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SOBUKWE AND APARTHEID
by BENJAMIN POGRUND pub: JONATHAN BALL

The title of this one does not tell quite all. It is called SOBUKWE AND APARTHEID. It is by Benjamin Pogrund, published by Jonathan Ball.

It certainly is an informed and very well-written story of the man they called 'Father of the Nation'. -Robert Sobukwe.

It tells of his early days in Graaf Reinet, and his background; the paternalistic education offered in those days and his academic excellence. In 1947 he went to Fort Hare University where he studied and taught what was called 'Native Administration'. Here was innocence shed, and began the career which led to his leadership of the Pan African Congress - to the Courtesy Campaign, to the anti-pass-laws campaign. To Sharpeville, to prison, to Robben Island, to the never ending confinement in Kimberley, death, and the strange barbaric funeral at Graaf Reinet. All this is written about with a controlled passion and a highly developed literary skill. We've lived through it all, and to find it put into such an expertly conceived perspective is one of the most rewarding aspects of this book. But further than just that, there emerges a moving picture of a devotion between these two men - subject and author of the book. Together they

struggled and supported each other, and form an integral part of a sad and savage phase of South African history. Only a couple of times does Pogrund allow a drop of bitterness to sully the lucid flow of his recall of those days. Otherwise it is a great tale -plenty of drama and urgency as history unfolds. There is much that is accusatory, and much that is ironical. Much is related with an engaging wryness, and, in spite of all that has happened, a positive optimism that all may yet come right. Recommended highly is SOBUKWE AND APARTHEID, by BENJAMIN POGRUND, published by JONATHAN BALL.

Robert Sobukwe Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2618-Da53

Document Title:- Talking of Books: Review of 'Sobukwe and Apartheid' by Cameron McClure, (copy of typed notes)

Author:- Cameron McClure, Talking of Books

Document Date:- 29, 30 July 1990