

Court told of Luthuli policy

Mercury Reporter

PIETERMARITZBURG

A FORMER Durban chairman of the ANC Women's League, Mrs. Merico Mthunywa (70) told the Supreme Court here yesterday that she refused to associate herself with a plan for training young men to become soldiers as it was contrary to the policies of non-violence of Chief Albert Luthuli.

She told how a Mr. Zuma gave her R70 to be used to find a place at Ixopo where there was bush and where boys could fight.

"I became fed up with this Zuma when he came to my home. He said he wanted boys to be turned into soldiers. I did not like this talk for I knew the Government did not like those from Swaziland coming here.

"I asked him where the boys would fight and he said 'everywhere'. He said after they had been taught to be soldiers he would put them in the bush at Ixopo.

"I was not going to do anything contrary to the policy of the leader."

Mr. George Muller, QC, for the accused, asked her: "What leader?"

"Chief Albert Luthuli. He did not agree with violence.

"I told the women I was not going to do anything for Zuma. I said I would give the R70 to women who had got into trouble," she said.

Under cross-examination Mrs. Mthunywa said she was arrested at 4 a.m. on April 13 and "taken to a room by myself."

Mrs. Mthunywa was appearing as a State witness in the ANC terrorism trial in which 10 men have pleaded not guilty to charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

They are represented by Mr. Muller and Mr. Cris Nicholson, while the Deputy Attorney-General of Natal, Mr. Neil Rossouw, appears with Mr. Gert Engelbrecht for the State.

OFFICIAL TELLS OF STONING

THE NATAL MERCURY

- 1 OCT 1976

PRETORIA—A crowd of 800 surrounded an education official's car in Soweto on June 16 and showered stones on the vehicle, the Cillie Commission heard here yesterday.

An official of the Bantu Education Department who wished to remain anonymous was giving evidence before Mr. Justice P. M. Cillie, Judge President of the Transvaal, investigating the riots at Soweto and elsewhere.

The official said on the morning of June 16 he was travelling to the Jabulani school when he encountered a group of about 800 people near the Morris Isaacson School.

He recognised the uniforms worn by some of the pupils as being those of the school.

The students were carrying placards, one of which proclaimed: "To hell with Afrikaans."

He heard somebody scream "It's the GG."

The crowd attacked his car, breaking the back window with a rock and a t-square. One student tried to climb in the back.

"I took out a gun and cried, 'I will shoot you,'" the witness said.

The students were trying to force open the door and some hit him in the face.

Placards were placed across the car's front window and stones rained on to the car.

He forced the car through the crowd while students tried to climb on to it.

At the Jabulani police station he reported the incident to the police.

The Bantu Education official said he saw no policeman on the spot where he was attacked on June 16.

He then told of prob-

lems at Soweto schools that preceded the trouble about the Afrikaans language issue.

He said in March three school principals in Soweto were given notice. Children went to school but did not want to go into the classrooms. Later the principals were reinstated on trial. Children then returned to school.

Schoolchildren discovered that their demands could be met.

A few weeks later his car broke down in Soweto and three students, speaking Afrikaans, helped him.

The schoolchildren told him that some of the children had boycotted school because some teachers had told them to do so because of the Afrikaans instruction issue.

Three Soweto schools has asked the Bantu Education Department for exemption from Afrikaans instruction and this had been approved.

Three other schools stopped teaching in Afrikaans without obtaining permission from the department.

He said the school boards concerned insisted that lessons be given in Afrikaans and said if there were further problems principals would be fired.

Earlier Colonel F. S. Botha, of the Germiston police, said that on September 24 police received information that a Black man was printing pamphlets in the Germiston area. The man was arrested.

The police learned that schoolchildren were given pamphlets and took them to adults who photostated copies.

Pamphlets were then given to schoolchildren for distribution.

Potential witnesses who feared threats or were apprehensive about testifying before the commission could give evidence to the commissioner alone behind closed doors and would remain anonymous, Mr. Justice Cillie ruled during yesterday's hearing.

He said it was possible that there were people who could throw a different light on the riots and he appealed to them to come forward.

He knew that some where apprehensive about testifying and were concerned about what could befall them if they gave evidence.

However, protection would be offered, and a further arrangement was that potential witnesses did not have to give evidence in open or closed court, he said.

If these people did not wish to speak to the commissioner privately at the Old Synagogue in Pretoria, Mr. Justice Cillie was prepared to meet them at a place they chose.

The commissioner assured potential witnesses that their names would not be disclosed at any stage, and would not be mentioned in his eventual report.

Mr. Justice Cillie said the terms of reference of the commission had been extended to include riots that occurred after the beginning of June this year in all parts of South Africa.

The commission visited Soweto on Wednesday and one of the places seen was the spot near Pela Street where Mr. N. Esterhuizen, a West Rand Administration Board official, was stoned to death. — (Sapa.)

The Natal Mercury
Urgent talks

1 OCT 1976

Mercury Reporter

MR. J. N. REDDY, executive chairman of the South African Indian Council, said yesterday that he would convene a meeting of his executive committee to decide whether to continue serving in the Government's Inter-Cabinet Council.

Mr. Reddy said his executive members were expected to be in Durban today for urgent talks following recent Press statements in which Indians were criticised for supporting the Whites.

Mr. Reddy, who denied siding with the Whites, said the full SAIC executive would decide whether to withdraw from the Inter-Cabinet Council or not.

Mr. Y. S. Chinsamy, a member of the SAIC, claimed this week that leaders of the African community resented the SAIC's association with the Cabinet Council.

THE FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Lesson for S.A. in Rhodesian situation

THE DAILY MERCURY
- 1 OCT 1976

SIR, — Now that the smoke has cleared slightly after the Kissinger talks and the partial rejection of the package by the five Black Presidents, it must be obvious that the whole thing will stand or fall on the question of law and order in Rhodesia.

The terrorists in Mozambique are insisting on the Rhodesian army and police being disbanded and for them to take over these functions with their reported 12 000 troops. This is the most disquieting factor in the whole exercise.

One does not have to look far to see what happened to law and order in Mozambique and the harassment of the Europeans in that country — young women arrested for being on the street alone and carried off to concentration camps for the pleasure of the troops, looting of property, appropriation of the consequences of undisciplined thugs getting power.

There is a lesson to be learned from all this for South Africa. Mr. Smith made the mistake of waiting until, in his own words, pressure was brought to bear on him which he could not resist. We do have a little time, but not much. Better by far to negotiate from a position of strength than from one of great weakness when sanctions have been applied by the Western world and there is an army waiting in the

wings to take over our law and order. I shudder to think of the consequences of that event occurring.

It is pointless to say "On, the West would never allow that to happen" — every country considers each other expendable but its own, misguided as they may be.

I have the greatest admiration for Mr. Vorster and all he has accomplished so far and I am sure he realises more than I the dangers, but I fear that his verkramptes will hold him back until it is too late for us. I am sure that he has the majority of the White electorate behind him in any measures he deems necessary to maintain civilised life in this country.

REALIST

Black education

- 1 OCT 1976

WHEN a senior Government official criticises the serious shortcomings of African education it is an encouraging sign that steps are being taken to redress the situation.

Dr. K. Hartshorne, director of planning for Bantu Education, told students at the Johannesburg College of Education this week that the Government had agreed in principle to compulsory education for Africans. This could become a reality in five years if certain problems could be solved.

At the top of the list of Dr. Hartshorne's priorities is the provision of adequate funds. In addition, the shortage of teachers and schools would have to be overcome. According to Dr. Hartshorne the Government is spending R550 a year on every White child's education and only R55 on each Black child.

He said: "The Government must get its priorities right and increase our budget to make all our aims for Black education possible." The

opposition Press, politicians and others who have been saying the same thing for years can only applaud Dr. Hartshorne's remarks.

It would be uncharitable not to acknowledge that in spite of the frustrations imposed by inadequate funds and facilities, the department has achieved much. At present 75 percent of African children between the ages of seven and 16—some 4 000 000 pupils—are at school.

Further, enrolment of Black pupils in secondary schools in South Africa and South West Africa increased by more than 50 percent from 212 000 in 1974 to 322 000 last year. Of these 30 percent are expected to matriculate. This compares more than favourably with any Black African State.

There is light at the end of the tunnel towards free and compulsory education. The initial investment will be costly, but accepting that education is the key to a prosperous and just society the dividends will be priceless.

Angolan refugee stream ends

THE NATAL MERCURY

- 1 OCT 1976

Mercury Africa Bureau

JOHANNESBURG — The Commissioner General for the Indigenous Peoples of South West Africa, Mr. Jannie de Wet, said last night that the wild flight of refugees across the Angolan border into Owambo appeared to have ceased.

But refugees claimed that hundreds of people were still hiding in the bush in southern Angola following widespread killing and pillage by Cuban, MPLA and Swapo forces, he said.

Today a party of Pressmen will visit Okalongo, east of the Oshikango border post, where more than 400 refugees are camping in the veld.

Mr. de Wet said most of the refugees were old women and children who claimed to have fled Angola after most of their menfolk had been murdered.

More precise figures on the number of refugees would only be available today when a team had returned from the field where they have been trying to assess numbers.

Today the Owambo Cabinet will meet to decide if special camps should be built for the refugees.

Their wild flight follows a reported offensive by joint Cuban, MPLA and Swapo forces aimed at wiping out pockets of Unita influence in the south.

But Swapo's chief representative at the United Nations, Mr. Ben-Theo Gurirab, has strongly denied any knowledge of a Swapo action against civilians. Only Unita soldiers and their supporters were being hunted, he said in an interview from New York.

South Africa is awaiting news from the Angolan authorities of when they can resume work at the R225-million Cunene River hydro-electric project, which straddles the Angola-South West Africa border.

All workers were withdrawn on September 10 following a request by the Angolans.

Mr. de Wet said the South African Government was trying to find out what the situation was at the Calueque and Ruacana sites.

- 1 OCT 1976

PM's PROMISE ON CONTACTS

PORT ELIZABETH — Watertight separation between the races was not possible in South Africa, and therefore contact and consultation would be arranged wherever this was necessary, the Prime Minister, Mr. B. J. Vorster, said here yesterday.

But the same time he stressed that it was necessary to accept that the different groups must ultimately control their own affairs.

Speaking at the national congress of the Rapporteurs, Mr. Vorster said the Government was determined to push ahead with its homelands policy and so give all people in South Africa political rights.

With regard to the urban Blacks he said: "There is a dangerous view currently put forward that the urban Blacks must be viewed as separate from the homeland Blacks.

"Ironically this view is expressed by the very people that deny separation in other spheres.

"I reject this view completely, and wish to state for the record that no Black homeland leader with whom I have consulted has ever denied responsibility for the urban Blacks.

"The view that urban Blacks must be viewed separately comes not from Black leaders but from White agitators," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Vorster, who was speaking on the subject "the external tasks of the Afrikaner" said it was the Afrikaner who accepted the right of all groups in South Africa to political self-determination.

Outlining the 10-fold increase in expenditure on Black education since 1960 he said: "We have nothing to be ashamed of in this or any other respect."

If he was asked how the Afrikaner ought to behave with regard to other groups the answer was "be yourself."

People must behave towards each other as the equal creations of God.

Where it was not possible for the State to provide equal facilities for all race groups, then all must be admitted if justice was to be done. This was, for example, the case with the Nico Malan Theatre.

But it was nevertheless the policy of the Government to do everything in its power to provide equal facilities for the different race groups and much had been done in this respect.

The Government had accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work and this would be implemented by stages as circumstances permitted, Mr. Vorster said.

"South Africa admits that it has problems and is prepared to face them and do everything in its power to find solutions," Mr. Vorster said.

But no instant solutions were possible "least of all at a so-called national convention."

The Director of the SABC, Dr. P. J. Meyer, told the congress that the policy of the Government as it was presently developing was an inseparable part of Afrikaner nationalism.

Afrikaner nationalism came from the same Christian source as other Western nationalisms, but differed from them in that it was not influenced by the principles of the French Revolution and enlightenment. It drew its strength, rather, from Calvinism. — (Sapa.)

Campaign 'sparked off by UN'

THE NATAL MERCURY

- 1 OCT 1976

JOHANNESBURG — A Nusas campaign for the release of political prisoners in South Africa had been motivated by international debate on the subject, the Regional Court here was told yesterday.

Defence counsel was arguing for the acquittal of former student leaders Mr. Glen Moss (24), Mr. Charles Nupen (26), Mr. Cedric de Beer (23) and Mr. Karel Tip (31), and a university lecturer, Mr. Edward Webster (33) on charges under the Suppression of Communism Act.

Mr. G. Bizos (defending) said the State alleged the five men had agreed during or before October, 1973, that a campaign should be launched for the release of all political prisoners.

The State's case was that the men agreed among themselves, in furtherance of a conspiracy to promote the aims of the Communist Party and the ANC, to use Nusas as a "front organisation" for the campaign.

It had, however, led no evidence to show that the only others calling for the release were the Communist Party and the ANC.

It was apparent from the evidence of the State's expert witness, Professor A. Murray, that numerous calls had been made prior to the launching of the Nusas campaign.

The regularity of the calls for the release of political prisoners dated back to 1968, the year of the United Nations' special report on apartheid.

Professor Murray had agreed that one of the recommendations made in the report was that there should be an international campaign for the release of political prisoners.

Thereafter the UN had called annually for their release and in 1973 the Western Bloc sponsored a resolution condemning "the ill-treatment and torture of such prisoners."

There were other calls in 1973 which received considerable publicity.

"The evidence is that it was known by the accused that there was this concern throughout the world about political prisoners."

The hearing continues.
— (Sapa.)

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QwaQwa

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THE NATAL MERCURY

be at

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WITZIESHOEK — The Chief Minister of QwaQwa, Mr. T. R. Mopeli, has turned down a personal invitation from the Chief Minister of the Transkei, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, to attend the Transkei's independence celebrations.

Mr. Mopeli said in a newspaper interview he had sent a telegram to Chief Matanzima saying that if he accepted the invitation he would be betraying the 40 000 South Sotho petitioners. Their aim was to break away from the Transkei Government, while they remained in a territory which was historically theirs. Chief Matanzima had invited Mr. Mopeli and two Cabinet ministers to the celebrations.

— (Sapa.)

TSIETSI SPEAKS IN LONDON

WORLD

- 1 OCT 1976

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LONDON — Tsietsi Mashinini, the Soweto student leader, told Britons last night that he did not know what had to happen in South Africa to "put out the fire".

In an interview on BBC Radio, he said: "I don't know because things are taking a different shape every day. But if the system does not give what the people want, the system is going to fall."

Asked if the continuing wave of protests was no longer a spontaneous reaction but the work of a growing organisation he said:

"Ja, you are right if you say spontaneous in a sense because immediately people hear that this type of a thing is happening, they join up spontaneously."

Leadership

"But basically the mere fact there is leadership means there is organisation. And his organising will go on until the people feel that they have what they want."

The interviewer: "Would we be right to assume that young students like yourself and other young Black lead-

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Tells of his plans for the future

WORLD Correspondent

Mashinini talks

✕ From Page 1

ers are really the new Black leadership in South Africa, replacing people like Mandela?"

Mashinini: "If you mean replacing in the sense that if Mandela comes back we are going to kick him out, it's wrong.

"It's just that the struggle has to go on so that if leadership fades out of the picture, other people have to come into leadership."

The interviewer: "Do you regard yourselves as the successors to people like Mandela?"

Mashinini: "Positively."

Asked what was the spark that set things aflame in South Africa, Mashinini said:

"The situation has long been explosive in South Africa and it could have been anything that started the whole eruption. It could have been a rand increase demonstration — it could have been anything of any sort.

"It was just that in this case it happened to be the Afrikaans issue. But all the time the people feel bitter about the racist policies of that country."

What about his own future?

"Unfortunately," said Mashinini, "we happen to be in the struggle at a very young age and we

have not yet achieved much academically. So our major priority is to get ourselves educated and see what we can do with the amount of knowledge which will be put into our heads."

He said he intended to go back to an African state and work for the Black population in South Africa.

Meanwhile the three student leaders from Soweto — Mashinini, Selby Semela and Barney Mkhale — are being kept under wraps in London.