

CIRCULAR NO. 29.

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TO ALL REGIONS.

18th November 1959.

The enclosed leader from the 'Cape Argus' of November 11th, contains the statement referred to in the covering letter which went out with Circular No. 28.

Upon further investigation, the C.E. were not able to find the reference in the 'Die Burger' to which this leader appears to allude, nor upon enquiry from the 'Cape Argus', could they give us the specific instance to which they refer in the leader of the 11th.

In the Afrikaans version of the press statement, which came to you in Circular 28, the following addition has been made :-

" If this is not done soon, the moderate African leaders who, whilst wanting freedom from oppressive laws, are still eager to co-operate with whites, will be discredited by their own people.

If moderation is to prevail, it is essential that demands should be made, and surely it is a reasonable request that African men should be permitted to have their wives and families with them and that they should not heartlessly be shifted for the convenience of others. "

(Sgd.) M.E. PETERSEN.

Encls.

THE RIOTS AT PAARL.

As property has been damaged, people injured and a life lost, there will have to be an official inquiry into the hooliganism and rioting at Paarl.

But in the meantime that section of Nationalist opinion which delights in heaping calumny on English-speaking South Africans and their institutions is already in full cry. Our Afrikaans morning contemporary joyfully leads the way with an emphatic cartoon in which the rioting is hailed as the Liberals' greatest victory!

A Zulu falling ill never regards it as a question of cause and effect. It is evil spirits, the evil eye, or it is an enemy that has done this thing. Similarly with what has happened at Paarl. We are told by the Government apologists that the disturbances have nothing to do with the banishment of a mother and the disruption of family life.

They have nothing to do with the natural feelings of Native or Coloured men and women and no relation to the bitterness already sown by Nationalist policies throughout much of the non-European community. There is not even a question of silly youths, hooligans and disreputable elements seeking an opportunity of making trouble or of people deprived of all means of protest casting aside their normal self-control.

No, it is the women of the Black Sash, the 'Liberals' and, above all, the 'English Press'. Is there no point at which we can get some sense of reality in these things? Is there no real feeling of shock and anxiety that this is the first time Coloured people have shared in riotous behaviour in the Western Province?

Was The Argus or the 'English Press' responsible for Port Elizabeth, Lovedale, Germiston, Durban, Cato Manor, Harding, Mount Frere, Maritzburg, Estcourt, Sekukuniland and Zeerust? Riots and disturbances have occurred at all these places in the past year and the list is by no means exhaustive. Some of the severest conflicts, which are still smouldering, have occurred in areas where there are no newspapers whatever and no reporters are allowed.

Is it faintly possible that Nationalist policies have some remote relating to the sombre catalogue of major or minor upheavals? Are good order and the public interest really served by spitting venom at 'Liberals', the 'English Press' and anything that can be labelled as English or anti-Nationalist?

We suggest that two simple forms of civilized conduct might be tried: (a) To recognise that those in authority have a duty to society as well as to the Nationalist Party; and (b) that any apparent abrogation of human rights demands open and careful justification.
