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South African Black Is Mourned

By ALAN COWELL
Special to The New York Times

TSAKANE, South Africa, May 14 — With the army and the police standing guard, more than 25,000 blacks attended the funeral today of a union leader who died after being in police custody.

The union leader, Andrids Raditsela, 29 years old, died in a hospital on May 6 two days after being detained by the police in this township near the white town of Brakpan, just west of Johannesburg. A pathologist hired by his family said he had died of brain damage consistent with a blow or a fall.

Funerals heavy with political protest have become commonplace since unrest began to grip many of the nation's segregated townships last September. But the death of a labor leader such as Mr. Raditsela, a senior shop steward in the Chemical Workers Union and an executive member of a major labor federation, added a further element, South African commentators said, seeming to draw organized labor further into the political fight against white minority rule.

At the Methodist Church on Gubhela Street in Tsakane, the funeral began slowly under a blue sky. The mourners at first numbered no more than 2,000, but the crowd seemed to swell as Mr. Raditsela's coffin was borne along streets between modest homes to a cemetery.

On the outskirts of the township, troops and policemen were deployed. As the mourners dispersed, they moved into the township, crisscrossing the routes taken by them in what may have been intended as a show of force but which was interpreted by some mourners as provocation. By nightfall, however, no trouble had been reported from the township.

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Oil Producers, N.Y. Jewish Leaders Join Forces

Unlikely Coalition's Mission Is to Preserve the Industry's Tax Breaks

By Dale Russakoff
Washington Post Staff Writer

The movement to simplify the U.S. tax code has inspired many marriages of convenience among threatened groups, but few as eye-catching as a recent union of Texas oilmen and New York Jewish leaders. Their mission: to protect the oil industry's tax breaks.

"We walk into meetings together, and people's eyes widen," said Marshall Brachman, an independent oil producer from Fort Worth. "At first some people think it's a joke, but by the end of the conversation, they usually say: 'Why didn't I think of this before?' "

This union of influential but unlikely allies grew from a shared desire of supporters of Israel and domestic oil producers to curb U.S. dependence on Arab oil. The Council for a Secure America, as the new coalition calls itself, is pursuing that goal by trying to save tax breaks that promote domestic oil drilling—breaks that many would-be tax simplifiers would like to curtail.

"To carry on an independent foreign policy you want to have an energy policy that doesn't put us [Americans] in a position where we're exposed to blackmail" from foreign producers, said New York businessman Selig Zises, a prominent supporter of Israel, sounding like a Texas oil producer. " . . . We need more incentives, not less, for domestic oil and gas."

The mixed marriage was arranged by Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Calif.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, who usually applies his matchmaking to Democratic fund-raising. Coelho pointed out that Jews and independent oil producers historically were among the most generous contributors to Democratic campaigns, although oil producers recently have become more Republican.

The oil import issue, Coelho said, is a way to bring them together. He traveled last year to Israel with a group of Texas oil producers and New York Jewish leaders. Later he hosted a catered kosher dinner at his home attended by House Majority Leader James C. Wright Jr. (D-Tex.); Dallas independent oil producer Frank Pitts; Zises, who heads Integrated Resources Inc., the fourth-largest seller of publicly registered tax shelters in 1984; officials from the Israeli embassy and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a pro-Israel lobby, and about 40 others.

The coalition now has offices in New York and Washington, and a Washington lobbyist, Daniel Dutko. It has a budget of $300,000, mainly for "educational trips," such as ferrying northeastern members of Congress to the oil fields, and southwestern members of Congress to Israel. Its 12 board members include Mack Wallace, a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the oil industry, and New York attorney Howard Squadron, past president of the American Jewish Congress.

For now, the council is working to defend percentage depletion and intangible drilling writeoffs, the two most lucrative tax breaks of the oil industry, worth a total of $6.5 billion in fiscal 1986. Sources said President Reagan has agreed to preserve these in some form in the administration's forthcoming tax proposal.

But it also aims to win allies in Congress for aid to Israel, decontrol of the price of natural gas and more. In March, the council flew four New York members of Congress to the Texas oil fields, where they saw oil wells and dry holes, heard that the chances of finding oil are one in 10 and were told that oil producers need tax breaks to drill against those odds.

The results of the trip were mixed. Rep. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), an opponent of the oil industry's prime tax breaks, said his views did not change. But Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.) said he emerged "a 100 percent supporter." Other travelers included Rep. Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.), a member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Robert J. Mrazek (D-N.Y.).

One side effect of the coalition is to demonstrate the ease with which aggrieved groups are making common cause to oppose major tax revision.

Downey, an oil-industry critic who supports tax revision in principle, said he would consider supporting the council's agenda if it joined him in fighting a separate proposal to abolish deductions for state and local income taxes.

"Am I convinced that [the oil industry's tax breaks] are necessary for the survival of America? No. But they may be necessary to the survival of the state and local tax deduction," he said. In New York State, where local taxes are high, that deduction has become a big issue.

Sources said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) fears that Coelho's role in building the coalition will paint Democrats as protectors of special interests in this year's tax battle. Others called it a "crass" fund-raising ploy. Coelho denies the charge.

"What's wrong with some small businessmen and some pro-Israel people getting together?" asked a Coelho aide. "Nothing. We can play this holier-than-thou routine until we're in the minority and we'll stay there."

Coelho also has distanced himself from the group's support of oil tax breaks, stressing that he made the match before taxes were on the congressional agenda and is no longer closely involved with it. "Children don't do everything you want once you bring them to earth," Coelho said.

Some council members have a personal stake in tax revision.

Zises' firm arranged $407 million worth of limited partnerships for real estate, equipment leasing and oil and gas ventures, according to a national shelter research company. These would have been less lucrative without tax breaks for oil and other industries.

However, Zises said he views the council's concerns as the national interest rather than his self-interest.

The unlikely nature of the union between the Texans and Jewish leaders has led to inevitable ribbing. Said council board member Perry of Odessa, Tex.: "My wife kids me all the time. She asks me when I'm going to get a yarmulke."

Major U.S. firms stay, but 'hassle' discourages some in South Africa

By J.H. Doyle
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An executive at Blue Bell Inc., asked why his company recently sold its jeans manufacturing plant in South Africa, had a terse answer.

"Our decision to get out of South Africa was strictly economic," said H. Varnell Moore, vice president for international operations at Blue Bell Inc., based in Greensboro, N.C. "We had some good years there and some bad years."

Blue Bell's response echoes the sensitivity of the U.S. business community to the growing anti-apartheid movement that threatens the annual $4.5 billion U.S.-South Africa trade.

Major U.S. companies operating in South Africa have so far held firm against the intense pressures of a "disinvestment" campaign endorsed by a growing number of cities, states, church groups and colleges.

A 30-year-old trade unionist who died a day after being released from South African police custody is buried. Page 8B.

Disinvestment, schmisinvestment: An editorial, page 7A.

Despite "increased expectations of racial violence," the companies plan to maintain their South African operations, says a spokesman for a coalition of U.S. firms with subsidiaries in South Africa.

Yet the so-called "hassle factor" — protests of anti-apartheid activists here and violence there — may discourage smaller U.S. firms from continuing to do business there.

"Obviously, some of the smaller companies are beginning to look at this and wonder whether it's worth it," says the corporate spokesman. "But I think that the companies that have been there a long time intend to stay."

Over the past six months, a handful of 310 U.S. corporations doing business in South Africa has either pulled out or scaled back operations. Others have taken steps to reduce visibility. Most have cited business reasons.

Perkin-Elmer Corp., the Connecticut-based manufacturer of precision instruments, recently sold its South Africa operations. Pan

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