

COUNTRY PREPARES FOR APRIL 14

Protest Committees Announce Their Plans

WHILE CABINET MINISTERS WERE ISSUING THREATS THAT THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT WOULD USE THE WHOLE FORCE OF THE STATE TO DEAL WITH ANY DEMONSTRATIONS, PREPARATIONS WERE GOING AHEAD ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO IMPLEMENT THE STAY-HOME PROTEST DUE TO START ON APRIL 14.

IN JOHANNESBURG a statement by Mr. Oliver Tambo, general secretary of the African National Congress, stressed that "there is the greatest unity on this issue in the ANC and organisations allied with us."

The President General of the African National Congress, CHIEF A. J. LUTULI, in a statement also emphasised there was no serious division in the ranks of the ANC on the issue of staging the demonstrations. He said the ANC would do everything possible to discourage any intimidation.

IN PORT ELIZABETH the Working Committee of the ANC (Cape) issued directions to all branches in the Cape calling upon the people to stay at home for the whole week beginning on April 14.

IN DURBAN the Natal Protest Week Committee has called for a boycott of Nationalist products as part of the protest week plan for the people of Natal.

IN CAPE TOWN and many other centres meetings have been held and leaflets distributed to advertise the stay-home protest.

Durban Calls For Self-Denial And Boycott

DURBAN, as part of a plan for the people of Natal, according to a statement issued by the Natal Protest Week Committee, set up in terms of the (Continued on page 3)

A PROGRAMME of self-denial from April 14 to 16 and a complete and sustained boycott of certain products has been adopted

Local "Protest Week" Committees have been set up in a number of areas. The form of the "Protest Week" demonstrations will differ from one area to another, according to the decisions of these local Committees.

Publicity material is being sent all over the country to popularise the slogans of National Protest Week:

- For—
- A £1-A-DAY LAW!
 - REPEAL OF PASS LAWS!
 - END NAT RULE!

Five thousand posters and 100,000 leaflets are being printed and will shortly be sent out to branches of all participating organisations.



"It's all because the workers want a pound a day!"

NEW AGE

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6d.

"ANC United Over Stay-Home Protest"

— OLIVER TAMBO

JOHANNESBURG.

IS there any truth in the United Party charge that the election-eve protests are aimed at "stampeding" voters into the arms of the Nats? Will National Protest Week take identical forms in all areas? Are there any splits in the African National Congress over this campaign?

These and other questions are answered in an interview, exclusive to New Age, with Mr. Oliver Tambo, general secretary of the African National Congress.

QUESTION: Is there any truth in the current propaganda that the African National Congress is in favour of the return to power of a Nationalist Government?

ANSWER: None whatever. The Nationalist Party, during its ten years in office, has proved to be the most vicious and brutal enemy of the people. The return of this party for another term would spell disaster to the country.

QUESTION: The charge is levelled that by timing their national protests for election eve, the African National Congress (together with the other Congresses), are aiming to stampede voters into the arms of the Nationalist Party.

ANSWER: This is merely malicious propaganda. It comes from people who cannot understand the situation in the country—and who regard the voters merely as cattle to be "stampeded."

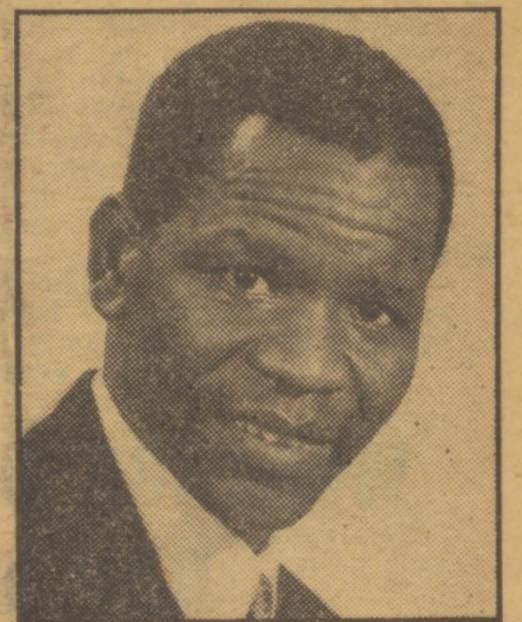
One should credit the electorate with the elementary intelligence to understand that this type of protest which has become increasingly frequent and widespread—is the inevitable reaction to unendurable Nationalist oppression. The United Party and its press is doing incalculable harm to the country and even to its own cause by spreading this stupid propaganda.

This demonstration, decided upon by the National Workers' Conference, is not designed to help either the United Party or the Nationalists.

The significance of its timing is that this is the right time to bring home to the electorate the biggest problems of our country—which are being ignored by the party politicians—the people's poverty; their hardships under the pass laws and apartheid; their demand for a voice in the affairs of the country.

QUESTION: Will the protests

(Continued on page 5)



Mr. Tambo.

P.E. PLAN COVERS WHOLE WEEK

PORT ELIZABETH.

OVER last week-end the Working Committee of the A.N.C. (Cape) issued directives to all its branches in the Cape, and also a leaflet which will cover industrial areas as well as the reserves. Both directives and the leaflets state that:

- The people will stay at home the whole of the week beginning April 14.
- Domestic servants should return to the location at the end of the working day on April 13.
- During the whole of the week beginning on the 14th people will buy at the location, but should keep an eye that Nationalist products are

(Continued on page 5)



People's Discipline Shamed Baragwanath Authorities

The panic-stricken activities of the Baragwanath Hospital authorities prior to the Women's Federation demonstration at Baragwanath on March 22 have not, as far as we know, been made public, and we thought that readers of New Age might be interested to hear of them. The precautions taken by the authorities were as follows:

1. Female medical staff were warned not to report for work on that day.
2. Doctors who live in married quarters at the hospital evacuated their wives on the day preceding the demonstration.
3. The windows of all wards were closed as a precaution against tear gas and stray bullets.
4. Fire-fighting equipment was prepared, and fire-hoses decorated the lawns of the hospital.
5. Hospital transport for employees was at a standstill from 8 a.m. on the day of the demonstration until the demonstrators had dispersed.
6. Doctors who wished to drive their cars to work had to obtain special permits in order to get through the road-blocks set up by the police.
7. Patients who were not critically ill were discharged from the hospital in order to make room for the "casualties" who would be admitted to hospital after the demonstration.
8. The medical staff was requested to be "pleasant" to the African nurses, and not to provoke or argue with them. (A sad reflection on the official attitude to African employees during times when there is no "emergency" in the hospital.)
9. The Non-White doctors were not told of these precautions, one reason being that the authorities suspected one of them of having organised the demonstration!
10. One of the senior doctors

WORKERS DON'T WANT A NAT. REPUBLIC

During the last world conflict, when the dark clouds of Nazism hung all over the world, when Great Britain stood alone against the challenge of Nazi tyranny, a jubilant Nationalist extremist, addressing the "Broederbond" conference in the Free State, said:

"The time will eventually come when our fatherland will become a republic. When that time eventually comes, the Africans (kaffers) will be forced by legislation to give their services freely to the farmers, as was the case during the republic of our ancestors."

This gives an insight into the kind of republic envisaged by the Nationalists, and Senator D. P. De Klerk's assurance, to the "Institute of Citizenship," that it would remain within the Commonwealth was a political hoax.

The protagonists of a republic in South Africa (now the present rulers) are too prone to give the impression that it will be in the best interests of all sections of the community, and forget to add: non-whites excluded.

The Africans have become too urbanised to revert to their tribal way of life, as the Nationalists want. The Nationalists are out to set the clock back a century. They do not live in the age of space

asked permission to bring his own firearm to work on the day of the demonstration.

In other words, the stage was set for a grand siege by a horde of black savages. It was a somewhat shameful Baragwanath which was forced to acknowledge the quiet discipline of the demonstration in the presence of an almost unparalleled show of force on the part of the police.

And the demonstration had an effect beyond that of expressing its abhorrence of passes—it made hundreds of Whites at the hospital who were previously ignorant of such matters, aware of the strength of the Congresses.

"TWO BARANIKS"
Johannesburg.

Banning Condemned

The East London Branch of the A.N.C. and Youth League condemns in no uncertain terms the banning of Mr. C. J. Fazzie under the Suppression of Communism Act. Mr. Fazzie has been prohibited from attending gatherings in any place in the Union and S.W.A. for five years. This order has caused an unperishable agony to all members of the local branch up to the top level.

The intimidation and threats shall never deter the forces of the oppressed from fighting for liberation. The A.N.C. shall never accept perpetual white domination.

F. GCOBO, President.
D. HOHO, Secretary.
A.N.C.Y.L.

1324 Ncingo Street,
Duncan Village,
East London.

travel but live in outlook, in the days of the ox-wagon.

H. MTETWA
Block CD1, New Brighton.

THIS week New Age has as usual received many letters from the most remote parts of Southern Africa. We are going to present extracts from these letters to show more clearly than any words of our own can describe why we call ours the "people's paper" and feel justified always in asking you, our readers, to donate liberally so that New Age can reach those who so urgently need it to show them the way forward.

(A) From a farm somewhere in S.W.A. comes this note:

"... I am not living in town any more. I am out on the farm. I am an old man and there's no work in town for me. And I am just got out of hospital. I was there for seven months and I just got out in Feb. I am glad you remind me of the paper, because all other papers they can stop but my paper I doesn't want to stop till I

WE SALUTE THE WOMEN

We salute the women who made their way to Baragwanath Hospital for the demonstration against passes for nurses organised by the Federation of S.A. Women and the ANC Women's League. The courageous and dignified behaviour of the women despite the unprecedented and outrageous display of armed force and the crippling road blocks is yet another measure of the growing strength and unity of the women of South Africa.

While we record appreciation of the courteous welcome accorded to the women's representatives, we deplore the atmosphere of tension and suspicion created at the hospital in the days preceding the demonstration. The air of secrecy was brought about solely by the hospital and police authorities. The Transvaal Chairwoman of the Federation of South African Women had made a public announcement of the demonstration to some 5,000 people at the National Workers' Conference on March 16 and had called upon women to go to Baragwanath Hospital for the demonstration.

The Federation of South African Women pledges its continued support to the nurses in their gallant struggle against apartheid in their profession.

We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental right to freedom, justice and security.

BERTHA MASHABA
HELEN JOSEPH

Joint Regional Secretaries
Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women,
P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.

Coloureds Must Learn From Africans

We should have nothing to do with the forthcoming Coloured elections on April 3.

I need not enumerate the sufferings and degradation of the African people since Separate Representation was foisted on them. Are we unable to learn from the experience of our fellow sufferers? Will a Beyleveld or a Bloomberg succeed where a Molteno or a Ballinger have failed?

Although I will agree that the boycott may not work in certain cases, yet this is one time when the boycott must be applied 100% and so confound the Nationalist law and strengthen the hand of our United Nations supporters.

I. SABAN

"Dawn,"
Sir Alfred Avenue.

(A boycott in the Coloured elections will help the Nats and the U.P., and harm the cause of the Coloured people.—Ed.)

"MY PAPER I DOESN'T WANT TO STOP UNTIL I DIE"

die. I've just got two pounds together and I am sending so that you may carry on with the paper . . ."

(B) From a Zulu student at a college in Natal:

"It is difficult to express my gratitude. My subscription expired in October last year. . . I have been going through these ups and downs of Life but you never forsook me. I cannot think of a nobler justification for the donations you ask for from the public. I am not being selfish when I say I felt much ashamed of receiving these copies with my subscription long overdue. I was not worthy of it. Anyway as it may, Forward into Light. Enclosed 18/- . . ."

(C) From a young African scholar

in a tiny village in the Transkei:

"May I have some copies of New Age for which I have enclosed 3/6d. including postage. . . I am sorry to give you so much trouble by not paying the full subscription. I am only a scholar and have not got the money and there is no New Age agent here . . ."

These letters are not exceptional. They are typical of many letters which we receive every week from all corners of the Union and beyond. Somehow or other these readers have scraped together their last pennies to pay for their paper. There are many others who just cannot manage it and who tell us that they will pay later if we "just carry them for a few weeks". We

EDITORIAL

GOVT. PLANNING ATTACK ON NEW AGE

NEWS we have received in the last couple of weeks indicates that some sort of case is being cooked up against New Age. What it is, we don't know. There is not much point in speculating about it.

But one thing is clear: sooner or later this fascist Government, which cannot tolerate any form of opposition to its policies, must try to silence New Age, the voice of the people, just as it tried to silence its predecessors the Guardian and Advance.

New Age is the symbol of people's resistance to the tyrannous policy of apartheid. Its very existence is a challenge to the beastly racial theories of the Nationalists. Every issue is an exposure of the tortures which apartheid inflicts on our people. And at the same time, every issue is a spur to encourage our hard-pressed people to fight back, to fight like lions for the freedom that Strijdom denies them. So long as New Age lives, the hope of a glorious tomorrow can never die in the breasts of our readers.

New Age insists on its right to continue publication. We are a legal, registered newspaper, and more than any other newspaper we can claim to speak for the vast majority of the people of this country. If we are being attacked, it is not because we have, like the Nationalist press, preached racial hatred, white supremacy; or, like the so-called English press, have served vested interests. It is because we have preached the brotherhood of man, and have lent our support to the cause of those who fight to bring it about in South Africa.

We reject with contempt the charges which the Nationalist Government may bring against us. Who are these men, the admirers of Hitler and the violators of basic human rights, to make accusations against us? They may pass laws and bring actions to destroy us, but they can never purge the passion for peace and freedom which burns in the hearts of all our peoples, and which will yet flare up to consume the monsters who are turning our country into a Belsen with their shameful, filthy policies.

We shall defend to the end our right to speak, and we call upon all men and women of goodwill to join us in this defence, and to help beat back any new attack on press freedom in this country. Can there be any doubt that the cause for which we fight is just, that the cause of those who attack us is evil? All that is needed is courage and determination on the part of our people to put right what is wrong, and to place our country on a firm foundation of people's friendship and co-operation instead of hatred and suspicion.

There are signs on all sides that our people are rising to this challenge, entering the political struggle, facing the future with confidence. Of the eventual outcome there can be no doubt. All South Africans shall be free and equal, come what may.

treat each case on its merits and have never been let down by these poor workers. They in their turn pass the paper to others, and so our paper is read by many more thousands than actually subscribe for it.

Recently donations to New Age have again dried up. Please remember the many thousands like the three from whose letters we have quoted, and see that New Age is not forced to stop because you failed to send in your donation more promptly. Send it now.

LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS
Rummage, Ma Pa and Mrs. Pinto £12 11s.; Doctor £3; J.M.D. £3 15s.; G.C. 5s.; K. M. Pyramid 9s.; Students £2; Anonymous 10s.; Dora £5 5s.; C.B. per Dora £3; E.B. £3; McSweeney £1; S.A. £2; Anonymous £1 1s.; Anonymous £5; "H.B.M." £10; R. and J. £5; "Hand M." £1 10s.; Total £59 6s.

ANC MOVES TO RESTORE UNITY IN TRANSVAAL

Disciplinary Action Taken By National Executive

SWIFT action has been taken by National and Provincial leaders of the Transvaal ANC to restore unity and discipline in the Province.

Soviet Abandons Atom Tests

LONDON.

The Soviet Union has announced that it has unilaterally abandoned the testing of atomic weapons and has challenged the West to follow suit.

The West has replied to the challenge by announcing that it intends to continue with its tests.

Randfontein Move Against Protectorate Africans

RANDFONTEIN.

The Nationalist-controlled Randfontein Town Council has intensified the move to place Africans born in Bechuanaland Protectorate, Basutoiland and Swaziland on the same footing as "foreigners."

The Manager of Non-European Affairs, Mr. C. L. Boon, has issued a notice warning that May 5 is the deadline. By this date, Africans other than those born in the Union or South West Africa must have applied for permits to remain in the proclaimed area (which includes the urban area of Randfontein).

After this date, Africans from the High Commission Territories who are not in possession of the necessary permits render themselves liable to arrest, according to the notice.

Applications which are made after May 5, 1958 will be dealt with on the same basis as applications for permission to enter the area for the first time.

Nats. Desperate For Police Recruits

PORT ELIZABETH.

The Nationalist Government has mounted an intensive campaign to recruit a large number of young men into the Police Force. At New Brighton this week canvassers used every trick to persuade young men to join. They announced that even those who have not got passes should come forward.

In the reserve the Native Commissioners have issued instructions to the headmen to find 25 recruits in every district.

COD Protest at Barrenblatt Ban

CAPE TOWN.

The Cape Town branch of the S.A. Congress of Democrats has issued a strong protest at the ban placed on its National Secretary, Yetta Barrenblatt.

"Coming with the arrest of our leaders on charges of high treason this can only be seen as an attempt to kill our organisation," says COD.

"There can only be one answer from all members of COD. That is to work harder for the removal of the Nationalist Government, and the winning of the ideals expressed in the Freedom Charter. We would be betraying our highest ideals if we allowed the new attempt to end our organisation to succeed."

The voluntary en-bloc resignation of the Provincial Executive has opened the way for the establishment of a broad 11-man committee which will administer the affairs of the Province pending new elections. This committee includes members of the National Executive, the former Provincial Executive and the former Requisition Committee. All are pulling together for the good of the movement in the Province.

Meanwhile the National Executive is taking stern action against members who—in defiance of a directive from headquarters—attended the disruptive "Africanist" Conference in Pretoria and elected a so-called "caretaker committee". Action is also being taken against those who took unauthorised possession of the property of the Provincial Executive.

Dr. Tsele, secretary of the committee, has been ordered to see that it is disbanded forthwith. And Messrs. Madzunya and Siwise have been instructed to return the Congress' motor car within 24 hours.

BRANCHES ACT

The "Africanist" bubble has been pricked. Its sponsors are also facing trouble in their branches. The Orlando East Branch, which Messrs. P. Molotsi and P. Leballo claimed to represent at the Pretoria conference, has denounced the conference and repudiated them. The Western Areas Region has instructed Mr. Siwise to withdraw from the "caretaker committee", following a decision to this effect taken at a mass meeting of Congressmen in the area. And Mr. Madzunya is facing disciplinary charges in the Alexandra region of Congress.

Practically every Congress branch

in the Province is responding with the greatest enthusiasm and relief to the signs of new firmness and determination in ending quarrelling and restoring discipline and unity.

DURBAN CALLS

(Continued from page 1)

resolution adopted at the National Workers' Conference held in Johannesburg recently.

A leaflet headed **THE NATS MUST GO!**, reviewing Nationalist policy in regard to the Non-White peoples, states: "We cannot vote the Nationalists out of office, but we can fight back."

Urging the people to "hit the Nats where it will hurt most", the leaflet calls for a boycott of certain brands of cigarettes which the Protest Week Committee alleges are produced by companies controlled by leading Nationalists.

The leaflet calls on the people to make three days of sacrifice from April 14 to 16. It calls on the people:

- Not to buy from shops in town during these three days and to do all their buying before the 14th.
- Not to go to the bars and beer halls.
- To stay away from bioscopes and other places of entertainment.

Explaining the reason for this self denial, the leaflet states: "The empty shops, bars, beer halls and bioscopes must show the White electorate and the world that the Non-White peoples want an end to the tyrannical rule of the Nats."

MADZUNYA—CONGRESS' "ODD MAN OUT"

MR. Josias Madzunya received a boost from the ruling-class press last week when he condemned the decision of the National Workers' Conference to stage demonstrations during the week of the general election. Although described by these newspapers as an "ANC chief" and "powerful politician," Mr. Madzunya, in fact, has for a long time been regarded as "the odd man out" in Congress, and opinion inside the ANC is that his latest move was the "final nail in his political coffin."

His career inside Congress gained him considerable dis-favour. In 1950 he was a member of the so-called National-Minded bloc in the Transvaal ANC. When this group was defeated many of its members disappeared from the scene, but Mr. Madzunya and a few others remained. He continued to attack Congress policy of co-operation with other racial groups, and sided with Africanist M. P. Leballo.

Madzunya stood apart from the campaign against the Western Areas removals



Mr. Madzunya at the multi-racial conference last December.

In 1954 a Congress commission of enquiry into his activities could not find strong enough reason to expel him, but he has been constantly charged with sabotage of Congress campaigns.

Although he attended the Congress of the People in 1955

and spoke in favour of the Freedom Charter, he later attacked it as a "document from Moscow."

During the bus boycott campaign on the Reef in 1957, he and his group did all they could to prevent a settlement and urged people to "boycott, boycott and keep on boycotting."

In the face of all these activities, whatever support Mr. Madzunya had among loyal Congressites and the Africans on the Rand has waned considerably, and his part in the present controversy in the ANC arising from the special conference held in Johannesburg did nothing to raise him in the eyes of the people.

It was Madzunya personally who confiscated the Congress car in the raid on Congress offices last month and has not returned it since.

General feeling is that his latest attempt at disproving ANC support for the Workers' Conference and its decision will gain little support among the African workers on the Reef, and will prove the final blow to his influence.

VERWOERD DEPORTS TWO TRIBAL LEADERS

JOHANNESBURG.

IT seems that deportation of anti-Government tribal leaders in reserves is becoming the order of the day. Last week leaders of the Tlokoa tribe in Ramakgopastad, Messrs Reuben Magato and Douglas Ramakgopa, were deported to the Cape.

Ramakgopastad is one of the areas where Verwoerd has banned the African National Congress and imposed several restrictions on the people. Trouble has been brewing in Ramakgopastad since a section of the tribe, particularly those working in Johannesburg, levelled corruption charges against Chief Ramakgopa and demanded a Kgotla meeting.

The Government arrested the leading spokesman and charged him with holding an illegal meeting. The Chief-backed proclamation requiring the people to have permits before entering the reserve and banning the A.N.C. says: "The trouble comes from Johannesburg," referring to tribesmen working in the city.

Mr. Douglas Ramakgopa, one of the deported men was accused by the Chief of plotting to seize power. The other deportee, Mr. Reuben Magato, gave evidence for the defence in the illegal meeting case and has since then been threatened by the Chief.

Peddie is a Seething Cauldron

PORT ELIZABETH.

Peddie is once more being patrolled by armed police. The atmosphere is tense in the whole reserve. The trouble began when the NAD started erecting a fence under the Rehabilitation Scheme without the consent of the people. The fence has been destroyed.

When the police started their investigation they met the stony silence which the people in the area have developed into a formidable weapon of defence during the course of their prolonged struggles against the crushing weight of South Africa's apartheid tyranny.

Police Chief Goes Visiting

JOHANNESBURG.

SPECIAL BRANCH CHIEF SPENGLER and his men have paid four visits in the last two weeks to the offices of the Indian and African Congresses here.

The first visit was strictly official: armed with a warrant, the posse of detectives searched the offices during the raids on the eve of the National Workers' Conference.

The night of that same day six detectives, among them Chief Spengler, walked in again, went from office to office without uttering a single word, and then left.

Three days later there was a similar visit. Twelve detectives had a good look round but again left without saying anything.

The next visit, one morning last week, Chief Spengler was more talkative. He was paying a social call, he said, but presumed he was a little late for tea!

Then he and his co-detectives went out again without another word of explanation!

Trade Unionist Arrested

PORT ELIZABETH.

Early last week Langa Njamela, a trade union organiser, was arrested as he crossed the Railway Bridge at New Brighton. At the time of the arrest he was carrying trade union application forms. The police have refused to grant bail on the grounds that they are still carrying out investigations in connection with a directive from the National Working Committee of the ANC.

New Age understands that among other things the directive calls upon the youth:

- To support the STAY AT HOME CALL.
- To participate fully in all the demonstrations that will be staged during the protest week.
- To celebrate the anti-colonial struggles of the oppressed millions of people on April 24.

"Ease Tasks of Soviet Women"—Kruschov

MOSCOW.

The sight of women with brooms and shovels cleaning the roadways, long a source of press comment, will soon be a thing of the past, Soviet premier Kruschov told a recent workers' meeting.

Foreign visitors were quite correct in criticising this aspect of Soviet life, he said. It was unthinkable that the land which had launched the sputniks should not be able to provide the necessary machinery to mechanise such tasks and thus ease the work of the women.

NEW TREND IN FRENCH ELECTIONS

In Algeria, in spite of the French army's use of the most advanced weapons of war, combined with the most primitive savagery and ruthlessness, the liberation movement, poorly equipped and without military training, is stronger than ever.

And in France, in spite of the whipping up by the government of patriotic war fervour, and the labelling of the Communists as "traitors", the Communist Party is moving from strength to strength.



Here is one of history's best examples of how an oppressed colonial people and the advanced workers of the imperialist country can derive strength from and complement one another in the struggle against their common enemy.

COMMUNIST VOTE RISES

All French political commentators are drawing attention to the significance of the increase in support for the Communist Party shown at a recent series of by-elections. In each case the Communists were the only party to stand foursquare behind the demand for peace in Algeria and an end to the war against the Algerian people. In each case, in spite of feverish Press campaigns against this "treason", and in spite of the maximum publicity given to renegades who left the Communist Party at the time

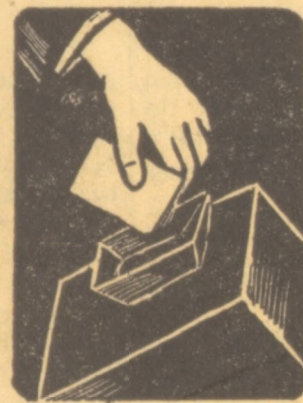
of the Socialist Party candidate. He is forced to keep quiet about Algeria because his party is part of the government which is waging a campaign of terror and torture there. But he knows very well that the rank and file party members are wholeheartedly disgusted with the government's policy. And to make matters worse, Daniel Mayer, who is one of the Socialist Party M.P.s who represent this constituency, was elected in 1956 on a programme of peace in Algeria, and has opposed his party's policy in parliament.

Marcel Cachin's seat will not be filled by a Communist. In the general election his party polled 20.9% of the constituencies' votes. This was sufficient, under the proportional representation system, to return two Communists among the ten M.P.s elected. But in the by-election some sort of anti-Communist coalition candidate is sure to win. Nevertheless the party is, of course, using the occasion to expose the bankruptcy of the warmongers.

The right is faced with the growing possibility of sweeping left-wing gains at the next general election—when rank and file pressure in the Socialist Party could lead to the acceptance by that party of the Communists' standing invitation to combine forces and form a Popular Front government. The Gaullist, Conservative and Fascist parties are preparing to meet any such move towards a peaceful transition to socialism with the traditional methods of the desperate capitalist class—force and violence.

FASCIST DEMONSTRATION

One of the first demonstrations of fascist strength and arrogance was the recent widely-publicised march on parliament by the Paris police force. For over two hours all traffic in the centre of Paris was stopped while the police surrounded parliament and shouted: "Algeria must stay French", "Hang the Jews", "Throw the deputies in the river".



"Fascist control of the police is the direct result of the Algerian war," the New Statesman (March 22) noted. "... the police are currently engaged in a race war, and anyone with a dark skin is now automatically suspect and liable to be shot on sight. . . . In this atmosphere the police are gunning not only for Algerians but for those they call the 'defeatists'. . . . In recent weeks the police have been working more or less hand in glove with the street gangs controlled by (fascists) Biaggi and Le Pen. . . . The Fascist weekly *Rivarol* supplies the rank and file with their orders."

But the fascists were astute enough to know that they were not yet in any position to try any coup d'etat. Though nothing barred their way from walking into parliament and carrying out their shouted threat "Hang the Jews and Communists", the police mob contended itself with shouting and finally dispersed of its own accord.

FASCISTS WON'T SUCCEED

For, as *Time* (March 31) noted with a trace of sadness, "Despite the political debility of the French Republic, France is not yet on the verge of a coup d'etat. The one individual who might bring off a coup—General Charles de Gaulle—cannot hope to do so without a far graver crisis and far more parliamentary support than he now commands. The unrest in the French army. . . is still largely confined to a few embittered career officers."

There is another reason why the fascists will never succeed with a coup d'etat—and that is the lesson which the French workers have learnt from the past. Working-class unity will stop the fascist scum in their tracks.

As a first step, strengthened by the immense public anger at the police action, prime minister Gaillard summarily dismissed Paris police chief Andre Lahilone for not preventing the demonstration. The Socialists stood firm with the Communists in demanding that more drastic action be taken and that the Minister of the Interior, Maurice Bourge-Manoury, be sacked too.

In this stand prompted by the rise of fascism, the Socialist and Communist Parties stood together for the first time in years.



Delegates to the third national conference of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions held in Johannesburg recently.

Bosses Approached About £1 a Day —But Did Nothing

JOHANNESBURG.

ALL sorts of people are suddenly asking: Why wasn't a direct approach made to the employers about the demand for £1 a day and general wage increases? Why was no attempt made to negotiate?

The answer: Such approaches have been made, repeatedly and persistently. Here are the facts:

In June, 1957, the Management Committee of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions approved a memorandum calling for a general increase in the wages of low-paid workers and a national minimum wage of £1 a day. After being presented to, and approved by, affiliated unions and meetings of workers, the memorandum was placed before employers, including the S.A. Federated Chamber of Industries, the Chamber of Commerce and the Transvaal and Orange Free State Chamber of Mines.

The memorandum pointed out that the desperate economic position of the workers faced the country with "a serious emergency situation, which only emergency measures can meet". It proposed:

- (1) "Immediate and substantial increases" in wages;
 - (2) A £1-a-day minimum wage for "so-called unskilled workers";
 - (3) Recognition of and direct negotiation with trade unions of African workers, without State interference.
- Stressing the "extreme urgency" of these issues, S.A.C.T.U. offered "to meet employers' organisations immediately to discuss the above proposals, in order to facilitate direct negotiations with workers or trade unions involved".

EMPLOYERS' ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On August 20, 1957, Mr. C. D. C. Bain, "Non-European Affairs Secretary" of the S.A. Federated Chamber of Industries, wrote acknowledging the memorandum, stating that the S.A.C.T.U. proposals would be "circulated throughout our organisation for comments", but stating that the procedure of the Chamber, as a federated national body, would "involve certain unavoidable delays".

Feeling, perhaps, that the delays were becoming too protracted, S.A.C.T.U. wrote to the Federated Chamber on October 3, again proposing "direct discussions with

representatives of your Chamber". An actual time was suggested for the meeting—on the morning of October 9 "at any place suitable to you". A reply was received stating that the proposed meeting would be considered at the Chamber's Non-European Affairs Committee in the first week of November.

Since then no communication of any kind has been received by the Congress from the Chamber. The Congress of Trade Unions also proposed a joint meeting to the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce. In a letter, dated July 23, this Chamber declined the proposal on the grounds that they "were not a registered employers' association

P.E. PLAN COVERS WHOLE WEEK

(Continued from page 1) not sold in the shops at the location.

- On the 16th only all the children will stay away from school.
- In the Reserves the people are not to offer themselves at the labour recruiting stations for work on the mines, farms or any other place.
- The people are warned to avoid as much as possible walking about the streets in the location, or standing in groups, so that the police may have no pretext to provoke trouble.

The leaflet stresses that the struggle of the people is, in accordance with Congress policy, conducted on non-violent lines. The people are thus called upon to exercise moderation in everything. The leaflet makes it plain that the people should not expect emancipation from the Nationalist apartheid slave laws to come without effort and sacrifice. In fact, states the leaflet, this will be a week of abstinence, with all the hardships that go with it.

There was great enthusiasm at a

report back meeting of workers at the Orient Cinema on Sunday. More than 4,000 Coloured and African workers attended.

The meeting, which was preceded by one of volunteers only which met behind closed doors, took place in the afternoon and resolved that the workers in the Eastern Cape pledge themselves to carry out the decisions of South African workers of all races to stay at home as from April 14. The meeting also reaffirmed the conference decision calling for an immediate end of all passes. Further, the meeting expressed its determination to apply its energies to ensure that the Nationalists must go so that a true democratic Government, that will govern in accordance with the will of the people, will be established.

The correspondence was placed before the recent national conference of S.A.C.T.U.

and did not fix wages". An appeal from S.A.C.T.U. for the Chamber to reconsider this decision was again rejected on December 7.

On January 22, Mr. Massina, secretary of the Congress of Trade Unions, wrote finally to the Chamber, expressing the "deep regret" of the Management Committee at this decision, but stating S.A.C.T.U.'s readiness "at all time . . . to meet your representatives and discuss matters of common concern". The letter asked that the Chamber would "not close the door to discussions and negotiations between our two organisations".

The meeting pledged to carry out the struggles of the people during stay-at-home week quietly, and said that if there was any trouble, the responsibility would rest with the Nationalist Government.

In expressing solidarity with the Amato workers, the meeting resolved that if the workers are not reinstated, a total boycott of Amato products will be called.

NATIONAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE SHOWED

PEOPLE WANT A FIGHTING REPLY TO NAT. TYRANNY

In the first instalment of this article published in *New Age* last week, Mr. Harmel pointed out the dangers of a continuation of Nationalist rule. This week he shows that the U.P. is falling down on the job of providing an alternative, and that it is against this background that the decision of the National Workers' Conference must be viewed.

By MICHAEL HARMEL

But what alternative has the United Party to offer to the people? So far—none at all! When Graaff asks Strijdom "what he is going to do" about the projected general strike, he is making a confession of abject political bankruptcy. What would he do? That is what the country is entitled to know—above all at this time of general election. If the United Party, like the Nats, can think of Non-White demands and aspirations merely in terms of shouting for the police, then despite Graaff's brave words about adjusting "our attitudes and methods to these changed times," the people of South Africa—including the voting minority—are going to recognise that it offers no way out of the fatal dead end into which the Government has been leading the country.

WORKERS' CONFERENCE

The National Workers' Conference has done a great historic service for our country by thrusting these iron realities of South African affairs before public attention at the present time. Of course, we all have heard those voices which say that the workers have been misguided and irresponsible in raising their demands just now, that they have "embarrassed" the United Party on the eve of the election, and "played into the hands of the Nationalists." People who think and talk like that are failing to analyse the situation deeply enough.

Because of the mass movement of the Non-European people, and in particular because of the National Workers' Conference, the public of South Africa, White and non-White alike, are not at the moment interested in the wares of the professional politicians: the incredibly silly and irrelevant clap-trap of racialism, ancient history, and evasions which is their usual stock-in-trade. They are talking and thinking about £1 a day, the pass laws, and the prospects of April 14.

Here are the real political issues which pose an inescapable challenge to the parties in the election: a challenge to their statesmanship, if any, not merely to their aptitude in "slim" vote-catching techniques.

In the face of this situation—not merely a mythical "menace," a bogey created for election purposes, but an obviously genuine, deep-rooted and massive expression of the needs of a suffering nation—in the face of this, are the Nationalists going to proceed with what would be an unbelievably insane act of provocation, the banning of the ANC? Are they going to be mad enough to attempt to answer with yet more violence and suppression?

PEOPLE'S AGONY

And the U.P.? Can Graaff do nothing better than to call upon the Government to intervene—by pouring petrol on the flames? He must know that the present workers' upsurge is one of a peo-

ple goaded and tormented beyond endurance. He knows of the anguish of Zeerust and the agony of the Mamathola. The business and civic leaders in the United Party could recognise clearly enough a year ago the desperate poverty behind the bus boycotts—though they did little more about it than make soothing noises.

If the U.P. leaders know these things, why don't they say them? Why don't they tell the truth and come before the country with the

obvious fact that Verwoerdism, Swartism, brutal repression, is to blame for the nation-wide disturbances which are plain for all to see? Why don't they warn the country that to attempt to meet these demonstrations with further force and repression is to invite a

ANC UNITED

(Continued from page 1)

take an identical form throughout the country?

ANSWER: No. Political consciousness and organisation differ in various parts of the country. The people on the spot will decide upon the most effective form their participation in National Protest Week will take.

QUESTION: Is there any split in the African National Congress over this campaign?

ANSWER: I am not aware of any. I believe that there is the greatest unity on this issue in the African National Congress and organisations allied with us.

QUESTION: Mr. J. Madzunya of Alexandra Township has called for the African National Congress to dissociate itself from the stay-away protest. Any comment?

ANSWER: I do not think his call merits any comment.

QUESTION: Have the Congresses been approached by the Chamber of Industry or Commerce with a view to the setting up of any liaison body to discuss or negotiate wage increases? Would the African National Congress be agreeable to such discussion?

ANSWER: We are informed by the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions that repeated approaches have been made to these Chambers, without effective results. Such discussions would lead to a better understanding between the employers and the workers, but they could have no bearing on, and should not be confused with, the political demonstrations of National Protest Week, which include the demand for legislation for a minimum wage of £1 a day.

QUESTION: Are anti-pass protests part of the election time protests and what form does the A.N.C. think they should take?

ANSWER: Another demand of the National Workers' Conference is for the repeal of the pass laws. This should not be taken as a separate question. It is bound up with the demand for higher wages and the ending of job reservation, group areas and so on, which are the burning issues of today. Therefore we are not advocating separate action against pass laws at this stage.

calamity: an explosion whose end-effects none can foresee?

Why don't they come out boldly with the only possible alternative: an undertaking to meet the people's leaders, a recognition of the justice of their demands and grievances, a policy of—at least—concessions?

Because with their mean, petty politicians' outlook, they don't want to tell the voters these "unpleasant" truths. Because they have calculated that to tell the truth might lose them some votes. This calculation is not only petty and contemptible, a betrayal of the real interests of the country. It is also utterly mistaken and wrong.

Telling the truth now; coming forward with a genuine alternative policy: this will not lose the election for the U.P. In fact, with things as they are, even at this eleventh hour, it affords the main, probably the only hope of opening the eyes of the voters and defeating the Nats. And the U.P.'s glaring failure to do so in fact playing into the hands of the Nats.

Moreover, even if by some extraordinary fluke the U.P. were—without challenging any major aspect of Nationalist policy—to be returned in the election on their present appeasement policy, or rather lack of policy, what sort of Government would they form? And what sort of policy would they follow?

It doesn't take much imagination to see what would happen. The Government would be the prisoner of the Opposition, dancing to its tune, continuing its policy, afraid to make the slightest concession to the masses, lest they be branded as Kafferboeties. What difference does it make to the country if Piet van der Byl replaces Verwoerd as the King of the Africans—and continues the same hateful and perilous policy?

Viewed thus in its broader aspect, the issue is not one of gaining or losing a vote, but of changing the future for the better. The National Workers' Conference will be seen in retrospect as a major turning point in history.

(Written by Michael Harmel, 102 Progress Buildings, Johannesburg.)

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CHAPMAN'S BULK TOBACCOS:-

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MINE CAPTAIN.

WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

of the Hungarian revolt and who have thoroughly discredited themselves by their eagerness to be used by the right-wing, the Communist vote has gone up.

The Communist victory in the Marseilles by-election in which 250,000 voters participated (*New Age*, March 6), has been followed by a significant increase in the Communist vote in the even bigger Nord industrial and mining constituency. France's fifth largest electoral division, it has 560,000 voters, and as it is a working class area the tradition is that the Communists and the Socialists fight it out for the head of the poll.

In the latest elections the total Communist and Socialist vote increased and the right-wing vote fell. But, more important, it was to the Communists that the whole gain went, their percentage poll rising from 37.4 to 40.6 (since the Jan. 1956 elections) while the Socialist percentage actually fell slightly.

ALGERIA MAIN ISSUE

The Communists put the demand for peace in Algeria as the main point of their programme. The Socialist candidate, to use the words of the London Times (March 15), "preferred to skate over the matter". The candidate of the extreme right, jointly supported by the Gaullists and the Conservatives, stood for the intensification of the Algerian war. He polled 17.4%. But low as was this vote, compared with that for the Communists, it represented a 5% gain from the more moderate right-wing parties.



In other words, while the left is growing in strength, the fascists are growing too, winning members from the less extreme right-wing parties. (In Marseilles, it will be remembered the candidates in the final ballot were narrowed down to three, the Communist, the Socialist and the Independent Poujadist (fascist), the latter bearing the banner for the whole non-socialist right, and they came in that order in the voting.)

And then in Nièvre, with an electorate of 151,469, the Communist vote went up from 29.3% to 31.55%, the highest point ever reached in this constituency.

Trends are most strikingly illustrated in the current Paris by-election caused by the death of the immensely popular "old man of the Communist Party", Marcel Cachin. There are 600,000 voters in the constituency.

'SOCIALIST' DILEMMA

A feature of the election is the awkward position

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