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Kunzler, said that forwarding firms preferred to use their own employees in their groupage depots because there were more guarantees that the goods in their care would be handled with care and properly placed in containers. Another good reason why the firms should rely on their own staff is that they are spared the extremely high wage bills which the employment of registered dockers would entail.

(PMB)

SWISS CHURCH

Journalist speaks to Youth Club

Mr. Bernard Feller, the London correspondent of the three most important French-speaking dailies, "Vingt-quatre Heures", "Tribune de Lausanne" and "Tribune de Genève" spoke to the regular weekly meeting of the youth club at the Eglise Suisse about his visit to six Bantu homelands in South Africa.

Mr. Feller, who was speaking to a good forty youths, mainly au pair girls, began by situating the background of Apartheid policy introduced by the white Nationalist Party 22 years ago. Recalling developments in South Africa up to the present day, he said that all the published figures showed that Apartheid had dismally failed in its prime purpose: in separate development. Mr. Feller, said that there were far more blacks in white urban areas than before Apartheid.

Mr. Feller, who was one of the first western journalists to make an exclusive report on African homelands, all of which are generally closed to whites with the exception of the Transkei, said that most of these areas could just about survive on a subsistence level if they weren't overpopulated. But primitive methods of agriculture hastened the erosion of the soil and the disappearance of arable land. Many of the African homelands have only one harvest a year and famines are not uncommon. Mr. Feller said that although the homelands may one

day become independent and even form a federation speaking on equal terms with Pretoria, there was no hope of these states becoming economically viable. The white South Africans held all the levers of wealth and power and it was economically inconceivable to launch new industries in areas totally devoid of the necessary infrastructure when the necessary white-ruled centres already existed.

Although the speaker agreed that life in an African homeland was not necessarily as bad as often depicted, he said there was no means for the overcrowded populations of these areas to improve their lot without aid from the white-run South African government. At present, the government has drastically cut its Bantu-advancement budget and cancelled a vital five-year job creation plan. Mr. Feller said that white South Africans considered spending money on the negro majority "rather in the same way that Swiss people react when asked to allocate more public funds to prisons". Despite this, Mr. Feller said that Apartheid was spoken of in every paper, visible on every street corner and troubled many white consciences.

He did not foresee any change of attitude among the whites in the immediate future but said that young people were becoming increasingly critical of Apartheid. The speaker also ruled out any mass revolt by the blacks for many years to come. This was impossible because of the absence of organisation and preparation among the black masses, and also because of the immense power wielded by the South African police state.

Among the many points raised during question time, one African listener stressed that it was shameful that Christian Missionaries should condone with Apartheid. The speaker said that he had met Missionaries who not only accepted this institution, but actually made good use of it by running colonial-type farms with dirt cheap labour. The Rev. Nicod wanted to know why a minister friend of his with liberal principles returned after six years in South Africa as a firm

supporter of Apartheid. This the speaker could not answer. The answer would probably sound as illogical as the principles on which Apartheid are based.

(PMB)

TWO QUEEN'S AWARD WINNERS MERGE

Acrow (Engineers) Limited announce that the merger between themselves and the Steel Group has been ratified by shareholders and will proceed as planned.

On the basis of the last published balance sheet (which excludes Acrow's overseas companies), the new Group has a combined turnover of £55 million with a combined pre-tax profit of £5,650,000. The new market evaluation of the Acrow Group is approximately £57 million.

The acquisition of the Steel Group constitutes a major advance of Acrow's formidable growth rate. The enlarged Group—with a combined labour force of 10,000—now represents a powerful and broadly-based group with widespread interests in both the construction and mechanical handling industries.

Substantial customer benefits are expected as a result of both companies' crane and hoist manufacturing interests and from the development of their complementary network of sales, service and production facilities throughout the world.

Acrow, which has just been awarded the 1972 Queen's Award to Industry for export achievement, has established itself as the world's foremost manufacturer of steel formwork. This, together with Acrow shoring and scaffolding systems, is being used in virtually every country in the world. Other interests include industrial storage and materials handling equipment, pressure vessels for the oil and petrochemical industries, storage tanks, steel freight containers, Bailey bridg-

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