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CIRCULAR No. 2/1978

THE BLACK SASH

56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
JOHANNESBURG  
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CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS.

THE MAP At our meeting last Wednesday the Committee decided to increase the price of map to R7.50. If you have already sold copies at R6.00, don't worry to collect the difference but those sold in the future must be at the higher price.

I will inform you at once when you can release it to the press. We are hoping to organise a national release on the same day in the S. A. A. N Group but this is not confirmed yet. The press should be given one complimentary copy for each newspaper in your Region but use your discretion and where you think particular reporters or other people should have complimentary copies do give them out. The increased price is mainly to allow for this.

We are duplicating a sales pamphlet and I will let you have copies as soon as they are ready. We only printed 1000 copies of the map and over 400 have been sent out already. It is not really useful to the general public but we are sure that it will be valuable to Universities, concerned employers, the Church, organisations working in the political field, libraries etc., As I said in my last circular you can order them from the Transvaal Region on a sale or return basis.

CONFERENCE. We have decided to invite the Rev. Dr. James Moulder to be the speaker at the opening meeting. Thank you all for sending your suggestions. We chose him because we are confident that he can move our thinking forward and he will be working in Durban this year.

If any further resolutions arise out of your second Regional Conferences, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can begin working on the Agenda.

UNIBELL. Margaret Nash was in Johannesburg this week and showed me some photographs of the devastation, both human and material after the front end loaders moved in. Those of us in other Regions find it hard to visualise the horror of what has been done.

BOPHUTHATSWANA INDEPENDENCE. We have had some tragic cases in the Advice Office this month of Tswana people whose S. A. passports have been withdrawn and who are wanting to get back to school in neighbouring countries or back to their jobs or studies in Europe and the U.S.A, but who cannot do so because (a) according to a press report the Bophuthatswana Government is not yet in a position to issue international passports, and (b) even if they had passports there are great difficulties in obtaining visas because Bophuthatswana is not internationally recognised.

There has also been a tragedy in the areas of Bophuthatswana immediately north of Pretoria where no pensions have been paid this month because, according to Mmabatho, the computer is out of order - the operator has not returned from leave.

We will be discussing the newly independent countries at Conference

Love to you all from all of us,

SHEENA.

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P.S. It has come to my notice that some of you do not think I am serious in stating that I will not accept nomination as National President for the coming year. Please believe me. I gave you my reasons at Conference last year and nothing has happened this year to make me change my mind. Please give serious thought to your nominations.

I am convinced that it is absolutely necessary to have a wide selection of people with experience of leadership and that to remain vital we must have constantly changing priorities and new thrusts at regular intervals. Times have changed and I believe it is very important that the Black Sash is not to be identified with one individual when we have so many exciting women who contribute to our thinking and our direction. I am one track minded about pass laws and advice offices, and quite ignorant of and insensitive to many other trends and factors.

We were lucky to have my mother to encourage, prod, inspire and lead us through all those years when without her the Black Sash would have disintegrated but I am not a political animal like she is and we are now in a situation where it is essential to respond to one crisis after another and I am not capable of finding new responses at 24 hour intervals. We have enjoyed very real shared leadership in this Region ever since Ma retired and I would like to see this becoming our habit before absolute power corrupts me entirely. So think about it.

SHALOM

Sheena.