

NTN 23

MESSAGE FROM DR. G. M. NAICKER,
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS TO THE:

I
ALL - IN - GROUP AREAS
CONFERENCE

CONVENED BY THE TRANSVAAL INDIAN
CONGRESS ON THE 25TH and 26TH OF
AUGUST, 1956.

Since the passing of the Group Areas Act in 1950 the South African Indian Congress together with its allies has waged an incessant battle against this apartheid measure which was described by Dr. Malan as the most important apartheid measure and as the essence of apartheid policy. This battle ~~must~~ ^{cannot end} ~~continue relentlessly~~ until the Government's motives for enacting this law is defeated.

In regard to our apposition to the Government's ultimate objective in setting up Group Areas for the different races of our South African population there cannot be two views. We must not be influenced by opportunists who are prepared to work the Act with the authorities to further the oppression of our people. The African people have already been confined to "Reserves" and live in locations under slum conditions and now under this inequitable Act the Union Government seeks to drive Indians and other non-Europeans to distant outlying and undeveloped areas. It is an attack upon our material and cultural life to destroy our national consciousness.

No one can deny that the number of European people that would be displaced by the implementation of this Act is insignificant compared to the thousands of non-Europeans. The worker, the trader, the merchant and the professional are all equally affected by the Act and should the Government succeed in its diabolical plan all will suffer equally.

Your Conference has been convened at the most appropriate time to give a clear, unequivocal and unambiguous answer to the recent proclamation declaring Group Areas in Johannesburg. In the

coming months it will be necessary for the Congress movement in the Transvaal to organise itself effectively to frustrate the implementation of the Government's apartheid policy.

Under the Act there can be no room for compromise because the Nationalists seek to divide us politically, seek to destroy our economic strength to constitute cheap reservoirs of labour and thus perpetuate their policy of white supremacy.

The Congress movement has pitted itself against all forms of racialism in South Africa and this Conference called as it is to deal with a particular issue must take decisions to set up Vigilance units on the broadest possible basis throughout the Province to protect the peoples rights threatened by the recent Proclamations. Ours is a positive and clear stand. We do not accept apartheid. We do not believe in racial separation and we reject the contention that apartheid will ensure racial peace.

I send to your Conference my warmest greetings and wish your deliberations every success.

Mayibuye Afrika !

(Dr) G.M. Naicker,
ACTING PRESIDENT
S.A. INDIAN CONGRESS.

24 Short Street,
DURBAN.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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