

# There is one victim fewer now

Eric Abraham's escape from South Africa is a triumph for liberty, and not just for his own. It ought to give heart to the other prisoners he has left behind. It ought to raise the spirits of those South Africans—white as well as black—who have not been detained but who have to endure a harshly restricted freedom. When an individual beats an organised tyranny the news is good for all mankind.

The story of his escape, which Abraham tells in today's *Guardian* (as fully as he can without endangering others) shows in more detail than has been available before the nature and completeness of the South African surveillance system. The police are everywhere. They are all powerful. They need answer, apparently, to nobody for what they do. But they are not invincible. One man, alone and intrepid, has made an army look foolish.

Abraham's story ought also to be a warning to those who make excuses from without for the South African regime; or who would like to make excuses for it; or who would like to look the other way. "He who allows oppression shares the crime," said Erasmus Darwin. He who would rather not know about oppression shares the crime as well. The *Guardian* rejoices in Eric Abraham's liberty.