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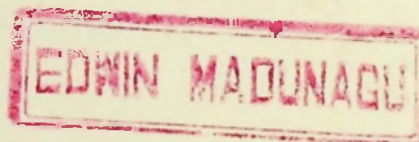
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BASIC FACTS ON THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AND THE POLICY OF APARTHEID

by

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[Note: This issue contains the revised text of a paper prepared in 1974 for the Unit on Apartheid by Julian R. Friedman, Professor of Political Science at the Maxwell Graduate School of Syracuse University, U.S.A. Professor Friedman, who served as Assistant Secretary, Committee 1/2 at the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco in 1945, is the author of a number of articles and books on international law and politics. He has prepared papers on apartheid for United Nations Seminars held in Brasilia in September 1966 and in Kitwe in July-August 1967.

The views expressed are those of the author.

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Acknowledgement, together with a copy of the publication containing the reprint, would be appreciated.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Apartheid is "a crime against humanity" under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 3068 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 *. From the viewpoint of social and political analysis, it is "a social malignancy rooted in the obsession of a minority to retain the luxury of privilege through the brutal exercise of force." **

2. In a recent article, the following question was quoted:

"Why does a country that professes its moral commitments and yearnings for justice keep 3,000 people in detention for political crimes, more than the total being held in South Africa?"

What a strange standard for comparison, South Africa! Indeed it is an inappropriate one inasmuch as South Africa is a State where, subject to drastic constraints, almost all the population lives in some form of detention, not 3,000 or even 10,000 persons, but over twenty-five million people.

3. At the bar of world opinion South Africa stands for injustice and inequality. Prodigiously endowed with natural resources, South Africa achieves the highest gross national product (GNP) on the African continent year after year, a comparatively affluent and developed nation, first in economic ranking in Africa. Its GNP currently is in excess of thirty-five thousand million dollars (US). Per capita GNP for the entire population is approximately one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400). Per capita income for the whites (Europeans) runs at least three times this figure, while per capita income for the Africans is only one-sixth, and for every white (European) there are four to five Africans in the country. The difference, the gap, represents the true measure of separation of the peoples of South Africa, as well as a valid indicator, but not the only one, of the social tensions there.

4. In every respect apartheid is surgical, functioning without anaesthesia. By way of illustration, with the creation of "Transkei" under the "separate development" policy, the South African Government has unilaterally cancelled the citizenship of over a million of its own inhabitants.

"The tragedy is that, unknown to him, his citizenship has already been stripped away." ***

* Background Paper, OPI/513, April 1974. United Nations Office of Public Information, New York.

** Ellis, Diana and Friedman, Julian, "The depressed state of the African population under apartheid in the Republic of South Africa", Notes and Documents, No. 24/76, December 1976, United Nations Centre against Apartheid, New York.

*** The Sunday Times, London, 16 January 1977, p. 10.

United Nations General Assembly refused admission of the South African delegation. In February 1976 the Commission of the European Community went on record condemning apartheid.

9. At the 30th session of the General Assembly in 1975, seven resolutions on apartheid were adopted. In six cases there were no negative votes. An omnibus resolution (3144G of 10 December 1975) received 101 votes in favour, drew 15 votes against and 16 abstentions. ^{124/} In 1976, at its 31st session, the General Assembly adopted eleven resolutions dealing with apartheid. Two resolutions passed without objections, three with no votes against but with some abstentions. Resolutions on "Arms embargo against South Africa" (31/6D), "Relations between Israel and South Africa" (31/6E), "Economic collaboration with South Africa" (31/6H), "Situation in South Africa" (31/6I) and "Programme of action against apartheid" (31/6J) were passed with large majorities but drew votes against and abstentions. ^{125/}

^{124/} "Resolutions on apartheid adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1975", Notes and Documents, No. 5/76, February 1976, (New York, United Nations Centre against Apartheid, 1976).

^{125/} Ibid., No. 36/76, November 1976.