



# SOUTH AFRICAN SCOPE

J. 2 - No. 1

JANUARY 1959

## AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT HARVARD

HAPPENINGS in newly independent countries are today forcing the Western World to reappraise its attitudes and concepts, said Ambassador Wentzel C. du Plessis when he addressed a large audience at the Law School Forum of Harvard University last month.

Independence for his nation and freedom to live his own life in his own way are things which stir the heart of every man. But freedom cannot stand by itself. It must be sustained by faith and bolstered by power. To speak emotionally of the ragged shirt of independence is not enough, because, when the shirt becomes too ragged and wears too thin, the wearer will be exposed to all kinds of winds that blow.

Far too many of the newly independent nations, said the Ambassador, are now abandoning the concept of Western democracy for military dictatorship. Why do they do this? Because Western democratic procedures and institutions are strange to them and their peoples have not developed to the stage where they can understand, use and sustain democratic institutions.

In the interests of world peace, it is hoped that these dictatorships will be an interim phase and that the new nations will devise a stable form of government which will bring stability and happiness.

"I am bold enough to say that (in view of these happenings in the newly independent countries) our policy in South Africa, in so far as it serves our needs and circumstances, will at last be seen in its proper perspective," said Mr. Du Plessis. The Bantu in South

Africa already enjoy educational, social and health services to a greater extent than most non-white communities in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and are being led to self-realization based upon self-respect and their ability to govern themselves.

NOTE: The full, authoritative exposition by the Ambassador of South Africa's policies will soon be obtainable in brochure form from the South African Information Service, 655 Madison Avenue, New York.



*The impressive new Auditorium and Student Center  
Pretoria University (See p. 10).*

# Personal

MR. PIET MEIRING has been appointed Director of the South African Information Service for a second term of five years.

DR. P. J. NIENABER, senior lecturer in Afrikaans at the University of the Witwatersrand, has been appointed associate professor. Dr. Nienaber is known for his collection of Afrikaans books. His library contains what is considered to be the most complete collection of Afrikaans books written since 1861 — more than 10,000 volumes.

MR. GERALD ORPEN, 83-year-old influential South African businessman, died in Cape Town on Nov. 17. He was a former chairman of Syfrets Trust, the Cape Times and the South African Mutual Life Assurance Society. A confidant of Ministers of Finance, Mr. Orpen wielded an important influence on official and unofficial policies. Among his friends were General Smuts and Doctor Jameson.

PROFESSOR THEODORE GILLMAN, head of the Department of Physiology at the University of Natal, has been awarded a grant of \$11,400 from the Nuffield Foundation for the continuance of his work on various aspects of aging, cancer development, and arterial degeneration. In addition, the Rockefeller Foundation has invited Professor Gillman to make a scholarship visit to the United States this year.

Two South Africans have been awarded grants under the third-quarter allocations of the Rockefeller Foundation. They are DR. H. R. STEIN, of the Department of Chemical Pathology of Witwatersrand University, and DR. BOTHA DE MEILLON, of the South African Institute of Medical Research in Johannesburg.

## INSIDE. . . .

READ ABOUT Americans in the Union on.....	p. 4
Oil quest in the Transvaal .....	p. 5
Automobile industry in South Africa .....	p. 6, 7
Three Bantu universities .....	p. 8
African phonograph music .....	p. 9
Pretoria's new cultural center .....	p. 10
A study of gorillas.....	p. 11
Natal's new White Rhino Sanctuary .....	p. 12

## Decimal System for S. Africa

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, Dr. T. E. Donges, announced on December 11 that the Government had decided to introduce a decimal coinage system in South Africa. The Union will thus join the approximately 145 countries and territories in the world using this system.

Dr. Donges explained that considerable time will be necessary for the changeover from pounds, shillings and pence to the decimal system. The new monetary unit will probably be introduced early in 1961.

The Minister emphasized that the new system will bring about no change in the internal or external value of South African money.

## Profile: FRIKKIE BOTHA

HEADING BACK to South Africa for a spell of well-earned leave and a home post after nine years' service in North America is Mr. J.S.F. (Frikkie") Botha, one of the Union's promising young diplomats. Since he was first posted abroad in 1949, Mr. Botha has served at the Union's Embassy in Washington, the High Commission in Ottawa and the Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in New York.

It is in the United Nations sphere, through a total of eight sessions which he has attended, that Mr. Botha has distinguished himself most. He was selected for the delicate diplomatic assignment of maintaining the Union's token representation at the United Nations during the two years in which the Union was withdrawn from active participation. In this capacity, he was a vital link in the behind-the-scenes moves to encourage South Africa's return to the U.N.



Born in 1919 near Steynsburg, Cape, (the birthplace of President Kruger), Mr. Botha grew up on a sheep farm, and finished his education at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of South Africa. Mr. Botha started in the civil service with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and served with the Corps of Special Signals during the last world war, in the East African and Western Desert campaigns. He transferred to the Department of External Affairs after the war. Before being posted in North America, he was an advisor to the 1948 GATT conference in Geneva and a delegate to the 1949 African Transport Conference in Lisbon.

While stationed in Canada, he met and married the former Miss Monica Robbins of Victoria, B.C. They now have four children. Mrs. Botha is a keen golfer, and her husband contents himself with two hobbies: carpentry and his collection of Africana.



*THE SOUTH AFRICAN RIVIERA. The Marine Drive circling the Cape Peninsula threads its way through a score of villages that sparkle in the warm sunshine like jewels in a necklace. Here at Clifton, a suburb of Cape Town, multi-colored houses perch on abrupt, tree-clad slopes overlooking white sands and the limitless blue of the Atlantic—this is claimed, with justification, to be one of the world's most beautiful coastlines.*

## Escape To Better Weather--Far South

SICK of the cold weather and snow? But still dreading the stifling heat of next summer? Plan now to see the best of Africa on the 1959 American-South African Round Africa Cruise. The South African Railways, by special arrangement with Lanseair Travel Service of Chicago, is offering a nine-week luxury cruise, calling at twelve ports and visiting Nairobi, the Kruger Park, tribal dances, Johannesburg, Pretoria, diamond mines and Cape Town — all for less than the cost of a six-week tour of Europe with similar accommodations!

Featuring round-trip air passage to London and sightseeing excursions to the inland "Wonders of Africa," the cruise leaves New York on July 1st and returns early in September. For a folder giving details, write to S.A. Railways, 655 Madison Ave., New York 21, N.Y., or Lanseair Travel Service, 109 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 2, Ill.

More than five hundred rare white rhinoceroses inhabit Natal's new White Rhino Sanctuary in Zululand, which opened last month. In the sections of the 72,000 acre reserve where cars are not allowed, visitors, accompanied by game rangers, may wander along the wilderness trails as close to nature as was primitive man. They will drink water from the crystal clear pools and eat hearty meals around an open camp fire. After the day's excitement of seeing wildebeest, kudu, water-buck, duiker, steenbok and a host of birds, as well as the rhino, visitors will sleep under the stars in winter. In summer, due to the night rains, wilderness camps will be in caves or tents pitched beneath the huge sycamores.