

Mandela won't talk to Briton

12 July 86

From Chicago Tribune wires

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela does not want to meet with Britain's foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mandela's wife told reporters Friday.

Winnie Mandela met for an hour with her husband at Pollsmoor Prison Friday morning and quoted him as saying he would "not be in a position to meet" the British envoy during his visit to South Africa, scheduled for later this month.

Mrs. Mandela said her own view was that "there is no point whatsoever in meeting with him. No black leader of any relevance will waste his time by seeing yet another British 'eminent person' who has come to prescribe to us how we should solve our problems.

"Margaret Thatcher has no right whatsoever to prescribe to us how we should suffer," she added.

Britain is one of South Africa's main trading partners, and Prime Minister Thatcher has opposed calls by some other European Community members to impose sanctions on Pretoria following its crackdown on black opponents.

Pretoria had indicated it would allow Howe to visit Mandela, a leader of the outlawed African National Congress who has been in prison since 1964.

Howe wound up his three-nation tour Friday, saying he was cautiously hopeful his mediation bid could end the violence sweeping South Africa.

He spoke to reporters after a 90-minute meeting in Maputo with socialist President Samora Machel of Mozambique, the last stop of a European Community-inspired tour which also took him to Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Howe will visit South Africa for talks with President P.W. Botha on July 23 and 29.

In London, a diplomat said Mandela made an impassioned plea in May to a South African Cabinet minister for direct talks to prevent a worsening conflict in South Africa.

Justice Minister H.J. Coetsee was accompanying a delegation from the Commonwealth that was visiting Mandela in prison.

Mandela told Coetsee that much of South Africa's trouble had to do with the total lack of personal contact between the white leaders in power and the black leadership in jail and exile.

Coetsee appeared embarrassed, the London source said, and tried to excuse himself, but Mandela urged him to hear him out. Knowing one another as human beings, Mandela continued, would not resolve all the issues between them but it would represent a major advance.

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Censorship makes Africa the in-the-dark continent

12 July 86 Chicago Sun-Times
By Jonathan Power

Every day in the responsible Western media, when we read a dispatch from South Africa, we are given a warning informing us that the report has been subject to censorship.

Yet the fuss over South Africa's censorship sadly highlights how unusual South Africa has been in the past. It is one of the handful of African countries that has tolerated any degree of a free press. Most of Africa does not.

Senegal has probably the freest press in Africa. The newspapers regularly accuse the government of corruption and even print cartoons that mock government leaders.

In Nigeria, there is a long tradition of a free press. Even when there have been military governments, the press has been fairly unconstrained. However, two years ago, when the army overthrew a democratically elected government, it overreacted and imprisoned a large number of journalists, including the celebrated writer Tay Solarin. But the regime was itself

quickly overthrown by a rebellion within its ranks, and the traditional freedom of the press was restored.

But these are the exceptions. Mostly, governments tend to run the media themselves or, as in Kenya, where one major independent newspaper exists, owned by the Aga Khan, keep it on a close rein.

According to Claude Wathier, chief editor of Agence France Press, who has made a special study of the African press, the result is an exodus of African journalists to London and Paris, where they run rather good magazines.

In Paris, there is the moderately conservative Jeune Afrique and the very left-wing Afrique-Asie. In London there are the more centrist Africa, New Africa and West Africa. All have cosmopolitan staffs, but tend to be African dominated. Jeune Afrique has a Tunisian chairman, a Guinean editor and a Madagascan star reporter. Though often seized at the airport, they do circulate, sometimes legally, sometimes smuggled in.

There is also a network of radio covering African affairs—the BBC,

Radio France International, Deutsche Welle and Voice of America, and the less popular Chinese and Soviet overseas broadcasts.

It is true, in this milieu of deprivation, that readers and listeners tend to treat the BBC, Jeune Afrique, etc., as the Bible. Desperately, African governments have tried to counter this with the development of the Pan-African News Agency. This collects material from all the domestic news agencies and distributes it without modification. This was the only practical course in a continent which is riddled by conflict, yet where governments control the news in each country. So, if a paper in country X is interested in covering the war between, say, Burkina Faso and Mali, it can take the truth according to Burkina Faso or Mali. This is hardly a recipe for credibility.

South Africa's new press censorship laws are only remarkable in that it has taken so long to fall in with the rest of Africa. Can Africa expect freedom in South Africa when it is so constricted and constrained itself?

Jailed S. Africans start hunger strike

Newsday

JOHANNESBURG—Thirty-two activists, jailed without trial under South Africa's emergency regulations, have smuggled out from their cell an angry hand-written letter declaring they are on a hunger strike.

The letter, dated July 7, surfaced as the government information bureau—the only legal source of information under the state of emergency—reported police killed 10 people described as "terrorists" in two incidents Thursday and yesterday.

That brought to 146 the number of people reported killed in unrest or clashes with police since the state of emergency was imposed.

The detainees' letter, from Cell A in Modderbee Prison outside Johannesburg, said they were being held "in appalling and extremely disgusting" conditions, and added, "We have decided to embark on hunger strike as from the 7th July, 1986. The reason being that we protest and demand that the state of emergency should be lifted," and that "all detainees be released."

Since President Pieter W. Botha declared a national state of emergency June 12, at least 2,000 people are known to have been jailed, without access to lawyers or courts. And since under the emergency regulations their names are not permitted to be mentioned or published, hundreds of people have

Smuggled note says 32 inmates rejecting food

been reported missing from their homes without a trace.

The note, which was slipped anonymously to editors of the independent Weekly Mail on Thursday, is the first direct communique in the month-old emergency from the many jails where the activists are being held.

The hunger strike, said the detainees, was to "demand the scrapping of all pre-conditions attached" to visits, access to the prison store, exercise time, medical attention and hospital appointments, access to clothes and toiletries and permission to study, as well as being a protest against the quality of prison food.

A representative from the government's prison service dismissed the grievances, saying the 32 prisoners were simply seeking publicity.

"It is clear that these so-called hunger strikes are a calculated effort to obtain maximum publicity for propaganda value," said Lt. Col. A. Van Vuuren. "It sometimes does happen that detainees go on so-called hunger strikes, either on

their own or by instigation from outside."

Many of those who signed the letter with "yours in the national struggle," are well-known militants from the United Democratic Front, the largest anti-apartheid coalition, whose members have been hardest hit by the emergency arrests.

Although the signatories' names may not be published under restrictions on the press, when checked against lists of political detainees collected by the Detainees Parents Support Committee, an independent monitoring group, nearly half appear to have been missing from the lists. This suggests that the 2,000 activists known by the DPSC to have been jailed could represent only a fraction of the true figure.

In the latest violence reported by the government, the information bureau said six suspected terrorists were killed in a gun battle with police after running a roadblock not far from the border with Botswana on Thursday.

Four others were reported killed yesterday near King Williams Town, in the southeastern part of the country, when they opened fire after their car was stopped by police.

The bureau also said there were at least two deaths in clashes between rival black groups in the suburban Johannesburg township of Soweto.

UN conference demands Namibia be independent

VIENNA—A United Nations conference on Namibia ended here yesterday with adoption of a strongly worded resolution calling for independence for the South African-controlled territory and criticizing Western states for refusing to adopt sanctions against Pretoria.

Western delegates were unhappy with the resolution, particularly its calls for support for armed struggle against the South African presence in Namibia (South-West Africa) and at specific criticism of Britain and the United States.

The resolution condemned the "illegal occupation of Namibia" by South Africa, South African military raids against neighboring countries, particularly Angola, and the formation of a pro-Pretoria interim government in Namibia.

It also denounced U.S. and British vetoes during United Nations Security Council votes on sanctions against South Africa.

South Africa administers Namibia under a mandate that expired 20 years ago. The UN in 1976 passed a resolution calling on South Africa to withdraw and establishing a plan for the independence of Namibia.

South Africa accepted the plan but then said it must be linked to withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The UN rejected that.

Perspective

CHICAGO DEFENDER 12 July 86

Why are Africa's leaders quiet?

by Kofi Alhaji Opoku

Last of a two-part series

(Mr. Opoku is a free-lance writer living in Chicago.)

From the negative standpoint, the silence from Africa's leaders could be interpreted to mean that they have learned their lesson very well. That lesson is the acknowledgment of the strength of the external stranglehold over the continent.

The majority of Africa's educated elite has been raised on liberal democratic ideas and decidedly reflect a Western bias. They are as enthusiastic as the external master in labeling as "communist" any leader who did not follow the script of subservience charted for the country.

European languages have supplanted African ones as the language of both government and commerce. The Christian religion which is supported by secular props like money, technology and the totality of what has become known as "Western Civilization" softened and continues to soften the heart of the African for eventual capitalist penetration.

It is often said that in Africa, "trade follows the flag." What is more true though is that the flag created what has become known as "trade" to Africa. The so-called modern African economies have validity only to the extent the European countries needed them either as raw material producers or as markets for surplus goods.

Devoid of technology in the modernistic sense, the African countries have come to depend on foreign countries for all their significant and insignificant finished goods. Add a shrinking productive base, runaway inflation, flight of the educated, an increasing population, drought and an encroaching Sahara Desert.

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Unsurprisingly, the unofficial national anthem of an African country has become "Foreign Exchange Shortage." This reflects the gap between the prices of the finished and imported goods and the raw materials Africa exports.

What an Africans calls "modernity" is, in large measure, an affirmation of the totality of foreign institutional control over his land. The true controllers of the African economies have become the IMF, the World Bank and their mouthpiece of xenophobic newsmen and women spewing bowdlerized interpretation of happenstance and calling it "journalism!"

Given this reality, many an African leader has decided to toe the line actively. He hears a lot of evil, and he sees a lot of evil, but he will speak no evil himself. Africa's silence thrives from Western success in curbing "communism," to the extent that "communism" has come to mean any challenge to white supremacy on the continent.

What is sad about our times is not the lack of self-restraint on the part of the international uppercrust but the increasing realization that those whose resistance alone can ensure a better world seem to be losing the will to fight back.

S. Africa

Continued from page 1

workers and young radicals, and said they believed as many as seven people were killed. There was no official confirmation of deaths.

Information bureau spokesman David Venter, in analyzing the first month of the emergency imposed June 12, said the number of violent incidents declined 66 percent compared with May.

He also said that, in the last week, deaths were down 13 percent, injuries 38 percent and attacks on security forces 32 percent in comparison with the first week of the emergency.

It is estimated 139 people have been killed, excluding casualties in fights between tribal factions.

Venter said some killings later turn out to be criminal rather than "unrest related," a phrase embracing daily anti-apartheid violence

and related conflicts among blacks that have cost more than 2,000 lives since September, 1984.

The private South African Institute of Race Relations provided the overall total of more than 2,000 through early July, and said it was compiled largely from police figures.

Venter said 62 percent of deaths since the emergency declaration resulted from fighting between blacks, and the remainder from actions by security forces.

In another development, an American missionary couple said they were ordered to leave South Africa by next week.

Brian and Susan Burchfield, both ministers of the American Lutheran Church, were sent from Washington state on their first overseas assignment in January to help a Cape Town pastor who has 600 mixed-race parishioners.

Mrs. Burchfield said the order came from the Ministry of Home Affairs, without explanation, and that their work permit was recently renewed until Oct. 9.

S. Africa police kill 10 blacks

12 July 86

From Chicago Tribune wires

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Police said Friday that they killed 10 alleged black insurgents in two gun battles, and residents of Soweto reported 7 people slain in fights between rival blacks.

The government said violence decreased dramatically in the first month of its nationwide state of emergency.

National police headquarters in Pretoria said four men came out shooting Friday morning when police stopped a car near King William's Town in eastern Cape province. One threw a grenade, but it did not explode.

Police returned fire and killed one man, but the others sped

Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela refuses to meet with a British official. Page 4.

away. Another patrol stopped the car 20 miles away and two more blacks were slain in fierce shooting. The fourth man was found dead in the car with hand grenades, AK-47 assault rifles and pistols.

At least one of the dead men was known to be a member of the outlawed African National Congress, the main guerrilla group fighting white rule in South Africa.

In the village of Alldays near the Botswana border on Thursday, a patrol killed six men suspected of being ANC guerrillas in a fierce gun battle that left a policeman wounded.

The Bureau for Information said the casualties brought to 30 the number of suspected ANC members killed or captured in the last month.

Residents of Soweto, Johannesburg's satellite black city of 2 million people, reported street fighting between migrant black

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Say cheese ... *HABIBAH*

First Congressional District candidate Joseph Faulkner has a nice new smile, and he owes \$541 to the University of Illinois dental student who made his new bridge at the U. of I. dental clinic. The student paid for the material herself because she figured a public figure wouldn't be a deadbeat. Faulkner told INC. he can't pay the bill because he has lost his job and he's getting ready for a trip to South Africa which, he says, will be underwritten by a black South African bank. Well, heck, if the bank is paying for his trip, it'd probably be good for a small loan. Like \$541 maybe?