

# NZ 'apartheid' is not comparable with SA

I WAS MOST interested to read G Black's letter on August 29. He says New Zealand has an unofficial apartheid policy against the Maoris and that he has seen it in action.

That's extremely interesting — perhaps he should bone up on a bit of New Zealand history and current affairs.

If he does so he will find that the Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840, guaranteed Maoris equal rights and land rights.

New Zealand also had its first Maori Prime Minister back in the late 1880s — Sir James Carroll. Also, the Maoris have always had parliamentary representation.

Today, it is far easier for a Maori than a *pakeha* (white face) to get funding for housing and education. Also 50% of Maori marriages are to the dreaded *pakeha*.

All New Zealand official welcomes for overseas people are based on the Maori welcome. Not to mention the All Blacks always performing the *haka* (war dance) while on tour.

One day perhaps the country will be called by its rightful name, *Aotearoa* (the land of the long white cloud), not some Dutch bastardisation.

There is no denying that there is some racial friction there, particularly over land rights, but that can only be expected in any community anywhere — although it should not be condoned.

But unofficial apartheid ... that is something else.

New Zealanders do not deny any human being the right to a life with dignity of their own choosing. — PRESSBUTTON, Johannesburg.

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Mr G BLACK, of Johannesburg, appears to be another one of these persons who justify apartheid, by claiming that it also takes place in other countries (August 29).

This time it is New Zealand, where he claims that there is "unofficial" apartheid against the Maoris, and that he has seen it.

I accept his word for it, but note that he claims it is unofficial, which I am very relieved to hear.

At least then, if any one transgresses by consorting with a Maori, he will not be sent to gaol for it, as is the case in this "very official" apartheid country. Interesting is it not? — RAY CAPEL, Heidelberg.