

The Cape Times

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- 3 DEC 1974

Bram Fischer

COMPASSION is but one convincing argument for the immediate release of Bram Fischer. Realism is another. The Government should carefully consider what the repercussions will be if Fischer were to die in jail. He is 65. He is reported to have cancer, a terminal disease. He is weak and in pain. His family describe him, after visits, as being "desperately ill". It seems that he is unlikely to live long, and therefore basic compassion would suggest his release. But the Government should think further than this. If Bram Fischer dies of cancer in jail, he will become a powerful martyr figure of far greater significance than he is now. The tricky international problems facing South Africa will be made more difficult. As Mr David Epstein, United Party MPC for Hillbrow, has said:

It would be a major psychological and historical defeat for this country if he were to die in detention in a hospital's cancer ward. An act of clemency could go a long way to herald and encourage the vision of South Africa as a humanitarian country.

In some quarters it is suggested that before release Bram Fischer must recant his communist faith. He is unlikely to do this. What is important is that the Government, if it releases him, will no doubt satisfy itself about his capacity to further this cause. A notorious battery of security legislation exists just for the purpose. The Government might take a look at precedents for the release of those involved in politically-inspired crimes — e.g. Robey Leibbrandt and others who were let out of jail in 1948 in spite of wartime activities such as spying and blowing up post offices.

Black dictators use the Whites as scapegoats

SIR, — Black dictatorship is rearing its ugly head in Witsieshoek. Basothos have flocked into their homeland by thousands hoping to receive better treatment from their brothers. But what has happened? The poor Basothos have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire.

It is true that some White officials have always given Basothos shabby treatment in White South Africa. But — I am sorry to say it — in Witsieshoek offices some Basotho clerks

treat Basotho like mere objects. This is the worst treatment I have ever seen in my life. Disgraceful.

Black leaders all over the country are using White leadership as a scapegoat for the gross and malicious negligence of their responsibilities. These Black leaders know it very well that without White supervision, our administrative clerks and policemen have always treated us like lifeless wooden blocks. Why are the Black leaders silent?

I believe in the im-

RELATIONS

provement of relations, not only between White and Blacks but also between Blacks and Blacks. I am making an urgent appeal to the Minister of Police either to close down the Witsieshoek police station or to explain to these Black police what their foremost duty is when working among their own people.

We Basothos believe in the maintenance of law and order, but we totally reject the idea of being assaulted and bullied by these people. These police are becoming a menace to the Basotho nation in Witsieshoek.

In the forthcoming Basotho Qwa Qwa's general election, Basothos all over the country must ensure that they vote for men who will uproot Black dic-

tatorship in Witsieshoek.

The closing down of the Namahadi offices can be an effective leap towards the creation of a new and better relationship between the clerks and the Basotho nation.

Letters to the Editor

Clerks and policemen are public servants. Why should they disrespect their masters, the Basotho nation? How can Basothos expect other nations to respect them if their own Basotho clerks and policemen cannot respect them?

ABOLISH

We are all God's creation and therefore I see no reason why other

people should think they are more important or better educated than others. I believe that with the help of God's grace, we Blacks can help in the creation of a new and great South Africa.

I believe in the maintenance of law and order, but I am not a public flogging fan. Public floggings are nothing but outdated, uncivilised and barbaric laws of the jungle. I do not believe in violence, (public flogging) as a just and equitable solution to problems, but believe that the courts of law are the only places where justice can be seen to be done.

If we Basothos believe in dialogue as a solution to problems, let us practise what we preach by abolishing public floggings, which is another form of Black dictatorship.

TSHABADIRA MLANGENI
Phiri.



Chief Lucas Mangope

Mangope faces tough test today

- 3 DEC 1974

By Mike Phalatse

CHIEF L. M. MANGOPE faces the toughest test of his political career when the BophuthaTswana Legislative Assembly opens a special session today.

It will be interesting to see how the House will be divided when the Assembly resumes. Since Chief Mangope resigned from the ruling party to form his new Democratic Party, it is not known how many members of the assembly have joined his party.

But it is clear that Mr D P Kgotleng, who was the chief whip of the ruling party, has thrown his lot in with Chief Mangope.

INFLUENCE

Mr Kgotleng is a powerful member of the assembly and was previously a cabinet minister. So his decision to go along with Chief Mangope might influence the majority of the BophuthaTswana National Party (BNP) and thus leave Chief Mangope still in power.

The only problem the new party is faced with is that the majority of the Tswana Chiefs in the assembly may not have understood Chief Mangope's manoeuvre. Some of them are old and rather sceptical to change.

This is where the acting leader of BNP, Chief HTR Maseloane, will pin his hopes. But before winning the confidence of the old Chiefs, Chief Maseloane will have to present a better argument against Chief Mangope and those who are associated with the new party.

Chief Maseloane has the backing of only one cabinet minister, chief BJ Toto. The three other cabinet ministers are members of Chief Mangope's party.

With Black leaders

- 3 DEC 1974

Vorster may hold 'open' talks

A PUBLIC summit meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, and the leaders of several Black African States may be in the offing following news leaks of Mr Vorster's two secret trips "deep into Africa".

There is speculation that further dramatic developments could

take place this week now it has been accepted that Mr Vorster has resorted to top-level personal diplomacy as the spearhead to an all-out detente and peace initiative by his Ministers and officials in the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Information and Defence.

The key points in the offensive include:

- Saturday's Nationalist Press leak that Mr Vorster flew secretly to visit Black African leaders even before making his Senate and Nigel speeches.

Subsequent reports claim Mr Vorster probably had talks with leaders in the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Gabon.

- Further leak in the Beeld and Die Burger today suggests Mr Vorster made a second trip in recent weeks to Black states.

- Numerous earlier Press reports have brought to light repeated trips by foreign affairs and information officials to several African capitals;

- The Minister of Defence, Mr P. W. Botha, said in the last session of parliament that he had made trips to Black Africa, and had even received an award from one Black state, rumoured to be Gabon.

GALLON

The Prime Minister's secretary, would make no comment today on his reported secret trips, nor would senior officials confirm or deny the reports.

Diplomatic sources claimed today that West African countries were playing the issue "even more tightly than South Africa" and that no official information on the matter could be obtained.

The official Opposition's chief spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Japie Basson, MP, commented today. "If the reports are true, then I can only commend Mr. Vorster's action. I am a great believer in personal diplomacy among statesmen. It is the only thing that works."

The new Primate

3 DEC 1974

DR DONALD COGGAN, who succeeds Michael Ramsey as Archbishop of Canterbury, is perhaps best known as chairman of the committee which produced the New English Bible. Like his predecessor he is an eminent scholar and Biblical theologian with wide experience of the industrial north of England. Dr Ramsey was for some time Bishop of Durham, while the present Archbishop held the see of Bradford for five years before his translation to the archbishopric of York.

Although he lacks the strong personality and endearing eccentricities of Michael Ramsey he may be trusted to lead the Church of England with determination tempered with prudence. He is a man who is liked and respected not only by those of his own Church but also by members of others, including

the Roman Catholic Church. There is no doubt that he shares the view of his predecessor that the bishops of the Church of England should be elected by the assemblies of the Church and not imposed by the State. And while it is true that the present system of appointment by the Crown — in effect the Prime Minister — has resulted in many outstanding men becoming bishops whom no synod of clergymen would have elected, it remains plainly indefensible under the conditions of modern society. Indeed Michael Ramsey is an example of the present system's successes. For when he was nominated Bishop of Durham he was a rather obscure professor of Divinity and rose to justify his subsequent elevation as Primate of All England by the vision, the vigour and forward reach of his thinking.



Mr Kruger

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Kruger intends to appeal

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THE Minister of Justice, Mr Jimmy Kruger, intends to apply for leave to appeal to the Appeal Court against an order that he disclose details of the nature of documents he relied on in banning a man on his release from Robben Island.

The order was made against him last month by Mr Justice Steyn and Mr Justice Banks in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, after Dr Neville Alexander of Lotus River had applied for an order compelling the Minister to disclose the information as part of another application for the banning orders to be declared invalid.

Dr Alexander served 10 years on Robben Island for conspiring with others to commit unlawful acts which could have endangered the safety of the Republic and the maintenance of law and order. He was served with the banning orders the day he was released.

Mr Kruger was ordered to lodge before the court within 21 days an affidavit stating which documents relating to the points of issue in the action against him were in his possession or under his control.

The judges also ordered that he state that he saw the documents himself and, if he had any objections to the disclosure of the documents, to describe as fully as possible their nature or the category into which they fell.

Further Mr Kruger had to state on which grounds and in which ways he expected public policy to be prejudiced by the disclosure of the documents or in camera access by members of the court.