

LuM/027/0004/21

ENCL. 15



NEWSLETTER MARCH, 1979

THE FORUM CLUB

1. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
2. THE SHAH OF I RAN
3. S.A. CAMEOS: # 3
4. OUR NATIONAL POLICE "FARCE"
5. BUY CANADIAN !

EXTRA: COME TO OUR DANCE - SUPPORT THE SCHOOL FOR S.A. STUDENT  
REFUGEES AT MOROGORO, TANZANIA



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I recently attended a conference on world peace where we met delegates from all over the world. It is impossible in this short space to relate to you all the ideas and discussions that took place, but I should like to like to share with you, very briefly, what we heard from a delegate from India, speaking about "The Year of the Child."

He said that throughout the world, it is the right of every child to be happy, to be well fed, and to enjoy simple games like playing with a ball. Those of us who have children and grandchildren, he said, want to give them the best we could, because they are so precious, so innocent. However, he went on, there is one country where they still shoot children. Yes! He was thinking of South Africa, of Soweto, where just because the children refused to accept the type of education that would enslave them, like it did their parents, they were shot by the police. He was thinking of Langa and Athlone and Retreat. And this man came from a country thousands of miles away from South Africa !

A large number of children, secondary and high school pupils, and even children in Primary school (elementary school) were detained by police. Some were beaten and tortured. Others escaped to neighbouring states where most of them are still sleeping outdoors because of a lack of accommodation.

We in the Forum Club have been able to help those children in some small way because of your support. We appreciate your concern. And we ask you to continue your support. It is not necessary for you to wait for us to contact you. Get in touch with one of our members, or our Secretary at 223-2852, and tell us what you would like to do for those kids. Remember, they do not expect wall-to-wall broadloom, or a TV set or even a second-hand Mercedes or half of a summer cottage ! Just the ordinary things, like bread, milk, cheese, and perhaps, if they're in the luck a tiny piece of corned beef from a tin ! Do it now ! Contact us, for the sake of those kids !

Ken Coffen

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THE FORUM CLUB IS GIVING A GRAND DINNER DANCE AT THE QUEENSWAY LIONS HALL ON SATURDAY, 9th JUNE, 1979. THE PROCEEDS ARE IN AID OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SOWETO UPRISING WHO FLED FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND WHO ARE NOW BUILDING THEIR OWN SCHOOL AT MOROGORO, A TOWN LYING ABOUT 100 MILES DUE WEST OF DAR-ES-SALAAM. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DANCE IS TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER. THIS FUNCTION IS A MUST !!

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The flood of Iranian oil has been replaced by a flood of Iranian blood. But the bleeding of Iran is not just a recent phenomenon. From the early years of oil exploration the profits from the vast oil deposits have been appropriated by foreign oil interests and the ruling class in Iran at the expense of the people. This latest disruption is not the first time the people have attempted to rectify the situation.

In 1948 Anglo-Iranian Oil, the British run consortium, decided to renegotiate its terms with the Iranian government. The new terms provided the Iranian rulers with four shilling per ton of crude, along with 20% of the company's profits of £671,250 a year.

During World War II Reza Shah had abdicated and been replaced by his son, the present ex-Shah. In 1949 the Iranians became upset by the revelations that Aramco had allowed Saudi Arabia a 50-50 split that had been preceded by a similar deal with Venezuela in 1948. Discontent was rife and several groups including the National Front headed by Dr Mohammed Mossadeh, who assumed the leadership, attempted to bring about a new order in Iran. He and his followers advocated total economic and political independence for Iran.

In 1951 Mossadeh got parliament to accept a statute calling for complete nationalization of Iran's oil. The Shah signed the nationalization decree and Mossadeh was named Prime Minister. Britain called upon the International Court at The Hague to grant them compensation and declare the seizure of the oil fields illegal. While this process was being initiated they attempted to buy off the new Iranian government. This took place in May and by the end of June the British had applied sufficient pressure to have brought about a virtual halt in oil shipments from Abadan. The Americans stood by waiting for an opportunity to fill the vacuum. The British reaffirmed their position that confiscation must be followed by adequate compensation disregarding the huge profits already accrued at the expense of the people of Iran. The Americans began to support the British position because the success of the Iranian Nationalization could lead to other nationalizations and jeopardize their holdings in the Middle East.

The British continued to apply pressure in an attempt to close all markets to Iranian oil that they persisted in calling "stolen". Iran was being virtually drowned in its own oil. Two years before nationalization Iran had exported 54 million tons of oil but only 132,000 in the following year. The economy was being destabilized and pressure began to mount. By early 1953 there was widespread unemployment and spiralling inflation. The masses continued to support Mossadeh but the Iranian ruling class were frightened by his actions and worked to discredit him. The Shah took part in an unsuccessful coup and then fled to Rome. He seems to have always had very timely holidays. But on this occasion his holiday was curtailed because the royalists took to the streets and Mossadeh was overthrown and placed in prison.

(Ctd 4



The royalist coup was financed and supported by the American C.I.A. in collusion with the British Secret Service. The benefits of the successful coup were quick in following. The oil fields reverted to British control and American oil interests moved into Iran to partake of the lucrative profits. The U.S. taxpayer had put out about a billion dollars to re-establish the status quo so that the oil interests could resume their exploitation. Much of the one billion dollars ostensibly intended to soothe over the impoverished peasantry ended up in the pockets of the upper-class elite.

In the newly constituted oil structure in Iran, Anglo-Iranian controlled 40%, Shell 14%, Compagnie Francaise 6% with Standard of New Jersey, Socony-Mobil, Gulf, Standard of California and the Texas Company receiving 7% each. Another 5% went to Iricon Agency, a group of nine other American companies. Anglo-Iranian changed its name to British Petroleum and today ranks among the top oil companies in the world in oil reserves controlled.

So the exploitation has continued until the present. But a growing awareness of the insatiable greed of the oil interests in combination with a surging tide of Islamic nationalism has created a challenge and a threat to continued exploitation. The Shah may have taken another vacation but the oil magnates will not abdicate their profitable concessions without a struggle. The Shah is merely a pawn, albeit well paid, in the ongoing saga of exploitation of resources and people by the wealthy wielders of power and influence. He has fled, but they remain. This struggle has really just begun and the odds against the people of Iran achieving total victory are staggering.

Peter Sutherland

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### SOUTH AFRICAN GEMEOS:#3

For some reason I cannot now define it was the rickety stairway that seemed most clearly etched on my mind; the rickety stairway that led to my sister's two-roomed apartment in Balmoral street. Even now I remember clearly how nervously I clung to the dirty, knotholed bannister while the pungent odour of fresh horse dung and urine invaded my nostrils....

Down below, in the cemented stable-yard the steam rises slowly, ghostlike, from the fresh, yellow dung. It eddies and wafts upward, it seems to be following me, wanting to go where I am going, to my eldest sister's apartment. The smells of urine and dung are now joined by the aroma of onion. I wrinkle my nose and sniff. Yes, onion - onion and those cheap penny polonies. The Indian store on the corner sells them at four for a tickey.\* And now comes the strong odour of garlic being braised with the onion. I look up towards the doorway, but the stairs are still rickety. Now I look down. How far I've climbed up these stairs ! See down below there; a mangy dog is examining the greyish, scum-covered water that has collected in the depression around the blocked drain. The water stinks and the dog moves away from it. (Ctd 5



At last I am at the top of the stairs and opening the door. The air is fetid and the petticoated woman who shares the apartment with my sister does little to improve this atmosphere of onion and garlic and horse dung and urine and slop-pail water and the backing-up sewer, for now the smells of sweat and Skip\* and "Evening in Paris" are added to all the other smells. I shy away from this big, bleary-eyed Amazon, not because of the smells, but because her tremendous breasts threaten to knock me down the stairs. But the woman smiles a broad, gap-toothed drunken smile, but friendly, and motions with her head towards my sister's part of the room.

From behind the floral curtain I hear a whimpering. I draw the curtain aside and find my sister cradling the gaunt-eyed figure in her arms. The little body is heaving up and down, and the dry, greyish yellow skin seems to be tightly wrinkled over the bony cage of ribs. My sister looks wanly at me. She shakes her head and sighs, a deep, hopeless sigh. Two oversized tears well from her eyes, roll down her cheeks and fall onto the little naked body...

"freddie got the sack last month when he told the boss he couldn't go on working for fifteen bob a week..went to Jo'burg to look for work, but I haven't heard from him since he left." She wipes the tears away again. "And baby's been on Marie biscuits and water for a month now." "Umph ! Rickets ! " Earlier that day ol' Chappie, the Grade 6 teacher had told us about rickets, a deficiency disease, he'd said. "What's that ?" asks my sister. "Oh, nothing, nothing, I was just thinking..I've got to go now, goo'bye !"

Carefully I move down the stairs, the rickety stairs, past the dung and yellow-stained cement. On the way home I stop at Trafalgar Park and go swinging on the swings. When I eventually reach home it is already supper time. In a few minutes my dad will be home and we'll be having supper. The front door opens, but it is not Dad. It's my older brother. "Dad said you shouldn't wait for him, Ma. He's gone to Sister's ...It's her baby....kid had gastro-enteritis and rickets!"

\*Tickey: a silver threepenny bit

\*Skip: A cheap South African wine popular among the low paid labourers in Cape Town during the thirties.

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Rhodesian Brief:

Question: What do they call those blacks who serve in Smith's cabinet?

Answer: Blacksmiths !

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A WEEK BEFORE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOWETO UPRISING THE FORUM CLUB IS RUNNING A DANCE IN AID OF FUNDS FOR THE SOWETO VICTIMS. - WE ARE COMMITTED-- AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT-- WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL GIVE US THAT VITALLY NEEDED SUPPORT-- AND WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE. REMEMBER: SATURDAY, 9th JUNE, QUEENSWAY LIONS HALL - FOR A GOOD CAUSE, JOIN GOOD COMPANY, ENJOY EXCELLENT CUISINE BY SERGIO !!



## OUR NATIONAL POLICE 'FARCE'

Can the citizens of a country that advocates that civil liberties and individual freedoms be guaranteed allow its law enforcement agency to break the laws they are sworn to uphold ? At this moment the R.C.M.P. have been found in breach of the very laws they are sworn to uphold. Actually if people were better informed about the background of this pseudo-military organization their latest abuses of the law would come as no surprise.

The R.C.M.P. has operated under various titles since its inception but its main purpose has always been to control any group of citizens suspected of being a threat to the status quo. The force had its beginnings in the West where it was created to control the Indian and Metis populations in order to facilitate the development of the West by eastern capitalists. In 1885 the Metis and Indians were crushed with the defeat of Riel and the Indians who supported his struggle. The North West Mounted Police was now used to support the interests building the C.P.R. against the employees. Under the supervision of Sam Steele, one of Pierre Berton's Canadian folk heroes, the force was used to break the strikes of the railroad workers who protested the terrible conditions under which they were expected to work. The R.C.M.P. have continued their anti-labour activities infiltrating legal labour unions and acting as strike breakers on behalf of owners.

During the first World War a new section was created called the Security and Intelligence Branch. This section of the force became somewhat autonomous and began many of the practices and activities that culminated in the recent revelations of illegal R.C.M.P. action.

It has been documented that they have conducted 400 illegal break-ins without warrants, more than 100 illegal mail openings, illegal inspections of confidential medical files to elicit information to be used against 'radicals', and numerous other blatantly illegal activities. Now we must wait and watch in order to see how these misdeeds are dealt with. If these activities are condoned by inaction and coverup on the part of the government then we can drive one more nail into the coffin of our seriously threatened civil liberties.

The citizens of this country are supposed to possess certain basic freedoms within our so-called democratic society, but when anyone takes these seriously and attempts to put them into practice, he or she is immediately labelled a radical and is considered a threat to everyone's security. As a matter of fact it seems that anyone who has any kind of opinion that differs from the norm, or who dares to question the prevarications of the authorities is immediately stigmatized as a radical, or even worse, a communist.

Why do people in power so fear the exercise of these legitimate freedoms ? A questioning and critical spirit we are told is the basic ingredient of a free and open society. But this is not really what is wanted. This society is free in theory but not in fact. If we actually did begin to question the use and abuse of power in this society and if we did begin to avail ourselves of the freedoms we (Ctd 7



supposedly possess, the power of the authorities would break on the storm that delivered us. Therefore it is in their best interest to suppress any individual or group that threatens their privileged position.

Every once in a while though the authorities become overzealous in their desire to uphold the status quo and through carelessness and arrogance are detected. This leads to an attempt to mollify public opinion. An inquiry is ordered and the institutionalized power structure makes a show of rectifying the situation. This inquiry drags on until the public has lost sufficient interest in the proceedings and then the entire incident is quietly shelved. Meanwhile we will be told to obey and uphold the law. Those who question the actions of the authorities will continue to have their mail illegally opened, their homes broken into illegally and their activities and movements monitored in our free society.

The continual erosion of the few civil liberties we do possess must not be taken lightly. Freedom is a precious commodity. Ours is being trifled with and too few people seem to give a damn. To sit quietly by is to sanction the death of your civil liberty.

Peter Sutherland

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EVEN AN INSULAR ATTITUDE IS COMMENDABLE: BUY CANADIAN !

It will be recalled that in 1961, Mr Diefenbaker, then Prime Minister of Canada, played a major role in expelling South Africa from the Commonwealth. Three years later, in 1964, Prime Minister Lester Pearson ended the sale to South Africa of paramilitary vehicles by Ford. During the 1968-69 UN session Canada voted against South Africa's retention of control over Namibia's trade and committed itself to apply economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

Despite all these seemingly harsh moves against the white minority regimes in Southern Africa, South Africa, the financial colossus on the continent, continues to enjoy preferential treatment under the trade preference agreement accorded to regular Commonwealth countries. It is significant that Canadian businesses increased the volume of direct investment in South Africa from \$32 million in 1965 to \$70 million in 1969 while, for the whole of the rest of Africa over the same period an increase of only \$8 million was registered.

By 1973 Canada's investment in South Africa totalled 80% of its entire African figure. In other words Canada was investing four times as much in a country with a population of about 25 million as opposed to 20% for the rest of Africa with a population of nearly 350 million ! Taken to its logical conclusion it would be correct to state that since the beneficiaries of this Canadian investment are the investors themselves and the white minority of South Africa the 80% Canadian investment was in fact bolstering the apartheid regime to the advantage of less than 1.5% of the entire population of the African continent !

(Ctd.. 8



It is evident that Canadian firms have not been moved by exhortations to cease and desist in their dealings with South Africa. These firms are not guided by a sense of responsibility towards people, or by humanitarian considerations; morality for them is non-existent. It is patently clear that their interests lie only in their profits and that no amount of moralizing, no amount of appeals, no pictures of children's bullet-riddled bodies will change their attitudes. Clearly, if any of us are interested in exerting any kind of pressure upon the firms that are maintaining and bolstering the apartheid regime, it is against their profits that our efforts must be directed.

The crippling of the economy of the apartheid regime is a necessary goal in the struggle against oppression in South Africa. Here in Canada a large number of organizations and many individuals believe in the anti-apartheid cause. They range from the African National Congress through church organizations, political organizations, pressure groups, political parties and political leaders. Moreover, these organizations are spread throughout Canada.

In November 1977 after a Canada-wide conference organized under the aegis of Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa, the C.C.S.A. REPORT noted that

The consensus of opinion was that there was a real need for Canada-wide co-ordination of the campaigns in order to strengthen their impact. \*

With the forces of liberation gathering strength in Southern Africa it seems appropriate that members of the Forum Club, their friends and indeed, all people who would see freedom triumph in Southern Africa, should start working towards that "Canada-wide co-ordination". For starters we might list all the names of firms that DON'T have investments in Southern Africa. Of course, one is not thinking of every little corner store, but of the big corporations. (And yet there might be some corner stores that do stock South African !)

One thinks of the banks and large corporations; and it might present quite a problem. Even some outspoken critics of the apartheid system have shares in corporations that invest in South Africa - like the churches. They believe they should have shares so that they might have the power of the vote in the company's affairs. In such cases there might be seen to be something of a dilemma. The contradiction, if one exists, must be sorted out by the people involved.

However, in the simpler things there is no dilemma. Let us all agree that people who lay claim to even a modicum of intelligence, and people who are aware of their responsibility towards the struggling masses in South Africa DO NOT

SMOKE ROTHMAN'S,  
BUY OUTSPAN OR NGES,  
PAARL BRANDY  
KWV WINES

WEST COAST (or any other) PILCHARDS  
MRS BALL'S CHUTNEY  
DC CANNED PINEAPPLES  
DC PEACHES OR PEARS

OR ANY OTHER PRODUCT THAT HELPS THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY.

Even an insular attitude is commendable: Buy Canadian !

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\*CCSA Bulletin, 1977; \*\*Rothmans is owned by a South African firm.