

Tilting at windbags

Back in 1212, tens of thousands of European children marched off toward Palestine, carrying lit candles and singing hymns. Such was the famous Children's Crusade that was to liberate the mythical Holy Land from the wicked Saracens.

This bizarre medieval mania never got beyond the coast of France and Italy. The children were rounded up by Christians and sold as sex slaves.

This week we observed a minor replay of this crusading dementia in the form of Toronto's anti-apartheid jamboree. Except this time the crusaders were not pubescent innocents but a collection of tawdry politicians and moralizing mountebanks from seedy places like Guyana or Zambia.

At their head was that self-appointed white knight, our very own Joe Clark who, I suspect, was chivvied into the role of Canadian Don Quixote by his ambitious wife.

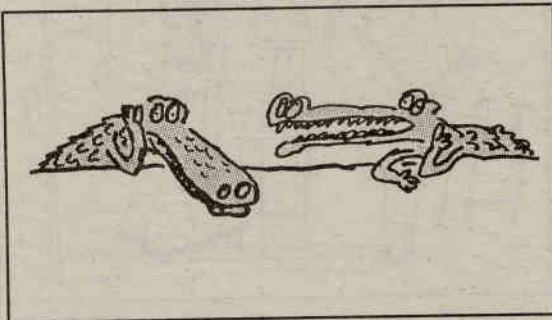
It was all too beautiful for words. There was Crusader Clark, hand in hand with a little black boy, holding up a candle against racism. There were bigwigs from the Commonwealth to chorus demands that South Africa be boycotted, shunned, damned. There was the obligatory film festival featuring a flick about a South African communist plus the film *Cry Freedom* which manages to mix left-wing propaganda with soap opera.

And, inevitably, hovering over the whole issue is the usual collection of Bolshevik bishops, union militants and swarms of something called "human rights activists"—usually immigrants to Canada from Third World nations that have been run into the ground by just the type of regime they want to foist on South Africa.

There were African National Congress dignitaries and a coterie of adoring, white left-wing academic groupies. The ANC just set off two large car bombs recently in South Africa, killing and injuring many, but it seems that its reps here are not under any threat of deportation, unlike a Palestinian whom Ottawa intends to deport as a "terrorist."

Come to think of it, Israel holds more political prisoners than South Africa. Do you think we'll see Joe Clark or Brian Mulroney holding hands with a Palestinian child whose house has been blow up by the Israeli Army? I don't.

Punch



"Personally, I'm sick of hearing about Paul Hogan's love-life."

ERIC MARGOLIS



Further irony: The jamboree was aimed at denouncing South African "propaganda." Yet there was our bankrupt government forking out \$200,000 of our tax money to buy TV and newspaper ads. Plus CBC-TV's always reliable *The Journal* once again piously exposing the evils of South Africa, plus local politicians trying to dance the reggae.

Last, but far from least, there was the *Globe and Mail* which shockingly dropped any pretense of journalistic ethics and joined in as a co-sponsor of the witch hunt against white South Africans.

Let's thank those Commonwealth nations who came to lecture us about morality. Nice places like Marxist Zimbabwe, now holding a Canadian in jail on bogus spy charges, or Nigeria, the world's most corrupt country, or India whose caste system and millions of child laborers make South Africa look like Sweden. We are used to such arrant hypocrisy.

Not so South Africa's ambassador, who published an anguished letter that asked: We have done wrongs but so have our accusers. Why single us out for scourging? Such naivete. Because for left wingers and infantile thinkers South Africa has become the mythical pole of evil, just as Nicaragua is the mythical pole of good.

Right and wrong, true and false have no meaning here. Tub-thumping politicians can squeeze a few more votes out of the left, and that's all that matters.

While our politicians are foaming at the mouth over South Africa, ready to fight to the last South African black against racism, ordinary Canadians are seething with anger over the growing influx of Third Worlders into this country. Criminals are being imported from all over the world, each bringing their own ethnic crime specialties to Canada. And some immigrant groups are totally alien to Canadian society and never intend to blend in.

This is the real racial issue facing Canada, not goings-on in a far-off South Africa that I wager most people could not even find on the map. Dare I suspect that some of the clamor and ballyhoo against South Africa is being put out by our politicians as a way of diverting attention from Canada's own growing racial problem? Do our guilt-ridden bishops fear, deep down in their trembling hearts, that their Canadian parishoners, if moved to Pretoria, would act very much like those dastardly white South Africans?

Joe Clark is now threatening the ultimate punishment against South Africa: Breaking diplomatic relations. That's like watching an angry chihuahua snapping at the heels of a bull elephant. Watch out, Jumbo!