

# "SOUTH AFRICA TODAY"

by Mark Acuff

(PRETORIA CPS—CUP)—Approximately one out of every 12 adult South Africans is in jail today. It is possible, under existing law in the Republic of South Africa, to arrest a citizen with no charge whatsoever and hold that person incommunicado for 90 days, at the end of which he may be ordered held for another 90 day period, ad infinitum. The only person such a prisoner may see during the 90 day period is the federal minister of justice, who most likely signed the order to put him away.

**PASSES COMPULSORY**  
In the Republic of South Africa it is a crime punishable by death to paint a poster or make a speech advocating any change whatsoever in the social or economic system of the country. The law does not spell out what sort of change is to be prohibited from public utterance — this is left to the government to define.

The South African government may declare a state of national emergency at any time, throwing the country into martial law and giving the government power to rule by decree. Certain areas of the country, such as the Transkei, have in fact been ruled in such a manner for extended periods of time.

Any person in South Africa not of the white race must carry on his person at all times a complicated set of identification papers and a pass to be in the area where he works and perhaps lives. This pass must bear the signature and up-to-date authorizations of his tribal authorities, his employer, the local and national police agencies, and numerous other officials. An African may be arrested and jailed for up to 48 hours for simple failure to produce the pass on request — and who is to say whether or not he had a pass on him except the police who arrested him?

**COMMUNISTS BANNED**  
In the Republic of South Africa, the Communist Party has been banned since 1950. The African National Congress, the Pan-African Congress, and all other vehicles of native expression have been banned in the last decade. The opposition Liberal party, though not banned, is constantly harrassed, and the editor of its fortnightly paper has been arrested. The only sizeable multi-racial organization in the country, the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) was recently raided by the government police and it appears that the government plans to ban NUSAS as well.

Some 4,000 books have been banned by the Republic government as unfit for the eyes of South Africans, white or black. Among the authors on the banned list are: Peter Abrahams, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Nicholas

Monserrat, D. H. Lawrence, Emile Zola, Françoise Sagan, Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Robert Graves, and John Steinbeck.

Most Americans, though not familiar with the details of the South African situation are at least acquainted with the word "apartheid" and the philosophy it represents — complete separation of the races and dominance by the white minority in South Africa. In the words of the leaders of the Afrikaner Nationalist Party, the government party, apartheid is the means to "save white civilization in South Africa." The Nationalists are frighteningly correct — for they have painted themselves into a corner with the paint of repressive social legislation, and it appears that there is no way out of the corner for South Africa short of violence.

**"APARTHEID" APPEARS**  
The word "apartheid" was first coined for use in the 1948 South African elections, when Dr. Daniel Hanan, Nationalist leader of the time correctly surmised that the more extreme the call to racism, the more likely a victory at the polls in South Africa. The Afrikaner Nationalists won that election, and Nationalists have been in control of the country for more than a decade now, and have ensured their control by cutting those few "coloureds" on the voting rolls and adding in their place the votes of the white citizens of Southwest Africa, a League of Nations mandate to South Africa.

Faced with increasing African unrest during the last decade as a result of government apartheid policies, the Nationalists have passed a series of laws, which in the words of the International Commission of Jurists, "... surpass the bounds of civilized jurisprudence."

**WOULD NAZIS APPROVE?**  
The first important legislative moves of the Afrikaner Nationalists were the Mixed Marriage and Immortality Act, the intent of which could be obvious from the title, and the Population Registration Act, classifying the population by racial origin. Both acts were passed in 1950.

In 1958 the Strijdom administration eliminated the Cape Coloureds from the voting rolls, and secured passage of the Bantu Education Act, which totally segregated all schools in the nation and placed the control of education of native Africans completely in the hands of the government. Strijdom also originated the Criminal Law Amendment Act which virtually outlawed non-violent and peaceful demonstrations against the government.

H. F. Verwoerd succeeded Strijdom, and continues in office to this day. He immediately launched the government on a course of repressive legislation without equal in the world, including dictatorships of the left and the right.

Most important of these items of legislation are the Sabotage Act and the General Laws Amendment Act, which together have turned South Africa into a small scale replica of Nazi Germany.

**AN ORDERLY SOCIETY**  
The Sabotage Act makes it a crime punishable by not less than 5 years with a maximum penalty of death to disrupt any public facility or service, commit burglary or trespass, or strike for higher wages and a great many other things, if the accused cannot prove his act was not intended to, among other things: a) cause or promote general dislocation, disturbance or disorder, b) further or encourage any political aim designed to bring about change in the economic or social structure of the Republic, and c) embarrass the administration of the affairs of state. The other "incidental" matters referred to in the Act make it in effect illegal to protest the policies of the government in any public manner.

Under the Suppression of Communism Act, all newspapers in the country required to deposit about \$30,000 with the government, which is automatically forfeit if the government decides that the newspaper is furthering the "aims of Communism."

Other acts passed by the Nationalists are suggestive enough by their titles: the Public Safety Act, the Criminal Procedure Act, the Riotous Assemblies Act, and the Unlawful Organizations Act, among others.

**THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES**  
The Afrikaner response to charges that South Africa became a fascist police state is that the government is in the process of assuring self-government and economic progress through the creation of autonomous "Bantustans" throughout the country, to be infused with massive amounts of government aid. In fact, these Bantustans are and obviously will remain under the direct control of the national police. Together, the Bantustans, which are located in some of the worst geographical areas of the nation, constitute only 13 per cent of the land area of South Africa, on which about 75 per cent of the population is expected to live.

The two leading African organizations in opposition to the government are the African National Congress, headed by Nobel Prize winner Albert Luthuli, who is now under house arrest with all citizens prohibited from conversing with him or publishing his writings under pain of imprisonment; and the Pan-African Congress, a more activist and violent group, headed by Robert Sobuke, who is currently serving a three-year term in jail.

The only white opposition is found in the Liberal Party, headed by Alan Paton and others. The Liberals have never succeeded in electing a candidate to parliament. The national union of students, NUSAS, has also played an important role of opposition, and it appears that the

government is planning to ban NUSAS as well. NUSAS is opposed by a government front union, the Afrikaner Studentebonde.

**A VIOLENT FUTURE LOOMS**  
In other words, the situation in South Africa is such that it is totally impossible to follow a road of peaceful and non-violent protests against the government policy of apartheid. The only road open to the African majority is now through violence and civil war. The violent answer has been steadily gaining among the Africans, witness the ANC's losing ground inexorably to the PAC over the past few years.

The independent nations of Africa have begun to send assistance to rebels and violent elements in South Africa, and a civil war, a war that will probably surpass Algeria's in bloodshed, can be expected to erupt within a year or two. Given the fact that a civil war is already underway in neighboring Angola, a civil war in preparation in Mozambique, and rumblings of violence in Southern Rhodesia, the entire Southern portion of the African continent is likely to erupt into violence of the worst sort shortly. The League of Nations mandate of Southwest Africa is currently under review by the International Court of Justice at The Hague, and it seems obvious that the mandate will be returned to the United Nations, where the Afro-Asian bloc will most certainly push for action to take

the territory from South Africa, by military force if necessary.

**EUROPEANS WILL FIGHT**  
The South African government is preparing for war. All Males in the country from elementary school age up are currently receiving military training, and the government is even considering the drafting of women into the army. Production of arms has tripled in the past three years.

The United States with some 3/4 billion dollars invested in South Africa, has to date refused to vote for strong action against South Africa in the United Nations. It would appear reasonable to assume that the U.S., along with Britain will be forced to "put up or shut up" on the South African question within the next year, and it is necessary that all American students study the problem and communicate their views to their Congressmen — for it may soon be too late in South Africa for the U.S. to do anything about the situation there.

## New Movie Series

The new series of foreign movies is scheduled to begin at the Highland Theater later this month.

Among these movies are "Love and Larceny" (Italian); "Secrets of Women" (Belgian); "Five Day Lover" (French); "Three Strange Loves" (Swedish and Bergman); and "Ikiru" (Japanese).

# TRAVELLERS IN TOWN



The Travellers will be at Dalhousie Friday, Jan. 17.

The Travellers are a Canadian folk group who have dedicated their careers to digging up the folk songs of Canada and presenting them to other Canadians.

They are as fresh as tomorrow's headlines, and they have been making headlines almost from the day of their first performance. They have certainly lived up to their name, appearing first in the Ukraine, then in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. However, their repertoire of songs is not only of Canadian origin. They regularly thrill audiences with selections from France, Russia, Africa, Puerto Rico, and from many other places as well.

Rave reports appear wherever they appear, so their performance this coming Friday will be worth more than just a second consideration.

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