

RECEIVED 11 MAY 1977

THE BLACK SASH

CIRCULAR NO 6/1977.

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

503 Lestar House,
58 Marshall Street,
2001 Jhbg.

3rd May, 1977.

Dear All of you,

I hope you have all received the draft minutes of conference. Please let Esther know as soon as possible of any errors, omissions or misrepresentations so that they can be finalised and circulated.

Joyce is doing the summary of the discussion referred to in the minutes and this will reach you shortly. Her summary of Sheldon Leader's talk has already been sent off.

There are a few things which arise from the minutes :

ARCHBISHOP HURLEY'S MOBILISATION FOR PEACE : I outlined this for you last year and refer you to Circular No. 11/1976 of 24th August.

NON-RACIAL RESTAURANTS, CLUBS ETC. : Both the East Rand and West Rand Administration Boards have recently been threatening to take action against Centres of Concern in Church halls and against Church services for blacks being held in White areas. There is no indication as to whether this is a matter of national policy or purely regional action on the Rand by the Boards concerned. Some Churches have stated publicly that they cannot comply with the law. Section 9(7)(b) and (c) of the Urban Areas Act is the Section quoted in notices which have been served. The provisions of this Section are, of course, totally unacceptable to the Black Sash and should any of our own activities (e.g., Saturday Clubs) be similarly affected the action to be taken would have to be decided after consultation between National Headquarters and the executives in each Region. I personally agree wholeheartedly with the stand taken by Churches who feel themselves unable to comply and I hope that all Regions will be ready to offer their support to such Churches should the need arise.

DETAINEE DEATHS : There is another death to be added to the list contained in my previous circular.

ARON KHOSA of Magiso township on the West Rand died on 26th March 1977 aged 35 years. He is alleged to have hanged himself while in detention in terms of Section 6 of the Terrorism Act in Pietermaritzburg. He was detained on 9th December 1976.

BANNED PERSONS On 14th April 1977 the Institute of Race Relations issued a statement that 157 people are presently living under banning orders.

TRANSKEI CITIZENSHIP. We circulated the Conference paper with a covering letter to Cabinet Ministers, selected M.P's, and key people in the private sector in time for the debate on the Bantu Administration debate last week. We have had no acknowledgement from any member of the Government.

LOWER COURTS AMENDMENT BILL : Pat Tucker and the justice action group wrote to the National bodies of Law Societies and Bar Councils about this Bill asking them to take immediate action while the debate is in progress. Pat also issued a very good press statement and had intended to circulate a letter to you designed for you to send to senior members of the legal profession in your Regions. Unfortunately the Bill was discussed in Parliament sooner than we expected and there was no time to carry it through.

Love to you all,

SHEENA.