

## STATEMENT ON FR. H. HUNKE

18 July 1978

**On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> July the Administrator General of South West Africa, Justice Steyn, issued an order of deportation from the territory, Father Heinz Hunke, the Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of South West Africa. The President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference met Father Hunke at the time of his departure at Jan Smuts Airport on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July. The President issued the following statement:**

Deportation is surely the extreme measure taken only in the case of contumacious behaviour gravely detrimental to the public welfare and impervious to correction. That such a measure should be taken against two clergymen in Namibia a short 24 hours after deportation powers were granted to the Administrator-General leaves one with the suspicion that proclamation A. G. 50 was tailored for specially these clergymen. No specific reasons were given for the deportation. One has therefore to fall back upon the general reasons given in the proclamation itself, namely, that the persons concerned have been unilaterally judged by the Administrator-General to be threat to the peace and good government of South West Africa. The two deported clergymen leave therefore branded without proof by this general accusation. To my knowledge none of the clergymen has ever been found guilty before the court of the above general charges. I have known Fr. Heinz Hunke for well on twenty years, and everything I know of him points to him as completely upright and straight forward man of God; admittedly an awkward man to have in the vicinity of injustice and harassment where those are insufficiently dealt with by those in authority. As president of the Southern African catholic Bishops' Conference I can only take it that Fr. Hunke is being deported for being open, upright and straight-forward. With regard to certain embarrassing situations in Namibia, how this can be found to be a threat against the peace and good government of the territory will remain a mystery of darkness for right-minded people everywhere.