

11 FEBR. 1989

Soweto feeling the effects of schools boycotts

CAPE TOWN. — Soweto schools were reaping the harvest of boycotts and protest with education performance falling way behind the rest of the country, the Minister of Education and Training, Dr. Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday.

At a Press briefing on his Department's most recent achievements he said that despite the sophistication of facilities and other advantages that Soweto enjoyed, pupil performance was disappointingly poor.

The pass rate was 38 percent for Soweto while it was 67 percent for the Northern Transvaal

areas, which included Pretoria, and the Gold Reef cities of the Western Transvaal.

"Some individual Soweto schools do well but, overall, the performance is very poor," Dr Viljoen said.

His deputy minister, Mr Sam de Beer, responded to questions about expulsions from Soweto schools and said the problem was that the schools had restricted capacity.

The high rate of failure made it impossible to accommodate everybody and therefore a Depart-

ment followed a policy of first accommodating those who made proper use of the facilities.

Those who failed were referred to adult education centres which were producing remarkable results.

As far as expulsions may have occurred due to absenteeism, including cases due to detention, and for political activism, he was not prepared to lay down any fixed rule but would rather investigate the circumstances of each case and decide accordingly, he said.

Dr Viljoen told the

Press briefing that important progress had been made in both the standard of qualification of teachers and the pass rate of pupils generally.

Last year 85 000 Blacks has passed matric in South Africa, excluding those who wrote a separate examination in the Transkei. White matriculants numbered 62 000.

He said the matric exemption figure was still low at 28 percent of matric passes.

The Department was committed to upgrading the qualifications and effectiveness of teachers and more than 50 percent of the total staff were put through in-service training courses annually.

The first objective was to get existing staff qualified to matric level as the pre-De Lange commission qualification standard was a standard VIII (US grade 10) with two years training as opposed to the current requirement of matric (US grade 12) plus three years training.

Those teachers without matric had fallen from 73 percent of the total teaching staff in 1983 to 40 percent last year.

Black Education was the Budget item which had consistently shown the highest percentage increase, varying between 28 and 48 percent over the past five years.

Dr Viljoen agreed with a questioner that there was still a large gap in the per-capita spending between White and Black education.

White per capita expenditure was at present about 5,5 times more than Black but had come down from over 7.5 times. — Sapa.

Pontiff urges 'dialogue, not violence' in SA

VATICAN CITY. —

The Vatican issued a major document on racism yesterday condemning South Africa for what it called a prolonged state of repression but saying apartheid should be defeated by dialogue rather than violence.

The 45-page document, called *The Church and Racism — Towards a More Fraternal Society*,

was ordered by Pope John Paul and written by the Vatican's Justice and Peace Commission.

The document, the most comprehensive statement on the issue by the Vatican, called the Nazi Holocaust the worst manifestation of racism and said some guerrilla groups yesterday used anti-Zionism to mask what was actually anti-Semitism.

It also warned that unbridled genetic engineering could bring the racism of the future and called discrimination against foreign workers in advanced countries un-Christian.

In a section on "institutionalised racism" the document acknowledged some steps had been taken recently toward change in South Africa, but added:

"South Africa is an extreme case of a vision of racial inequality. The prolongation of a state of repression, of which the majority of the population is victim, is less and less tolerated.

"The Black majority of the population remains excluded from effective representation in national government and enjoys citizenship in word only."

The document, which said racism "blasphemes the creator", is expected to be a point of reference for the Pope's trip to South Africa, planned for next year.

It said the homelands to which South African Blacks were relegated were "hardly capable of being self-sustaining and are moreover economically and politically dependent on the central power".

The situation had sown "seeds of racist reflexes" among South African Blacks but they would be equally wrong if they discriminated against Whites.

Prejudice could be ended only if equal dignity were respected.

"Experience has shown moreover that peaceful

evolutions are possible in this regard. The entire South African community, as well as the international community, must make every effort to promote a concrete dialogue between the principle parties involved," the document said.

The Vatican document said there was no Biblical justification for racism and it must be firmly denounced. "The church has never authorised any such deformed interpretation of scripture," it said.

In other sections, the document called the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews "an insane programme . . . responsible for one of the greatest genocides in history".

It condemned other massive exterminations of populations, singling out Armenians after the First World War and the more than a million people killed in Kampuchea by the Pol Pot regime.

"The memory of such crimes must never be erased. The young generations and those yet to come must know to what extremes persons and society are capable of going when they yield to the power of scorn and hatred," it said.

Despite the horrors of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism had not disappeared. Groups with offshoots in

many countries were keeping alive the "anti-semitic racist myth".

The document said an increase in the number of terrorist acts against Jews showed the radicalisation of such groups. It added: "Anti-Zionism — which is not of the same order, since it questions the state of Israel and its policies — serves at times as a screen for anti-Semitism."

In a clear reference to the Soviet Union it said some countries "impose

undue harassments and restrictions on the free emigration of Jews".

The document said the uncharted world of genetic engineering should be regulated before it went out of control. Otherwise the Nazi's deadly myth of racial superiority could be revived by "apprentice sorcerers" who want to re-fashion humanity.

Racism around the world was "a wound in humanity's side that mysteriously remains open", it said. — Sapa-Reuter.

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

11 FEBR. 1989

City blasts

THE lunchtime limpet mine blast at the Witwatersrand Medical Command administration building in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, shows two things.

First, the African National Congress is still a callous, uncaring terrorist organisation prepared to put the lives of innocent people at risk.

The 12 people injured were civilians — and could have been killed or seriously injured.

Secondly, the politicians, academics and other people who trek to Harare for talks with the ANC in the mistaken belief that they are dealing with a responsible organisation which is contributing to the debate on post-apartheid South Africa are glad-handing a terrorist organisation that is trying to further its own particular aims through violence.

The last bunch to go to Harare were legal academics who, led by Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, co-director of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, had five days of discussions with the ANC on legal and other issues.

They had hardly returned to South Africa when there was an ANC attack in Durban, a limpet mine placed in a police mini-bus exploding at peak hour traffic, injuring two policemen and a 15-year-old boy, though not seriously.

Unfortunately for people who play footsie footsie with the ANC, they do not know whether a bomb is going to go off during or after their talks.

Others before them have learnt that bomb attacks inspire revulsion not only against those who perpetrate the attacks but against those who talk to the ANC while it is still committed to terrorism.

Bombs in restaurants, in shopping centres, at a rugby ground, in cars parked in the street, in an amusement arcade — or a bomb in a police mini-bus or at a Medical Command building — are going to kill or injure people and cause damage to buildings or vehicles.

They are not tokens of goodwill, or expressions of a sincere wish to engage in peaceful dialogue.

They are callous acts of terrorism — and nobody in his right senses can condone them or have anything to do with the organisation that is responsible for them.

There are people who say that the ANC took to violence because the government forced it into exile and did not give it the chance to put forward its views democratically.

The argument is historic and does not take into account present-day realities. The government has said that the ANC can participate in the negotiations for a new South Africa provided it renounces violence.

Since the ANC is not prepared to do so, the blame for its exclusion from the democratic process rests with it — not with the government.

Another argument is that the ANC has promised not to attack civilian targets. However, since the time this promise was supposedly made, there have been bomb incidents including the placing of a limpet mine in a hair-dressing salon in the centre of Johannesburg (fortunately it was discovered before it could explode).

Although the two latest incidents were against official targets, civilians in the vicinity could have been seriously injured or killed.

The ANC at one time said that civilians who happened to be "in the crossfire" were unintended victims, but this excuse was made while there were attacks on shopping centres, restaurants and other civilian targets.

The truth of the matter — as Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made it clear in the case of the IRA — is that even attacks on official targets are terrorist acts. And nobody should excuse them.

It is time Dr Slabbert, Mr Wynand Malan, the National Democratic Movement leader, and others who love talking to, and excusing, the ANC realised that they are giving credibility to a callous terrorist organisation.

Although we condemn their predilection for chats with the ANC, we hope they are never around when one of the ANC's bombs goes off. Unfortunately, some innocent civilians may well be.

Growing rift between Mandela, Winnie, ANC

NEWS clippings reveal a picture of growing rifts between Mrs Winnie Mandela, her jailed husband Nelson Mandela, the ANC and the black community in the three years since she returned to the public eye as "Mama Wei" (Mother of the Nation) — after her banishment to Brandfort in the Free State in 1977:

- The first sign of Mrs Mandela losing popularity was in September 1986 when she was forced to beat a hasty retreat after attending the trial of her now convicted murderess friend Lindi Mangaliso. A mob surrounded her car and began banging on the roof outside the Cape Town Supreme Court, reportedly hurling abuse at her.
- In January 1987 police reportedly questioned Mrs Mandela on the death of a member of her soccer team, Frank Makwe, allegedly killed in a vigilante attack. Soon after that 13 members of the soccer team were arrested under the Criminal Procedures Act.
- In February 1987 it was reported that three young men were arrested at her house.
- Later the same month her home was reportedly stoned by youths from the Dalwonga school.
- A month later both police and Mrs Mandela claimed they were fired at from or at her home.
- In May 1987 there was a similar report that municipal policemen cutting the electricity supply to houses in Orlando West were fired at from or near the Mandela home.
- Her palatial home, completed in 1987 and said to cost about R500 000 to build, was branded as "Winnie's palace" by the community.
- In September 1987 the ANC released a statement expressing concern about statements made by Mrs Mandela. Her remarks about necklacing were described by the ANC as "unfortunate". The statement also said Mrs Mandela had never held any position in the ANC other than enjoying the recognition of being the wife of Nelson Mandela.
- In November 1987 police arrested five members of the Mandela United Football Club. Police said the reason for the raid on her house was that they were investigating charges of assault and robbery of two Soweto residents and confirmed that 10 men — apparently members of the team — were being held in connection with the incident. Police claimed that Mrs Mandela and her daughter Zinzi had been present at the time of the assault.
- On June 15 1988 an interdict brought by Mr Joseph Laballo, restraining Mrs Mandela and another woman from harassing or injuring him, was extended in the Rand Supreme Court.
- In July last year queries were raised about who really represented the Mandela family: Mr Ismail Ayob, the long-time family lawyer or Mr Robert J Brown, a black American businessman, who said Mandela had agreed to sign over power of attorney to him to pro-

test the use of the Mandela family's name and its interests worldwide.

After a visit to Mandela, Mr Ayob issued a contradictory statement saying: "Mr Robert Brown does not represent the Mandela family's interests in any way... only the ANC is authorised and empowered to act on his behalf".

● On August 10 1988, eight pupils appeared in Protea Regional Court in connection with an arson attack on Mrs Mandela's Orlando West home. They were allegedly members of South African Youth Congress and SRC members of Dalwonga High School and were rounded up in a joint SAP and SADF raid. No charges were put to them but they were released on bail.

● August 11 1988, Mr Ayob released a statement saying: "Mr Mandela told me that he did not want anyone to be punished or prosecuted for the destruction of his home".

A subsequent statement by the Soweto Students Congress on August 15, said it was "strongly opposed to the long confrontation between students and the Mandela Football Club".

It added that the students' action did not symbolise lack of faith or rejection by the student community in Soweto in the leadership of Mandela.

● On August 18 last year four men and a woman appeared in the Rand Supreme Court charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of murder and the unlawful possession of an AK-47 rifle which allegedly came from the home of Mrs Mandela.

They were also charged with the unlawful possession of a machine-gun.

During the trial, a Soweto security policeman told the court how an AK-47 rifle and a scorpion machine-pistol were found at the home of Mrs Mandela in February 1987.

Evidence was that the victims were shot after a shebeen squabble and that the group used Mrs Mandela's car. Mrs Mandela and her daughter attended the trial.

● On September 19 three men appeared before a Johannesburg magistrate on charges of assaulting two youngsters by carving the words "Viva ANC" and "M" on their bodies with a sharp object.

The charge-sheet alleged that the men removed the two children at gunpoint from their homes on May 26 1987 and took them to the house of Mrs Mandela. The children were allegedly detained in a room where they were bound and beaten before the words were carved on their bodies.

● In October 1988 Mrs Mandela denied there were tensions in her marriage to jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela.

● In January 1989 about 150 activists from community, civic, women's and workers' organisations met and heard allegations of misconduct by the team. They expressed anger at the abduction of four youths from a church, one of whom — Stompe Mokhesi (14) — is still missing and was allegedly last seen in the hands of the team.

Finding of body adds to concern over Mrs Mandela's guards

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

The discovery of the battered body of a black youth, aged 14, in Soweto, near Johannesburg, is about to blow the lid off the murky activities of a muscular "football club" associated with Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of jailed African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela.

The body is believed to be that of "Stompie" Moeketsi, a juvenile black activist who was one of three youths abducted from a church refuge by members of the team on December 28.

The others were released after intervention from his prison-compound home by Mandela and by other leaders of the banned ANC in Lusaka.

The affair has fuelled mounting resentment against the "Mandela United" club in Soweto and apparently angered Mandela and his ANC comrades. Mrs Mandela is reported to have been told by her husband and Lusaka to disband the group, which acts as her bodyguard.

This week Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, said the youths had been taken from the home of the Reverend Paul Verryn, who provides temporary sanctuary for boys fleeing violence in other areas, to Mrs Mandela's home in Soweto. "Stompie" resisted, was seriously assaulted, and later dragged off by members of the "team".

Mrs Mandela has claimed that the boys were removed to

protect them from sexual harassment. However, a community meeting exonerated Mr Verryn after hearing evidence from the two boys who were released last month.

A spokesman for the Methodist Church said: "Investigations indicate that these allegations are groundless, and were intended to deflect community anger away from

A bitter dispute between the big powers and black Africa over a UN plan for Namibia's independence has been resolved, and the Security Council will approve it next week, diplomats at the UN said yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). Mozambique, meanwhile, has rejected a South African proposal for US mediation in its civil war. The response came after discussions in Maputo between President Chissano and Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister. Separately, Pretoria denied Angolan claims that its forces had this week invaded the country's border region.

the violent treatment meted out on the young people by their abductors."

Mr Vlok said the case presented unusual difficulties. "We are proceeding carefully, so as not to give any indication we are acting vindictively against Mrs Mandela. It is also very difficult for the police to find witnesses who are prepared to testify in court

against her. In the past, such persons have either suddenly changed their minds or just disappeared."

The dead youth was well known to the police, having spent almost a year in detention under emergency regulations. The case attracted considerable attention as he was aged only 10 at the time, and was the youngest detainee in South Africa.

Last week, the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop of Cape Town, joined the chorus of calls for the team to be disbanded. So far Mrs Mandela appears to be ignoring the demands, saying they are attempts to discredit her.

Perhaps suffering from the after-effects of her own detention, she has been steadily failing from grace since her banning order expired two years ago, and township sources say this latest escapade of her "minders" could be her final undoing.

● **JOHANNESBURG:** At least five people were injured and extensive damage was caused by a bomb blast on the northern fringes of central Johannesburg yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

The device, identified by police as a Soviet-made SPM limpet mine of a kind frequently used by the ANC, had been placed on a window ledge of a building housing offices of the South African Defence Force's 1st Medical Battalion in the Braamfontein business district.

Tutu appeal on hunger strike

From Our Own Correspondent, Cape Town

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop of Cape Town and a campaigner for black human rights, yesterday called on the South African Government to free the hundreds of political prisoners who are on hunger strike in protest against their continued detention without trial.

At the same time, defence lawyers have joined what has become the biggest protest of its kind since the current state of emergency was declared in 1986.

"The condition of the detainees is deteriorating daily and they need access to doctors of their own choice. We need urgent action to avert

tragedy," Archbishop Tutu said in an appeal to Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Law and Order Minister.

The decision by the lawyers to stage a 48-hour fast as a gesture of solidarity is unprecedented. It was taken this week after Mr Vlok declined to meet them.

Leaders of the South African Youth Congress, many of whom have been in detention for more than two years, started the strike in Diepkloof prison in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, on January 23. At least 170 fellow inmates are now refusing food, and they have been joined by more than 100 at St Alban's jail in

Port Elizabeth and two in Witbank. In a message, the strikers said some of them had been held for almost three years without charge, adding: "We have no other course."

Seven of them have been admitted to hospital in Johannesburg, where they are being drip-fed on a diet similar to that given to the IRA men who died after a protest in Northern Ireland in 1981. One detainee, Mr Cecil Mawela, was reported to be in danger of kidney failure.

Another of the original hunger strikers, Mr Gift Mthimkulu, a trade union official, was released yesterday after almost a year in detention.

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Vatican supports call for sanctions over apartheid

By Robert Nowell

THE VATICAN has lent its weight to the call for selective and effective economic sanctions against South Africa in its strongest condemnation of apartheid.

A document on racism, published in Rome yesterday, approved "appropriate external pressure" by other countries against states practising racial discrimination against their own peoples. It said that racial prejudice "blasphemes the Creator", and condemned anti-Semitism and other forms of racism — not just apartheid.

The document — *The Church and Racism: towards a more fraternal society* — was drawn up, at the request of Pope John Paul II, by the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, which visited South Africa last year.

It described South Africa as "an extreme case of a vision of racial inequality" and warned that prolonged repression carried within it the seeds of equally unacceptable racist reflexes on the part of the oppressed.



The Pope: asked for a report.

Suggesting that peaceful evolutions are possible, the document said: "The entire South African community, as well as the international community, must make every effort to promote a concrete dialogue between the principal parties involved."

Pointing out that racism poisons international peace and leads to violence and war, it noted that the international community had no means of coercion against states practising racial discrimination against their own peoples.

"Nevertheless," it went on, "international law does allow for appropriate external pressure to be exercised in their regard, to lead them, according to an organic and negotiated plan, to abolish racist legislation in favour of a legislation in conformity with human rights" — a passage which leading Catholics interpreted as a call for selective economic sanctions.

"However, the international community must take the greatest care in these delicate situations lest its action precipitate the country concerned into even more dramatic internal conflicts," the report warned.

The document also deplored racial discrimination against aboriginal peoples, often "the survivors of veritable genocides carried out in the not too distant past by the invaders, or tolerated by the colonial powers"; against religious minorities, especially when of different ethnic groups; and against immigrants.

Linking Nazi racism with "other massive exterminations of

populations", such as that of the Armenians after the first world war and more recently that of an important part of the Cambodian people, the document said: "The memory of such crimes must never be erased. The young generations and those yet to come must know to what extremes persons and society are capable of going when they yield to the power of scorn and hatred."

But racial prejudice could only be eradicated by a change of heart, the document went on, not by external means. Laws banning racial discrimination could easily be got round "if the community for which they are intended does not fully accept them".

The Church thus had to preach the total incompatibility of racist exclusivism with the Christian message that all were called to salvation. Using the Bible to justify any racial prejudice "must be firmly denounced".

The document, which early on admitted, in a footnote, "the weaknesses and even, at times, the complicity of certain Church leaders, as well as of other members of the Church", in the phenomenon of racism, based its rejection of racism on the biblical teaching that God created man in his own image.

"All persons created in God have the same origin," it said. "Whatever may, throughout history, have been their dispersion or the accentuation of their differences, they are destined to form one sole family according to God's plan established 'in the beginning'... Adam is a collective singular. It is the human species which is the 'image of God'."

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