

Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu at the Circle podium in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Tutu Pleads For His People

Bishop Desmond M. Tutu Thursday (May 29) issued an impassioned plea to the United States government to impose sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa, saying that the alternative was probably civil war.

"You are the key to the solution to the crisis in our land," Tutu told a crowded Capitol Hill caucus room. "These are issues of life and death. And that's not a figure of speech. There is no neutrality. Either you are for justice or you are for injustice. ... I beg you. I beg you to help us. Please."

Speaking at the 41st meeting of the New England Circle, a decade-old Boston-based society that is the host of forums on social, political, educational and literary topics, Bishop Tutu called on the Reagan administration to drop its policy of "constructive engagement."

"As a church person, a peace-lover, I work to ensure that we do not have an all out civil war," said Tutu, the

Anglican bishop of Johannesburg and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.

"My position is that I oppose and condemn all forms of violence. But the church has always taught that a set of circumstances can arise where you choose between the lesser of two evils to overthrow an oppressive system. It's the same thing that applied to Nazism. The church said that the lesser evil was another evil, war. I can support the church's teachings on that."

The bishop's remarks were presented in conjunction with two reports on the torture of children in South Africa.

One was a documentary film by former NBC reporter Sharon I. Sopher called *Witness to Apartheid*, which has been seen in American movie theaters and has recently had its U.S. television debut on the Public Broadcasting Service. The documentary focuses on police and security force violence against children.

The other was a written report by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights called "The War Against Children: South Africa's Youngest Victims." Committee staff member Helena Cook wrote the report after two extended trips last year to South Africa.

With the cooperation of what she said is a "rather sophisticated human rights network inside South Africa, Cook wrote that more than 1,400 people had been killed in South Africa during the last 19 months. Almost all were black. More than 200 children have been killed and hundreds more tortured and wounded by South African security forces during that time.

Speaking after the documentary film was shown and reflecting on the horrific toll of brutality, Bishop Tutu asked, "Why should children 7, 8, 9 years old already know the inside of a jail cell? Why should an 11-year-old know the pain of torture and solitary confinement.

A bipartisan group of 44 members of Congress rallied behind Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. William H. Gray 3rd (D-Pa.), when they introduced legislation that would impose economic sanctions against South Africa. That legislation is now law.

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The Circle Widens

Now in its 12th year, the New England Circle continues to grow. With more than 1800 members who have attended Circle gatherings since the non-profit group was founded by the Dunfey Brothers in 1974, the effort has gained maturity and scope. This **Bulletin**, mailed to each of those members, will bring you up to date on some of the most recent Circles and their Discussion Leaders, each of whom addressed issues and topics that are making headlines around the world.

1974 Founders' Statement: "Our purpose is to assemble a diverse group of concerned individuals for discussions of social, political, literary and educational topics; our goal is to exchange challenging ideas and opinions that can lead to constructive change in our lives, our nation and our world."

... The Dunfey Brothers



Producer and Director Sharon Sopher (left) who filmed "Witness To Apartheid" listens to Archbishop Tutu with Harry Belafonte and New England Circle Director Bill Dunfey.

"Witness" a Dynamic Documentary

The day after viewing "Witness to Apartheid," the documentary filmed by Sharon I. Sopher, I was driving across Washington's Memorial Bridge when National Public Radio reported on the latest police violence against blacks in South Africa. It was the kind of broadcast one can regrettably hear almost any day. But this time the words carried fresher images because Ms. Sopher's powerful work clung heavily to the brain. Based primarily on interviews, hence the "witness" of the title, the documentary is a simple but dynamic testament of the hatred that overwhelms whatever other complexities might also be applied to understanding the South Africa of today.

The film was screened for several hundred guests on May 29th in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office building on Capitol Hill by The New England Circle in cooperation with a number of senators and House members. It demonstrated how little progress has really been made since 69 unarmed black protesters were massacred in Sharpeville in 1960. In fact, one pleasant-sounding white woman, interviewed in South Africa recently by Ms. Sopher, recalled those killings and predicted that before long,

if the protests continue, the army will "wipe out" the blacks of South Africa in a similar manner. And she said it quite matter of factly.

Ms. Sopher's documentary includes moving accounts of the torture of black prisoners and detainees, their scars plainly visible. Yet she returns several times to the eloquence of Bishop Desmond M. Tutu, who spoke in the film and also in person following the screening. Tutu is portrayed as the rational, even gentle, voice of South Africa who, against the backdrop of the violence shown on film, warns that the situation is becoming so desperate that eventually blacks will have so little left to lose that they will risk even annihilation to rid themselves of oppression.

The documentary is especially valuable in these months since the government in Pretoria has effectively imposed its blackout on television coverage of protests and other unwelcomed scenes. The event sponsored by New England Circle surely left each of us who attended with a greater emotional link to this pre-eminent moral scandal of our time.

Matthew Storin
Editor & Senior Vice President,
Chicago Sun Times

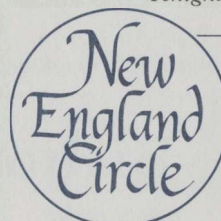
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Bishop Tutu told the group, "I would hope that men and women of conscience will ensure that your administration is not let off the hook this time," referring to last year when President Reagan adapted what some critics called mild sanctions into executive order, thus heading off stronger sanctions proposed by legislation in Congress.

The bishop was introduced by actor and activist Harry Belafonte, who said in an interview before the program, "I'm not sure that sanctions might not be too late. ... But if there is any way, if there is any humanity left at all in Western civilization, it would be to see that sanctions take place."

In the face of grim tales unfolding every day from South Africa, he said, "the very least any civilized nation can do is to impose sanctions."

Gerald B. Jordan
Knight-Ridder Newspapers



Recent Circles

- Jane Fonda
20th Century Woman
- Congressman Edward Markey
Nuclear Proliferation
- Canadian Ambassador to the United States,
Allan Gotlieb
Canadian/American Relations
- Urban Developer James Rouse
Neighborhood Revitalization
- Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley
The Caribbean Future
- Journalist William Hodding Carter, III
Media's Challenge
- President-General, African National
Congress, Oliver Tambo
South Africa's Struggle
- President & CEO, H. J. Heinz Co.,
Anthony J.F. O'Reilly
Ireland's Future
- General Secretary, South African Council
of Churches, The Rev. Beyers Naude
Apartheid Today
- Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank &
New Hampshire Governor John Sununu
Liberal vs. Conservative
- Roger Fisher, Williston Professor of Law,
Harvard University
Conflict Resolution



Circle Discussion Leaders Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter with New England Circle President Jerry Dunfey (left) and New England Chair Bill Hart (right).

A President and First Lady Speak Of Their Past, Present and Future

There was, many agreed, more vigor, energy and commitment in the words addressed to The New England Circle by former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter than any they had spoken since their first days in the White House. As they sat, at ease and composed, in a pair of armchairs facing more than 100 Circle guests gathered in the Parker House Ballroom for this 42nd meeting on September 25th, the Carters addressed a number of issues. Each time, they were sure of their ground, articulate and informed. Answers to questions from the audience and from interviewer Liz Walker, news co-anchor at WBZ-TV in Boston, were crisp, and, at the same time, charged with compassion.

There were questions about Nicaragua, the Middle East, Star Wars, the need for an end to the nuclear arms race, and the Carters' continuing efforts to keep public attention focused on support for social service programs: housing, drug abuse rehabili-

tation and prevention, and stronger, more effective mental health maintenance programs. President Carter even had an answer to the perennial political question about who the Democrats might nominate for president next time around. "Sam Nunn of Georgia will have the best chance to win," said Jimmy Carter of Plains, Georgia, "because Sam Nunn can carry the South, a region the Democrats need if they are to win the race for the White House."

But both the President and the First Lady made it clear they would rather talk about their current projects than current politics. Among the projects, Habitat For Humanity emerged as the top priority effort the couple is involved with. Rather than talking about the need for better housing for the poor of all nations, the Carters are active leaders of Habitat, an organization dedicated to helping others help themselves by learning how to build better basic housing. It's a hands-on job, and both Carters have

used hammers, saws and shovels to get new homes off the ground in America, and later this fall they will travel to India and Pakistan to deliver the Habitat message.

Their many new friends and old friends at the 42nd Circle wish them well.

One indication of the number of those friends came in letters received at Circle offices in the wake of the evening with the Carters. Here are selections from a few that reflect the tone of the dozens recieved.

"I have thought a lot about the issues President Carter raised at the New England Circle. His personal dedication, obviously shared by Mrs. Carter, to humanitarian goals is nothing short of extraordinary."

Everett B. Carson
Executive Director
Natural Resources
Council of Maine

"Thank you for including me in one of the most fascinating evenings I have ever spent. The Carters are so different from my television-induced image. President Carter, in particular, is so warm and convincing in person."

Georgina Macdonald
President
The Meridian Group

"Irene and I found ourselves powerfully impressed by the Carters as people of great moral depth and commitment. It is sad the country at large did not see these qualities in him, or did not appreciate them sufficiently. I must confess, I was moved by their testimony about the workings of the Habitat project. I thought about giving a week of my time."

Saul Touster
Proskauer Professor of Law
and Social Welfare
Brandeis University

"The Carters were articulate, responsive, and allowed themselves to express their feelings with humor. Using their inspiration, we must get on with addressing the issues raised by John Kenneth Galbraith's question about haves and have-nots. The haves need to know more about and become advocates for the have-nots, who are all around us and need our help to achieve their full potential."

Selma Deitch, MD
Manchester, NH



Discussion leader Margarita Papandreou with Economist John Kenneth Galbraith and Catherine Galbraith (far right) and Washington Institute for Policy Studies Fellow Isabel Letelier, of Chile, (left) will lead the NEC Discussion on December 9, and New England Circle Vice Chair Jack Dunfey (far left).

Margarita Papandreou, Peacemaker/Feminist

The 43rd New England Circle met with Margarita Papandreou, a feminist and an activist for peace who is married to Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister of Greece. While fellow Bostonians chomped hot-dogs and watched the Red Sox lose at Fenway Park, over 100 guests enjoyed an even better

fare — elegant food and conversation on diverse topics ranging from raising chickens to Star Wars. After the reception and dinner, Papandreou delivered a rousing speech appealing for more of feminism's "humane ethos in the political arena." "President Reagan," she asked rhetorically, "when

you talk about strategies do you keep in mind the images of incinerated bodies — the human factor?"

The American feminist movement, she reported, has had a "fantastic impact on the world. It has become a global consciousness raising." After describing how her career of activism began at age 12, when she campaigned for her grandfather in Chicago, she encouraged women to enlarge the feminist agenda to include peace issues, despite the media's past jeerings at such efforts as "pow wow with the cows" and "folly in petticoats." The question-and-answer period was lively, lasting until 10:30. One audience member, pointing out that Jimmy Carter seemed to have more "feminine" peace and love values than Margaret Thatcher, asked whether such values weren't shaped by personality rather than by gender. And Harvard Economist John Kenneth Galbraith confessed that something more than love leads men to finally open up opportunities to women. "Yes, let us have love," he said, "but do please frighten the wits out of us." Papandreou concluded the evening with an invitation to guests to attend a conference in Athens November 7-9: Women for A Meaningful Summit.

Shawn Doherty,
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