

A husband in jail

of Rand Daily Mail Oct 30 1976

"THEY TOOK him away — I just waved. We didn't make a fuss. He was calm."

That was after Dr Beyers Naude handed his plucky, petite wife his office keys, his car keys, his pens, his wallet and his watch — in that order.

"It was so symbolic of many people going to jail — being stripped of their freedom. At least he's certain of it's being just a month. Others don't know how long they will be there nor what will happen when they come out," Mrs Ilse Naude said.

Dr Beyers Naude who was sentenced this week for refusing to testify before the Schlebusch Commission of Inquiry into the Christian Institute, told the magistrate that he would sooner go to prison than pay a R50 fine imposed on him.

Alone

As she drove off alone in her car, passing the Pretoria jail which would be "home" for her husband, she switched on the radio and heard an English church choir singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

"As a woman you will understand. I felt it was really relevant. The minister read about God providing armour and protection and Paul's encouragement to those in tribulation to acquit themselves as men. It really strengthened and calmed me."

Mrs Naude returned to the Christian Institute office in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, where she works and phoned her children to

Mrs Ilse Naude, wife of Christian Institute director, Dr Beyers Naude, this week saw her husband go to jail. LYNN STEVENSON interviewed her before payment of the fine which released him from his one-month sentence.



Mrs Ilse Naude.

tell them their father had submitted himself for imprisonment.

"No other road was open. There would have been no sense in appealing. Our conviction prevented us from paying the fine. At this stage in our history Christian witness must be given."

"I hope it will bring about something positive. It won't be easy but when I think of what the Black people are suffering — those innocent children, a woman shot at a funeral, people in prison with no hope of appearing in

court with normal procedures for determining their guilt or innocence — then I realise that what Bey is going through is trivial."

The phone rings and it's a call from a friend who has heard the news. Mrs Naude fingers the pendant around her neck, her blue-grey eyes looking sad.

"I still have to find out whether I'll be able to see him. Sometimes they allow it — sometimes they don't", she tells the concerned caller.

Another call — this time from the Netherlands. She speaks in Dutch.

"I am not afraid. I will keep busy. We don't want him to be a martyr. I believe God will give him strength, I believe God has a purpose. I believe nothing happens in our lives without God's purpose. Otherwise there would be no sense in living in our age."

This unassuming woman, hardly more than 150 cm tall, with her deep conviction and inner strength holds both MSc and MEd degrees from Stellenbosch University.

As the wife of a dominee she was always busy visiting the congregation, holding prayer meetings, raising funds for church halls while starting up new congregations.

"We worked hard. I hardly ever saw my husband. Our family sometimes suffered, especially when the children were small. Now I know why. If it were not for those difficult times I would not have been able to take it now."

Defrocked

Her husband was defrocked when he accepted directorship of the Christian Institute. "Many people thought he'd changed in regard to Christian witness. In fact he became much more concerned about everyone in South Africa."

She felt lost. Gone were the involvement, the respect and the acceptance of the congregation. "He said I should return to teaching to fill the vacuum. I did for a while. Then I realised that if we went separate ways the common bond would be gone."

"I said I would like to work at the Christian Institute to be part of it, to understand it better and to share in the work."

Although Mrs Naude grew up at the oldest mission station in South Africa — Genadendal in the Cape where her father was a Moravian missionary among the Coloured people — she has "learned a lot in the CI because in your personal relationships you begin to know the deeper minds of people."

"There has been concern and encouragement from the Christians. I often find more love and compassion from Black Christians than from White. The fellowship, especially among the staff — helped me tremendously."

Matanzima in fury against censure

THE NATAL MERCURY

30 OCT 1976

UMTATA — Referring to the United Nations as "dirt" and a conglomeration of bloodthirsty people, the Prime Minister of Transkei, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, said no amount of non-recognition would deter his country from its peaceful path.

Opening a debate in the National Assembly on a resolution condemning the refusal of the UN member States to recognise Transkei's independence, Chief Matanzima attacked both the world body and its Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim.

The UN, he said, had considered a resolution rejecting Transkei independence while Dr. Waldheim had said the world would never recognise Black South African homelands as separate political entities.

"The senseless United Nations' censure will be ineffective as we involve our country through its economic development.

"The vilification adopted by the Secretary-General should just be treated with the contempt it deserves."

Chief Matanzima said it appeared a State had to be born through violence to be accorded United Nations' recognition.

"We are a peace-loving people in Transkei and we are not impressed by the noisy conglomeration of these bloodthirsty people.

"Our decision is irrevocable — we can never go back to the Republic of South Africa."

Chief Matanzima said Britain, among the countries refusing Transkei recognition on the grounds that it was part of South Africa's discriminatory policies, had been responsible for numerous discriminatory laws in the country Britain had called "Kaf-firland."

"It is shameful dishonesty for a country like Great Britain to appear before the world as a protector of the Black people of South Africa after doing all the dirty work.

"Who killed many chiefs that were locked up on Robben Island by the British Government? Who set the boundaries unilaterally?"

"Did they ever think about the Black people when they were raping cynically our forefathers' land?" he asked.

He also queried whether Britain, which Transkei could never forgive for atrocities committed against the Black people, deserved to be recognised by Transkei.

"After all they are going down the drain, a country ruled by trade unions."

No hurry

"We shall take our time deciding whether to apply for admission into the United Nations or Organisation of African Unity."

The communication from Dr. Waldheim had reached him through South Africa's United Nations Ambassador, Mr. R. F. "Pik" Botha.

"The world body must stop communicating with the Republican Government on our matters because we have nothing to do with the Republican Government now," he said.

"Our communications with the world body — if ever they come at all — although we doubt if we can ever involve ourselves in this dirt — we will go direct to the world body."

He also attacked Britain, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland for their refusal to accord recognition to Transkei.

Transkei had, however, established friendly relations with several countries in both the East and West, and was set on a path of peace, tranquility, responsibility and economic viability.

"No amount of non-recognition will deter us from the road we have chosen.

The same

Transkei met all the qualifications for independence and recognition, and its constitutional position was exactly the same as that of Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland when they had become independent.

Lesotho and Swaziland were landlocked in South Africa, while Botswana was a desert. These countries had a total population equal to that of Transkei, while their gross national product per head of population was lower.

They were economically dependent on South Africa and, with Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique, sent hundreds of thousands of workers to South Africa each year.

Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland were also members of a customs union with South Africa, and of a tourist association.

"If they are sincere, they should withdraw from the customs union the moment we join the customs union," Chief Matanzima said.

The debate continues on Monday. — (Sapa.)

THE NATAL MERCURY

Tswana

30 OCT 1970

step to

freedom

MAFEKING — Legislation granting independence to the Bophuthatswana homeland would probably be tabled in the South African Parliament next year, the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development and of Bantu Education, Mr. M. C. Botha, said in a statement here yesterday.

In his statement, issued after discussions with the Bophuthatswana Cabinet, Mr. Botha said the question of the necessary arrangements which had to be made in view of the homeland's intention of becoming independent was raised during the meeting.

"We also discussed the legislation which has to be prepared in advance of this step by various departments of the Republican Government, and naturally also by my department," Mr. Botha said.

Attention would also have to be given to independence by the Bophuthatswana Independence Constitutional Recess Committee, which would hold its next meeting on December 1-3.—(Sapa.)

Phone the 'Mail' 28-1500,
171 Main Street, Johannes-
burg, Box 1138. Telex
87 044.
RAND

Daily Mail

Vorster

OCT 30 1976

power

MR VORSTER has an awesome responsibility on his shoulders.

It is a bigger burden than merely being Prime Minister of South Africa at a crucial crossroads in time when the choice of direction is a choice between peace and disaster.

That onus is great enough. But Mr Vorster's goes further. For he has reached the position where he has the absolutely unquestioning faith of the majority of White voters in whatever he does. They are prepared for change and where he leads, they will follow.

We have for a long time argued that Mr Vorster is in a position to make the political reforms that are necessary in South Africa without endangering his own position.

To what extent this is true has now been shown by an extensive investigation into the attitudes of South African voters over the past four years by a West German sociopolitical team under Dr Theo Hanf, director of the Arnold Bergstrasse Institute in Freiburg.

Findings

In a brief summary of their conclusions, Dr Hanf found:

- The White electorate has given no indication of a rightwing backlash since the Soweto riots;

- There is an increased readiness to make economic and political concessions;

- Groups resisting change have lost ground;

- The National Party leadership could count on almost unanimous support from their followers for reform measures;

- Support for the Government's Bantustan policy has shrunk considerably though it is still backed by the majority.

Dr Hanf found that a striking mood of uncertainty had developed among White voters and that many of those who previously held clearcut political views were now undecided, especially on important political questions.

Task

In a country where political attitudes have for too long been fossilised this is by no means a negative development but it can be exploited for either good or bad and the findings of Dr Hanf's surveys show clearly that the task of doing so lies with the Prime Minister and his Government.

By and large, they know full well what has to be done. Mr Vorster's own statements have shown that he realises how essential it is to eliminate discrimination; how far past is the time when Whites could make all the decisions; how urgently a formula must be found to satisfy the aspiration of all races.

Yet his actions — or lack of them — have belied his words. By now it must be clear to Mr Vorster, as it is to many lesser Nationalists, that separate development is not a solution. The only realistic answer is to step outside the confines of outdated ideology and do the necessary.

Mr Vorster has the power and the mandate to do that. It's up to him.

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THE NATAL MERCURY

THE MDLULI CASE

30 OCT 1976

THE file of Mr. Joseph Mdluli, the ANC man who died of injuries while in police custody, must not be allowed to gather dust now that four Security Branch policemen have been acquitted in the Supreme Court of charges of culpable homicide. Indeed the grave and unusual observations of the Judge President of Natal, who heard the case, make it imperative that a full-scale inquiry should continue at top level.

The essential question remains unanswered. In what circumstances did Mr. Mdluli die on March 19 while in police detention? The mystery appears to be so much a parcel of loose strings that the Judge President felt compelled to state that the matter should not be left in its existing "highly unsatisfactory" condition. "The problem of how Mdluli met his death is one that should be solved, and it is one of great importance," said the Judge.

Mr. Justice James expressed misgivings about the story that Mr. Mdluli fell over a chair, and spoke of certain improbabilities in police accounts concerning the detainee's injuries.

He also referred to photographs taken of the deceased after the post-mortem and published abroad. These showed injuries which were not present when the body was examined. The Judge

found it difficult to conceive that the injuries had been inflicted and photographs taken for an innocent purpose.

The first question that comes to mind, of course, is why these matters were not properly investigated in the first instance. The conclusion might well be that in certain respects the investigations were less than thorough. Thus it is in the interest of justice as a whole, and the police in particular, that inquiries should continue.

It is not the first time that a detainee has died in mysterious circumstances. These cases are particularly disquieting because the police have powers to hold people incommunicado for long periods without access to the Courts and the outside world, and with only the police as witnesses at interrogations.

Probably few police forces in the world today do not use "persuasive" methods to extract information from people suspected of plotting against the State. However, civilised societies rightly insist that any such practice is kept to acceptable limits. When a person dies in custody the public is entitled to expect that no stone will be left unturned to establish all the facts.

That is all the Judge President has asked for, and we hope that that is what the authorities will do.

All lies, Sir Harold

WHEN Mr. James Callaghan told the House of Commons this week that the investigation into an alleged South African involvement in smear campaigns against British Liberal and Labour politicians had been taken "as far as possible on the evidence available" he was less than honest in not admitting that the former leader of his party had erred in calling for an inquiry in the first place.

If there had been a shred of evidence to substantiate the allegations further action would undoubtedly have been taken. Yet Mr. Callaghan did not so much as apologise for the wild charges made by his former leader.

An irresponsible element in Britain's Left-wing Press is largely to blame for the campaign

against South Africa. Since May it has been fitfully pouring forth uncorroborated innuendoes calculated to denigrate this country. And now that our name has been cleared the hypocrites of Fleet Street will no doubt maintain a sepulchral silence until some new stick to beat South Africa with can be found.

Although Mr. Callaghan stopped short of criticising Sir Harold, he has since May repeated several times that there was no South African Government obtrusion into British politics, which makes it likely that all the way through he regarded the Wilson-inspired campaign more as an exercise in semantics than a well-founded effort to involve us in a scandal which could be used by our political enemies.



MR. H. Mdingi, Transkei's first Consul in Durban, in his office at Lamontville, Durban.

Consul to live in La Lucia

THE NATAL MERCURY

30 OCT 1976

By ALEX MAPHALALA
African Affairs Reporter

TRANSKEI'S First Consul in Durban, Mr. H. Mdingi (46), will live in an exclusive White area and is planning to send his children to "a famous White school" in Natal next year.

A R65 000 house in La Lucia has been earmarked by his Government and he is likely to occupy it before Christmas.

The Consulate offices will be in the centre of the city — "somewhere in Smith Street" — and will be staffed by Blacks.

Mr. Mdingi told the Mercury yesterday that officials from Transkei, accompanied by local estate agents had inspected houses in Durban North.

He said the officials finally decided to buy a house in La Lucia.

The deal, however, had not been finalised by his Government.

He said he was planning to send his children to Michaelhouse or Hilton College, or "any other famous White school."

RESIGNED

Born in Bizana in Eastern Pondoland in 1930, Mr. Mdingi is a former member of the South African Police. He served in Lusikisiki, Umkomaas, Rossburgh and Umlazi. After passing the Police Promotion Examination, he was promoted to sergeant.

He resigned from the police force in 1974 after his appointment as representative of Paramount Chief Sigcau in Durban.

Paramount Chief Sigcau was installed as the first President of the Republic of Transkei last week.

A staunch member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mr. Mdingi matriculated privately in 1974 and still wants to further his studies.

Inkatha paper seizure shocks Buthelezi

weekend world
SEP 30, OCT 2, 1976
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CHIEF Gatsha Buthelezi said this week he was distressed and surprised at the seizure by the police of copies of the Inkatha bulletin.

The publications were seized just before they were due

WEEKEND WORLD Reporter

for distribution to a crowd of 10 000 at the Shaka's Day celebration.

The Zulu leader said that Mr Walter

Felgate, a director of Zenith Press which printed the bulletin, said he had been visited by Security Police.

Some of his papers had been confiscated.

Among these were several hundred copies of the Inkatha bulletin containing articles which had already appeared in the Press, including the Zulu leader's statement to Dr Kissinger.

'Major role'

Mr Ray Swart, chairman of the Progressive Reform Party, said Inkatha had played a major role in ensuring that protests in Natal had been free of the destruction which has characterised protests elsewhere.

In view of this achievement the police's action was inexplicable.

"Inkatha's role appears to be an entirely responsible one and the movement and Chief Buthelezi himself have emerged from the present situation with considerable distinction," Mr Swart said.

Deplorable

Mr Swart said he had read some of the items in the bulletin and there was nothing in what he had read that "I would not be prepared to say at any time."

The police action, said Mr Swart, was particularly deplorable in view of the fact that Mr Vorster had not met Chief Buthelezi for 18 months.

No communication was maintained between them, yet police action of this type was taken without reason being given.

Chief Buthelezi said that

several hundred copies of the bulletin had been prepared in advance of the main batch, and they were intended to inform the people of Umlazi about the Inkatha movement.

"This batch of advance copies was prepared at my request," Chief Buthelezi said.

Most of the copies were intended for later distribution.

The Minister of Police, Mr Jimmy Kruger, was investigating the seizure, Chief Buthelezi said.