

## **SACBC STATEMENT**

### **ON**

### **HOMELANDS (4/9/82)**

In 1980 the Ciskei became the fourth 'nation state' in South Africa to receive nominal independence.

The true teaching of the Church cannot condone any form of oppression, exploitation or deprivation of the basic rights of individuals. The continuing attempts to justify enforced division among peoples on the dubious ideological ground of ethnic differences prompts us (Southern African Bishops' Conference) to make the following observations.

The policy of ethnic divisions among peoples is only applied to black people and not to the white population despite the even more marked ethnic differences among the latter group.

The land allocations of the country into small and separate sections that are virtually impossible to administer effectively, are selected by the government without prior consultation and agreement with the peoples affected. Moreover the area allocated to some 19,000,000 Africans is about 12 percent of the country, while the remaining 87 percent is for the use of approximately 5,000,000 white people. In addition, the 13 percent is still further divided into ten so-called nation states which are so fragmented for the most part, as to be an obvious cause of constant contention in the future.

There is open repression of legitimate expression of discontent about the unfairness of the above measures, or of lawful desire to share in the economic and political government of the country as a whole.

The compulsory resettlement of many thousands of people in order to carry out the divisive policy of the government has caused, and will yet cause, intense misery and hardship not known to the great majority of the wholly white electorate.

The Church cannot remain silent when blame for discontent is laid on internal agitators and external enemies and church leaders are branded as communistic whenever they ask for that justice for all the peoples of the country, which alone can bring reconciliation and lasting peace to South Africa.