

South Africa Churches Back Segregation

By HERMAN R. ALLEN
WASHINGTON (AP)—Most of the leading religious denominations in this country have taken stands in favor of racial segregation—at least at the top levels, though many local churches have not complied.

In South Africa, where racial questions are broadly similar to those here, the Dutch Reformed Church continues its position in favor of complete segregation. The Dutch Reformed church is by far the largest and most influential in South Africa. It represents the Afrikaans-speaking white population, 57 per cent of white Christians.

What is the thinking behind the Dutch Reformed position in South Africa? A visiting South African minister, Domine Johannes Reyneke of the Groote Kerk (Great Church) of Pretoria, gave some answers this week. Doctor of Divinity Degree Reyneke came to this country unofficially to receive a doctor of divinity degree at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., and was here as a guest preacher at the Episcopal Cathedral.

"In the first place," he said in an interview discussing some of the points brought out in his sermon, "it definitely is not the intent of our church to oppress or suppress the African. Our leaders have said more than once we should make friends rather than potential enemies. Our whole policy is directed toward better race relations."

As background for his church's policy, Reyneke explained that the black African population is divided into nine language groups, each virtually a nation with its own way of life. Only about one fourth of these Africans live in or around cities.

"Our belief," he said, "is that national churches function more efficiently than interracial communities. We feel that Christianity should not denationalize a people but that the nationalism of that people should be Christianized. We feel that they should worship in the language of the people. They should have their own leadership and not be spoon-fed by a mother church inferior position."

"And so our aim is to make the African churches self-supporting, self-propagating and independent of the white churches. If the African churches were integrated into white churches, Africans would always occupy an inferior position of leadership, as things now stand."

The Dutch Reformed church, Reyneke said, has always carried on a strong missionary program among the blacks. It now operates six schools and colleges for the training of black missionaries, as well as hundreds of primary and secondary schools for general education. It maintains 15 hospitals and several missionary printing plants.

The black African churches were started as missions. The central church still subsidizes them, Reyneke said, but is beginning to relax its control. At the same time it is doing what it can to wipe out any situation that might suggest blacks do not make just as good Christians as whites.

No Race Equality The synod of Transvaal, for example, still has a provision in its constitution, a hangover from the days when Transvaal was a separate state, which says there shall be no racial equality. Reyneke said a motion probably will come before the next synod meeting to repeal this clause, which other synods never did have.

The other side of the religious racial coin in South Africa is that whites as a national group want their own churches, just as Reyneke says they feel the blacks should have their national churches. "It seems to me," he said, "not so much a case of racial animosity as a case of the whites trying to segregate themselves from the millions of non-whites so that they can remain as a white community."

Reyneke was asked what would happen if a black African presented himself at his church in Pretoria—in the heart of South Africa's racial strife.

No Politics "The tradition of our church would be against it," he replied, "but he would not be turned away if he came there to worship. If he came as a political gesture, that would be something else."

He said there were a number of mixed churches in South Africa and that there were two black members in the Capetown synod, which totals 300 clergymen and 300 laymen.

Reyneke acknowledged that the racial question was a tense one in all aspects of South African life but said "I feel that we are in a period of transition and that things will settle down."

Umpqua River Troller Sinks

REEDSPORT (AP)—Salvage operations continued Thursday for a 32-foot troller that crashed into rocks and sank at the mouth of the Umpqua River Wednesday night, almost costing the life of its 18-year-old skipper.

Rescued by his father, who was waiting outside the harbor in his 40-foot troller, was Harry B. Cure Jr. Young Cure was struggling in the heavy swells when his father, braving the waves in a dinghy, reached him.

The father didn't have strength to pull the youth aboard, but he held his son's head above water until a Coast Guard boat arrived and took both aboard.

Youth Admits Killing 2 Girls In Maryland

UPPER MERIDEN, Md. (AP)—A 16-year-old reform school inmate has confessed the year-old slaying of two teenage girls in a park near the University of Maryland. State's Attorney Blair H. Smith of Prince Georges County reported Thursday.

Smith said the youth, committed to the Maryland Training School for Boys several weeks ago for car theft, gave police investigators a detailed account of ambushing the girls in Northwest Branch Park with a .22 caliber repeater rifle. The scene is a few miles outside Washington, D.C.

Nancy Marie Shomette, 16, and

Michael Ann Ryan, 14, were killed the morning of June 15, 1955, as they walked through the suburban park to get Nancy's report card at Northwestern High School.

"We are only checking out one or two inconsistencies before charging the boy," Smith said. He did not name the youth, who first told his story to Claude F. Libis, a supervisor at the training school. Smith quoted the youth as saying he did not know the girls. Smith's announcement came 24 hours after Prince Georges County detectives, later joined by police

triests and State Police, began questioning the slight, close-cropped blond youth.

Moral—Don't Pay Up Too Quickly

DETROIT (AP)—While Rosa Anna Tender's parents were away on a trip, Rosa opened a letter from Adrian, Mich., police saying that her father owed \$1 for illegal parking.

Rosa, 12, promptly mailed in a dollar bill. When her father came back, he hit the ceiling. He had never been in Adrian and told Rosa he wouldn't pay her the dollar.

Rosa wrote a polite note to Adrian police explaining the situation and asking for return of her dollar. She got it, along with a note of apology — there had been a mixup in license numbers.

Police Arrest 40 After Algeria Vengeance Raids

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Police arrested 40 suspects Thursday in a wide ranging manhunt for rebels who killed 4 European civilians here Wednesday and who threatened new vengeance raids on cities.

Rebel tracts found by police and soldiers said the attack in crowded downtown Algiers was reprisal for the beheading of two convicted rebels on the French guillotine Tuesday. Fifteen other Europeans were wounded as the

rebel commandos sprayed the streets with pistols. The tracts vowed that French prisoners of the rebels will now be shot.

"The national army of liberation has decided to change its tactics," the rebel proclamations said. "It is going to carry the war into the cities."

"If any more of our people are executed the French will pay very dearly. Our soldiers who fight for the liberation in the mountains

will be without pity for the French soldiers.

"Already we have announced that we will take no more prisoners. As for the soldiers in our hands, who have been well treated, we are going to shoot them."

Mohammed Zaharra and Abdel Kader Ferradi, the French executioners have assassinated you. Today you are avenged."

been sentenced to death. But for fear of alienating Algerian sympathies, the French have delayed those executions.

HUGE AUCTION DUE WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department has announced that some 1,500 businessmen-bidders from all over the country will vie vocally for thousands of items of navy surplus material at the navy's five million dollar public auction sale in Philadelphia June 27-28.

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