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Minutes of the Working Committee
Held on The 13th September, 1953,
at 10.30 p.m., at Congress Hall,
Kort Street, Johannesburg.

A full quorum was present.

Agenda : Minutes.
Arising.
Report of Joint Honorary Secretaries.
Election to vacancies.
General.

Chairman. Mr. Nana Sita.

Minutes. These were read and confirmed.

Arising
Therefrom. Nil

Report of
the Joint
Secretaries. The Joint Secretary read a report of the
work done by the Congress.

After a discussion, the report was
unanimously accepted.

Arising from
the Report. The following resolutions were discussed
and agreed to.

Bans.

'This meeting of the Working Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress, held on Sunday the 13th September, 1953, protests against the bans placed on the leaders and officials of the Peace Council, S.A.I.C., N.W.C., the Trade Unions, the C.O.D. and the Springbok Legion. It considers this as a direct attack on the rights of the people of South Africa to the freedom of association, freedom of speech, freedom to elect officials of their own choice, freedom to fight against mass removals of populations, freedom of trade union rights, freedom of worship and freedom of movement. The elementary rights of the individual are being destroyed in an arbitrary manner.

This working committee requests the peace and freedom loving people of South Africa to work unceasingly for the lifting of the bans and to unite with all sections in the struggle against oppression in South Africa.

It demands that the Minister of Justice lift the bans placed on, Drs Dadoo and Naicker, Chief Luthuli, Messrs Marks, Bopape, Tloane, Y. Cochalia, Hilda Watts, Cecil Williams, Rev. Tantsi, Kotane, Harnel, Shoola and other members of the Trade Union, National Liberation and Peace movement.'

Amendments to Licensing Ordinance.

This meeting of the Working Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress, objects strongly to the proposed amendment to the Licensing Ordinance now before the Provincial Council as it is fundamentally directed against Indian and Non-white traders. Numerous members of the Indian community are dependent on licences as pedlars, hawkers, flowersellers and traders, and since authorities elected by white voters only will decide the fate of applicants and since racial discrimination is the basis of Nationalist Party Policy which has already put the Group Areas Act on the Statute books as part of its anti-Indian and anti-Non-European apartheid policy.'

Legal Actions.

This Working Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress resolves that Messrs I.A.Cochalia, Pahad, Thandray, A.E.Patel, Mullabhai J.W.nabhai, M.Mitha, be appointed and empowered to be responsible under the constitution for legal matters.'

Resolution on Biennial General Meeting.

'This Working Committee meeting of the T.I.C., resolves that the Biennial General Meeting be postponed until next year.'

Election to Vacancies.

Dr. H.Mossa was elected to the Executive Committee.

Resolution on Group Areas.

'This Working Committee meeting noting that the L.T.Board is busy considering at inquiries in different towns the setting aside of Group Areas and that Indians and other non-whites are faced with total ruin and in particular that the Indian people are faced with the total deprivation of their trading and occupation rights in order to ruin them, confine them to ghettos, and so facilitate the Nationalist party policy of uprooting and expatriating S.A.Indians, enjoins upon the Indian community to oppose totally the Ghetto Group Act at board sittings, and not in any way co-operate in the implementation of the act by suggesting bargains, compromises, or time limits for quitting residence, licence and property rights.'

General. Nil.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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