

African Student Apartheid Victim



SLIM ZINDELA of South Africa

By THORA WILLIAMS
Emerald Feature Editor

Slim Zahale Derrick Zindela came to the University the hard way—he was smuggled out of South Africa in the back of a truck.

His return would be even more difficult, because it would require overthrow of the apartheid system of racial discrimination. But Zindela, who has been granted political asylum by Tanganyika, is determined to do all he can to end the white-supremacy laws of his homeland.

A psychology major, he has devoted his energies to the work of the African National Congress, the leading organization working to end apartheid. It is underground in South Africa but has exile headquarters in Tanganyika.

As Zindela quietly explained it, "I am 39 years old. I should be married and raising a family. But I am here because they asked me to come and prepare myself for reorganizing the educational system at home. What I will do depends on what the organization decides."

Zindela, who has been arrested and imprisoned several times because of his political activities in behalf of the non-whites in South Africa, said that "almost all" Africans and "quite a few" whites in his country belong to the African National Congress. Membership is considered a criminal offense there.

Early in 1960, under instructions of the organization, Zindela left the country with 27 other students. Charged with illegal entry in Southern Rhodesia, and after two months in jail, they were sentenced to deportation to South Africa.

However, on the train back, they were able to escape in the British protectorate Bechuanaland. They made contact with the African National Congress offices in Tanganyika, which sent a chartered plane for them. Within a year, they all had scholarships. With help from the Afro-American Institute, Zindela entered OSU fall term, 1963. He transferred to the University winter term.

"Are conditions in South Africa as bad as we hear?" This is the question Zindela is most frequently asked. Zindela says they are. The blacks have an inferior educational system, are faced with job restrictions, generally have a

Nations in overthrowing apartheid. "The U.N. cannot do anything unless all of the countries act together, but they never do," he said.

Still, Zindela has confidence that a solution will come, even though it may not be reached peacefully. "The English have a way of suppressing you without making you feel the pinch," he said. "But since the boers have gained power there has been active opposition."

He said he is only one of thousands of Africans throughout the world who are dedicated to the overthrow of apartheid in South Africa. If they should succeed, how would the new African rulers look upon the Western powers?

"Why should they be friendly to the West?" he questioned. He said the refusal of the United States, Britain and France to end trade with the ruling white supremacists has helped maintain apartheid.

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