

Dear Member,

While the machine of beach apartheid grinds on, gallantly opposed by the City Council, we have been profoundly shocked by the proclamation of the greater part of District Six as a White area, and the knowledge of the misery and suffering that this will mean to thousands of human beings. An official letter was sent to the Press by the Sash, and there have been a number of letters from members protesting in their own names against this outrageous measure. The Black Sash was represented at a lunch hour meeting of protest called by Dr. Wollheim in the Drill Hall. The attendance was estimated at 2,000, and the speakers were Mr. Honikman, the Rev. Basil Brown, Sheik Naziem Mohammed, Mrs. Stoy and Cr. Daniels. A resolution condemning the Proclamation and calling upon the Government to withdraw it was unanimously passed.

At the December meeting of ALL BRANCHES Father McBride spoke of reconciliation and the need to overcome evil with good in a spirit of love. He recommended the following books: "Strength to love" by Rev. Martin Luther King; "Black like me" by John Griffiths; "The Primal Vision", a study of African thought. These are obtainable at the Church Bookshop. Mrs. Birt has suggested various ways of implementing reconciliation and forging links with our neighbours, such as joining a multi-racial film society, initiating tree planting in the Townships, and attending plays there.

At the February meeting Mrs. Stoy read a speech written by Chief Victor Poto for the Council Meetings of the Institute of Race Relations, on "The Social and Political implications of Apartheid".

AN EXTRAORDINARY REGIONAL CONFERENCE will be held at the All Branches meeting on Monday April 4th, at 12 p.m., for the purpose of discussing changes in the Constitution. Branches are entitled to send delegates, and all other members will be welcome as observers and will be able to speak, though not to vote.

There was a full report of the last NATIONAL CONFERENCE in the October Magazine. The next National Conference will take place in Cape Town from the 17th to the 19th of October of this year. Mrs. Sinclair will give her Presidential address on the first night, and Dr. Robert Birley has consented to speak then on "Education in Africa To-day".

Before Mr. Molteno left on a holiday overseas, the Black Sash presented him with a travelling case. For more than ten years Mr. Molteno has given of his time and professional advice to the Sash freely and most generously. We wished him a good holiday.

YOUNG BLACK SASH. We have written to a number of students who left the University at the end of last year, asking whether they would be interested in joining the Black Sash. Members are asked to send us the names of young women of 18 or over, who might be interested in joining and forming a branch of young people. Mrs. Robb will hold a preliminary meeting in her house in the near future of all who wish to come.

The ELGIN PICNIC will be held on Sunday, March 20th, on the farm Applethwaite. Bring your own lunch, but tea and coffee will be provided, and there will be apples and farm produce on sale. Tickets are 25c each (a maximum of R1 per car), and can be got from Elgin members or from the Office. Orders for apples may be given beforehand if you wish. There will be bathing, and the beautiful surroundings will make for a pleasant day's outing. Do come, and bring your friends.

Of the 250 records of "PEOPLE IN PROTEST" about 50 were sent out as complimentary copies, and the rest were soon sold out. So far there are 67 applications for more copies, and another 100 have been ordered. Those members who want extra copies should apply soon.

The FETE last November brought in the record sum of R2,058.42, after all expenses had been deducted. It was a great success from every point of view, off to a good start with Mr. Gordon Bagnall's excellent and witty speech. Mrs. Russell, who convened it, the Honorary Treasurers and all who helped in so many ways, are to be heartily congratulated. The next Fete will be on November 26th of this year.

THE ADVICE OFFICE. Work at the Advice Office is progressing more easily since we have got attorneys to appeal to the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner on behalf of cases. This year two applications against endorsement out have been successful.

The cases dealt with during the last two months are:

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Men endorsed out	7	23
Women " "	24	26
Miscellaneous	48	32
Old cases returned	86	84
TOTAL	<u>165</u>	<u>165</u>
Average per day	14	15

There were 12 visitors, 3 local and 9 from overseas. A little while ago The Guardian had an article on the work of the Advice Office.

One of our cases: Mrs. E.M. came to Cape Town from Graaff Reinet at the age of 12 in 1945. She registered in Langa in 1954. She married D.M. in 1960 in Cape Town. He has been here since 1951. They lived in a pondok in Guguletu and all three children were born here. He worked for a firm for seven years but had to leave as his work was affecting his health.

Their pondok had to be demolished and Mrs. M. was told to leave the area and to go to his parents at Fort Beaufort. He stated that his parents would not accept her because having been born in Graaff Reinet she did not speak Xhosa properly.

On 11th November 1965 we sent her to an attorney who appealed on her behalf to the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner on the grounds that she appeared to qualify in her own right to remain in the City Council area of Cape Town.

On 28th January 1966 we were informed that her appeal had been upheld and that she would be allowed to remain here and take up employment. Without this appeal to stay she would have had to go to Fort Beaufort to stay with in-laws with whom she does not get on and her husband would have had to move into bachelor quarters.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS:

December: Beach Apartheid
Christmas and beach apartheid.
Taxi Drivers' hardships under apartheid.

January: Beaches
District Six.

READING: The following books have been suggested:

An Outline of Native Law, by Prof. Julius Lewin (Baikema 45c)

The New Townsmen, the legal position of the African in the White areas today, by Dr. O. D. Wollhoim (Civil Rights League 10c)

Profiles of African Leaders, by T. P. Melady (MacMillan, New York)

New Forces in Africa, a Symposium, edited by W. H. Lewis (Public Affairs Department, Washington)

The last two are in the U.S. Information Service Library, 4th Floor, 403, Monte Carlo Buildings (Foreshore), as are also numbers of African Report, a monthly magazine on African nations, of great interest.

We shall be glad to receive other titles.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN.