

THE BLACK SASH

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 1978

DURBAN, MARCH 14th to MARCH 16th, 1978

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1st FEBRUARY 1977 to 31st JANUARY, 1978

Political events in Soweto are reflected in the figures for the number of people coming to the office for assistance, which figures are attached to this report. It is also useful to look back at previous years.

In May 1976 there was a total of 406 interviews. In July 1976 (after the riots starting on 16th June) there were only 261 interviews. The numbers crept up again with normal seasonal fluctuations to 609 in August, a drop in September to 495 with an unprecedented leap to 743 in November after the 19th October bannings.

Another useful comparison is shown in the following table :

TOTAL INTERVIEWS FOR THE MONTHS NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

1974/75	1590
1975/76	1199
1976/77	963
1977/78	1748

We have chosen these particular months because the pressure is always greatest in December and January; with the beginning of the New Year, workers losing jobs at the end of the previous year and the large number of school leavers entering the labour market and urgently needing reference books and permits.

The low figure for 1976/77 reflects the spirit of optimism in the black community that things were really changing, that pass laws and permits would soon become a thing of the past and, in many cases, a determination not to have anything to do with the system.

The enormous increase of 785 interviews for the same months in the year under review seems to reflect depression, hopelessness and pessimism but it is hard to estimate how much of this is due to the crackdown of 19th October and how much to the unemployment and poverty resulting from the current economic recession.

POLITICAL CONTROL

In last year's annual report we mentioned the pass laws in relation to the political control they enable the authorities to exert over the black population. In the past year this has become even more evident. The teenage, early twenty group, seem to have been a particular target for extreme severity and bureaucratic obstructiveness on the part of the authorities.

Tebogo M. is 18 years old and has a reference book. His name is enumerated on his father's house permit and he is shown there as qualifying in terms of Section 10(1)(a) (birth and continuous residence in the area) but when he went to the Superintendent to have his scholar's permit endorsed in his reference book he was ordered to report to the Influx Control Officer. This official then demanded that he make an affidavit setting out his life history.

Similarly /2

Similarly, Victor M., who was born in Johannesburg and has a birth certificate and who has been enumerated on the house permit since he was three years old was told to bring a life history affidavit before his first reference book could be issued.

Kutin S. has a birth certificate and has been on his parents' house permit since 1960. The Labour Officer refused to register him as a work-seeker until he produced his school letters in spite of being told several times that Kutin has never attended school at all.

We have had dozens of similar complaints.

L. M and B are three teenage daughters who have always lived legally in Johannesburg. The Superintendent suddenly issued their father with a new residential permit from which their names had been removed and told them to "go to the farms". Fortunately they knew where they could get help in appealing against this unlawful action and we are confident that their rights to remain with their father will be restored to them.

A very direct example of political intimidation occurred when an elderly man was called to his Superintendent's office. His son has been convicted of an offence under the Terrorism Act and has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment. The conversation went like this - "Your son is in prison". "Yes, I know he is." "Because of this the Government says you must leave your house and go back to Newcastle where you were born." This seems to have been designed merely to intimidate because he was given no notice in writing to vacate his house as demanded by the Regulations nor was any endorsement put in his reference book ordering him to leave the area.

SECTION 29

We believe that the new amendments to this Section of the Urban Areas Consolidation Act must be seen in the light of what has been said above. It is hard to believe that there could be any other motivation, in view of the current unemployment crisis, which makes any enforcement of this iniquitous Section both irrational and immoral. The Bantu Labour Regulations say that any black man who is permitted to be in a prescribed area "shall within three days after becoming unemployed or within fourteen days of attaining the age of fifteen years or ceasing to be full-time pupil or student at an educational institution, have himself registered as a workseeker at the local Labour Bureau...." Those young men who are no longer at school can be declared to be "idle" if they do not so register and can thus be removed from the urban areas, sent to a work colony for two years and stripped of their Section 10 rights.

The present operation of this law is frightful in its effects and punishes a whole family because the breadwinner has committed the "crime" of not being lawfully employed. It will be very much worse when the amendments come into effect.

Phillip K. has a Johannesburg birth certificate and has always lived lawfully in the area but he is in trouble because he did not register as a workseeker immediately upon leaving school at the end of 1975. The Labour Officer is now refusing to register him and Section 29 is a very real threat.

Mr. F.P.D. became unemployed in August 1975. He kept his workseeker's registrations up to date but when he went to renew the endorsement on 9th September 1976 he was warned that he would be arrested under Section 29 if he did not immediately get work. He was then too frightened to go back to the Labour Bureau and when he found a job in January 1977 was unable to insist that his employers register him, which they refused to take the trouble to do. He worked for six months for them and, because he was not registered, they did not bother to register him as a contributor to the Unemployment Insurance Fund either. By the time he came to us in August 1977 he was in a state of acute anxiety and unable to see any way out.

Mr. W.R.S. lost his job on 23rd December 1976. He reported to the Labour Bureau regularly to register and was not offered any job of any kind. When he

reported on 27th October 1977, the word "FINAL" was written into his workseeker's permit and he was told he would be jailed if he did not have a job by 27th November 1977. He qualifies to remain in Johannesburg in terms of Section 10(1)(a) and is the registered tenant of his house in Soweto.

Mr. T. came to the office when he was released from the farm colony at Voortrekkerhoogte after serving twelve months there. He had lost his house in Soweto and his Section 10(1)(b) rights. He was declared to be "idle" because he had not been in registered employment for three years before his arrest. He had been supporting his family and earning a good living by studying form on the race tracks and betting on horses - a perfectly legal activity. He claimed that when he was taken before the Bantu Affairs Commissioner he was not asked to say anything but that the Commissioner just houted "Section 29, Escort!".

BOPHUTATSWANA AND TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE

As the South African Government's policy unfolds the horror of what it means to individuals to be stripped of their South African citizenship is demonstrated to all those who work in the Advice Office. Many people do not realise that they are foreigners until they are refused issue of a reference book and are told to take a passport. There is a two year period from the date of independence before Transkei and Bophutatswana citizens will be forced to apply for passports but new reference books are refused and passports issued to those who are applying for the first time and to those who are applying for a duplicate reference book. Those who are applying for South African travel documents or international passports are, of course, refused and told to apply for documents from their "own country."

There is enormous anger and we have not yet come across any urban person who welcomes independence.

The "privileges" which Mr. M.C. Botha promised to these new foreigners seem to be privileges only in comparison to other foreigners from the B.S.L. countries and from Malawi and Rhodesia. We have had no evidence of any privileges being accorded to Transkei or Bophutatswana citizens in employment, housing, or the opportunity to live in stable conditions with their families. The pass laws remain the same for them as for all other black people.

Section 10 rights are preserved for those who were born before the date of independence, but the new amendment to Section 12 of the Urban Areas Act ensures that all those born after independence in towns in the Republic will have no legally enforceable rights and will only be permitted to remain if given permission to do so by the Labour Officer. Anyone whose labour is not required by the South African economy will have no legal protection against deportation to a foreign country which they may never have seen and of which they have no knowledge. There are large numbers of people who do not know if their families originated in any of the areas which are now demarcated as homelands and whose family traditions have taught them that they have always been in the so-called white areas.

The promised arrangements for Bophutatswana citizens to be able to renounce their citizenship after independence do not give them the RIGHT to do so. They must first apply to a non-independent homeland to be accepted as a citizen of that homeland and, if accepted, they may apply

to the South African government to be allowed to resume their South African citizenship. The final decision therefore remains in the hands of a Government which has stated that there will be NO black South Africans so it seems likely that such applications as are granted will be of very temporary effect and will merely delay the process for an individual for a limited period.

Mr. K. wants to take his 14 year old son to school in Swaziland. He was refused a South African travel document and told to take a Bophutatswana one because he is a Tswana. He is furiously angry and says he would rather his son had no education if the price is to be acknowledgment of his foreign status.

K. and D. are two teenage girls who last August were stating quite categorically that they would have nothing to do with pass laws or permits. Now they have been brought face to face with the realities of the situation. Both have been in boarding school in Lesotho and when they went to renew their South African travel documents in January in order to return to school for the new term they were told to take Bophutatswana documents because "you are foreigners". (It seems the Bantu Affairs Commissioner loses no opportunity of rubbing it in) The Bophutatswana Government was "not in a position to issue such documents" - on 12th January, more than a month after independence, so they were late for the beginning of the term and had to make special arrangements with the Government of Lesotho which does not recognise Bophutatswana.

Mrs. S. has been working in a European country since 1974. She came home for Christmas and decided to take her 12 year old daughter back with her. She handed in her South African passport to have the child included. It was valid to 1980 but was withdrawn and ^{she} was told she was now a citizen of Bophutatswana and must apply for a passport from that country. When one of the Advice Office workers telephoned the Bantu Affairs Commissioner merely to enquire the address of the Bophutatswana Consulate in Johannesburg she was harangued about how he would not tolerate third party interference between his Department and "the Bantu", the address was refused and he slammed down the telephone. Later, having discovered that the Consulate would eventually open in the Landdrost Hotel towards the end of January, Mrs. S. was able to return to her job one month late with documents which are recognised nowhere in the world. Fortunately she has nearly acquired citizenship by naturalisation of the country where she has been working so she will not have to remain a citizen of a country she rejects for very long and South Africa has lost yet another skilled professional worker.

HOMELANDS CITIZENSHIP

Independence has caused many problems of citizenship for people who are now Xhosa or Tswana but have still to prove their citizenship of another homeland in terms of the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act of 1970. This Act has been largely ignored by black people in the so-called white areas until now because it seemed to them irrelevant. This Act stated that every black person is a citizen of one homeland or another according to his birth, parentage, language or cultural associations.

Mrs. M.N. has been endorsed out of Johannesburg and her appeal has been disallowed by the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner. She came from Ga-Rankuwa in Bophutatswana to Johannesburg to live with her 10(1)(a) husband in 1971. Her permit to be in Ga-Rankuwa was cancelled at the time of her marriage in 1971 and they will not have her back there because she is not a Tswana. She has nowhere at all where she may legally be.

J. and G. are twins. They are young men whose parents are both classified as being Coloured. They were born and grew up in Alexandra Township but went to Transkei to school, where they were instructed to take out

reference books. They were then classified as Xhosa and are now said to be citizens of Transkei. They are both politically conscious and refuse to apply to be reclassified as "Coloured" because they are black but equally they are not culturally or otherwise associated with Xhosa people. They are now awaiting the result of their applications to be recognised as South African citizens,

Zolo M. was born in the Ciskei but he was orphaned very young and went to live in Lebowa (N. Sotho homeland) with an aunt who had married an Ndebele man. He grew up there from 1953 but when he tried to register there as a work-seeker - as the law compels him to do - he was refused because he is a Xhosa. He speaks Pedi and would prefer to have Lebowa citizenship if he has to have some homelands citizenship. He is at present squatting at Winterveldt in Bophutatswana and has nowhere to register as a workseeker - which the law compels him to do - and without registration he has no hope of being employed.

FOREIGNERS

, Black people who are citizens of neighbouring countries are finding it more difficult than ever before to register in their employment because of the plentiful supply of local labour. One often hears the argument that we must be concerned first with South African citizens but it must be remembered that many of these men and women have worked hard and faithfully in the Republic for many years and that, had they been white, they would have been accepted as South African citizens long ago. They too are adversely affected by the new amendment to Section 12 of the Urban Areas Act. Up to this time, a child of foreign parents who was born in South Africa has been able to claim rights in terms of Section 10. Now that the wording of the Section is to be changed from "not born in the Republic" to "is not a South African citizen" they will only be allowed to remain if given permission to do so and will have no rights.

Young Mr. K. is a citizen of Lesotho who was born in Johannesburg and lived continuously and lawfully here since his birth. He therefore can now claim that he is entitled to remain in Johannesburg in terms of Section 10(1)(a). When he first entered the labour market he was "ordered to return to Lesotho". Because of his legal rights he was able to contest this order and was registered in his employment. When the new amendment is promulgated his rights no longer exist and when he leaves his present job he may well be ordered to leave the Republic again, in which case he will have no means of ensuring that the order is rescinded.

These things are in strange contrast to the new legislation which will force South African citizenship on to new white immigrants under the age of 25 years.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The one cheerful item in this whole report is the marked improvement in the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Claims in the Witwatersrand area are being dealt with efficiently and swiftly. There are still many complaints from rural areas but the Unemployment Insurance Commissioner in Pretoria can be relied upon to investigate and deal with all which are brought to his attention.

The many people who have come to us with Unemployment Insurance problems are nearly always in difficulties either because their employers have not fulfilled their obligations in terms of the Act or because they themselves have not understood the procedures.

There is a great need for information to be given to employers and for greater severity in penalising those who do not comply. There is also a great need for simple information to be disseminated to workers about their rights and correct procedures.

The Act itself is far from adequate and in a crisis such as the present one it is evident that the maximum period of 26 weeks during which benefits will be paid does not provide sufficient social security. We have seen many people whose benefits are exhausted and who have not yet been able to find a job. There is then nothing at all for them to fall back on and nothing between them and hunger and homelessness.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE PASS LAWS

The pass laws are aggravating the unemployment crisis to a severe extent and are stifling the initiative of jobless people who find work for themselves. They are an intolerable burden to those whom they prevent from finding means of economic survival.

Mr. R.D.T. was born in Kimberley. He left that town in 1961 and worked in one job in Krugersdorp from 1961 to 1975. Since 1975 he has had a good skilled job in Roodepoort but cannot be registered because Kimberley will not attest a contract for him as they say he no longer belongs there. Roodepoort will not register him because they say he belongs in Kimberley. He is going to lose his work because it is illegal for his employers to continue to employ him. Because he cannot be registered he will find it impossible to find a new job in spite of the high level of skill he has acquired and his excellent record.

Mr. V.T. is the tenant of a house in Standerton and qualified there as 10(1)(a). In 1968 he was registered to work for the Railways in Standerton and in 1973 was transferred by them to work in Johannesburg. He is still employed by them but the Labour Officer has told him that they cannot continue because Standerton is not a recruiting area for Johannesburg. He must give up his job and go back to Standerton.

Mr. S.M. is a migrant worker who up to now has worked on annual contracts as a flat cleaner. He has been refused permission to attest a contract in a new job he has found himself because he is classified as a domestic worker and is not allowed to move out of the category.

Mr. C.A.N. has worked in Johannesburg since 1938 but lost his qualifications in 1968 when he was ill and went back to his home in Natal for more than a year. Since then he has had to work on annual contracts. Since 1970 he has worked for a bank in Johannesburg but in 1975 they neglected to renew his contract. Because of this they have now been refused permission to register him and have been told that he must go back to Natal and they must fill the vacancy thus created from local labour.

Mr. S. is a university graduate, who started his career working in the hotel trade. In November he was offered a job at R420 per month in commerce but was refused registration because he was placed in the hotel category and is not allowed to change.

Mr. W.M.M. comes from Witsieshoek and has been working on contract in Johannesburg since 1964. His wife and six children live lawfully with her parents in Soweto. He was retrenched in July 1977 and is not allowed to look for work in Johannesburg. The law demands that he return to Witsieshoek and waits there to be offered a job by a recruiting agent.

Mr. A.G. has been earning a living in his own small concern as a photograph tinter and had a thriving trade in the hostels. He was ordered to leave the area and return to his homeland because he is not allowed to be self-employed. It is unlikely that his skill will enable him to survive in his home area where the unemployment and poverty are such that no one has money for any kind of luxury spending.

Mrs. Z. is a widow with five dependent children. She came from Kwa Zulu in July 1977 to look for work to support them because she could find no work at home. She has a job and a reasonable wage but was found by the inspectors and endorsed out.

Mr. Justice Steyn has said that the lifting of the pass laws in Namibia has created unemployment. Lifting the pass laws does not create unemployment it merely makes existing unemployment visible to the authorities and to the white community. In the Republic unemployment and under-employment has been a crisis for many years but, because the unemployed are not allowed to remain in urban areas or to move to towns to seek work, the crisis has only become "visible" when it began to affect urban dwellers.

The Physical Planning Act is also responsible for aggravating unemployment. One employer informed us that in October 1977 he was forced to discharge 25 men when his quota of black men was reduced from 82 to 57. Such insane action taken for ideological reasons when unemployment is a national crisis is incomprehensible. The recent announcement that employers will be allowed to exceed their quotas by employing youths between the ages of 16 and 20 is welcome, but it would be very much more constructive to lift the restrictions altogether so that the fathers of these young people could find work in order to be able to afford to pay for further education and training for their sons.

RENT EVICTIONS

Because of the lack of social security, losing a job can also mean losing one's home and this is one of the most tragic effects of unemployment. Losing a house in South Africa's black townships does not merely mean having to move to a smaller, cheaper dwelling. It means being rendered literally homeless.

Nothing has been done in the last year in the West Rand Administration Board area to alleviate the critical shortage of accommodation. (See attached fact sheet on the housing position in Soweto) The overcrowding and pressure on available space is so great that a family evicted from a house has little hope of finding anywhere to live with any privacy or decency and in many cases they cannot even find shelter. In addition they often lose their furniture as well. It is removed from the house by the Board's officials when the eviction takes place and, after a few weeks stacked up in a neighbour's yard exposed to the Highveld elements, often becomes totally irreparable.

Spokesmen for the Board have said that people who cannot pay the rent because they are unemployed will be treated with sympathy and consideration and will be assisted to find new employment. This has not been the experience of the more than 80 evicted families we have seen in recent months.

Mrs. R. is a divorced woman who was made the registered tenant of her house after her divorce was finalised. She lost her job and was unable to pay her rent. The arrears mounted until she owed R126. On 31st August 1977 she was given notice that she will be evicted if she did not pay in full within seven days. She paid R30 of her debt that day. On 16th September 1977 she was evicted. She was told by an official that if she paid all she owed she would be given another house. She

paid the remaining amount of R96 on 18th October and was then told that no houses are available and that she will not be accepted back on to the waiting list because she has no husband.

Mr. K. was also promised another house after his eviction if he paid his debt. He did so and was also told that there are no houses.

Mr. T.D.M. was retrenched in September 1976. He did not find a new job until March 1977 by which time he owed R164 arrears rent. He paid R62,60 in June and in July he offered the Superintendent R50. The Superintendent refused to accept this because it was not the full amount. He paid the full amount on 3rd October and was evicted on 5th October.

Mrs. K. fell into arrears with her rent and went to the Superintendent's office to discuss her problems with him. The clerks would not let her in to see him.

Mr. and Mrs. M. have seven children. He has TB and is unemployed. She is the sole breadwinner and her wage would not stretch to paying the rent and buying food. They owed R60,60 and were evicted. When they came to see us on 19th August they had paid the rent in full (having borrowed the money) on the day after the eviction but had not been allowed to move back into the house and the whole family was sleeping in the street.

Mr. K. was in arrears with his rent and received a notice to report to the Superintendent. He was too frightened to go. He had been unemployed but had just found new work and said he would be able to pay off his debt in instalments.

Mrs. N. is a widow and was living in an overcrowded house with her 100 year old mother, her five grown up children and nine grandchildren. Her two sons lost their jobs and the family fell into arrears with the rent to the amount of R140. One daughter found work in the middle of September and Mrs. N. paid R40 to the Superintendent and told him she could pay off the rest in instalments. They were evicted three days later. The old great grandmother spent the next three months sleeping in the Johannesburg railway station at night and living on pavements in town during the day. Mrs. N. and her three youngest children slept wherever they could, often outside, and the rest of the family scattered in Soweto. In December, after press publicity and endless visits to the Board offices, the family was given another house.

The rent issue has also caused other troubles to families.

Mrs. A. is a widow and owed one month's rent. She was summoned by the Superintendent in this connection. He then discovered that her three children were in boarding school in Natal, coming back to Johannesburg for school holidays. He told her she could not live in the house alone and evicted her.

Some evicted people have stated to us that new tenants for the house have arrived immediately after the original family and its belongings have been removed to the street and have shown them receipts for payment of the arrear rentals. They maintain that the new tenants have been asked to pay the arrears as a condition of being allowed to move into the house. In some case arrears owed have been paid twice, by the evicted tenant and the new tenant. In some cases we have been shown receipts for the amount owed which has been paid by the new tenant. It has been impossible to take this matter up with the Board because, with one exception, the new tenants are not prepared to make any complaint in case the house they have been waiting for for seven or eight years is taken away from them. They are fearful of the Superintendent's power and there seems to be little trust or confidence reposed in officials of the Board.

One man who had been on the waiting list since July 1971 was offered a house in August 1977. He told us that the Superintendent had asked him to pay R190 which was the arrears owed by the previous tenant. He

managed to collect R130 but the Superintendent refused to accept this and said he had told Mr. X to bring the full amount. The house was given to someone else. Mr. X would not make any statement about this because he was still homeless and did not want to prejudice his chances of being given another house. He was given a three-roomed house a few months later and moved in without incident. However, in December he was summoned to the Superintendent and was asked to pay R49 owed by the previous tenant. Mr. X had by this time had enough. He told his story to a newspaper which investigated. They were told that a mistake had been made and, of course, Mr. X was under no obligation to pay someone else's debt. There had been a clerical error. Apologies were proffered and no further demands were made upon him.

Mr. V.D. was given a house in August. He showed us a receipt for R126,00 on which was written "money accepted on V's request for tenancy of house. Arrears after ejection." Mr. D. refused to seek redress because he said the Superintendent was doing him a favour.

Mrs. M. is a widow. She owed R68,00 and was evicted on 18th August 1977. She paid the R68,00 on the day the eviction took place but the house was not restored to her. Her family was camped in the street outside the house when the new tenants arrived. She stated that they showed her a receipt for R68,00 which they had paid to the Superintendent.

GENERAL HOUSING PROBLEMS

Over 14% of the people coming to us for the first time had housing problems. The re-introduced leasehold scheme does not appear to be reducing the shortage of accommodation to any material extent. During 1977 only 422 family housing units were built in Soweto (Hansard questions 3.2.78). Of those some must have been used for the resettlement of already housed families from Alexandra (see below) and others have presumably been erected by the Board for leasehold purchasers.

The moving of families from the top of the waiting list into houses which have become vacant because the previous tenants owed rent merely houses one family by rendering another homeless and does nothing to alleviate the shortage.

Mrs. H., her husband and their six children have been on the waiting list since 1971. She was told at the Board's offices that the waiting list for the Nguni section is still being dealt with at the 1969 level.

The N family has been on the waiting list since 1st September 1971. The wife lives in a women's hostel and two of their children are illegally there with her. The third child is at boarding school. The husband lives in a men's hostel. They went to ask in October last year when a house would be available and were told that there are no houses.

Mr. M. has been on the waiting list since 22nd January 1970. He has a wife and three children who are eleven, nine and four years respectively. He lodges in a house where there are 17 people living in four rooms and there is no room there for his wife and children. They have lodgings in a house elsewhere where there is no room for him.

None of these people, nor the majority of the thousands of others in the same position, can afford to purchase a house built for them.

The shortage leads to many tragic personal and community abuses.

Mr. E.V. lived in his parent's house. When they died he was told to marry in order to keep the house so he married his aunt. He now has a customary union wife and children but he cannot divorce his aunt in order to marry his real wife because she comes from Louis Trichardt and has no chance of being given permission to live with him. If he did undertake this course of action he would lose his house because his wife cannot live legally in the area. If he dies his real wife will not be able to claim his Unemployment or Pension Fund benefits as these will legally go to his aunt.

Mr. S. also lived in his parents' house but it was put into his name when they died because he was already married. He took in a family as lodgers. His wife then went to study overseas and was due to return at the end of 1977. The lodgers went to report to the Superintendent that his wife was not living in the house with him in the hopes that it would be taken away from him and given to them.

Mrs. M. is a very old lady whose husband deserted her in January 1977. She and her adult son continued in the house until August 1977, when she was told to vacate the house and move into a hostel. Her son, who is not married, is also to move to single male quarters. She does not know what to do with her furniture, which represents a life time's savings and is her only asset.

Similarly, Mr. V.J.M. and his unmarried son were ordered to leave their home because his wife had died.

There has been one very welcome relaxation in recent months. The Department of Plural Relations and Development has announced that qualified men who own their own homes or for whom employers provide suitable accommodation may bring their wives into the area to live with them.

This will be of great assistance to such men as can afford to buy or build their own homes. The concession is also extended to qualified men who become permit holders in houses following on the deaths of their fathers.

The Department has also announced that the Regulations are to be amended to allow security of tenure to people who have bought their homes.

THE ALEXANDRA REMOVALS

We have written at length elsewhere about the resettlement of people from Alexandra. All family housing in this township is being demolished and is to be replaced by hostels for so-called "single" men and women. The process has been continuing for many years now but action was suspended for approximately three years, presumably because of lack of funds. However, in September 1977 removals recommenced and the ruthless separation of families is now going on apace.

The authorities in Alexandra have refused to issue family permits for a long time now so one finds situations like that of Mr. and Mrs. P. who have lived together in Alexandra since 1938, when their customary union marriage took place. They married by civil rites in 1968 in an attempt to obtain family accommodation. This was still refused and Mr. P was issued with a single permit at one address, while his wife had a single permit at another address. They are therefore on the Board's books as single persons. In November Mr. P was given notice that he was to ready himself to be removed to the City Deep Compound.

Mr. J.M. has family responsibilities of another kind. He had a single permit and is ordered to City Deep Compound. His old mother, who has lived in Alexandra since 1940, is dependent upon him but the authorities have always refused to enumerate her on his permit. Now he is to be removed to a place where she is not allowed to go, the house is to be demolished and she does not know what is to become of her or her furniture. She weeps.

Mr. M. has lived in Alexandra since 1945 and worked for the Johannesburg Municipality for 28 years. His wife has been in Alexandra since 1949 but has never had a permit. Their home was demolished in November and they and their children moved to live under an old motor car.

Miss M. has lived in Alexandra since she was born. In 1972 when she was 20, her parents were resettled to Tembisa. The Superintendent refused to put her on the permit because he said her father was too old to have sired a child in 1952. She therefore remained in Alexandra with her

brother who has a single permit. The house was to be demolished and when she went to the Township Manager to ask for accommodation for herself and her children, she was endorsed out.

Mrs.M.T. is a "superfluous appendage". She is an old widow with no children. When Sophiatown was demolished she moved to Alexandra. Now Alexandra is being demolished she has nowhere to move to.

FAMILIES AND THE PASS LAWS

Apart from the changes mentioned under Housing Problems above, there has been no move to relax the pass laws to avoid the disruption of family life. The laws are being enforced as vigorously as ever and the Advice Office has continued to deal with the multitude of difficulties which have been detailed in our previous reports.

Mr. D.W. N. is a qualified man who lives in his parents' house in Soweto. His wife and two children were refused permission to live with him because she comes from Natal. When he protested he was told that he should have married someone from Johannesburg.

Mrs. M. and her husband are both working lawfully in Johannesburg and both reside lawfully in their respective parents' homes. The Superintendent refused to give them a joint permit to lodge together in the same house with their children until they both established Section 10 qualifications.

Miss M.V.C. is registered in the East Rand Administration Board area and lives lawfully in Tembisa with her mother. Her grandfather, who is 80 years old, lives in Soweto with a disabled son and she wanted to move to live in his house in order to care for them both. Permission was refused.

Miss M. was away at boarding school when her parents were given a house so her name was not included on the permit. Because of this she cannot register in employment. She is unable to take any steps to establish her right to remain in Johannesburg in terms of Section 10(1)(a) because her father died two years ago and her mother has never reported his death for fear of losing the house. She would have no hope of being able to remain in the house with her minor children because she does not qualify as 10(1)(a) or (b). Any investigation into her daughter's position would lead to discovery of the father's death.

The Superintendent refuses to put the names of Mrs.M's two children on her husband's house permit because he says they are "too old". One is nine and the other two. Both were born in Johannesburg and have certificates to prove it.

I.M. is seventeen years old. He was ordered to leave the Republic and to go to Botswana. He was born there in 1960 when his mother went to bury her uncle. Both his parents are Botswana citizens who have been lawfully in the Republic for many years. They have a house in Soweto and his name is on their permit. He has been continuously in Johannesburg since he was two months old.

BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDES

Far from there being any improvement in the attitude of officials towards members of the public there seems to be increased arrogance and general obstructiveness. People complain that they are treated with great rudeness, that they are humiliated and that they are denied access to senior officials to whom they wish to submit applications. Few and far between are reports of civil servants who are approachable and can be relied upon to give sympathetic consideration to a person's submissions or requests. The attitude of the Department of Plural Relations was set out concisely in a letter to an attorney by the Bantu Affairs Commissioner "May I draw your attention to the policy of my Department: The intervention of third parties (including Attorneys) in Administrative matters is not permitted."

As legal rights are removed all matters relating to black people become administrative matters.

In this connection we have stopped keeping statistics of people whose cases have been successfully closed. They are so inaccurate as to have become quite meaningless. One reason for the lack of report back from those who have been successful became evident when a man, who had for six years been denied his 10(1)(b) rights and forced to work as an annual migrant came back triumphantly to show us the 10(1)(b) endorsement on his reference book. He said the Labour Officer had ordered him never to come to our offices again. Not many people are brave enough to defy a threat like that when the Labour Officer wields enormous power over their lives.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Once more we acknowledge with gratitude the enormous amount of work shouldered by our legal adviser, whose selfless and generous giving of his time and concern has been of inestimable value to people in trouble.

Our thanks also go to the Legal Aid Bureau, the Industrial Aid Society, the Quaker Service Fund and Ekutuleni, to all of whom we can refer people whose problems lie outside our field of knowledge, knowing that they will find help and support.

STAFF

It would be impossible for us to continue at all without the magnificent, selfless and dedicated service given by our staff. Margaret Kirk, Ingrid Kekane, Mabel Makoabutlane and Thakane Pholosi have worked long hours without reward and without complaint and we thank them. Our voluntary workers, notably Elizabeth Rowe who shoulders enormous responsibility, give cheerfully of their time and come back for more, after frequently being reduced to the point of exhaustion. We also thank Henrietta Moabi and David Rathswaffo who help on a voluntary basis several days a week.

VISITORS

Scores of overseas visitors - churchmen, pressmen, politicians and researchers - have come to the office during the past year. It is a great pity that white South Africans almost never come. Those few who do go away with a new understanding of what separate development really means to the majority of the people who live here.

OFFICE PREMISES

We were forced to move from our offices in Lestar House in November. We were fortunate to find new premises in an old building in the centre of the city where we are conveniently situated and comfortably housed.

EXPANSION: During the year, due to Esther Levitan's enthusiasm, members of the Black Sash have been working every day at the Hypertension Clinic at Non-European Hospital, Johannesburg, at the request of one of the doctors. This is an effort to alleviate some of the anxieties experienced by urban people, anxieties which aggravate their physical health. We also have a small outpost run by Leslie Martin at a Mission house in Hillbrow; at the moment this is only one afternoon a week.

February, 1978
56 Victory House,
34 Harrison Street,
JOHANNESBURG, 2001

SHEENA DUNCAN
ADVICE OFFICE DIRECTOR

THE BLACK SASH

JOHANNESBURG ADVICE OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1ST FEBRUARY 1977 to 31ST JANUARY 1978.

Working days : 239

Average number of interviews per day : 28,8

There were 1960 New Cases	which involved 3029 Interviews
do 1252 Continuing Cases	do 1808 do
do 1881 Inquiries	do 2055 do
<u>TOTAL 5093</u>	<u>TOTAL 6892</u>

(The above figures do not include hundreds of queries received by post and by telephone).

A N A L Y S I S.

<u>PROBLEM</u>	<u>NEW CASES AND ENQUIRIES</u>	<u>MONTHLY TOTALS OF ALL INTERVIEWS</u>		
Ordered to leave the area	304	February	637	31,85 per day
Issue of Reference Books	272	March	680	29,57 do
Correction of names in Reference Books	147	April	468	24,6 do
Residential Permits	638 ¹	May	505	25,25 do
Housing	538 ²	June	557	25,3 do
Work Permits	284	July	583	27,8 do
Section 10 qualifications	166	August	609	26,5 do
Foreigners	134	September	495	23,6 do
Contract Worker problems	110	October	610	30,5 do
Unemployment Insurance	183	November	743	33,8 do
Pensions	121	December/ January	1005	35,9 do
Transkei citizens	164			
Bophuthatswana citizens	35			
Complaints about employers	139			
Miscellaneous	573			
Ex Prisoners	26			
Homeland Citizenship	7			

309 of the above were married couples who cannot get permission to live together.