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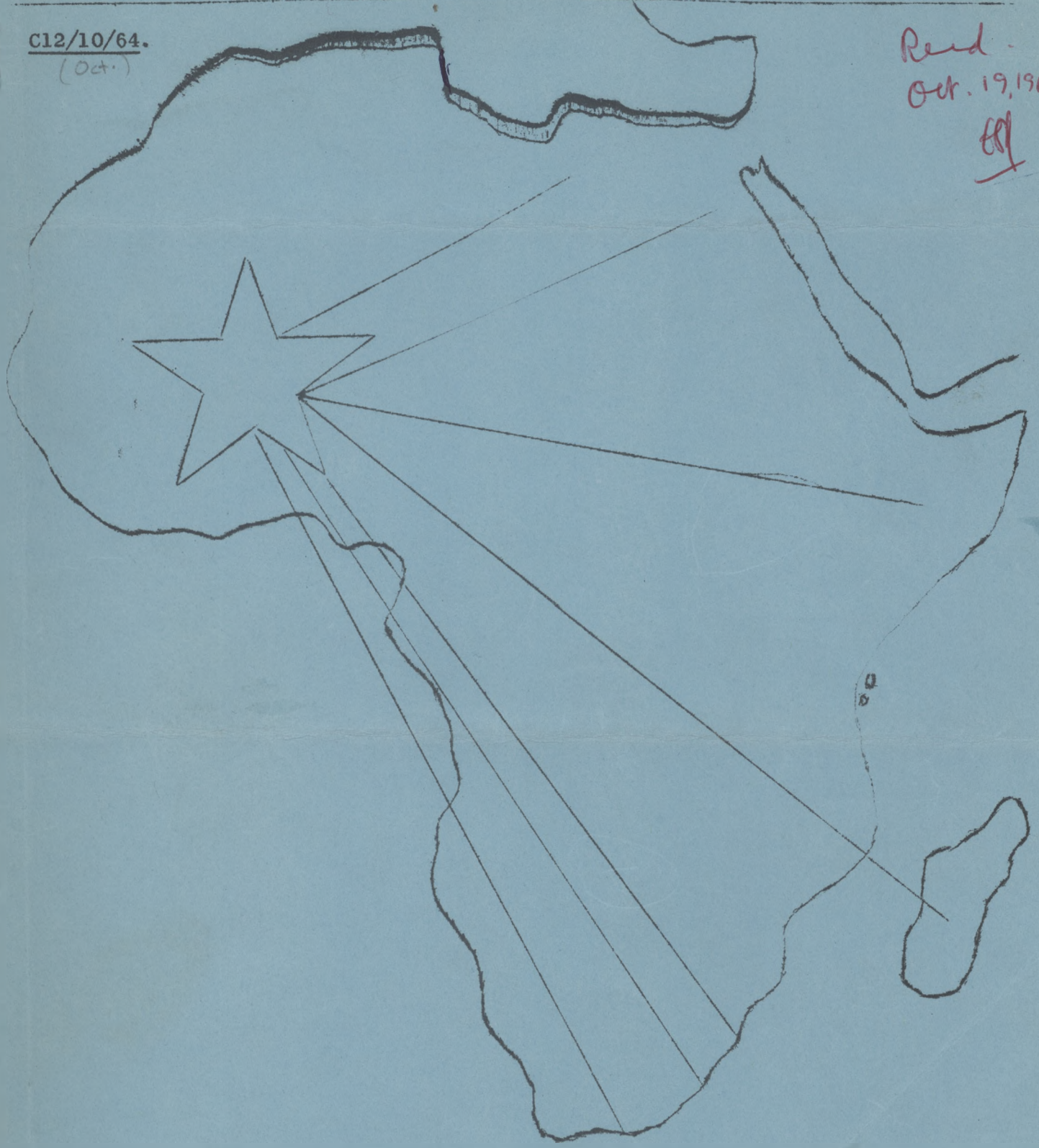
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FRONTIER DAYS REPEATING THEMSELVES ?

The bogey of the Frontier days manifests itself once more and this politico-melodrama takes root in a highly sensitive soil, the border between Lesotho and the Orange Free State. This development, if not nibbed in the bud and handled with exceptional caution, may eventually end up tragically and may become an international issue. The report of a news paper published in the Republic of S.A. is itself an apt warning. Here is the relevant quotation, "South Africa's history of the violent Cape frontier days is repeating itself with increasing savagery along the Free State Eastern border as armed farmers keep vigil on stock thieves from Basutoland."

This is a serious allegation and a serious indictment against the Basotho. Our deductions which follow, may if read without goggles on serve as eye openers to many Africans living in this part of Southern Africa.

The logic of our deductions arises from a variety of factors. True enough on the surface the squills and yelps from the border boer settlers depict fact with regard to stray cattle, but, simmering deep-rooted historical convulsions and zig-zags of life are making their indelible impressions on the political sub-conscience ; deep down in the minds of the boers are sinister manoeuvres of aggressive espionage and provocative militarism. The political scars of the old frontier days are itching as Lesotho approaches independence. This fact alone, this independence advance is a night-mare to white South Africa. Guilty consciences are beginning to plague and corrode the heart and soul of the usurpers who know too well the story of their illegal occupation of the Territory that was once geographical and legal part of Lesotho. The Dutch are fully aware that the land they now occupy will soon become an issue in the Higher Councils of the world. To forestall that they have with exceptional ingenuity hatched a network of cattle thefts. To date the agents in this scheme of things have been from the Basutoland side. However, only a myopic political amateur can take the cattle theft complaints at their face value and dismiss them as of no political consequence. Let no one be deceived, the current thieving, it is a joint venture and the master-minds are Verwoerd and Vorster. Tried and tested politicians must see beyond and observe the signs and beginnings that might easily lead to the volcanic rumblings of gigantic dimensions, which if not checked might involve international issues. The scare-crow of cattle thefts is nothing else than the nucleus of international vendetta. The foundations and the origin of white outbursts along the border are based on apartheid doctrine.

True enough cattle have strayed and might even have been found in circumstances befitting theft. True enough individuals have been brought before the courts for associating with and for identifying themselves with pilfering. But the truth of the matter does not begin and end at that, aye, there are live undertows of political current, there are undertows that might easily jam and peg good neighbourliness and raise tempers where none existed before. Imperialists and colonialists are skilled at inventing pretext after pretext under the guise of thefts and the like. True to type it may even be found that reported thieves are Verwoerd's agents. If history is repeating itself as reported by the press, we are probably faced here with the thieving gymnastics of the olden days where the Boers acted as masterminds. In the days of the great Moshoeshoe, there were such misfits and ^{despicable} despicable persons.

A GUILTY MIND PROJECTS ITS GUILT.

When the Boers first arrived at the Cape, none of them possessed cattle. No sooner had they arrived than they immediately itched for hypocrisy. All of a sudden they falsely and ingenuously defrauded contracts entered into with the Hottentots. By their fraudulent actions they robbed the Hottentots of their land and cattle - in simple language they stole from them by false pretences. The thieving propensity that is going on along the borders must be given its proper and comprehensive perspective. The partners of darkness must be isolated and their devilish machinations exposed. The African people must be reminded again and again that during the frontier skirmishes and wars in the Cape, the Africans were accused of cattle stealing from the buffer Boers. Recorded history abounds in examples how fights were engineered thereby. So, beware ^{beneath} because the surface of cattle thefts lies sinister motives and objectives.

We said elsewhere, the drama is being acted along the borders of Basutoland and the Free State. Is it a mere coincidence or is it by design that the number of spies and informers from the Republic of South Africa has increased peripassu with the increase in the cattle thefts? Is it coincidence or systematic design that Verwoerdian political agents infiltrate the Basutoland administration, education and businesses? Is it coincidence or design that the so called guard-squads were formed to help the armed Boer settlers and almost simultaneously such teams were formed in Basutoland?

Let us not be lulled into childlike complacency. The boers are working hard and will stop at nothing to further their ends. African agents and provocateurs may well be handpicked from the Basutoland side. That is being done and will be done to give a misleading twist to the real intentions - aggressive espionage and provocative militarism.

The Hansard published by the Settler Parliament stipulate large sums of money earmarked to oil the wheel of aggressive political espionage. Several ^{despicable} despicable characters often serve and are paid agents of Verwoerd. All these serve amongst other things to initiate cattle thefts to give the opportunity to the South African police to cross the border into Basutoland as in fact they do so now under a variety of operations. Under this cover, the highpowered and organised tentacles of the Verwoerdian espionage get the blessings of authority and legality. Through this filthy device, numerous South African spies, informers and kidnapers find cover to further their nefarious aims. We are not in the habit of indulging in fiction, so, all must take note and the world must be alerted. No one should be hoodwinked and duped into accepting childlike lies and half-truths from the white and their lackeys. The crossings of the South African police into Lesotho definitely harbour a variety of operations.

For instance, it is a well known fact that already a spy ring is operating in the territories of Basutoland, Batsuanaland and Swaziland. Reliable sources place on record eight key persons in active service and operating specifically in Lesotho. In recent months paid informers, agents the South African police and their S.B. openly littered the streets in the towns in Lesotho. What is surprising is not that these are not arrested, but that the South African police have not yet given instruction to its Basutoland counterparts. What is surprising further, is not that the Basutoland police do ^{not} shadow them but that they have found pleasure in shadowing P.A.C. members, in persecuting them and in assaulting P.A.C. members, and has now made it its policy to frame them up perhaps to satisfy their vindictive instincts and tastes. Rather than arrest Verwoerd informers, spies and kidnapers the Basutoland police have gone out of their way to assault and persecute P.A.C. members. This seems to be a deliberate scheme. Tacitly or by coercion some policemen in Lesotho submit unashamedly to the bestial dictates of the Republican police. Normally, when a person works for another he is in regular pay of such a person. May be that because, the police remunerations are low, some are tempted to increase their wages by the back door through Vorster. / 4

The reported co-operation between the Basutoland and the South African police should not surprise us, it is a merging of duties. The work of the two countries fuse when it comes to dealing with refugees in the territories still under British rule. On the matter of administration of justice on refugees, the manner in which the Basutoland police handle them is suspect, in fact, one comes to the bitter but unavoidable conclusion that for all practical purposes, the police force or a good section of it is a graft of the South African police force, the general behaviour of some of the policemen makes it difficult to make a dividing line. At that stage one is strongly tempted to say, the South African police applies pressures and gives instructions and their counter-parts this side of the border are switched into action as we do our gramophones. To mention but a few illustrations : the South African police formed guard squads, Basutoland followed suit, reports the South African press; the South African police arrest PAC, Basutoland police do the same; Basutoland policemen arrest PAC members and during the trials, the South African police from the border posts are invited as V.I.Ps when ever PAC men are tried in the Basutoland Courts.

On the 14th September, 1964, Verwoerd spies were seen taking photographs of certain strategic streets in the Maseru Location in the full glare of day. During the course of the same week white and black informers alighted from cars with South African Number Plates, near the Lancers' Inn and immediately got into cars with BA numbers and dispersed to their various satanic assignments. Now one may ask : How many of these vandals and thugs have been brought before the Basuto Courts ? None whatsoever !

A BAD PROCLAMATION.

The Entry and Residence Proclamation when applied indiscriminately to refugees, is bad, repugnant and an anachronism. The Proclamation was never intended for them and the authors of the Proclamation could never have intended it for the refugees. To try to twist its import to meet a refugees situation in Basutoland is a serious invasion of the principle of conventional and international recognition and respect for political refugees. To-date, of the three Territories, Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland, Basutoland is the only one that charges and convicts political refugees on allegations of wrongful entry into this territory ; further Basutoland is the only Territory of the three that charges and convicts PAC refugees even when they already possess documents to/5

documents to show they have legally applied for a residential permits. It is therefore clear that the administration here expects PAC members to do the impossible.

The anomalous situation referred to here on the question of refugees assumes the worst ridiculousness when viewed ~~on~~^{by} the background of what Mr. G.M. Hector (Leader of the House) said, namely that "political refugees from the Republic of South Africa are permitted to enter Basutoland" and "provided they satisfy Districts or Central Control Boards that their status as refugees is genuine." The same said refugees are constantly and systematically deprived the right to satisfy the institutions mentioned above, and in many instances even when they have already proved and stated their status unambiguously, still they suffer humiliations, especially if it is discovered they are PAC refugees.

Further Mr. Hector said refugees "are granted residence certificates without conditions." One shudders to read a statement of this nature when one knows what the day to day practices are which violate this policy pronouncement made by one of the highest officials in the Basutoland government.

In the light of government policy enunciated by the Leader of the House, it is sheer wrecklessness on the part of some magistrates to continue to convict PAC refugees even after they have declared themselves genuine refugees and their status as such is not in doubt.

What really puzzles in the acrobatics of the administration is that only PAC members are singled out. In the execution of justice if that justice is to be respected and recognised, there ought not to be such glaring and barbaric discrimination.

Again a new phenomenon in Basutoland is that the South African police from the Border Posts receive invitations and permission to attend in person court trials where refugees are charged. This cuts across descent respect for refugee protection. The reason for this unwarranted practice is not far to fetch some magistrates are still South African citizens, and or retiring they shall return to the Republic of S.A. or when Basutoland attains independence they shall retreat to the Republic as good servants and ambassadors of apartheid, yes they shall side-step the 90 days detention.

One case where the South African police were introduced into and merged into the pattern of the department of justice in matters affecting refugees is that of PAC men arrested in August, 1964. These noble sons of Africa were tried in the Cuthing magisterial court and the South African police from Telle border post were invited as V.I.Ps. to be present at their trial.

SYSTEMATIC FRAME-UPS.

Another innovation and interesting feature of the execution of justice observed as the British Administration in Basutoland flunders and totters on is that of extravagant frame-ups. Mr. Elabisa was framed up four times and was in all instances proved innocent and discharged. Mr. Letsika was arrested, discharged, then arrested and discharged on one and the same alleged offence; interestingly enough, the same Letsika is presently an awaiting-^{trial} prisoner in the Maseru Central Prison charged with one and the same offence for which he had already been acquitted and he appears before a magistrate for trial sometime this week. Mr. Teka went through the same frame-ups. The court before which he appeared could not find a genuine case against him and he was therefore acquitted of the alleged offence and discharged.

One need ask ; one is bound to ponder : what is really happening to the British sense of justice ? Or is it because they want to leave behind a legacy of confusion and corruption ?

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