

Bishop flays Tutu

SOWETO - 10 DEC. 1988
 THE leader of a South African black church group has thanked US President Ronald Reagan for opposing Bishop Tutu's call, during a White House meeting at the weekend, for American disinvestment in South Africa.

Bishop Isaac Mokoena, honorary life president of the Reformed Independent Churches Association (Rica), sent the president a telegram expressing "heartfelt appreciation" on behalf of "hundreds" of Rica-affiliated black churches.

Claiming 4.5 million followers above 15 years of age, Bishop Mokoena

said he disagreed with Bishop Tutu advocating disinvestment and economic sanctions against South Africa.

In a separate statement telexed to Sapa yesterday, Bishop Mokoena questioned the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Tutu. "The Nobel Peace Prize for such a man is an insult to the black Christians of South Africa," the statement said.

It said Rica was "deeply disturbed" about the award to Bishop Tutu who had "promoted a war of black against black" and collaborated with communists — Sapa.

Sebokeng

SOWETAN

violence

10 DEC. 1984
erupts

A POLICE van was stoned and windows of a Vaal Transport Co-operation bus smashed yesterday by angry youths as another wave of violence gripped Sebokeng.

The incident happened as people who had attended a meeting of the Vaal Interim Committee left the local Roman Catholic Church in Zone 12.

Stones started raining on the van as it passed the church and the crowd nearby ran in all directions when one of the policemen in it pulled out a rifle.

For an hour thereafter, there was tension in the vicinity as people lined up the main road in anticipation that reinforcements were to be summoned.

Stand

The resolutions passed at the meeting were that residents reiterated their earlier stand for rent to be reduced to R30, and that pupils should return to school next year.

On the issue of Commission of Inquiry behind the unrest, those attending were not decided whether residents should give evidence or not.

At another meeting in Sharpeville yesterday, the local civic association reported back to thousands of residents that the deduction of employees' wages or salaries by some companies in the Vaal Triangle to "force" them to pay

house rent had no force and effect and could be tested in a court of law.

Mr Phillip "Chippa" Molefe, the association's PRO, said they had at the weekend consulted their lawyers who confirmed that the action by the companies rendered them vulnerable to legal action.

"We have instructed the lawyers to write to the council to tell them that their action can be tested. At the same time the council is to be given a deadline to tell the companies involved to withdraw their move as this will render them legally vulnerable," he said.

Mandate

Despite the council's action to enlist the employers to effect stop orders from workers' remuneration, the residents gave the association a further mandate to continue talks with the council.

Mr Molefe told the meeting that after presenting the residents demands to the executive committee of the council, which included Mr Esau Mahlatsi, the mayor, they were told that only a full councillors' meeting can take a decision.

Mr Mbuyiselo Botha, an executive member of the association, also said they were there to meet the Vaal Transport Co-operation this week, to discuss the resumption of buses to enter the township.

He said parents should advise their children not to stone

buses. They would also point out to the management of the bus service that they were not the targets in the residents' grievances and as a result of the buses not entering the township, the sick and elderly were the ones who suffered.

16/1/77

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ANC denial of killing rejected

JOHANNESBURG — Swaziland's Commissioner of Police, Mr Majaji Simelane, has rejected an African National Congress denial that it was involved in the assassination of the Swazi deputy security police chief, Superintendent Petros Shiba.

Superintendent Shiba was shot dead on Friday as he left the Swazi police officers' mess. The assassins then fled in a car.

Mr Simelane confirmed that one of the men suspected of involvement in the killing was an ANC refugee known only as "Sipho" or "Solly". Mr Simelane, however, referred to him as an "ANC criminal" rather than an "ANC refugee."

Mr Simelane said: "He is an ANC criminal in hiding. He stabbed another ANC man last weekend." The victim in the stabbing incident, Mr Felix Masonda, is in police custody, Mr Simelane added.

Swazi police were still searching for the assassins yesterday, having set up road blocks at strategic points soon after the attack.

After the shooting of Superintendent Shiba, an ANC spokesman in Harare, Zimbabwe, denied that the ANC was involved.

But Mr Simelane said of the killers yesterday: "We suspect they were acting on the orders of the ANC."

He was unimpressed by the ANC denial, as the ANC's political leaders "do not know what the military wing is doing." The ANC's nominal leaders had lost contact with their "men in the bush", who were subject to the command of an autonomous "sub-committee," he said.

Some reports at the weekend speculated that the killing may have been part of an internal coup against Swaziland's Liqoqo regime.

SOWETAN - 10 DEC. 1984

MONDAY, DECEMBER

Tutu gets his prize

BISHOP Desmond Mpilo Tutu, receives the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway today.

Bishop Tutu, the recently elected Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg flew to Oslo yesterday from Britain, where he had earlier preached in Canterbury Cathedral, at the end of a two-day stopover in Britain en route to Norway.

He was joined in the service by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, the spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans.

After the service, the bishop, lauded in the Nobel Citation earlier this year as "a unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa," left for Oslo to receive the Peace

prize which is worth about R300 000.

Bishop Tutu has indicated that most of the peace prize awarded to him would go into a family trust fund he set up after he won the Onassis prize.

Last week, the bishop met in the Oval office of the White House American President Ronald Reagan, the vice-president Mr George Bush, the Secretary of State Mr George Schultz, national security advisor Mr Robert McFarlane, and Assistant Secretary of State Mr Chester Croker — a line-up normally reserved for an important head of state.

But minutes later, President Reagan told the reporter: "I have to disagree with him on the fact that the situation has worsened."

Bishop Tutu, the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), resigns from this post in January next year when he becomes the first black Bishop of Johannesburg.

He will be replaced by the recently unbanned Dr Beyers Naude.

'SA disturbances help the cause of activists'

SOUTHERN - 10 DEC 1984

NEW YORK — The widespread disturbances in South Africa in the past month have been a great boost to the United States of divestment campaign.

"The South African Government create our publicity for us," said Dumisani Kumalo, leader of a nationwide movement to get American firms out of South Africa.

"Every time they shoot people in the townships, they bring in the army, they arrest and detain ... it all helps our cause."

In the past few weeks the media here have carried many reports and editorials on the disturbances in South Africa, and the use of the army to quell them.

"Right now," said Jerry Herman of the American Friends Service Committee, "we are gearing up for a big new campaign. We are aiming at a number of new legislatures for divestment proposals."

The strategy was to let the South African Government create the climate for the divestment argument.

Mr Herman, the AFSC's South Africa programme director, said the easiest campaigns followed various events in South Africa. Among these had been the deaths in police custody of black activist Steve Biko and trade unionist Neil Aggett.

One of the main organisers of the national divestment effort in the US is Mr Kumalo, 38, a

South African, who coordinates a coalition of organisations called CAISA, the Committee Against Investment in South Africa.

Its main members are:

- Clergy and Laity Concerned, an interdenominational church group which developed from the anti-war movement in the early 1970s.

- The South African project of the American Friends Service Committee.

- TransAfrica, an increasingly influential Washington lobby group led by Randall Robinson.

- Washington Office on Africa, a Washington-based legislative lobby group concerned with human rights and other issues.

- Lutheran World Ministries — a church group with wide concerns.

David Mesenbring, associate director of the South Africa advocacy programme of the Lutheran group, said that as it was a national church, the organisation already had the structure to mobilise sympathetic people in the area chosen as a target for legislation.

All the groups had their own network of affiliates across the country, which were called on when support was needed. He said the technique was to explain the "realities of South Africa" and then to urge people to show an "active, Christian response".

Many Lutherans in Pennsylvania responded by writing to their senator, John Heinz, a Republican, and persuading him not to oppose a pro-divestment Bill in Congress, Mr Mesenbring said.

Jerry Herman of the AFSC in Philadelphia said: "We work as national co-ordinators from here, helping to provide support across the country."

He said there strategy was to use the democratic process because at local level, city and state politicians were more responsive to the concerns of their voting constituents.

AFSC would explain what was happening in South Africa and urge people to put pressure on politicians.

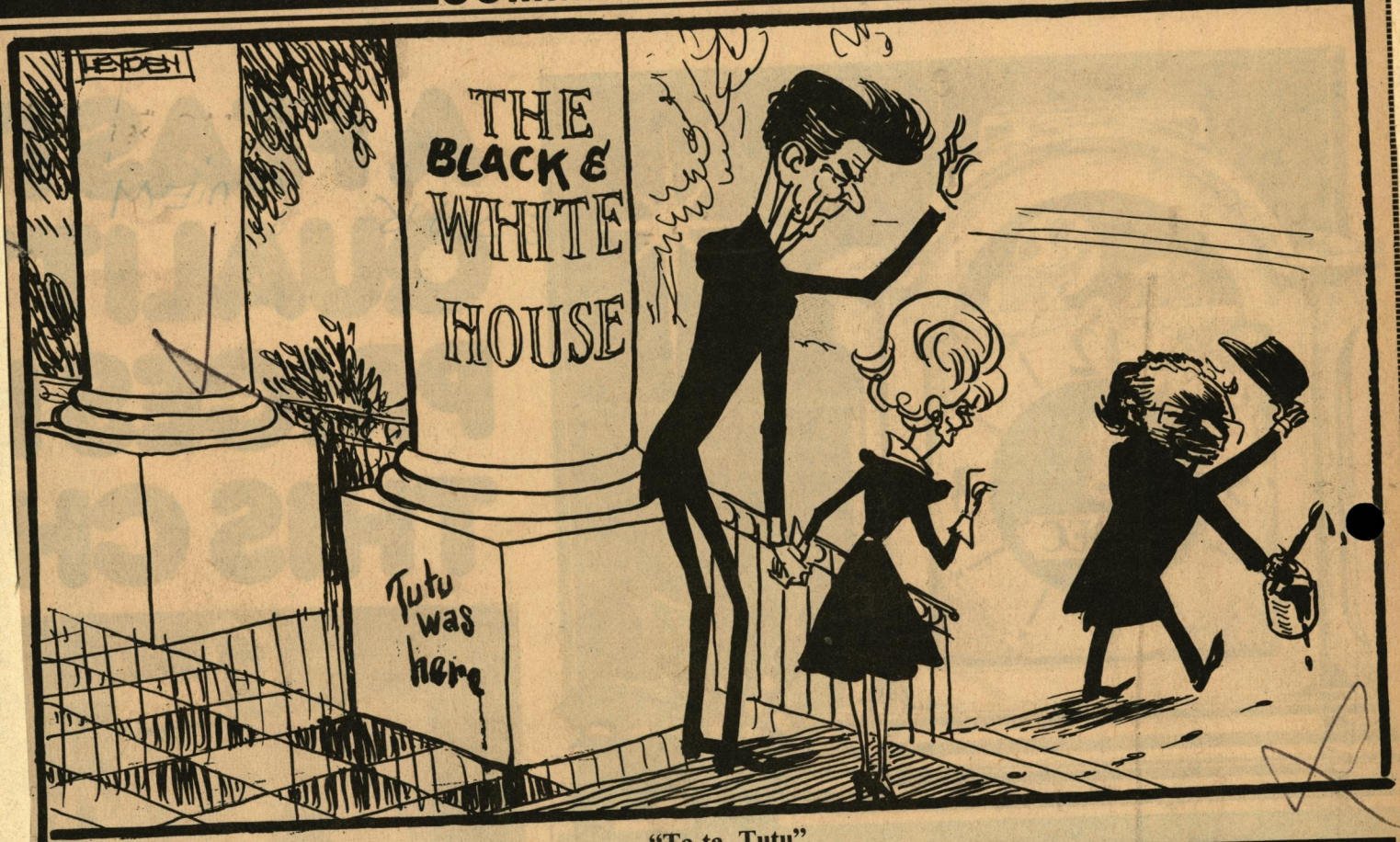
Once CAISA had selected a city or state, and affiliates in that part of the United States had been alerted and briefed, a lobby group would visit the region.

CAISA has a how-to guide on onpassing divestment legislation which outlines the political and legal pitfalls. "We've been in this business so long, we know what to expect," Mr Kumalo said.

The guide includes a series of arguments that can be expected against divestment. Examples are that blacks will lose their jobs as a result of divestment, or divestment will lead to huge losses in the investment portfolio. The guide also provides counter-arguments.

THE DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1984

COMMENT



"Ta ta, Tutu"

Release of detainees 'a

LONDON. — Bishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, said at the weekend that South Africa's release of 11 Black labour leaders from detention may have been a ploy to divert attention from his meeting with US President Ronald Reagan.

Bishop Tutu flew into London from New York after meeting Mr Reagan in Washington on Friday. He is to receive the Nobel Prize in Oslo today.

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, Bishop Tutu was asked his reaction to Mr Reagan's claim that the release of the 11 Black

CITIZEN
10 DEC 1984
political prisoners was due to "quiet diplomacy" by the United States.

He said anti-apartheid protesters could "equally well say that one of the things they have called for is the immediate release of the labour leaders and that the release is due to their action."

"We could also say that the South African Government, aware of my meeting with President Reagan, wished to divert attention from the meeting."

ploy — Tutu

The Bishop was greeted at Heathrow by 13 workers at a shop in Dublin, Ireland, who have been on strike for 21

weeks in a protest stemming from a worker's refusal to handle South African goods.

"This is a very important action, and I would like to thank you from all the victims of the vicious regime," Bishop Tutu said.

He is to preach at Canterbury Cathedral today before flying to Oslo. — Sapa-AP.

ANC denial

LUSAKA — The African National Congress yesterday denied killing a senior police officer in Swaziland.

The deputy chief of the Swaziland security police, Superintendent Petros Shiba, died in a hail of machine-gun bullets as he and other policemen left a Christmas party at the police officers' mess in Mbabane on Friday night.

A well-informed police source said investigators knew the identity of one of the killers. He said the man was an ANC refugee in Swaziland who was known to the police as Sipho or Solly.

He said the man was also wanted in connection with a stabbing incident at a shebeen at Matsapha last weekend.

Deep bitterness arose between the ANC and Swaziland after several ANC guerrillas died in clashes with Swazi security forces last spring.

The ANC denial of involvement in Superintendent Shaba's murder was made at the weekend in Lusaka. - Sapa.

COMMENT

PHONE: 673-4160

Scandalous

WE DO NOT think it is improper for us, nor even a reflection on the police, to express distress by the seeming lethargy in bringing to book people who commit cold blooded murder in the townships.

Mr Edward Manyosi was gunned down in front of several witnesses, his colleagues for that matter. We would have imagined under the circumstances that one of those people would give the police certain links to work on.

It must be said, however, that the public in such cases has a reluctance to help the police in tracing the perpetrators of such acts. They seem to forget that if such people are not arrested, then they could be the next in line. In fact it is a sad reflection on our society that such things are either ignored through fear or the simple reluctance to get involved in police matters. The problem, as we say, is we may be similarly affected in future.

It is perhaps true to say such matters are only given prominence when someone of Mr Manyosi's stature is killed. The argument that there are several unsolved murders in the various townships is perhaps true. But this is just not good enough.

The most serious thing is that in the end murder, particularly such cold blooded killings, become simply one of those things to most of us. In a respectable society such attitudes are just not good enough. The police are public servants who get their pay from the public. The public has a right to demand more aggressive action from them in the solving of such crimes.

We do not wish to say this happens all the time, that every murder goes unsolved. In certain societies the people usually create a storm if murders go unsolved. It is thus the duty of newspapers to reflect such distress. After all, the attack on the liberties of one of us, is an attack on all of us.

The solving of crime is also a deterrent. If people believe they can get away with murder, literally, what is to stop them from repeating their acts in future. Murder is becoming too easy, even too cheap in the townships. We are perhaps getting unnecessarily impatient. We hope this is true. We also hope that the police are working on solid leads towards solving this particular murder.

This particular case is most instructive. We have a fear that civic politics will be swamped by gangsterism, so that certain people will feel they could rule the townships by force. This should not happen, even if we do not care too much for local authorities and other supporters of government instituted bodies.

Lastly, it is perhaps the most scandalous thing that such an old man should be shot down so callously.

TRADE SANCTIONS HOT UP

Students put pressure on US companies' dealings

NEW YORK — A sporadic campus campaign, that started about 10 years ago, to get universities to shed their investments in firms operating in South Africa has grown into a massive national movement that has reached the United States Congress and led to divestment of millions of dollars.

The student divestment protests were not taken seriously either by US companies or the South African Govern-

ment.

Four years ago, however, the divestment drive shifted to American cities and states and culminated this year in an attempt to bar new investment in South Africa by an act of Congress.

There are 350 US companies which have branches or subsidiaries in South Africa. The State Department estimates there is \$2 300-million invested in South African firms. Other estimates add another \$11 300-million invested in loans and Kruger rands.

Estimates of the amount of money Americans have divested from US firms because of their SA links vary from \$100-million upwards.

At first, half a dozen small US cities sold their pension fund stocks in firms involved in South Africa. Then in 1980 Philadelphia became the first of five major American cities to divest.

The most significant was Boston, which this year passed the most far-reaching divestment ordinance yet.

"What's more," said

Philip Martin, deputy Press secretary for the mayor of Boston, "it is now being used as the blueprint for future divestment ordinances in other cities."

It requires Boston to divest itself of \$10-million in shares: \$1-million Gulf Oil; 1,3 Citibank; 1,3 Ford; 1,4 General Motors; 2,8 Wells Fargo; and \$1-million each in the Continental Bank of Illinois and Bank of Boston.

It also:

- Prohibits other public funds being deposited in banks that make loans to South Africa, or com-

panies that do business with it;

- Requires banks to sign affidavits certifying they have no loans and offer no credit to South Africa;

- Extends the boycott to Namibia.

The Mayor of Boston, Raymond Flynn, an Irish Catholic who narrowly beat a black Democrat for the post, said: "We have an obligation as citizens of conscience to send a message to the world that Bostonians will not support the apartheid system."

Mr Flynn has assumed the role of Pied Piper for other cities of America by writing and urging 100 of them to follow Boston's example. He plans to recommend to the Conference of American Mayors in

January that they all divest.

The deputy Press secretary, Mr Martin, said at least 30 of the cities which received Mr Flynn's letter replied that they planned divestment measures.

The Boston ordinance, passed by 10 votes to 3 in a city renowned for profound racial conflict, was considered to be encouragement for other cities.

Maverick mayor of New York, Ed Koch, suddenly announced his support for a plan to divest funds in corporations involved in South Africa. The amount of money, \$600-million, is the largest sum in a divestment move in the US to date.

At state level, at least five legislatures have passed some form of di-

vestment bill. Early this year Massachusetts sold \$90-million in stocks in South African-connected firms.

The divestment drive came within sight of one of its biggest goals at mid-year when legislation was introduced in Congress to bar further investment in South Africa.

It was introduced as an amendment to the Export Administration Act of 1979 by Congressman William H Gray. It would have:

- Banned all new investment in SA firms;
- Banned US bank loans to the South African Government except for social services and welfare;
- Forced American firms already in South Africa to comply with the Sullivan Code.

National Parks Board chooses the wrong battlefield

August 3 1984 was a sad day in the history of conservation in South Africa when conservationists had to attack a conservation organisation.

In Cape Town, three members of the newly appointed Council for the Environment, Professor R Botha (chairman), Mr Eric Hall and Mr Douglas Hey, heard evidence from individuals and organisations about the proposed takeover by the National Parks Board of the Cedarberg wilderness area at present administered by the Department of Forestry.

Most of the speakers were Afrikaners and it was a most unusual display of conservation solidarity between Afrikaans and English-speaking people, all of whom showed a deep concern for the 71 000 ha wilderness area.

The National Parks Board was tongue-lashed repeatedly for its insensitivity to local wishes and for its well-known predilection for huge camps and road networks such as those in the Kruger National Park.

In making the Cedarberg its first public takeover bid, the National Parks Board miscalculated badly. In military terms it had chosen a battleground without doing any real reconnaissance.

Had the board sent scouts into the area its intelligence department would quickly have warned that there was little sympathy for the proposed takeover. It also overlooked the non-governmental conservation organisations which have for many years been most unhappy with the big camp syndrome and the lack of real understanding of the wilderness concept.

Wilderness areas were set aside in 1958 by the Natal Parks Board and in 1973 by the Department of Forestry. The National Parks Board has made no effort to establish wilderness areas; it was 20 years be-



Dr Ian Player... raw nerve touched.

fore that board emulated the Natal Parks Board and instituted walking trails in the Kruger National Park. These trails are, however, denied the wilderness experience which the Natal Parks Board and the Wilderness Leadership School provide, such as sleeping out in tents.

Nevertheless the Kruger National Park trails have been very successful, have a long waiting list and are extremely important. This should have made the National Parks Board realise that it should take the wilderness concept seriously.

Dr Ian Player comments on the strong reaction to a planned takeover of the Cedarberg wilderness area in the Cape and expresses the hope that a vital lesson has been learnt.

One speaker said the National Parks Board had vast areas which would qualify as some of the finest wilderness country in South Africa. This is perfectly true, but they need legal definition, access by wilderness-oriented people, and sensitive management with no roads or camps.

The National Parks Board's expertise in managing big game animals and handling mass tourism is appreciated and acknowledged by all conservationists.

When the Kruger National Park was threatened with mining, South Africans in their hundreds of thousands rallied to stop the intrusion, but the National Parks Board appears to believe that the support was licence to do anything it liked, such as the bid for the Cedarberg.

This is not the case and the people in Natal are justifiably concerned that the Cedarberg bid is a prelude to yet another attempt to take over Natal parks, particularly those in the Drakensberg. Natal has been in control of its own conservation affairs for more than 100 years and will fight tooth and nail to retain its independence.

No one wants to fight with the National Parks Board, because of its importance in the national conservation scene, but it started this row and touched the raw nerve of wilderness users, and the reaction was strong. The National Parks Board will hopefully have learnt a

vital lesson from its Cedarberg grab, and that is the vast difference between people who drive around game reserves and those who walk.

It is to be hoped that the board will do what the Forestry Department and Natal Parks Board did many years ago — read wilderness literature such as the American

Wilderness Act, as well as "Wilderness and the American Mind" by Roderick Nash. If the board would then legally set aside wilderness areas in its massive parks it would earn the respect and gratitude of South Africans.

The international wilderness movement is very powerful and South Africans of all races played a prominent role at the three World Wilderness Congresses. South Africa is accepted because it is only one of five countries sufficiently advanced in conservation affairs to have wilderness legislation.

In the United States, wilderness is regarded as THE symbol of environmental quality. Dr John Hendee of the US Forestry Department and a wilderness exponent of great stature says: "Wilderness has acquired a strong identity as a place for personal renewal and growth. In wilderness, removed from the distractions of city life and the excessive stimuli choking our lives, we can shed our masks and be moved to a sense of wholeness. We can find ourselves."

● Dr Ian Player, former chief conservator for the Natal Parks Board, is founder of the wilderness movement in South Africa.

There is change in SA already, says Fourie

Foreign Service

WASHINGTON: South Africa's Ambassador in Washington, Mr Brand Fourie, told a prime-time audience on nationwide television here yesterday that there was no point in arguing about the need for change in South Africa.

"We realise it ourselves. We are changing. We have changed a great deal," he said.

"So what are we arguing about? We should rather see how we can bring about change peacefully and without making the position more difficult."

"One man, one vote is not the answer in South Africa. We have got to work out a different system," he told viewers.

The ambassador's appearance on This Week With David Brinkley — one of the top-rated current affairs shows on the TV networks — comes at a time of unprecedented public interest in South Africa, highlighted by street demonstrations against apartheid and by President Ronald Reagan's White House meeting with Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Also on the show, in segments taped separately, were Bishop Tutu, liberal and conservative

congressmen, and Dr Chester Crocker, the chief architect of America's constructive engagement with South Africa.

Mr Fourie said that what had happened in the rest of the continent was not for South Africa.

Firstly, there was independence followed by one free election — perhaps the last.

This was followed by a one party state and a move towards socialism that eventually became Marxism.

"Then you get to a stage where you move into misery. That is not for South Africa," he said.

The ambassador said that South Africa wanted to give everyone a reasonable part in governing their own affairs without taking away the rights of others.

He reacted sharply when a questioner suggested that there was no Press freedom in South Africa.

"Perhaps here in the US there is greater freedom. But if you look anywhere in the world, you must put South Africa very, very high up on the list of freedom of the Press," he said.

Mr Fourie said that Bishop Tutu faced a severe test.

Bishop Tutu would have to return to South Africa and, in the spirit of a Nobel prizewinner, would have to persuade his followers, some of them on the radical side, that black versus black confrontation must be stopped... "black radicals have got to stop killing moderate black leaders".

Earlier Bishop Tutu said that the fact of blacks attacking blacks was an indication of the level of frustration that had developed in South Africa.

"We have been warning that things of this kind would happen — and this is just the start," he said.

"I am fearful that unless the international community, and espe-



AMBASSADOR Fourie and Dr Chester Crocker on the television programme, This Week.

cially America, intervenes on the side of the oppressed and exerts pressure perceptible to everybody to get the South African Government to the conference table, we will have a bloodbath.

Pressed on whose blood would flow, Bishop Tutu said: "I think that everybody would be involved. And it may be that a white skin would be a horrible disadvantage."

He said that blacks did not want to chase whites into the sea. They wanted a new kind of society that was truly just and democratic for everybody, whites and blacks.

Dr Crocker told viewers that while the US could indicate a sense of direction for South Africa, it was "for South Africans, above all, to shape their own future".

Asked what he thought of Bishop Tutu's statement to President Reagan, Dr Crocker said that the administration respected the bishop's moral witness, but the administration had to define how to push the process of change forward.

He was not aware of any call by Bishop Tutu for American disinvestment from South Africa. What the bishop had wanted was a clear sig-

nal of what the US was standing for.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the rightwingers in the United States Congress said today that the US would not support the South African Government if the absence of change led to "bloody violence" in the republic.

The spokesman, Congressman Newt Gingrich of Georgia, said South Africa was facing two futures — a difficult transition to change or violence on an unimaginable scale.

Congressman Gingrich, a former history professor, is one of the 35 Republican conservatives who last week

threatened to support economic and diplomatic sanctions against South Africa unless there were human rights improvements.

Congressman Gingrich appeared on a nationwide television talk show to spell out the views of the group.

The reality in South Africa, he said, was that the people now in charge faced two futures.

One was to try systematically to find a way to make a very difficult transition that all agreed was not easy.

"The only other alternative is absolute bloody violence."

Lurking in the dark

IT WOULD be irresponsible, you might say even irrelevant, for me to write about my buddy Meschack, the neighbourly nightwatchman with the golden voice, when everybody is still excited about Mr Edward Manyosi's untimely death.

While I have been startled out of my slumbers by Meschack's burst into something like an Italian tenor, and while I thought it might create a lovely Christmas story to write about him, there is Mr Manyosi.

It is not always that we get something like this New York style civic killing, where a mayoral candidate is shot several times while he has his pyjamas in his hands. We certainly have our share of murder and mayhem in the townships, but this story had all the ingredients of a Dallas-style soap opera, even if it is so sad.

New breed

This story excited attention as far away as London and New York, where very few people even knew there was a Mr Manyosi, or a Soweto Town Council election, for that matter.

Without putting too fine a point on it, and without any disrespect to the late Mr Manyosi, I did, in a manner of speaking touch on the new breed of town councillors, not too long ago. I did try and compare them with the old-style Advisory Board members, who were a lovable lot of rascals in their own fashion.

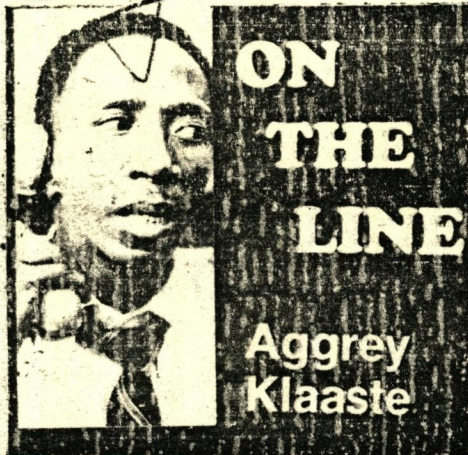
It seemed to me that being a town councillor in black townships was a dangerous thing these days. It struck me that too many people would be out for their scalps, as they believed councillors were getting awfully well heeled; getting just too much under the skirts of civic politics.

I never imagined, not in my wildest dreams or nightmares, that such a dastardly act could be done. Not to Mr Manyosi, or anybody else for that matter.

Mob

Like most average people I find violence terribly dirty and unworthy. There is time that one can rationalise this animalistic behaviour, particularly if it is fuelled by mob hysteria. As in war, we tend to gloss over mass scenes of violence when a whole group of otherwise nice people is turned into an ugly mob, yelling for blood.

But this cold-blooded, this planned killing, is plain disgusting. I am not saying it has not been done in Soweto — before. It just seems to me that there are people



who are fighting for awfully big stakes in black civics. Your average man or woman would not lose his or her sleep over a seat in the council, or about being mayor of any of our many townships. The job may have its benefits, but it is too much of a hassle.

I personally would not take this kind of job even if we had Uhuru tomorrow. Who wants to be hassled about increased rents, about failed lights and uncollected garbage! Most of us have trouble enough running our extended families, to have the added encumbrance of worrying about a million or more Soweto families. Being a politician under the best circumstances is simply not creative.

Uninspiring lot

Being a politician — any type of politician — in South Africa is simply leading with the chin. There is nothing as boring, perhaps even nothing as crazy, as having to bother your head about that amorphous entity usually referred to as "the people." The people, my foot. Taken individually, the people are a most unbecoming, uninspiring lot. The people have also caused a lot of harm to many throughout the ages.

The people, for my money, are strictly for the birds.

In any event, this has not been the best of years for councillors. Those men in the Vaal who came to a sticky end when the mobs went for them in that hair-raising manner, should have told anybody that the job was dangerous.

The story of those councillors who threw up their jobs on the East Rand should have told any aspirant councillor, that there were better ways of making your name or living.

The situation has become more grisly. If, as it appears, this could be seen as an

inside job, then I would rather be an official of our embattled Orlando Pirates, than a councillor. Being on Pirates is perhaps an even more exciting thing.

Politicians should fade, not be rubbed off. Politicians of the town council ilk, should really simply take their hats and disappear into the silent past tense, not get killed. This is not South America, for heaven's sake!

We would never dare kick a man who is down. We are not about to start with Mr Manyosi. We do not care for community councillors, town councils or what have you. But this is not the way to go.

This is not the way to go for an elderly gentleman, who should be playing around with grandchildren instead of stomping in the hurly-burly of civic politics.

Odious shooting

This whole business of planned killings is so un-African. We can even stand the unseemly behaviour of our violent faction fighters in Natal. There is something almost pristine, almost medieval and noble, in these family killings. Most people do not even know why they have to set off to kill so and so. It gives these murders a certain mystic aura, almost like this was an act of God.

But this! This lurking in the dark, with the shotgun nestled in your lap; this Chicago-style exercise that reminds you of the Mafioso, this odious shooting of people in the dark; this is terrible.

The Daily News

10 Dec 1984

Quiet diplomacy

IN President Reagan's own words, the release of 16 South African detainees follows quiet diplomacy on America's part, and so far it has not been denied in this country. It is an indication of how seriously the Government's harsh crackdown on dissidence has been received in America and the outside world generally and of the sudden influence being wielded in America by Bishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, and anti-South African activists. It tends also to contradict Bishop Tutu's argument that "constructive engagement" yields paltry results. Every indication is that the Republican administration, impatient for reform in this country, will pile on the pressure. Quiet diplomacy is no less ef-

fective for its quietness.

Bishop Tutu himself admits that outside pressure has altogether removed apartheid from sport. It was achieved by total ostracism, true enough. But is total ostracism either possible or desirable in the economic field? And is the current diplomatic pressure not a great deal more powerful than anything ever exerted in the field of sport?

Our Washington ambassador tells American TV viewers that South Africa is embarked on sweeping reform. It would surely be better if all — Bishop Tutu included — addressed themselves to playing a role in this reform rather than talk vaguely of apocalyptic violence lying ahead.

Police praised for maintaining order

SOUTH Africa is a democratic country which aligns itself with the free west and any attempt "to make it land in the hands of Communists will be destroyed," the Minister of Justice, Mr H J Coetsee said.

Speaking at the passing out parade of a total 686 male and female police constables in Hammanskraal, Mr Coetsee added that the problems of this country would only be solved through peaceful negotiations.

The parade was marked by the colourful and impressive gymnastic display by 367 male students of the South African Police. A total 582 male and 104 female students from Gazankulu, Bophuthatswana, KwaZulu and te Ciskei passed out at the ceremony which was attended by a number of diplomats.

Mr Coetsee also lauded the police on the way in which they handled their task of maintaining law and order and of ensuring stability in very trying conditions.

"It came as no surprise, therefore, when those attempted to disrupt peaceful political progress, accused the police of suppressing free political expression in South Africa when lawful actions were taken to maintain order", Mr Coetsee said.



JUSTICE: Mr Kobie Coetsee, the Minister of Justice.



WINNERS — The above students were winners of trophies. They are Constable A M Khesa (best male rifle shot), Constable K E Ndlovu (best female student), Constable M J Monare (best male pistol shot), Constable Ngema (leader of best platoon), Constable T Mota (best male student), Constable Seboledisha (best female platoon), Constable F Debesha (best female pistol shot) and Constable N Tontsi (best female rifle shot).



SQUAD — This squad of black policemen marches in front of the grandstand with police dignitaries and the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee.

POLICE PRAISED FOR
MAINTAINING ORDER
SOWETAN - 10 DEC. 1984
Page 1 of 2



FORWARD MARCH — These ladies who graduated from the police training college have a march past.



DISPLAY: Police graduates have a gymnastic display.

'Untruths' in SACBC report . . .

THE report by the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) on "irregular police action" during the recent disturbances in black townships, contained "untruths", police have claimed.

The South African Police (SAP), said in a statement released at the weekend they were not able to investigate the allegations made in the report "because they were made anonymously."

The police claimed the reports contained "untruths regarding detail, chronology and events."

"We find it strange that a responsible body like the SACBC should resort to collecting, and publishing information on alleged misconduct during the recent unrest in black townships, without first consulting the SAP so that, thorough investigations could be conducted and a "truthful, objective report published," the statement said.

It added: "judging from the corpulent publication which was compiled and released to the media by the SACBC, considerable time and effort was spent in the collection of information and compilation of the report.

"Nevertheless, the police were only confronted with the publication by the media for meaningful comment, on the same day that the report was released for publication."

The police said they found it regrettable that the report, does not condemn or, for that mat-

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"We cannot escape concluding that this course of action was followed for ulterior purposes," the statement further said.

According to weekend reports, the SAP said they will only investigate any charge formally made by way of affidavits.

"The allegations made in the report were made anonymously and only so-called initials of the complainants were furnished. We cannot investigate such allegations," the reports said.

The police comment follows a Press conference in Pretoria last week at which representatives of all the main local and foreign news services heard Roman Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley say that the police appeared to have been "promoters of further unrest" and "creators of resentment and antagonism" in the black community.

Archbishop Hurley's remarks were based on the report compiled by the SACBC. The church's fieldworkers and priests, assisted by an attorney, conducted a four-week investigation in Transvaal townships during which about 45 affidavits were drawn up.

They alleged irregular police activity during the three months, beginning with the outbreak of violence in the Vaal Triangle on September 3.

The report — in the form of a booklet — alleges "reckless wanton violence," including:

- Indiscriminate use of firearms.
- Assaults and beatings.
- Assaults on mine-workers.
- Damage to property.
- Provocative, callous or insensitive conduct, and;
- Indiscriminate or reckless use of teargas.