

SACBC STATEMENT

On

NYANGA SQUATTERS (28/8/81)

In the aftermath of the governments handling of the squatter situation at Nyanga, the administrative board of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference expressed its horror at the inhumane manner in which the action was taken and its sympathy with those who suffer.

In justification of its behaviour the government maintains that it is acting in terms of law. We remember an episode in the Gospel in which Jesus said; that "the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28). We pray God that our country may understand that law must reflect an appreciation of human realities, especially of such basic issues as work, wages, housing and family life.

We warmly commend the action of the churches in Cape Town and Transkei and of all the compassionate people who endeavoured to protect the suffering community at Nyanga and alleviate its hardships, and we pledge our support for their ongoing efforts.