

JDM 1

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A survey of the first Removal  
(Western Areas)

Who is still in doubt in this country that South Africa is a Police State? If you are, examine the following record and then conclude.

Towards the end of the year 1954, the Natives Resettlement Board issued final notices to some residents of Sophiatown ~~that~~ that they will be removed to Meadowlands by not <sup>or should must move themselves</sup> later than 1 p.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1955.

The African National Congress, the leading political organisation in this country, representing the African people throughout the Union of S.A. and an organisation with a portfolio

2.

progress policy of peace and  
unqualified respect for human  
rights and justice to all, working  
in conjunction with its allies,  
consisting of several organisa-  
tions of men and women of different  
racial groups according to the  
injunctive of our Lord - 'all  
men are equal in the face of  
God' and presently committed  
for sake of peace and love to  
a policy of achieving its objective  
by non-violent methods of struggle,  
held meetings and embarked  
on a campaign to organise  
not only South African ~~opinion~~  
but also world opinion  
against this removal scheme<sup>to be</sup>  
carried<sup>out</sup> by the fascist Nationalist

Government in the protest of  
skin clearance whilst in truth  
Dr Verwoerd, the Government's  
arch-disciple of Apartheid is setting  
their plans and programme  
in progress. The African National  
Congress, the South African Indian  
Congress, the S.A. Congress of Demo-  
crats, and the I.A. Coloured  
People's Organization rallied  
their forces to fight against  
this measure. Several committees  
and organizations under different  
designations were set up to oppose  
the Government. Christian Churches  
expressed their horror of such  
a scheme without reserve.  
Protests against the intentions  
of the South African Nationalist

Government focused in <sup>4</sup> from  
all directions but all this was  
truly in vain. During the  
second week of February, the  
week during which the first  
removal was to take place,  
the Labour Party in Parliament  
made its last minute bid to  
induce Dr. Vanwoerd and  
his government to change  
their minds. Even this was  
without success.

The African National Congress  
in the meantime had devised  
several plans to be implemented  
in defence of the <sup>narrowed</sup> rights of those  
~~whose property was~~ <sup>narrowed</sup> against  
whom the assault was directly  
levied. The first method was

5.

a legal action in the event of ~~persons~~ forced removal of any person or persons on 12<sup>th</sup> february. Now, let us examine the provisions of the Act in regard to a person who <sup>or fails</sup> refuses to move at the expiration of the notice."

(4.25 p 12/2/55 information of notices of another removal)

As it will be clearly seen from the provisions of the Act, a legal suit was only possible after 12<sup>th</sup> february, 1955, and also when there has been removals by physical force. Legal opinion

6.  
for any action before, was <sup>not possible</sup> ~~negative~~  
In the meantime the forces of  
freedom, progress & democracy, under  
the banner of the African National  
Congress were mobilising in prep-  
aration to meet the forces of reaction  
oppression & fascism on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
The nationalist government having  
realised the preparedness of the  
African People, decided to ~~stage~~ a  
march on them.

On 8<sup>th</sup> of February in the <sup>late</sup> after-  
noon, One Hundred and fifty families  
were served with notices to the  
effect that they will be removed  
to Meadowlands the following  
day at 6 am. Reports of this  
move by the Government were  
immediately brought to the notice

of the African National Congress.  
By 6 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> February,  
feelings were running high in  
the Township. Messages were  
dispatched to other branches of the  
A.N.C. throughout the country to  
stand by. Volunteers were advised  
to ~~keep~~ keep on the alert. The  
summer of 1955, is generally  
accepted as the ~~most~~ rainiest  
since the year 1909 according  
to opinion of experienced. It had  
been raining on the afternoon  
of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and after sunset  
there were storms and torrents.  
The western areas were also  
in this plight. Yet Congress  
Volunteers met and obtained  
orders to remove all persons

desiring to escape the host's first  
 action of force. Their gallant  
 rout of the south set themselves  
 arduous yet romantic task, <sup>and</sup> Black  
 clouds crossed the host's heavens  
 from direction to direction, spitting  
 their power drops in warning to  
 of their more determined <sup>& mighty</sup> followers.  
 What task lay before the long  
 Volunteers?

Holy  
 Peoples Remembrance

The Great Trek

ENTER THE FORCES OF FREEDOM.

As the evening grew old, the youth  
 of Sophatown moved towards the  
 eastern end of the township. In  
 the course, various articles of  
 furniture and households were  
 moving in a westward direction.



~~In not time the rains were lightning~~  
~~flashed viciously across the crowded~~  
~~clouds.~~ For a time the South  
 West Monsoon blew. Strong  
 currents of wind swept the  
 roofs & streets of this township.  
 In Loby & Asthara Streets, ~~some~~  
 of the plaster on the walls of <sup>some</sup>  
 the houses cracked from the blow  
 of the wind in its last service  
 of protecting the bricks. The  
 chimneys of some of those  
 houses issued their smoke in  
 an unusually horizontal  
 direction. The floors of such  
 houses echoed the footsteps  
 of the occupants drearily as  
 they realized their last  
 services. Yes indeed the

occupied and the occupiers were  
 upon the verge of the parting  
 of ways. Yet parting, with all  
 miseries attached to it had  
 come. Parting either for the  
 good or bad, but certainly  
 for the latter, considering the  
 conditions of the host Camp  
 -Meadowlands- in which the  
 occupier was heading for in  
 the next few hours from that  
 time. Still the wind blew  
 young ladies, <sup>coming back from work,</sup> walking on high  
 heeled shoes pricked the tar roads  
 of Loby & Bertha, <sup>as incidents in a comedy.</sup> that evening. The  
 wind blew; it blew <sup>those</sup> plastic  
 coats tight against their figures.  
 Their <sup>umbrellas</sup> <sup>roughly</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>part</sup>  
 reducing their weight on those  
 tar roads.

Men coming back from work, dressed, ~~the same~~ in suits, others in overalls trod these tarred roads, to end in their homes for the last time as residents. Children, quite accustomed to playing under unfavourable conditions of the weather, left the skipping rope for the last time as residents on the tarred roads of those two streets that evening. Yet the wind did blow.

In the meantime the footsteps of the forces of freedom trodding the tarred roads in ~~advance~~ the eastward direction of Parliament <sup>Union</sup> in Cape Town.

In due course ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> volunteers had  
 mixed up with the ~~armies~~  
 from ~~work~~, information  
 about their mission was given  
 and soon various articles  
 of furniture and other household  
 were in continual motion  
 in a westward direction. ~~Then~~  
 the rains came. The pregnant  
 clouds gave birth to or ~~rather~~  
 released the thousands of millions  
 per hour of drops of rain upon  
 the faithful volunteers of the  
 holy African National Congress.  
 In a few minutes young men  
 & women were wet to the  
 marrow. Yet this did <sup>not</sup> prevent  
 or stop the forward march

of the soldiers of freedom.  
 Work had to be done, and  
 war going to be done.  
 "Onward freedom Soldiers  
 marching as to war". Songs  
 of liberation were chanted  
 on their way. 'Unjima lo  
 'nethu wuntwalo, wiza amadoda'  
 one of the latest spirit-moving  
 composition which has reached  
 its own climax with the times  
 and attained a unique position  
 in the souls and minds of the  
 great lovers of peace <sup>love</sup> and  
 freedom in the followers of the  
 African National Congress.  
 in the western areas. The  
 onward march of the Volunteers  
 was not deterred. In the lighter

composition 'Jomani Congress  
 vi be ~~ag~~amavolunteer' was  
 finding expression up through  
 the tongues of the youth, work  
 had to be done and was being  
 done. Sooner or later the fact and  
 the truthful 'melan o subile  
 sikhalmeni' was mixing with  
 the rain drops very fair. The  
 next moment several lightning  
 flashes ran the skies, tearing  
 the clouds asunder, to be followed  
 by cracking ~~thunder~~ <sup>thunder</sup> which shook  
 Mother Africa in her bowels.  
 Yes, the Gods of Africa were  
 in rage. Khaka was coughing,  
 Moshesh was calling, Kgama  
 was sneezing, Hintsa was  
 breathing, Sekhukhuni was

yawning, and Dingaan was stamping his foot on the ground with disgust. Yet the gods of Africa are beginning to lose patience with the white man's supremacy, and the Almighty God cannot tolerate the divisions of his images any longer. Some more flashes & thunders came yet the Volunteers never stopped. The onward march persisted. Young men were stripped to the waist. To be wet, was something of the past. These salvage operations carried on right through the night until daybreak. Exit THE FORCE OF PROGRESS.

THE UNHOLY REMOVALS.  
 ENTER THE FORCES OF REACTION.  
~~Exit the forces of liberation~~

from 3.30 am. the women's  
 land comprising a buffer  
 zone between the township of  
 Sotoliatown and the European  
 settlement - Westdene - lying  
 to the east, was concentrated  
 with about 3000 police men  
 from various parts of the  
 country. By about 4 am.  
 this strip of land was suffering  
 the pressure of the best army  
 trucks, the ~~press~~ squad  
 cars, the anti riot trucks  
 the police best in military  
 array, etc. The Sten gun, Bren  
 gun, the rifle the ~~revolver~~ pistol  
 the revolver, the assegai, the  
 knopkerry, all these in their  
<sup>horrifying</sup> ~~horrible~~ appearance polluted



the fresh and healthy air  
 of the at dawn, with the  
 deadly and corrupt smell  
 of death. In essence here  
 was display of force - yet  
 to the right-thinking person  
 and to the world in general,  
 here was <sup>the sign of</sup> a government  
 stricken with a curse of  
 fear.

In order to establish the  
 truth in the accusation that  
 the government of this country  
 is in shameful fear of the  
 people under its rule. let us  
 for a moment examine the  
~~fact~~ <sup>fact</sup> preceding this assembly  
 of 3000 policemen. "men with  
 death in their hands".

Realizing the rate at which  
 the African National Congress  
 and its allies were stepping  
 up a justifiable agitation  
 against the notorious nation-  
 alistic removal scheme, the  
 Minister of Justice, Mr  
 C. R. Swart, acting on the un-  
 reliable information  
 supplied by the unqualified  
 & badly trained members of the Special  
 branch of his police force,  
 embarked upon a campaign  
 banishing, <sup>and</sup> banning ~~and~~  
~~even for~~ the ~~sole~~ most  
 trusted and freedom loving  
 leaders of the African  
 National Congress and its  
 allies.

The removal ~~of~~ <sup>and</sup> silencing  
 of the experienced leadership  
 of the liberatory movement  
 must never be taken as a  
 matter without grave result  
 on the struggle of the people  
 for freedom. The leaders  
~~who~~ When the organizations  
 are propped off the leadership  
 which has undergone years  
 of training, it means men  
 and women of no experience  
 and training have to be  
 appointed to positions in  
 which they are seriously  
 unfit to occupy. It means  
 the recruit of new leadership  
 in the midst of whom there  
 may be men who are apt

to act on the instance of  
 emotion and lacking in  
 political judgment. And  
 to these men the ~~the~~ <sup>presently</sup> correct  
 policy of non-violence may  
 not appeal in all its  
 details and finer points <sup>in</sup>  
~~of~~ <sup>defeating</sup> the Nationalist govt  
 with all ~~its~~ <sup>their</sup> illadvised reactionary  
 methods employed in the  
 pursuit of the apartheid scandal  
 which up to now remains  
 the myth of blue print. The  
 marks of the people who have  
 had the opportunity of listening  
 to <sup>able</sup> orators ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> championing  
 the cause of their struggle and  
 analyzing their suffering strokes  
 of oppression; details of

of methods employed in the formulation of legislations design to perpetuate the state of one race being supreme and almighty to another, are now forced by the Swast Govt to listen to a leadership which does not match the former. (Yet in the face of all this, the liberatory onward march is forging ahead)

This state of affairs, makes itself more distinctly felt when an issue such as the removal has to be fought. The absence of a political machinery confront the organizations with hesitancy in giving direction. The disconnection of the top

leadership with the people  
 and the lack of personal  
 touch with the troubled local  
 ity, take the responsibility  
 for ~~double~~ misjudgments  
 which lead to doubts un-  
 certainty, delay in action and  
 proper control on the situation  
 as it presented by the govt from  
 time to time. It must be ad-  
 mitted therefore that the action  
 of the Nationalist Govt in peeling  
 the organizations off their  
 leadership has not only  
 crippled the liberatory  
 Movement throughout the  
 country but ~~is~~ <sup>also</sup> one of  
 the direct causes of those  
 advantages ~~the~~ which went

to Dr. Newbold in the removal  
of the Western Area. I have often  
known some adherents to relig-  
ious faiths <sup>(especially children)</sup> restraining those  
who confront them with  
questions of facts on their ~~hobby~~  
~~hobby~~ religion, and advancing  
explanations such as "that is  
beyond your understanding.  
You are not entitled to ask  
that question. It is blasphemous  
to maintain these ideas." If  
the inquirer just insists, the  
adherent will, in the fear  
of the lout and embarrass-  
ment resort to force, and  
probably order the inquirer to  
keep quiet. Yes the order

may be honoured. But  
 has the truth been suppressed  
 in the mind of the person  
 or child inquiring. Certainly  
 the adherent is afraid of the  
 truth. This is fear, and  
 one cannot even be satisfied  
 that this is the will of God.

Now the Nationalist  
 Govt has ordered the leadership  
 of the liberatory movement  
 to keep quiet, on the empty  
 pretext that they are preaching  
 communistic ideologies which  
 foster a spirit of hostility &  
 odium between <sup>the</sup> white & the  
 black races in this country.  
 It is all very well justifying  
 your their banning & banning



orders by this allegation.  
 Yet the question will forever  
 pose itself: Has the truth  
 in regard to the oppression  
 of the Black in this country  
 been silenced and suppressed?  
 How long is <sup>this</sup> suppression of  
 the facts going to be veiled  
 into the mouths of breasts  
 of the gallant leaders of  
 the struggle?

Who in this country, and  
 abroad for that matter  
 does not see or know that  
 this act is a result of  
 shameful fear? So that  
 we have now proved the  
 statement at the beginning  
 of this chapter that the

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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**

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