

## Ami(e) du stylo

To the editors,

I'm a student (first year) in the faculty of sciences in Reims (217 km from Paris).

I'm in search of a Canadian English-speaking student (male

or female) to have correspondence with.

I'm greatly interested in Canada and everything attached to the country.

If a student of your university wants to know more things about France and the old Europe, for linguistics studies or other courses, she or he can write me at the address below.

I'm much better in the french language, and my knowledge of French and European history and literature are important to me despite my scientific studies.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

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# A view of Africa

By JAMIE GLAZOV

IN RECENT MONTHS MUCH of the world's attention has been focussed on South Africa. Much has been said and written about the oppression of blacks in that country — and rightly so. Apartheid is an ugly system, based on gross fascist and racist principles, and the suffering that it has caused the black population is a subject which deserves our attention and concern.

It is peculiar and puzzling, however, that in the whole continent of Africa, South Africa is the only country whose human rights policies are subject to increasing scrutiny and examination. Many of those individuals concerned about South Africa seem to strangely confine their sympathy to only those blacks victimized by whites. The blacks that are persecuted and brutalized by other blacks in South Africa and in the rest of the continent receive little, if any, of their attention. In fact, concern about black Africa is virtually non-existent in these circles which tell us of their "indignation" about the South African Government.

This whole phenomenon of protesting apartheid and ignoring the chaos, misery and oppression that prevail in most of black Africa, has created the impression that South Africa is the most totalitarian society on the continent, if not in the world. Such an "impression" is not only misleading and evasive, but manages to deny the most obvious and substantiated evidences to the contrary.

There are many other countries in Africa (too many) where human rights abuses are far worse and more numerous than in South Africa, countries which have to guard their borders to keep the inhabitants from fleeing en masse. Since 1952, 70 leaders of government in 29 African states have been deposed by assassination, dismissal, and military intervention. 54 changes of government in 28 states have been effected by coups alone in the same period. Since World War II, only three governments have been voted out of office — in South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Sudan.

Black African dictators, such as Idi Amin of Uganda, have slaughtered millions of black citizens.

Tanzania was once prosperous under British rule. Under the socialist leadership of Julius Nyerere, the country has undergone an economic and political disaster. Hundreds of executions and jailings of innocent black civili-

ans have occurred. Approximately 15 million black peasants have been forcibly relocated in villages. Once self-sufficient in agriculture, Tanzania now relies heavily on food imports. The population is starving.

In May 1985 Nigeria ordered the expulsion of 700,000 aliens, black and Indian natives of Ghana, Niger, Benin, Camaroon and Chad. The end result was terrifying. Thousands of people were left dead, after suffering the horrors of dehydration and starvation. In 1983, when Nigeria ordered mass expulsion, the exodus meant personal suffering for more than two million West Africans.

The Marxist dictator of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, has summarily executed thousands of his black citizens. Mugabe has renewed Zimbabwe's nationwide state of emergency every six months since he took power in 1980. People are detained, arrested and imprisoned without trial. Mugabe is currently holding over 300 black political detainees in his maximum security prisons. This is all not to mention the suffering of the white communities, in which hundreds of whites have been killed or imprisoned and more than half of the remainder have fled the country. Mugabe has proclaimed his intention to establish a one-party state.

There are many other countries in Africa where human rights abuses are far worse.

As everyone is aware, South African blacks suffer as well, and often times the reality is too depressing and frightening to examine. Under the racist system of apartheid, blacks are denied equality of treatment with whites, the right of participation in the political process and the freedom to live where they please. The most fundamental human liberties are denied. Brutality at the hands of the authorities is but all too common.

Unlike many other regimes in Africa, however, black citizens are allowed to leave the country if they so desire. Moreover, it would be wise to remember that South Africa provides its black residents the highest standard of living in black Africa and has been a magnet for blacks from neighbouring countries. Hundreds of thousands of blacks flock to live in South Africa, many seeking work, others fleeing political and religious persecution from northern countries.

Nothing could be closer to the truth than to state that hundreds of South African blacks have been treated savagely by cruel whites. But today in South Africa most blacks are killed by other blacks, who believed them insufficiently devoted to what is called "black liberation", which has produced the likes of Amin and Mugabe, leaders of black regimes which have murdered millions of other blacks on the African continent.

Since September 1984, the homes of 400 black policemen have been firebombed and destroyed. During the first half of this year more than 150 blacks have been killed by other blacks.

This sad, yet prevalent, reality has received little attention among those who oppose the South African government. It is only due to respected and admirable individuals like Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu that this tragic truth has become more widely known and understood. This summer, Bishop Tutu, two days after a black girl was burned to death by a black mob, denounced the murder and demanded that blacks stop killing other blacks (and whites too). He threatened that he would "pack his bags and leave the country" if this kind of thing continued. Unfortunately, and not surprisingly, it has continued, but the noble effort of the Bishop deserves mention. Perhaps it would be fair to say that no-one has posed, or is today posing, a more constructive influence in South Africa than Bishop Desmond Tutu.

The regime in South Africa must make early changes and reforms. Nothing should be of more importance on the government's agenda than to gradually eliminate the racist and inhuman policies of apartheid. Recent events have shown that reforms are coming about and that there is still light at the end of the tunnel. What must be remembered is that South Africa, unlike the many countries to its north, still has room for change.

Those of us who are committed to the principles of democracy and freedom must look at the situation in Africa with fairness and consistency. While showing our militant and disapproving opposition to apartheid, we must nurture the development of those forces (which include many South African whites) which are fighting for reforms and the abolition of apartheid.

Our pressure, assistance and influence, not our disentry and disinvestment, will end the many barbaric injustices in South Africa and leave apartheid where it belongs, on the ash heap of history.

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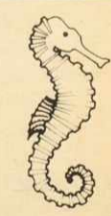
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