

dupl.

CIRCULAR NO. 42.

ESTELLA HOUSE,
47a, Main Road,
CLAREMONT, Cape.

TO ALL REGIONS.

1st April, 1960.

Mrs. Petersen and Mrs. Stott suggest that all regions of the Black Sash should issue the following statement:-

The Black Sash, which along with many others, has for years tried to warn the Government and the public that such a situation as the present state of emergency would arise if the Government continued to refuse to pay any heed to legitimate African grievances, will suspend its normal activities for three weeks in the hope that by that time order will have been restored and the State of Emergency have ceased to exist.

At the end of that time, should the State of Emergency still be invoked, the Black Sash would review the situation with a view to deciding whether it should resume its normal activities.

During the next three weeks, Black Sash members will do everything possible by means of personal approach, to persuade Cabinet Ministers, Nationalist M.P's and other responsible Nationalists that consultation and reasonable concessions to legitimate African demands, provide the only possible permanent solution to the unrest among Africans.

For the information of Regions:-

The reasons for suggesting that the Sash follow the above suggested line of action, are :-

- (a) We believe there are Nationalists who are as anxious as we are for the Government to make concessions. It would be unwise to do anything which would prevent our working with these people.
- (b) Many normally fair minded people are convinced that the Government have had to declare a state of emergency and would regard the Black Sash as being highly irresponsible if they did anything which could be construed as making things more difficult for the Government.
- (c) The statement shows that we think the Government needs to take constructive action that Africans have genuine grievances.
- (d) It suggests that we shall use our discretion as to how long we shall be content to suspend our normal activities.

N.B. Mr. D. Molteno considers that this statement is safe.

(Signed) M.C. PETERSEN.
NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN.