

## **STATEMENT**

**In favour of**

### **THE NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCESS**

SACBC Administrative Board, 23-25 October 1973

Deep anxiety has been caused in the past few months by the action taken against people as a result of inquiries conducted by the Schlebusch Commission. The Commission operates without ordinary legal safeguards or right of appeal.

In regard of the organisations investigated it is difficult to imagine, on account of their numbers and influence, of the youth of their members in some cases, and well-known social and religious positions in others, that they are a security risk, particularly a security risk that must be dealt with in such an extraordinary way.

We wish therefore to associate ourselves with the many people who have urged that the Schlebusch Commission should be replaced by a judicial one which should be empowered to review the decisions of its predecessor.

We find it hard to believe that the great number of secret extra-judicial bannings, restrictions, detentions and withdrawals of passports is necessary, and urge that the whole system be reviewed.

When protest becomes common in a society there should be concern to seek out the causes rather than silence the protest. Causes are not hard to find in South Africa where the deprivation of civil rights and opportunities is enough to drive great numbers to despair.

There are among our own people and among sympathetic observers in other countries many who would like to know that justice is being done. Secrecy is the characteristic of the very regimes we fear. The Word of God has this to say to all Christians: "... but the man who lies by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God." (John 3:21)