

SOWETAN Wednesday May 10 1989

SRC TWO 'SIGNED AS INFORMERS'

SOWETAN 10-5-89

TWO members of the Students Representative Council of the University of the North were allegedly questioned by security police and made to sign a declaration in which they acknowledged that they were police informers.

This is contained in a circular issued to all students by the SRC on Monday. The circular says that SRC president Mr Ernest Khoza and Mr Victor Kgomoewana, a correspondence secretary were visited by four members of the security police in a dawn raid on Monday.

A statement issued by the South African Council of Churches yesterday condemned the police action which they claim is aimed at scuttling their mission to Turfloop.

The SACC said Mr Ernest Khoza, SRC president at the University of the North, was threatened with death in an early morning raid at the University of the North this week.

Mr Khoza was told that if he continues with his activities he would go the same way as David Webster.

Mr Khoza and another SRC member, Mr Victor Kgomoewana, were raided in their rooms by four people, two of whom they recognised as Sgt Lawrence and Constable Geyser.

The two student leaders were told that the church/community delegation that met the

By MATHATHA TSEDU

management of the University of the North on April 21 1989 included people who have links with the ANC.

They were told that the delegation was unacceptable. The term of the SRC, the students were told, could be terminated at any time. Mr Khoza and Mr Kgomoewana were made to write and sign their names, under duress, on a form whose contents they could not see because they were covered.

After signing the form

the contents were read to them. They were shocked to hear that they had signed a form that set out their agreement to being police informers. The students fear that the form is going to be used in attempts to discredit the SRC leadership.

In response to the allegations a police spokesman said:

We reject as false the allegations contained in your telex and which were allegedly made by

or on behalf of Mr E Khoza and Mr M V Kgomoewana.

The persons concerned were neither threatened nor forced to sign any declaration as mentioned in your telex.

However, should either one of them feel that he has a legitimate complaint against any member or members of the SAP, he should lodge his complaint with the police (by way of written affidavit) through any one of the existing recognised channels in order that the matter be thoroughly investigated.

COSATU women have taken a stand to fight for a living wage and women's rights in the workplace.

A report published by the federation says the women have adopted the living wage campaign which Cosatu launched in 1986.

It says that at the first Cosatu women's conference last year, delegates asked that the women's demand for a living wage also include:

- that sex discrimination be abolished;
- that women workers be given full job security — full maternity rights and job guarantees;
- that service be unbroken when a worker takes maternity leave;
- that women workers be given the same opportunities as men for training and promotion;
- that unions be specially concerned about the problems of farmworkers and domestic workers;
- that people recognise the struggles of women in their campaigns for public holidays on June 16, Sharpeville Day and May Day.

Cosatu takes up fight for women's rights

By SIZA KOOMA

"In South Africa more than half a million women work as domestics. Most of them are paid R70 a month. Women farmworkers are paid less than domestics.

"A tomato farm in the Northern Transvaal pays the women and children

who work there in tomatoes. Other cotton and citrus farms in Lebowa pay their women workers less than R1 a day."

To fight these terrible wages, the report says, the South African Domestic Workers Union was launched and the Food and Allied Workers Union started a

union for farmworkers.

It says that although there are labour laws to protect workers, women are always given a bad deal. A law passed in 1981 to stop differences between minimum wages for men and women who do the same work, is often not adhered to by employers.

The living wage cam-

paign, it says, cannot succeed without women taking part in it.

Women must take up issues that are important to them in the workplace and put their demands to the bosses. They should also work alongside men in union structures as union members, shop stewards, organisers and officials.

Children

The women regard a living wage as a wage which makes it possible for a person to provide for her children as well as herself.

They say women do not need wages to buy fashionable clothing, as is commonly believed.

"A study recently revealed that one out of three women is a breadwinner. Women therefore need a living wage to pay for food, housing, clothing, education, transport and leisure.

"Some married women get little or no money from their husbands and sometimes both their combined salaries are not enough to cover the costs of running a home," the report says.

There were grounds on which women, most of them in low-paid jobs, should be given fair remuneration, it says.

SMOKING KILLS

SIR — Nicotine is a powerful addictive and poisonous substance. Besides nicotine, cigarettes contain many other known poisonous substances. Smoking is beyond any doubt a major cause of fatal and debilitating disease. In the developed world it is now the most preventable cause of ill-health.

The promotion of tobacco products to children and teenagers is a serious threat to their future lives. The sponsorship of sport and major sporting events clearly has appeal to the youth of this country. While counteracting the promotion of tobacco products via sport is a complex and difficult issue, the widespread sale of candy cigarettes to children is less

complex and should be addressed without delay.

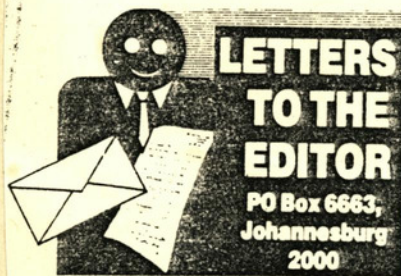
Candy cigarettes are manufactured in South Africa, and marketed in containers which have brand names of known cigarettes. Moreover the containers are designed to be facsimiles of genuine cigarette boxes. These "sweets" are available in most cafes and sweet and candy outlets all over South Africa. Shop owners assure me that these candy cigarettes are a popular line.

It is highly suspicious that there is a close association between the tobacco companies and the sweet companies in this regard. Clearly this is an effective method of promoting smoking among South African children.

The sale of candy or sweet cigarettes has been outlawed in many countries for obvious reasons. Health workers and the public at large need to take the necessary measures to have the sale of candy cigarettes banned in South Africa.

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Church leaders off to US

FOUR prominent churchmen leave for America today, a spokesman for Dr Allan Boesak — one of the group — confirmed in Cape Town.

The other members of the group include Archbishop Tutu, Rev Frank Chikane and Dr Beyers Naude.

While in America the group will unveil a new peace plan designed to bring an end to apartheid and will submit new proposals for ways in which the United States could facilitate peaceful change in South Africa.

— Sapa.

Office raided

INSPECTORS from the director of fund raising in the department of health and social welfare yesterday visited the Pretoria and district advice office and demanded to see bank books, Padoo director, Mr Nolo Mokalapa, announced.

Gaddafi visit

CASABLANCA (Morocco) — Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi made a brief visit to Morocco for surprise talks with King Hassan, 10 days before an emergency Arab summit

African nations fail to report new Aids cases

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The Star's Foreign News Service
GENEVA — World Health Organisation (WHO) officials are worrying that failure by African countries, including South Africa, to send in updated reports on Aids may give the public a wrong impression about the real spread of the disease.

"Our monthly statistical reports do not show the true picture because only the advanced nations send us regular new situation accountings," one executive explained.

The WHO global Aids tabulation for April 30 showed a world total by that date of 151 790 known cases cumulative since the disease first appeared in 1979.

SA LAGGING

The figure represented an increase of 5 221 cases or 3,56 percent during April.

"But the increase was certainly much higher and the world total is at least twice as high," the WHO official said.

"We simply are not getting sufficiently regular or complete reports

from many parts of the world and especially from Africa," he said.

The US's latest report to WHO's Aids Centre was dated on April 13. It showed a rise during the previous month of 2 845 cases to a total 89 501 or 59 percent of the world total. The US increase was also more than half the new reported cases.

But that was all but meaningless in view of the age of most of the reports from the badly affected African nations.

South Africa was also behind in its reporting to WHO, with its 195 cases dating back to January 17.

Burundi's 1 408 cases dated back to June 30 last year. Tanzania last reported on December 31 with 4 158 cases. The 5 998 cases in Uganda were reported to WHO on October 31. Zambia last reported on December 31 (1 296) and Zimbabwe was an entire year behind, with its 119 cases reported on April 30 1988.

Kenya's 2 732 cases were at June 30 last year and Malawi's 2 586 cases were reported on the same date.

"This means that the tabulation gives at best a distorted picture of the real situation," a WHO official said.

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De Kock spells out the bottom line

DR GERHARD DE KOCK'S warning to South Africa that without adequate political and constitutional reforms our economic woes will only get worse, could not have come at a more poignant time. South Africans were still reeling from the shock of the wide-ranging financial curbs announced by the Minister of Finance on Friday.

Politics and economics are irrevocably intertwined. South Africa has sanctions imposed upon it because of a racial policy which inspires contempt overseas and which foreign business partners do not want to be associated with in any way.

We are being forced more and more to covertly seek alternative supplies of essential raw materials at heavily loaded prices because conventional supply routes have been closed for much the same reason. And the impact of apartheid on our internal economy is incalculable.

Now the United States may use economics to achieve significant political change in South Africa. It was revealed

yesterday that the new US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Herman Cohen, has hinted at "doing a deal" on sanctions to persuade Pretoria to unconditionally release Nelson Mandela.

Dr de Kock's pronouncement on Monday is not new but the evidence of its accuracy is to be seen everywhere. For years businessmen and bankers have implored the Government to put our political house in order as they watched the value of the rand decline and as they found it more and more difficult doing business across our borders. Dr de Kock himself has referred to this during the past year, although in rather more muted terms.

Normally, comments from the Governor of the Reserve Bank on matters outside of finance are carefully guarded. Unlike his counterparts overseas, he is closely allied to the Government.

But his latest statement was much more forthright. It was an unambiguous warning to the politicians of the urgency of our plight.

SA seizes initiative as UN falters in Namibia

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The United Nations peace plan for Namibia has been effectively hijacked by the members of the Joint Commission — South Africa, Angola and Cuba — and the UN has been relegated to the sidelines.

This has been graphically illustrated in the past week in statements by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha and Namibia's Administrator-General, Mr Louis Pienaar, who both flatly rejected UN secretary-general Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar's "grave concern" at the role of SADF units in the territory.

Dr Perez de Cuellar asked SA to order its troops back to base when he spoke to South Africa's UN representative, Mr Jeremy Shearer.

Request ignored

He told Mr Shearer he felt SWA Police had sufficient resources to carry out the action to verify that remnants of the mass Swapo incursion of early April had returned to Angola north of the 16th parallel.

Dr de Cuellar's request has been ignored. Mr Botha instead attacked the secretary-general for "protecting" Swapo and ignoring the decisions of the Joint Commission.

Mr Pienaar has simply stated SA troops would continue to be deployed hunting Swapo and any arms it may have cached, regardless of the secretary-general and the UN.

The administrator-general said that at the last meeting of the Joint Commission, Cuba and Angola had agreed that South African troops

In the past couple of months Untag has become a new swear word in Namibia, but, as **KEN VERNON** of The Star's Africa News Service points out, Untag and the whole UN operation in Namibia has effectively been shunted to the sidelines in recent weeks.

could be deployed until May 13.

The implication is if the UN and Untag don't like it, they can lump it.

From April 1 SADF and SWATF troops were confined to base under the terms of Resolution 435, but were released from this obligation by the UN to deal with the Swapo incursions. Since then the continued deployment of the SADF, SWATF and SWA Police counter-insurgency units against Swapo insurgents has been sanctioned at several meetings of the Joint Commission, with the approval of the US and USSR, which have observer status with the Commission and which are ultimately the guarantors of its decisions.

Clearly piqued at this relegation, the UN spokesman in Namibia, Mr Cedric Thornberry, pointed out that the UN was not a party to the JC, adding that it was "not relevant to us what the Joint Commission does. We have to take our instructions from the Security Council".

Co-operation and agreement between the US and USSR, both permanent members of the Security Council, have added to the impotence of the UN and its Untag representatives in Namibia.

It has meant they have little ammunition with which to counter the JC's wresting of the initiative.

The tendency for the UN body to

be sidelined has been exacerbated by the perceived incompetence of Untag in carrying out its assigned tasks in the peace plan.

On April 1 Untag was to verify that SA troops were confined to base and SWATF forces disbanded, while Swapo troops were to be confined to bases in Angola.

Untag observers did confirm SA compliance with these conditions, but, according to their own words, were "taken completely by surprise" when Swapo troops crossed the border in large numbers.

Now Untag says they have a number of observers in several towns in southern Angola and can confirm that Swapo is now complying with their part of the peace plan.

But South Africa says the security forces would only return to their bases once the JC had established Swapo had complied with its obligations, another slap in the face for Untag. The UN is not only under fire from South Africa, Angola and Cuba, but from Swapo, who say the UN should not have agreed to unleash the security forces.

It is an inescapable conclusion that such a state of affairs has been sanctioned by the super power string-pullers, which means that all the UN can do is what it does best — bluster.

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A United Nations soldier in Namibia . . . shunted to the sidelines?

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SOWETAN

10-05-89

Bishop Stanley Mogoba, deputy chairman, the Reverend Peter Storey and director, Mr Sam Maufhe, plans to mobilise the wealth generated by burial customs, into a powerful economic force to aid the living.

Mr Maufhe says they want burial schemes to join a co-operative movement which would use its collective money power to negotiate cheaper funeral cover rates from insurance companies.

He says millions of rands are lying idle in the banks with interest which can be used to help educate destitute children and also help victims of apartheid.

"The money lies dormant in the bank awaiting for death to occur, while thousands of black children, who apart from political reasons, cannot go to school because of financial problems can be assisted by burial societies," he says.

He urged undertakers to consider this major project for themselves if they want to be seen to be helping the black communities.

"Blacks spend most of their time worrying about death," he says, "but now they should start thinking about socio-economic problems of the living."

He contends that the potential to mobilise burial societies into a financial giant is there, but the idea needs guidance from financial experts.

"Blacks need to exploit their resources for the sake of black economic empowerment," he says.

Women's and "mohodisano" clubs can also play a major role in these undertakings. They need to be mobilised to realise their potential.

The ZCP intend to bring all these black ventures under one umbrella. It sees the potential of these institutions as ways and means of encouraging capital formation within their communities to find means of setting up self-help scheme projects to support themselves.

ZCP will also approach funeral undertakers, businessmen and community groups to help financially.

"It is high time we do things for ourselves, instead of shouting slogans. We also want to work in conjunction with other organisations with similar interests," he says.

Cheaper

Mr Maufhe says blacks will have to start looking into business ventures such as farming and livestock to enable the

bereaved families to cut costs when preparing for funerals.

Sabta and Saldta will also be approached to help run funerals cheaper.

The second organisation with a similar interest is the National Stokvels Association of SA, which is considering mobilising burial societies in its own way.

Nasasa's chairman, Mr Andrew Lukhele, says: "People should stop worrying about death and address socio-economic problems facing us. We should improve our living conditions."

"Some burial schemes have more than R40 000 in the bank and this money could be used to provide educational loans or fund black business, which needs capital for expansion."

"A burial scheme with R40 000 in its account can afford to invest say R10 000 of the total sum. Most developing business in the townships need as little as R2 000."

Risk

Applications for loans will still be scrutinised, but not as stringently as in financial institutions.

He sees the main objective as being to educate burial society members about sharing the risk with insurance companies and then using the rest of the money to provide venture capital.

The stokvel is planning a trust fund from which members can borrow money for wedding ceremonies, buy and hire out cars, make home improvements and pay for the education of their children.

"Investing in property holds one of the keys to economic empowerment. We want to move from stokvels to the JSE," he says.