



From 2011 *Legendary Heroes of Africa* series simultaneously issued as a joint issue by Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone, to celebrate Jewish heroes of the South African Liberation struggle

Helen Suzman was the only member of the 160-member House of Parliament to consistently and unequivocally oppose all apartheid legislation for 13 years. In 1959, 12 MPs, including Helen, broke away from the United Party and subsequently formed the Progressive Party, with an openly liberal programme of extending rights to all South Africans with a qualified franchise. In the general election of 1961, the Progressives were virtually wiped out, and only Helen retained her seat. As the sole voice of South Africa's oppressed, Suzman became known for her strong public criticism of the governing National Party's policies of apartheid at a time when this was unusual amongst white people. She found herself even more of an outsider, as she was an English-speaking Jewish woman in a parliament dominated by male Afrikaners,

(11) 1966 VERWOERD ASSASINATION

On 6 September 1966 Parliamentarian Service Officer Dimitri Tsafendas stabbed Prime Minister H.F. Verwoerd to death in Parliament in Cape Town. Verwoerd was sitting at his desk in the House of Assembly at Parliament when Tsafendas attacked him with a knife. He escaped the death sentence after being declared insane by state psychiatrists and was sentenced to solitary confinement at the Pretoria Central Prison.



Front page of *The Star* newspaper (copy reduced)

Houses of Parliament
Cape Town



R1 value of 1982
South African architecture
definitive issue

A prior attempt on Prime Minister Verwoerd's life on 9 April 1961, at the Rand Easter Show, where he was shot twice in the face. The occasion was the celebration of 50 years of the Union of South Africa, David Pratt walked up the podium towards Verwoerd and took out a .22 calibre pistol and shot Verwoerd.

The attempted assassination occurred 19 days after the Sharpeville Massacre of 21 March 1960.

Verwoerd claimed he had been spared by divine providence.



Prime Minister H.F. Verwoerd
1966 Commemorative issue

Motifs: Verwoerd and Union Building
Pretoria, Dr H.F. Verwoerd, Verwoerd
and map of South Africa.