

CIRCULAR NO. 43.

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

TO ALL REGIONS.

3rd May, 1960.

It has been brought to the attention of the C.E. that many detainees especially those being charged with criminal offences such as murder, arson and violence, will be in need of legal help. Would Regions please notify the C.E. whether there is any movement afoot in their Regions to provide such legal defence either by creating funds, or by finding legal people who would be prepared to give their assistance free.

The C.E. would like Regions to ensure that no persons who maintain that they are innocent of criminal charges which are brought against them, are without legal assistance. For example, it is understood that several men locally are to be charged with an attack on an African, when at least one of the men to be charged states that he was definitely not involved. Also, sixty odd people have been charged with the murder of an African policeman. We have had an appeal from the wife of one of these men, who states that her husband was definitely not involved.

The C.E. would be glad to know whether Regions feel that if no other organisation makes a move to provide legal defence, the Black Sash should try to get something set on foot. The C.E. is of the opinion that for it to undertake such work single-handed without the co-operation of other organisations, would be more than it could manage, but it might be possible for the Black Sash to initiate some assistance for these people, for example, some lawyers, at the request of the Sash, might be prepared to act for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP:

The C.E. wonders whether this is not a time to have a recruiting drive for new members. Cape Western Region had several new members recently and the amount of money that has come in seems to indicate a lot of public sympathy.

REFUND OF AIR FARES:

The C.E., appreciating that they asked for representatives from all Regions to come to Cape Town at very short notice, would be glad to refund to Regions the difference between second-class railway tickets and their air-fares. Would Regions who wish for such a refund, please contact Mrs. Willis.

"S.A. THE ROAD AHEAD"

Mrs. Spottiswoode informs us that the book is now longer than originally planned and therefore the publisher has decided it is necessary to raise the price by 1/- per copy, so that to Sash members it will be 10/- and to others 16/- NOT as previously notified 9/- and 15/-. So far only White River and Bloemfontein have sent in their orders, will other Regions please do so as soon as possible.

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