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(General)  
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OPENING ADDRESS OF DR. H.N. MOOSA  
VICE-PRESIDENT TRANSVAAL INDIAN  
CONGRESS DELIVERED AT 44TH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS HELD AT PRETORIA ON THE  
3RD AND 4TH NOVEMBER 1956.

Mr. President Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I must thank the African National Congress for the honour bestowed upon me to open your 44th annual provincial conference. This privilege has not only been given to me but to my organisation the Indian Congress. Mr. President I am privileged to be amongst you at this historic conference and historic place, I say historic because as we have assembled here the inhabitants of Ladysmith are threatened with uprooting and removal from their places of living -- I shall deal with this aspect at a later stage.

Your Conference takes place at a time when <sup>responsible</sup> leaders and responsible opinion had <sup>gathered</sup> in Bloemfontein to discuss and deliberate ~~the~~ the nefarious ~~policy~~ Apartheid policies of the Government. There was condemnation of this policy at this Conference which is the real and the true voice of South Africa. The Government claims that they are carrying out the wishes of the people of this country and it is the "Volkwill" that Apartheid is the desire of the Herenvolk of this Country. But the ~~Volkswill~~ assembly at Bloemfontein was the voice of the people and that is the Volkswill, and let me remind you that they rejected Apartheid in toto in the mighty struggle for Freedom in South Africa. The South African Indian Congress has joined with you in the interest of right and justice as practical men and women we know that success only come to those who do and dare we as representatives of the people of South Africa are charged with the duty of attaining the Freedom of our people. We can only do so if we take up all the issues that confront us, with courage and determination

if we organise our people fearlessly on the road of resistance and if we follow a line which is correct. On the liberation front we have made great progress. Since the 1st of May 1950 many pages of history have been written in the cause of our struggle the very first page was stained with the blood of martyrs in the cause of Liberation. They died so that South Africa may be freed. We think with pride of our achievements on the 26th June 1950 when as a protest the people of South Africa stayed at home. Our thoughts go to the great and historic Defiance Campaign when more than 8,000 soldiers suffered the rigours of jail in the cause of Freedom. Again on 26th June, but this time in 1955 the people of South Africa gathered at the historic Congress of the People and adopted the ~~nights~~ Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter is a mirror which reflects the true aims and aspirations of the people of our country. The people of South Africa want to be free, and it is ~~a~~<sup>the</sup> noble task of the liberation movement to lead the country on the road of freedom 'until the people shall govern'. We have witnessed mighty changes in the world in our own life time. In front of our very eyes citadels of oppression and tyranny have crumbled to pieces. We have seen the defeat of the fascists in Europe and have witnessed the triumph of the people in many countries on the continents of Asia and Africa. Today our dark horizon is lit with the sparks of the struggles that go on in the various parts of Africa. Those who have already gained their freedom both in Africa and Asia are already helping the rest of the subjugated world in freeing itself from bondage. A sound basis was laid in this direction at the historic Afro-Asian conference where the nations of these two continents pledged to help one another in the struggle for freedom.

Mighty countries like China and India are in the process of becoming great world powers and it is a source of great satisfaction to us that the people of these countries are the closest friends of the struggling peoples of Africa and Asia. In this world which is undergoing tremendous changes you can see what forces there are that stand shoulder to shoulder against the decaying forces of oppression

Egypt

Our unequivocal stand on the invasion by foreign powers, i.e. Britain, France and Israel has brought just protest from the freedom loving peoples of South Africa. We feel that the sovereignty of Egypt has been attacked, and we stand by her in every possible way. It is our feeling that an attack on any independent country in Africa or any part of the world is an attack on us, especially when it concerns Africa. We therefore give the Egyptian people our wholehearted support in the struggle against imperialism. We state with the slightest hesitation that we fully support the Egyptian people in their struggle against aggression.

Just as the people of Egypt are fighting to defend their democratic rights we too here in South Africa have to fight for freedom. I want to quote two Acts of parliament which ~~strike~~ <sup>strikes</sup> the roots of our freedom. I, therefore, want to quote the words of your national president, Chief Albert Lutuli, "Some Africans erroneously suggested that the Group Areas Act was designed to affect Indians and to some extent the Coloured people. Such people must now be getting a rude shock to find that Africans have been the first victims of racial zoning as witness the ruthless removal of Africans from Sophiatown to Meadowlands in Johannesburg, and to find that many African-owned places are now threatened with removal such as Lady Selbourn ~~area~~ in Pretoria and some African urban communities established on African owned land in Natal towns such as Newcastle, Charlestown, Vryheid and others. The Cape, too, has such African communities.

These removals are being prosecuted with all haste and ruthlessness among Africans so much so that where the provisions of the Group Areas Act and the Urban Areas Act prove inadequate and slow, the Group Areas Act has had to be aided and supplemented by passing kindred legislation such as the Resettlement of Natives Act, 1954, under which removals at Sophiatown were affected and the Group Areas Amendment Bill, 1956, now before Parliament. This Bill seeks, inter alia, to amend the Group Areas Act to make it possible for the Government to bring about removals in such places as Lady Selbourne which.....

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so far fell outside the orbit of the Group Areas Act and the Urban Areas Act.

I am certain that you who have assembled here to deliberate on these important questions will do so with these points in view. May this conference be guided by the spirit of freedom which is pervading the air of the universe. May the delegates be the bearers of the torches that will light the whole of South Africa. May you take momentous decisions that will take the people of South Africa to yet greater heights of achievement.

The S.A.I.C. will walk with you in this difficult road shoulder to shoulder. We shall march forward together until we achieve 'freedom in our life time'.

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STATE TO THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CONFERENCE

NEWSPAPER NO. 18  
Gentry by James M. ...  
18 Nov 1952  
the 5/2/56

The struggle against oppression in South Africa is being waged by the democratic fronts will and must prosper. The A.N.C. having established itself as the body representing African opinion must from time to time face with courage the new political trends as created by the white Governments. The policy of the A.N.C. a few years ago has been changed to suit the ever growing determination of the African people, to wage a more militant struggle within passive campaigns. This attitude was timely in the A.N.C. for it had become clear that the self imposed rulers of this country were not prepared at any stage to grant the African people their freedom in the land of their birth.

It had successfully exposed the fallacy of the so-called Western Civilization as a standard and medium of a free people; colour prejudice has since become the only claim the Whites' Government have to refuse the African people life which is freedom.

When, in 1948, the Nationalist Party were brought into power because of their war cry of "apartheid" against the African people, they did not waste time to legislate even the basest behaviour against the African people.

In 1952 the A.N.C decided to launch the historic Defiance Campaign. This Campaign <sup>HESITATE</sup> <sup>VPS</sup> perhaps, the most militant National struggle which has been waged against oppression in our country in recent times. From the very beginning the Defiance Campaign was destined to prosper. For in such an attitude the African people visualised the total rejection of apartheid and the immediate opportunity of self sacrifice. This can be proved by the fact that the majority of the heroes who went to jail were not Congress members; hence making it clear that the strength of Congress does not depend only on its official membership but on the correctness and militancy of its stand.

At this stage of our understanding we maintain that the A.N.C must take a decisive resolution in keeping with the attitude of the African masses against the Pass Laws. We, however, realise that such a decision can only come to be as a result of a mass ~~xxxxxx~~ awakening and mobilisation of the African people into the A.N.C. alternative against the passes. Such an ideal can only be ~~xxxxx~~ mastered through a plan which embraces every single member of the A.N.C. with immediate duty. A plan which will make our Congress Volunteers a living force with specific duties and defined destination.

The Sophisticated <sup>or</sup> therefore, recommends that <sup>the following</sup> programme be accepted and pursued:-

(1) That substantial amount of money be raised through the different provinces. This is necessary for it has been proved beyond reasonable doubts that money plays a very important role in the struggle. The initial minimum of a sum of £100, (one hundred pounds) from each province must be raised between January and February ~~1956~~, 1957.

(2) That with <sup>the</sup> relative amounts of money raised, the A.N.C can now embark on a country wide campaign armed with leaflets which must be distributed regularly to the Farms, Villages and towns, written in different languages of the African people that dominate the area. This work to be done within THREE MONTHS TIME as from MARCH TO MAY ~~1956~~; 1957,

(B) Our propaganda leaflets having reached the length and breadth of our country shall have prepared the people for local meetings. Our Congress Volunteers, <sup>the contacts they shall have made in distributing</sup> through the leaflets shall be required to organise local meetings through out the farms, villages, and Towns. This to be completed within THREE MONTHS TIME as from JUNE TO AUGUST ~~1956~~, 1957,

(c) Having successfully carried out the first phases of our programme, the A.N.C. <sup>can</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>will then</sup> request the people, to test Local protest demonstrations through out the country must be organised against Local or National difficulties These protest demonstrations to be carried out within THREE MONTHS TIME as from SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER ~~1956~~, 1957, and (d) FOR NINE MONTHS, by December constructive work shall have been done through out the country. Reports from the various provinces will then be reviewed by the National Conference of the African National Congress in December 1958.

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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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