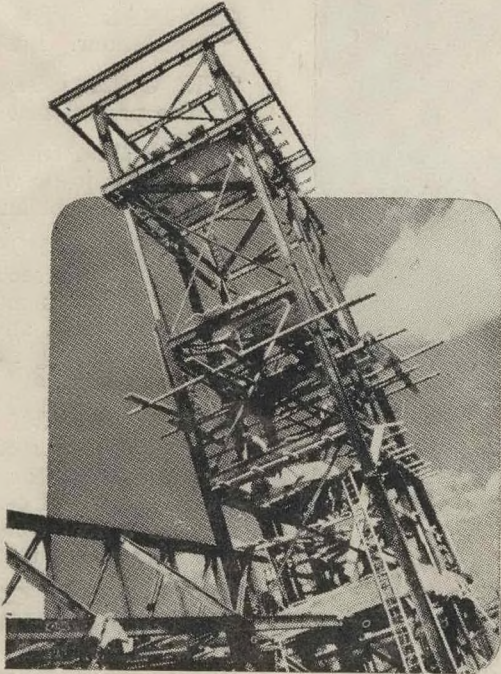


JOHANNESBURG TOMORROW



HOMES. Homes they dreamed of, and fought for. What will they find when they return? A three-roomed flat at 24 guineas a month? Shantytown? A garage or a slum? 150,000 houses are needed immediately in South Africa. Are we going to build as in the past, cramped, congested cities? Or will we build these new homes in pleasant and beautiful surroundings, providing for the people's needs? Here is how we can plan the Johannesburg of to-morrow . . .



THE PROBLEM TODAY . . .

WHAT DOES OUR CITY LOOK LIKE ?

Less than sixty years ago Johannesburg was a line of tin shanties. To-day it is South Africa's biggest city. It grew with speed and vitality—but also in disorder, without planning. Factories, homes, and town centre are mixed together. Under the city's impressive skyline lies disorder and chaos. Johannesburg has one of the largest areas per head of population of any city. It is 86 miles square. We have room to make our city beautiful. We need a plan to establish order in the unplanned, haphazard development.



MINE DUMPS AND DUST disfigure our city.

A belt of mines and disused mines, together with their dumps stretch across one side of the city from Denver to Industria. The wind blows mine dust all over Johannesburg. The Southern Suburbs are completely cut off from the town by mine dumps.

THE HOUSING CRISIS is obvious to all. But we must remember that **IT IS NOT CAUSED BY THE WAR**, but only brought to a head by present conditions. The housing problem was never properly tackled even in pre-war days. Johannesburg's housing record is one of the worst in the country. During the past quarter of a century, our City Council has built less than 350 houses for Europeans, and very few for Coloureds and Africans.

AND WE HAVE SLUMS where our children grow up with ricketty legs and pale faces. Slums in the city, slums on the outskirts. The people of Johannesburg badly need decent homes.

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SOLDIER'S wife Small House or Flat. un-
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THE TOWN IS OVERBUILT in the centre, crowded and congested. It does not fulfil our present needs, it is totally inadequate for future expansion. It is surrounded by a decaying belt of various uses—shops, old boarding houses, warehouses. The Main Reef Road through Commissioner Street adds to the central chaos. The railway cuts destructively through the town, blocking traffic to the north.



FROM TOWN, ROADS SPREAD OUT to the major suburbs. Living areas, particularly non-European, are for the most part completely removed from the areas in which the people work, adding to family budgets, wasting time and public funds in transport. Where residential areas are near town, factories encroach upon them and oust them,

ALL THE ORIGINAL OPEN SPACES have been gnawed into, if not entirely swallowed. Von Brandis Square no longer exists; the Technical College now takes most of the open space that was once in front of the station; a market now covers the site of the old Magistrates Court; the Union Ground is covered with Army huts; Wanderers is in danger; the de luxe suburb of Saxonwold is built over land once donated as public ground to the City for a University; and where the University now stands was once a great public park. The only open space in town—the Library Gardens, is hemmed in with trams and overhead wires, phone booths, tram shelters, and ex-public conveniences.

WE HAVE NO CIVIC FOCUS . . . no groups of buildings surrounded by open spaces . . . no axial approaches to our more important buildings . . . nothing to which the enthusiastic citizen can point with pride . . . no character, no civic dignity.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS had already become acute before the war. Our streets cannot hold the moving and parked traffic, commercial and private, that crowds them. Lack of city planning causes lost time, parking fines, accidents, to say nothing of frayed nerves, ulcerated stomachs and other disorders caused by the tension of negotiating traffic hazards every day. Our present street system cannot hope to cope with post-war needs.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES isolate living areas from each other and from the centre. For instance, there is no public transport between most suburbs except via the town centre. Such places as the University become almost inaccessible to people living in far-flung suburbs. We become isolated, lack civic responsibility, and do not care what happens in areas outside our own.

OUR CITY TO-DAY is neither beautiful nor convenient. All we have is the superb climate. But increasing smoke, dust from the mines, helps to spoil even the climate. Our population increases constantly. 54 new Townships have come into being since 1931 . . .

JOHANNESBURG MUST HAVE A PLAN!

PLAN FOR THE CITY OF TOMORROW . . .

THERE ARE THINGS WHICH MUST BE DONE immediately to relieve the housing and traffic problems; and there are things which cannot be done except over a period of many years. BUT BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PLANS MUST BEGIN TO-DAY!

MORE PUBLIC CONTROL is needed of Town-planning, which should be POSITIVE planning under a Town-planning department. The public must have the opportunity of discussing schemes—for only with public approval and backing can large-scale schemes be successful. A City Planning Commission could take the first steps in drawing up plans for public discussion. Town-planning has in the past been restricted to what builders could not do—now we must not only impose negative restrictions, but achieve positive standards. The Department must not just indulge in restrictive planning—planning which prevented certain things—but we must develop a MASTER PLAN FOR JOHANNESBURG.

THE MASTER PLAN should be a picture of what we want our city to look like in the future. Only developments conforming to his plan should be permitted. The plan should show future green spaces, sites for schools and major road improvements, new, decentralised neighbourhood units, new civic centres providing for the needs of the family and school-going child, with no main roads crossing the living area; social centres, cultural provisions, etc. Such a plan will meet with great opposition from vested interests—but the time has come for vested interests to be publicly controlled in the public interest.

THE HOUSING CRISIS CAN ONLY BE TACKLED on the basis of developing strong, healthy communities. Housing is more than the mere building of houses; a housing scheme is only complete when it has provided all the pre-requisites of a rich community existence—schools, shopping centres, recreational facilities, cultural provisions. Housing developments must be planned and located within the framework of the Master Plan. Housing is a weapon to re-establish the community life of the people so disorganised to-day.

IN THE SUBURBS planning must be for the needs of the people as a whole. Take Hillbrow, for example. It is rapidly achieving one of the highest concentrations of population in the whole city. But at the same time, it is a "corridor" leading from the town centre to the northern suburbs. A residential area with major traffic arteries running through is a menace to the people—particularly the children—living in it. The area is over-built, with no convenient open spaces around the flats. Local and through traffic should be separated, if need be, by roads at different levels.

THE INDISCRIMINATE ERECTION of flats and yet more flats must be stopped. Remaining stands should be bought for open ground and parks . . . spaces collected and pooled. The Master plan would provide for these things, preventing such areas from developing in line with the worst practices overseas.

PROVISION FOR NON-EUROPEAN SERVANTS is a problem in European residential areas such as Hillbrow. We do not provide for their recreation, they have no adequate social life, no open spaces readily at hand for them to spend their free time. Vice and crime become an outlet for spare energy, streets and shopping areas centres for congregating. NATIVE HOSTELS within easy reach of each European area are needed, and proper recreational facilities for the neglected non-European servant.

OUR TOWN CENTRE. Here the streets require most attention. Some must be closed to traffic, others widened. Closed streets should be used for parking. Land must be bought to effect civic improvement. The muddle of Municipal transport needs cleaning up. Municipal transport should not add to the central congestion. Buses and trams should start from stations off the main roads to eliminate chaos.

CENTRAL OPEN SPACES should be provided for office workers during lunch-hour. Public spaces stolen from the people must be returned.

THE OVER CONGESTED CENTRE of the city must be re-organised. The present belt of mines and dumps must be reclaimed as a green belt.

PROBLEM AREAS such as Fordsburg and City and Suburban, where factories jostle with homes, must be rebuilt with all the necessary social services. The balance of industry and housing should be maintained.

THE WHOLE POPULATION must be considered in our plans. We must plan for all sections of the people. African and non-Europeans need decent homes as much as or more than anybody else. We do not want forgotten people, any nests of slums hiding behind spectacular sky-scrapers. Dignified housing schemes and social services will solve many of to-day's social problems.

AND WHEN WE BUILD let's build well and beautifully. The coloured township of Noordgesicht may provide low-rental houses. But it is an eyesore sprawled across the veld, its inhabitants boxed in identical rows, no design, no social centre, no beauty. The same township could have been built as a real community and neighbourhood providing real homes—not just houses—for the people. BUT WE DID NOT PLAN.

ONLY MAJOR CIVIC WORKS AND RE-PLANNING can save Johannesburg from becoming one of the world's worst cities. PLANNING NOW, while building activity is quiet. If another building boom comes on an unplanned Johannesburg, our problems will become insoluble. Older towns have shown us what must be done. The catastrophe of war and destruction by bombs is helping them to re-plan their future. We must profit by their errors—we do not want wholesale destruction to provide our only way out.

AND WE MUST PLAN NOW! Returned soldiers have nowhere to go with their families. "Shantytown" indicts us. The people need homes urgently. But we do not want JERRY BUILT HOMES, we do not want flats put up hastily without thought or design. It's as easy to plan and build beautifully as it is to build badly. Our city can be made a pleasant and lovely place.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

HOW can you, the private citizen, make your influence and views felt in the task of building a better Johannesburg? It is no good "passing the buck" and leaving it to the "experts" and the "authorities." It is no good saying "They've made a mess of things." You allowed them to. It is your responsibility.

First, acquaint yourself with the problems of our city, and find out what is needed. You must learn about the right use of land, the proper location of industry, the question of transport, the provision of open spaces and parks, the ideal provision of ordinary homes. Then see what your elected representatives are doing in the matter. Don't hesitate to worry your M.P. for information; you sent him to Parliament to watch your interests. Do you appreciate the importance of local authority? Your City Council has considerable power. The way that power is used can be influenced by you.

You must know the actual activities of your local government. Demand they are made public. All town-planning schemes should be prominently displayed.

You should scrutinise and influence everything your local authority does. No sensible local authority will resent or obstruct you. If your local authority is not sensible, you can change it—if you and others take the trouble to vote.

Remember—it can be done, but it's up to you



"Between the dream and its fulfilment lies reality." How we breed crime and disease. This is Orlando's Shantytown.



Is this the solution? Breeze blocks (no windows) built by the Council as a "temporary" measure. They absorb their own weight in water.



Or this? A sub-economic house for Europeans (Holland Park). Ugly, bare, unattractive.



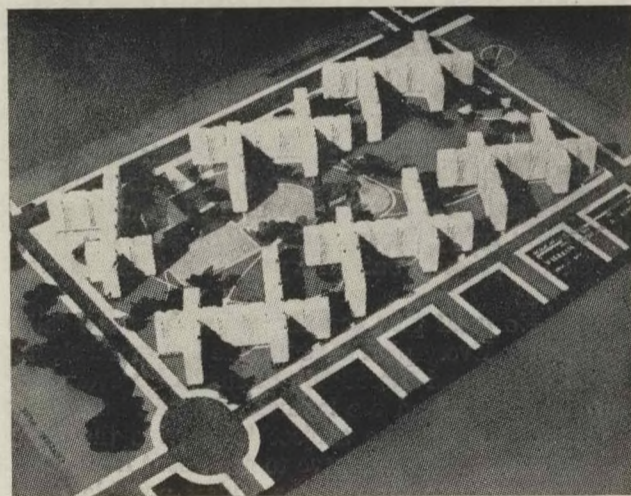
This is how we must build. A Green-belt City in America. A town built in a park, full of open spaces.



Another view of a Green-belt city. No traffic runs in front of the residences. Pedestrian paths only.



"Cheek by jowl." Factory and home jostle each other in our unplanned city. This is how not to build.



A MAN named Lescaze has redesigned one of New York's most congested and over-built areas—Harlem—"not in conformity with known and worn-out formulas, but in anticipation of to-morrow's needs." (His own words.) Above you see first how one small section of an extremely-congested area is taken, and how blocks of living flats are rebuilt on this area to provide homes for a huge number of people, with sun, air and space as well. The plan provides for flats surrounded by green space, provides for a school, playground, community centre, and theatre within the project. Is this something Johannesburg could use?

LET'S START MAKING IT SO TO-DAY!

Why the Communist Party Published this Plan

THIS PLAN is an attempt to contribute to the development of a better Johannesburg. It is an attempt to promote discussion on a great and vital subject—how we are going to provide for our returned soldiers, how we are going to plan and build. This is not supposed to be the last word on the subject, but perhaps the first serious word.

No great plan can succeed without the full support and backing of the people. Every plan covering the future development of Johannesburg should be widely and thoroughly discussed by everyone concerned—the expert who will build it and the layman who will benefit from it. We want this small contribution to the subject to provide the basis for discussion. We want to know what YOU have to say about it. We want your criticisms and your suggestions. We want the widest possible discussion.

Then we hope it will be possible to draw up and to put into effect the ideal plan for our city's development.

But it depends on you. On your interest and what you have to say.

You have the power to make Johannesburg something really grand and beautiful. You, the citizens of this town, must think and talk about the future of your city.

Write to :

COMMUNIST PARTY,
P.O. BOX 4179, JOHANNESBURG.

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