

NEW AGE

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Verwoerd Pow-Wow Was Resounding Flop

From our Johannesburg Correspondent.

Dr. Verwoerd's much-boasted "indaba" near Zebedeila in the Transvaal on Saturday flopped badly. The Minister of Native Affairs and his men failed to convince the African chiefs and others that his Bantu Authorities and Education Acts were beneficial. The official party were quietly booed by the gathering and left behind a feeling of resentment at the attacks made on Mission education.

The chiefs told the Minister they want education placed under the Education Department, not the Native Affairs Department. They bitterly criticised the Government for "consulting" them after the legislation had already been passed.

"You can prepare food in our absence but you cannot make us partake of it," one suspicious chief told the Minister.

Dr. Verwoerd's attempt to create ill-feeling among the Africans against the English-speaking churches backfired badly. Verwoerd said the English churches were like wicked uncles who used their wards' wealth to make themselves popular and then objected to their wards coming into their inheritances.

He also claimed that Provincial and Church education was not connected with the lives of the people and was therefore as useless as a windmill not connected with the pump. Only the Native Affairs Department could make the connection.

TOUTING FOR D.R.C.

Many of those present were members of these churches or had been educated at their schools. Dr. Verwoerd's crude attack was considered in the worst possible taste and was freely interpreted as an attempt to canvas support for the Dutch Reformed Church.

A.N.C. members were present but were not allowed a chance to

speaking. Proceedings were conducted in Afrikaans throughout and many foreign correspondents complained that they were thereby starved of news. Fortunately Congressmen were able to explain the proceedings to a number of foreign correspondents.

Having failed to convince the chiefs, Dr. Verwoerd called on them to go back and think the matter over.

Dr. Naicker Gagged

From our Durban Correspondent

Dr. M. Naicker, President of the Natal Indian Congress, has been served with a notice issued by Mr. Swart in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act confining him to Durban for a period of two years and prohibiting him from attending any gatherings for that period.

In an interview with New Age, Dr. Naicker said: "Mr. Swart's action denying me freedom of movement and the right to attend gatherings reveals the fear of the Government in the face of the increasing opposition of democratic forces to the Government's attempts to crush the people of South Africa."

"But the liberatory movement will continue to grow at a faster pace than Mr. Swart can issue his fascist orders."

STRIJDOM MANOEUVRES FOR FASCIST NAT. REPUBLIC

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent)

Mr. Strijdom's accession to the Prime Ministership is merely a matter of time. The current hullabaloo in upper circles of the Nationalist Party, which they have vainly tried to conceal—not so much from the public as from their own members and supporters—is NOT over WHETHER but rather over WHEN Mr. Strijdom should step into the Premiership.

Meanwhile Strijdom's strategic absence from the scene of conflict serves two important purposes: to keep clear of the dirty deal his followers are about to hand out to Mr. Havenga; and to "polish his marble" among overseas capitalists.

"Knife" Prepared For Havenga

The Nats, as is well-known, are not over-nice in matters of political morality. It will be remembered how unscrupulously they knifed the late General Hertzog after he had served his purpose of swinging "Afrikanerdom" behind their shady, Broederbond-dominated Party. Havenga and his colleagues left to form the Afrikaner Party in protest against this shabby breaking of pledges. Subsequently Mr. Havenga was enticed back into the fold. The bait was no less than the promise of the Premiership in succession to Dr. Malan.

These promises were the price which the Afrikaner Party demanded and received for its abandonment of all pretensions to democratic principle on the Coloured vote and other issues, and for scuttling itself. Mr. Havenga carried out his side of the bargain. He stripped himself naked of all the fine garb

of "scruples" about the Constitution and a fair deal for the Coloured people.

But such is the gullibility and wishful thinking of the United Party and its press that they still babble about Mr. Havenga's "moderation" and "principles." Mr. Havenga jockeyed through the dissolution of the Afrikaner Party, and turned not a hair when all his erstwhile comrades were dropped overboard in the election nominations.

Now, after lingering an unconscionable long time, Dr. Malan is about to depart. The time has arrived for the pay-off. Mr. Havenga is presenting the bill for all the dubious cattle-trading that went on behind the scenes. But there appears to be some difficulty about the actual payment.

SENSITIVE SOUL

To put it bluntly, Mr. Strijdom, who has a controlling interest in the Nationalist Party machine, is not willing to hand over the Premiership. He wants it himself. But since he himself was a party to all the deals, he just can't bear to be around while his agents wield the knife which has been sharpened for Mr. Havenga. His sensitive soul shrinks.

Another very useful purpose that will be served by his "health" visit abroad will be to introduce him to financial circles overseas who are very worried by reports that he is a wild man who might take reckless steps which would endanger their investments in the Union. Mr. Strijdom has never before been outside the Union's borders, and his present tour, in addition to enable him to receive treatment for his health, will enable him to reassure the imperialists that, like Dr. Malan and Mr. Havenga, he is really a very reasonable man.

Current information is that they will not need much reassuring. Profits from gold and uranium remain on a high level. The biggest factor in these high profits is cheap African labour. There is nothing in Mr. Strijdom's record to suggest that he will take steps to raise the wage-levels of the Africans.

REPUBLIC IN EMPIRE

Mr. Strijdom will no doubt explain that there is nothing incompatible in the sort of Republic he envisages and continued South African participation in the British Commonwealth. In fact, like Dr. Malan, he is all in favour of the British Empire, and only wishes its Government would show a little more "firmness" in maintaining it against the demands for independence of the African and Asian people who live under the Union Jack.

Dr. Malan, who no longer has any personal interest in the Premiership, can afford to be indignant at the perfidy and unseemly haste of Mr. Strijdom. He will endeavour, if only for the sake of appearances, to get the Nationalist machine to honour its bargain with Mr. Havenga, even if it only means a token occupation of the Premiership for a limited period.

CAPTIVE PREMIER

If the issues were to go to the branches of the Party there would be no doubt that Mr. Havenga would not stand a chance. He has no part in the new Nationalist mythology

that is being built up, except as a sort of ex-Sap who has seen the light rather late in life. But if Malan can tame the Strijdomites and persuade Strijdom himself to be patient, the branches will never get a chance to discuss the matter.

From the point of view of the people of South Africa, it does not make very much difference. Mr. Havenga as Premier will be occupying the position on sufferance, at the mercy of Mr. Strijdom, without support from the Party. He will be a captive Prime Minister, keeping the seat warm for Mr. Strijdom.

The Nationalist Party itself is steadily becoming more extreme and fascist in its outlook, and nothing short of its removal from office can bring about any real alleviation in the sufferings of the people.

Peaceful Co-existence

PORT ELIZABETH.

At a public meeting called by the African National Congress at Veeplaats on Sunday, November 7, a resolution was adopted calling for the opening of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in the interests of peace and prosperity.

Sending greetings of peace and friendship to the people of the Soviet Union through Rev. D. C. Thompson, the resolution said: "We sincerely believe it is possible for us to live in peace and happiness despite political differences. We earnestly hope that one day the South African Government will open diplomatic and cultural relations with the U.S.S.R."

"Such a relationship with the U.S.S.R. can help trade exchanges and provide an opportunity for appreciating each other's cultures. Such a link is essential in contributing to world peace."

(News by T. T. Tshume, Aggrey Road, New Brighton.)

Peace Pamphlets

CAPE TOWN.

The Cape Town Peace Council sold copies of a pamphlet condemning German rearmament from tables at various points in the city last Tuesday.

Ban Follows Interrogation

(From our Jo'burg correspondent)

An instruction not to attend gatherings for the next two years, on pain of imprisonment under the Suppression of Communism Act, has been received from Mr. Swart by Dr. Percy Cohen, Johannesburg dentist and a member of the National Executive Committee of the S.A. Congress of Democrats.

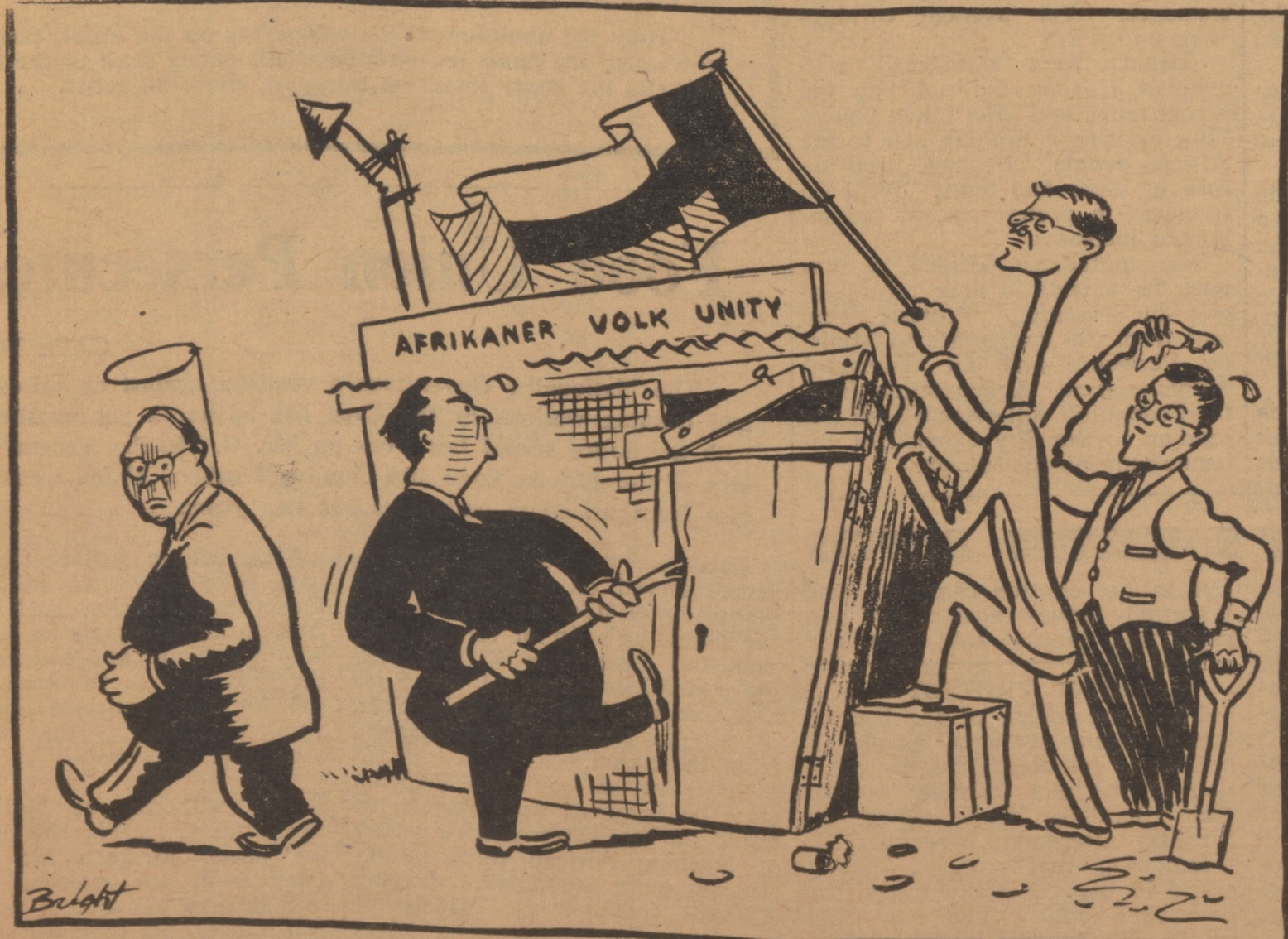
Well-known for his activities on behalf of democratic causes and the Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union, Dr. Cohen has not been listed by the Liquidator.

His banning follows a recent interrogation by the special political police in connection with an interracial children's camp which he had helped to organise.

In a statement to New Age, Dr. Cohen said:

"Who does this Minister think he is, sitting there in Pretoria and writing letters to people who believe in the rights of the common man, telling them not to mix with others?"

"Oppression of the people will not continue much longer because they are learning the lesson that standing united they are an irresistible force, Minister or no Minister! The people know of the struggles and successes of the common man in other lands. To struggle for freedom in their own land will involve many sacrifices, but that they will succeed is as sure as night follows day."



Malan: "Well, I've established unity for the next thousand years"

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