



# THE GUARDIAN

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## Carter church rejects black

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** Carter yesterday joined fellow members of an all-white Baptist Church at Plains in rejecting an application for membership from a black preacher. The congregation unanimously turned down a request by the Rev. Cepha King, who was first denied admission last November in an incident which led to criticism of Mr Carter for not reacting from the church.

Hugh Carter, Mr President-elect's cousin, read statements to the congregation, including Mr Jimmy Carter, turned down Mr King. "I am sorry he failed to appear before the church's Watch Committee, and did not cooperate with his congregation, and lived too far from Plains to qualify. Report, page 2.

## Mugabe wins backing

**THE FIVE** front line African states yesterday threw their full weight behind the Patriotic Front of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe. Speaking at the end of a weekend summit in Lusaka, President Nyere, of Tanzania, said the five states had "decided to give full political, material, and logistic support to the Patriotic Front." Report, page 2.

Mr PHILIP AGE, the former CIA agent, said yesterday that he believed the British Government wanted to deport him because it thought he was responsible for the death of two Western intelligence agents in Poland—Report, back page.



## Kidnap victim freed

From DEREK BROWN in Belfast

A farmer kidnaped at gunpoint from his South Armagh home yesterday was later released after police issued

# Flight from a coming race war

**ERIC ABRAHAM**, who has been telling the truth (in the Guardian and elsewhere) about South Africa, was arrested on November 29, escaped on Wednesday, and arrived in London yesterday. This is his story.

No Easy Way To Freedom—the title of a book by the imprisoned South African National Congress president Nelson Mandela — kept running through my mind as I scrambled over the barbed-wire fence separating South Africa from Botswana shortly before sunrise last Wednesday.

I looked back over South African territory still so confused as to be able to accept the reality that I was at last free. ● Eric Abraham arrives at Heathrow yesterday

and still trembling a little from a fearful 10-mile walk through the border zone. South African Defence Force patrols have a reputation of shooting first and talking afterwards.

It was 5.30 in the morning, less than 23 hours since the day of my escape: attempt which began a thousand miles away in Cape Town. Two weeks of careful planning and an escape of daring had proved successful.

The precise details of my escape will have to remain a secret until there is a change of Government in South Africa. However, I can say that I

worked on the assumption that as a journalist, since I was not allowed to be quoted, or to prepare material for publication or for transmission in any form, I faced the prospect of entering any building which had on its premises printing equipment.

I cut my hair. I booked a ticket to Johannesburg under an assumed name, and within two hours arrived at Jan Smuts Airport. Several hours travel brought me to within those 10 miles of the South African-Botswana border.

Behind me I had left an intolerable life. Since November 29 of last year, when I was served with stringent banning and house-arrest orders on the 10 hours during weekends and on

public holidays. I was allowed no visitors at any time, apart from a doctor, my father or my mother. During the day, I was restricted to the magisterial districts of Cape Town and Wynberg.

I was not allowed to enter or be on the premises of a university or educational institution. I was not allowed to teach or give instruction of any kind. I was not allowed to enter the black or coloured residential areas or townships, nor enter any factory, harbour or airport. Communication with another banned person was forbidden.

In all, the restriction orders laid mine, paper and conversation of any sort on would, if I was caught, lead to a term of imprisonment of

not less than six months. The banning and house-arrest orders also meant constant surveillance by the security police. They also led to severe harassment by Right-wing terrorists. I believe that I saved the

Leader comment, page 10

● BELOW: The banning order signed by Mr Kruger

# Israel wants to try terrorist

From ERIC SILVER in Jerusalem and FRANKLIN JORDAN in Bonn: January 9

Israel decided in principle tonight to request the extradition from France of Muhammad Daoud Odeh, one of the half-dozen most-wanted Palestinian terrorists.

Odeh, better known by his code name Abu Daoud, was arrested in Paris on Friday when he arrived to attend the funeral of a murdered Palestinian official Israel named him today as one of the chief planners of the 1972 Munich massacre, in which 17 people, including 11 Israeli Olympic athletes and officials, were killed by the Black September organisation.

The Germans have reason enough not to wish bringing a Black September leader to ju-

stice. Under a recently adopted law, Israel is to try anyone accused of crimes against Israeli citizens, even if the offence takes place in another country. The French authorities would have to study

whether the new law made sense in the case of Odeh. The man behind the Odeh massacre, page 11

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# Avon fights for life

By CHRISTOPHER SWEENEY

**THE FORMER** Prime Minister, Lord Avon, desperately ill from progressive liver failure, could have on Bonn's RAF orderlies on a stretcher into his home in the country village of Alvedon, Wiltshire, after a special emergency flight from the United States.

Last night a medical bulletin said that Lord Avon's health had "deteriorated rapidly in recent days." He had been brought back to Britain by the British secretary said, in conformity with his wishes.

Lord Avon was examined by the Queen's physician, Dr. Richard Nixon, and Dr. John C. Brown soon after arriving at his home after being driven in RAF ambulance through miles from Lowham airbase. On the flight



# Carter deputy on major tour

From JONATHAN STEELE: Washington, January 9

Mr. Thomas Fisher is next, after what the tentative date

station in Buenos Aires, heightening the problems caused by an electricity crisis already gripping the city.



Eric Abraham

Continued from page one

for my attempts to report accurately the facts about life under the apartheid system.

There is no need for a journalist or politician to exaggerate the conditions for black people in South Africa and occupied Namibia. The reality is horrifying enough, and the facts speak for themselves. For example:

● The extreme brutality of the South African riot-police in suppressing the black uprisings during 1976.

● The widespread shootings of unarmed and, in many instances, peaceful groups of demonstrating schoolchildren.

● The standard use of torture in interrogation procedure by the security police, which has resulted in the deaths in political detention of at least 15

thousands escaped with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and other gems in one of the biggest Church raids in history.

I think he was politically motivated. I believe it was an attempt to embarrass Jimmy Carter."

day. I don't know what I will be doing. I will remain in publishing. Journalism has been my life." Many of

almost three weeks when he had made it clear that he did not wish to go to New Delhi from Pakistan.

## Flight from a coming race war

blacks during 1976 alone. Many of these victims were highly educated.

I regard myself as a professional journalist and not a political activist, although to some what I have written above might seem to indicate otherwise. After witnessing at first hand the blatant inhumanity during the 1976 uprisings I felt that all I could do to remain human within the situation was to report on South Africa as it is, and not as the South African Government's Information Ministry would prefer it to be reflected—despite the possible consequences.

In 1975, I had started the Southern African News Agency (SANA). It grew out of what I perceived as the need for an in-depth and factual information service to reflect the views and opinions of the 16 million blacks and their leader. The local press and the Western Agencies seemed to have neglected the fact that three-quarters of the South African population was black.

It was, and still is, far too easy for foreign correspondents to rely on the validity of the communications from the South African politicians and the Nationalist Government's Ministries of Information, Justice and Police.

SANA lasted 16 months. Within the first two months of its existence, the SANA correspondent in Windhoek (Namibia), Margaret Valentim, was expelled by the South African authorities. Shortly before that my passport was seized on the instruction of the Interior and Information Minister, Mr C. P. Mulder, at the Cape Town airport.

At the time I was about to board a plane to Europe and America to establish international press links for the news agency. I made four applications for the return of my passport. They were all rejected.

During the first half of 1976 every SANA bulletin was banned as prejudicial to State security.

Last August, the SANA Eastern Cape representative and part-time reporter for the Daily Dispatch, Thenjive Mthintso, was detained incommunicado under the Terrorism Act and was later interned under the Internal Security Act. On December 28, after 129 days in detention, Ms Mthintso was released, only to be served with banning and house-arrest orders similar to my own.

Other correspondents for

SANA, such as the internationally acknowledged photographer Mr Peter Magubane who was beaten up by riot-police, on at least two occasions during the course of his duties as a Rand Daily Mail photographer covering the Soweto uprisings) and Mr Nat Serache, who also was a correspondent in Soweto for the BBC and the Rand Daily Mail, were both interned under the Internal Security Act. Peter Magubane was released at the end of December last year, while Nat Serache remains in detention without trial under the Terrorism Act.

Such is the story of SANA. One prominent journalist referring to the freedom of the press in South Africa once said: "We are no longer walking blindfold through a minefield. Several of those mines have already exploded at our feet and the continued freedom of the press is in jeopardy."

Early in September I applied for an exit visa to leave South Africa. The denial of travel facilities severely impeded my future prospects as a journalist and broadcaster in South Africa.

Then, on November 29, came the deadliest blow thus far. While preparing a broadcast for the BBC, I was visited by two

security officers, who presented me with the banning and house-arrest orders and escorted me out of my news offices. No official reason was given. There was no appeal or recourse to the courts. The restrictions were to be in force until 1981. I was effectively silenced. Immediately afterwards the SANA offices were raided by seven security policemen, and every document and record was confiscated. The two SANA office workers were threatened that they would also be restricted should they continue with the news agency.

The final stroke came on December 24, when I was told that the South African Government had refused my application for an exit visa. I had no alternative but to flee.

I have left behind me an extremely beautiful and diverse country beset by what seem to be insurmountable problems. I am convinced that violence and bloodshed is inevitable, and that thousands of people will die before there is peace in South Africa.

I leave above all, brave colleagues in the black press, who remain determined to report and record accurately the chaos that will accompany the last days of white-ruled South Africa.

one of the half-dozen most wanted Palestinian terrorists. Odeh, better known by his code name Abu Daud, was arrested in Paris on Friday when he arrived to attend the funeral of a murdered Palestinian official, Israel. The child planners of the man said a decision on whether a Bonn Government spokesman intended to free him of Black September activities already twice been the vic-Daoud liable for extradition under the agreement between France and Jerusalem. In addition, West Germany out the stain of Hitler's legacy. Whether the new law made hampers their efforts to wipe out the stain of Hitler's legacy. Arab guerrillas, which has often involved assassinations, because any investment in the conflict between Israel and the other country. The French authorities would have to study the man behind the Olympic massacre, page 11

## Muslim victim freed

Mr PHILIP AGEEL, the former CIA agent, said yesterday that he believed the British Government wanted to deport a 26-year-old Pakistani Muslim. Mr AGEEL, who is a former CIA agent, said yesterday that he believed the British Government wanted to deport a 26-year-old Pakistani Muslim. Mr AGEEL, who is a former CIA agent, said yesterday that he believed the British Government wanted to deport a 26-year-old Pakistani Muslim.