

New Leader In South Africa Stern Backer Of White Roie

From AP-Reuters
CAPE TOWN (CP) — Premier designate Balthazar Johannes Vorster is South Africa's sternest champion of white supremacy—a man who believes that only apartheid can save his country from communism.

As minister of justice he was the architect of a whole series of relentless laws aimed at crushing resistance to white man's rule.

Critics call him cruel and dictatorial, but John Vorster—as he prefers to be called—believes in toughness when it comes to dealing with the threat of communism.

The 50-year-old Afrikaner lawyer has been hailed as "the Churchill of the veld."

Sir Winston Churchill would not have been flattered. Vorster was interned during the Second World War for his anti-British and pro-Nazi sympathies.

A burly, generally unsmiling man, Vorster denies he is power hungry.

Vorster was born at James-town, Cape Province, one of a family of 15. His father was a farmer but young Vorster earned a law degree at the University of Stellenbosch.

In legal practice in Johannesburg, he developed a smooth and fluent speaking style which he later used effectively in the South African Parliament.

Premier Jan Christiaan Smuts' wartime government interned Vorster as a member of the Ossewa Brandwag (the ox wagon guard), an extremist Afrikaner organization which opposed South Africa's pro-British war effort.

The organization stood for the victory of "Afrikaner-nationalism" through an alliance with Hitler's Germany. Vorster was quoted as saying at the time: "In Italy it is called fascism, in Germany it is German national socialism and in South Africa Christian nationalism."

ROSE RAPIDLY
Although he never renounced his beliefs, Vorster was accepted by the Nationalists in 1953 and rapidly rose to become one of assassinated Premier Hendrik Verwoerd's chief lieutenants.

Dr. Jacobus Daniel Vorster, a minister of the Dutch Reform Church, says of his brother: "I hold him in high regard because he is true to the Afrikaners' principles, true to his aspirations and his religion."

Vorster has little personal experience of the world outside South Africa. His only recorded trip overseas was to South America to recuperate from illness.

He suffers from a heart ailment that makes it impossible for him to travel by air.

END JUSTIFIES MEANS
Vorster defends his tough policies by stating in his political philosophy that the end justifies the means.

But the man whose security laws are attacked as Draconian in South Africa and abroad, presents a different face to his family and to fellow members of his several golf clubs around Johannesburg.

Fellow golfers describe him as a relaxed and affable man who never discusses politics.

During his tenure as justice minister he encouraged judges and leading members of the prisons' staff to take long-term Negro convicts, preferably murderers, as servants in an attempt to rehabilitate them.

Vorster joined the cabinet only five years ago and has held only one post—minister of justice, police and prisons.

As architect and ardent defender of the all-embracing security laws, he won a mass following from the rank and file of the Nationalist party, particularly in the Transvaal, traditional heartland of the "hard" wing of the party.

He told critics of his anti-estate laws: "I will have no hesitation in asking for even wider powers."

He fought for the National party, but he reached Parliament in the 1953 election as a member for Nigel, a Transvaal district.

In 1961 he entered the cabinet as minister of justice, appointed by Verwoerd who, years earlier, turned her home into a candidate's office, and herself stomped the streets for votes.

ONCE DEFEATED
In 1948, he was defeated by two votes in the first elections

had been one of his tutors at Stellenbosch University. Still generally unknown, however, were Vorster's views on apartheid—the theory of separate racial development built up by Verwoerd during his eight-year premiership.

In South Africa this has the status of a full-scale political theory but Vorster has so far been known more as a political pragmatist than as an ideologist.

His wife, Martini, during the years when her husband was seeking a seat in Parliament, turned her home into a candidate's office, and herself stomped the streets for votes.

Dr. Davidson is a chairman of the United Church's committee on worship and ritual. In other business, the council appointed Dr. R. H. Henderson of Vancouver associate secretary of the United Church. Dr. Henderson, now secretary of the British Columbia conference, has not yet agreed to accept the appointment.

EASE DIVORCE LAWS
In earlier action, the council unanimously voted for drastic changes in the church's conception of grounds for divorce, removing what Rev. Ray Hord called "a festering sore on society."

It asked the federal government to accept "marriage breakdown" as grounds for divorce.

"Is 10 minutes of adultery worse than a lifetime of cruelty?" asked Mr. Hord, secretary of the board of evangelism and social service.

"This concept eliminates the guilty party theory." The resolution said that a three to five years' separation could be the basis for what constitutes a breakdown of marriage.

It also asked that such grounds as gross cruelty, wilful desertion and insanity be considered legitimate reasons for divorce.

The council also voted to ask the government to revise the Criminal Code to permit therapeutic abortions within certain safeguards, and to amend the law on advertising and sale of birth control knowledge and devices.

SNAKES USE HEAT
Some snakes have small pits on the head that detect infrared rays and so help them find warm-blooded prey in darkness.

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