

THE BLACK SASH
CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

CIRCULAR NO 1/1977

503 Lestar House,
58 Marshall Street,
2001 Johannesburg.
18th January, 1977.

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I do hope you have all had a good Christmas and have come back to work full of enthusiasm and ready for whatever may lie ahead. This circular is a bit delayed. I expect you all know by now that my father died very suddenly on 20th December and I have fallen a bit behind in the things I ought to have done.

Another sadness has been news of the death of Tuzette Duncan-Brown in East London. Many of you will have known her and worked with her and will share in our sorrow.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND. I enclose copies of an article we managed to have published in the Rand Daily Mail. It has roused extensive interest here and, in view of the fact that there is an Amendment Bill due to come before Parliament this session, and in view of the fact that the unemployment situation is becoming critical and likely to get worse, I ask you to bring the facts to the attention of Members of Parliament in your area.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE. The following resolutions and items for discussion have been submitted to Headquarters for consideration at National Conference in March.

NATAL COASTAL : FACT PAPER : (1) THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA
do (2) THE HISTORY AND GROWTH OF INDIAN POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS IN NATAL.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION : i) FURTHER REPORT ON SOCIAL PENSIONS
ii) THE LAW AND SASH.

CAPE WESTERN :

In accordance with Section 3 of the Black Sash Constitution, notice is hereby given of an amendment to the Constitution

"to substitute for paragraph 3 (a) iii the following :

"Each applicant for membership shall be accepted by the executive committee of the Branch/Group and the executive committee of the Region she wishes to join", eliminating the words...."shall be proposed and seconded by existing members of the Organisation, and....."

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION :

- i) Aspects of housing. (Cape Western will contribute information on Somerset West Group Area removals, and on the housing situation in the Cape Peninsula.
- ii) The urgent need for immediate change.
- iii) Education : the 100% stay-away of African school children in Cape Town in protest against "Bantu Education".
- iv) (a) The citizenship aspect of Transkei's independence.
(b) Possible repercussions on contract workers.
- v) Possible independence of Bophutatswana.
- vi) Report on Township disturbances in Cape Town.

TRANSVAAL : FACT PAPERS : i) THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, ITS ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONING.
ii) PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE ON INDIVIDUAL SOUTH AFRICANS.
iii) A LIVING WAGE AND POVERTY BUDGETING
iv) ASPECTS OF CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/—

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- i) HOUSING AND REMOVALS
 - ii) LOBBYING
 - iii) UNREST AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE JUNE 1976

SYMPOSIUM ON CHANGE : We are organising a symposium on change for the evening of Tuesday 15th March. We have invited the following speakers to talk for ten minutes on the answers to these questions -

What kind of society do you visualise in ten years time and

What will that kind of society mean to the personal lives of individual South Africans, both black and white :

- The Right Reverend Desmond Tutu
- Mr. Louis Luyt
- Mrs. Jeanette Cohen
- Mr. Gibson Thulu (Kwa Zulu urban representative)
- Mr. Sam Motsaenyane (Chairman African Bank)
- Mr. Sheldon Leader (Political Scientist)
- Mr. Adam Smal.

We hope Mr. Sydney Kétridge will agree to be chairman. It is our hope that an outspoken debate will develop in which members of the audience will be asked to participate and that hard concrete thinking will be done about what change really means. We hope to devote the following morning session of Conference to continued discussion of this subject. We can no longer go on calling for change while shying away from the inevitable consequences to our own way of life. We would like you to come prepared to participate in seeking answers to the questions posed including thought on such things as (i) can the free enterprise system survive change to majority rule? (ii) Do we understand that the black demand is for majority rule? Is it inevitable and do we understand the implications? (iii) Can a reconstruction Government hope to command sufficient loyalty in the general population to maintain law and order (iv) Is a socialist or a capitalist system more likely to lead to future stability and development in South Africa? (v) Is this the choice or can we hope for new political thinking? (vi) If so, what?

OPENING MEETING : Mr. Gavin Relly, a director of Anglo American, has agreed to be the speaker at the opening meeting on the night of Monday 14th March at Auden House, de Korte Street, Braamfontein.

WEDNESDAY EVENING : Jean Sinclair, our honorary Life President hopes to welcome you all at a cocktail party for the Press and friends of the Black Sash.

PLEASE WILL ALL THOSE PRESENTING PAPERS HAVE A COPY AVAILABLE AT CONFERENCE FOR THE MAGAZINE AND COPIES FOR THE PRESS AND ALL DELEGATES.

This means you should roneo about 50 copies. If this is difficult for you, please try to send papers to us beforehand and we will do it for you.

Some of you have not yet sent any items for Conference Agenda. If you want things discussed, please let us know as soon as possible.

It is important that all Regions have a chance to discuss matters before conference so that delegates can get some idea of the opinions of members in their Region.

Would all Regions please send us a list of their delegates as soon as they have held their Regional Conferences.

Love to you all,

SHEENA.