

DEMOCRATS' DIARY FOR 1960

January

Congo election results in a defeat for the Belgians as the Congo people demand independence:

Three thousand attend the conference of the Basutoland Congress Party in Maseru.

Basutoland Congress Party win sweeping victory in elections.

434 miners lose their lives in the Coalbrook disaster. Mine authorities did not know how many men were underground, nor their names.

February

Macmillan visits South Africa and is met everywhere with slogans telling him "Meet our Leaders", "Verwoerd Supported Hitler". Speaks of "winds of change blowing across Africa".

S.A.C.T.U. conferences held in all centres call for anti-pass action and for strikes in Durban against Cato Manor removals.

Work starts on Aswan Dam in Egypt which is being built by Soviet Union for the Egyptian people.

Pondos angered by enforcement of Bantu Authorities Act.

24 Fort Hare students victimised for non-co-operation.



MR. N. KRUSCHEV

March

Demands made from all over Africa for freedom for Kenyatta.

Donges' budget gives concessions to Whites and not one penny for Africans.

Durban forms United Front against Group Areas Act.

Gigantic meeting in London, addressed by Trevor Huddleston, pledges support for boycott of South African goods.

S.W.A. Commission of enquiry into Windhoek riots puts blame on "overseas agitators".



A well-disciplined and peaceful column of Pondos march in sympathy with imprisoned leaders. The magnificent resistance of the Pondos has won universal admiration.

Police massacre 69 Africans at Sharpeville anti-pass demonstration, and six killed in Langa. World recoils in horror and disgust. Two-week stay-at-home by Cape Town Africans.

Lutuli calls for National Stay-at-home in mourning for Langa and Sharpeville dead. Industry throughout the country brought to a standstill.

Congress leaders throughout South Africa arrested in dawn swoops.

30,000 Africans march to Caledon square in Cape Town behind Kgosana to demand the release of their leaders.

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED.

April

Emergency regulations published: Carte blanche to police to arrest and detain without warrant, Africans beaten by police in Cape Town streets.

New Age banned. Mass burial of Sharpeville victims. New wave of arrests.

Dr. Banda released after one year's detention under Nyasaland Emergency regulations.

Langa and Nyanga besieged by police and army.

Security Council adopts a resolution calling on South Africa to end apartheid and discrimination.

Coloured leaders E. Deane, G. Fletcher, I. Keraan, C. Gallant, B. Lotter and Golding urge Coloured people not to stay away from work and to stand by the White people.

African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress banned.

Bishop Reeves flees to Swaziland to take Sharpeville facts to world.

Verwoerd is shot by David Pratt when opening the Rand Festival.

Sobukwe is fined £300 or three years for incitement.

The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee calls for a boycott of South African goods.

Segal and Tambo reach London.

Anti-Syngam Rhee riots in South Korea end in fall of Rhee government.

Clashes in Turkey against the Menderes government.

May

Canadian and Indian leaders at Commonwealth Leaders' conference condemn racialism. Premier of Malaya walks out on Louw at the talks.

U.S. admits spy flights over the Soviet Union and refuses to



DR. NKURMAH

apologise. Kruschev walks out of Summit Conference.

State of Emergency lifted in 20 areas. Names of detainees tabled in Parliament.

Tribal clashes flare up in Congo.

Arlow gets three years for "defeating the ends of justice."

Earthquakes and tidal waves in South America cause heavy losses.

Clashes in Pondoland between Pondos and supporters of Bantu authorities.

Women detainees on hungerstrike against arbitrary arrest.

Coup d'etat in Turkey brings an end to Menderes government.

10,000 people of all races march through the streets of Cape Town in anti-Union Festival demonstration.

June

Huge Japanese demonstration against the ratification of the Japanese - United States pact.

Lumumba wins the Congo elections.

Nazi killer Eichmann captured in Argentina by Israel soldiers.

African delegates walk out on South African delegation at the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

11 Pondos shot by police at peaceful meeting on Nqusa Hill.

Mounting protests in Japan force Eisenhower to abandon his tour; great set-back for American policy in the Far East.

African states agree to close their harbours to South African shipping.

Lawrence and Graaff demand in parliament that detainees be charged or released.



SEKOU TOURE

July

Cuba nationalises U.S. oil refinery and other arrests in Cuba.

Britain warns Verwoerd that his republic may be expelled from the Commonwealth if even one member objects to her membership.

Violence flares up in the Congo and the United Nations intervenes.

S.A. Chamber of Industries voices fears of a lasting boycott of S.A. goods.

Riots break out in Bulawayo location.

Congress appeals to Hammarskjold to visit South Africa and to meet Lutuli and other African leaders.

Ghana declares South Africa to be the delinquent of the Commonwealth and stops all trade with this country.

August

Government announces that passes for African women will be enforced from December.

Verwoerd announces October 5 as date of referendum on Republic.

Constitutional talks on Nyasaland make it clear that the Africans will have a clear majority.

Gary Powers, U.S. pilot of U2 spy plane, is sentenced to 10 years at Moscow trial.

Russians send two dogs into space and bring them back alive.

Lumumba complains that U.N. troops are intervening in the internal affairs of the Congo.

Lutuli fined £100 for burning his pass.

State of Emergency lifted throughout South Africa.

September

A.N.C. leaflets appear in Port Elizabeth.

New Age appears again and receives a very warm welcome.

Detainees arrive home and tell their stories. They are full of cheer and have been toughened by jail experiences.

Lumumba ousted by Kasavubu in Congo.

Treason Trial accused give evidence of A.N.C.'s continued attempts to avoid bloodshed.

Bishop Reeves arrives back in South Africa and is deported within 48 hours of his arrival.

Colonel Mobutu seizes power in Congo with connivance of UNO.

Sobukwe appeals against three years' jail sentence for incitement.

Pondo people engaged in bitter fighting against Bantu Authorities. Huts burn; huge meetings held.

October

Nigeria becomes independent.

French intellectuals defend the right of French youth to refuse to fight in Algerian war.

New Age is charged with subversion under Emergency Regulations.

Professor Mathews evidence closes case for defence in Treason Trial.

Rowley Arenstein, people's attorney in Pondoland, banned for five years and restricted to Durban.

Nationalists win referendum on republic with small majority. Election results rejected by non-whites.

World's leaders gather at UNO.

Kruschev, Toure and Nkrumah call for an end to colonialism.

Twenty independent African states become a great force in UNO.

Report of Monkton Commission causes consternation among Federation Whites as it recognises the right to secession.

Pondo leaders exiled and collective fines imposed as Pondo people remain united in their struggle.

Neutral government takes power in Laos.

Developments in Guinea point the way in Africa to freedom and progress.

November

U.S.S.R. celebrates its forty-third anniversary.

Cuba accuses the United States of invasion plans and is promised Soviet rocket support in the event of an attack.

Crown argument opens in Treason Trial.

Indians celebrate their centenary in South Africa and are greeted by all South Africans for their magnificent contribution to the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

Kennedy wins American presidential election and states that he will continue to take the same line in foreign affairs as Eisenhower.

Ganyile arrested and deported in handcuffs.

Belgian imperialists return to Congo through the back door with the aid of UNO, Tshombe and Mobutu.

Soviet Union and China give de facto recognition to Algerian Liberation government.

Kgosana released on bail.

S.W.A. spokesmen at UNO call for UN intervention in their country.

Verwoerd says "No Coloureds in Parliament".

Indian youth win victory in their battle to keep their school open in Johannesburg.

5,000 leather workers on strike in Durban.

Pondos boycott trading stores in Bizana.

December

Lumumba arrested and assaulted by Mobutu troops. UNO fails to intervene. Belgians pour back to Congo.

Treason Trial is four years old. Human Rights Day meeting in Durban banned by authorities.

Pondos appeal to the United Nations.

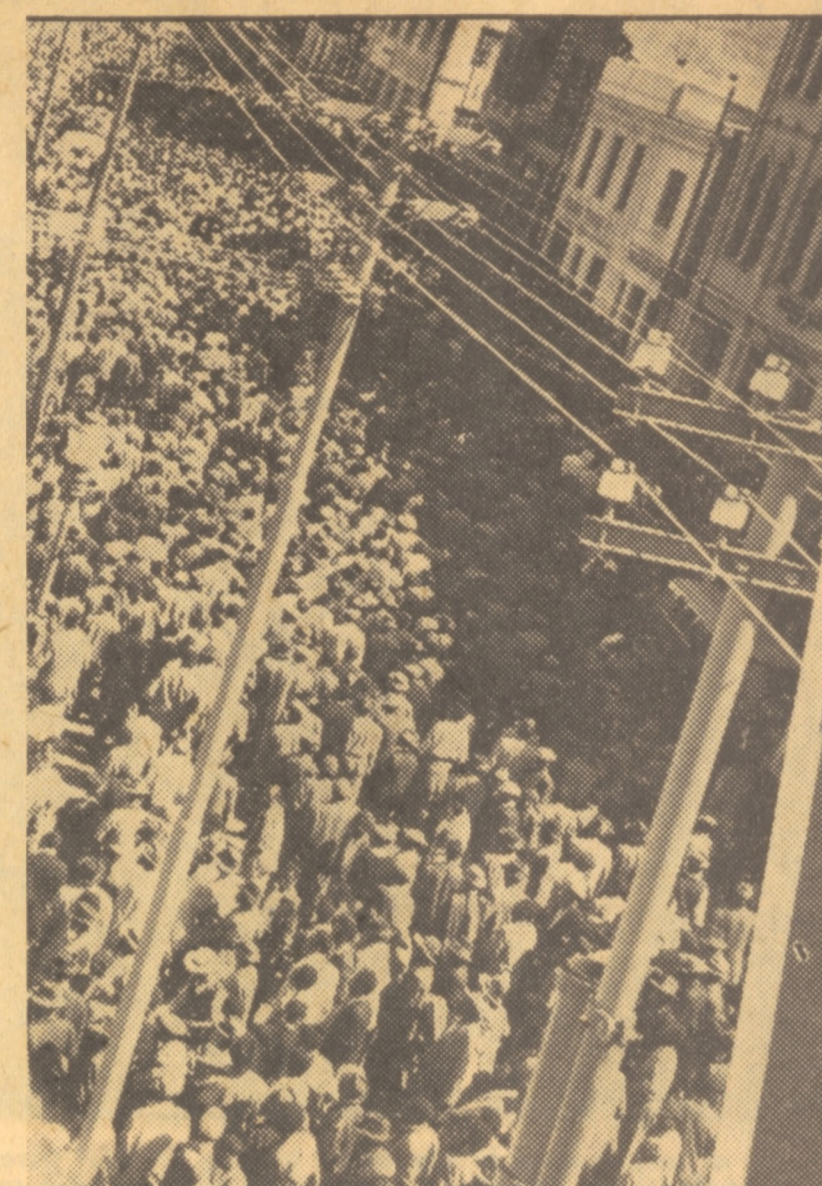
African leaders of all opinions gather in Johannesburg to establish unity and call for a conference of African people to be held in February 1961.

81 Communist parties agree that the campaign for world peace and the ending of colonialism are the key tasks of today.

State of Emergency declared in Transkei; Press banned from the territory. The S.A. Army and Airforce and Navy move in, and Pondos face armed terror.

Revolt against Haile Selassie in Ethiopia fails.

Revolt against Haile Selassie in Ethiopia fails.



Part of the huge column which marched to Caledon Square police station, Cape Town, to protest against police brutality and arrest of leaders.

Fear and Anxiety in Maseru as BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY HOLDS CONFERENCE

Plot To Kill Mokhehle

MASERU.

AS we go to press this week, the annual conference of the Basutoland Congress Party will have met. This is the first conference of the BCP since Basutoland gained a measure of self-government.

As conference days approached a shadow of fear, doubt and anxiety hung over Maseru — the nerve centre of Basutoland politics — as a result of the emergence of two disturbing issues.

Firstly, a determined plot to kill Ntsu Mokhehle, leader of the BCP, to prevent him from participating in conference and the accompanying celebrations.

Secondly, an organised attempt to wreck the conference by former BCP and PAC members and thugs from Johannesburg.

People allegedly behind the scene in manoeuvres to assassinate Mr. Mokhehle are chiefs in Matsieng, and a group of people in Maseru.

The plot to kill Mr. Mokhehle is said to arise chiefly from "an avalanche of the people's own reforms", which have obviously scared those who have been running the administration, together with those who desired to run the future administration of the country exclusively for their own personal benefit.

It is said that the present plot to assassinate the leader of the Party is an attempt to prevent him from piloting drastic changes in bills and bye-laws at conference for the legislative council next year.

Bye-laws to be drastically amended to meet the demands of the Basuto deal with the administration of villages, and these

changes were accepted in general principle at a meeting of seven district councils last September.

Party organisers were sent to the villages to get the view and opinions of tribesmen on how villages should be governed. The suggestions and demands of the people were condensed by the conference of District Councils and sent back to the people for consideration.

These demands, together with other changes that will have far-reaching effects in the life of Basutoland, are the crux of the present unhealthy situation in this mountainous and rugged British Protectorate.

Other matters discussed by conference include the following dealing with Bills and Bye-laws to be presented in the next session of the Legislative Council in January:

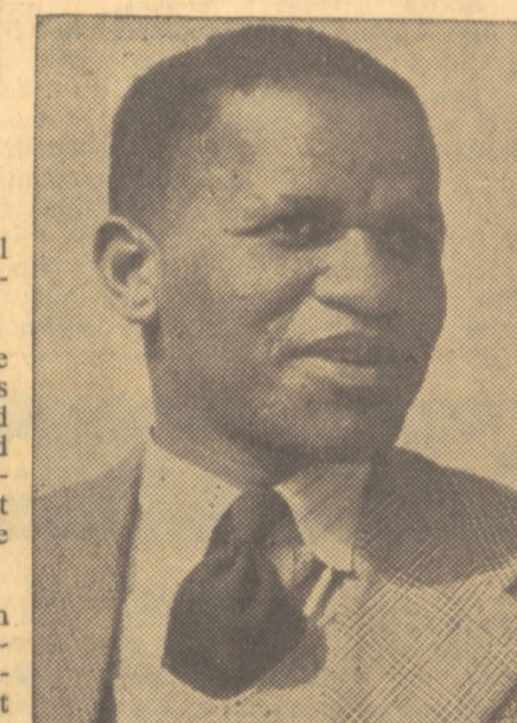
● Amendment of the proclamation dealing with entry of foreigners into Basutoland;

● Amendment to abolish the death sentence in the present proclamation on criminal investigation.

● A bill abolishing the colour-bar in Basutoland.

(A substantive motion on the colour-bar abolition bill was accepted by an overwhelming majority in the last session of the Legislative Council).

Two main speakers billed to address conference were Solomon Kalulu, National Independence Party of Northern Rhodesia who was due to open conference in place of Mr. fly from there to the Union.



MR. NTSU MOKHEHLE

Kenneth Kaunda, national leader of the UNIP, and Dr. Zwane, secretary-general of the Swaziland Congress Party.

In his presidential address Mr. Mokhehle reviewed the work of the BCP since its founding in 1952 and its contribution towards the establishment of the present constitution.

Mr. Mokhehle also dealt with the reasons behind the present crisis and what the party's policy should be in future.

Resolutions supporting the Algerian liberation war and Patrice Lumumba's government as the legal and legitimate government were presented at conference.

Also expected to be present was the Treasurer-General of the Party, Mrs. Maphate, who attended a woman's conference in Warsaw, Mrs. Maphathe visited Moscow and will fly from there to the Union.



The Welcome bag of mealie meal brings smiles to the faces of wives of imprisoned men in the office of the Defence and Aid Fund. The Fund has been working hard to tide them over these difficult days.

UN MUST ACT NOW ON S.W.A.

"Don't Wait For Another Congo"
— says SWANU

CAPE TOWN.
THE South West African National Union has demanded that the United Nations Organisation stop talking and send a commission of enquiry to South West Africa immediately.

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General, signed by Acting Vice-President John Muundjua, SWANU says that those people who think that the time has not yet come for the United Nations to intervene

give the impression that they first want to see a situation similar to that in the Congo before they consider action necessary.

"We do not want to see our territory become another Congo," states SWANU. "We therefore urgently call upon the United Nations to intervene before any crisis of this nature is born."

While no practical action has come from the United Nations, states the letter, the Union Govern-

ment is doing everything in its power "not only to modify the international status of South West Africa, but to relegate the African people to a rôle worse than that of beasts of burden."

"PROVOCATIVE ATTITUDE"

"As we are writing this letter, the Chief Magistrate of Windhoek issued a proclamation preventing Africans from holding meetings of any kind. As a result of this proclamation, the old location is being patrolled every night by the police.

"This provocative attitude . . . has once again aroused feelings of unrest and bitterness among the residents of the old location, as it reminds them of the 10th and 11th December, 1959, when lives were lost."

Even if the Union Government were correct in stating that the people of South West Africa are not yet ready for self-government, says SWANU, that "does not mean that we are not ready for trusteeship."

The letter concludes by warning the United Nations that neither human patience nor confidence in the U.N.O. are limitless.

UP MY ALLEY

WELL, here I am with a thick head and a tongue that feels like a combination of the front-door mat, an apartheid notice-board and an old copy of the Government gazette. All because of a Merry Xmas.

Which reminds us that there are thousands of kids in this country who do not have such a merry Christmas. In the slums and on the farms Santa Claus is just a picture in a newspaper.

By **ALEX
LA GUMA**



Why? Because low wages, apartheid, illiteracy prevent their mums and dads from earning enough to enable them to invite Father Christmas around.

So let the New Year resolution be harder struggle to make an

end to poverty wages, apartheid and for equal opportunities, for all.

● We want Father Christmas to visit everybody!

★
AND we don't need that "tradition" that says white children can't visit African kids at their homes.

Only in South Africa, I'm sure, can cops remove white children from their black friends as happened to those youngsters in Standerton.

★
HERE in Cape Town where municipal elections are usually hectic, I hear that goon squads are already trying to scare off potential opposition for councillors who won disfavour with the people.

● It looks like it's going to be pretty rough in March, when the elections come off. But we hope progressive candidates don't scare easily.

★
● So New Year is on us and I guess it's time to say a happy New Year to all, and may 1961 see us all on the way to the final struggle for the liberation and happiness of all mankind.



MR. J. MUUNDJUA

WHAT KEEPS THESE FAMILIES GOING? Xmas Appeal By D and A Fund

JOHANNESBURG.

MEN — and women — persecuted for their political convictions, are proud to go to prison for them and, as the struggle against the vicious apartheid government in South Africa sharpens, more and more political fighters of all colours are landing behind bars.

Thousands were held for months without trial under the State of Emergency. Many others are serving long jail terms after conviction in the courts for political offences.

What keeps the families of these freedom fighters going? Sheer grit and determination; grinding hard work by wives left at home — and the work of the Defence and Aid Fund.

Run from a small office in the central shopping area of Johannesburg, the Fund is the oasis for those worst hit by government persecution.

The need for a general defence and aid fund had been felt for a

assistance to persons in need of this legal help as a result of the loss of civil liberties.

CARRIED BURDEN

The Fund has carried the burden of the defence of the Africans who have been on trial for months arising out of the Sharpeville tragedy.

It has battled to find jobs for men victimised after their detention during the Emergency. It negotiated with local authorities for rent arrears to be paid off in instalments; and with business firms to relax the terms of hire purchase agreements. Food parcels have gone out regularly to the families deepest in need.

The Emergency has been over for four months now but much of its aftermath is still felt by families who have not yet found their feet. It is only to the Defence and Aid Fund that they can turn for help.

Book Review

"EUROPEANS ONLY"

THERE are many people, especially Capetonians, who assert that David Marais, the "Cape Times" cartoonist is the greatest that South Africa has ever produced. A collection of his cartoons, published under the title "EUROPEANS ONLY", certainly strengthens their claim.

With the first cartoon dated November, 1957, the book is a chuckle-provoking pictorial comment on the last three stormy years of our political history.

Marais is humanist and humourist combined. His reaction to legislative injustice, racial intolerance and official bumptiousness is one of devastating scorn, expressed in drawings which are a model for any cartoonist.

Yet his barbs, though always well aimed, are never poisonous. His anger, where he allows it to break through, is restrained, softened by his sense of the ridiculous.

Nationalist Ministers and Nationalist policies are, naturally, his favourite targets. Marais flatly refuses to take either at their inflated face-value. Using laughter as a weapon, he cuts everyone and everything down to proper size.

"EUROPEANS ONLY" is well worth having and keeping. There is just one word of warning: if you want to buy the book, better buy it now. Although less than a month old, it is already in its third edition, and demand shows no sign of slackening.

The collection is published by Jan Botha Publications, and sells at a modest six shillings. It is six shillings well-spent for anyone who buys it.

F.C.

SISTER FRANS BONGERS

The death occurred last month of Sister Frans Bongers, who worked for many years in Cape Town as a district nurse in Woodstock and Salt River.

She was for many years an active member of the progressive movement in South Africa and did much to develop the teaching of health to people in need.

People of all races came together to say farewell to Sister Bongers who had endeared herself to many — especially the people of F.O.S.A.

Help The Suffering

This Christmas season the Defence and Aid Fund has launched a special HELP THE SUFFERING FUND.

The families of many men still in prison arising out of the disturbances at Sharpeville, Langa and other places are in dire need of food and other assistance.

Some families have been adopted for Christmas by supporters of the Fund; yet others are looking after these sufferers till the breadwinners are released.

But more help is needed.

The Fund appeals for donations and other assistance to be sent to the Defence and Aid Fund, Room 17, 2nd floor, Harvard Bldg., Joubert and Pritchard Streets, Johannesburg.

long while in South Africa, but Sharpeville and the Emergency precipitated its formation.

BEWILDERED AND STRICKEN

Here come the wives and daughters and teen-age sons of men charged with incitement and burning passes, the men charged with public violence, arising out of cases in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Van der Bijl Park and Sekhukhuneland, and Pondoland too.

Some come bewildered and stricken: can you help us pay for a lawyer? What shall we do about the rent? We are to be thrown out of our house.

Where they can, families help themselves. Women go out to work to take the breadwinning places of their men. Mothers trail up and down the White suburbs of the large cities looking for washing. Money that should be spent on food is used to keep the children at school, for school fees must be paid at all costs.

Families of accused men collect among themselves and bring in the pounds and shillings to hand over to the Fund as part contribution to fees for legal defence.

IN DESPERATION

But most come to the Fund in desperation. Where can they find enough money to brief a defence for their family members? If the next instalment on the furniture is not paid it will be seized. The shelves in the pantry are now quite bare.

The Fund's principles are simple but firm.

It upholds by all lawful means the right of people to express opinions. It seeks to grant help to people in need as a result of the loss of civil rights and liberties. It collects money for legal advice and

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.