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Right-wing Afrikaners declare their town a 'white homeland'

By Humphrey Tyler
 Special to The Christian Science Monitor

One of the coldest small towns in the whole of South Africa has suddenly become a hot talking point because of a plan to turn it into the heart of a "white homeland." The town, which is about 70 miles from Johannesburg, is Morgenzon. A group of right-wing Afrikaners want all the blacks living there (2,200 compared to 946 whites) to be relocated.

Then they propose that whites should be imported to do the heavy work at present done by blacks and that white women should become servants on the nearby farms. The sight of whites doing all their own work would be an "inspiration" to other South African whites, they say. Beyond that, such a spectacle would transform the town into "a tourist attraction," these Afrikaners believe.

The organization behind the white homeland experiment is the Orange Workers' Union, which takes its name from the Orange River, which marks the border be-

tween the more liberal Cape Province and the conservative northern provinces of Orange Free State and Transvaal.

Acting as its honorary chairwoman is Betsie Verwoerd, the widow of former South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, whose son, Hendrik, serves as the union's full-time secretary. Afrikaans University professors are among the union's leaders.

Long-term residents of Morgenzon were taken aback when they received a letter recently from the white homelands group advising that they were living in a town that would be "transformed into a full-scale Orange Workers' township are vital to the town's economy, especially, as one put it, "since they pay cash and do not ask for credit like the whites."

One of the residents has already begun to "set a good example" for other whites: Town Clerk Frikkie Jooste now drives the town's refuse truck around, collecting and dumping the rubbish himself, instead of leaving the job

them "with pleasure" that they were living in a town that was to be "transformed into a full-scale Orange Workers' Union growth point." In the same letter residents were told that if they did not go along with the plan, they would be "dealt with."

to blacks. He has also begun to repair residents' lawnmowers in his spare time.

Two nearby farmers, members of the Orange Workers' Union, have drastically reduced the number of blacks they employ on their farms. The plan is that, in time, each farmer in the area will fire all his black workers, hiring white workers in their place.

Businessmen in the town — which has four garages, two general stores, one second-hand furniture shop, a hotel, and a few drugstores — are not impressed with the Orange Workers' Union proposal.

They point out that the 2,200 blacks from the nearby township are vital to the town's economy, especially, as one put it, "since they pay cash and do not ask for credit like the whites."

"When the whole plan flops, the Orange Workers will just clear off and leave us holding the bag," he added.

Nevertheless, members of the Orange Workers' Union say they intend to press on. They admit that many in the town oppose them but they claim, "Most Afrikaners can be persuaded to support the concept of a white homeland if it is put to them correctly."

The plan is that each farmer will fire all his black workers, hiring whites in their place.

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Mystery person to be unveiled at 'Candlelight Pot Pourri'



THE presentation of 'Candlelight Pot Pourri' by the Zululand Theatrical society (scheduled for this week) has been postponed to Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11 at the Empangeni Civic Centre.

This entertaining fun-evening caters for all tastes, with a light supper and wine included in the cost of R10 (scholars R6.)

Diners will enjoy the humorous collection of poems, readings, songs and a One-act Play entitled 'Strawberry Jam', produced by Charlie Howarth.

Seen at a rehearsal of the play were Joan Davidson and Dot Deverson, carrying a person of unknown identity between them - you will only find out who, if you book your seats at the Zululand Observer.

Plastic number plates are now available

CAR owners in the rust-prone Zululand areas may be pleased to learn that legally accepted plastic vehicle registration plates are now becoming available.

The rather distinctive-looking plates are manufactured from a special material with a high impact strength and a high resistance to degradation by sun, wind and weather.

To avoid running the risk of fines, suppliers and consumers must bear in mind that engraved plastic plates are not acceptable. The SABS diamond must appear on the new retro-reflective plastic registration plates fitted to cars.

Plastic plates are not inferior as they have to comply with exactly the same requirements as steel plates. Four manufacturers have obtained permits to produce blanks bearing the SABS diamond, while permits to produce the full numberplate have been granted to a large number of laminators.

Afrikaans professor to deliver paper on linguistics in America

PROF HJ van Eetveldt, head of the Afrikaans Department and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Zululand, will

an international linguistics congress and deliver a paper in Washington DC as well as attend a workshop in linguistics in New

accepted 'with applause' and was to be used in a plenary session of the congress, he was later asked to



House Panel Favors Pretoria Sanctions

By STEPHEN ENGELBERG

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 2 — The House Foreign Affairs Committee overwhelmingly approved legislation today that would bar new private United States investment in South Africa.

In a sign of growing Congressional support for sanctions against Pretoria, the committee voted 29 to 6 for the bill, which could come before the full House this month.

"This is a very significant vote," said Representative Stephen J. Solarz, Democrat of Brooklyn. "Not a single Democrat broke ranks and four of the ten Republicans were for it. That indicates we have the kind of broad, bipartisan support which is a virtual guarantee of passage when it comes before the House."

As the House committee took up the bill, the State Department's top official on Africa, Assistant Secretary of State Chester A. Crocker, went before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to defend the Administration's policy, which is known as "constructive engagement." Under this approach, the Reagan Administration has sought to encourage change in South Africa through quiet diplomacy.

Sanctions Likened to 'Free Lunch'

Mr. Crocker, quoting a newspaper columnist, termed the push for sanctions against South Africa "the moral equivalent of a free lunch."

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, Democrat of Maryland, angrily responded: "That's a put-down. That's an ad hominem attack." Mr. Sarbanes later contended that an increasing number of Republicans have been included among those supporting tougher action against South Africa, and he accused Mr. Crocker of having an "ivory tower mentality."

The House bill would prohibit new American investments and bank loans in South Africa, would cut off existing computer contracts with the Government and would prohibit importation of the South African krugerrand, a gold coin sold to collectors and investors. The sanctions could be lifted for limited periods if the President determines that South Africa had fulfilled a number of conditions that would improve the status of the black majority.

A companion bill, introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, is pending in the Senate.

The House committee defeated a less stringent substitute bill proposed by Representative Mark D. Siljander, a Michigan Republican, that would require American companies doing business in South Africa to subscribe to a voluntary code on equitable treatment of workers. It would also set up a commission to study the issue for three years.

In the Senate, Richard G. Lugar, an Indiana Republican who is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commit-

tee, has introduced a bill that would compel American companies to provide equal pay regardless of race, as well as desegregated facilities and investment to improve living conditions.

In another action, the House commit-

tee approved by voice vote a resolution condemning recent violence in South Africa and asking for a United States investigation of the killing of blacks there. The Senate has already passed the resolution.

U.S. urged to pull back investments in S. Africa

By Don Terry
Staff Writer

A black former labor organizer from South Africa on Thursday called on the United States to divest itself of its investments in the racially torn country.

"South Africa cannot last very long without U.S. companies," said Dennis Mumble, who fled his South African homeland and was granted political asylum in the United States in 1982.

Mumble said divestment, which calls on U.S. corporations to withdraw their investments in South Africa, is one of the best ways of pressuring that government into ending the "inhuman system" of apartheid.

Mumble, 31, and Michael Mcethe, 40, another black labor leader from South Africa, were in the Twin Cities discussing the South African labor movement with Minnesota unions and students. The tour, which includes Duluth, is sponsored by the national office of Clergy and Laity Concerned.

The ultimate exploitation of labor, Mumble said, is apartheid, an extreme system of racial segregation.

Mumble noted a reason why he supports the divestment movement.

The South African government relies on a sophisticated network



Mumble



Mcethe

of computers supplied by U.S. companies to keep tabs on opposition groups, he said. "Divestment would hurt them very much," he said. "White South Africans would start listening if pressured."

Opponents of divestment contend that blacks would be most hurt if U.S. corporations pull out.

According to Mumble, those corporations only employ 1 percent of South Africa's black workforce. The official black unemployment rate is 19 percent. The real rate is probably closer to 50 percent, he said.

"An additional 1 percent isn't going to hurt very much," Mumble said. "We don't want to have better jobs under apartheid. We want better jobs without apartheid."

Mumble also said black South African workers are paid low wages that allow the government to export cheap goods, including steel, to America.

"And you know what shape the steel industry is in in this country," he said. "Jobs are being lost all the time. Look at the Iron Range."

Mumble said that since 1975, South African steel imports to the United States have increased substantially. "Americans are losing jobs because of the exploitation of black South African workers," he said.

170 Held in Protests Against Pretoria

By The Associated Press

More than 170 people were arrested yesterday on campuses in California and Iowa in protests against South Africa's policy of racial segregation, while six labor union officials in Boston surrendered to the police after occupying an office where South African gold coins were sold.

In Washington, Georgetown University students presented trustees a bed-sheet banner urging "Divest Now," and 27 students at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst were freed from police lockups after a sit-in — all part of continuing efforts to end college investment in companies doing business in South Africa.

Donald Donahue, chairman of the Georgetown board of trustees, and the Rev. Timothy Healy, president of the university, said after meeting with a small group of protesters that the university would give the divestment issue "very careful study."

"Each day that investment continues is a black spot on the university," said Matthew Shakespeare, a 19-year-old Massachusetts student who was one of

the protesters held by the police after being arrested Wednesday at the Amherst campus.

In all, nearly 200 people were arrested Wednesday in protests from coast to coast, including 63 at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and 89 at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

At Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., about 200 students barricaded the door of a room where the consul-general of the South African Consulate in New York was speaking yesterday. A phalanx of campus police officers led the diplomat, Abe Hoopenstein, through the chanting crowd.

Mr. Hoopenstein, who had been asked to a midday reception by the Conservative Club, was escorted to an unmarked car about an hour after he was scheduled to leave, said Marjorie Heffron of the Harvard News Office. There were no arrests.

Students gathered at Lowell House dormitory, surrounding the meeting room and barricading the door, pledging to keep Mr. Hoopenstein inside until midnight.

Sarah Jane Holcombe, a junior who

took part in the protest, said in a telephone interview, "We want to demonstrate the parallel with black South Africans who are imprisoned by officials, to give him a taste of what it is like."

Angela Davis, the black activist who teaches at San Francisco State University, told 350 people at a sunrise rally yesterday at the University of California campus in Berkeley that "the reverberations of these demonstrations are being heard around the world."

Miss Davis and more than 112 other demonstrators were arrested on charges of obstructing access to the building, the campus police said.

At the University of Iowa in Iowa City, the police arrested 58 of the 135 demonstrators who crowded into an administration building.

Meanwhile, six labor union members protesting sales of the South African krugerrand at the Deak-Perera money exchange office in Boston were arrested on trespassing charges after they refused to leave. They had spent Wednesday night in the exchange's lobby after a rally of about 200 people outside the Deak-Perera office.

The company refused to comment on the protests and referred all questions to its spokesman Jerry Escow in New York, who was not available immediately for comment.

Far Right Loses in South Africa

By ALAN COWELL

Special to The New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, May 2 — South Africa's governing party has retained control of seats in two by-elections, turning aside a challenge by far-right opponents.

But in the elections Wednesday in Harrismith, in the Orange Free State, and Port Elizabeth, in the restive Eastern Cape, the right-wing Conservative Party seems to have gained ground. The results were announced today.

Some South African commentators took the view that support for the far right was mounting, but not sufficiently yet to challenge the National Party's control of the nation or to deflect the Government from its limited changes.

In Harrismith, at the heart of a rural constituency where corn farmers are locked in a price dispute with the Government, the Conservative Party came within 247 votes of ousting the Nationalists.

The party, formed in 1982, is bitterly opposed to the limited changes of President P. W. Botha, such as the in-

troduction of a three-chamber Parliament including people of mixed and Indian racial descent and his promise to repeal laws prohibiting sexual relations between whites and nonwhites.

In Port Elizabeth, the Conservative Party won only about a quarter of the number of votes that returned Nationalist candidates to parliamentary and provincial council seats. The result was seen as an endorsement of the Government's harsh measures to curb unrest in black townships in the area.

President Botha hailed the results as a success "under the worst possible circumstances," proving, he said, that "the message of balance and reason has been heard in South Africa."

By-elections are sometimes viewed as protest votes that do not reflect the way whites would choose representatives in a national election. Nonetheless, the Harrismith result, political commentators said, reflected a trend of growing Conservative Party support among whites upset by the Government's economic performance and its modifications to traditional apartheid.