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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR A NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION

PHONE 22-9026

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30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,
156 COMMISSIONER ST.,
JOHANNESBURG

4th October, 1956.

PRESS STATEMENT

Plans are at present being made for the holding of a National Peace Convention at the Gandhi Hall, Fox Street, Johannesburg on 27-28th October, 1956. The following South Africans have, to date, agreed to sponsor the Convention:- Mr. I. Glyn-Thomas, Professor D. Cole, Mr. A.J. Cutten, Mr. Lee-Warden, M.P., Dr. G.M. Naicker, Dr. M.M. Motala, Mr. A. Sibeko, Mr. A. laGuma, Mr. Uys Krige, Mrs. Phyllis Altman, Mr. Alfred Hutchinson, Dr. R. Forsyth, Rev. D. Thompson, Rev. Brunson, Mrs. M. Murray-Parker, Mr. G. Ngotyana, Mr. Salim Saleh, Dr. R. Press, Mrs. Lilian Ngyoi, Dr. H.M. Moosa, Dr. A. Kazi, Mr. S. Dorfman, Mr. L. Massina, Mrs. Lucy Mvubelo, Dr. N.M. Padyachhe, Adv. H.M. Mall, Dr. Z.E. Aswat, Mr. G. Hurbans, Mr. G. Singh, Mr. J. Baker.

These sponsors include doctors, university lecturers, a member of Parliament, trade unionists, barristers, ministers of religion, teachers, writers and artists.

The Convention is being sponsored by the following organisations:-

South African Peace Council; Friends of Peace; African National Congress; S.A. Congress of Trade Unions; S.A. Indian Congress; Jewish Democratic Assotiation; Transvaal Indian Congress; the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation; S.A. Congress of Democrats; Federation of S.A. Women; African National Congress Women's League; African National Congress Youth League and the Transvaal Indian Congress Youth League.

The individual sponsors and organisations have signed the following statement.

CO-SPONSORS' STATEMENT

"..... the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with hydrogen bombs is quite likely to put an end to the human race..... there will be universal death, sudden only for a fortunate minority, but for the majority a slow torture of disease and disintegration."

BERTRAND RUSSELL.

We do not accept these prospects as man's destiny. On the contrary, we believe that the centuries of struggle and sacrifice, of inspiration, achievement and progress are leading slowly but steadily toward a fuller, richer life for all mankind.

Even without a war, scientists are already warning us of the harmful genetic effects on unborn babies of the radio-active 'fall-out' from A- and H- bomb test explosions. And, nuclear weapons apart, other weapons of war are so devastating that we believe that there should be total disarmament among the nations of the world.

In South Africa, particularly, the question of peace is of vital importance-peace among all races, for it is from local quarrels and tensions that total wars arise.

With an urgent awareness, then of our own responsibility, desiring moreover to give a lead to our fellow-citizens, we are co-sponsors of a National Peace Convention to be held in Johannesburg on October 27-28th, 1956.

There is no power on earth as strong as the force of informed and organised public opinion. We are confident, therefore, that the opportunity provided by the National Peace Convention for South Africans of all races, creeds and political beliefs, to express their determination to prevent war will greatly strengthen the world-wide movement towards peace. We sincerely believe that mankind can in this epoch advance toward the highest peak of human endeavour - an end to war and a permanent entry to everlasting peace."

DCT. 199 ①

5/11/50
P. Statement to be signed by Co-sponsors for the National Peace Convention, to be held in Johannesburg, October 27th-28th.

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In South Africa, particularly, the question of peace is of vital importance - peace among all races, for it is from local quarrels and tensions that total wars arise.

With an urgent awareness, then, of our own responsibility, desiring moreover to give a lead to our fellow-citizens, we - the undersigned are co-sponsors of a South African Peace Convention to be held on October 27th-28th, at the Ghandi Hall, Fox Street, Johannesburg.

There is no power on earth as strong as the force of informed and organised public opinion. We are confident, therefore that the opportunity provided by the National Peace Convention for South Africans, of all races, creeds and political beliefs, to express their determination to prevent war will greatly strengthen the world-wide movement towards peace. We sincerely believe that mankind can in this epoch advance toward the highest peak of human endeavour - an end to war and a triumphant entry to everlasting peace.

DCT. 171 (3)

STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION, JOHANNESBURG, OCTOBER 27-28TH 1956.

"....the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with hydrogen bombs is quite likely to put an end to the human race.... there will be universal death, sudden only for a fortunate minority, but for the majority a slow torture of disease and disintegration."

BERTRAND RUSSEL.

We do not accept these prospects as man's destiny. On the contrary, we believe that the centuries of struggle and sacrifice, of inspiration, achievement and progress are leading slowly but steadily towards a fuller, richer life for all mankind.

Even without a war, scientists are already warning us of the harmful genetic effects on unborn babies of the radioactive 'fall-out' from A- and H-bomb test explosions. And, nuclear weapons apart, other weapons of war are so devastating that we believe that there should be total disarmament among the nations of the world.

In South Africa, particularly, the question of peace is of vital importance - peace among all races, for it is from local quarrels and tensions that total wars arise.

With an urgent awareness, then, of our own responsibility, desiring moreover to give a lead to our fellow citizens, we, the undersigned, are co-sponsors of a South African National Peace Convention to be held on October 27-28th at the Gandhi Hall, Fox Street, Johannesburg.

There is no power on earth as strong as the force of informed and organised public opinion. We are confident, therefore, that the opportunity provided by the National Peace Convention for South Africans of all races, creeds and political beliefs, to express their determination to prevent war will greatly strengthen the world-wide movement towards peace. We sincerely believe that mankind can in this epoch advance towards the highest peak of human endeavour - an end to war and a triumphant entry to everlasting peace.

G. Aggrey
Dibona

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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