

NEW AGE

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British Crusade Grows Against Apartheid Slavery

LONDON (Air Mail).

FEELING among all circles in Britain against the tyrannical and un-Christian policies of the Nationalist Government on such crucial subjects as apartheid, "Bantu" education and interference with the conscience of the Church, is growing to remarkable extent. Responsible church leaders, newspapers and others are taking up with crusading zeal the question of bringing aid to the South African peoples threatened with persecution and the situation is being compared with the historic task of crushing slavery which was led a century and a half ago by British philanthropists. So strong is the feeling that the Archbishop of Canterbury, while condemning Nationalist policy, has called on those who are demanding action to have patience.

The national Sunday newspaper Observer last week appealed for more than moral support for the mission schools in South Africa.

SLAVERY

"Given courageous leadership, it would surely be possible to mobilise again the spirit that produced millions of pounds in Britain to fight slavery, and many millions more to start the mission societies in Africa," said the paper.

"If the Archbishop (of Canterbury) were to launch a really big appeal for this purpose, we believe it would meet with a tremendous response in Britain, the United States and elsewhere.

"It would give people an opportunity to contribute directly to this struggle against tyranny. But unless a lead is given promptly, it will be too late."

For the second time within a few days the Archbishops of Canterbury and York condemned apartheid.

Dr. Cyril Garbett, Archbishop of York, said it was "un-Christian, tyrannical and dangerous," adding:

"We no longer have the right to keep silent and must voice our protest as clearly and uncompromisingly as we did against Hitler's treatment, not of majorities, but of minorities in Germany."

Dealing with the Western Areas removal plan, Dr. Garbett added: "This harsh policy is inflaming the coloured people throughout Africa, and the harm it will do to the relationship between Europeans and Africans is incalculable."

HAVE PATIENCE

The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the "feeling of indignation in England at certain things which are happening in South Africa." He added he felt it necessary to ask those who were asking for action, to have patience.

At a Christian Action meeting in London recently, Canon Collins said:

'Police-chivvied, permit-ridden, pin-pricked, white dominated, de-

ALWYN APPEAL

CAPE TOWN.

The appeal of Mr. John Alwyn, Worcester leader, against his sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act was heard in the Cape Town Supreme Court last week.

Mr. Alwyn had been sentenced to 9 months on each of two counts arising out of speeches alleged to have been made by him at various meetings. Judgment has been reserved.

nied simple human rights, Africans live under daily insult to their human dignity."

He paid tribute to men like Father Huddleston, but added: "Whether we like it or not, this should be said: the lead which the churches should be taking on the question of colour, is being taken by the Communist Party."

CONGRESS OF PEOPLE FORGES AHEAD

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent)

Teams from Transvaal Congress of the People headquarters report splendid results from recent tours to the platteland, including Klerksdorp, Zeerust, Groot Marico, Rustenburg and other country towns. Local people have responded eagerly to the Call and have undertaken to start regular work in these areas to set up Congress of the People committees to frame the people's demands for the Freedom Charter and to enrol volunteers. An East Rand regional committee and South-West Rand committee have been formed.

In the Cape, a Provincial Action committee has been formed despite the repressive action taken by the police at the recent George meeting. Eight Cape regions have been established and organisers allocated to each region.

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Fascists are usually explicit in their aims and intentions. They are fascists because they are megalomaniacs, which means they have illusions of grandeur, illusions which can never be fulfilled. The almost certain accession to power of Strijdom, Verwoerd and their following will put the Nationalist menace in a sharper form and will accentuate the creeping political crisis.

Even if oppression becomes more acute, we may be certain the internal weaknesses of the extremists in the Government will grow. Police terror, anti-democratic laws and continual threats against all who do not knuckle under must, in the long run, drive together a solidly massive opposition from all races and classes.

While we can feel sure the coming changes will hasten the eventual downfall of Nationalism, we must also be prepared for grave tests. Above all, freedom, hope and confidence must be kept alive.

New Age will provide a platform for the voice of freedom wherever it is raised.

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AFRICANS NEARING MOST DECISIVE CONFERENCE IN CONGRESS HISTORY

Mobilising Liberatory Forces

(From our Johannesburg and Durban Correspondents)

"The greatest message to the conference will be a call to all delegates to prepare for the holding of the great Congress of the People," states a circular issued last week to all branches of the African National Congress, informing them that this year the annual A.N.C. conference will be held in Durban from December 16 to 19.

Emphasising that this conference will be one of the most important and decisive ever held, the circular declares:

"It precedes the forcible removal of 85,000 people from their homes; the introduction of the notorious Bantu Education Act; the final and fatal assault on the trade union movement, and other measures intended to crush the liberatory movement and the last vestiges of democracy in South Africa."

The circular states that the executive report and presidential address will provide the central theme for conference deliberations and decisions.

In a message to the people of South Africa, sent to the annual conference of the Natal A.N.C. last week, Chief A. J. Luthuli, president general of the A.N.C., called on all progressives and democrats to participate in the organisation of the Congress of the People and thereby help the liberatory movement to mobilise and consolidate effectively the forces of freedom in our land.

In his message Chief Luthuli attacked those "treacherous and false leaders of the African people" who occupied positions of influence and advised the Africans to accept apartheid on the grounds that "half a loaf is better than no loaf."

These people, said Chief Luthuli, evaded the facts of apartheid which was used as an instrument of ensuring perpetual domination by the ruling group.

"The only worthwhile object in life is to work for the acquirement of full citizenship rights," said Chief Luthuli.

"It is by a show of military force and the denial of the vote that the African people are being kept in subjection.

AWAY WITH APARTHEID
"There is no alternative. We must go forward in a spirit of devotion and sacrifice in the fight for freedom.

"To avoid disaster for the whole country we must join in full force the crusade against apartheid. Away with apartheid!"

The Natal conference unanimously condemned the retrogressive step taken by the recent so-called unity conference to form a trade union organisation which excludes African workers, and welcomed the new move to form a trade union centre embracing all workers.

Resolutions were also passed calling upon the African people to reject the Bantu Education Act in toto, and to oppose the rent increases imposed on the people living in municipal housing schemes and hostels.

AFRICAN OFFICE WORKERS' CALL

JOHANNESBURG.

A call to all office workers to unite in one trade union has been made by Messrs. P. M. Mokoena and W. Shabalala, provisional secretaries of the African Office Workers' Union.

"Our hardships can only be tackled by an organisation resting on the broad unity of all office workers," says their statement. "Let us unite in order to be able to speak with one voice."

Tobacco Strikers' Families Starve

From our Durban Correspondent

The 350 African workers who stopped work at the United Tobacco Company three months ago in protest against the refusal of the employers to negotiate with them are suffering starvation and ill-health.

In a statement to New Age, Mr. N. Xontana, chairman of the African Tobacco Workers' Union (Durban) says that these workers who were compelled to stop work because they are the lowest paid workers in the tobacco industry are enduring extreme hardship.

"The families of these workers are starving and sickness has struck them. The children are becoming malnourished and ill.

"They desperately need the assistance of all who can help them. We have little money left in the strike fund to pay their rents, and some might lose their homes.

"Through the columns of New Age the Union appeals to all workers and democrats in all centres to respond to our call for help to the families."

Weinberg Acquittal On "Gathering" Charge

JOHANNESBURG.

Acquitting Mr. E. Weinberg on a charge of attending a Sophiatown meeting in contravention of a ban under the Suppression of Communism Act, the Magistrate Mr. O'Brien said on Monday that the versions of the facts as presented by the police and the defence witnesses were utterly irreconcilable.

The police had alleged that Weinberg had mingled with the crowd. Defence witnesses had denied this, stating that he skirted the crowd and took photographs from a nearby roof.

Advocate Berrange correctly criti-

cised the evidence of the police officers, said Mr. O'Brien. "I must prefer the defence evidence. Despite what the police had testified, I conclude the accused avoided the crowd and at no time mingled with, listened to speeches or took part in the gathering."

The magistrate said he also considered the legal contention of the prosecution and concluded that legally "attendance" at a gathering required more than physical presence. "It must be shown that the accused had common purpose with the rest of the people to participate in a gathering."



CRUSADE AGAINST STRIJDOM'S "CHRISTIAN" REPUBLIC

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