

THE NATAL MERCURY

ASTONISHED AT GRAAFF'S 'SWART GEVAAR' TACTICS

THE NATAL MERCURY

23 APR 1974

23 APRIL 1974

23 APR 1974

SIR, — I was astonished at the election speech delivered by Sir De Villiers Graaff in the Durban City Hall on Wednesday. So far as the non-Whites are concerned he used the "swart gevaar" tactics to win the support of the notoriously conservative White electorate of Durban.

He regarded all non-Whites and Indians not as South African but as alien elements from whom the South African Whites must forever be protected. The United Party wants to maintain the status quo as existed in 1947. The United Party ruled South Africa under the guise of segregation which was not very different from apartheid.

AGAINST WORLD

The United Party believes that the Western world is still the same in regard to their attitude to colour as in 1947. Sir de Villiers seems to be against the whole world, including the United States and the Arabs, apart from the African and Communist States. He blamed the U.S.A. because it objected to the regime in Rhodesia. He regarded the presence of the Arab embassy in Lesotho as a hostile force. How does Sir de Villiers propose to win the favour of the non-White world?

In this modern world does he believe that by maintaining the 1947 status quo, he will convince the U.S.A., Australia and the Wilson

Government in Britain that South Africa has a contented and satisfied non-White population?

Sir de Villiers tried to convince the Durban Whites that, if they support any party other than the United Party the South African non-Whites would have a say in the present S.A. Parliament.

DOMINATION

He frightened the electorate that the Indians and Coloureds would dominate them and once the African States came into existence they would form power blocs against the Whites in this country.

He seems to forget that we non-Whites love South Africa as much as he does and the interests of South Africa will always be foremost so far as we are concerned.

Why regard us as aliens? Do we not attempt to keep up the South African standards and way of life? Have they not fought side by side with the White South Africans during the world wars? Are non-Whites not protecting the borders of South Africa this very day?

ANTI-NAT

I do not agree with Nationalist policy, but during the United Party rule did the Whites play soccer with the non-Whites? Did they have multi-racial sports and games in Pretoria? What difference does it make if you call it multi-national or multi-racial? The fact is 35 000

people, the majority of whom were non-Whites saw the Blacks and Whites play together without any friction whatsoever.

The United Party seems to have no policy except a "watered down" Nationalist policy. As far as I can see, the Federal policy will create an ultra capitalist Government in which the non-Whites will have very little say. Even at this stage the United Party is not prepared to implement this immediately.

The attitude of the White Durban electorate is manifest in the Durban City Council's policy towards the Indians living in the Clairwood district.

Why not support the Progressive candidates and bring about a change in attitude so that we can live hope-fully together in South Africa — not as Whites and non-Whites, but as South Africans.

A. H. MULLA.

4 Leander Cresc.,
Westville,
Durban.

Labour may oppose S.A.'s role in SWA

23 APR 12 1974

THE NATAL MERCURY

23 APR 1974

Mercury Correspondent

LONDON—The Labour Government is almost certain to accept the World Court's decision that South Africa is the illegal occupier of Namibia (South West Africa).

This was disclosed yesterday by sources close to officials who are conducting a fundamental review of Britain's policy toward South Africa.

To Pretoria's delight, the previous Conservative Administration of Mr. Edward Heath refused to accept the World Court's ruling on South West Africa.

If Labour does reverse this Tory position, there will be official co-operation for the first time between the British Government and the United Nations commissioner for "Namibia," former Irish diplomat Sean McBride.

REVERSE

There are no clues yet on when the Labour authorities will unveil the new policy on Southern Africa. But some of its broad thrust is being "leaked" by Socialist politicians with strong anti-apartheid views.

They are saying that the Cabinet's recent decision to honour a British arms contract with Right-wing Chile for warships has put serious new pressure on Prime Minister Mr. Harold Wilson and Foreign Secretary Mr. James Callaghan to get tough with South Africa.

For if the Government does not live up to some of its commitments made while in Opposition to tighten the screws on White-ruled Africa there would be a more

serious revolt among labour MPs who are already outraged by the refusal to stop delivery of two frigates and two submarines to Chile.

It is unlikely that Labour will do anything meaningful about its pledge to disengage Britain from the apartheid economy, even though Mr. Callaghan is on record as cautiously favouring this notion.

OPPOSITION

There is strong opposition in the ranks of the pro-Labour trade unions to economic disengagement or to freezing new investment in South Africa.

This means there must be a more militant position on South West Africa.

It is also probable that some non-military British Government aid will be channeled to the Southern African "liberation movements" — through the UN, if not directly.

PLEDGES

Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, who is largely responsible for persuading Labour to commit itself to this sort of aid is reportedly studying how to achieve it.

Sources here also expect Labour to stop the delivery of the last of seven Wasp maritime helicopters to the Republic, and to prohibit the Royal Navy from holding annual exercises with the South African Navy.

Even though Labour is clearly ready to make

good on some of its pledges to the forces battling White rule, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zanu) remains unimpressed.

In its latest newsletter, Zanu accuses Labour of cynically plotting to perpetuate White "colonial" rule.

LEON WARNS ON ELECTION RESULT

THE NATAL MERCURY
23 APRIL 1974
THE NATAL MERCURY
23 APR 1974

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA — If the National Party was returned to power on Wednesday with greater support, the day of the "inevitable showdown" with Blacks would be brought infinitely closer, the leader of the Coloured Labour Party, Mr. Sonny Leon, said yesterday.

He claimed there was little but despair facing the Black people if the Government was strengthened by a greater number of seats or a greater share of the vote.

"They have been in power for 26 years and no Coloured, Indian or African is measurably better off now than he was in 1948.

"To a far greater extent than in 1948 we are helping to create the economic wealth of this country, and to a greater extent we are not sharing in the benefits of this economic progress."

Mr. Leon said both his Opposition Labour Party and the ruling Federal Party in the Coloured Persons Representative Council were now agreed that they were being pushed along a dead-end alley by the Government, and wanted the

Council disbanded.

"We all agree that the Coloured must be granted equality — representation by Coloureds in Parliament and a Coloured Minister of Coloured Affairs — in all fields. Anything less than this will never solve a problem which is becoming more serious every day.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, had admitted he had no firm policy for the future of the Coloured people.

"The Coloured population is overtaking the White population rapidly and by the end of the century we will outnumber them. The other non-White groups are also increasing fast, and it is only logical that we will ask more often and more loudly for equal rights and equal opportunities."

Mr. Leon said the Government would have to take great care it did not alienate the Coloured people beyond the point of reconcilia-

tion.

However, if the National Party continued to allow its Right-wing to shape its race policies, and with one eye on the Herstigte Nasionale Party it continued to tolerate this group, then the future looked bleak indeed, Mr. Leon said.

"We know there is no hope of Opposition parties taking over the Government, but it will be a severe blow to us if this present Government increases its support on Wednesday," he added.

Report by G. Reilly, 171 Main Street, Johannesburg.

23 APRIL 1974
THE NATAL MERCURY

IT'S NEWS TO US

23 APR 1974

NOW that we have the Prime Minister's word for it, with millions of American television viewers as witness, there appears to be no reason why Mr. Vorster and his Government should not immediately put into practice important reforms concerning job reservation and the banning of people under the Suppression of Communism Act.

It will certainly be a surprise to South Africans, particularly qualified Black South Africans, who have heard or read extracts of Mr. Vorster's interview with the broadcaster William Buckley, that a factory manager would, "in general," be permitted to fire a lazy White man and hire an industrious Black man in his place.

Asked if there were any exceptions to this policy, Mr. Vorster replied: "No, I can't think of any exceptions at the moment."

While Mr. Vorster racks his brains to think of an exception, we have been racking our collective editorial brains to think of even one case in industry where a White man, lazy or otherwise, has been fired and a Black man employed in his place. And if any reader knows of an authenticated instance of this happening, we should be glad to hear from him.

The general impression is that Mr. Gert Beetge, the Right-wing trade union leader, is nearer the truth when he says that Mr. Vorster had directly contradicted the National Party's labour policy as set out in its election manifesto, and that his credibility gap is now "as wide as the Colorado Canyon."

Banned people throughout the country should immediately take advantage of another significant piece of news to emerge from this interview. The Prime Minister told Mr. Buckley that a banned person was entitled to ask for the reasons for his banning and that "these reasons are given to him."

Again, the general impression is that banned persons are seldom if ever given the reasons for the curtailment of their freedom. On one occasion when reasons did emerge they were shown to be false. It is also a matter of common observation that many banned persons are obviously not Communists. All that is necessary for a banning order, however, is that they should be Communists in the sole opinion of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Vorster's statement that "reasons are given" is therefore important, and should be insisted upon, because reasons are the essential first step in any appeal to the Supreme Court against a banning order.

Durbanites 23 APRIL 1974 mainly mum

THE NATAL MERCURY
on banning

23 APR 1974

Mercury Reporter

IT IS UNLIKELY that many of the banned people in Durban will write to the Prime Minister asking for the reasons for their banning, according to friends yesterday.

They said that Mr. Vorster's comments on American television this week about bannings were "typical of the political double-talk we have come to expect from the Nationalist Government."

banned because of their trade union activities. So we have been told why they were not banned, but nobody knows why they were banned," he said.

They all said they doubted whether many banned people in Durban would bother to write to the Prime Minister.

In an interview on American television Mr. Vorster had said that banned people were always given reasons for their bannings, and that "it was the easiest thing in the world" for a non-Communist to have his order set aside by the Supreme Court.

A friend of the four White trade unionists Halton Cheadle, David Davis, David Henson and Jeanette Murphy, who were banned this year, said none of them had been given any reasons or warnings concerning their bannings.

"The only comment that came from Government sources was when the Minister of Labour, Mr. Marais Viljoen, said that they were not

Raubenheimer 23 APRIL 1974 accused of

THE NATAL MERCURY "secret" deal

23 APR 1974

Mercury Reporter

EMPANGENI — Mr. Vause Raw, United Party MP for Point, last night accused Mr. Braam Raubenheimer of promising the people of Klip River the removal of certain 'Berg locations in exchange for the Eshowe corridor — and then threatening to deny his promise if they made it public.

Mr. Raw made his accusation as guest speaker at a U.P. public meeting here last night.

In an attack on the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, and Mr. Raubenheimer, Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr. Raw said that he "demanded, in the name of honesty" that if Mr. Vorster could not prove Mr. Raubenheimer was not the first person to cast doubts on the future of Eshowe, he should immediately dismiss Mr. Raubenheimer before the election "for his irresponsibility."

Mr. Raw: "I call Mr. Vorster's bluff in twisting defence into attack on the Eshowe issue."

Mr. Vorster blamed Mr. Cadman for creating uncertainty about Eshowe but the verbatim transcript of a tape recording of Mr. Raubenheimer's words on April 19 in Eshowe "was to the contrary," Mr. Raw said.

"I challenge Mr. Vorster to quote a single claim or suggestion by Mr. Cadman that Eshowe would go Black before this date," Mr. Raw said.

He accused Mr. Raubenheimer of making certain promises to the Klip River electorate and then threatening to deny that he had ever made them if the electorate repeated him publicly.

"I was personally told in Klip River last week that farmers' representatives, who had asked Mr. Raubenheimer very recently for the removal of the 'Berg locations, were given the assurance that this would be done in exchange for the

Babanango - Melmoth - Eshowe corridor.

"But Mr. Raubenheimer told them that if they said he (Mr. Raubenheimer) had given the assurance, then he would deny it.

"To whom is the Government lying — Klip River or Eshowe?" Mr. Raw asked.

He said the reason for the early election was because hidden truths would be exposed later.

Report by G. De'Ath, 106
Hamilton Lodge, Empangeni.

WCC

THE NATAL MERCURY

probes

23 APR 1974

bank links

23 APRIL
1974 Mercury
Correspondent

LONDON—The World Council of Churches has commissioned a probe by London's Counter Information Services into overseas bank involvement in apartheid.

The report will be issued on Thursday at the start of a nationwide campaign by Eltsa (End Loans to South Africa) against the Midland Bank and other institutions involved.

It is understood the cost of the report is being borne by the WCC's special fund to combat racism, which preaches the gospel of disinvestment, and that the general budget of the WCC is not involved. It will be given wide distribution through the WCC's publications offices in Geneva and New York; the German Evangelical Church; the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau; and the London anti-apartheid movement.

Counter Information Services is run by a group of journalists and university graduates, backed by City money, and has already produced detailed reports on the General Electric Company, Rio Tinto and Consolidated Goldfields.

The latest report is headed "Business as Usual" above a front page picture of armed South African troops marching past a Barclays Bank office block.

It contains examples of "secret bank documents" and claims to go beyond the recent exposures of low wages to show how the banks are vital to apartheid and dovetail South Africa into the multi-national network of their operations.

The report is important to the WCC's disinvestment campaign, which it has found difficult to sell in Britain. British churches believe their investments in South Africa should be used to influence the policy of the companies.

'Pass law' THE NATAL MERCURY search 23 APRIL 1974 denounced

Mercury Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — A three-day "stop and search" police operation embracing almost every young Black man in the San Francisco area has been denounced because of its South African "pass law" connotations.

The operation was set up to hunt down the city's "Code Zebra" street killers but, though producing no suspects, it has provoked a gathering storm of protest.

A coalition of Black civil rights leaders and churchmen has begun a federal court action to have the police measures stopped.

They have denounced the operation as a move towards a police state and "America's first pass

system based on the South African model."

Late on Friday, a federal judge refused to issue a temporary injunction against the police but ordered city officials to appear before him yesterday to show cause why the police should not be restrained from the practice.

Hundreds of special police patrols augmented now by police reserve officers, have been given authority to stop and interrogate any Black man who even vaguely resembles a police artist's sketch of a man suspected of committing the eighteenth "zebra" shooting last week.

All the victims have been White. They have been selected at random on the streets and 12 of the 18 have died since January.

Within the police department, the operation is regarded by some officers as the most unpopular police action ever undertaken. A Black

patrolman, Mr. Jessie Byrd, yesterday assailed the "gestapo-like tactics that are being used."

He said his group regarded it as "another type of harassment."

Parliament

Botha: SADF to involve more Blacks

THE CAPE TIMES

23 APR 1975

Cape Times Political Correspondent

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—Mr P W Botha, Minister of Defence, has announced plans for the greater involvement of Blacks, Coloured people and Indians in the Defence Force.

In an important policy statement during the Defence Debate yesterday he announced that Coloured people were for the first time to man armed naval vessels and that Coloured officers were expected to be commissioned soon.

He announced that Blacks in "White" South Africa were to be taken up in certain commandos and that a Black service corps was also to be established in which Blacks could reach the rank of warrant officer.

Indians were to have the same training facilities and oppor-

tunities as the Coloured community.

On homeland defence forces, he said that a start would be made with a home guard on a small scale. It could be used for ceremonial occasions, trained as infantry and as engineers. They would have to be under White officers initially because

Blacks could not be trained overnight.

Agreements would be reached with the various countries on their independence over the question of over-flying rights, anti-communist measures and the use of their territories by hostile elements.

As far as the homelands were concerned, he believed that it was essential that they found their "home" in the milieu of South African defence and not outside.

Mr Botha made his various announcements when replying to Opposition queries about manpower shortages.