

South Africa Waits For May 29

IN furtherance of its demand for a National Convention of all races to draw up a new constitution for South Africa (which has been rejected by the Government) the National Action Council appointed in terms of the All-in African Conference at Maritzburg has called for a 3-day stay-at-home starting on Monday, May 29.

The secretary of the National Action Council, Mr. Nelson Mandela, has called upon all South Africans, Black and White, young and old

● To stay quietly at home on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday May 29 to 31 in protest against the

Government's race policies.

● Not to take any part in any celebrations for the Europeans-only republic on May 31.

● Not to indulge in any form of violence, nor to allow themselves to be provoked into violence by the police. Persuasion, not force, is to be used to get people to join in the stay-at-home.

● Not to take part in any street demonstrations or processions which might lead to a clash with the police.

At the time of going to press indications were that there would be massive support for the NAC's call. Coloureds, Indians and a

number of Whites in all centres had pledged to take part in the demonstrations side by side with the Africans.

Meanwhile, however, tension was rising as the Government took counter-measures. Raids and arrests, the banning of meetings and the call-up of the Active Citizen Force showed the Government was preparing for some sort of show-down, armed with new powers including the ability to hold arrested persons in jail for 12 days on any charge without bail.

In this emergency atmosphere, anything could happen. May 29 may prove to be a turning point in South African history.

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S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS P.O. BOX 4088, JHB.

This is the Congress of Democrats answer—plastered up on walls in South African towns—to Dr. Verwoerd's so-called granite-wall policy: "WE—THE PEOPLE—ARE GRANITE."

THE PEOPLE DEMAND A NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Age: What is the aim of the 3-day strike?

Nelson Mandela: It is not only a negative protest against the Verwoerd Republic, but also for the positive demand of a National Convention.

It is necessary to recall the essentials of the Pietermaritzburg Conference resolution: we demanded a National Convention with sovereign powers to determine a new non-racial democratic Constitution; and we coupled this demand with the resolve that we would undertake a countrywide campaign of non-co-operation with the Government—which rests on force and perpetuates the tyranny of a minority.

New Age: How do you evaluate the effects of the strike call?

Nelson Mandela: Even before the strike has taken place it has had widespread effects.

ONE: it has wiped the farce of the Republic off the political map and super-imposed the real politics of the Non-White struggle for Non-White rights.

TWO: it has alerted the whole country to the hopelessness of expecting change to come from the direction of the Nationalist Party, with the platteland behind it. There is fast-growing recognition that the only solution is for

STRIKE AIMS EXPLAINED BY NELSON MANDELA

The call of the Pietermaritzburg All-in African Conference for a NATIONAL CONVENTION has caught fire in South Africa. Liberals and Progressives, the Black Sash, churchmen, student leaders and prominent South Africans in many walks of life are echoing the call of the African people, endorsed early on by the entire Congress movement.

Here NEW AGE publishes an exclusive interview with NELSON MANDELA, spokesman of the National Action Council of the All-in African Conference. The interview discusses the aim of the three-day strike; the African view of the National Convention demand, and the difference between a National Convention as seen by the Pietermaritzburg Conference and the plans for a multi-race consultation now abroad.

a new National Convention, a new Constitution, a new Government.

IDEA CATCHING ON The idea of consultation is catching on, as the only alternative to an armed clash. Among the groups expressing support for it are the Black Sash, Progressives, Liberal Party, the Methodist Church, Cape Town and Natal University staff and student bodies, prominent individuals not necessarily affiliated to any political group. New Age: There is talk of a multi-

race national convention some time in June?

Nelson Mandela: I understand the Liberal Party and the Progressive Party among others are today actively canvassing a plan for a multi-race assembly some time in June or July after the declaration of the Republic. The figure has been mentioned of 400 prominent South Africans as participants.

New Age: Would you take part, presuming you were able to?

Nelson Mandela: The idea of a multi-race conference is a good

one. Whenever they have been invited to take part African leaders have done so and at times they have initiated such consultations.

To be really useful the convenors must not seek to exclude any organisations or individuals: participation must be dependent only upon support for the aims of the consultation. Also, such a consultation to be really representative, must have overwhelming Non-White representation.

(Continued on page 8)

Shame On You, Mr. Glyn Thomas

NEW AGE BANNED AT WITS.

JOHANNESBURG. New Age must not be sold at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The vice-principal of the University, Mr. I. Glyn Thomas, has written this to student Mark Weinberg and warned him that as a student he is "subject to disciplinary control by the University Council."

The warning letter says specifically: "The University is a private place controlled by the University Council, which does not permit the distribution of publications of outside bodies, whether distributed by students or others. I must therefore instruct you to desist from distributing copies of New Age or similar material within the University."



DRIVE IMPERIALISM OUT OF AFRICA

Africa is on the march to freedom, although the conquistadores are not bowing before the African people and do not want to see them free.

We know the meaning of Western democracy. Countless millions of the sons and daughters of this continent were enslaved and sent to foreign countries on the pretext of routing barbarism, strife, disease and ignorance and replacing them with Christianity, but those who resisted Christianity were maimed by the Christians' bullets. After subjugation, our continent became a market of cheap labour, a source of raw materials and a safe place where the Western monopolists can be sure of the immunity of their industries.

We are not recognised as human beings, and our living conditions are still no better than those of a White man's dog. When you think of the potato fields, the diamond and gold mines, you realise our working conditions are akin to those of slaves. When our leaders voice the people's demands, they are sent to concentration camps.

Our brothers who are free politically must watch the imperialist wolf with its bloodstained mouth and its stomach filled with the blood and bones of the working people of this continent. The imperialists are trying to make a come-back to this continent, employing some of our brothers to guard their profits.

The people must oppose this dirty trick of the imperialists who have made our continent an abyss of backwardness, disease, crime and oppression. They must check those of our brothers who are for the exploitation of man by man. With this sort of thing in practice we are not free. Nobody, regardless of colour, must prosper at the expense of others.

The wealth of its creators must be the goal of the people.

R. Z. MBANJWA
New Brighton.

Support From Ghana

I thank you for your recent inspiring issues.

The speech delivered by Mrs. Hilda Bernstein at the peace conference was really excellent. A number of my friends here who read this speech in your paper were deeply impressed. I am sure that the proposal to hold an "All Africa Peace Conference" will be welcomed with enthusiasm by the majority of people on our continent.

Living away from my dear country has brought me into touch with the good wishes and support which decent people everywhere are giving to our just struggle for liberation.

It will not be long before our unhappy country of fear, misery and despair will become a happy land of peace, security and opportunity.

Keep up the good work.
ARNOLD SELBY
Accra, Ghana.

We Want Self-Government

We prefer self-government, not this apartheid policy. It is not the imperialists who will fight for the freedom of Basutoland, and the independence of other African countries, it is the blacks and some of the whites who will do the fighting, and "New Age" and "Makatolle" our newspapers.

Sons and daughters of Africa, your Mother Africa is being raped by imperialists of the West, therefore expose them now. Time wasted is never regained.

Long live the youth of the BCP, long live Basutoland, and long live our mother Africa.

M. S. MOKIBA
Maseru.

Our Children Must Not Be Slaves

Sons and daughters of Africa, I once more appeal to you to support us on May 29 in our demonstrations against Verwoerd.

It is high time you pull up your socks and fight for freedom even if you don't belong to any political organisation.

Remember what happened on January 21 and March 21, 1960, when many African lives were lost at Coalbrook and Sharpeville.

If you are really oppressed, you may have to sacrifice with your lives, but bear in mind that you are fighting for your children, who must have a better life than you. For nobody wants his or her child to be a slave.

Freedom in our lifetime.

L.M.
Evaton.

Lumumba's Work Will Be Done

Rest in peace, Patrice Lumumba, the work you intended will be done.

I thank Mr. Moretsele who passed away recently, just as his fellow leaders were on the verge of breaking the hard tie under which they were accused.

These leaders will still lead even in the valley of death. The yoke is left with you, Mr. Lutuli, Mayibuye!

Mr. Nokwe, the world is watching you. Move in the direction that your heart intends—that is to FREEDOM.

Chief Zwelimir Ntlokondala Idutywa.

Peaceful Protests Are Met With Bullets

It has happened many a time when people protest over something the S.A. Government sends its security men (Special Branch) to collect the names of those seemingly active in organising such a protest. In a short space of time those leaders are victimised or deported.

When people have resolved to hold a quiet, peaceful mass demonstration against a law, the reply is baton charges, tear-gas bombs dropped from spotter planes and a spray of bullets.

Should they be opposed to moving to wherever they are forced to go, municipal lorries and demolishers are sent in company with the police.

South Africa is a police state. The Nationalist Government has been in office for the last 13 years and has done nothing to further the progress of the African in this country, or for the continent as a whole.

DAMN WORKER
Port Elizabeth.

Fight Bantustan

The Government, that is the Bantu Administration Department, has taken drastic steps to turn Zululand into a Bantustan. This is of course a breakdown of our land, the land of a thousand hills and one of South Africa's beauty spots. All that the Government pretends to do, like the decreasing of cattle, are stepping stones to Bantustan, which is a grim and deadly rock used to submerge the black man of South Africa in misery and poverty in the future.

Men, let us all unite and fight Bantustanism. It is no good, but a bringer of sorrows. Let us all unite, not only among the Zulus, but also with the Tongas, Swazis, Basutos, Pondos and all other black people, and no longer refer to them with contempt. "A kettle boils by keeping the fire burning." Let the authorities know our true feelings.

AFRICA JALI

EDITORIAL

VERWOERD'S REPUBLIC IS DOOMED

NEXT week South Africa will be formally proclaimed a republic and Mr. Charles Robberts Swart, father of the Suppression of Communism and Public Safety Acts, as well as compulsory flogging, farm jails and the treason trial, will be installed as President.

Whatever significance the republic may have for the Nats, for the majority of South Africans it means a concentration camp whose inmates are denied all civic and human rights.

This republic is being ushered in during a state of emergency in which all meetings are banned, people can be arrested and jailed for 12 days without bail and thousands of ordinary citizens dubbed "criminals, loafers and tsotsis" have been rounded up in mass police raids throughout the country.

In order that the "volk" can celebrate in "peace," the rest of the population has to be put in chains. A republic that is born in these circumstances is obviously not destined to last the 1,000 years nowadays demanded for their regimes by all paranoiac dictators.

Not all the Government's preventive measures and intimidation can drown the people's protest at the inauguration of a White republic in which they have had no say. The detention bills, parades of saracens and armoured cars, arrests, jailings, flights of jet planes and helicopters, raids and searches only serve to emphasise that the overwhelming majority of the population want no part of this republic and have pledged themselves not to co-operate with it in any way.

Not even the "volk" can derive any joy from the advent of a republic so hated by the majority of the people, and indeed by the whole world. It is like the birth of a Mongolian idiot—the parents have to accept responsibility for it, may even in time become attached to it, but are dogged all the time by the thought that it is hideously abnormal and doomed to die before it has outlived its childhood.

Irrespective of the outcome of next week's protests, the events of recent weeks have shown the true strength of the people and the real weakness of the Government. During these tense May days, the call for a National Convention representative of all the people at which a new constitution for South Africa would be drawn up, first voiced at the Maritzburg all-in African conference, has been echoed among all sections of the non-Nationalist population—and, who knows, perhaps secretly in some Nationalist hearts as well.

Almost everybody in South Africa favours some sort of negotiation rather than a continuation of the unbearable tension through which South Africa has been living since Sharpeville.

The time was never more propitious to step up the people's drive for freedom until the apartheid granite wall is finally breached and a new era of government by consent can be substituted for the Verwoerdian police republic which is the cause of all our troubles.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE POLICE

I went to Welcome Estate recently to see my brother-in-law, and I was wounded in the head, so I went to Athlone police station to make a statement.

One of the European police where I went to make my statement said: "Kaffer, jy is dronk. Wat makeer die kaffer?"

So I told him I was not drunk and asked him where must we go if we have trouble. He told me "—uit, kaffer." He gave me a punch in the stomach and hit me right in the police station.

I ran out to my van, got inside and closed the door, but he came out and opened the door and pulled me out of the van and kicked me. He nearly kicked my arm off. One of my friends had to save my life so that I could run away from there.

Then I went to the Philippi police station to make my statement and then I had to be sent to the hospital to save my life, because I lost a lot of blood.

It is a disgrace for the Athlone police to behave like this. I have lived in Athlone from 1953 to 1958 and never had any trouble

with the Government and in my life I have never been in jail. This is the first time I have been in trouble.

So just think what happens to a kaffer. I thought the police station is to go to if you get into trouble, but I see you are more likely to be killed and it is better to run into the bush.

W.N.
Nyanga East.

ALWAYS CHASED AWAY

The police came to search my house saying they were looking for ANC books.

It's a funny thing, but the Government cannot give us any place where we can rest. We are always suffering, we can't talk or build but are always chased away.

Bethal
R.P.G.

THE ANSWER TO BRUTE FORCE

BRUTE force, the attempted intimidation of millions of South Africans, is the only answer our fascist government is prepared to give to the just demands of the people. The Sword is very much in evidence in our country today.

But the Pen, someone once said, is mightier than the sword. It is a hopeless task trying to stab an idea with a bayonet: one can't shoot it down with a sten-gun either!

Ideas, however, don't walk around on their own two feet. They have to be carried by word of mouth or by the written word. And the written word becomes of paramount importance when opportunities for the spoken word are denied.

To defeat the Sword the Pen must have ink.

New Age, appearing week after week, needs lots of ink, lots of paper. It needs offices, telephones, a staff of specialists

trained in the use of the Pen. These things cost money, lots of money.

DON'T LET YOUR PEN—NEW AGE—RUN DRY FOR LACK OF MONEY. SEND YOUR DONATION TODAY!

Last Week's Donations:

Johannesburg:
Anon R20, Red Moon R10, Insurance R10, M & M R10, Good Friend R100, Looking Ahead R50, Greenside R2, Orange Grove R2, Hat R1.

Port Elizabeth:
Brothers R3.10, Greens R2.10, Doc R2.

Cape Town:
Ally Sisters R4, Double Yolk R4, R & M R10, Jumble R10, Norbas R10, Bob R4, Bubath R4, Minerals R10, Hot Water R6, Carts R4.20, Dou R50, A.B. R4, S.A. R10, Kat R10, Anon R4, Anon R2, Johnny R10.50, S. 90c.

Grand Total: R369.80.

ACTION COUNCIL'S CALL TO WHITES

"Stay Away From Republic Celebrations"

JOHANNESBURG. THIS week the National Action Council which is calling the 3-day strike turned to the Whites and issued a call to them to stay away—not from work but from the so-called 'celebrations' for the Verwoerd Republic.

The Republic is being inaugurated in grim days, says the NAC, to the accompaniment of the mobilisation of the police and the army, and of the panic-stricken rush to arms of some White communities.

No community or body of South Africans can afford to 'celebrate' the inauguration of the Republic under these crisis conditions.

SOLID WHITE FRONT?

The NAC warns: "The more widespread participation the Nationalist Government gets in its Republican celebration programme, the more it will be strengthened in its granite-wall policies. The White people must realise that widespread participation by them will present to the Non-White people

a picture of a solid White front against them. THIS WOULD BE FATAL FOR THE FUTURE OF RACE RELATIONS IN OUR COUNTRY."

The NAC urges that South Africans of all political persuasions and members of all community organisations, members of youth movements and the Churches, should abstain from taking part in the celebrations, even if they are already committed to participation.

"The aim of the Nationalist Government is to get South Africans to confuse patriotism to South Africa with loyalty to South Africa's present Government. In some quarters there seems to be the dangerous view that because the Government is inaugurating the Republic and has made the 'festivities' state-sponsored, all who love South Africa must take part. We have fallen on evil days if we identify loyalty to South Africa with loyalty to the present ruling political party.

NEW PHASE

"The declaration of the Republic will open a new phase

of intensified suppression of the civil rights of all South Africans. The African people will play no part in these 'celebrations.' We appeal to all South Africans and particularly the White community not to allow themselves to be identified with the Nationalist Government.

"Some local authorities have already taken this stand. It is not too late for other sections of the community to follow."



Mr. E. G. Rooks, Chairman of the Coloured Federal Council, introducing Councillor George Peake to the Durban meeting last week.

DURBAN COLOURED ON THE MARCH

Rousing Reception For George Peake

DURBAN. DURBAN'S Coloured community which, until the beginning of the campaign for a National Convention, was poli-

tically dormant, surprised even local Coloured leaders last week when over 1,000 people jam-packed the St. Raphael's Hall and overflowed into the grounds to hear Cape Town City Councillor George Peake.

In a hard-hitting speech frequently punctuated with applause, Mr. Peake called on Durban's Coloured community to support the call for a National Convention.

Urging the Coloureds to throw in their lot with other anti-Nationalist forces, Councillor Peake said: "We must cease to practise Apartheid amongst ourselves".

In answer to a question, Councillor Peake told the gathering that if a general strike was called for the end of this month, then the Coloureds must join it.

Mr. E. G. Rooks, Chairman of the Coloured Federal Council which

called the meeting, said that "Die Burger" had urged the Coloured people to be patient because many whites, including Nationalists, were doing some hard thinking about the future of the Coloured people.

"Hard thinking is not going to satisfy us. We have been silent too long. We must make our voices heard," he said amidst tremendous applause.

A resolution passed unanimously at the meeting stated that the coloured Federal Council "is strongly opposed to the policy of apartheid or any other policy which discriminates in any way on the basis of race, colour or creed", and demanded a National Convention of all races.

FOOTNOTE: A meeting which Councillor Peake was to have addressed in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday of this week had to be cancelled owing to the Government's blanket ban on all meetings until June 26.

Liberals' Call For End Of May

JOHANNESBURG. THE Liberal Party is distributing leaflets addressed to 'the people of South Africa' asking them to 'turn aside for a few days at the end of May' to mourn the wasted years and re-dedicate themselves to a united non-racial country.

This Liberal Party support for the end of May stay-at-home demonstrations is believed to follow pressure within the Party, especially from its Non-White members, for a firm decision on the attitude of the Party to the demonstrations.

"The Government," says the one-page leaflet being distributed nationally, 'claims it is carrying out the will of the people. WHICH PEOPLE? The Nationalists or the voiceless millions?'

The slogan of the leaflet is 'Masibe Banye'—'Let Us Be One.'

The Liberal Party has also sent a letter to employers asking them not to take punitive action against any workers who stay home. One of the only peaceful extra-parliamentary pressures open to Non-Whites is the withholding of their labour, the letter says. 'We appeal to you not to dismiss workers who take part in the stay-at-home.'

Two Charged Under Unlawful Organisations Act

PORT ELIZABETH. Two men—Freddie Mrafi and Alfred Hani—were released on bail of R200 each last week when they appeared in court charged under the Unlawful Organisations Act with furthering the aims of an Unlawful Organisation.

It is alleged that the two men were found distributing leaflets in connection with the Maritzburg Resolution of the All-in African Conference. The case has been remanded to June 7th.

In Support Of The Africans

Durban Students Will Not Attend Classes

DURBAN.

AT a lively meeting of students held at the University of Natal last week, a resolution pledging support for the historic decisions of the Maritzburg All-in African Conference was passed by an overwhelming majority.

The meeting decided not to attend classes on May 29, 30, and 31 and to set up an Action Committee to work out what form of protest should be conducted by the students.

All shades of political opinion were represented at the meeting, and attacks and doubts expressed by the Unity Movement were effectively answered by pro-Congress students.

In reply to allegations that the All-in African Conference was racialistic, as it was only representative of Africans, students supporting the resolution pointed out that the African majority, which had to bear the brunt of the most vicious attacks on the Non-Whites in South Africa, of necessity had to face the crisis situation relying on their own strength.

However, the final resolution adopted by the African people showed clearly that, far from being racialistic, they called for co-operation and were desirous of extending the hand of friendship and solidarity to all races.

FOOTNOTE: Witwatersrand University students are holding daily lunch-hour meetings this week, culminating in a mass general meeting on Thursday to support the demand for a national convention.

The sponsoring bodies, which include a large number of student societies including student Christian

organisations on the campus, have invited speakers from the Progressive and Liberal Parties to address preliminary meetings and on Thursday the student representative; are due to make a final appeal and put the convention demand motion before the students.

TVL COLOURED UP IN ARMS



Mr. Stanley Lollan, of the S.A. Coloured People's Congress (left), called on the Transvaal Coloured community to stand with the Africans in the three-day stay-at-home starting on May 29. Mr. G. Beck (right) also spoke at this meeting in Newclare.

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