

Prof. the Hon. E.H. Brookes.

Handwritten: B/C/7/1

15th March, 1960.

Mr. A.M. Kathrada,
13, Kholvad House,
27, Market Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Kathrada,

Our Director, Mr. Quintin Whyte, and I propose visitings:

- Pietersburg - March 31 - April 4
- Richmond - April 22
- Kokstad - April 23

Our visits will be partly in connection with group areas proclamations or proposals, and we should like to meet leading members of the Indian community to discuss the matter. I wonder whether you will be kind enough to give me the names and addresses of any persons known to you in these towns whom you suggest we should meet ?

Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

M/47/1

Prof. the Hon. E.H. Brookes.

Airmail

17th March, 1960.

Mr. J.P. Cope, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Cope,

Enclosed are some suggested questions on group areas. I have tried to focus attention on the need for positive steps to minimise hardship, rather than on the proclamations themselves. I hope that these will be helpful. We will, later, send you the reports on visits to Rustenburg and Pietersburg.

Yours sincerely,

←

Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

Encl.

P.S. This letter will be received by you in duplicate - we omitted to send the first one by airmail -

B/C/7/1

Prof. the Hon. E.H. Brookes.

17th March, 1960.

Mr. J.P. Cope, M.P.,
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Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

Encl.

UNION PARLIAMENT—SOUTH AFRICA.

24 MAR 1960



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
CAPE TOWN.

March 22, 1960.

Miss Muriel Horrell,
Research Officer,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Miss Horrell:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter and draft questions. I enclose today's order paper on which you will find them. I think your questions are excellent and I shall send you the replies as soon as they are given in the House.

I am grateful to you for all the trouble you have taken.

Yours sincerely,

John Cope, M.P.

JC:ge

Enc.

File

B/4/7/11

28th March, 1960.

J.P. Cope, Esq.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Cope,

Thank you very much for your letters, and for the replies to the first sets of questions. One thing seems to stand out from these, and that is the pathetically long time it is taking to develop the proclaimed group areas. Bosmot and New Monteleo, for example, were proclaimed Coloured group areas on 3 August 1956, yet negotiations have not even been concluded yet in respect of essential services, and not a single house has been built. On the same date Rietfontein No. 48 was proclaimed an Indian area, yet tenders for the erection of the first 100 houses there are still awaited.

Meanwhile, Coloured and Indian people who will have to move from areas allocated to Whites, and those living in desperately overcrowded conditions, are left in a state of misery and uncertainty. Why are the periods within which Non-Whites must vacate areas zoned for Whites made so impracticably short? Admittedly, when the time comes to move the people may be granted temporary permits to stay on if no alternative accommodation is available (e.g. Coloured in Sophiatown, Indians in Newclare, etc.); but who could feel happy and settled while living under a temporary, annually renewable, permit?

Pretoria provided another clear example of this. Some of the Coloured and Indian people there were supposed to have moved by 5 June 1959, by which time nothing concrete whatsoever had been done to develop their new group areas.

The situation is particularly grave for traders living in such circumstances. Because their future is so insecure, wholesalers are unwilling to grant them normal credit facilities, bank overdrafts are being curtailed and bonds called up.

I note that the report of the inter-departmental committee on housing requirements in group areas is not to be made public. Perhaps, later on, one will be able to elicit some information about the Committee's conclusions by means of further questions.

/I

J.P. Cope, Esq.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

28th March, 1960.

I saw in the Press recently (Rand Daily Mail, 22 March) that the Group Areas Board had stated that "those who are dependent for their livelihood on trade and other business enterprises may, on expiry of the evacuation period, be granted permits to continue their present businesses until such time as they are able to make a living in their own areas." Do you think that further questions would be worth asking, such as whether this statement was correctly reported, who will decide whether or not the traders are able to make a living in their new areas, the periods of validity of the permits, etc?

I have just returned from investigating group areas in Rustenburg, and will send you a copy of my report as soon as it has been duplicated. It brings out the difficulties of traders in this area.

As is mentioned in this report, if separate residential areas are to be insisted upon, there is an area of ground, owned by the Municipality, which would be far more suitable for Indian and Coloured residence than the areas allocated to them in the recent proclamation. I wonder whether it would be worth asking the Minister whether he would be prepared to reconsider the matter? I know that the procedure involved would be complicated, but it might be worth trying.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

Saturday, March 26.

Dear Miss Horrell,

~~Two~~ ^{Three} sets of questions were answered yesterday, and I enclose the replies. There is one set of questions standing over, and I will send the replies as soon as they are given.

I would greatly appreciate any notes or comments you may be able to give me in time for the Interior vote in the House, due I think in about a fortnight's time.

Our impression here is that the Minister, Tom Naude, is trying to "ease up" as far as he can in the administrative application of the Act. But at the same time he has to exhibit a "tough exterior" to his political followers. Of course, the Group Areas Act is basically harsh and disruptive and obviously intended to squeeze the Indian community, so such little relaxations by the Minister as may be possible are welcomed but do not really ease the situation much.

If you think any further questions would be useful, please send them down.

Kindest regards,

John Lofe

10/4/71
Prof. the Hon. E.H. Brookes.

14th April, 1960.

B. Byrne-Daly, Esq.,
Editor, Zoutpansberg Review,
P.O. Box 45,
PIETERSBURG, N. Tvl.


Dear Mr. Byrne-Daly,

Enclosed is a copy of my report on the group areas proclamation, in case it is of interest to you. I have sent copies also to Mr. Tom Naudé, Mr. J.P. Cope, M.P., and Mr. Essa.

I am so grateful for all the help that you gave me.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

Encl.

21 APR 1960

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
CAPE TOWN.

April 19, 1960.

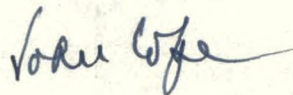
Miss Muriel Horrell,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG. TVL.

Dear Miss Horrell:

Just a hurried note to thank you for the various excellent reports you have sent. I had to leave for Johannesburg just before the debate on the Interior Vote, but I passed all the information about Group Areas ~~over~~ to Mr. Clive van Ryneveld, and I am told that he made a most excellent speech in Parliament.

I will send you Hansard when it comes out.

Yours sincerely,



J. Cope, M.P.

JC:ge

Recheck
File
8/4/71
Group Areas

2nd May, 1960.

The Hon. the Minister of the Interior,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Naudé,

I have been reading the Hansard report of your reply to points raised in connection with the Group Areas Act, and should like if I may to bring three points to your attention.

1. You said (11 April, Hansard col. 5284), referring to Pietersburg, "The area where the Indian shops are now will be taken over by the Municipality for their own purposes. There will be no new shops. Pietersburg has developed and the market square has to be extended."

I can understand that it might be convenient for the Municipality to expropriate Indian properties in the block bounded by Market, Bodenstein, Gen. Joubert and Vorster Streets in order to extend the grounds of the Town Hall.

But this block forms only about one-ninth of the total Indian land-holdings in Pietersburg. There are scattered Indian stores intermingled with shops owned by Whites all along Kerk, Gen. Joubert and Market Streets. These scattered sites are surely not all required by the Municipality? What is to be the future, to take one example, of Tikly's Store? It would seem that it must inevitably be sold to Whites for trading purposes at some time in the future.

2. You mentioned that the Bantu come from all over the Pietersburg district to visit the town, and said that the location was to be moved. You then stated, "Those same Natives will still be able to buy from the Indians in Ivydale, because they have to pass through there. In fact, I think the Indians will do even better business there."

/In.....

The Hon. the Minister of the Interior,
CAPE TOWN.

2nd May, 1960.

In fairness, I cannot see how one can maintain that the Africans will pass through Ivydale. Those entering the town from New Pietersburg or from Reserves to the north will come via Witklip Street and Market Street. Those coming from the Tuxfloop area will enter along Grobler Street. Those coming from the Zebediela and Nebo areas will, it is true, pass near Ivydale, but not through the Indian group area.

If the location is moved to the proposed new site, the easiest route for Africans going to the industrial areas would be almost directly east - nowhere near Ivydale. It seems that there will be two possible routes for those coming to the centre of town - either to near the station and then into town from the north (nowhere near Ivydale), or else along Ivy Road and Vorster Street. This route would skirt the Indian area but would not pass through it.

3. You stated (Col. 5285), "The Indians have arrogated to themselves the right to be the only business men." Is this not an exaggeration? You continued, "There are far too many of them in business".

On a previous occasion, Sir, (Hansard 10 col. 4106) when asked whether the Government intends to create any new avenues of employment for Asiatics in the Public Service, you replied that this is not being considered by the Government at present. The employment of Indians in secondary industry is under the constant threat of job reservation, and they cannot obtain land for farming. Very few are accepted as apprentices or miners, and many of the professions are closed to them because they cannot obtain the necessary practical training.

It would be very helpful if the Government would indicate what types of work it considers Indians should do as an alternative to trading, and whether it intends providing any necessary training facilities. You appeared to consider that more Indians should do manual work. What sort of manual work had you in mind?

This letter is not intended as carping criticism. We are genuinely anxious to get to the truth of the matter, and to know what the Government's plans are for the future of the Indians. I should be most appreciative of your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,
DIRECTOR.

B/4/7/1

2nd May, 1960.

Mr. C.B. Van Ryneveld, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. van Ryneveld,

Thank you for so ably putting the case of,
particularly, the Indians of Rustenburg and Pietersburg.

I have just been reading the Minister's reply in
Hansard, and all I can say is that it leaves one feeling completely helpless
and almost hopeless. It contains two entirely misleading statements:

1. He said (Col. 5284) "The area where the Indian shops are now will be
taken over by the Municipality for their own purposes. There will be no
new shops. Pietersburg has developed and the market square has to be
extended."

It is, no doubt, true that the Municipality would
like to take over Indian shops and homes in the block bounded by Market,
Bodenstein, Gen. Joubert and Vorster Sts. in order to extend the grounds of
the Town Hall. But this block forms only about one-ninth of the total
Indian land-holdings. There are scattered Indian stores intermingled with
shops owned by Whites all along Kerk, Gen. Joubert and Market Sts. The
Municipality is quite obviously not planning to take over these small,
scattered plots and turn them all into small market squares.

2. The Minister added "Those same Natives will still be able to buy
from the Indians in Ivydale because they have to pass through there. In
fact, I think the Indians will do even better business there".

This is most misleading. I see he remarked "The
location is also being shifted away further." So far as I know, the plan
to do so is in an embryo stage. It seems most unlikely that the location
will have been shifted within five years, when the time will have come for
the Indians to move.

/Even....

Mr. C.B. Van Ryneveld, M.P.,
CAPE TOWN.

2nd May, 1960.

Even if it is, Africans going to the industrial area will pass nowhere near the Indian group area. The route of those going to the centre of town will still have to be determined. It may enter the town to the north (again, nowhere near the Indian group area), or, alternatively, may be along Ivy Road (which skirts but does not pass through the Indian group area) and then into Vorster St.

Africans coming to Pietersburg from Reserves to the north and east will not pass the Indian group area. Those coming from the Nebo area will pass near (but not through) Ivydale.

It is quite ridiculous to say that the Indians will do better business at Ivydale. The Minister tacitly admitted this in his closing remarks when he said that the Indians had arrogated to themselves the right to be the only business men (which is nonsense). He added "Why cannot some of them also do some work?" I wonder what White commercial interests think of the latter remark! (I know, of course, that he meant manual work).

We are writing to the Minister drawing attention to the misleading nature of his statements.

Incidentally I notice (col. 5349) that the Deputy Minister denied that the Chairman of the Group Areas Board had said that Indians have too large a share of trade and would have to submit to some curtailment in the interests of other groups. This statement was made by representatives of the Board in an interview given to the Inter-Church Committee in Pretoria on 3 September 1958. The Chairman was present, and subsequently approved a report on the interview, containing this statement, which was prepared by the Inter-Church Committee for release to the Press.

Incidentally also (col. 5368) the Minister was incorrect in saying that "the whole community swooped down" on the editor of the Zoutpansberg Review. As is usual, some correspondents criticised his leader and others praised it.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss),
Research Officer.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
CAPE TOWN.

May 6, 1960.

9 MAY 1960

Miss M. Horrell,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Miss Horrell:

Thank you for your letter of May 2nd in connection with the group areas proposals at Pietersburg and Rustenburg. So far as I remember I did little but present your report. It is a pity I did not have your detailed comments on the Minister's reply when I spoke a second time. At any rate, the chance will come again. Next year I shall try very hard to get a major debate on group areas, if possible by way of a private member's motion. Unfortunately it is difficult to get sufficient preference for a private motion for us to get it debated before the Government takes over private days.

As you say, the Minister's replies make one feel quite hopeless. Nevertheless, I did detect a slight change of attitude when the Deputy Minister, Botha, was speaking. He seemed to suggest that people would not be forced to move their businesses while it was clear that they would suffer substantial loss. During the Minister's final reply, I pressed him on this by way of a question, but he was quite unbending. Nevertheless, Botha certainly gave me the impression that there was a softening of approach.

For your information, Marais, the Group Areas Chairman, told me during the debate that it was intended to change the bus route used by Africans to take them past the intended group area for Indians. I cannot remember now whether he was talking of Pietersburg or Rustenburg.

Yours sincerely,

Clive van Ryneveld

Clive van Ryneveld, M.P.

CvR:ge

gpc

Mr Scott: In ach. receipt & the GPC will
come on 22nd Nov

Thank you
RW
11/11/60

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC.)

W10YX219XX

NOV 1960

Telephone: 3-318

To: Mr. Quintin Whyte,
Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

From: Regional Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
203/205 Bree Street,
CAPE TOWN.

7th November, 1960.

Dear Mr. Whyte,

GROUP AREAS ACT.

At the last meeting of the Regional Committee, the whole question of the people likely to be affected by proclamations under the Group Areas Act was again discussed, and it was decided that I should write to you conveying the Committee's suggestion that the time had now come when official machinery should be set up whereby all persons, no matter of what race group, likely to be affected by proclamations under the Group Areas Act and the implementation thereof, should be officially advised of such proclamations, of the due date by which the proclamation affecting them would become effective, and all their rights under the Act.

The Committee felt that this was absolutely essential, as there are many people who will only realise their predicament when the proclamations become due and the time has expired, and that therefore the onus is on the Government to provide this service to the public.

A further suggestion was that this service could be very easily and effectively rendered by the local authority in the affected areas, and I was asked to pass this information on to you and to state that the Regional Committee would be grateful if the G.P.C. would, if it felt it desirable, take the necessary steps to impress upon the Government the need for such service, etc.

I have, meantime, contacted the Anti Group Areas Committee and the Civil Rights Committee here with a view to reviving the voluntary advisory service in Cape Town, where the Coloured people, particularly, are likely to be very much affected.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) K.R. Matthews.

REGIONAL ORGANISER.

Bowen, Sessel & Goudvis,

POSTAL ADDRESS BOX 6434.

TELEPHONE 835-2111.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "HUTCH".

Solicitors.

Stanley Joseph Sessel.
Neville Victor Hardwicke-Matterson, B.A., LL.B.
Victor Horace Sessel.
George Wood Cook, B.A., LL.B.
Bruce Hamilton Gordon Gibbs.
Peter John Brockster Neall.
David Hyman Schneider, B.A., LL.B.

B/4711

*Fourth Floor, A.B.C. Chambers,
cor. Fox & Simmonds Streets,
Johannesburg,
South Africa.*

Our Ref: Mr. Carlston/PW

17th November, 1960.

S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
Auden House,
68, de Korte Street,
BRAAMFONTEIN,
Johannesburg.

Attention Miss Muriel Horrell.

Dear Sirs,

re: LADY SELBORNE TOWNSHIP.

We have been asked by our clients to express to the Institute appreciation of the co-operation extended to them by your Institute and by Miss Horrell, who gave evidence on behalf of the property owners and residents of Lady Selborne at the Group Areas Enquiry concluded recently.

We understand that Advocate L. Lazar has already returned to you the various documents which you so kindly loaned him.

Yours faithfully,

E. Carlston
BOWEN, SESSEL & GOUDVIS.

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