

THE BLACK SASH  
CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

CIRCULAR NO. 14/1979.

56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
JOHANNESBURG  
1st November, 1979.

Dear Everyone,,

National Conference : Legal advice regarding the possible amendment of our Constitution to extend our membership to ex-South African citizens is that there are good grounds for leaving the Constitution as it is. If you are agreeable we shall let the matter rest there.

Transvaal Region is anxious to know as soon as possible what accommodation will be required by delegates to Conference. I realise that you have not yet elected your delegates, but please bear in mind that hotel accommodation is at a premium and if you will be requiring it in preference to private accommodation the sooner we know about it the better.

Please let me know whether you are satisfied with the suggested list of speakers for the opening night, so that I can issue an invitation.

FACT PAPERS. At its Regional Conference Transvaal Region decided to present fact papers on a comparison of issues covered in Post and the English Press; a comparison between promises of change and what has actually happened; rural poverty; a Bill of Rights; Nel's Dairies; and background information on the dole.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION. Security Legislation and bannings of organisations and individuals.

Commission on Security Legislation : As I have had no comment from Regions our Memorandum will be presented to the Commission after it has been vetted by a Sub-Committee.

Constitution Campaign : Inkatha chose to make public its withdrawal from our informal group because of its anger with a member who had insulted Chief Buthelezi. I am presently trying to mend the rift, but it won't be easy.

Removals : I wrote to Dr. Koornhof about the enforced removals from the Batlokwa area near Pietersburg to the effect that words which contradict deeds are counter-productive and that the people should be permitted to remain where they are and wish to be. We are presently investigating possible ways of supporting the two further chiefs whose people are threatened with removal, but there doesn't seem to be any way of preventing the Government from doing what it sets out to do. However, we must try:

Prime Minister : I decided to withhold the letter to the Prime Minister (Circular 12/1979), because there were strong differences of opinion within Sash, and although I personally regarded it as a tactic and certainly not an infringement of principle I did not feel sufficiently strongly about it to persevere.

Business Lobby :/---

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Business Lobby : A letter is being sent to selected prominent businessmen who have been invited to participate in the Prime Minister's consultation on the economy of the country in November. A copy is enclosed.

S.A.C.C. We were all deeply distressed by the implicit threat to Bishop Tutu and the S.A.C.C in the statement by the Minister of Police, Mr. Le. Grange. I wrote a letter which was published in the RDM in support of the S.A.C.C and the Bishop, phoned the Bishop and also Dr. Slabbert, suggesting that the P.F.P make a statement. He told me he intended doing so, and has since done so in one of his speeches to the Edenvale Constituency.

Nel's Dairies : One of our members has uncovered what appears to be exploitation of employees by Nels Dairies, and we distributed a leaflet in some of our shopping centres on Saturday morning. A copy is enclosed. Unfortunately the promised exposure by the Sunday Times did not materialise.

SASH : Good News! Pat Tucker and Marian Nell have agreed to edit the February issue jointly and to produce a magazine with a difference. We are delighted. Please remember that any discussion at Conference on the whole issue of the magazine must be accompanied by a mock-up, so that we won't be talking in a vacuum.

I.Y.C. Pat Tucker is still waiting in vain for examples from your Advice Office of the violations of the U.N. Charter for Children's Rights, and cannot write the booklet commissioned by Conference last year without the material.

Premises : We have decided to take the accommodation offered us by the S.A.C.C in its newly acquired building, Khotso House, in De Villiers Street. The rent is higher than we can afford but we have very little choice and at least we're unlikely to be asked to remove ourselves as has always happened in the past. We shall be moving our equipment after we close for the recess in December, but our opening might be delayed in January because of alterations to the building.

Please remember that when I act, make statements or write letters in my official capacity I do so in the name of the Black Sash, and that means all of you. Some feed-back would really be appreciated.

My love to you all,

*Joyce*

JOYCE HARRIS.  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.