

BANISHMENT OF AFRICANS

At various times in the past few years the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development has been questioned ^{in Parliament} about the banishment of Africans under the Native Administration Act. This year a series of ~~written~~ questions was put at the Institute's request by Mr. Cope and Mrs. Suzman, bringing to light further facts. The Institute has also been given information by the Human Rights Welfare Committee, which is in touch with a number of the banished people and is helping them in various ways.

The latest information is:

1. At least 97 people have been banished in the period January 1948 - January 1961. Six of these have died. The removal orders against another three have been withdrawn, and the orders against 24 have been suspended, either indefinitely or for fixed periods, and subject to certain conditions. This leaves 64 who are still in banishment (six of these are believed to have evaded the orders and disappeared).
2. In addition the Minister has, at various times, mentioned the names of 14 people who were at one time or another in exile. Their names have not, however, appeared on any of the lists he has given of people banished in 1948-61 (this might have been a mistake on his part or they might have been banished before 1948). Of the 14, one has died and the remainder are either conditionally or unconditionally free.
3. Ten people were banished in 1960 alone, all but two or three of whom came from the Transkei. They included a chief and his mother, a number of headmen and an ex-Fort Hare student. One of the others was a Zulu chief.
4. All the orders were made under Section 5 (1)(b) of the Native Administration Act of 1927, which allows the Minister (under the cloak of the Governor-General) to remove an individual African or even an entire tribe from one place to another whenever he deems it "expedient in the general public interest."
5. The places to which the exiles have been sent are isolated farms on Native Trust land, where they are usually given work as labourers. Some deportees are entirely on their own, but others have been sent to camps built for groups of six or more. Four of the deportees are at Frenchdale camp (Mafeking area), six at Driefontein camp (Vryburg), four at Tabaans location (Sibasa), six at Mandini (Gingindlovu), and others at Wesselsvlei (Vryburg), Glen Road (Kuruman), Kingwilliamstown, Pietersburg, Groblersdal, Eshowe, Gollel and one or two other places.
6. The deportees themselves and people who have visited them speak of extreme poverty and ^{very poor living conditions} (very poor living conditions). When employed, ^(they) their wages are (paid) £4 - £6 per month, from which they pay for food, clothing, bedding and furniture, and support of their families. (Only a few have chosen to have their families with them although they are entitled to this.) Those who are not given work ^(are entitled to) (should be paid) an allowance of about £2 per month, but not all receive it. ^{even if they are unemployed.}
7. Many of the deportees say that they were arrested and sent away before they had a chance of informing their families. The Minister confirmed

who remained unaware of what had happened to them.

this year that this was so. The families were not told of their whereabouts because "the Bantus concerned are free to communicate with their families".

8. Some of the deportees complain that they were never told why they were banished. The Native Administration Act states that reasons must be furnished if the Minister is asked by the banished person, but he refused to give reasons in particular cases when asked in the Assembly this year, on the grounds that the questioner was not authorized by the deportees.
9. Human Rights Welfare Committees have been set up in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Kimberley, and are sending small grants of money, food, clothing and newspapers to 35 deportees and their families. They are trying to make contact with the deportees who have not yet been traced.
10. Further questions have been prepared in consultation with the Human Rights Welfare Committee and have been sent to Mr. Cope to put to the Minister. These questions should clear up the whereabouts of any untraced deportees and elicit more information about living conditions and treatment at the hands of officials.
11. The deportees are meanwhile being circularized to obtain their authorization for questions in Parliament about the reasons for banishment. (On present information, it seems that many of them, possibly half the total, are chiefs or headmen who were banished for opposing Bantu Authorities. The great majority are rural people of prominence in local affairs.)

Amnesty at date of coming-into-being of Republic

Specific Q's about what were the results of reviews in particular cases.

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