

CIRCULAR NO. 53. (See also Circ. 54)

To Secretaries: ALL REGIONS.

The Black Sash,  
4 Oakdale,  
Main Street,  
NEWLANDS. C.P.

4th February, 1961.

Further to our letter to Mrs. Johnson of the 23rd January, copies of which went to all Regions, we attach correspondence between S.Tvl. Region and ourselves.

Please note contents and let us have any comments you think necessary.

(Signed) E. STOTT.  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

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4 Oakdale,  
Main Street,  
NORLANDS. C.F.

3rd February, 1961.

Mrs. J. Sinclair,  
203 Santa Margherita,  
8th Street,  
Killarney,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Sinclair,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 31st January. I am most grateful to your Region for giving such prompt attention to this matter.

You will no doubt be glad to learn that after my discussions with you and Mrs. Rankin last week, I took the decision to send out the petition forms to all our members. In addition, we have arranged tables in the streets to collect signatures. We have also agreed to collect and sort the Cape petition forms before transmission to Mrs. Cope.

I am most grateful to you for drawing my attention to the National Conference decisions quoted in your letter. As I right in deducing from the passages you quote that the Black Sash would not oppose the Education Advisory Council Bill, if it gave purely advisory and co-ordinating powers to a board of educationalists and over which the Minister or the Central Government had no over-riding control? It is considered that there are reasonable grounds for hoping that representations to the Select Committee may have this result.

You do, of course, realise that the original Bill has been withdrawn and it is considered unlikely that the Bill will be in the same form if it is introduced again this Session. The Prime Minister has stated that whatever Bill is re-introduced, will be sent to a Select Committee before the second reading. In other words, the Select Committee will sit before the principle of the Bill (discussed at the second reading) is considered. Consequently, no principles will bind the Select Committee and they will be able, therefore, to return an entirely new Bill to Parliament, and equally, there will be no occasion for the Black Sash to have a stand at all because our stands are habitually undertaken during the second reading when the principle of the Bill is discussed.

Please let me have your views. The only reason I sent the petitions out was in order to assist the registering of public concern about the original Bill, thereby hoping to ensure that any future legislation will not be objectionable, from our point of view, and that in consequence the interests of our children will have been safeguarded.

E. SEFT.