

Black Sash National Office,
5 Long Street, Mowbray 7700.
9 June 1986.

In response to the critical situation in South Africa the Black Sash held an urgent meeting in Cape Town June 7-8 of representatives from all regions. We reviewed the growing popular resistance and severe repression through police and vigilante action being experienced in all areas, analysed the trends and resolved on various forms of action.

The meeting confirmed the assessment set out in the enclosed dossier and authorised the National Executive to pursue contact with diplomatic representatives, leaders in commerce and industry, the media, and with other organisations and individuals. The dossier is to be supplemented through regional updates and additional material on people's resistance. In the Eastern Cape, we were told, democratic organisations exercise de facto control of many townships, enable essential services to be carried out and are making strenuous and sustained efforts to halt the spiral of violence, particularly the abhorrent 'necklace'.

We commend the dossier to your urgent attention and are willing to discuss it with you. Please let us know that you have received this communication (not all mail arrives..) and whether you would like to have additional material as it becomes available.

Yours faithfully,



(Mrs) Mary Burton

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

P.S. Today Monday 9 June my colleague Dr Margaret Nash and I, together with Professors Stuart Saunders and Donald Carr of UCT, witnessed scores of 'witdoekies' advancing along Millers St (which becomes NY 5) in the direction of the KEG squatter settlement, without hindrance from the three security force casspirs in the vicinity. M.B.

Enclosure: "SOUTH AFRICA MAY 1986: AT A POLITICAL CROSSROADS?"