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Churches pull out of WCC

KINGSTON. — The Salvation Army and two other churches have suspended their membership of the World Council of Churches because of its support for "national liberation" groups such as guerrillas in Rhodesia.

Dr Phillip Potter, general secretary of the WCC, told a news conference in Kingston, Jamaica, on Tuesday that the two churches were the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and a small Lutheran Church in Germany.

Dr Potter said other churches had met and discussed the WCC's policy of contributing funds to groups such as the Patriotic Front which has a guerrilla wing fighting the Salisbury government.

He said some churches agreed with the WCC's policy while others were critical of it. Criticism came from Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Britain and parts of the United States.

Dr Potter accused those countries, along with

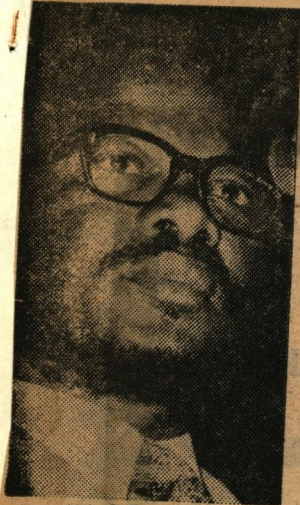
France, of helping maintain the "racist" government of South Africa.

The WCC represents nearly 300 Protestant, Anglican and orthodox Catholic churches with 400-million members. It is considered the most influential Christian group outside the Roman Catholic Church.

The three churches' suspension of their membership in the WCC comes at a time when the 30-year-old institution, long dominated by the US and Western Europe, is coming under increasing influence of the Third World.

It is also in financial difficulty and is planning economy measures, including a staff cut, because of a R2 520 000 deficit last year.

The 25-member executive committee of the WCC has been meeting at the senate building of the University of the West Indies since Friday in preparation for the 11-day conference of the 100-country central committee later in the month. — UPI.



Chief Buthelezi

Homage to king

CHIEF Gatsha Buthelezi of KwaZulu marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Isandhlwana with a visit to pay homage at the cells where his grandfather, King Cetshwayo, was temporarily imprisoned in the Castle, Cape Town, after the Zulu war.

The Chief and his entourage stood in silence before the main cell, then trooped in, led by the Chief, and stood in silence in the gloom inside.



LONDON — Britain's striking ambulance-men broke their solemn word this week and refused to provide any emergency service at no matter what cost to accident victims and the seriously ill.

Caught off guard, it was three hours before the

Strike faith broken

army, Red Cross and St John Ambulance could mobilise their forces to take over the ambulance service.

In those three hours, anyone who needed an ambulance to save his

life would have been left to die.

But once the Army Medical Corps and the auxiliary services went into action, things were different — as a two-year-old boy who had a heart attack may one day live to testify.

The child was having an operation at the ear, nose and throat hospital in Gray's Inn Road when the attack came.

Doctors dialled the emergency number 999 and two soldiers in their khaki ambulance were on the scene in five minutes.

REFUGEE POSER

NAIROBI — One in every 200 Africans is a refugee.

Unless African governments are prepared to allow more room for open discussion of various viewpoints in society, the situation will get worse, the influential All African Conference of Churches says in a report on refugees.

Declaring that all refugee situations in Africa today are a matter of human rights, the AACC reports that as more and more African nations have gained independence from colonial rule,

the number of refugees has increased.

"Many Africans in positions of power, the 'power elite', are not genuinely interested in making their people aware of their basic human rights in society. The power elite is exploiting the ignorance of their people," the report charges.

FOUR-MILLION

It reveals that Africa's refugee population at the beginning of this year numbers four-million, nearly half the world's 8.5-million refugees and a number greater than

the populations of Burundi, Chad, Botswana, Central African Empire, Gabon, Gambia, Swaziland, Libya, Djibouti and Liberia.

● A refugee from South Africa, Mr Duke Maseko, has been charged in Mbabane with contravening Swaziland's refugee control order.

The case is being held in camera because the Prime Minister, Major-General Maphevu Dlamini, has asked that the evidence not be made public for security reasons.

—POST Africa News Service.



Dr Koornhof

Book on Mandela

LONDON.— The speeches and writings of African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, have been published in book form by the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa.

The 200-plus pages of the booklet which marks Mr Mandela's 60th birthday, also includes a number of photographs covering his life and a collection of what are said to be historical documents.

THURSDAY
January 4, 1979

Swapo must say where it stands

The time has come for the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) to spell out, unequivocally, and in a joint declaration by both its internal and external wings, its attitude on urban violence as a lever to force political solutions on SWA/Namibia.

Blame for the outrageous bombing of a bakery in Swakopmund during a busy holiday Saturday morning, must, on the surface facts so far released, be laid at the door of the only Namibian organisation which has its own army with access to Soviet-made explosives. Four men, reportedly all Swapo members, are in custody.

Almost coinciding with the bomb explosion was a radio broadcast by Swapo president, Mr Sam Nujoma, from Dar es Salaam, in which he promised an intensification of the armed struggle by any means to "liberate" Namibia.

The planting of the small but potent TNT bombs are acts of real terror. Bombs used against soft civilian targets excite the most violent counter-reactions. Already there are signs of a white backlash in Namibia, in which no distinction will be made between blacks, endangering the prospects of a workable interracial future.

Cynics could claim, because nobody has yet been charged for the

three Windhoek bomb incidents despite the arrest of six Swapo leaders, that the blasts could have been the work of agents provocateurs to create a climate of hate against Swapo to undermine its bargaining position. But Mr Nujoma's angry mouthings counter any thinking on those lines.

It was announced yesterday in New York that Mr Martti Ahtisaari, the special representative on Namibia of the UN Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, is expected to return to Namibia in about a week. His main brief will undoubtedly be to come to terms with the South African-appointed Administrator General, Mr Justice M T Steyn, and the newly-elected Constituent Assembly, on mutually acceptable conditions for an all-party election later this year in which Swapo will participate.

Significantly, one of only two preliminary points of agreement between Dr Waldheim and South Africa is that there should be a complete cessation of acts of violence before the proposals for independence are implemented.

Swapo must now stop the sneak terror and show it is capable of fighting a free election. Otherwise charges that Mr Nujoma will be content only with a violent revolution in which Swapo takes all will have an ominous ring of truth.

TV EYE ON WHITE TRIBE

LONDON — Millions of TV viewers this week "took a look at the South Africa created by 30 years of Afrikaner Nationalist Government".

It was part of the weekly series of four films, *The White Tribe of Africa*.

This episode concentrated on effects among the blacks of apartheid: economic expansion across the country since 1948 was touched on only to demonstrate black frustration, and the dilemmas, too, felt by some of the men enforcing separate development.

Dr Mulder, the former Minister of Plural Relations, said many blacks preferred to work separated from their families — "you must learn to know the soul of the black man." He sounded defensive.

The soul of the black man as expounded by an

angry, outspoken Soweto doctor, by a Zulu working in Johannesburg and his wife at her kraal 480 kilometres away, by a Xhosa in Cape Town, and by three youths and a woman who ended the film with a mixture of rebellion and hope — their "soul" was not quite in the Mulder mould.

CHOICE

Dr Koornhof, the present minister, declared that he disliked moving people by force. He intended to set certain standards, so people who moved to other parts of the country had the prospect of a meaningful and happy life.

Often the choice for officials was "between two bad things, and the less bad was still bad," he declared.

The social evils and the frustration of men working and living for years separated from their families was a central thread in the film.