

INVESTMENT IN RACISM



A STUDY OF THE INVOLVEMENT
OF U.C. SWANSEA IN APARTHEID

South Africa is a vicious police state where a ruling minority of 3% million people ruthlessly exploit the labour and lands of 15 million Africans, Cape Coloureds, and Asians. No one can deny this - those that attempt, like South African Government Propoganda Agencies, and their friends in Britain, lie. The facts, easily available after a little searching in the South Africans Government's own publications and the South African press.

Here are a few:-

87% of the country is designated a white area - 416,130 sq. miles. 13% is given over to "Bantu homelands" for the Africans - 56,000 sq.mls

In order to make such a division effective the Government has indulged in the wholesale eviction of non-white communities from their tribal lands and from urban settlements. To control the African labour force allowed to live near the cities, it has implemented strict pass-laws enforced by a vast police machinery. 766,000 Africans were arrested for "violating" the Pass Laws in 1966, there being an average of 600 arrests daily in Johannesburg.

Those who seek to protest or fight against such repression invariably die at the hands of the police or prison officers or languish under amazingly brutal conditions in one or other of S. Africa's many prisons. 1,250 Africans, 27 whites, 19 coloureds, and 14 Asians were imprisoned in 1966 alone under the so called Suppression of Communism Act and the Unlawful Organisations Act. The more fortunate among them may be spared the worse excesses of the fury the regime vents on anyone daring to oppose it, being placed under permanent house-arrest or escaping to exile in more liberal lands. Britain and some of the African nations already harbour sizeable colonies of exiled church leaders, politicians, journalists, authors, trades unionists, lawyers, etc. - some of whom did little more than one of the numerous S. African National Union of Students Presidents now in exile, Ian Robertson, whose crime was to invite the late Senator Robert Kennedy to speak at S. African Universities. Yes, few governments of the world are more sensitive to criticism than that of S. Africa.

Statistics on education and health in S. Africa really bring home the terrible social and economic inequalities that are carefully fostered and maintained by the all-white ruling minority. Here are just a few:- In 1953-54 only .57% of the national income was spent on the education of Africans. By 1963-64 this had fallen to .39%!

In 1967 7 white cases and 9,765 African cases of kwashiorkor were recorded. This complaint is a form of malnutrition, productive of permanent brain damage but which doctors claim could be avoided by an intake of 1/3 (one-third) of a pint of milk each day for each child - yet on June 19th 1968 the "Johannesburg Star" reported that between 10th October, 1967 and 11th February, 1968, 12,502 gallons of milk were poured down the drain each day on the orders of the South African Milk Board, due to "overproduction!"

Such facts could be produced one after another to build a sweeping indictment of the racialist rulers of South Africa.

"What does Britain do about all this?" --- you may ask. Well, Britain's rulers do very little. In fact, Briatin is South Africa's main trading partner and he leading foreign investor, with over £1,000 million invested there. According to a South African financial report of 1963, this investment was earning dividend returns averaging

12.6%, the highest in the world.

As such investment has increased there has been a parallel extension and strengthening of apartheid legislation, an increase of state repression. This gives the lie to those who have maintained that growing economic prosperity will bring amelioration of the non-whites harsh conditions of life. The lesson we must inevitably draw from a study of S. African Society today is that recent economic expansion has strengthened apartheid. The action we must take is to oppose apartheid rule in all its aspects - in trade, sport, politics, the arts, etc. We must therefore campaign for Britain's economic disengagement from South Africa. Certainly this would in the short run lead to deterioration of the situation of the non-white population, however, those still engaged in the struggle against Vorster and those he represents readily attest to the willingness of the victims of apartheid to accept this further sacrifice.

If you want to help in this struggle you can begin here today, in this college. The Charter of University College, Swansea, empowers the College Council the "invest any moneys belonging to the College including any unapplied income in such stock, funds, shares or securities as it shall from time to time think fit, whether authorised by the general law for investment of trust moneys or not and whether within or outside the United Kingdom!"

Under this authorisation the College Council thinks fit to invest College moneys in the following firms in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia;-

SUBSIDIARIES

BAT Rhodesia Ltd.
Export Leaf Tobacco Co. of Africa Ltd.
United Tobacco Co. Ltd. (South)
Chrisan Ltd.
Sunny Brand Poultry Processing Ltd.
Yardley (Africa) Ltd.

Rio Tinto Management Services Ltd.
Rio Tinto (Rhodesia) Ltd.
Rio Tinto Rhodesia Holding Co. Ltd.
Rio Tinto Rhodesian Mining Ltd.
Rio Tinto Sandwana Ltd.
Polabora Mining Ltd.
Rio Tinto Management Services
(South Africa) Ltd.
Rio Tinto Mining Co. of S. Africa Ltd.

Global Tours S. Africa Ltd.
GUS (Africa) Ltd.

Eveready S. Africa Ltd.

Eachaim Investments Rhodesia Ltd.
Eachim Investments Ltd.

PARENT COMPANY

British American Tobacco Co.

Cable and Wireless (Holdings)
Ltd.

Great Universal Stores.

Eveready Ltd.

McKechnie Bros. Ltd.

SUBSIDIARIESPARENT COMPANY

McKechnie Bros. Ltd.

McKechnie Bros. S. Africa Ltd.
 African French Metal Holdings Ltd.
 African Zinc Mills Ltd.
 McKechnie Enfield Rolling Mills
 Non-Ferrous Tube Co. Ltd.
 Republic Aluminium Ltd.

You will note that a number of the above firms have sister companies in Rhodesia. This just helps make the British Governments sanctions on S. Rhodesia as ineffective as they are designed to be for the parent company just exports to the S. African subsidiary which then transfers the goods to the S. Rhodesian company!

Already campaigns have been staged at L.S.E., Wisconsin, Harvard and other universities whose governing bodies, those great defenders of academic freedom, free speech, the nobility of learning, etc., gleefully contemplate the fat profits they can reap at the cost of the imprisoned, brutalised, starving, sick, ill-educated, almost silenced, non-white people of South Africa.

Whether conscious of it or not the members of Swansea University College Council have blood on their hands - did you sleep well last night Principal?

Printed and issued by
 University College Swansea
 Socialist Society.