

Circular File

CIRCULAR NO. 31.

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TO ALL REGIONS.

27th November 1959.

Mrs. Stott suggests that Regions should, if possible, contact those persons banned by the Government and detained in their Black Sash regional area.

Since these people have, through being banished, been deprived of their civil rights and liberties, it seems proper that the Black Sash should make investigations to find out exactly what has happened to them. This seems particularly necessary as Mrs. Stott's enquiries made to Native representatives and other non-white and political organisations have shown that there is in fact, no organisation in existence, who has made it their business to enquire into this matter.

Mrs. Stott has been told, for instance, that in some cases the wives of many who have been banished, have gone off with other people and deserted their children, probably due to the fact that they could not support themselves adequately, having no longer a breadwinner on whom to rely. Further, she was informed that in some instances, the family of the people banned can neither read nor write and consequently contact between the husband and wife is far from satisfactory.

Mrs. Stott suggests that the latest issue of the "Drum" magazine should be read for information. It indicates places of detainment of many of those banished. She would like Regions to make contact with the men and if at all possible, to arrange perhaps for visits to the men of their families. This would be an especially happy gesture at Xmas time. She also suggests that enquiries should be made to find out whether reasonable employment facilities are available to these men and whether they are able to make monthly allowances to their wives and families.

There is, in fact, very little information available and whatever the Sash members can find out, should be communicated to the C.E. It would also obviously be valuable for the C.E. to be given members impressions of what the people who are banished are like.

If Sash members in any Region are able to give practical help, this would be permissible under our National Conference Resolution which says "to give practical help to the victims of unjust laws".

Mrs. Stott also suggests that members, as individuals, might like to collect some parcels, and to see that these reach either the husband and or his family at Xmas time, as a gesture of goodwill.

(SGD.) M. C. PETERSEN.

NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN