

## Aggett's mourners fly ANC banners

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

In a calculated act of defiance, thousands of blacks marched through Johannesburg at the weekend under the banner of the outlawed African National Congress, singing freedom songs as they made their way to the cemetery to bury dead trade unionist Dr Neil Aggett, who died in detention 10 days ago.

ANC flags were hoisted over Dr Aggett's coffin as it was taken from St Mary's Cathedral in central Johannesburg after a memorial service attended by 3,000 people. The mourners walked 10 miles to the cemetery, ripping down election posters of the ruling National Party.

Public display of the insignia of banned movements is punishable by imprisonment. Although ANC flags have been displayed in the black township of Soweto in the past two years, notably at the funeral of an ANC leader, Mrs Lilian Ngoyi, they have not been seen in Johannesburg since the banning of the ANC more than 20 years ago.

Riot police kept a low profile and the procession was watched with binoculars. After Dr Aggett had been buried, police confiscated ANC flags and the banners of trade unions, whose representatives were at the funeral.

At the memorial service in the cathedral, the national secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, Mr Jan Theron, described Dr Aggett as a man who worked for the unification of workers.

"He was building democratic, nonracial unions."

Mr Theron said: "We are told by police that he hanged himself in his prison cell. Nothing the police say about a death in detention will be believed by us. Where they say he died in detention, we say he was killed."

Dr Aggett was the 46th person to die in detention since internment without trial was introduced 20 years ago. He was the first white to die in detention.

In a graveside oration, Mr Babakhe Makama, of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, paid tribute to Dr Aggett as a man who had helped blacks when they were ill and who had advised them on how to get compensation when they were injured at work.

In a separate development, seven blacks have been jailed for refusing to give evidence for the state in the trial of a former president of the Soweto Students' Representative Council, Mr Khotso Seathole, under the Terrorism Act.

Flight no.	destination
450	BRUSSELS
311	BONN
290	PARIS
818	ROME
742	LONDON
623	HAGUE
081	DUBLIN
322	COPENHAGEN
044	LUXEMBOURG
195	ATHENS

## EUROPEAN NOTEBOOK

John Palmer

**THE DEATH** in his prison cell of the white South African trade union leader, Neil Aggett, has had the effect of reviving demands in the European Community for action against the apartheid regime.

The Dutch Government has announced that it will put

## Demands grow for action on apartheid

pressure on Dutch business — including oil companies — to stop trade with South Africa. The Hague will also raise the issue of a legally binding trade embargo with the other EEC governments. Of equal significance, the Common Market Commission has been asked by a joint committee of members of the European Parliament and Third World governments in the Lomé Convention, which are associated with the EEC, to prepare a report on the effect of sanctions against South Africa.

The MEPs are keen to see a total ban on arms sales to South Africa and in a resolution sent to the commission urge that "economic sanctions have to be incorporated into a programme of increasing pressure on South Africa."

Naturally, the trade unions have been quick to point out that Dr Aggett's death, after months of detention without trial, highlights the plight of all South Africa's political prisoners. But apart from de-

monstrations and other actions to publicise the treatment of trade union and other prisoners in South Africa, trade unions in the ICFTU and the ETUC want immediate action to strengthen the EEC Code of Conduct which is meant to regulate the activities of European companies in South Africa.

One of the main purposes of the code was to press EEC companies to ignore those apartheid laws which deny equal rights and conditions to workers of different races. In particular it was designed to ensure that European companies responded positively to demands by their workers for recognition of the independent black trade unions.

The operation of the code is at present shrouded in mystery since Britain is one of the few countries which publishes any kind of report on the extent to which it is being observed. But even in Britain it is published without being checked with the trade union movement. The

ICFTU in Brussels cites the fact that, whereas the last report claimed that eight British companies now recognised black unions, they had direct evidence that only one, Smith and Nephew, did so in fact.

The publication of regular reports on the operation of the code throughout the EEC after consultation with the trade unions is only one step being canvassed. Another is designed to give the code some rudimentary teeth so that mere appeals to EEC companies cannot be lightly dismissed by them.

Such sanctions could include a commitment by Common Market governments that they will deny credits and export licences to companies which are proved to have ignored or defied the code to appease the South African regime.

Meanwhile, the Dutch Government is canvassing support for curbs on further, new investment in South Africa, in present circumstances a move which, if combined with action on imports of South African

coal and other products, would ensure that the Government in Pretoria is no longer able to dismiss European condemnation of apartheid and its treatment of political prisoners as so much "verbal posturing."

THAT THE hard-pressed president of the EEC commission in Brussels, Mr Thorn, has been studying a report submitted by a leading French astrologer, giving a detailed horoscope on the likely trend of events in the European Community, should cause no surprises. Given the ever-more complex and politically charged character of the problems facing the EEC, he cannot afford to ignore help from whatever quarter.

The woman astrologer provided Mr Thorn with a rundown of those planetary conjunctions most favourable to ensuring progress on some of the most delicate issues facing the Common Market. He has also been given horoscopes on the immediate prospects for such international luminaries

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## Romania moves close to US on Polish issue

From Robert Toth in Bucharest

The US Secretary of State Mr Haig, said at the weekend that the United States and Romania have "tactical differences" over Poland but both want immediate normalisation of conditions there, including "lifting of martial law."

After more than four hours of talks with President Ceausescu of Romania, during the first visit by a US Secretary of State in almost seven years, Mr Haig also indicated that the United States will try to help Romania get private bank financing to meet some of its short-term credit problems.

He promised no new US government aid, however, to its seriously troubled economy.

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"He came with empty pockets," a Romanian official complained.

En route home afterwards, a senior official on Mr Haig's plane told reporters that in Poland "unusual pressure is being applied on the regime and the Soviet Union" to make progress toward normalisation. The pressure is expected to continue, the official added, in comments that reflected the substance of the Haig-Ceausescu talks.

"Poland's neighbouring countries want martial law lifted and internal political negotiations toward a settlement begun," the official said. At the same time, "resistance within Poland is probably

stronger now than it was at the outset," on December 13, he said.

Unless progress towards reconciliation is made soon the situation could "disintegrate into violence and the need for direct Soviet involvement."

US officials earlier said that Mr Haig's one-day visit to Romania went much as expected, with the symbolism of a top American official giving international visibility to Mr Ceausescu and to his efforts to maintain a foreign policy distinctly different from Moscow's amid the continuing crisis in Poland.

If anything, Mr Ceausescu moved toward the US position by joining a call for a quick resolution to the Polish situation. The 64-year-old Romanian leader also spent about twice as much time talking with Mr Haig as was originally scheduled.

At a press conference, Mr Haig said there were some differences on the Polish question as it pertains to sanctions, but there was general convergence of view on the need for normalisation.

But it was also clear that Romania does not share the US views that the Polish military takeover is unnecessary. Romania's economic problems stem mainly from large payments coming due on an \$11 billion foreign debt to the West, while a fall-off in Romania's own oil production is forcing it to buy petroleum abroad with hard currency. — Los Angeles Times.

## Kremlin turnabout on Italy

From Dusko Doder in Moscow

In an unusual about-face, the Kremlin has proposed an end to the polemics with the Italian Communist Party and urged the Italians to support Soviet foreign policy.

The turnabout came in the Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, at the weekend, three weeks after the Soviet party had effectively "excommunicated" Italian Communist leaders for their "monstrous" and "truly sacrilegious" criticism after the military takeover in Poland.

Pravda had singled out Mr Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian party's general secretary, and three other Italian Communist leaders for charges that they had renounced Marxism-Leninism and "everything that links them" to other Communist parties. The Italian leadership had condemned the Polish crackdown.

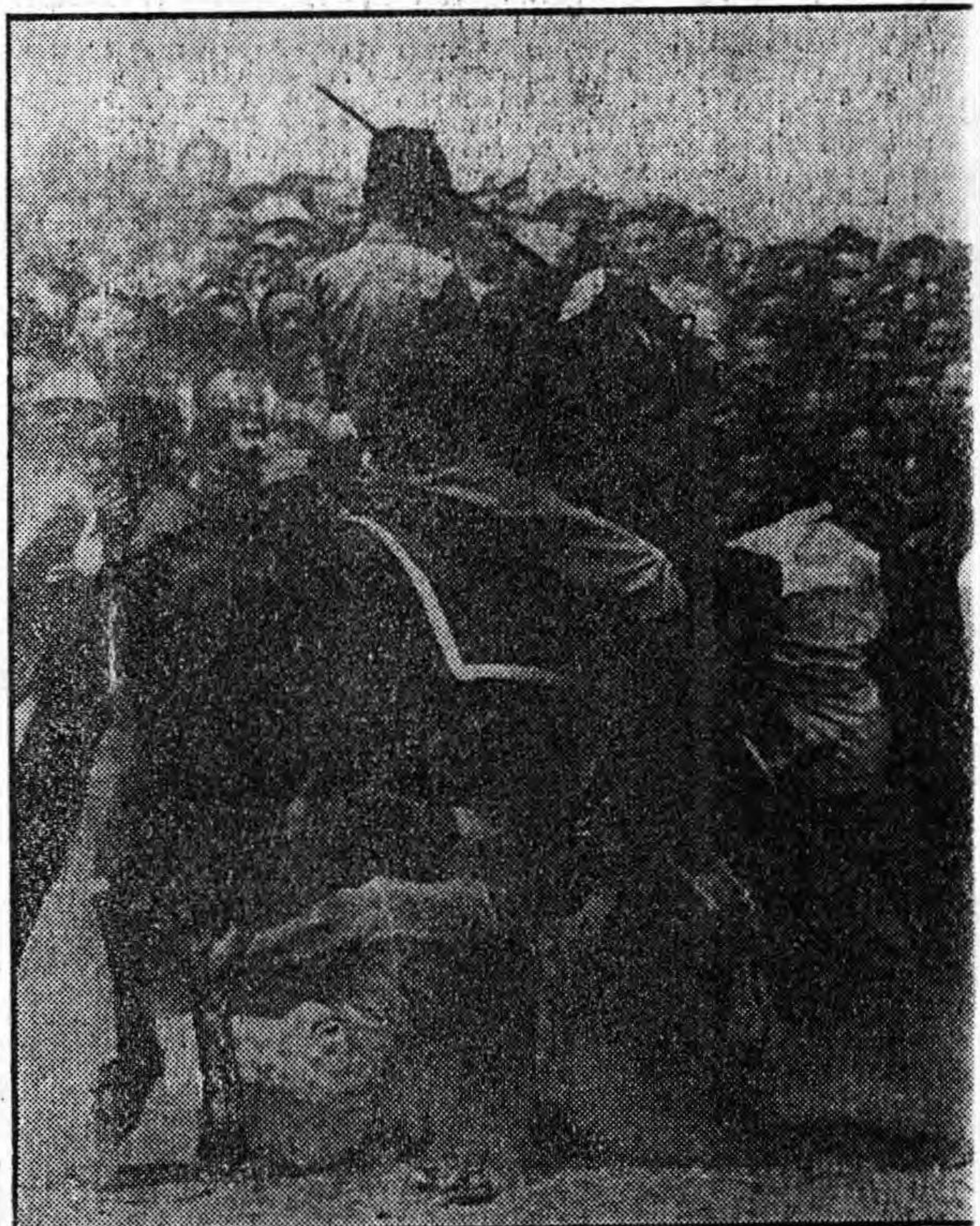
In the new article, Pravda referred repeatedly to Mr Berlinguer and other Italian leaders as "comrades" before saying that the Soviet party "is not interested in sharpening the polemic (but) neither will it retreat if a polemic is imposed on it as was the case" with the Italian condemnation. "It nevertheless is calling on the Italian party to view more seriously the severe and ruthless reality of class struggle in the international arena" at a time of East-West tensions.

The new Soviet stand on the Italian position appears to reflect assessments here that continued public arguing with the Italians is not in Moscow's interest and could do more political harm than good for the Soviet bloc. There is speculation among diplomats here that the shift in position may reflect the departure of Mikhail Suslov, the main Soviet ideologist, who died last month. Suslov had been known as an unyielding supporter of orthodoxy.

The sharpest criticism levelled at the Italians at the weekend was that their actions "do not serve the cause of peace and socialism" — which is the mildest form of condemnation in the Soviet party's arsenal. The Pravda attack of January 24 was described as an act of "defence" against Italian charges and "not an attack on the Italian Communist Party."

Pravda said that since the first article, some Italian Communist leaders had publicly stated that "the Italian Communist Party did not even think of denying the role of the Soviet Union in defence of peace and the working class movement."

The tone and substance of the article suggested that the Kremlin hopes to narrow the gap with the Italians or at



Pope fever: a mounted policeman forces back a crowd in the Nigeria, at the weekend. The Pope, who is visiting the country, appeals close cooperation between Christians and Muslims, Muslims account of Nigeria's 80 million people

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# Keep Fares

On March 21st, the fare increases made necessary as a result of the Law Lords' ruling on the Fares Fair Policy will come into effect on all London Transport.

Fares will go up. London has been told that its public transport system should as far as practicable be run as a business and on its own resources.

Other major cities in the world regard their public transport systems as as much a

low down in this list. After the Lords' ruling, the subsidy after 21st will be as little as 12%. The Fares Fair to the London ratepayers almost doubled by the penalties by the Government withholding grant.

London Trans