

ALL-IN CONFERENCE TO FIGHT GROUP AREAS ACT

Naicker's Call To Indians

DURBAN.—Dr. G. M. Naicker, acting president of the South African Indian Congress, calls for the holding of an urgent "all-in" conference at which every section of the Indian community must be represented to discuss the grave threat to the Indian people contained in the laws and regulations which continue to flow from the Group Areas Act.

In a message to the Natal Indian Congress Secretariat, Dr. Naicker says Congress branches, trade unions, traders' organisations, ratepayers' associations, sport and religious societies and all other Indian bodies should meet together to formulate plans to oppose the Group Areas Act, which is being implemented to strangle the Indian people economically.

The Secretariat has endorsed Dr. Naicker's recommendation for this vital conference and detailed plans are being worked out.

In his message to the Secretariat, Dr. Naicker says: "The Group Areas Act has often been described as the cornerstone of the apartheid structure which the Nationalist Government seeks to erect on the blood and sweat of the Non-White people of this country.

"The Congress condemned the law on the grounds that it would ruin the Indian people economically. The truth of our contention has been clearly borne out.

"During the last session of Parliament the Government with the connivance of the Durban City Council enacted the Group Areas Development Act. By one stroke of the pen Indians in Durban alone are to lose millions of pounds under this law if allowed to be enforced.

"Every property-owner, big and small is seriously affected by the provisions of the Development Act.

"Already in Durban's central commercial area where Indian business establishments are concentrated, all Indian property development has been frozen for a period of two years.

"The new proclamation dealing with the enforcement of Section 23

PUTC Bus Fares Increased

JOHANNESBURG.

Bus fares of Public Utility Transport Corporation buses on all routes have been increased by 1d. for week-end trips as from last Saturday. The increase will affect Alexandra Township, Germiston, Denver and the Western Areas residents, and in all these areas the people have gathered in public meetings to discuss their attitude and possible action against the fare increases.

Alexandra residents are discussing declaring a week-end boycott against the higher fares.

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of the Group Areas Act places every Indian licence in jeopardy. For the time being the authorities do not want to enforce this section as far as renewals are concerned, but this is only to provide administrative relief.

"The Land Tenure Board has not the machinery to deal yet with so large a number of applications for renewals in Natal. But sooner than some people realise, if this Act is not challenged, the Land Tenure Board can become effective machinery in the hands of the Nationalist Government to refuse renewal of licences and to restrict our traders to a small number in keep-

ing with the Nationalist's policy of introducing a racial quota system in trade.

FOOL'S PARADISE

"We must not live in a fool's paradise and believe that with this danger facing the entire community a few will be able to save themselves. We must expose those in our community who are thinking in terms of saving their own commercial interests at the expense of the rest of the traders.

"The latest treacherous move of the Nationalists is the desire to utilise the Group Areas Act for the purpose of prohibiting workers of one race being employed by members of another racial group.

"Grave danger faces the whole Indian community. The Natal Indian Congress must convene a conference of all bodies and organisations to meet this challenge."

A.N.C. FACES THE FUTURE

Issues Before December Conference

In a few weeks time the annual conference of the African National Congress will be held in Bloemfontein. This City has been the scene of many a memorable annual conference of the A.N.C., and, indeed, the last occasion on which conference met in Bloemfontein was memorable enough. The National Conference held in Bloemfontein in December, 1951, by adopting the Report of the Joint Planning Council of the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress, began the great campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws which placed the initiative firmly in the hands of the common people of South Africa and ushered in a new era in the political history of our country wherein the masses ceased to be merely the object of history but became the subject of history, boldly charting their own future course.

Freedom Charter

This year the African National Congress returns to Bloemfontein to set the seal on this development of the South African people as the conscious planners and directors of their destiny. Thus the chief political task of the conference delegates will be to affirm their support for the People's Freedom Charter adopted by the South African people at the mighty Congress of the People at Kliptown on June 26-27, 1955. The Freedom Charter embodies the most vital ideals and aspirations of our people, and in accepting it as their own the delegates to the conference will, in the name of the African people, be settling for a future united, free, democratic and prosperous multi-national community in the South Africa of tomorrow.

This would be significant enough at any time, but in a South Africa in which the social fabric is shot through with racial prejudice and tensions and at the head of which sits a governmental clique composed of the most racially bigoted

men of our time, it is doubly significant. With the major national group, as represented by the A.N.C. having declared itself for the Charter, the democratic movement will have taken a tremendous step forward in the Signature Campaign to win over a million "Comrades of the Charter."

The plans of the People's National Consultative Council for the prosecution of this campaign will be considered with particular keenness, the more so as it is realised that the task of collecting one million signatures for the Freedom Charter could and should be the silver thread linking all our struggles local and national together in the one single purpose of achieving the aims of the Freedom Charter. Apart from that the signature campaign, if properly handled, affords the A.N.C. a unique opportunity to enrol thousands of members and streamline the machinery of the organisation.

The definition and clarification of aims by a Liberation Movement at a time when it is under vicious and many-sided onslaughts from the ruling class is always a presage of counter-attack. The Freedom Charter—our mirror of the Greater Tomorrow of the future Democratic South Africa—serves to sharpen the antithesis between the aims of the people and those of the tyrannical government of Strydom, Verwoerd and Swart.

The conference will therefore turn logically and naturally from the Charter to the grave and immediate problems that face the African people.

Bantu Education

The delegates will no doubt have to assess the progress of the struggle against Bantu Education. Despite initial lapses this campaign still stands as one battlefield in which the Nationalists can be decisively beaten. The continuing attacks of the government on African education in the past year and

Lengisi Appeals Against Deportation Order

CAPE TOWN.

The submission that the Native Administration Act was not intended to apply to Africans other than those who are still members of a tribe and living in tribal conditions, and that it did not apply to urbanised Africans, was the main argument put forward for Mr. J. M. Lengisi in the Cape Town Supreme Court last week.

Mr. Lengisi applied for an order setting aside an order by the Governor-General in July, 1954, to move from the Duncan Village Location of East London. He maintained that his arrest, detention and removal from East London to Barberton, Transvaal was unlawful.

Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, was cited as first respondent and Captain P. J. Heiberg of the East London C.I.D., as second respondent.

Judgment was reserved. In his affidavit, Lengisi said he was 29 years old and had been born in the Transkei. Since December, 1943, he had been permanently domiciled in the urban area of East London and had attended a high school there for a number of years.

"I have severed all ties that I had with my home district . . . I have no civil status in or connection with any Native tribe, nor am I subject to the jurisdiction of any chief or

headman. In my way of life since coming to East London I have abandoned all Native customs and have adopted civilised usages."

Mr. Lengisi submitted that the only "place" from which the Governor-General has jurisdiction to order an African to move is a place within an area or location occupied by a Native tribe. Duncan village, where he resided, is not such an area, but a municipal location, under the jurisdiction of the East London City Council.

In his affidavit, Dr. Verwoerd said he did not accept that Lengisi was domiciled in East London and maintained that he was born and still was a member of the Thembu tribe. It would not have been in the public interest to give Lengisi prior notification of his removal. The Minister further claimed the right to withhold the grounds for Lengisi's removal, as it was not in the public interest.

The application was heard by Mr. Justice Ogilvie Thompson. Mr. Justice Van Wyk and Mr. Justice Van Winsen. Mr. D. B. Molteno, Q.C., with him Mr. I. J. Bleiman (instructed by S. Kahn and Co.), appeared for Lengisi. Mr. D. P. de Villiers, Q.C., with him Mr. T. E. Kleynhans (instructed by the Deputy State Attorney), appeared for the Minister and Captain Heiberg.

their projected plans for the coming year have strikingly confirmed that the policy of withdrawing African children from all Bantu Schools is the only way of smashing the Verwoerd plot.

But the experiences of the movement on the Rand and in the Eastern Cape underline the fact that if the boycott of Bantu Schools is to succeed it must be a sustained and persistent struggle in which the support of the people is gained through vigorous campaigning. If that is done the Bantu Schools will close one after the other, week by week, until the whole system stands paralysed.

Whatever follows that, the people will have defeated totally the aim of the Government to win the people over to the ideology of apartheid by the insidious method of poisoning the minds of the young. It is in that spirit that hundreds of delegates from different areas will approach the problem posed by the Bantu Education Act—a spirit of no compromise with Bantu Education.

Passes For Women

Then there is the explosive issue of passes for African women. For decades the African women have successfully fought back all attempts to impose on them the indignities and humiliations suffered by their men-folk under the vicious pass system. Today they face another attack from an utterly ruthless and unscrupulous government. The picture of men being roughly prodded into pick-up vans, the assaults and brutal insults to which they are subjected, is sordid enough. But what it will be like when women are the victims is too horrid to imagine.

Needless to say there are already numerous suggestions from all over the country as to how this attack can be met. Whatever happens, however, the country will expect a very clear and bold lead

from the annual conference of the African National Congress.

New Constitution

Another most important task of this year's conference will be the adoption of the new Luthuli constitution. The need for a complete overhaul of the Congress machinery has long been regarded as essential. After a number of years of hard work the constitution is now ready for adoption. The merit of the draft prepared by the special sub-committee entrusted with this job is that it preserves the valuable character of the African National Congress as a National Liberatory Movement uniting all classes and groups among the African people into a great army of liberation. But a more closely knit organisational structure is provided for and the system of election of office-bearers is made more democratic. The adoption of the Luthuli constitution will render the A.N.C. a more united and disciplined force capable of surviving the most adverse conditions.

New Elections

In terms of the A.N.C. constitution elections of the national executive are held once every three years. This is election year and therefore the last item on the agenda, in accordance with tradition, will be the election of a new national leadership.

The overwhelming enthusiasm that the fighting and progressive policy of the A.N.C. has evoked among the masses of the people makes certain that whatever individuals are chosen by the delegates at Conference to direct the affairs of Congress in the next three years, the struggle will continue along the same militant lines as have characterised the movement in the past six years.

The mood of the people demands greater unity, solidarity and struggle. This year's annual national conference of the A.N.C. should reflect this mood.

J.G.M.

Classification Appeals

(Continued from page 1)
of those entrusted with classification procedures.

In recent weeks pressure of different types has been used here to force Coloured people to submit to classification.

The police are again stopping Coloured men in the streets if they think they "might" be Africans, and warning them to report for classification.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has laid down that Non-Europeans who wish to study in teacher training institutions for Coloureds must produce Population Registration certificates showing that they are Coloured.

So, last week, pupil teachers of the Eurafrikan Training Centre reported to the Government Pass Offices for classification. Only two weeks before their final examinations, between 50 and 60 of these students, some only 17 and 18 years old, lined up in the queue for classification to wait their turn for interrogation by the officials. One or two had brought their set works along, to lose no time in their exam preparations.

The day they reported, though, they had no chance of classifica-

tion. The queue was over 150 long, and the African constables marshalling the men into line said the officials could classify no more than 50 or 60 a day. "They are too slow," he grumbled. "They should let me show them how!"

STOPPED BY POLICE

One young worker said: "I've been stopped by the police four times and asked for my identity book."

The man who stood in front of him in the classification queue, said this worker had produced his Coloured Certificate as proof of his group. The official had torn up the Certificate and said: "Speak for yourself."

One man had been told on his first appearance before the officials to bring his marriage certificate and his wife. The day he did so he was told he was wasting the time of the officials—they did not want to see either his wife or his marriage certificate!

In a leaflet: "Be on Guard!" the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation has repeated its warning to the Coloured people that they can not be compelled to submit to classification.

DURBAN RICKSHA PULLERS ON STRIKE

Protest Against Rent Increase

DURBAN.—For two days last week not a single ricksha puller was on the streets of Durban. Every one, over 500 of them, was on strike in protest against the increase of ricksha rents from 9s. to 12s. a week.

This rent increase imposed by the three ricksha companies has come as a callous blow to the ricksha pullers whose lives are quickly spent in the extremely strenuous and unprofitable work in which they are engaged.

Who has not seen ricksha pullers sweating and panting along our streets in the burning summer months providing "joy rides" for visitors and cheap transport for the city's residents?

After the two-day strike, the pullers and representatives of the three companies met at the Native Administration offices to settle the matter.

THREATENED

Officials of the Administration informed the ricksha pullers that they would have to accept the rent increase; if they did not the companies would withdraw all rickshas and they would not be hired out to the strikers again. Thus the ricksha pullers are to be starved out of their occupation.

The companies made a statement to the press to the effect that nobody could discover what the ricksha-pullers earned a week as their earnings were a "highly guarded secret."

But when New Age's representative met the pullers at their rank after the strike they could not be restrained from describing their impoverished state and their struggle to keep their families from starvation.

THE FACTS

A ricksha puller charges 6d. a mile and it is humanly impossible for him to do much more than 10 miles a day, which means that the maximum he can earn, with tips, is say £2 a week, working a 7-day week. And, according to the ricksha pullers, any man who earns £2 a week is highly prosperous, as well as rare. Few earn more than £1 10s. a week.

At any ricksha stand pullers can be seen standing for a whole morning or afternoon without a single run.

The earnings of Albert Dhlamini are more or less the average earnings of most ricksha pullers. He earns enough to be able to send £2 every fortnight to his family of wife, mother, and seven children. After paying rent for the ricksha he is left with approximately 5s. for food.

Ricksha-pullers' compounds are rent-free.

Thomas Mkize, regarded as one of the "prosperous" ones, earns approximately £2 a week. He sends £1 10s. every week to his wife and four children, is left with 10s. out of which he pays 9s. for the ricksha. Now he must pay 12s. a week rent.

Most of the ricksha pullers said that they could not pay the increased rents and would either have to seek other jobs or go home.

Dadoo Cables Birthday Greetings to Nehru

On the occasion of the sixty-fifth birthday of Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo has cabled the following message of greetings on behalf of the democracy-loving South African people:

"On your 65th birthday eleven million Non-Whites and European democrats greet and wish you long life and good health. We desire to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your ceaseless efforts in the struggle for the elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination and for the promotion of world peace and the peaceful negotiation of international disputes on the basis of the new historic Panch Shila—the five principles of peaceful co-existence, of which you together with the Prime Minister of the Republic of China, Mr. Chou En Lai, have been the architects and untiring champions."

In the 2nd article of his new series Colin Jameson writes on

STRIJDOM VERSUS THE LIBERAL OPPOSITION

The term "liberal opposition" is used in this article to denote the various opposition groups which stand apart from the United Party, and also, of course, from the Congress movement and the truly democratic organisations associated with it.

This "liberal opposition" has a common origin. Formerly, it was either contained in the United Party or associated with the United (like the Labour Party). It turned away from the United Party because it was disillusioned and disgusted with it.

The liberal opposition, therefore, flows directly from the United Party's policy of appeasement to Afrikaner Nationalism and apartheid. It is a protest against the ineffectiveness of the United Party and its sickening betrayal of principles.

The liberal opposition is hopelessly divided at the moment. Indeed, the whole opposition in the parliamentary sphere, to use a broad term, is in confusion. I would like to run through the list of "opposition" groups:

BEKKER GROUP. This group is closer to the Nationalists than any other. It agrees with the Nationalists on all basic issues. Its aim is a coalition. To this extent, it proposes merely a change in personalities, not policies. Its importance, if any, is that it could serve as a bridge between the United Party and the Nationalist Party.

SOUTH AFRICA FIRST. This seems to be a stillborn organisation in Pretoria which claims to have Havenga's blessing and Pirow's sympathy. It is frankly Nationalist, upholding all the "traditional" beliefs, such as apartheid. Like the Bekker group, its only hope lies in a reshuffle of parties; in which case, it would try to link Nationalists and United Party supporters. Again, its programme proposes only changes in personalities, not policies.

So much for the two main organisations right of the United Party. Now for the ones on the left:

FEDERAL PARTY (latterly, the ANTI-REPUBLICAN LEAGUE). Basically, this is a move to counter Afrikaner Nationalism with a manufactured British nationalism, or jingoism. It has a hope. The "liberal" parts of its programme are just window-dressing.

COVENANTERS and BLACK SASH. The Covenanters want a new National Convention to "re-affirm" the principles of Union (the Non-Whites will be represented by a handful of Whites at this national convention). The Covenanters are mysterious about the methods they will use to summon the Convention.

They are closely allied to the Black Sash movement; in fact, its male counterpart. The Black Sash movement has a dramatic potential, and it has captured the public's imagination. It has mobilised a lot of sincere support.

But both movements are strictly for Europeans only. The Covenanters will not let Non-Whites attend their Convention, and the Black Sash movement, in a recent statement, made it clear that Non-Whites are not welcome. All its demonstrations have been confined to Europeans.

Presumably, these two movements (Torch Commando personalities hover in the background) are designed primarily to keep White opposition alive by various kinds of public protests. What the end aim is, is a secret. Broadly speaking, the intention must be to

feed the flames of public interest in preparation for a grand assault on the Nationalist Government. This assault will not be launched against Afrikaner Nationalism and apartheid, because both the Covenant and Black Sash movement are open to persons of all political beliefs (that hollow slogan), and the Nationalists, as we know, are rather fond of Afrikaner Nationalism and apartheid.

The two movements are not really different from the United Party, therefore. They are keeping the Non-Whites at arm's length and playing for the support of Nationalists. This inevitably implies acceptance of Afrikaner Nationalism and apartheid. The silence which the movements observe on these fundamental issues is not innocent, nor part of the naive programme of "no politics." It is part of the scheme to evade the important issues.

The United Party, the Covenanters and the Black Sash movement all suffer from the same paralysing flaw: reluctance to oppose Afrikaner Nationalism and apartheid (except in a vague way by means of fine-sounding statements) because such opposition would defeat their whole strategy.

LIBERAL PARTY, LABOUR PARTY and ex-U.P. I am grouping these three together because they are in the process of discussing amalgamation. The Liberal Party has not had a distinguished record up to now; the Labour Party has been sustained rather well by its Parliamentary representatives and a few others; and a new crop of U.P. dissidents have appeared on the scene.

These three groups have two things in common: dislike of the U.P.'s revolting appeasement, and a firm refusal to throw in their lot with the Congress movement.

They are now groping for a common basis. The main problem seems to be whether they should abandon their separate identities and work as one, or keep apart and co-operate on specific matters.

The Liberal Party today is having less of an impact on public thinking than a year ago. It has lost virtually all prestige among the Non-White masses. It is having its own internal difficulties. There are indications that the Liberal Party is going to regroup itself and perhaps shed some of its leaders. At the moment, I imagine, some of these leaders are quite prepared to shed the Liberal Party.

If the talks between the Labour and Liberal parties and the U.P. dissidents come to anything, there are two possible courses:

One is to fix the aim on Parliamentary, Provincial and municipal

seats. In this case, there can be no limit to appeasement. Soon the new party will stand where the U.P. stand today.

Or the new party can set a certain minimum level of principles and stick to them, regardless of the reward they bring by way of seats. In that case, the party will at least have a reasonable chance of trying to prove that there is a function to be performed by acting as a "midway opposition" between the United Party and the Congress movement. But have the participants learnt the lesson which the U.P.'s decline illustrates so vividly?

OPPORTUNITIES

Meanwhile, there is plenty of opportunity for these groups to engage in useful political activity. I am thinking now of the recent meeting in the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, when representatives of the Labour and Liberal parties appeared on the same platform with Mr. E. P. Moretsele (A.N.C.) and Mr. A. E. Patel (T.I.C.) to protest against the police raids.

The meeting was a great success. It showed that there are any number of issues—the Nationalists provide them daily—on which sincere people can stand together. There must be many more burning issues that demand similar joint action immediately.

What about it, you Liberals, Labourites and ex-U.P.'s? (Next week: Strijdsm vs. the People.)

African Traders Discuss Verwoerd Ultimatum

JOHANNESBURG.

African Business League premises were packed out at a meeting of traders and businessmen to consider the ultimatum to them to vacate their premises in the city by December 31.

Mr. Shadrach Bhengu, the chairman of the meeting, said the blow would not only affect traders but would be crippling to the whole nation's progress.

Among other things, it was decided that a deputation of the affected businessmen should wait on the City Council's Non-European Affairs Department on a "matter of great urgency."

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