

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY A. J. LUTULI,  
PRESIDENT-GENERAL A. N. C.  
AT THE PEACE CONVENTION HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
PEACE COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA,  
IN JOHANNESBURG, ON OCTOBER 27, 28, 29, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I thank the Peace Council of South Africa for inviting me to speak at this Peace Convention. The question of peace is of vital importance to a world suffering from many stresses and tensions as does our world at the present moment. I have been asked to speak on the subject "Africa Needs Peace". Let me at the outset point out that the question of peace cannot be discussed in a vacuum. Peace is indissolubly interwoven with the question of Freedom, for Peace without Freedom is a mockery and so it would be false to the best aspirations of man; on the other hand, Freedom cannot flower to its best except in a climate of peace, it should then be appreciated how for oppressed people such as we are, it would be futile and unrealistic to speak of Peace outside the context of the Struggle for Freedom.

Africa, like other lands, needs Peace, if her people are to be assured of engaging in constructive human pursuits calculated to enable them to live in comfort and security, and in friendly co-operation with others, but it is to her tragic lot that for centuries up to now she has found herself faced with conditions inimical to Peace and Freedom and it is fair to say, that for centuries Africa has not known Peace and Freedom.

In the distant long ago, she suffered from foreign invasion which plagued and demoralised her by slave traffic which denuded her of her human population already then facing a serious depletion through the ravages of tropical diseases. It is appropriate to note here, that in our day, this depletion, now mainly caused by the slum conditions and poverty-stricken state under which Africans live, especially in urban areas, still goes on.

In the face of this foreign invasion the African people in many parts of Africa found themselves honour-bound to defend the cause of peace and Freedom, which was being assailed by wars of aggression engineered by White invaders with the sole purpose of bringing Africa under White domination from which she has suffered since.

Even where a colonial power had come to recognise the sovereignty of a former dependence we generally find that in subtle ways it tries to continue its domination. This is glaringly seen in the Suez Canal crisis where Great Britain with the assistance of France and America, has challenged the sovereign rights of Egypt in her territory.

The domination of White Colonial powers over Africa was and still is a threat to Peace in Africa in that it is a denial of Freedom to Africans and in the manner in which this domination manifests itself it tends to raise the temper of the Africans to a fighting mood, and it is with great difficulty and skill that African political leaders manage to keep down the temper of the people from flaring into violent actions.

This domination has perpetuated the enslavement of the people with dire consequences differing only slightly in kind and degree from those of the slave traffic of bygone days. Take as examples, the tragic effects in human suffering of the Master and Servants' Act, the diabolic Group Areas Act, the vicious Native Urban Areas Act and the tyrannical Natives' Prohibition of Interdicts' Act, to name only but a few of the harsh Apartheid Laws in the Union of South Africa. Let me quote another example from another territory in Africa. In Kenya we have witnessed a disgraceful slaughter of human life on the pretext of keeping law and order when it was in fact <sup>an</sup> attempts to cover the failure to face to the basic causes of the struggle in that territory which were the cry for more land and the cry for participation in the Government of the country. The same situation with the same tragic results obtains in the French territories of North Africa.

This conquest and domination of Africa by Whites resulted in Africa being partitioned into hostile camps among European powers who, to this day, have shamefully exploited her human and material resources largely for the benefit of White Settlers and Overseas interests and, at times, in the process, plunged Africa in serious threats to her Peace by wars of rivalry waged by White Nations among themselves. Whenever Peace was thus threatened as in the last two World Wars, as well as in local wars, the Africans, who then as now, were subjected to an oppressive White rule which denied them Freedom and peaceful living, invariably joined in the war efforts in defence of Peace in the belief that this would help to bring about a lasting Peace that would usher them into an era of Freedom for All. How much they have been disappointed !! It speaks ill of White Governments that they never gave any honourable recognition to the supreme sacrifice

made by Africans in this regard, but instead continued to rule Africans by hard undemocratic laws.

Despite disappointments and frustration caused by the continued harsh <sup>White</sup> rule in many parts of Africa, Africans still hopefully looked forward to and work for the realisation of an Africa in which true Peace and Freedom for All shall prevail. Africa has high stakes in the future for all her peoples. Potentially she has a great future before her in all fields of human activity: economic, social, political and religious. The very formidableness of the problems her people have to face, gives them a unique chance of making historical conquests in many fields of human endeavour and so showing the world what mettle they are made of: conquest in exploiting for the benefit of all the people, her untapped material resources; conquests in the field of human relations in multi-racial societies. The African people need Peace and Freedom, for they have a name to redeem. The native peoples of Africa for long vilified, despised and trodden under foot, look forward to Freedom in a peaceful future that will give them an ~~amp~~ opportunity of flowering to their best among their fellowmen in the world, by making their contribution to human progress and in this way redeem to a place of honour the name of our beloved Africa for long contemptuously described as "Darkest Africa". Africa needs Peace in order that the Freedom she is seeking for, when and wherever obtained, shall be enjoyed in peace if this Freedom is not to suffer the fate of a still-birth or remain dwarfed forever. Africa needs peace so that the Freedom she is entitled to may be obtained by peaceful negotiations and not by having to face police intrigues and intimidations and worse face machine-guns; a case of a child asking for bread and being given a scorpion.

Liberty is on the march elsewhere in the world and domination is taking to flight in many parts of the world, notably in Asia. It is therefore most tragic that in some parts of Africa we should still find White Governments exclusively entrenching the White <sup>can</sup> section of the population, and often doing this by means that disturb Peace in the territories concerned. It is regretful to note that these White Governments in Africa are now trying hard to make Africa an arsenal in any future world-wide conflagration instead of bending their energies more in the direction of providing these territories with adequate peaceful means of enhancing human existence.

In the interest of Peace they so much need, the people of Africa must take note of, and oppose all those forces that jeopardise their future, and must actively align themselves with forces that genuinely and earnestly search for means and ways of securing and safe-guarding the basic foundations of life, Freedom and Peace, for these forces, by so doing, are making heroic efforts to save modern man from annihilating himself, not only by the deadly means of modern warfare that threaten the continued existence of the human race, but by turning man into a beast for the tragic consequences of strife of any kind or degree, is that it does not only bring about inhuman conditions of living but tend to turn man himself into a beast by creating a climate that gives a flare up of his baser nature and so causing him to revert to his primitive jungle state where might was law and the survival of the fittest was the goal of existence.

~~In wars, that bring about human destruction we often speak about "Comrades-in-arms". I pray that the Peace Council of South Africa might succeed in creating a Peace Brotherhood in a Peace offensive whose object shall be to secure and maintain Peace and Freedom in Africa~~

In wars, that bring about human destruction we often speak about "Comrades-in-arms". But it is tragic that sometimes on account of suspicions and jealousies these Comrades-in-arms in war, turn into bitterest enemies. I pray that it the Peace Council of South Africa might succeed in creating a Brotherhood of Peace in a Peace offensive whose object shall be to secure and maintain Peace and Freedom in Africa.

Mayibuye I Afrika!!

Signed,

A. J. LUTHULI.

may not be  
so <sup>loyal</sup>  
with  
but rather  
that the Peace  
Council of S Africa  
might succeed

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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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