

EDITORIAL

EM 36

1. 1956-Fields to Conquer

The People
Win the Battle
for Peace!

The 43rd Annual Conference of the African National Congress was held in Bloemfontein in December at one of the most critical

times in the world and in our country. In the world the peace-loving peoples had rallied, as never before, to stop the arms-race, to urge that atomic weapons be banned in order to maintain world peace and avert a world war. Their valiant efforts culminated in the triumphant Geneva Conference, where the big powers - France, Britain, China, the Soviet Union, and America recognised that international differences can be solved by negotiation and not by force. The spirit of Geneva was welcomed throughout the world and it was correctly acclaimed at our Conference as a victory for the peace-loving people of the world.

The people
of Africa & Asia
stand together!

During the past year, too, the solidarity of the freedom-loving peoples of Africa and Asia was cemented at the historic Bandung Conference.

The Bandung Conference and the brotherhood it forged will remain an inspiration to the millions of oppressed people in Asia and Africa. The invincibility of this solidarity is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it has evoked among all those who hate the freedom of the people a spate of slander and deliberate distortion. However, the people of the world have not been deceived by these worn out expressions of the oppressors and colonialists. The Bandung Conference is a legitimate alliance of the people of Africa and Asia against colonialism and oppression.

These we must
do!

What then are our tasks? The executive report clearly analyses the significance of world peace to us and the mani-

acal manner in which the oppressors and colonialists for their own gain attempt to plunge the people into mass destruction. Our tasks therefore are firstly to understand the need for world peace, to explain it to the masses of the people, and thus strengthen the forces of peace. In doing so we will at the same time be teaching the people who their friends are and who their enemies are because the enemies of world peace are the enemies of freedom. Secondly, let us make the people truly and warmly conscious of the priceless and inspiring solidarity of the oppressed and freedom-loving peoples of the world and make the resolution of Conference which acclaimed the Bandung Conference something which has real meaning for the people.

/The situation in our.....

**The Charter -
the Spear-head against
Fascism!**

The situation in our country is similar to that in the world as a whole. During the past year the Nationalist Government has continued to assault

the rights of the people with unprecedented viciousness -- the witch-hunt for an underground communist organisation has continued as a pretext for limiting even further the rights of the people and to smash and silence any opposition to the ruthless fascism which the Nationalists are determined to establish in the country. At the same time, the masses of the people have come together to map out their common path to a new South Africa with a clarity and determination - which was hitherto unknown. The historic Congress of the People which adopted the Freedom Charter was the beginning of a new and vigorous offensive against the Hitlerite fascism of the Nationalist Government.

A mockery of Democracy.

In order to halt the march of the people towards a truly democratic

South Africa the Nationalists are destroying even the semblance of democracy which parliament represented. The South African Parliament has become a mockery of democracy and the Parliamentary opposition, the U.P., is a miserable, misleading, disintegrating buffoon. The only true opposition to the heartless terrorism of the Nationalists are the people under the leadership of the A.N.C.

**Work!. Study!
Think!**

To achieve their aims of establishing a full-fledged fascist state, the Nationalists have geared their organisational machinery skilfully and

there can be no doubt that it is an efficient fascist machinery. It is therefore essential that the A.N.C. should prepare itself organisationally to meet the ruthless blows of the Nationalists and lead the people to freedom. The executive reports of 1954 and 1955 contain a careful analysis of the weaknesses of our organisation and the steps which must be taken to remedy these weaknesses. It is of the utmost importance that every member of Congress should study these reports and his branch and think of the way in which his branch can be strengthened and improved. It is our task as the President-General said, "of making a study of the general organisational machinery with special reference to its fitness for our present situation." Make 1956 a year in which we work, study and think about our organisation. Make 1956 a year of effective and efficient organisation.

**Bantu Education -
an instrument of
Destruction!**

The Nationalists have openly indicated their hostility and contempt of the legitimate demands of the people. To the

demand that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened, the Nationalists have contemptuously imposed that monstrosity - /Bantu Education..

3. Bantu Education whose function is not only to deny the people education, but to create a sinister and potent instrument for the destruction of the liberatory movement. It is the duty of every one of us to understand the implications of Bantu Education and to explain these patiently, fully and repeatedly to all parents. Let us make 1956 a year of intelligent and systematic, rather than sentimental and sensational, opposition to Bantu Education.

The People Suffer....
Our Women too!

The people demand freedom of movement and the abolition of the wicked and barbaric pass system. The Nationalists arrogantly extend the pass system to African women. The suffering of the men today will be the suffering of our womenfolk tomorrow. Police raids, humiliation, deportation, farm gaols! Here again the most intensive agitation is necessary to explain the suffering and misery which will ensue. Let us mobilise thousands of women in the struggle against the passes.

The Nats. are out to destroy Trade Unionism.

The people demand the right to free association and the right to bargain collectively for their security at work and wages. To oppose the Industrial Conciliation Bill whose purpose is to destroy and suppress trade unionism.

The Charter - our Salvation!

There is no doubt that the Nationalists will continue to oppose every legitimate demand of the people which is enshrined in the Freedom because each demand is a threat to their fascism. Our task therefore is to popularise the Charter, not merely by collecting signatures, but by actively campaigning against the Bantu Education, Pass Laws, bad working conditions... in the cities and on the farms.

Don't sit and Fold your Arms!

How can we make the Charter popular and intensify our agitation and contact with the masses of the people? Again the executive report guides us by warning us against confining our agitational work to mass meetings only. Every member of the organisation should make it his duty to speak to the people, in house-to-house campaigns, in trains, in buses,..... speak to the people wherever you are. It is treachery, which amounts to sabotage, to keep to yourself the knowledge which would bring a full and free life to the suffering masses of the people. If you do not know what to say, find out. But do not sit down and fold your arms after a meeting.
/The successes.....

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Don't let's
forget the
Peasants.....

peasants. Let us make 1956 a year of the most intensive mobilisation of women, youth and the peasants.

The successes of these campaigns will depend on the extent to which all sections of the people have been mobilised - particularly the women, youth and the

Money! Yes!

is a mighty organisation with the most difficult task to perform -- the defeat of fascism -- It can be mightier if its members conscientiously learn what their duties are. One of the simplest duties of a member is to pay his due at the prescribed time. It is a sign of political backwardness- bordering on insincerity - if a member "forgets" to pay his dues and has to be reminded. Make 1956 a year of increased funds in Congress.

It is hardly necessary to say that no organisation can discharge its functions properly without adequate funds. Ours

This is your
Voice!

South Africa. When it speaks, it speaks for the millions of people - the future rulers of this land. But look at its Voice This is your paper. It is your voice. Read it; discuss it; study it. It is up to you to see that during 1956 its appearance and content improve until you have a properly printed Congress Voice in 1956.

Then finally there is this paper. The A. N. C. is an organisation which is recognised throughout the whole world as the leading peoples' organisation in

May I buye!

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;
All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;
The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex;
All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

Freedom Charter.

5. CONGRESS HAS A VITAL PART TO PLAY

Isitwalandwe Father Trevor Huddleston C.R. was invited to open the 43rd Annual Conference of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein on the 17th December, but owing to pressure of work he was unable to do so. He sent the following message to Conference:-

Nothing would have given me greater joy than to have been with you and to open this meeting of Congress. I am indeed deeply sorry that owing to pressure of work and engagements I could not come, and I make my sincere apologies.

In sending you this message I would like first of all to express my sorrow at your President's continued illness and assure him of my deep sympathy. May he soon be completely restored to health and strength again.

It is a very hard thing to have to leave South Africa at this moment - a time so vital for her future and when decisions of the utmost importance for that future need to be made.

You know that nothing except the obedience I owe to my Community would have drawn me out of this struggle at such a time. I can honestly say that it is not my will or my desire ever to leave the African people. Nor do I feel that I am going "home". This is my home. If England is my mother; South Africa is my wife! And she always will be.

I wish I could say with any conviction that I shall be able to do more in England than I could do here. But I do not think that to be true - at least in the ordinary course of events. My work in England will make it impossible for me to take any really active part in the kind of work that can be done overseas: it would be dishonest of me to pretend otherwise.

Yet I promise that in my prayers - and that is, to me, the most important sphere of activity of all - you will have the chief place always. If you think I am silent and inactive, please remember that.

I have no shadow of doubt that, in spite of dark days to come, Africa is moving rapidly forward towards that goal which we all so long to see. It would be a fantastic betrayal of one's trust to believe otherwise. And in that movement, Congress has a vital part to play.

Unity; strong and intelligent leadership; integrity of purpose; the refusal to sacrifice principles - these are the qualities most deperately needed if Congress is to shape the destiny of young Africa.

I pray, and shall pray, with all my heart that these qualities will be forthcoming in full measure in the years that lie ahead.

God bless you and give you peace and freedom in your own land.

OUR STANDARD IS NOT WHAT THE WHITE WOMAN DOES.

This is a moving message to the 43rd Annual Conference of the African National Congress delivered by Mrs Nokukhanya Lutuli:-

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Dear Sons and Daughters of Afrika!

In the name of our beloved land, Africa, I greet you. I bring you special greetings from our local branch of the African National Congress, the Lower Tugela Branch which I have the honour to represent. I feel proud to remind the Conference that we felt honoured last year when the Annual Conference meeting in Durban held one of its sessions in Stanger (Zulu name: Dukuza) where lies buried the great Shaka of the Amazulu who believed in a united African nation and in his own way and in the light that he laboured for it.

I bring to you the personal greetings of my husband, your President-General. You know that on account of the ban imposed on him by our frightened authorities he is unable to attend this great gathering but has asked me to say that he will be with you in spirit throughout this Conference and prays God, the Almighty, to bless it. He asked me to say - "Kuboshwa izingu6o nomzimba nhayi umphefumulo ka TIXO."

He asked me to be a personal medium of thanking through this Conference the joint Executives of our liberatory movement who were joint sponsors of the Congress of the People which conferred upon him, and to two other lovers of Freedom - Dr. Y.M. Dadoo and Rev. Father Huddleston - the title of ISITWALANDWE. In doing him this signal honour, he asked me to remind you, that the Congress of the People was honouring you, members of the African National Congress and all Africans who share with us the high aspirations and hopes for the emancipation of Africa. He asked me further to remind you that in thus honouring you the Congress of the People placed on your shoulders the responsibility of helping him as your President-General to live and act in a manner to make you and him worthy of this honour.

Now coming back to myself: This is a happy moment in my life when for the first time I am attending the Annual Conference of the African National Congress although my membership dates back to about 1951, just about the commencement of the Defiance Campaign of Unjust Laws of great fame. I shall always treasure this occasion as I have always treasured the decision I made to throw in my lot with you all in the African National Congress who wish to see Africa become free.

The privilege of taking part in discussions and decisions that are intended to bring out beloved Africa to her own is a great and responsible one. It now falls to our lot to make Africa, often called a "Dark Continent", a continent of light. We are glad that our forefathers made a wise choice to look forward to new light when modern light, especially Christian light, came to Africa largely through Christian missions.

/The tragedy of our ...

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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