

PRIME MINISTER

You will want to see the attached record of a statement issued by the Church Council of a substantial Anglican church in South Africa. It was sent in to Hector Monro by the Rector, the Reverend M Lindsay-Parkinson.

Hector asked me to place this encouraging and supportive material before you.

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Keep in main S. African
folder -
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MICHAEL ALISON
25.7.86



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

25th July, 1986

Dear Hector,

Many thanks for your note of 23rd July, together with a copy which you enclosed of a letter to you from the Reverend M Lindsay-Parkinson. His letter, together with the extract from the record of the proceedings of his Church Council, make most impressive and encouraging reading.

I have passed to the Prime Minister the extracts from the Church Council meeting.

Yours ever
Michael

MICHAEL ALISON
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Sir Hector Monro MP

At a meeting held in the Parish Hall Kokstad, on Thursday 23rd. January 1986, and at subsequent meetings, the following statement was agreed upon unanimously by the Rectors, Church Wardens and Parishioners of Holy Trinity Church Kokstad, St. Stephen's Church Matatiele, St. Mary's Church Cedarville and St. Luke's and St. John's Churches Swartberg. It was then approved by both Deaneries of the Archdeacon^{ery of} East Griqualand.

1. As the Church of the Province of Southern Africa has always been a multi-racial church community we are opposed to the oppression or domination of one group over another.
2. We are in favour of reforms in South Africa as soon as possible by peaceful means.
3. We are against violence in achieving this aim.
4. We are against disinvestment, boycotts and sanctions against our country, as this will only lead to violence and suffering of the very people we, as a church, are committed to help.
5. We disassociate ourselves from support of the African National Congress and any other organisation advocating violence, boycotts and sanctions.
6. We would like to make it clear that Church leaders who call for these measures do not represent us.

Anglican backlash against political meddling gains new support

A MODERATE backlash against Anglican church involvement in politics has won substantial all-race support in East Griqualand.

About 12 000 black, white and coloured parishioners of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa in East Griqualand — and church officials including rectors and wardens — have dissociated themselves from church leaders who supported the African National Congress and called for disinvestment and sanctions against South Africa.

In a statement approved by both deaneries of the Archdeaconry of East Griqualand, and supported by Bishop Jacob Dlamini of Swartberg, it was unanimously agreed that the participants:

Reforms

- Dissociate themselves from support of the African National Congress and any other organisation advocating violence, boycotts and sanctions.

- Oppose the oppression or domination of one racial group over another and favour speedy reforms in South Africa by peaceful means.

- Oppose violence in achieving this aim and disinvestment, boycotts and sanctions as this would lead only to violence and suffering.

"I am all in favour of it (the statement)," said Bishop Dlamini. He did not name the church leaders parishioners were reacting to, but said he believed Bishop Desmond Tutu of Johannesburg was not the target.

By CAS St LEGER

The parishioners' stance was first mentioned at a meeting at the Parish Hall, Kokstad, on January 23 and, after a series of meetings, was finalised a fortnight ago by members of the Holy Trinity Church, Kokstad; St Stephen's Church, Matatiele; St Mary's Church, Cedarville; and St Luke's and St John's churches, Swartberg.

East Griqualand's rural dean, the Very Rev Michael Lindsay-Parkinson, said congregations in all four parishes had been asked to vote and had reached consensus.

"There was no dissent, though we had expected some," Dean Lindsay-Parkinson said.

He said the motivation for the statement was a falling-off in church membership — especially white — after certain church leaders "in the limelight" had become involved in political issues and had espoused violence or said it was inevitable — though he would not name those responsible.

"They should make it quite clear when they are speaking on behalf of the church, and when they are ex-

pressing their personal opinions," he said.

He said he had been gladdened that black congregations in particular had lent their full support to the statement, which is now being sent to the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Philip Russell, for his reaction.

The Archbishop's office said the statement had not yet been received and would therefore make no comment.

Debate

The church's liaison man in Johannesburg, Bishop John Carter, said: "My experience has been that it is easier to communicate outside South Africa than inside, and any communication is to be welcomed.

"This statement by a number of Anglicans in East Griqualand can be seen as a contribution to continuing debate and discussion between Christian people in Southern Africa. The important thing, I think, is that we should be in dialogue with one another on these vital matters which concern us all."

Note: Philip Russell replied that no-one could speak for "the church" except on matters that had been passed by the Episcopal Synod in Johannesburg.

SIR HECTOR MONRO



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23 May

Michael,

I mentioned his letter yesterday,
No need for you to respond to it
but the extract from the Resolution &
the press cutting might be useful.

The Rev. M. Lindsay-Parkinson was
the Rector of a church in my
constituency before going to S. Africa.

Hector

● Sir Hector Munro.

W. L. Munro.

London.

Dunfermline.

V. 10.

P. O. Box 33.

Madeline

4730.

S. A.

14/7/86.

Dear Hector.

A letter out of the blue! I hope you and Ann are both well, and all the family. Please give Ann our love, and best wishes to the young. We are both well and as happy as possible under the present conditions.

I write faintly about the current international position regarding S. A. We, and I think most people here are full of admiration for Mr. Thatcher and the Government on their stand against sanctions etc. The public see only the political picture presented to them. Under this S. A. is in the middle of an economic crisis that is of far deeper consequence.

The two cannot be separated, of course, and are mixed up with tribal conflict, language barriers, cultural change, crime, and so

● or, in some ways like W. Ireland.

I am sure I do not need to go on.

The above is only to introduce that I would like you and the anti-union people to know that the Church here, while recognizing in Desmond Tutu a great spiritual leader, does not in any way support him, as a Bishop, in his call for renunciation against S.A.

In East Griqualand we are trying to organize enough support to return him from speaking for "The Church" on this matter. Though I am afraid we may be too late by the time we get our motion to the St. John's Episcopal Synod at the beginning of October, and then to the Provincial Synod for them.

I enclose two bits of paper as illustration. The handy Thine one is the only one that has been photo-copied for various press items.

And, as ~~not~~ personal, is enclosed in the fact that the Bishop is Bishop of the Tobias (Trompsburg, Unst. etc.) and Southey, which is one of my parishes.

Elizabeth is in U.K. at the moment,

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and was to speak yesterday in Lutheran and Roman Churches on this matter.

She will be staying for a few days with a friend, Jane (Hawson), (McGregor) who is an I.T.V. producer, in Cheshire, for a few days before she returns. Jane had wanted her to speak on a Granada programme, but we can rather continue in case it is misinterpreted by the authorities here, and she is almost so-saying.

Anyway, as to a more personal matter.

We have now been here for nearly 4 years, and feel it is about the time to leave as we are now closely involved for better or for worse.

We are having difficulty gaining TVC examples contributors from the Roman people. I wonder if as my ex-M.P. you could perhaps be of some help. I know this is a bit to ask as you are fully busy. But as the check my bank is the equivalent of about £1,500 P.A. we are very dependent on the money left by our respective families for to our work.

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Brockton, Labrador, is the dearest healthy Elizabeth's trust.

He is in touch with those, Bowen & Grimshaw, Birby Trust. Blakely, who are holding my parents' estates. The Blakely connection is become my grandfather. Sir Albert L.P. was for many years the M.P. there.

The Trust E's father, William Shier, set up for her in the Loring House Trust.

Long to burden you with all this - but I have a sneaking idea that the Community has a feeling to do all that it can to point many away to S.A. "But in our case....."

I can see you must be fed up with that sentence!

I hope you have been able to wash that my humble writing, one of the bases of my life (and others).

If ever you come out here come and stay. Water is beautiful, and mostly honey, and very healthy.

No surprises as yet, in East Lizard, and

very little bush stubbing.

Some excellent foraging in the Donkeyberry Swamp,
a little in the woods in house. Mostly Rainbows.
Some Guinea Fowl shooting in a week or two.

Don't see good wishes to his Geoffrey if you
happen to be in touch.

He has been given one half of a job.

I only hope the Committee have not taken
the next Election for doing the next thing.

Every Blessing to you all.

yours as ever.

Michael.

(Richard-Parkin.)