

STATEMENT IN TERMS OF SECTION  
66(1) &(2) OF THE CODE.

I plead not guilty, but wish to make a brief statement in terms of Section 66 of the Criminal Code.

A number of possible charges against me have been put by the prosecution. No doubt some or all of these will in due course be formulated in an indictment. But the Court will have noticed that a considerable volume of the evidence may relate to more than one of the charges. The State may therefore seek to use such evidence against me on several charges.

Regarding my defence I wish to say this. Some of the evidence led is correct and at my trial I shall not seek to deny that evidence. On the other hand, important evidence has been given which is either grossly distorted or which I shall maintain is untruthful. This evidence will be denied.

At this stage, however, the truthful and the false evidence is so inextricably interwoven that it is not possible by means of a plea to unravel the one from the other. In these circumstances, therefore, I plead not guilty to all the charges.

In addition I feel obliged to make use of the first opportunity which the law allows me to deal briefly with certain allegations made by the State in opening this hearing, or which might be inferred from certain

/evidence.....

evidence led regarding The Christian Institute, The Defence and Aid Fund and the Institute of Race Relations. It is a matter of deep regret to me that my trial, which ought to deal only with my political activities, has been used as a platform from which to smear innocent persons, who have in no way been associated with me in my political activities, and whose only sin is their unpopularity with the present Government.

(a) The Christian Institute is, as far as I am aware, a religious organisation which concerns itself solely with religious matters. I have met the Rev. Beyers Naude on one occasion only at a purely social function. I have never discussed politics with him nor have I ever had any contact with the Institute. I wrote to him solely because I was deeply impressed by a summary which was published in a newspaper of an address which he was forcibly prevented from delivering at a meeting in Belgravia last year. In this address he seemed to me to have put forward what I regard as the essence of Christianity : that one should do unto others as one would be done by - irrespective of race or colour. I cannot understand why he should have been mentioned at all in this trial. He has had no part whatsoever in my political activities nor, indeed, any knowledge of such activities. It is hardly his fault, that I hold the same views as he does about the dignity of man.

/(b).....

(b) Similarly I know that the Defence and Aid Fund, which is an International organisation concerns itself with two tasks only:

(a) It contributes funds for the defence of those who are charged with political offences, many of whom would otherwise go without defence; and

(b) It seeks when it can to assist the families of those who have been convicted of political offences and who could otherwise be destitute. These tasks it performs not only in this country but elsewhere as well.

I have met Canon Collins who has collected money for the Defence and Aid Fund. I have written to him occasionally to express my thanks for what he is doing. I have never sought to use him to forward my political activities nor would I ever seek to do so. To my knowledge no one has ever used or attempted to use Defence and Aid in order to obtain funds for political purposes. The Defence and Aid Fund had no part whatsoever in my activities nor any knowledge of such activities.

(c) I need say little about the Institute of Race Relations. It has functioned for many years in this country for furthering inter-racial harmony and co-operation by investigating and publishing facts relating to race relations. The evidence of Miss. Tucker shows that in so far as the Institute has been mentioned in the evidence in this case, it was not concerned in any way with political affairs. As far as I am concerned

/I.....

I have never used it or sought to use it for any political purpose whatsoever. The Institute of Race Relations had no part whatsoever in my political activities nor any knowledge of such activities.

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