

The Ulster ethnic

WHAT IS Sean Cleary up to in London with his new baby, the Namibia Digest?

His lead article extolling the virtues of the transitional government and the importance of ethnic differences is written by none other than an Irish right-wing Northern Ireland clergyman, Reverend Martin Smyth, who is incorrectly described as a Presbyterian minister.

As a member of Ian Paisley's self-made Free Presbyterian Church, Smyth has very little experience of Namibian politics but excels himself along with Paisley in reminding Catholics and Protestants in Ulster of their 'ethnic differences'.

The Free Presbyterian churches preach anti-Catholic messages from its pulpits and through open air 'Nuremburg-type' rallies and along with the Orange Order (which Smyth heads) has much to do with fermenting anger and violence.

Sean Cleary, with a name like yours, you should know better.

ANTI-ORANGE
WINDHOEK

False statement

PLEASE permit me to answer to the embarrassing statement '... Swapo does the same, but nobody complains ...' in The Namibian of May 16.

The angry residents and their tribal chief, in and around Om-balantu in northern Namibia, are totally against the actions of the South African Police and Defence Force and not against Swapo.

Obviously the people in the north are annoyed by the South African Police and Defence Force's 'systematic and cleverly planned' manner of waiting until the harvesting period before these units come in and destroy their many months of hard work.

In Windhoek, the Police spokesman's comment on the incidents, in my reasoning, is alarming. His words '... Swapo does the same but nobody complains ..' are absurd and embarrassing and perhaps deliberately said to ignore the complaints and the truth of the matter.

The statement 'Swapo does the same' is patently false since Swapo

has no military vehicles, which according to the complaints, the SADF drove through mahangu fields and homesteads. How can someone from the north be expected to believe such a statement?

While the police and army claim to be the defenders of the people, the Namibians themselves have rejected this claim, since Namibians have experienced untold crimes at the hands of these forces. These cannot be erased from our minds.

We do fear the action of these forces and call for the immediate withdrawal of South African police and army. We want peace, justice and truth and this can be implemented through Resolution 435.

The Namibians have tasted the colonial fruit of the South African Government and its puppet institutions in Namibia, and it tastes bitter.

WILLY AMUTENYA
WINDHOEK

End conscription

WE, THE youth of Namibia, stand for cooperation and fellowship and brotherly love and mutual understanding and we reject conscription because we as Namibians, want to liberate our country.

We want justice and peace in our land and an end to the apartheid system. We live in an unjust society where basic human rights are denied us, and we even live in a society in a state of civil war.

Young men are conscripted to assist in the maintenance and defence of apartheid policies. Young men who refuse are faced with six years in prison. The extension of conscription to various groups in our country will increase the conflict and further the divisions.

As Namibians, we must be aware that South Africa wishes to divide us.

We need peace and justice but our freedom is delayed because of P W Botha and the interim government.

We have to see how Namibians are suffering, particularly those in the north of the country. Many have lost their properties, families, children, homes, friends, neighbours and their own lives. South Africa should give Namibia back to us so that we can rule ourselves.

We are tired of colonialism and