

SOUTH AFRICA

Boycott their Games and Goods

— Says Cheddi Jagan

I have just received a letter from an old friend in South Africa. He is quite worried. Apparently, Worrell is to lead a West Indian team to South Africa. The W.I. team is to play cricket with non-white South Africans.

What worries my friend is not cricket. He loves cricket and admires W.I. cricketers. But he is scared about the insults and humiliations to which West Indians would be subjected—the same insults and humiliations to which all non-white Africans are subjected. He is even more alarmed that "two of our non white administrators have issued a statement praising the cooperation and assistance they have been receiving for the project from our government. They have also announced that they were making special seating arrangements for white spectators".

Inhumanity

Now, I may be told that this is cricket, and we must keep politics out of sport. But can we? In South Africa, we are not dealing with sports or sportsmen...we are dealing with inhumanity and barbarians, with apartheid segregation and denial of basic human rights.

But, some may say, the W.I. are going to play with Africans; what's wrong with that? There is plenty wrong with this. If W.I. are going to play cricket in South Africa, they must play against South Africans, not forced to play only with black South Africans. This is an insult to West Indians.

EXCURSION TO BARTICA

BY CANJE PHEASANT
SUNDAY JANUARY 18
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To lead a team to South Africa is to swallow an insult. But above all, cooperation with the South African Government means condoning of its fascist policy and its persecution of freedom fighters, white and non-white.

Treason Trials

Surely we must all be aware of the treason trials in South Africa. In December, 1956, the trial began with 156 men and women of all races. Early this year 65 were released, including ex-Chief Albert Lutuli, President of the African National Congress.

According to Professor Julius Lewin "one of the key documents in the case is the Freedom Charter. This historic document contains echoes of the American Declaration of Independence and the UN Declaration of Human Rights; it also demanded that 'mineral wealth, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;... that the land shall be shared among those who work it;— and that 'there shall be a national minimum wage'. Just what such demands about the distribution of wealth may have been intended to imply is one of the issues in the trial, since the question of socialism or communism has been raised."

"The outcome of the treason trial is more likely to depend on the interpretation given to the Suppression of Communism Act. This law, passed in 1950, makes it a serious crime to promote any of the objects of 'communism' which is defined in a startlingly broad way. 'Communism' includes not only Marxian socialism but also any doctrine or scheme that aims at bringing about

any change (political; industrial, social or economic) by unlawful acts or by the threat of them'. One of the objects of 'communism' specially mentioned is 'the causing of hostility against the white race'.

Smear Tactics

Prof Lewin continues: 'As it happened, however, avowed Communists had never been the sole or even the main source of radicalism in a country with a long tradition of protest against racial discrimination and colour prejudice. There had been some white liberals—mainly but not entirely Christian missionaries... at work in the public life of South Africa all through the nineteenth century. Moreover, as Professor Z.K. Matthews (one of the African defendants in the treason trial) once said: The African people did not require communists to teach them to defend their rights. Ever since the Bantu tribes first encountered the Europeans, long before the Communist Manifesto was even thought of, they have struggled for equal rights in the land of their birth. They will con-

tinue their struggle and not allow themselves to be browbeaten by smear tactics in their determined fight for their liberation!"

Boycott

There can be no cooperation with people who equate opposition to apartheid as treason. The late Prime Minister, Mr. Strydom at one time declared 'anyone who purposely tried to upset the Government's plan to put into operation its apartheid policy or who failed to do his duty towards the realization of that aim would be guilty of treason.'

West Indians and Guineese cherish freedom. We do not believe in a superior Herrenvolk. We must stand up and fight racial discrimination in all its forms. Let's start by boycotting. However much we love cricket, let us not go to South Africa. Boycott their games and boycott their goods.

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