

# Criticism of new South African crackdown mounts

Johannesburg, South Africa—Police throughout South Africa are on full alert amid sporadic violence and mounting criticism of the white government's new crackdown on black organizations. Even pro-government newspapers were critical of the banning Wednesday of 18 black and inter-racial organizations, the closing of the country's two principal black newspapers and the arrest of at least 50 prominent blacks.

Carter administration said the South African government had taken an "unfortunate action that seems to represent a very serious step backwards."

"We shall examine very closely the implications of these events with regard to U.S.—South Africa relations," the State Department said.

"I think they panicked," said U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, at the United Nations. "They are frightened, and they are committing social and political suicide."

British Foreign Minister David Owen commented that "the silencing of the voices of those who speak for the majority in South Africa can only be a tragic setback" to the "peaceful evolution of South African society."

If convicted, the officers could face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in Houston after Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell decided that the case warranted federal prosecution.

Two of the former officers, Terry W. Denson and Stephen Orlando, were convicted earlier this month of a Texas misdemeanor charge of negligent homicide in connection with the case.

Mexican-American leaders in Houston had urged the Justice Department to prosecute the men on the more serious federal charges because they claimed the state prosecution was barely a slap on the wrist.

## associated press datelines

"This is the action of foolish and frightened men, who do not have the courage to face the truth of their own disastrous failure when it is spelled out to them in plain and forceful language," said the Transvaler, an Afrikaans newspaper considered an unofficial voice of the ruling National Party in Transvaal province.

It warned that the bans would drive the black organizations underground, and "swell the shadowy ranks which are dedicated to overthrowing the existing order by violence."

There was little violence, however, in the first 24 hours after the crackdown. Police broke up a protest march by white university students in Johannesburg and arrested 64 people. A student in a group of blacks stoning a school in a black township north of Pretoria was wounded in the arm when the headmaster fired a revolver.

A gasoline bomb was thrown at the home of an education official in a black tribal area on the Lesotho border, but no damage was reported. Pupils in primary schools in the black Soweto township left their classes, joining a boycott high school students already were waging. The

## Plane crashes

Jackson, Miss.—A twin engine airplane, carrying 25 persons, including members of the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd crashed in south Mississippi Thursday night, the Federal Aviation Administration reported.

There was no immediate word of injuries, but authorities at Southwest Medical Center in McComb, Miss. indicated that they were treating injured passengers.

The rock group has 10 members but it could not be immediately learned whether all ten were aboard. An FAA spokesman, Jerry Lavey, said in Washington that the Convair 240 was en route from Greenville, S.C., to Baton Rouge, La. when air controllers lost track of it. He said the aircraft was reported down about two miles northeast of Gillsburg, Miss.

## Police indicted

Four former Houston, Tex., policemen were indicted on federal civil right charges stemming from the death of Jose Campos Torres, a prisoner who drowned in a bayou while in their custody last May.

## daily nebraskan

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## union calendar

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — ASUN Audio Clinic, conference room

12:30 p.m. — Muslim Student Assn., room 337

12:40 p.m. — Engineering Mechanics Luncheon, room 242

1:30 p.m. — Publications Board Ad-Hoc Committee, room 216

3 p.m. — Student Affairs Workshop planning, room 203


4 p.m. — Corncobs-Tassels Barbeque, Memorial Plaza

6 p.m. — Multi-Cultural affairs tutoring, room 225

7:30 p.m. — Intersivity Christian Fellowship, Auditorium

8 p.m. — Corncobs, Tassels, UPC Homecoming Concert, Ballroom

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