

LFP/227/0171/1

Sunday Times
16/12/57

Accused

THE SOUTH AFRICAN
TREASON TRIAL. By Lionel
Forman and E. S. Sachs.
(Calder 18s.)
By DAVID DIVINE

THERE must be comparatively few trials in history in which an accused man has written from the dock a book which criticises the presiding magistrate, impugns the police witnesses, and arraigns the legal methods and moralities of the Government which initiated the prosecution. There must be fewer instances in which he has succeeded in getting such a book published before even the preliminary hearing was complete.

The publication tomorrow of Mr. Lionel Forman's "The South African Treason Trial" adds another item to the dusty record of this ignoble affair. Mr. Forman is Accused No. 83. He writes with what might be called moderate acerbity. The first half of the book describes his own arrest and that of a number of his 155 co-accused, and the first months of their trial. As a good journalist Mr. Forman is mostly content to let facts speak for themselves. If occasionally he allows "prejudice" to enter in, it is hardly to be wondered at. He probably is prejudiced. After all, he was arrested more than a year ago, he has been on trial for twelve months, and the case has not yet been committed to a higher court.

None the less the status of the book is unusual. How far publication in this country constitutes contempt of court in South Africa is a lawyer's matter. Possibly Mr. Forman is relying on a declaration of the magistrate, Mr. Frederick Wessel, on an alleged infringement in the Nationalist newspaper "Die Vaderland": "I am not prepared to take any action on any contempt of this court committed outside this court."

I am not certain that Mr. Forman is safe in relying on that, but one thing does appear certain—this volume will be added to that very interesting list of proscription, the Index Expurgatoris Afrikaner.

RDM

10/12/57

TREASON "TRIAL" REVIEW

"R.D.M." Correspondent

LONDON, Sunday. — Reviewing "The South African Treason Trial" book by Lionel Forman and E. S. Sachs, which is to be published to-morrow, David Divine writes in the London "Sunday Times" to-day:

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