

## THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO EXPEL

### BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVISTS

It has come to our attention at *Ufahamu* that two exiled South African professors, Dennis Brutus and Cosmo Pieterse, are facing what amounts to a Reagan Administration effort at victimizing Africans who take a stand on the political situation in South Africa.

Cosmo Pieterse, playwright and professor of English at Ohio University in Athens, was denied a visa to re-enter the U.S. while he was travelling in England. In spite of appeals by his colleagues, he has not yet been readmitted to the U.S.A.

Professor Dennis Brutus--whose poetry, our readers will recall, has been published in *Ufahamu*, and whom we know mostly through his anti-apartheid activities--is still in the U.S., although the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) refused to renew his visa. The INS claims that Brutus and Pieterse were hired under an Eisenhower Administration policy which recommended recruitment of immigrants who had skills needed by, yet lacking in, the U.S.A. According to the INS, there are now enough American citizens qualified to take over the positions held by Brutus and Pieterse.

Both the former and current chairpersons of the English Department at Northwestern University have written letters of support on behalf of Brutus to the INS. The authors of these letters told the INS that *nobody of the expertise of Brutus was available for his position*. Other letters of support were sent to the INS by Congressman Harold Washington of Chicago, by the Committee on Southern Africa in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and by the African Literature Association (ALA).

The ALA meeting "voted unanimously to have ALA write U.S. Departments of Justice and Immigration, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the House Subcommittee on African Affairs to protest and expose these and *similar* injustices."<sup>1</sup> This vote was decided during the annual conference of the ALA at Claremont, California (8 - 11 April 1981).

In an interview which he granted *Peuples Noirs--Peuples Africains*<sup>2</sup>--the influential African journal edited by Mongo Beti, the famous Camerounian novelist and political activist exiled in France--Dennis Brutus talked about the official reasons given for his denial of a residence visa, but he stressed that there are also unofficial reasons. These reasons, as suspected by everyone, had to do with the involvement of Dennis Brutus in

organizing and strengthening on U.S. campuses a popular front against U.S. investments in apartheid South Africa. This divestment campaign is one of the most successful campaigns undertaken in the U.S.A. against the racist regime of Pretoria. These are the real reasons behind the Reagan Administration's decision to expel Brutus. As we all know, the Reagan Administration has pledged support for the racist South African gang. One of the ways in which it intends to help the fascist regime is to expel from the U.S. all African scholars, students, and businessmen who speak against apartheid. The American people can now see how Pretoria is dictating their policy at home. This situation constitutes an act of terrorism designed to intimidate all political opponents. If we stand and fight together we can reverse this situation. We urge all progressive groups and individuals everywhere to write letters of support to the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee and to speak up against such sneaky maneuvers.

Send your letters to:

Dennis Brutus Defense Committee  
39 South LaSalle Street, Rm. 825  
Chicago, Ill. 60603

<sup>1</sup> ALA Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Summer 1981).

<sup>2</sup> *Peuples Noirs--Peuples Africains*, No. 21 (mai-juin 1981).

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At the same time that the racist Pretoria regime is increasing acts of aggression and violence in Southern Africa, it is seeking support from other racist regimes around the world through sports.

After New Zealand, the apartheid rugby team plans to tour the U.S.A. with the blessing of the Reagan Administration. A coalition has been formed in Chicago to oppose the South African rugby match there. A rally will take place in Chicago on September 12, 1981. This rally is being called by the coalition, Stop Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART). Let us all join the struggle against apartheid and its allies. Together we can defeat the racists.

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