

READY FOR TERROR

13 OCT 1974

From TOM ROY

FRELIMO RULE GETS OFF TO A GOOD START

LOURENCO MARQUES: Less than a month after it came into power, the Frelimo-controlled transitory government in Mozambique has successfully turned the country away from anarchy and put it on the uphill road towards independence in July next year with singular success.

When the first Frelimo troops arrived in Lourenco Marques a month ago, followed a few days later by a delegation of high-ranking officials from Dar es Salaam, headed by the now Prime Minister, Joaquim Chissano, there were fears that the chaos in the country would be perpetuated.

The new government was confronted by wide-scale civil unrest, a mass

of daily strikes in all sectors precipitated by almost of commerce and industry.

Today, even their detractors have to admit their success rate to date.

The first priority, as spelled out by Mr Chissano during his first and only Press conference since his arrival, was to get the country back on its feet by sheer hard work.

On the surface, that priority is being achieved — despite the outflow of skilled Whites and the ruin of scores of factories and business premises during the riots.

Noticeably, workers have recently appeared on building sites which have been vacant for weeks; road repair gangs are out in force; sign-writers have spruced up Lourenco Marques's traffic signs; and, much to the despair of errant motorists, traffic cops are hard at work issuing tickets.

Sincere

More significantly, stevedores who run the money-spinning port of Lourenco Marques have assured the government strikes will end.

The country is by no means out of the economic woods, but the persistent — and sincere — call for hard work and the response to it is encouraging to those with the country's

future at heart.

On the streets, Frelimo troops continue to attract attention, but their presence in Mozambique is now accepted as a fact.

Their original stiffness and apprehension of strangers has mellowed, and on any day they can be seen talking and joking with civilians, Black and White.

Silence

At higher level it is not as easy to assess the mood, simply because Frelimo cabinet ministers and other top brass are never available to the Press.

Those who have managed to penetrate the ring of silence on official business have, however, expressed admiration for the moderate but firm leadership which will guide the country to independence.

Still, many questions remain unanswered, especially at official level, and nobody can be certain of anything — as has been proved in other Black states attaining independence.

Rumours of every sort — from another counter-coup to internal strife in Frelimo — abound and there is no certain way in which to check them out.

But for the present it has been a good start.

Why Alan Paton shaved off his beard

By DICK USHER

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

"THERE is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills." So began probably the most famous South African novel. And the man who wrote it has finally embarked on his autobiography.

Dr Alan Paton, author, poet, liberal politician, this week described something of the processes which have brought him to start work on a project he has resisted for years.

Sitting in the book-lined study of his Bothas Hill home, surrounded by the memorabilia of a long and intense life, Dr Paton said: "I'm enjoying it."

"It is something I always said I wouldn't do because I wondered if I had the honesty."

"But after giving a lecture on Roy Campbell whose biography I am busy with, I realised that it might be painful to his widow and daughters. I'm waiting to see whether they want me to continue."

"So I started my own biography."

Dr Paton — he holds six doctorates from some of the world's most eminent universities — was born in 1903, the eldest son of a Presbyterian Scotsman.

No fence

He took a BSc at the Natal University College, taught in African schools and then became principal of Diepkloof Reformatory where he became known as "the man who pulled up the barbed wire fence and planted geraniums."

His first novel, *Cry The Beloved Country*, appeared in 1948, the year in which the present Na-

Cry, The Beloved Country
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There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills are green, wooded and rolling; and they are lovely beyond any singing of it. The road that runs into the hills, to Combarabe, leads from here, of course, is an art, you look down on me. The finest valley of Africa. Around you there is grass and flowers and you may hear the laughter of the children, or the birds of the valley. Below you is the valley of the mountains, or the valley from the mountains to the sea; and here you are, in the great valley of the mountains.

Alan Paton's handwritten beginning to *Cry, The Beloved Country*

"Back Brink" Fund to the rescue: Page 10

nationalist Government came to power.

A man who once tried to identify with Afrikaner nationalism — not the political kind — helped found the now disbanded Liberal Party in 1953 — the year his second novel, *Too Late The Phalarope*, was published.

He later became its national president; and his passport was confiscated when he returned to South Africa from the United States in 1960 after receiving a Freedom Award from a New York group.

Always a firm foe of apartheid, Dr Paton ascribes his move to liberalism as a conversion from nationalism.

"I had gone to a celebration at the Voortrekker Monument, riding an ox-wagon, complete with beard and Vierkleur."

"I was taking a shower when a big, burly Afrikaner came in and told me to listen to the crowd and added: 'Nou

gaan' ons die Engelse donder.'"

"And then I thought I would never go to another. I left and shaved off my beard."

"But when I realised how his nationalism forced him to repel others, just as my previous English nationalism had forced me to reject some, I started looking for something more complete."

"That led me to an understanding of the life of Black people."

Vulgarity

"I always thought it a vulgarity to be proud of something over which you had no control, and I think an increasing number of Afrikaners feel Afrikaner nationalism is a vulgarity and anachronism which holds no hope for the future at all."

"1906 was the great watershed when British imperialism handed the old republic back to them, and in 1948 the great miracle occurred and the Afrikaner took over the whole country."

"But for the sake of all they have to realise that this empire is coming to an end."

At present he is writing about his early childhood and the influence formed then that played a major part in his life and work.

The hills around Ixopo are still "lovely beyond any singing of it," and Alan Paton is looking back down the road that runs through them.

NOW FOR AMERICA

Tribune Reporter

DR PATON visits the United States later this month to deliver the opening address at the convocation on peace and self-development at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.

He has also been invited to deliver two university lectures — the history of racism, and the future of South Africa.

Dr Paton will be accompanied by Mrs Paton, and will also visit California and Washington, and parts of western Canada. He has not set a final date for his return.

Progs want all races to

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govern Natal

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Mr Sonny Leon

By BRENDA ROBINSON

THE Natal congress of the Progressive Party is to propose next week that the Natal Provincial Council should open its ranks to Africans, Indians and Coloureds and that all race groups should serve on

the Natal Parks Board.

Also before the congress is a proposal by Mr George Cato — great-grandson of Durban's first mayor — that Durban City Council, having taken

minor steps to eradicate some forms of petty apartheid, should now reintroduce a non-segregated bus service and throw open all libraries to all ratepayers regardless of race.

The congress will be addressed by Mr Sonny Leon, national president of the Labour Party.

Other resolutions call for:

- The immediate restoration of the Coloured people to the voters roll;

- The overhaul of archaic laws relating to the engagement of domestic workers;

- The setting up of a top level party commission to report on all discrimination on grounds of race or sex in all provincial departments in Natal, and to mount an intensive public campaign to

eliminate it;

- The right to conscientious objection to military service because it is a "highly personal and moral question and not one that should have an answer imposed on people by any group in society";

- The SABC to observe the practice of unbiased and fair reporting.

Regarding the representation on the Natal Provincial Council of the Coloured, Indian and urban African populations, a resolution which stems from Musgrave proposes that as a first step towards this end the Natal Provincial Council be enlarged by the addition of seven members — four of Natal's urban Africans, two Indians and one Coloured.

To ensure the appointment of these representatives to the Natal Provincial Council during its

present term of office — and because suitable machinery does not exist to elect people by popular vote — they should be selected by electoral colleges composed of existing public representatives of the particular group concerned.

But immediately after election, the resolution says, all race groups

should devise a blue print for the participation of all groups in provincial and local government in Natal.

The Pietermaritzburg North branch has urged the establishment of a joint consultative committee between the Natal Provincial Council and the KwaZulu Government to discuss and make recommendations on matters

affecting the two authorities and their citizens.

Pensions should be increased by 50 percent, cause of the devastating effect of inflation on pensioners, the means should be abolished, all old age pensioners, irrespective of race, should receive the same pension according to a resolution from Mooi River.

SPORTS POLICY IS 'KILLING ALL INCENTIVE'

Tribune Reporter

GOVERNMENT policy is killing all incentive for sportsmen — from Springbok level right down the line to juniors, said Progressive Party sports spokesman Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert yesterday. He was reacting to the surprise retirement from competitive athletics of top marathon runner Ferdie le Grange. Said Dr Slabbert: "There isn't any genuine attempt to move from racialism in sport and the Government isn't bluffing anybody — certainly not sportsmen."

Le Grange said there was no chance of South Africans competing internationally until sport is fully integrated "which I don't think will come, or at least, not for a long time."

Le Grange, rated one of the top five marathon runners in the world, said if South Africa still could compete in the Olympic Games he would still be running.

He said he will concentrate now his medical stu-



Dr Slabbert

dies and will confine his running to "the occasional jog."

Asked whether fellow athletes felt the same, he said: "Well, some do but there's still enough internal competition for others. But there's Fanie van Zijl who has also had enough."

Brilliant Springbok distance runner Van Zijl has announced he will be cutting down on his competition programme. He gave "business reasons" for his decision.

Closed

Le Grange said: "The motivation is not there any more. There are too many doors closed and the only big marathon in which I can compete is the Polytechnic in England. I cannot spare time to train for weeks and weeks for only one decent race a year."

Former Springbok cricket captain Ali Bacher told me lack of international competition had hit "gates".

"And lack of finance creates a host of other deficiencies."

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The sad case of proud Thamboni

ALL land allocations have been made, the African homelands will constitute 12,4 percent of South Africa. At present half the country's Black population lives on 11,93 percent of the land, divided into 13 homelands.

How do they live?

Natal University researchers Elizabeth Clarke and Jane Ngobese have investigated an area in Nqutu, Northern Zululand. Their findings will be released in two weeks. These are some of them ...

By BRENDA ROBINSON

TRADITIONALLY the African family was always a community of close relationships, where an ageing couple and their unmarried sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren lived together in a kraal sharing the production of the fields and livestock.

But migratory labour has changed all that.

According to a study by Elizabeth Clarke and Jane Ngobese, due to be published by Natal University, the poverty of the reserves, the dependence on the cities monetarily and economically, have combined to destroy it.

The sacrosanct quality of the traditional African family has gone. Elders, no longer able to legitimise their authority through the distribution of goods, are themselves no longer assets. They possess nothing to distribute, and spiritual values feed nobody.

Everything about the migrant worker's life in the city tears him away from his rural family. His money, his time are easily absorbed by new needs and new ventures and, as the months go by, he can spare smaller and smaller amounts for his family.

Families at home go on hoping the breadwinner will send them money, but he may disappear — temporarily or permanently. He may become the victim of statutory crimes which make life so hard for Africans seeking work in the towns, or he may be assaulted or even murdered by thugs who terrorise the townships.

But in any case his values, needs, hopes and his whole life-style changes. He develops new tastes for different food, clothes, piped water and electric light. His relationship with his rural family is under constant threat of dissolution.

As an example, the authors cite the case of Thamboni Hlatshawayo, a strikingly beautiful peasant woman, proud in her traditional attire, whom visitors to Nqutu loved to photograph if they saw her.

Thamboni was always

confident of the integrity and faithfulness of her man, although all he sent her from Johannesburg where he works was about R4 or R5. Consequently, although her children suffered from pellagra, she spoke of him only with love. She was longing for his return at Christmas time.

He came, a tall, lavishly dressed spiv of a man, his eyes red with drink. Near by a mammoth transistor radio blared African jive. Soon he would return to Johannesburg. And Thamboni struggled on for another year on the small sums sent by Jakes, as he became known.

Tears

But she continued proud in her faith in him as long as some contributions came. Then they stopped.

She went to Nqutu Hospital to beg for a bag of mealies.

Was anything else the matter? No. She struggled to check her tears and left hurriedly.

Beautiful Thamboni, neither her devotion and her beauty nor her love as a wife and mother could keep her man. She was still a peasant woman — but he was no longer a peasant man.

Reserve poverty forces men and women to seek work in the cities. As a result, children are left with grandparents or teenage siblings, bereft of the traditional family and its hierarchy of discipline and care. Promiscuity, delinquency, teenage pregnancies and violence become commonplace.

African children do not qualify for maintenance grants although the children of other race groups do.

The total monthly income of 150 families sampled was R2 281 — an average of R15,27 a family.

A disturbing factor, report Clarke and Ngobese, is the irregularity of the sum received. One month might bring R5, the next

But the Tomlinson Commission estimated the income of peasant families to be about R194 a year — R16 a month. That was in 1952.

Thus, 22 years later, Nqutu families receive less than they did then and, since the rand has deteriorated to half its value in that time, the families have now half the buying power they had in 1952.

Malnutrition was not a feature of traditional life — starches were at one time abundantly complemented by milk and meat. But foodstuffs being bought now indicate that bulk starches are the staple food of the people and tea and coffee constitute additions to the staple. The rest are occasional luxuries.

The cost of a low protein diet — calculated by the State Health Department — is R57,83 a month. It is clear that the families in the Nqutu area are in a state of chronic starvation.

As an example of what the system is doing to young and old, the authors cite the example of an old Zulu woman who said: "My child, do not ask me why I herd cattle. You are the people who built the schools and told us our children must be educated."

Elsewhere a youngster will be at school — he will have walked eight to 12 kilometres having had only a plate of porridge in the early morning — and he will get nothing until his evening meal.

He will be in his khaki trousers and shirt, but out of necessity he will go barefoot. The importance of education has been impressed on him and during school he will listen carefully to lessons centred on healthy living and agriculture. There are 900 children in the six classrooms and the church. In the afternoon he will take charge of the cattle so that his grandmother can rest.

African children have to

pay for their school books, school fees, and their parents must also contribute from time to time towards the costs of extensions to the school.

The requirements as listed in a Nqutu post-primary school prospectus are as follows: Up to Standard 7: School fees — R4; Book fees R17; Sport fees R1; examination fees R1.

The estimated population for 1980 in this region is 120 000. There is no significant agriculture in the area and no industry at all. In 1954 the Tomlinson Commission reported that the area if fully developed agriculturally could support about 13 000 people.

The cost of living is higher in the homelands than in the cities because the people are dependent for all their needs on "imports" from outside their borders. This adds a high transport cost on all the products.

The city housewife has variety to choose from in products and in price, she markets where she can get the best deal, buys in greater quantities.

The reserve housewife is dependent on the few local stores, has a small, inconsistent cash allowance with which to buy small, uneconomic quantities of goods.

The following story, overheard in a bus, illustrates the irony of it all.

Two Zulu mammas sat side by side in the bus on the journey to Nqutu.

Hospital

"Where are you going?" asked one.

"To the hospital, my child is sick," replied the other.

"What's wrong?"

"He is swollen and miserable."

They peer at the grizzled youngster.

"Dear sister," said a knowing fellow passenger, "your baby has Kwashi. Let me give you a tip. At the hospital they will ask you what you feed the child on. So tell them meat, eggs, beans, vegetables and milk. Otherwise the nurses and doctors will shout at you and tell you it's your fault the child is ill."

labourers...and tussle over homeless

Tribune Reporter

TWO EASTERN CAPE towns are going all out to attract the Government's planned 110 000-strong African resettlement town to their areas.

Fort Beaufort and Peddie have each told the Government: Select our area as an alternative to the original Committees Drift site.

Their reasons are identical: 110 000 people will boost their flagging small-town economies.

The Government was all set to establish the Black town at the barren and isolated Committees Drift site — 46 kilometres from Grahamstown — when the Government of the Ciskei stepped in with a firm No.

Rejecting the Committees Drift site, the Ciskei Minister of the Interior, Mr L. F. Siyo, said it would be a duplication of the "Dimbaza catastrophe" and would perpetuate the practice of migratory labour.

Boundary

Fort Beaufort's acting Town Clerk, Mr Danie van Eck, said this week indications are that his town will get the resettlement town.

The town's present African township would probably be included in the new town and the Ciskei boundary, about four kilometres away, would be

moved to include the area.

He said his council would be prepared to sell the land, which is commonage, to the Ciskei Government.

A town of 110 000 on the outskirts of Fort Beaufort would be a boon to economy, he said.

Meanwhile, the Peddie Town Council has sent a memorandum to the Department of Bantu Administration and Development setting out reasons why they should have the resettlement town.

Prime mover of the scheme is Peddie hotel-owner and former mayor, Mrs K. H. Lawlor. Peddie has been declared a Black area, although nobody knows when Whites will have to move.

Ideal area

She told me: "We have everything here for the development of such a town. We have electricity, a hospital, school, agricultural potential and the land belongs to the Government. Also we are

on the national road.

"As Peddie is going Black, I felt it was the ideal area to establish such a town, unlike the desert at Committees Drift.

"Besides, we will do a thousand times more business if Peddie gets the town. We would become the shopping centre of the resettlement town.

"Even if we have to move out before the town is completed, the value of our properties will have gone up as well," Mrs Lawlor said.

All this was news to the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner for the Eastern Cape, Mr T. R. H. Garney. He is also chairman of the Committees Drift control committee.

Promised

"I know nothing of these moves," he said. "As far as I am concerned Committees Drift is still the official site. The deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr Punt Janson, has promised to

visit the Committees Drift site to see for himself. As far as I'm concerned, until that happens everything is being held in abeyance."

The final word comes from some of the people who will have to live in the resettlement town — the Africans from Grahamstown's Fingo village which has been declared Coloured.

"We are opposed to the Committees Drift plan — and we don't want to move anywhere until we know what we are getting," a spokesman said.

Towns in Cape fight for giant Black settlement

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'WE BADLY NEED THOSE 110 000 AFRICANS'

Minister speaks out on jail scandal

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

By EUGENE HUGO



Mr Jimmy Kruger . . .
strong action

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, Mr Jimmy Kruger, yesterday promised South Africa: I will do all I can to put right whatever is wrong in our prisons system.

He made his pledge to the SUNDAY TRIBUNE as the United Party demanded: Change the Prisons Act to allow reports of what goes on behind our jail walls.

The prisons system came under the spotlight earlier this week when five Leeuwkop Prison warders were convicted of "barbaric, cruel and inhuman" assaults on two convicts, one of whom died.

The United Party Justice spokesman, Mr Mike Mitchell, told me he wants to know from the Minister of Justice:

- Have there been other "Leeuwkop Affairs"?
- If so, what has he done about them?
- What is he going to do to ensure it doesn't happen again?

Mr Mitchell said: "I will raise the whole question of Section 44 of the Prisons Act which makes it im-

possible for newspapers to constructively criticise the prison system."

He said that without the trial it seems the Government — and even the Prisons Department itself would not be aware of the "monstrous" activities of warders at Leeuwkop.

"One of the contributory causes to this unfortunate situation is Section 44 of the Prisons Act.

"It is a matter of great concern that we have this provision which makes it impossible to expose irregularities in our prisons.

Complaints

Mr Mitchell said that the Press was one medium through which complaints about the system could be aired . . . "and it is terribly important that it should be aired if someone has complaints."

One could not rule out the possibility that there have been similar assaults to those at Leeuwkop, he said, and added that Mr Justice Hiemstra indicated during the trial that such assaults are not rare.

"But in such cases one is muzzled. I as a member of Parliament cannot even use my discretion to go into such matters."

"Members of Parliament and the Press should be in a position to act as watchdogs for the public.

"Had it not been for the trial this week, people would not have believed that these things happened.

"If Section 44 was differently framed there would be a more workable and satisfactory situation. I think all the facts attached to this matter show that Section 44 has to be urgently revised."

In his judgment this week Mr Justice Hiemstra noted:

I'LL
PUT

THINGS

RIGHT

Stain

● The assaults by warders — which led to a prisoner's death — left "an indelible stain of shame on the prisons administration."

● The trial brought to light "serious evils" in the Prisons Department.

● Jail assaults are not rare.

He said: "The promotion of the witness Lieutenant S. L. Potgieter to captain despite his known involvement "exposes a cynicism on the part of the prisons authorities which I cannot condemn too strongly.

The Minister of Justice has stressed that he has very strong views on this question and is giving serious attention to the judge's comments and has promised strong action.

Sadists

When I spoke to him yesterday he said he had not yet received the full court record and could not comment specifically on the court's findings.

Two prominent criminologists this week urged a different approach to the recruiting of warders.

Professor J. P. van der Walt, head of the Department of Criminology at Potchefstroom University, said sadists should be kept out of positions of authority in South Africa's jails.

"All sadists or people with such tendencies should be screened from the Prisons Service and police force."

Professor Herman Venter, head of the Department of Criminology at the University of Pretoria, agrees warder recruits should be psychologically tested.

He feels, however, that there is not much wrong with South Africa's prison system — "you will always get people who abuse their authority in every walk of life."