

South Africa: Arrests Point To Higher Level Of Confrontation

[AN] Last week, South African officials served a banning order on David Johnson, chairman of the Black Students Society at Witwatersrand University, the latest in a series of government actions pointing to an increased level of conflict with opponents of the system of white rule.

Early this month government figures released to opposition MP Helen Suzman recorded 179 people being detained under various security laws, up from 92 a year ago and from 134 only two months previously. The detainees are in addition to some 520 "security prisoners" tried and convicted under these laws, and approximately 160 restricted under various banning orders.

The latest wave of government actions against opponents of the apartheid system began on November 27, with the detention of some eighteen leading trade unionists, labor experts, students and other activists, under Section 22 of the General Laws

Amendment Act. Among those detained were: Emma Mashinini, general secretary of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union; Samson Ndou, president of the General and Allied Workers' Union; Rita Ndzanga, organizing secretary of the same union; Merle Favis, editor of the *South Africa Labour Bulletin*; Cedric Mayson, former editor of the banned *Christian Institute's Pro Veritate*; and Sam Kikine, general secretary of the South African Allied Workers' Union (Saawu).

At the same time, the homes of a number of leading church figures, including that of Beyers Naude, former director of the Christian Institute, were searched by police.

In mid-December, the president of Saawu, Thozamile Gqweta, and the vice president of the same union, Sisa Npkelanavere, were also arrested. Gqweta, 29 years old, had been detained without charges four times previously since he founded the

union in 1980, and his latest arrest followed closely on the proclaimed December 4 independence of the Ciskei homeland, where many of Saawu's 20,000 members reside, commuting to work in nearby 'white' East London.

As a result of Ciskei independence, over two million Xhosa-speaking became "foreigners" in the eyes of the Pretoria government, joining in that status the citizens of nominally independent Transkei, Venda and Bophuthatswana.

The Saawu/Ciskei confrontation, which has been escalating over the past year, is one indication of the growing interaction between political struggles in urban black South Africa and in the homelands. Over 200 members of Saawu have been held by Ciskei police in recent months, and on November 1 Gqweta's mother and uncle died when their house burned in a suspicious fire. At their funeral, Gqweta's girlfriend was shot dead when police opened fire on over 1,000 mourners.

Gqweta is being termed by some a new 'Steve Biko,' the black consciousness leader who died in detention in 1977. Ironically, Gqweta's nemesis, Major General Charles Sebe, brother of Ciskei's prime minister and head of its security forces, is a veteran of

South Africa's intelligence service, where his duties included surveillance of Biko.

The Ciskei was also the site of the funeral in late November of Griffiths Mlungisi Mxenge, one of South Africa's most prominent black lawyers. The outpouring of some 15,000 for the services contrasted sharply with the following week's independence ceremonies, attended by what *New York Times* correspondent Joseph Lelyveld termed a "listless and distracted" crowd.

Mxenge's mutilated body had been found in Durban on November 20, and speakers at the funeral had no hesitation in laying the blame on South Africa's security forces. The lawyer, an early member of the African National Congress (ANC) and former Robben Island prisoner, had served as instructing attorney in political trials of both ANC and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) members. His funeral was marked by open and emotional displays of support for the banned ANC.

Such signs of an escalating conflict have not been limited to the Ciskei. In mid-November Tshifhiwa Muofhe, a 29-year-old former leader of the Black People's Convention who was employed by an insurance company in the Venda homeland, died two



A MOURNFUL MRS. SANDRA MELVIN, wife of slain Guardian Angel Frank Melvin, breaks into tears as she is helped into the car by her father-in-law, John Melvin, Sr., after funeral services for her husband in Newark, NJ recently. Melvin was shot and killed by a Newark police officer who was answering a burglary call.

UPI Photo by J.C. Anderson

Israel's Memorial To Dr. King Grows

[NNPA] The unique overseas memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a 10,000 tree Memorial Forest on a hillside near Nazareth, Israel, is now in its fifth year of planning. Every black and Jewish Member of Congress serves as an Honorary Sponsor of the Forest. Co-chairmen of the Honorary Sponsors are Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Sidney R. Yates.

In 1979, trees were planted in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Forest in memory of A. Philip Randolph, noted black labor leader. Visitors to

the Forest in recent years have included the award-winning Washington Bullets basketball team Allen Quille, prominent Baltimore businessman and leader in the black community, and a pilgrimage group from the Washington Ecumenical Training Center, an interfaith organization.

Officers of the Committee for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Forest in Israel are: Max M. Kampelman, chairman; Leonore R. Siegelman, vice chairman; Ms. Nancy Lang, secretary; and Robert R. Nathan, treasurer. The Committee accepts contributions for the maintenance and expansion of the Forest on a year-round basis.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his lifetime voiced the desire to visit Israel, and expressed his admiration for its democracy and progress.

Tips On Beauty

SAVING ENERGY CAN BE EASY

With the costs for heating and lighting our homes soaring, we can't ignore the energy crisis any longer. Here are some tips to help you save energy—the nation's as well as your own.

• Do it in one trip. Organize your errands before you take the car out of the garage. Plan meals ahead so you can shop for the week. Ask a neighbor along, or run an errand for her. She can return the favor on another day.

• Save in the kitchen. When boiling foods, use a cover on your saucepan. You'll be able to turn the heat down under the pan by about half and still maintain the same degree of boiling. Use a pressure cooker. Some foods cook in as little as two minutes. That really saves time and energy.

• Go easy on the big users. It's important to turn out lights when they're not needed, but your appliances are really the big users of electricity. When running the washer, make sure you have a full load and use warm or cold water when possible. Save dirty dishes in the dishwasher for the next day if you don't have a full load. You'll save electricity, soap powder and hot water. Turn off the TV if no one is watching and the stereo if no one is listening.

Another good way to save on time and energy is to use personal products that do two things for the price of one: Beauty soaps that are medicated; skin tone creams that help fade dark spots while they serve as a foundation for makeup for any skin type; creams that moisturize while they rid your skin of ashiness all day. RTRA® makes a line of these products you might want to try.

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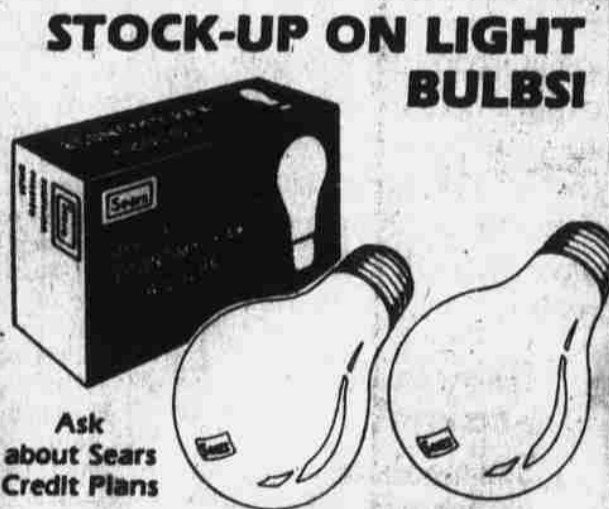
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