

Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Freedom is the first condition
of growth."

—VIVEKANANDA

21, No. 13

March 26th, 1960

Threepence

MASSACRE IN SOUTH AFRICA

ASS violence is always only a stone's throw away in South Africa. Last Monday it broke out on a scale which shocked hardened South African newsmen and they say, shocked the police who had opened fire on a crowd, killing in all fifty-six Africans—men, women and children—and injuring

This "incident" took place at Sharpeville, a township near Vereeniging and arose out of a demonstration called for by the Pan-African Congress in protest against the pass laws.

The Pan-Africanist Congress described as an extremist break-away from the African National Congress, called on their 31,000 members to the Union to come out without their passes (identity cards which all Africans are required by law to carry) and surrender themselves for arrest at the nearest police station.

At Sharpeville the crowd grew to 1,000 strong and surrounded the police station, shouting. One African was shot dead and four injured when the police had been stoned (according to Reuter). The Africans were killed and then the police opened fire.

This followed attempts to intimidate and disperse the Africans by the use of aircraft diving low over the area, and Saracen armoured cars (supplied to the S.A. Government by the British armament industry) forcing their way through the crowd to take up defensive positions by the police station. But these provocative actions only angered the crowd still further.

The local area police commander, Colonel J. Pienaar, is reported as saying: "I don't know how many we shot. It all started when hordes of natives surrounded the police station. My car was struck by a stone. If they do these things they must learn their lesson the hard way."

But what are the things the Africans did? The trigger-happy, *baas-kap*-minded policemen obviously think they are justified in shooting down Africans who throw stones at cars, but behind the Africans' demonstration is a serious demand for alleviation from their slavery to the pass-laws.

These laws bind Africans to employees, govern their relationships with their families, limit their freedom of movement, and render them liable to immediate arrest and summary imprisonment if they are not carrying their various passes. They make the whole of the Union of South Africa one vast prison and are one of the primary causes of racial tension.

As long as the pass laws exist the resentment of the Africans will exist, but apartheid cannot be operated without the strict control of the non-Europeans and so some such apparatus as the pass laws must remain as long as apartheid is the policy of the Government.

The pass laws are the points which continually prod the Africans' dignity. The more massive aspects of apartheid may achieve particular attention when a township is being destroyed, but on the whole the African masses no more expect to

mix with the white bosses than the working class of this country expect to mix with the upper crust.

But the pass laws and apartheid goes beyond the class barriers of our society—which individuals breach by education and financial success, after all. Apartheid seeks to fix for ever the status of the slave upon the majority of the citizens of South Africa—and to do it at a time when national independence is being achieved by Africans, Asians and Arabs elsewhere.

This is what makes the Nationalist Government's policy not only vicious but pathetic. Like Canute ordering back the tide, Dr. Verwoerd and his colleagues attempt to stem the inevitable political advance of the Africans.

With their show of force at Sharpeville they turned what could have been a peaceful demonstration into a battlefield. Their policies make such incidents inevitable, and their blind fury—born of fear—slaughters Africans and puts more nails in their own coffin.

Each repressive step they take, each hateful reaction which is provoked by either side, leads inexorably to the day when the Africans begin to organise themselves as the Algerians have done. Once that begins, hopes for a peaceful transition to a multi-racial South Africa will disappear and so will the place of the white man in the Union. The racial fanatics in the South African Government will have destroyed the very thing they set out to protect.

German Unions Urge S.A. Boycott

The West German Trades Union Federation today called for a boycott of South African goods from April 1 to 30 "in protest against the improper treatment of a great part of the African people."

"For years," it stated, "the Government of South Africa has followed a policy of racial discrimination, and though placing the coloured citizens of South Africa in a special position, contradicts the declaration of human rights." "We Germans who have experienced in the immediate past the results of demoralised racial hate and the limitation of democratic freedom—we, who must still struggle even today with the remnants of this past—we more than anyone else must stand in the front line of those fighting against injustice, wherever it raises its ugly head."

Guardian 10.3.60.

The Pill and the Adolescent

THE contraceptive pill is already (metaphorically speaking) on everybody's lips, for two reasons. Firstly because of the appeal for volunteers for tests to be carried out by the Birmingham Family Planning Association using the American pill, (fully reported in FREEDOM for Feb. 20th), and secondly because of a statement by the Chairman of British Drug Houses Ltd., in connection with the prospective take-over bids for the shares of his firm, that the firm had developed a British pill, expected to sell at a penny each, of which pilot tests in London are expected to begin in three months time under the auspices of the Family Planning Association.

There is no need for us to emphasise how useful to mankind the development of a means of contraception which is safe, foolproof and aesthetically inoffensive can be, but characteristically, the first thing to be awakened by these announcements is opposition.

In his Lenten Pastoral Letter, read in all Catholic churches in his diocese on March 6th, Dr. Edward Ellis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham says,

"New methods have been proposed to thwart God's purpose in marriage.

"The matter is so grave and at the same time so openly and frequently discussed in the Press, on the radio and on television that I must also speak openly to you on subjects which Christian modesty and delicacy would normally shun.

"The Church does not demand that parents should have the largest family possible. There are circumstances when it is right and proper that the size of the family should be restricted.

"But such restriction should never be brought about by artificial means, including the latest invention of contraceptive pills."

We do not know how faithfully Roman Catholics actually follow the advice or demands of their church's celibate hierarchy in these personal matters. More serious perhaps is a report in the *News of the World* on the same date that

"Social workers, alarmed by the prospect of a penny pill, are pressing for immediate legislation to ban the sale of the pills to unmarried girls under a certain age. While they recognise that the discovery of a cheap and harmless pill is desirable for properly controlled family planning, they feel there would be grave moral danger if it were freely available to teenage girls. They fear that one day soon the pills may be sold

from slot machines."

Now you have only to be a reader of the newspaper in which this report appeared to appreciate what a blessing the pill would be to the very social group to which the unnamed "social workers" seek to have it denied. Let us however turn to the Crowther Report (15 to 18: Report of the Central Advisory Council for Education) which was debated in the House of Commons on Monday. Paragraph 58 of the report reads:

"The problem of sexual ethics is, of course, far wider than marriage. Indeed in the years from 15 to 18 it is not mainly a marriage problem. It seems beyond question that behaviour which would have been rejected a generation ago as improper and anti-social—most people would simply have said wrong—is today tolerated or endorsed by adult public opinion. Young people enjoy a much greater freedom to live their own lives without adult supervision, and to meet and spend their time together as they like without censure and without restraints other than those which their own individual taste or conviction imposes. In this change there has been both gain and loss. It is surely gain that boys and girls, young men and young women, should have the opportunity, which earlier generations often

lacked, to get to know one another really well before committing themselves to the choice of a mate. It is surely loss that new guiding rules of behaviour in the changed situation have not been sufficiently developed to replace the old customs which nearly everybody has to some extent abandoned and which some have altogether thrown overboard. . . . Education can only function within the broad directives of right and wrong which society gives. Teachers and youth leaders are however, well placed to bring to attention the personal bewilderment and disaster to which this public indecision over moral issues often leads the young. There can be no doubt of the disaster. On 1956 figures, one girl in fifty might expect to give birth to a child conceived before she was 17. . . ."

In the last sentence we learn what all this cautious verbiage is about. All it says, in effect is "Changing attitudes to sexual relations outside marriage are reflected in adolescent behaviour. This leads to unwanted pregnancies among teen-age girls". At long last we are on the brink of contraceptive improvements which could avoid these "disasters". But before they are even on the market, so-called "social workers" are pressing for "immediate legislation to ban the sale of the pills to unmarried

Continued on p. 3

After Twenty Years of Franco

(1)

A COUNTRY where ownership of a car is an exterior sign of corruption. Where Sagan, Descartes, Bardot and Kant are on the Index. Where the peasant cannot read but goes to the cinema every week. Where 70% of machine tools are 70 years old; where crypts worth millions are built for the dead, yet where the living feed themselves on chickpeas. Where there is half the number of newspapers that there was in 1936. Where some citizens still do not know the name of the capital city. Where the member of the armed police, defenders of Western Christian civilisation, is a gas collector in the afternoon and a watchman during the night. Where the Barcelona-Madrid express takes three hours more than it did in 1935. Where football players are the highest-paid in Europe, but people go to the shops to buy a peseta's worth of sugar or coffee at a time.

Where, on the death of Pope Pius XII, mourning was prolonged three times longer than in Italy, but where the Pope's speeches are censored if he speaks of freedom. Where a Minister of Commerce becomes a multi-millionaire in a few months. Where engaged couples have to wait ten years to be able to marry. Where the sports newspaper has a bigger circulation than any national daily. Where the military act as cinema ushers and one cannot find a single wage-earner who knows the name of the Minister of Labour or the leader of the trade unions. Where one in five of the population says he is going abroad when he goes to Madrid. Where there is officially a shortage of 80,000 primary schools. Where the universities intended for the workers are so luxurious that American visitors confess that they couldn't afford anything like them, yet

where the level of literacy is the lowest in Europe.

Where the workers spend their annual holiday working, and the Generals are company directors. Where there are more maids than cars. Where the price of meat is equivalent to three days' work. Where the townswomen take their husbands' Sunday trousers to the pawnshop on Mondays, to be retrieved on Saturdays. Where cigarettes are sold in two's on street corners. Where 300 names control the boards of all companies and five banks dominate industry and trade. Where they make the most expensive cars in the world, and the worst and most expensive steel in the world, and where the annual income per person is the lowest in Europe.

In other words, the country where half the working class is sacrificed and the other half is patronised, and the remainder of the population oscillates between a middle-class worried about the future and an oligarchy of millionaires whose outlook dates back to the Golden Age of the 16th Century. This is the picture of Spain that emerges after twenty years of the Franco régime.

—DOMINIQUE HUNNEBELLE
in *Realtàs*, May 1959.

(2)

WHEN, for instance, in 1953 the U.S. negotiated an agreement with the Spanish Government, whereby it paid dollars in exchange for military bases, the agreement described the two signatories as "recognising . . . individual liberty, free institutions . . . a free economy." That this was hypocrisy is less to be deplored than that it was cynical hypocrisy.

—IRVING KRISTOL
in *Encounter*, April 1960.

Film on Apartheid & the Boycott

A GROUP of people has come together to make a film about the boycott of South African goods which has been in progress all this month, and to protest against apartheid in South Africa.

The Apartheid Film Committee has as sponsors Lord Altrincham, James Callaghan, Tom Driberg, the film director Lindsay Anderson and the playwright Arnold Wesker, while its chairman is Tennyson Makiwane, the member of the African National Congress who smuggled himself out of South Africa in order to come here and direct the boycott movement.

About their proposal to make the film, the committee says:

The South African Boycott Movement has gathered wide support throughout Africa, and the intensive campaign in this country during March has been a powerful demonstration of protest. But the demonstration will lose its force, unless it leads to a sustained pressure of international opinion against the apartheid policies of the South African government. A group led by Derrick

Knight, with John Krish as director, has therefore been formed to make a film, which will be a permanent record of the strength of feeling in this country, and which will show at the same time the conditions in South Africa against which we are protesting. Shooting has already begun, and the film should be ready in June. It will be on 35 mm., is assured of commercial distribution internationally and will be made available to organisations campaigning on South Africa.

Much technical help and material have been offered, and a script has been prepared, but £2,000 is needed to make a really effective film. Besides the boycott itself, this is one of the few practical expressions of sympathy with the people of South Africa open to us, and we believe that many people will want to contribute to realising this film and thus to identify themselves with the protest it is making.

Donations should be sent as soon as possible before the end of March either to the Treasurer of the Apartheid Film Committee, 61 Gloucester Crescent, London, N.W.1., or to me, c/o Freedom Press.

PHILIP SANSOM.

