

Mrs Green.

CIRCULAR NO. 60.

THE BLACK SASH - DIE SWART SERP.

T C A L L R E G I O N S.

OFFICE: 4 Oakdale,  
Main Street,  
HEUNLANDS. C.P.

3rd March, 1961.

PARLIAMENTARY BILLS:

We are having a great deal of difficulty in keeping up with the Bills being introduced into Parliament. One of the reasons being that Bills are now being introduced for a first time into the Senate instead of going through the House of Assembly first. Consequently, bills are being dealt with much more swiftly than before. Mrs. Suzman has offered to keep us informed about bills, which in her view we should protest against, but so far has not advised us to protest against any.

The Press Gallery is full of new faces and despite an arrangement made with some of them, they too have not kept us informed. We have also up to the present had no one attending the Headquarters Regional Council meetings regularly, who was able to investigate this matter properly and since I am myself doing the secretarial work for the Region and Nationally, I have not been able to devote time to this matter. The result is that I receive copies of bills, which from reports in the newspapers make me wonder whether we should not be standing against them. I refer, of course, to yet another Group Areas Amendment Bill, to the Defence Bill, the Marriages by Proxy Bill etc., etc. As these do not seem to be clear cut cases I do not feel disposed to take decisions on my own and waiting for a meeting to discuss them makes the protest letter for the second reading late anyway. All I can say at the moment is that we believe our arrangements with Mrs. Suzman and the press gallery will ensure our being kept advised about any major thing against which we should be protesting and that we continue to try to get a more satisfactory system going for the other details.

BLACK SASHES WORN BY DEMONSTRATORS IN ENGLAND:

The following statement was sent to the "Cape Argus" and the "Die Burger" on the 22nd February :- (Circularised to Regions on the 23/2/61.)

" Press reports about demonstrations planned to coincide with Dr. Verwoerd's visit to Britain indicate that people overseas intend using black sashes. This is creating the impression that the people concerned are connected with our movement.

We must therefore state once again that "The Black Sash" movement in this country is a purely South African movement, membership of which is open only to women on the South African Parliamentary voters roll. It is not connected with any protest movements or demonstrations outside the borders of this country. "

HEADQUARTERS REGIONAL REPORTS:

I am sorry that our Headquarters Regional Reports have been so late in coming out. Mrs. Spottiswoode, who undertook to do them, has not been able to attend every meeting because her husband has unfortunately been seriously ill again and she has had to help on the farm with the fruit picking season. She is going to do the January report as soon as she can and has informed us that we must make arrangements to find someone else to do these reports in the future. We are naturally deeply distressed that she is having so much trouble.

MAGAZINE:

For similar reasons, Mrs. Spottiswoode is unable to undertake the production of the magazine (see our Circular No.57) Mrs. Berman has, however, agreed to bring out the next issue which is due in the next quarter.

All material for the magazine should as previously be sent to the office address, clearly marked "FOR THE MAGAZINE".

NATIONAL CONVENTION BY COLOURED LEADERS:

The following letter has been sent to the "Cape Argus" and the "Die Burger" on the 1st of March 1961:-

" The Black Sash welcomes the movement initiated by eminent leaders of Coloured opinion to unite the coloured community in working for the abolition of the colour bar and full citizenship for all South Africans.

We would be glad to offer them all the assistance we can in their efforts to call a National Convention representing all races to seek agreement on the terms upon which all races can live and work peaceably together in South Africa.

We deplore Mr. Abe Bloemberg; Mr. P.V. Botha and Mr.G. Golding's suggestion that in seeking co-operation with Africans, the Coloured leaders are doing so for an anti-White purpose. The record of these leaders and their publicly stated desire to obtain closer co-operation with Africans on the one hand and progressive Europeans on the other, shows this suggestion to be unwarranted. "

*W. Stott*

THE BLACK SASH X

DIE SWART SERP

CIRCULAR NO. 61.

X For information

4 Oakdale,  
Main Street,  
NEWLANDS. C.P.

TO ALL REGIONS: X

X 1. May, 1961.

1. On numerous occasions the Headquarters Regional Council has received requests from overseas for information about the activities of the Black Sash.

At a meeting of the Council on the 11th April, it was decided to ask Regions to write short reviews of their work and forward them to Headquarters Region. From these accounts, the Council wishes to draw up a statement which will tell people overseas what the Black Sash has done and is now doing -- with emphasis on present activities.

The Council is only too aware that not many people both inside and out of the Union, know even of the existence of the Sash and even fewer know of its continued struggle to uphold the rights and liberties of all sections of the population.

I am therefore desired by the Headquarters Council to ask you to forward such an account as soon as it is conveniently possible.

2. REGIONAL REPORTS:

We take it that Regions are sending copies of their Regional Reports not only to Headquarters Region, but to all other Regions and that therefore when large numbers of spares are sent to us, that they are spare copies for our use and not intended for distribution through us to other REGIONS.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT.