

## 623 Arrested for Anti-Pass Protest in Maritzburg



Some of the women demonstrators who were arrested last week seen outside the Native Commissioner's office waiting to be escorted to the Charge Office. See story on page 3.

# NEW AGE

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## WOMEN TO COLLECT 500,000 PLEDGES AGAINST PASSES

JOHANNESBURG.

SUNDAY'S conference of the Transvaal Federation of South African Women decided that it will try to win 500,000 anti-pass pledges from women in this province by Easter 1957, and that it will take these pledges to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Native Affairs.

Even after two huge mass demonstrations of the women against passes, said Miss Bertha Mashaba, Verwoerd had still had the nerve to

proclaim certain towns for the issue of passes to women. "We will meet him at the crossroads!"

Cries of "shame" spread through the hall when conference was told that the President of the National Council of African Women, Miss Mdledle of Alice, had travelled specially to Pretoria to take out a reference book.

The main conference resolution expressed opposition to all forms of pass laws and permits which enslave the African people. It condemned the Urban Areas Act and particularly Section 10 under which so many thousands of African men were arrested daily, thrown into gaols and sent to farms for slave labour. In the name of the women of the Transvaal the conference resolved to oppose all pass laws and unite to defeat their extension to women; to work among women of all races so that the meaning of passes should be fully understood in the Transvaal; and to obtain personal pledges from women of all races.

From every woman who signs an anti-pass pledge, one penny is to be

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# POLICE DECLARE PERMIT WAR ON NEWCLARE

## Hundreds Pulled From Their Beds

JOHANNESBURG.

THE police declared a permit war against the people of Newclare last week, and in a succession of raids day after day hundreds were dragged from their beds, arrested on their way to work or coming home from the cinema, and hustled off to the police cells.

IN ONE RAID OVER 200 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN THREE HOURS.

The entire Newlands police force concentrated on Newclare yards in an all-out effort to force the people to take out permits. The police assaulted and arrested indiscriminately.

The police pounced on men while they were asleep in their beds, ransacked wardrobes and snooped under beds.

One section of the location was completely denuded of almost all the men after one of the early raids.

On Monday night people on their way home from a meeting and the cinema found themselves confronted by a large group of police who attacked the people with sticks and batons.

A large group of arrested residents were subsequently addressed at the police station by a senior police official and told they were being discharged so they could enjoy their Christmas, but all should take out permits by the New Year.

### SAUSAGE MACHINE

Large numbers of prisoners sent for trial to the Fordsburg Native Commissioner's Court were convicted and fined £1 or seven days in prison under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act.

In 15 minutes in this court 12 men were tried and all convicted under the pass and permit laws. This sausage-

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## 300 in Mass Protest Deputation

JOHANNESBURG.

A MASS deputation of over 300 men and women from Sophiatown, Western Native Township and Newclare converged on the Newlands Police Station on Saturday morning after the week of vicious police raids, to demand an end to police brutality and the permit war.

As the crowd approached the station a force of armed European police with a second line of African constables carrying sticks and batons took up formation at the station and awaited the mass demonstration. The Station Commandant approached the procession leaders and ordered them to disband the procession but the crowd drew up outside the station, and then from its ranks five spokesmen came forward. An hour elapsed while the deputation presented the crowd's demands to the police officer, and the crowd grew larger and larger.

The deputation quoted specific cases of assault by police on residents during the raids, needless arrests and the persecution under the permit system of some of the oldest residents in the area.

## Commandant Condemns Police Violence

The deputation then announced to the crowd that the Police Com-

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## GOVT. PLANNING DRASTIC ACTION AGAINST S.A. "COMMUNISTS"

PORT ELIZABETH.

CONFIRMATION of the forecast published in New Age two weeks ago that the Government is planning another assault on the leaders of the people was provided by the Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Donges, in a speech at Uitenhage last weekend.

The Government should "clamp down" on Communists and fellow-travellers in the Union, said Dr. Donges, who was addressing a Nationalist Party meeting. They would have to do this to save "democracy."

Following the line of attack of the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, two weeks previously, Dr. Donges said South Africa could not act too strongly against Communism.

Recent world events had shown the "Russian bear" in his true character.

Communism had taken on a new significance and importance now that the world had seen that the "new look" was nothing more than a blind to cloak Communism's sinister designs in Africa and the Middle East.

South Africans, went on Dr. Donges, should be twice as wary of Communism as they were before.

"We have seen what Communism means and what its intentions are—we cannot act too strongly against Communism in South Africa," he said.

Political observers think it is more than a coincidence that within the space of two weeks two senior members of the Cabinet have made all-out attacks on "Communism" in South Africa and have stressed the need to take action against it. These attacks undoubtedly prelude some drastic Government action against the Left and are designed to prepare the Government's supporters for it.

The attack is likely to take the form of nation-wide arrests and mammoth court cases, based on the Freedom Charter raids of September 1955. It will be remembered that during the last session of Parliament Mr. Swart announced that 200 people were to be arrested on charges of treason, sedition and offences under the Suppression of Communism Act.

The Government evidently considers the present anti-Communist hysteria whipped up over events in the Middle East and Hungary as a golden opportunity to launch an offensive against the opponents of apartheid in South Africa. So long as a fair proportion of those arrested in connection with the Freedom Charter campaign can be labelled as "Reds," the Government hopes it will be able to get away with it.

(See editorial on page 2)

## "NEVER, NEVER STOP THIS PAPER. WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT IT."

THIS is the month of December and, from the point of view of New Age, one of the most difficult months of the year. Somehow or other our readers always seem much too busy with their own Xmas problems to worry about ours. Collectors and similar key personnel have their hands full with children home from school or making preparations for annual holidays. There is a tendency to push New Age into the background.

We cannot afford to have this happen this time. As we pointed out in our last issue, New Age is staggering along from week to week now, struggling for survival against a huge deficit which threatens to overwhelm us almost at any moment.

We appeal to all our readers and helpers not to slacken their efforts at this juncture. Your Xmas and New Year festivities would have a bitter after-taste if the hang-over included the disappearance of New Age!

Please help us NOW, before you are caught up in the whirl of irresistible holiday spirit. Send your donations NOW, do your collecting NOW. Don't leave it till later, because by then it may be too late to save New Age.

How much New Age means to the people is brought out in this letter from an African reader and seller: "I thank you for sending my New Age. We can't do without it. Next year I shall want more. Never, never stop this paper. Never. Your paper is the life of South Africa."

Yes, our paper means a great deal to the workers and people of South Africa. WE MUST NOT LET IT DIE! NEW AGE MUST LIVE!

DON'T DELAY! SEND YOUR DONATION TODAY!

### THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:

R.F. 9s.; Collections per S and J £3.3; M.L. £2.10; A.B. £2; Students

3s.; Eugene 5s.; Friend 2s.; Jumble £1; M.F. £3.3; H and M £2; H. £10; R. £2.2; Krugersdorp friends £2.14; K.M. 5s.; Alan £2; V.V.M. £6; Dee £4; J.S. £1; G.S. £1.1; H.R. £5; S.U. £1; C.O.D. Jumble Sale £12.15; Gokul £1; J.H. £1; Mac £5; J.H. £5; Dee £4; C £1; F.M. Collections £36.12; Inder 3s.; B.G. £25; M.H. £10; M.M. Collections £9.18.6; M.I. £7.10; J.C. £100; D Collections £46.10; Alan £1; Jack 2s.

This week's Total £351 11 0

£322 of the donations acknowledged above represent the splendid response of Durban and Natal readers to our appeal last month. We congratulate and thank all who made the excellent results possible. Keep it up!! If all our other readers and supporters would follow your example New Age would soon be out of trouble.

## EDITORIAL

### PLOT AGAINST THE PEOPLE

IT is becoming clear that the Government is planning its own version of the notorious Reichstag fire trial of Nazi Germany as a means of eliminating the most consistent and determined opponents of its apartheid policy.

In the last two weeks, two Cabinet Ministers have denounced "Communism" and promised to take action against "Communists" in South Africa. The first was Mr. Swart; the second Dr. Donges. Obviously the Cabinet has decided on plans which are to be put into effect in the near future.

Action against the people's leaders is likely to be based on the Freedom Charter campaign and information collected during the September raids of 1955. During the last session of Parliament Swart promised that more than 200 people were due to be arrested for treason and other offences.

Nobody will be fooled by the Government's blustering. The Freedom Charter is a document which does no more than demand for all South Africans, irrespective of race, creed or colour, the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

If it is treason to demand these rights for all South Africans, then we are proud to plead guilty to the charge of treason. But this is not treason to South Africa.

Those who want the Freedom Charter have shown a greater loyalty than any Nationalist has yet dreamed of—a loyalty not to a privileged handful of our population, but to our whole population, a loyalty to the principles of decency, humanity and justice for which men and women have fought and died through the centuries.

This is a true South African patriotism and loyalty which Donges, Swart, Strijdom and Co. can never understand. That is why they try to call it treason, standing logic on its head.

Donges and Swart are justifying their proposed offensive against the people's leaders by pointing to what is happening in the Middle East. In this, they again stand logic on its head. The ordinary man can see that it was the attack of Britain, France and Israel on Egypt which plunged the Middle East into chaos and has brought the world to the brink of war.

But Donges, Swart and Co. say the "Communists" are to blame.

Thus when the Government chooses this moment to attack "Communism" in South Africa, it can again be seen that they are anxious to serve the interests of their imperialist allies, and to silence the peace forces inside South Africa in preparation for the possibility of war.

Progressive South Africa must recognise the Government's anti-Communist campaign for the evil it is—an assault on those who fight for equal rights at home and peace abroad, an assault on the best elements of the South African population who are trying to replace race hatred with harmony, and brute force with co-operation.

Persecution cannot crush the freedom-spirit of the South African people. Their answer will be to intensify the nationwide struggle for freedom in our lifetime, so that the Nationalist tyranny can be ended once and for all, and a new era of justice and equality for all South Africans ushered in as soon as possible.

## Left-Wing Intellectuals And the Soviet Union

The attitude of some left-wing intellectuals to Russia and recent events has been rather puzzling, unless one looks for the reason.

First there is the erstwhile, Stalinist, chagrined at the brutal unmasking of his hero found to have feet of clay. It is a terrible affront to his vanity and conceit, and so in his shock he begins to become an open enemy of the Soviet Union.

Then there is the man who, although not an admirer of a leader, yet knew much evil that was done and never had the courage to expose it. Now he is trying to make up for it by exaggerating and also becomes unduly critical of the Soviet Union.

Thirdly, the legal mind, the man who thinks that everything is the law (whose law?), and who is horrified every time you take the law into your own hands. If someone hits you, he says you must

not hit back because it is "against the law" and you will not get damages for assault. He makes no discrimination between the bully and his victim who is provoked into raising his hand, and is ready to put the blame on the innocent rather than the known guilty person.

Finally there is the "scientific" mind, who has no feelings except cold knowledge derived from books, while life's problems pass by unnoticed.

Truth is more elusive now than ever, especially in this country where we are cut off from certain types of information. One must give the benefit of the doubt to your friend, whom you have known well for a long time, and for whom you feel an honest affection.

OBSERVER

Cape Town.



## "No Quarrel Between People of Israel and People of Egypt"

I would deem it a great favour if Mr. Harmel would answer my rather obvious "usual Zionist rationalisations against Nasser"—in particular just what has prevented the peace-loving dictator from responding to Mr. Ben Gurion's peace offers—instead of merely bringing up very dubious countercharges.

Can he give examples of "scandalous treatment of Israeli Arabs" who enjoy democratic representation in Parliament and share the same social services as their Jewish fellow citizens—both infinitely superior to those in neighbouring Arab countries?

The cruel way in which the

Arab refugees have been forced to flee the country and deprived of their land arose from the non-acceptance by the Arab countries of the United Nations partition decision establishing Israel—supported among others by the U.S. and Russia (and not by the British imperialists). The leaders of the invading Arabs called on the populace to evacuate their homes temporarily until their sanguine (and sanguinary) hopes of driving Israel off the map had been realised. The Arabs who remained in Israel have no cause to regret their decision as compared to conditions in the other Arab states.

The present support given by Mr. Harmel and his political friends to the Egyptian dictator and their pathetic attempts to build him up as an apostle of peace show that apparently they have not yet realised the lesson that dictators cannot be allowed to threaten war against any one country if world peace is to be preserved.

May I conclude with a statement by Mr. Ben Gurion only 14 days ago? "There is no quarrel between the people of Israel and the people of Egypt."

C. KARABUS

Cape Town.

### Arrested 7 Times Under Section 10

I have already been arrested and discharged 6 times under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act of 1945. On the 6th occasion the matter was fully dealt with and the presiding magistrate, in discharging me, declared that I was qualified in terms of the Act.

Now I have been arrested for the seventh time. This is sheer persecution. We are not going to take this sort of thing lying down.

REV. E. MOKOENA

Bethlehem.

### Why Was Bassey Banned?

Your sports writer Robert Resha says he does not understand why the South African Government allowed the Kenya Asian cricket team to come to South Africa and refused permission for the Nigerian boxer Hogan "Kid" Bassey to enter.

The Kenya cricket team were brought here under the auspices of the Johannesburg festival, which was partly sponsored by the Government as a means of persuading international public opinion that South Africa is worth investing money in. A few concessions were made to the Non-Europeans at the festival to convey the impression that they are not so badly treated after all.

This reason did not apply in the case of Bassey. He was not admitted simply because it is against the Government's policy.

I. S. BHORAT

Johannesburg.

### To The Freedom-Loving Students

During the past two weeks we have read a lot about Russian intervention in Hungary, in our daily press, which of course, has put the Middle East situation completely out of the public mind.

And we have also heard a lot of fuss being made by the students of the two Afrikaner universities, namely, Pretoria and Stellenbosch, which demanded our tyrant government to take action against the Soviet Union.

As they accuse the Soviet government of oppression, inhumanity, and injustice in Hungary, I would like to know from them if they have ever realised what is being done to the non-whites by our own government?

Why don't they aid the millions of oppressed in our own land who have been treated inhumanly for 304 years? Why haven't they offered aid to the Egyptians who were savagely attacked by Anglo-French-Israeli forces?

Afrika!

MOHAMED SALIE

Johannesburg.

### ROCK 'N ROLL

at our

GRAND NEW AGE  
XMAS EVE DANCE  
in Cape Town

### Housing In Atteridgeville

Atteridgeville is a municipal location situated on the western side of Pretoria. It is heavily populated and its houses are quite beautiful for human beings to live in. There are two, three, four, and five-roomed houses which are hired by Africans who pay monthly rent. Those who live in five-room houses pay higher rent than those in two-room ones.

I hear that the people who live in the old houses must move to the new ones and the old houses will be sold. The new houses mean higher rent which the poor Africans cannot pay because they earn £4 10s. a month at the most. A few years ago the Africans were moved from Marabastad to the old houses, now they must move to the new ones. If this moving from one house to the other continues it will soon make the Africans think that the white man is driving them away from their mother country. When will this movement come to an end?

The new houses have not been plastered. Where will the poor Africans get money to do the plastering? The municipality won't help.

All this shows clearly that there is no mercy for the poor Africans. May Africa come back to our rescue.

CHRISTINA NTHODI  
Atteridgeville, Pretoria.

# 623 ARRESTED FOR ANTI-PASS PROTEST

Threatened  
With Death

★

★



Mr. Leon Levy.

JOHANNESBURG.

The big battle in the Laundry industry against the attempt of the Labour Department to cut the union off from stop order dues had hardly been joined last week when Mr. Leon Levy, secretary of the national union, received an anonymous telephone call threatening his life. "You had better look out. You are about to be killed," said the voice.

The same week six employers in the industry also received anonymous threats that their premises would be burned down and they would be killed. The caller claimed to be speaking on behalf of the union.

This is "clearly an attempt by someone hostile to the cause of organised labour to upset the existing good relations between the employers and the workers," said the union in a statement. "It is to be hoped employers will not be hoodwinked."

As for the intimidation directed at the union secretary, said the union, "trade union officials are not intimidated that easy."

## Bid To Smash Laundry Workers' Union

JOHANNESBURG.

THE Labour Department has launched a full-scale attack on the African Laundry Workers' Union in a campaign to frighten employers into ending the stop order system for union dues.

A Labour Department circular to employers announces dictatorially that any deductions are illegal in terms of the Industrial Council agreement.

This move and the "tough line" of the Labour Department has been interpreted by the union as a move to destroy it, and a huge and impressive meeting of 2,500 workers bluntly rejected the Labour Department ultimatum and said they would rather go to jail than see the union smashed and their rights trampled underfoot.

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## Women Of All Races In Maritzburg Demonstration

(From M. P. Naicker)

MARITZBURG.

CRIES of "AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE!" greeted the announcement by the District Commandant of the S.A. Police, that the 623 women who had come from all parts of Natal last week to protest to the Chief Native Commissioner at Pietermaritzburg against the extension of the Pass Laws to African women, were under arrest for taking part in an illegal demonstration.

The demonstration, which was organised by the African National Congress Women's League and supported by the Natal Indian Congress, the Liberal Party and the Congress of Democrats, expressed most eloquently the feeling of the women of Natal on the question of passes for women.

Led by Mrs. H. Ostrich, chairman of the ANC Women's League, Miss Florence Mkize, Mrs. Radhi Singh, Miss V. Junod and Miss Haijra van Dorsan, the demonstration was a most impressive display of the unity in action of all progressive forces.

Buses, lorries and cars carrying women from as far away as Charlestown on the Natal-Transvaal border, Dannhauser, Ladysmith and Durban arrived at Pietermaritzburg's Market Square long before the appointed time. Punctually at 1.45 p.m., the women formed into marching order, holding their banners on which were written such slogans as: "AWAY WITH PASSES!", "NO PASSES FOR WOMEN!"

Many women carried babies. A number of European and Indian women had come from Pietermaritzburg and other towns, to march in sympathy.

### CHEERING

Throughout the half-mile march

from the Market Square to the offices of the Chief Native Commissioner there was spontaneous cheering from groups of African men who gathered at the roadside. A number of African women, entirely unprepared for the demonstration, joined in spontaneously when they heard that it was a protest against passes for women.

All the way up to the Native Commissioner's office the procession was followed by a police car with a police photographer, who repeatedly took photographs of the demonstration.

A few moments after the procession had arrived in front of the Native Commissioner's offices, over 50 uniformed policemen and a number of plainclothes detectives appeared and surrounded it. Members of the Special Branch from Johannesburg, Dundee, Durban and Pietermaritzburg were present in full force.

The women were told that they had been placed under arrest, as no

permit for a procession had been obtained from the Pietermaritzburg Corporation. They cheered loudly and cried "AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE!"

### HERDED IN SHED

Surrounded by a cordon of police, the women were marched to a large courtyard behind the Pietermaritzburg charge office. The courtyard was almost filled with women and the only accommodation available for such a large number of prisoners was a huge shed, usually used as a car park.

Tables were placed at the entrance to this shed and policemen took down the names and addresses of the women as they filed inside. Members of the C.I.D. made attempts to get particulars of the European women separately, but these women insisted on joining the queue, and giving their names and addresses in their turn.

Those already in the shed began to sing, and the singing grew stronger as more women joined them from the outside, till eventually the sound could be heard far beyond the precincts of the charge

office, and through the neighbouring streets.

After much discussion between the District Commandant of Police, the public prosecutor and the Magistrate, a summary court was set up inside the shed.

The Court sat at dusk, and in the failing light, with a slight drizzle falling, the hundreds of accused sat or stood in the darkness of the huge, bare shed. The headlights of two police cars were used to provide light at the little table where the magistrate sat.

The Court began with a call by a policeman for silence, a silence which was broken by the occasional crying of babies. A draft charge sheet was placed before the magistrate, but was not put to the people before the Court.

The Court decided to adjourn the case against the women until December 19, and they were all released on their own recognisances.



This is Amon Dhladla, a Maritzburg worker who alleges he was beaten by a policeman dispersing crowds which gathered outside the Maritzburg Charge Office after hearing the singing of the women arrested in last week's anti-pass demonstration. He has been charged with attempting to rescue a prisoner, and is out on £5 bail.

## GROUP AREAS VULTURES GATHER IN P.E.

(From Govan Mbeki)

PORT ELIZABETH.

WHEN the chairman of the Group Areas Committee ruled that there was no need for any of the members of the Government-appointed Reference and Planning Committee to appear at the public hearings where they could be cross-examined by representatives of groups whose interests are threatened under the Group Areas proposals, the Indian and Coloured members withdrew from the proceedings.

The chairman gave this ruling after Advocate L. R. Dison, representing the Landlords' Action Committee, insisted that he would like to hear from the members of the Reference and Planning Committee why they had made proposals which, if carried out, would have the effect of eliminating the Indian as a trader. The proposals, which the chairman insisted were only "suggestions," recommend that the Indians and the Chinese should be shifted to a completely undeveloped area, about 8 miles out of town, at a place called Driftsands.

Mr. Dison said it was amazing that people who had made propo-

sals that would have such far-reaching effects on the Indian community should want to give their evidence in absentia. The main proposals at the inquiry were those submitted by the Reference and Planning Committee.

Mr. Dison went on to say he did not think that in recent history so much responsibility was ever placed in the hands of so few to determine the fate of so many.

Associating himself with Mr. Dison's remarks, Advocate Seligson said if the purpose of the Act was to force Indians to accept repatriation the enquiry was purposeless. But if the inquiry was genuine the effect of the chairman's ruling was to make a farce and a mockery of it.

Mr. B. B. Ramjee, supporting the decision of the two advocates not to participate any further in the proceedings of the Committee, said that the chairman's ruling was tantamount to saying that he should fight an enemy he did not see. Mr. Ramjee announced before withdrawing that they would challenge the chairman's decision in the Supreme Court.

### PEGGING OF CLAIMS

For three days in succession the

Group Areas Committee had gone on an extensive tour of inspection. In the convoy of six cars in addition to the three committee members, there were those who, as if in a gold rush, were greedily rushing in to peg their claims.

"New Brighton must be pegged where it now stands," said a Swartkop resident standing on a rising overlooking the Swartkop Valley where thousands of the dispossessed people of Korsten are being settled in the Site and Service Scheme.

"Any further removals should be settled beyond that escarpment," he said, narrowing his eyes as he pointed out a ridge about 15 miles from town.

"Later on the whole of New Brighton (valued at just under £3 million) would be bulldozed and settled there too on the Site and Service basis. This valley should be set aside for future industrial development or European settlement."

Another reason given for the proposal to remove the 90,000 inhabitants of New Brighton was that they were too close to the National Road.

Yet a resident of a small settlement of about 200 families of "poor white" workers demanded

that Schauder Township, which houses about half of P.E.'s Coloured population of 42,000, should go.

"They must be settled at Bethelsdorp" (about 10 miles out of town), he said.

### FINAL SETTLEMENT

Also in the convoy was a group of non-whites who are threatened with the loss of their homes and businesses. They looked on as multi-coloured maps were spread out in the veld and the "speculators" avidly indicated where the Indians, the Coloureds, the Chinese and the Africans should go.

"The purpose of the Act," said the chairman as the party viewed the shrub-covered waste which is proposed as the Indian area, "is to group the races in such a way that it will not be necessary to interfere with development in that area for the next 75 to 100 years."

In another 100 years the Nationalists believe that South African life will still be marred by the blight of apartheid!

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