

NEW AGE

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Siege of Tenants in Condemned Slum



One of the besieged tenants in New Court Chambers, Johannesburg endures her misery because there is nowhere else for her to go. The bathroom has been partially dismantled so she washes in a basin of water carried from outside. (See report on page 4.)

Final Effort in S.A. Peace Campaign

JOHANNESBURG.

An appeal by the South African Peace Council, endorsed by the leaders of the four Congresses, was issued last week to all South Africans who have not already done so to sign the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council for the outlawing of all atomic weapons.

The closing date of the signature campaign has now been announced as October 16 and, says the Peace Council, "this must be made a great day in South Africa's fight for peace."

Signing for their organisations, Mr. Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, Dr. H. Moosa for the South African Indian Congress; Mr. Pieter Beylveid for the Congress of Democrats and Mr. Adam Daniels for the Coloured Peoples' Organisation, have appealed to every branch and to every member of the Congresses to sign the appeal, to collect signatures, and to set aside Sunday October 16, as Peace Sun-

day, for the collecting of thousands of signatures.

"Seven hundred million people throughout the world have already signed the appeal issued by the World Peace Council. Of these 30,000 are from South Africa. This appeal has already helped to create a new world atmosphere in which better relations have been established between the Big Powers," say the Congress leaders.

On Sunday October 16 a national house-to-house canvass for peace signatures should be organised, the secretary of the Peace Council told New Age. Churches will be asked to hold peace sermons, trade unions to hold meetings of their members to put in a final spurt to win support for the Peace Appeal.

INFLUENCE WORLD AFFAIRS

"Geneva was a great proof that the action of the common people, South Africans included, can have a most determining influence on world affairs and the settlement of international differences by negotiation and peaceful means.

"The current campaign is one way of making sure that this lesson is not lost on South Africans and that they add their strength to the forces of peace throughout the world.

"Since the Congress of the People there has been intense interest in the peace movement by the many thousands who took part in that campaign.

A general meeting of peace workers has been organised by the Transvaal Peace Council for Saturday October 8. It is to be held at 37 West Street at 2.30 p.m.

Barred From Park

JOHANNESBURG.

Indian boys and girls from the Central Indian High School have been refused permission to see an open-air performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" put on by Children's Theatre at Rhodes Park. Condemning this decision, Councillor J. Lewsen declared: "The Municipality appears to me to be leaning over backwards to adopt extreme Nationalist ideas of cultural apartheid."

The school applied to Children's Theatre for block booking for its pupils and Children's Theatre granted this gladly. But ten minutes later, after checking with the Council's Parks Department, it found that Non-Europeans are not allowed in the Park, regardless of the fact that Indian citizens are ratepayers and contribute their share to the Park's upkeep, and the fact that there is no legal colour bar restriction on entry into the Park.

INDIANS TO LOSE ALL RIGHTS IN WITBANK?

New Pattern to Degrade Whole People's Status

JOHANNESBURG.

IF the proposed regulations for the Witbank Indians living in the Asiatic Bazaar become law, the people will lose all their rights and privileges and their position will become similar to that of Africans.

The new regulations which are almost a carbon copy of those governing the administration of "Native locations," will transform the Asiatic bazaar into a location and impose on the inhabitants all the restrictions that hem in the lives of urban Africans.

"The Witbank regulations indicate the direction in which the Government is travelling," an official of the Transvaal Indian Congress commented to New Age. "If the Witbank municipality succeeds other municipalities will follow its example. It is imperative that this Witbank plan be defeated. The Indian people must stand solidly together to oppose this attack."

If they go through, the new regulations will bring about the most radical changes in the lives of all Witbank Indians. They will have to carry lodger's permits and visiting permits, and house to house raids and searches will be instituted.

The old regulations, promulgated in 1907, provided for the leasing out to Indians of trading and residential stands for a period of 21 years. The new regulations seek to take away that lease-right for 21 years, and to make tenancy valid for only 12 months at a time.

No Indian resident in the Bazaar will be permitted to sub-let his pre-

misses without the written permission of the local authority.

No resident will be permitted to lease, under monthly tenancy or otherwise, more than one lot for business purposes, or more than one lot for a residence.

The local authority, before granting a lease to any applicant, must satisfy itself that he is "a fit and proper person to reside in the Bazaar." The Bazaar inspector is to keep a register of the names of all the people in the Bazaar.

"Every lessee shall produce his Asiatic Registration Certificate to the Inspector when called upon to

do so for the purpose of registration in the Bazaar and a register."

"Every lessee shall, without being requested to do so, forthwith give notice to the inspector of the names and occupations of any person who may come to reside with him." In other words, a system of permits for visitors is being instituted.

PASSES, PERMITS

"No person above the age of 16 years, other than the registered lessee of a lot, his wife and minor children under the age of 16, shall be permitted to be a resident in the bazaar, unless and until a permit has been received from the inspector." This is the Bazaar permit, and shall set out the names of all persons permitted to be in the Bazaar. The permit has to be renewed every six months.

So, as happens to Africans, children over the age of 16 are to be separated from their families and may not legally live at their homes without the inspector's permit.

"Any person found within the Bazaar may be required by the inspector to satisfy him that he is lawfully residing in such Bazaar and any person failing to satisfy the inspector may be ordered to leave immediately. Any person who fails to do so is guilty of a breach of the regulations.

Regulation 35 gives additional powers. The inspector "or any servant of the local authority" or any police officer shall have access to all houses in the Bazaar.

So under these regulations raids and searches may become the order of the day, and in fact the equivalent of the pass laws will be extended to Indians in Witbank.

The lot permit that all residents will have to fill in provides for details not only of names, sex, age and occupation, but also religion, "how long in urban area," animals kept and registration number.

The regulations also forbid the brewing of kaffir beer!

The existing regulations for the Witbank Asiatic Bazaar impose no such restrictions on the Indian community.

CHILDREN BRAVE POLICE RAIDS ON CULTURAL CLUBS

BENONI.

SEVENTEEN children of school-going age face charges of creating a disturbance, following the police raid last week on the Cultural Clubs in Benoni which were started for the children expelled from the schools for their participation in the Bantu Education boycott.

Two van-loads of uniformed police and Special Branch detectives in a car descended on the cultural clubs in the location one day last week. They marched in to the club where the older children were and arrested the club leader, Mr. L. Matime. The boys and girls immediately demonstrated against his arrest, shouting, "If you take him, we must come too!"

The police promptly arrested 17 of the children, mostly girls, piled them into the pick-up van and drove them off to the police station. All 17 were charged with creating a disturbance and were detained in the cells for some hours.

In the charge office cells (the boys in one cell and all the girls in another) they continued to sing freedom songs and shout Congress slogans.

By the late afternoon when they were bailed out, the girls were still singing lustily. They greeted the policeman who unlocked their cell door with the shout: "Mayibuye! We want our leader!"

The 17 were released on £2 bail. They will appear in court on October 5.

The club leader, Mr. Matime, was detained on a charge under the Bantu Education Act of running an illegal school and was not permitted bail.

In the Nobadula Hall in the Location the children sang freedom songs and demonstrated after the police had left. Further police raids are expected on Benoni's clubs with the apparent aim of bringing them to a standstill.

SWART'S POLICE RAID 50 ORGANISATIONS

CAPE TOWN.—With warrants authorising them to investigate charges of treason, sedition, and offences under the Suppression of Communism Act, police raided the homes and offices of various individuals and organisations in Cape Town and other centres of South Africa on Tuesday morning.

The warrants authorised them to seize papers, telegrams, typewriters, minutes, account books, tape recording machines, etc. of about 50 organisations, among them the Civil Rights League. Also on the list are the African National Congress, Congress of Democrats, S.A. Coloured People's Organisation, Congress of the People, Defiance Campaign, Liberation Movement, Youth Forum, the Women's Federation of South Africa, The Women's International Federation, the S.A. Peace Council and all its branches, the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, S.A. Indian Congress, and all Congress youth movements.

OBSELETE BODIES

The Cape Town warrants also list a number of obsolete organisations

and committees. They were signed by Colonel Reay, in charge of the C.I.D., Cape Western.

Police also raided the 'New Age' office in Cape Town.

A number of people whose homes and offices were being raided expressed great indignation at the raids in statements to 'New Age.'

"The charges of treason and sedition are so much nonsense," said one.

"The Congress movements and all other organisations listed are legal organisations, which have nothing to hide. This is another example of the South African police state at work, and a further attempt to intimidate the people into acceptance of the fascist government of South Africa."

Mayville Conference

DURBAN.

The Durban City Council is accelerating its plans to enforce Group Areas in Durban. At Merbank over 250 property owners are affected, and will eventually be served with notices of expropriation of their properties.

In order to defeat these dangerous trends the Mayville Branch of the Natal Indian Congress has decided to call a Conference of all organisations — educational, religious, cultural, sporting, social, etc. — to discuss ways and means to oppose any move by the City Council to take away the homes of the people.

This Conference will be opened by Rev. Blaxall and will be held at the M.E.S. School, 145 Molver Road, Mayville, on Sunday, 2nd October, 1955, at 2 p.m. Each organisation has been invited to send five delegates to this all-important Conference.

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