



ASYLUM FOR DRAFT RESISTERS? Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark has urged support for American government action to offer asylum to white South Africans who evade military service because of their opposition to apartheid. (In South Africa military service is compulsory for whites.) Mr. Clark's comments were made at the beginning of a two-month publicity campaign in support of the resisters by one of their number, Michael Morgan. Morgan left South Africa in 1977 saying that during a previous tour of duty he had witnessed South African army atrocities in Namibia.

MICHIGAN CONNECTION: John McGoff, the Michigan newspaper publisher who prides himself on his lobbying feats for South Africa, has been revealed as one of the backers of the right-wing Christian League of Southern Africa. The League, which has a staff of nine at its headquarters in Pretoria, is the sponsor of a team of speakers currently touring the United States. Its financing has been a subject of speculation in South Africa and the United States.

Christian Science Monitor correspondent June Goodwin, talking with League officials in South Africa, has now been told that McGoff contributed about \$26,000 to the League last year. This revelation—explaining only part of the League's funding—is sure to provoke additional questions. McGoff is a close personal friend of former South African Information Minister Connie Mulder, who lost last month's competition for prime minister partly because of a financial scandal still under investigation in his department—a scandal relating to unauthorized expenditures.

COMORES SETTLES DOWN: Now alone in his post following the resignation of co-

president Mohamed Ahmed, Comores leader Ahmed Abdallah has apparently settled his most pressing problems. Notorious mercenary Bob Denard left September 28, aboard a Gabonese cargo aircraft that had arrived carrying Rhodesian beef. And on October 1, a new constitution, providing for a federal Islamic republic, was approved by 99% of the voters. The federal provisions are an effort to satisfy inhabitants of the larger Grand Comore island (Ahmed Abdallah comes from neighboring Anjouan), while the Islamic emphasis stands in sharp contrast to the previous regime's often harsh attacks on traditional Islamic customs.

The bankrupt government has already received emergency aid of some \$8 million from Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia, and an annual commitment of \$14 million from France is expected.

SQUATTERS TO TRANSKEI—OR CISKEI?:

Early this month Kaiser Matanzima, prime minister of the South African-sponsored Transkei state, protested strongly against South African plans for resettlement of some 20,000 people, from the Crossroads settlement outside Cape Town, on land due shortly to be incorporated into the Transkei. Now reports from South Africa say the government has moved construction equipment from the site adjoining the Transkei to the nearby Ciskei reserve, not yet proclaimed independent by South Africa.

South Africa has arbitrarily assigned Transkei or Ciskei citizenship to all Xhosa-speaking Africans, and the governments of the "homelands," as the reserves are called, have been powerless to prevent this denial of South African citizenship. The Crossroads squatters, say South African officials, are in the area illegally, and must be resettled.