today.

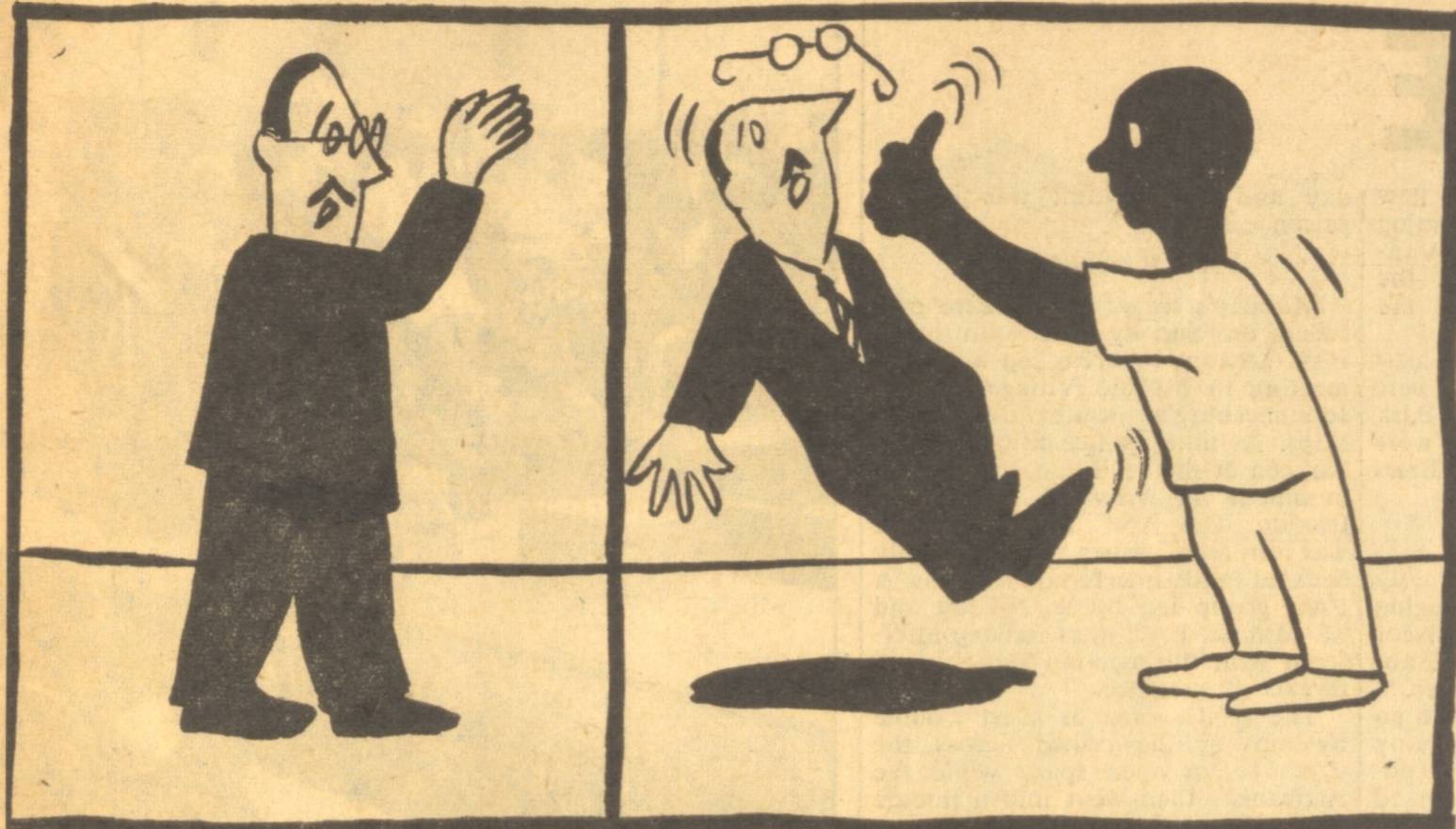
If it is too much to expect that the Minister of Justice himself will now take action on his own initiative, then it is obviously up to the people to intervene and insist that steps be taken to put an end to these continuing scandals of violence and illegality in the police force.



On Monday morning the road from Nyanga Location was thronged with groups of Africans heading for the Philippi Police Station. Our picture shows a group on their way to surrender themselves in answer to the Pan-Africanist Congress anti-pass call.

COALBROOK LOSES ITS LABOUR FORCE

European Mineworkers Agree To Talks With SACTU



MOLO!

MAYIBUYE!

UP MY ALLEY

THE Unity Movement has been pouring heavy fire on the Eoan Group for the last few weeks. The reason? The Group's opera and ballet season is included in the City Council's brochure advertising events taking place in Cape Town during the period of the Union Festival.

In spite of the Group's explanation that they had nothing to do with the Festival and that they were not responsible for the inclusion of their name in the brochure, the Torch has been going to town about them.

BUT! It looks as if the Torch boys could not have read the Festival Brochure very carefully. Because what do we find on page 61?

A grand bazaar to be held in May by the Teachers' League of South Africa!

Okay boys, let's see you start bombing your own troops.

A JUDGE in the States trying Negro demonstrators for breaking apartheid laws seems to

have treated a national emergency rather lightly.

He postponed the proceeding to attend a beauty contest.

NEWSPAPERS have been straining themselves to show



By ALEX LA GUMA

how unsuccessful is the overseas boycott of South African goods. But apart from that there has been a consistent grumble against people boycotting South Africa when there are other governments

just as lousy as ours. Take the United States, for example, they say. And in Scandinavia (whose trade unions support the boycott) they have apartheid between the royalty and the common folk because there they only allow intermarriage between members of royal houses. "Why aren't those countries boycotted?" they ask.

Get it into your thick skulls, chaps. The African people here ASKED for the boycott. People in other countries can do the same if they think fit.

WISE words by King Farouk, when he prophesied that very soon there would be only five royal houses left in the world. One would be in England, and the other in a deck of cards.

AT the Pan-Africanist anti-pass demonstration in Cape Town cheering participants gave the Afrika salute. Trying to separate demonstrators from onlookers a cop announced: "All those of you who are for Afrika stand one side. The rest clear off."

JOHANNESBURG.

IN a matter of three days, almost the entire labour force of African miners at the Coalbrook mine—scene of the tragic disaster in January when over 400 were entombed underground—left the mine last week to go to their homes.

At first the mine was shut down by order of the Government Engineer, but later permission was given for it to reopen in certain shafts, following an appeal by the mine management to an appeal board.

The African miners, however, refused to go underground. They were afraid of gas and another underground disaster, they said. Their determination not to go underground again had been strengthened when they saw pit ponies and horses brought above ground after the first shutdown order.

So the miners were paid off. They handed in their tin hats, packed their trunks and bundles, parted company with miner friends from other parts of southern Africa, and left Coalbrook. The mine is now trying to resume work using mechanised mining machines.

TRADE UNION NEEDED

Now is the time for a trade union of African miners, says the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions this week.

It announces also that it has approached the White Mineworkers' Union to form a committee to discuss safety measures on the mines. Ellis' union has agreed to this.

The Clydesdale Colliery disaster, says SACTU, and the refusal of African miners to go underground may bring home to the Chamber of Mines the imperative need for African miners to be permitted to organise themselves into a trade union. If there existed a properly constituted trade union for African miners with officials in whom the workers had confidence, all the confusion and suspicion as to the safety of working at Clydesdale could have been avoided.

RUMOUR RIFE

As in all democratic countries, the trade union would have called in expert opinion and the union members would have been guided by this. Now, with over 400 of their fellow workers dead, with rumour rife and contradictory opinions ex-

pressed by the Government, the mining company and the White Mineworkers' Union, with the closing of the mine one day and its reopening two days later, the miners have quite rightly refused to go underground.

African miners may be numbers



With all his possessions carried in his two hands, an African miner leaves Coalbrook on the long journey home.

and digits to some, but each miner is a human being who values his life.

SACTU states that it will continue its efforts to organise African miners whatever obstacles are placed in its path, and is calling for support from miners' organisations throughout the world to bring pressure on the mine owners to abandon their short-sighted policy of debarring African miners from forming a trade union.



With blood spattered all over his chest and still dripping from a wound on his head, this man had just been beaten up by the police at Langa last Tuesday morning. The police had burst into the house where he was staying and tried to force all the inmates to go to work.



This was all that remained of the Langa labour bureau after last Monday night's rioting.

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