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ANTISEMITISM HAS ABATED IN SOUTH AFRICA, SAYS PREMIER

Johannesburg, August 12, 1966

(JCNS) Dr. Verwoerd, the South African Prime Minister, has told a visiting B'nai B'rith official that he is happy that antisemitism has abated in South Africa.

In passing, Dr. Verwoerd also told Mr. Saul Joffes, the head of B'nai B'rith's office of international affairs, that Jews had made a good contribution to the country and would continue to do so.

The Jews of South Africa have been following with interest the "unmasking," as an Afrikaans newspaper ("Die Beeld") describes it, of Mr. S.E.D. Brown, a National Party member of British origin. He has been very sharply criticised for his methods of ascribing "guilt by association."

His group is in close spiritual and political alliance with the extreme Right-wing John Birch Society in the United States. He himself edits a monthly called the "South African Observer", which was at one time subsidised by the ruling National Party.

Mr. Brown's monthly began by casting doubt on the loyalty of Jews (whom he often associated with "Communism"), "Liberals" and moderates in South African politics, and continued in recent times by questioning the loyalty of leading Afrikaners, among them the Minister of Finance and the brother of the Foreign Minister.

What is significant in the condemnation of Mr. Brown within the National Party is that it first appeared in "Die Burger," the highly influential pro-Government paper, and that the terms the paper used were blunt and outspoken.

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