

*undated* (A.H.C. Tol) 112, 52

MEMORANDUM to TRANSVAAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of AFRICAN  
NATIONAL CONGRESS on SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC BUREAU

A group of people have decided to establish a bureau to be called the S. A. Economic and Political Bureau, which will consist of those interested in the political and economic problems of the Africans.

It will be the object of this bureau ultimately to provide any progressive African organization with financial and technical assistance, with propoganda, facts and figures which they may require for their work, and to act as an advisory body to any such organization.

The work of the bureau will be conducted through joint committees to be set up between each African organization contacted and the bureau. In the present case it will mean that the Transvaal Executive Committee of the African National Congress, if agreeable, will be asked to elect a certain number of members on to a joint committee, and the bureau will elect an equal number. This joint committee would have regular monthly meetings at which all matters of practical policy on specific issues would be decided.

One of the more immediate aims of this bureau is to assist in the formation of Native Trades Unions and it is intended to have a number of trade unionists on the bureau, but this group holds that Trade Union activity can only remain a truly progressive force if Trade Unions have a clear and active conception of their political role.

We have not as yet made any definite arrangements about the composition of the bureau since the Transvaal Executive Committee of the African National Congress have been the first African organization which we have approached, and it is on the basis of this evening's discussion that we will approach prospective members for the bureau.

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