

Black violence helps white cause

16/10/85

JOHANNESBURG

THE SOUTH African Government, which recently was told (by a Madison Avenue public-relations specialist) that it should hire a Madison Avenue public-relations specialist, may never have to.

Violence committed by blacks against other blacks does just about everything for the Government that Madison Avenue could think up. It allows President P. W. Botha to tell the world and his fellow white countrymen: "Look what kind of a place South Africa would be if it had black majority rule, if white law and order and step-by-step white reforms are done away with."

Last week, the Soweto youth gangs were stoning commuter trains and buses — and their black passengers — who chose to be brave enough to go to work on a day designated by South African clergymen for national prayers for peace and racial reconciliation.

The day wasn't meant to be a national strike. Yet by several estimates, roughly 50 per cent of the black work force in Johannesburg and the Indian Ocean city of Durban stayed home. It would be reasonable to assume that many of them were intimidated.

In the black townships of the Eastern Cape, residents who defy the United Democratic Front's boycott of white businesses are made to drink the liquid detergent and cooking oil they've bought, have the bread they've bought — often at a fraction of the cost charged by black stores — ripped from their hands.

Increasing numbers of charred bodies are being found beneath smoldering car tires — victims of the "necklace." Tires are doused with gas, placed over the heads of "collaborators" and set alight.

Supposedly, these "collaborators" are police informers. But two men I came across outside East London who were nearly killed by a youthful mob turned out to be thieves, common criminals who made the mistake of being in a black township where they were not known.

As for the *impis* of the Zulu nationalist organization Inkatha, they run a reign of terror in the townships around Durban and other Natal communities.

AFRICA

MICHAEL VALPY



In SOUTH AFRICA

Armed Inkatha gangs carrying spears, clubs and shields have been blamed for beating and murdering scores of UDF leaders over the past few months. Inkatha — of which KwaZulu homeland chief minister Gatsha Buthelezi is national president — continues to officially deny involvement and responsibility, even when the courts (as they did last week) sentence Inkatha middle-level officials to prison for violence and intimidation.

Chief Buthelezi, in traditional leopard skin regalia, told 10,000 supporters at a rally a fortnight ago that the main violence in South Africa today was no longer blacks versus security forces; it was becoming "black brother against black brother."

But he was not criticizing Inkatha. He was criticizing the banned African National Congress, an organization to which he belonged before it was declared illegal. It is reported he once tried to become its internal spokesman.

"Our youths," he said, "are being exhorted to attack their elders. Blacks are stoning blacks, burning them alive, hacking them to pieces and the ANC regards this as a great surge forward in the struggle."

"I will not lead black South Africans to maim, kill and hack other black South Africans, nor will I lead blacks to maim, kill and hack white South Africans."

But a large group of Inkatha members, said to be led by a senior Inkatha official, left the rally and went to beat up several members of a UDF-affiliated group who were said to have attacked an Inkatha group.

And at the same rally, the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, told the throng that Zulus would rise in their thousands to drive out the exiled leaders of the ANC if they set foot in South Africa.

Mr. Botha would not have been unhappy.

10/16/85

PRETORIA REFUSES POET A NEW TRIAL

Black Convicted in Killing of Policeman Faces Hanging — Three Die in Unrest

By ALAN COWELL

Special to The New York Times

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 15 — President P. W. Botha of South Africa has rejected a request for a retrial of a black poet convicted of murdering a policeman, the poet's lawyer said today.

Unless Mr. Botha commutes the death sentence on Benjamin Moloise, his lawyer, Priscilla Jana, said, he will be hanged Friday in Pretoria's central prison, despite international appeals for clemency, including one from the United Nations Security Council.

His mother, Pauline, has said that he would go to the gallows singing a song praising the African National Congress, and its exiled leader, Oliver Tambo.

The development came amid continued violence in nonwhite areas. In one of the worst single incidents reported in recent weeks, the police said tonight that three men of mixed race were shot dead in a Cape Town suburb late this afternoon when policemen opened fire on them after they stoned a truck. Three other mixed-race people — two men and a woman — were wounded and 10 were arrested on charges of public violence.

Death Toll Disputed

Witnesses said that police officers were inside the truck when it was stoned and they opened fire with shotguns. The dead were said to be men in their teens or early 20's. Residents said more than three people had died, but there was no police confirmation of this. A police spokesman said policemen had commandeered the truck and were patrolling in it when 150 mixed race youths attacked it, prompting officers to fire birdshot. The three wounded, the police said, were in a serious condition.

Witnesses in the mixed-race area of Athlone near Cape Town said policemen were hiding in wooden boxes on the back of a truck belonging to the Government-run railroad system when it was stoned and they opened fire with pump-action shotguns. The wounded included two boys, aged 8 and 10 years, who were hit, witnesses said, by shotgun blasts fired into their homes through a window. Some reports described the security personnel who opened fire as soldiers from the South African Army.

A previously unknown white group, meanwhile, took responsibility for a fire last Friday at the Cape Town offices of the United Democratic Front, the biggest, nonparliamentary opposition group in the country, saying it was a "Communist nest."

"We were responsible," an anonymous caller from what was identified as the Vigilante Action Group told a Cape Town newspaper: "You will hear from us again."

On a separate issue, President Botha denounced a group of white, Afrikaans-speaking university students who said today that they planned a meeting later this month with members of the outlawed and exiled African National Congress in Zambia.

Leading white businessmen and white opposition leaders have in recent weeks travelled to Lusaka, where the Congress has its headquarters, to meet with senior figures from the organization, which has been banned in South Africa for 25 years.

Mr. Botha, in a statement today, said he appealed to all South Africans, and particularly young people, not to give credibility to organizations such as the African National Congress by meeting with their representatives.

He urged the students to give "sober reconsideration" to their visit to Lusaka, planned for Oct. 28, and said that if they proceeded with the journey "they owe an explanation to innocent, civilian victims of A.N.C. terror deeds."

Phillip Verster, chairman of the Student Council at the Afrikaans-language University of Stellenbosch in Cape Province, said he and seven other students, along with a chaplain from the Dutch Reformed Church, would make the journey to Lusaka.

Mr. Moloise, 30 years old, was convicted in Sept. 1983 of murdering a black policeman, Phillipus Selepe, near Pretoria in 1982.

Testimony at Trial

At his trial he first denied involvement in the killing, but changed his testimony later to say he had been present when the killing took place and had been under pressure from African National Congress operatives. He also said he was a supporter of the group, and acknowledged helping in the planning of the ambush in which the policeman was slain. However, he denied that he had killed the officer.

In August of this year, a judge granted a stay of execution for Mr. Moloise, on the grounds that new evidence had come to light, showing that he was under extreme psychological pressure when the killing took place.

On Sept. 10, Miss Jana asked for a retrial but, she said, had been told by Government officials by telephone today that her request had been turned down by Mr. Botha.

In an unusual spillover of unrest into white areas, mixed race youths stoned cars and stores in the Wynberg suburb of Cape Town last night, where segregated white and mixed-race residential areas are located close to each other.

A 19-year-old white army corporal, Johan Schoeman, was stabbed to death in a township near Port Elizabeth on Sunday.

U.S. Opposes Execution

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 (AP) — The State Department affirmed its opposition today to South Africa's planned execution of Mr. Moloise, saying it supported a United Nations Security Council resolution adopted in 1984 calling on South African authorities not to execute the poet.

Musical Protest Of Apartheid

50 Pop Stars Perform 'Sun City'

By Richard Harrington
Washington Post Staff Writer

10/16/85

Following the lead of musicians who joined voices to help the hungry in "We Are the World," more than 50 top pop stars have banded together to encourage a cultural boycott in "Sun City," a song attacking South Africa's system of apartheid.

Radio stations received the "Sun City" single today, and copies should be in record stores by Friday.

The artist roster includes Little Steven Van Zandt—who wrote the song and organized the project—Bruce Springsteen, Bob Geldof, Bono of U2, Run-DMC, Hall and Oates, Miles Davis, Bob Dylan and producer Arthur Baker. All donated their time and talents to the song, which uses Sun City, a Las Vegas-style luxury entertainment complex in Bophuthatswana, as a symbol for South Africa's oppressive racial policies.

The "Sun City" project, which was originally envisioned as only a single, has since blossomed into a full album, not scheduled for release until a week from Friday.

With its chorus of "I ain't gonna play Sun City," the record indicts performers who have accepted bookings at the resort, located in a rural, poverty-ridden area of Africa. Bophuthatswana is one of the nominally independent "tribal homelands" created by the government of South Africa, and despite a United Nations-sanctioned cultural boycott of the country, Sun City continues to attract major performers by offering extremely

See SUN CITY, B3, Col. 1

Antiapartheid Record

SUN CITY, From B1

high commissions. Frank Sinatra, for instance, was reported to have been paid \$1.6 million for a nine-day engagement at Sun City's Superbowl.

All artist royalties from the project will go to the Africa Fund, a nonprofit, United Nations-sanctioned organization that will use the money for antiapartheid programs in the United States and South Africa. But fundraising is not the key issue with "Sun City"; Van Zandt has said that the prime goals of the record are to raise American consciousness about the situation in South Africa and to encourage entertainers to boycott Sun City. Every record will contain an insert explaining the cultural boycott.

While Band Aid "Do They Know It's Christmas (Feed the World)" and USA for Africa's "We Are the World" avoided political commentary in their mainstream pleas for listeners to open their hearts and, more importantly, their checkbooks to famine victims in Africa, there is no mistaking "Sun City's" impassioned political message:

*Relocation to phony homelands, separation of families I can't understand
23 million can't vote because they're black*

We're stabbing our brothers and sisters in the back...

"Sun City" also is critical of the Reagan administration's policies in South Africa:

Our government tells us we're doing all we can

Constructive engagement is Ronald Reagan's plan

Meanwhile people are dying and giving up hope

This quiet diplomacy ain't nothing but a joke.

"Sun City" is an extension of a slowly evolving political consciousness within the music community, spurred on by the African hunger relief projects and focused through the Farm Aid benefit and various AIDS-related singles now being released.

It is not the first pop record to attack apartheid, however. Gil Scott-Heron's "Johannesburg," released almost 10 years ago, was a minor hit, and The Specials/AKA "Free Nelson Mandela" was a huge hit in England last year. Randy Newman's "Christmas in Capetown," many tunes by the integrated African group Juluka, and more recently, Stevie Wonder's "It's Wrong" also have criticized apartheid.

The "Sun City" project resulted from two trips Van Zandt made to South Africa during the past 12 months. On his return, he started to put together a small session of friends to record several new songs inspired by his experiences there, but word soon got out to the music community. Eventually, Artists United Against Apartheid

ended up participating in recording sessions in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and London.

"Sun City" follows a now familiar pattern of different lines for different singers resolving in an anthemic chorus. The nicest symmetry occurs on the line, "We're stabbing our brothers and sisters in the back," sung early by Springsteen and later by Bono, two rock artists for whom social commitment has become a central motif.

The participants represent the gamut of current pop styles, from rap (Afrika Bambaataa, Kurtis Blow, Run-DMC, Melle Mel), rock (Pat Benatar, Lou Reed, Pete Townshend), jazz (Miles Davis, Stanley Jordan, Herbie Hancock), reggae (Big Youth, Jimmy Cliff), R&B and funk (George Clinton, Nona Hendryx, Bobby Womack, David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks) to Latin and African music (Sunny Okussons, Ray Barretto, Reuben Blades, the Soweto-based Malopoets).

The "Sun City" single is much harder and aggressively rhythmic than its all-star predecessors, which may limit its radio exposure. The 12-inch remix version, directed at the dance floor, is even harsher, emphasizing the rap side of the sessions. As various artists offered their own musical variations on Van Zandt's original theme, the project evolved into a six-track album.

The tracks include the original all-star arrangement, aimed at mainstream radio, as well as the dance club remix. There's also a very hard-hitting rap number, "Let Me See Your ID," featuring Ray Barretto, Peter Wolf, Duke Bottee, Big Youth, Grandmaster Melle Mel, Peter Garrett of Midnight Oil, the Malopoets and Washington's own Gil Scott-Heron, who begins his rap, "I was watching TV the other night, when who should appear but Walter Cronkite with the blues..."

A jazz instrumental arrangement, "The Struggle Continues," reunites Miles Davis with old Quintet-mates Herbie Hancock, Tony Williams and Ron Carter, as well as guitarist Stanley Jordan and Sunny Okussons. "The Revolutionary Situation" is a spoken-word cut with excerpts from speeches by imprisoned South African leader Nelson Mandela and Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, while "No More Apartheid" is an improvisational piece by Peter Gabriel and the Indian sitarist Shankar.

A video of the single, directed by Jonathan Demme and edited by Godley & Creme, is also in the works. There was a big shoot last week at New York's Washington Square with Little Steven, Springsteen, Bono, Run-DMC and others. Over the weekend, Bob Dylan and Jackson Browne were filmed in Los Angeles, while Ringo Starr and his son Zack Starkey were filmed in London.