



LESSON PLAN: SOUTH AFRICA AFTER TEN YEARS OF FREEDOM

HANDOUT: APARTHEID IN PRACTICE

(The following is taken from a booklet by the same name produced in 1976 by the Department of Public Information at the United Nations and distributed by their Centre Against Apartheid. It is a UN Publication: OPI/553)

Home, Family, Residence

1. An African who was born in a town and lived there continuously for 50 years, but then left to reside elsewhere for any period, even two weeks, is not entitled as of right to return to the town where he was born and to remain there for more than 72 hours, unless he has obtained a permit. If he does remain without a permit, he is guilty of a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R20¹ or, in default imprisonment for up to two months.

7. Even if an African was born in a town, has lived there continuously for up to 14 years and has worked continuously for the same employer for 9 years, his wife commits a criminal offence by living with him for more than 72 hours, if she has not received a permit to do so.

11. Whenever any policeman wishes and for any reason whatsoever he may inspect the dwelling occupied by a resident of the Evaton African township and may enter that dwelling at any time of the day or night.

12. No African, even if he has been lawfully residing in a town by virtue of a permit issued to him is entitled as of right to have his wife and children residing with him. They are permitted to reside with him only if they have been issued separately with permits to do so.

13. An African boy, aged 16, who has left school and lives at home with and is maintained by his parents but does not work, may, at any time, be arrested without warrant by a policeman who "has reason to believe that he is an idle person".

16. An African convicted of being in a city unlawfully for more than 72 hours may be removed, together with his dependants, by a policeman, acting under warrant issued by the court convicting him, to any place in a Bantu area where he has not lived before, and where he has no relatives or friends and no employment. The cost of such removal may be met from money found in his possession or "otherwise belonging to him".

Movement

51. Every African over the age of 16 must be in possession of a reference book (pass book). Any policeman may at any time call on any African to produce this book. An African who is unable to do so because he has left it at home is guilty of a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R20 or imprisonment of one month.

¹ R=rand, the South African unit of currency, which was equivalent to approximately U.S. \$1.20 at the time of publication in 1976

Work

57. A labour officer may, at any time, cancel the employment of an African who works in a town, no matter how long he had been employed, even though his employer opposes the cancellation. An African whose employment has been cancelled may be removed from the town where he worked and prohibited from returning to that town for such period as the labour officer specifies.

59. A white person living in a town who employs an African to do any carpentry, bricklaying, electrical fitting or the work which is classified as skilled and therefore “reserved” for members of the “white race” must have a special exemption granted by the Minister of Labour. Without such exemption, he commits a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R200 or imprisonment for one year or both.

63. An African factory worker who calls on other workers to strike for an increase in pay commits a criminal offence punishable by a fine not exceeding R500 or imprisonment for not longer than three years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

80. A white workman who is permanently totally disabled is entitled to a monthly pension based on his earnings; an African similarly disabled is entitled to a lump sum based on his earnings, but not to a monthly pension.

86. The Bantu Affairs Commissioner may cancel an African’s contract of employment whenever he considers his “continued presence in any particular Bantu [i.e. African] quarters to be undesirable”.

87. When an African’s contract of employment has been cancelled as described above, he may be sent back to his home in an African area.

Education

93. No school for African children may be conducted anywhere in South Africa unless it is registered by the Government. The Minister of Bantu Education has an unfettered discretion to refuse to register it, if he believes that its existence is not in the interests of the African people. Contravention of this law is punishable by a fine of up to R200 or imprisonment for six months.

97. No white man may spend a few hours each week in his own home voluntarily teaching his African servants to read. If he does so, he is guilty of a criminal offense.

103. An African student who attends even a single lecture in a course at the University of Cape Town (a “white” university) without special permission of the Minister of Bantu Education is guilty of a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R200 or imprisonment for six months.

Marriage, Assembly and Association

104. An African who has lived continuously for 50 years in the town in which he was born is not entitled as of right to have an African friend visit and remain with him for more than 72 hours.

105. It is unlawful for a white person and a black person to drink a cup of tea together in a café anywhere in South Africa unless they have obtained a special permit to do so.

106. Without a special permit, no African professor may deliver a lecture at a white club, even at its invitation. If he does so, he commits a criminal offence.

107. If a black person (i.e. an Asian, or a Coloured person or an African) sits on a bench in a public park which has been set apart for the exclusive use of white persons, as way of protesting against the apartheid laws, he commits a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R600 or imprisonment for three years or a whipping of up to ten strokes, or any two of the three possible punishments.

109. If there is only one waiting room in a railway station, it is lawful for the station master to reserve that waiting room for the exclusive use of white persons, and any black person willfully entering it commits a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R100 or imprisonment for three months, or both.

117. If a white South African or a foreigner marries a Coloured woman abroad where such marriages are lawful, the marriage is void and of no effect in South Africa and the spouses may be prosecuted if they come to South Africa.

Opinion and Expression

137. A white man who tells a group of Africans that the apartheid laws are unjust and should be disobeyed is guilty of an offence punishable by a fine of up to R200 or imprisonment for one year, or both