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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE  
RACIAL SITUATION IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Volume II

ANNEXES

CORRIGENDUM

Page 55: Insert before the heading "PART IV" the following text:

PART III

EFFECTS OF THE DISCRIMINATORY RACIAL  
POLICY ON THE LIFE OF THE NON-EUROPEAN  
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

This part attempts to classify the various effects of the discriminatory racial policy of the Union Government under separate heads viz. political, economic and social disabilities. This is intended to focus attention on these disabilities which are suffered by the non-European individual in his daily life and therefore excludes references to the corresponding legislation which has already been dealt with in the preceding part.

1. Political disabilities

A non-European can neither become a member of the House of Assembly nor of the Senate of the Union. In fact membership has been specifically limited to those Europeans who have acquired Union nationality. A non-European is thus incapacitated from having any say whatsoever in the political life of the country.

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Voting rights to the non-European are granted on a very restricted basis only in the Cape Province which is one of the four provinces of the Union. In the other provinces the non-European cannot be registered at all on the voters roll.

Freedom to criticize the unjust policies of the Government is limited to a large extent and in fact such criticism has been declared as a criminal offence.

2. Economic disabilities

(a) Employment. Non-Europeans are generally excluded from the skilled trades. They are not always admitted to the membership or the protection of trade unions. Due to the lack of educational opportunities (see educational disabilities below) the non-European is almost precluded from being trained in the skilled trades. That field is thereby kept reserved for the European in view of the higher salary that it brings. The non-European is bound by the fixed wage rate and is thus forced to accept the lowest paid jobs.

(b) Trade. Avenues for trade and commerce for the non-European are very limited in view of the fact that very few trading licences are issued to them by the licensing officers and licensing boards under the terms of the licensing laws of the country. The issue of these licences is governed by an absolute discretion which is exercised against the non-European. The non-European may not, e.g. acquire a bar, a bottle store or an ammunition dealers licence.

(c) Acquisition and occupation of fixed property. The policy of apartheid or total segregation was introduced with the adoption of the Group Areas Act of 1950. Although this Act claims to deal with the three sections of the population, viz., white, natives and coloured equitably, the practical effect of the operation of this Act is that the population of the Union of South Africa has been divided into three racial groups and a "group area" has been allotted to each one of them. One particular racial group can occupy land or premises only within the "group area" allotted to it. Outside the "group areas" occupation had been confined to members of the group to which the landlord belongs and transfers of ownership, other than between two persons of the same group, can only be permitted by the Minister of the Interior.

(d) Immigration and inter-provincial migration. South African nationals of Indo-Pakistan origin are denied freedom of moving from one province to another. This obviously has a retarding effect on their social and economic progress. If one among them is unemployed he may not enter another province even though employment may be waiting for him there. Europeans do not suffer from any such limitations.

3. Social disabilities

(a) Education. School facilities for the European and those of Indo-Pakistan origin are completely separate from each other. The latter are prohibited by law from attending Government schools. These schools are meant for Europeans only. Most of the schools for the non-European children are only "Government aided". They are built, equipped and maintained by private enterprise. Only the staff is provided for by the Administration. Since 1944, however, the Administration has made a grant of 50 per cent towards building costs; the land is still to be provided by private sources. In case of Government schools which are meant for Europeans all the facilities are provided by the Administration.

Though there are technical colleges all over the country these are in most cases for Europeans only. A majority of the universities in the Union have resolutely refused to admit Asiatic students.

(b) Hospitals, railway stations, libraries, transport and other social facilities. Racial discrimination in these institutions of social life has become a regular phenomenon in the Union. Benefits of the social welfare legislation are available to the various racial groups on varying scales. The European gets more than the Indian and the coloured who in turn get more than the native. Several other civic amenities are also subject to the same policy of racial discrimination.

(c) Mixed marriages. Marriages between members of the white and the non-white racial groups are prohibited by law. Penalties have been provided for persons performing such marriages and the marriage is considered null and void in the Union of South Africa.