

Gordimer (4)

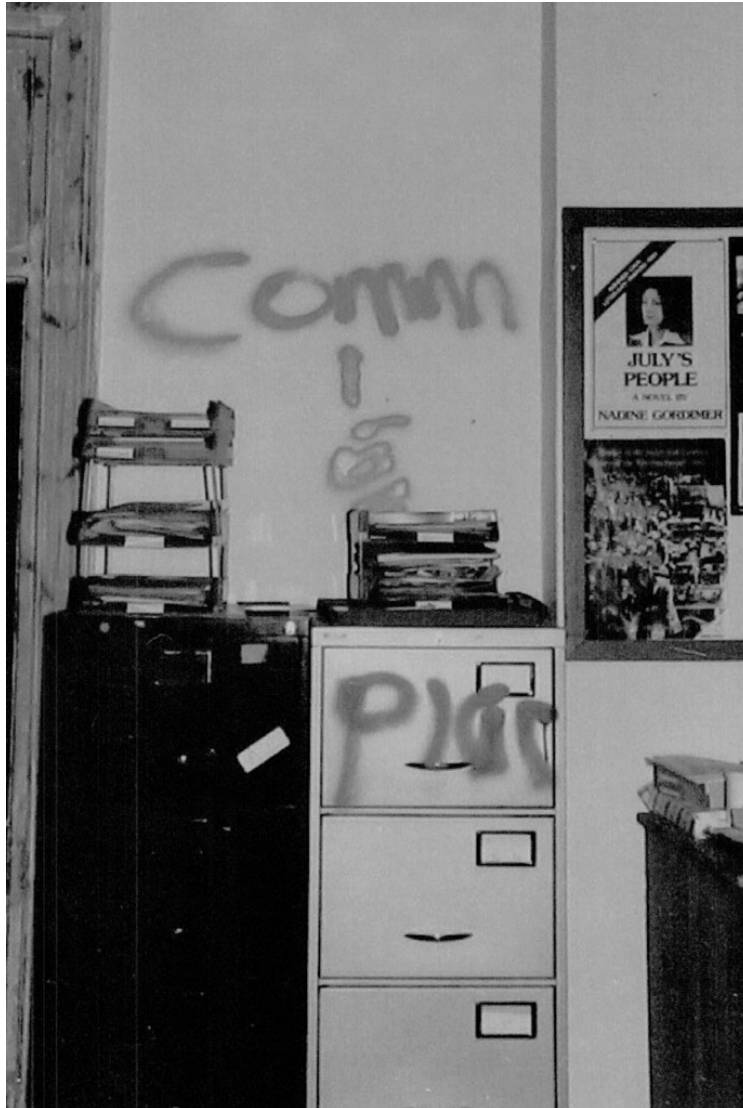


FIG. 2.15. A photograph of the Ravan Press offices taken in March 1987 after a raid by the Security Police, who spray-painted various threatening slogans on the walls. This one says 'Commie Pigs'. In the background are posters advertising Nadine Gordimer's *July's People* and other Ravan titles.

Peter D. McDonald, *The Literature Police: Apartheid Censorship and Its Cultural Consequences* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 156, [EBSCOhost](#).

1923	b. Springs (near Johannesburg)
1953	“Six Feet of the Country,” <i>New Yorker</i> , May 23, 1953
1960	Valdivia, Chile earthquake
1981	<i>July’s People</i> (Johannesburg: Ravan; London: Cape)
1991	“The Moment Before the Gun Went Off,” in <i>Jump and Other Stories</i> (London: Bloomsbury)
	Gordimer’s Nobel
1994	Nelson Mandela elected president
1999	“Loot,” <i>New Yorker</i> , March 22
	Thabo Mbeki elected president
2008	Mbeki resigns; Kgalema Motlanthe succeeds him
2009	Jacob Zuma elected president
2014	d.

MORE SPOILERS

Maybe it [“Loot”] is more of a political fable, about material things and possessions, the loss of possession as well as the desire for things. It’s one of the very few stories of about two hundred or more I have written that was set off by a particular site and a particular occasion. I mean ‘site’, as well as ‘sight’ in the sense of looking at something. I was in Chile a couple of years ago and went to the area where an earthquake took place. It was the biggest earthquake ever measured on the Richter scale and it had the extraordinary effect of changing the landscape forever. Even the rivers changed. When people told me that there was this extraordinary event, that the sea drew back, and there was all this stuff there, I was absolutely fascinated. I hadn’t seen any photographs or drawings. And so out of that came this imagining.

“Nadine Gordimer with Hermione Lee,” in *Writing across Worlds: Contemporary Writers Talk*, ed. Susheila Nastra (London: Routledge, 2004), 316, [doi:10.4324/9780203342480](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203342480).