

ADDRESS TO THE ADULT EDUCATION JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

23RD OCTOBER, 1967.

- TORONTO CONFERENCE ON METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT -

1. Purpose of the Conference:

Interest - we had a wide range of persons, agencies and interests in the problems of metropolitan development.

2. The cities asked to participate were scattered throughout the world, including developed and underdeveloped countries.
3. Personal visits were made to each of these areas by either Mr. Donald Deacon, Mr. Warren Hurst or Mr. Simon Miles to establish contact and create functioning committees.
4. Johannesburg fortunate to be selected. May have been that Deacon had a connection with South Africa in that his sister is married to Mr. Hofmeyr who lives in Vereeniging.
5. Johannesburg Committee. Tribute to staff who prepared the background material and review of Johannesburg finances. Johannesburg's reviews were the first that other participating countries received.
6. Main topic percolating through all the papers was the

population explosion. That it used to take 1500 years for the population of the world to double - between 1850 and 1950 population doubled in 100 years. Now it is 40 years.

7. This is not some vague phenomenon happening in India or China - it is happening all over the world. Coupled with this is the move from the rural to the urban areas.

8. Let us take America as an example :

In 1850 - 15.3% of the American population lived in urban areas.

In 1900 - 39.7%

In 1960 - 69.9% and, in the year

2000 - it is estimated that 82% will live in the urban areas.

9. Taking world figures :

In 1800 - the population of the world was 90~~0~~6 million

By 1850 - it had increased to 1171 million

In 1900 - it had increased to 1608 million

In 1950 - 2400 million

In 1960 - 2962 million.

In 1800 1.7% of the world population lived in localities where there were 100,000 inhabitants or more, and by 1960 this had increased to 19.9%.

By the year 2000 it is estimated that 42% will be living in cities of 100,000 and over.

\* Add.

10. These are hard figures to grasp, but the theme of the

Conference was 'This is what is happening - what are we going to do about it?'

11. Because of this whole change in the pattern of living, the nations of the world are giving considerable thought to the pattern of local government. How are these huge congregations of people to live?
12. The development of metropolitan regions.

LONDON:

90 Local Authorities form the London County Council covering an area of 117 sq. miles. The area of the Greater London Council has now been extended to 620 sq. miles, and the number of Local Authorities reduced to 32.

SWEDEN:

In 1946 there were 2400 communes - these were then reduced to 800 and now the 800 are being reduced to 280 by amalgamation and merger.

TORONTO:

Was the first city in North America to have a metropolitan region. Then 13 boroughs joined and formed the Metropolitan Toronto. Since then the population has increased considerably, and it has now been reduced to 6 boroughs.

13. The same sort of thing has been happening in France, and in Glasgow, instead of extending the City, it was decided to build a new town outside Glasgow to deal with the surplus population.

14. At the Stockholm Conference, the subject being the amalgamation or co-operation, one was brought face to face with the issues facing the big cities of the world.

15. Toronto Conference:

Other members of the team representing Johannesburg have dealt with specific matters discussed at the Conference, and I would like to briefly refer to what happened in the discussion regarding housing.

16. To enable you to judge the cross section of the people at the Conference, I would just like to give the names of the people serving in the discussion group in which I participated

- Q U O T E -

For the first time I came face to face with the people trying to solve the housing problems of Calcutta, Ibadan in Nigeria, some of the South American States and the East Asian countries.

A Commission has for some years been preparing a basic development plan for the Calcutta Metropolitan District. I quote from its report :

"The Calcutta Metropolitan Plan deals with a city in a state of crisis. We have not seen human degradation on a comparable scale in any other city in the world. This is a matter of one of the greatest urban concentrations in existence rapidly approaching the point

of breakdown in terms of its economy, housing, sanitation, transport and the essential humanities of life. If the final breakdown were to take place it would be a disaster for mankind of a more sinister sort than a disaster of flood or famine. It would be a confession of failure, at the first major confrontation, of mankind's ability to organise the vast, rapidly growing urban concentrations into which humanity seems inevitably destined to move."

17. The representative from Ibadan reported that the country folk streamed into the city where no provision could be made for housing and other facilities.

In Latin America, according to a survey by the United Nations, there was a shortage of 40 million dwelling units of which 19.7 million are in urban areas.

18. In Calcutta 58% of all city dwellers live in single rooms with more than five persons, and the number of single-roomed houses totals 75% of all the houses. *Delete*

19. In the countries covered by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East Regions, demands for better housing begin with basic necessities such as land, education, water supply and sewers. The housing demand itself is for nothing more than a single room where all the family can eat and sleep together. The number of dwellers per housing unit is 12.76 in Hong Kong, 10 to 15 Djakarta. In Calcutta, 58 per cent of all city dwellers live in single rooms with more than five persons, and the number of single-room houses totals 79 per cent of all the houses.

The housing situation in Japan presents a very peculiar case. The housing standard is very low; for example, the size of apartment units for five member families built by the Japan Housing Corporation is only 45 sq. meters. <sup>495 sq. ft.</sup> On the other hand, their ownership of durable consumer goods such as T.V. sets, electric refrigerators and washing machines is high (almost 100 per cent). The sophisticated attitude of the tenants, whose educational level is higher than average, demands that dining and sleeping take place in separate rooms, parents and children sleep in separate rooms, and each room fulfills a specialised function, etc. As a result of such demands, the master bedroom becomes as small as 8.5 sq. meters, and the dining kitchen as common spaces becomes as small as 7.5 to 8.5 sq. meters. In view of the fact that in Tokyo and Osaka, one-fourth of the households live in one-room apartment houses of wooden structures, those built by the Japan Housing Corporation may be adequate so far as the Japanese housing standard is concerned.

20. The problems facing many countries is how do you use the limited capital available ~~to you~~. Do you put it into industries to increase production and the standard of living, or do you use it to build houses for people who cannot afford to pay the rents. What a dilemma! How fortunate we are in South Africa to have a buoyant economy and capital available for both the expansion of ~~the~~ mining, industry and housing.
21. Another matter on which there was a tremendous amount of information was the average floor space per housing unit. In Europe the average was 50 sq. metres

or 550 sq. feet. In Japan the average is 45 sq. metres or 495 sq. feet. In Latin America it was one or two rooms that predominated.

In Iran, India and the Republic of Korea generally the one-room house accounted for more than 50% of all housing. Singapore and Malaysian tenants pay 30-50% of their annual income for 330 sq. metre houses.

22. In urban areas of Europe only 50% of the houses have piped water.

However, I do not want to go into too great detail: all this information is contained in the paper which was written by Mr. Hidehiko Sazanami, Chief, Urban Facilities Research Group, Building Research Institute, Ministry of Construction, Government of Japan. How he gathered all the information given in his paper I don't know.

23. Public assistance on housing:

In many areas the bulk of the houses are provided by local authorities for the State. When we visited Stockholm we were told that only 20% of the total population of that city owned their own homes. Since the war 91% of the houses built in France have been subsidised. In the United Kingdom in 1957 the percentage was 58 and in the Netherlands I understand it is 95%.

24. Deal with Stockholm Pearl Necklace Development:

The towns of Farsta and Vallingby. 18 neighbourhood units built between 1952 and 1963, and 5 others under consideration.

25. Deal with development of Railway and development of the core of the city.
26. Deal with problems of American and Canadian cities.  
See page 3 of amalgamation of co-operation - United States of America. ~~United States of America~~ *Quote*
27. Deal with the multitudinous agencies - school boards, park boards, hospital boards, excessive lengths to which democracy is strained. In the New York Metropolitan Area 1600 different local authorities.
28. Citizen Participation:  
At Stockholm Conference considerable thought given to this matter. Here give brief summary of the Swedish Local Government School at Sigtuna.  
Vancouver budget plan approved by plebiscite.
29. Ownership of land. Inflation of land value. QUOTE ~~land price index in Japan from page 4. Advantages of cities owning large tracts of land.~~  
~~Inflation in property prices.~~

CONCLUSIONS:

- (a) The considerable thought being given to the urgent necessity to plan for the huge explosion of urban populations inevitable in the major metropolitan areas.
- (b) To the necessity to be aware of the facts and to plan ahead.

- (c) Johannesburg cannot do so in isolation. Must be co-operative planning between the City, the surrounding areas, the Province and the Government.
- (d) The need for a change in attitude of the Province and the Government to the cities.
- (e) With the growth of the city population the urban representation in Parliament should be more considerable and receive more sympathetic treatment.
- (f) The necessity for the Province and the Government to have adequately trained staff in sufficient numbers.
- (g) The Borckenhagen Committee Report. Why all the secrecy? Will its recommendations be put into force?
- (h) The tax level in South Africa seems to have got out of hand: far too heavily taxed by the Central Government by overseas standards. City taxes are low and we cannot expect the city to cater for huge national problems unless we get the co-operation from higher authorities.
- (i) Our system of city government relatively straightforward by comparison with other countries.
- (j) Cities of the size of Johannesburg should be relieved of many petty restrictions which are enacted to cater for smaller areas with less adequate staff. This was a theme at the Stockholm Conference.
- (k) Necessity for the cities to own large tracts of land

for the purposes of expansion.

- (l) Johannesburg's 94 sq. miles is not large by world standards.
- (m) Soweto: Heard of no scheme of similar scale, or of the welfare services being provided for any other peasant people.

JOHANNESBURG:

October 23, 1967.

RACE POSITION:

America's embarrassment as she knows she cannot speak as a Nation because of the differences in policies between the North and the South.

The Delegate from Detroit to the Conference was stunned, and did not know what the next move should be.

The riots were not only against white, but also against negroes who had moved up the scale.

The looting was not limited to negroes.

Reactions - Have they done too much, or have they not done enough?

Negro and Whitey.

Canada and Indian population - Many young Canadians helping in African States at rates of pay being paid to the indigenous population.

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