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*You can keep this  
Copy*

30th. June, 1947.

Rev. James A. Calata,  
National Secretary,  
African National Congress,  
Ntabethemba,  
P.O. CRADOCK, C.F.

Dear Sir,

I am in grateful receipt of your letter of the 27th instant anent Indian co-operation.

Natal reads the mandate given to the President-GENERAL and the Working Committee as strictly confining negotiations to within national organisations only, not to Provincial groups such as the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses. These Congresses it is felt, do not fall within the category of national organisations in the same way as our Provincial Congresses cannot assume the status enjoyed by the S.A. Conference of the African National Congress. That being the case, Natal holds that negotiations with Provincial organisations should be effected through Provincial Congresses subject to confirmation or ratification of the National Executive Committee or the South African Conference.

Secondly, Natal claims that no Province of the Union is competent to negotiate co-operation with the Indians other than itself, in that the preponderance of the Indian population is in this Province. Before an agreement could be reached with the Indians therefore, very important and vital issues involving political, economic and social differences would have to be examined and determined in the light of the very strained relations between the Indians and Africans in this Province.

Thirdly, there would seem not to exist closer and intimate consultations between the President-General and the four Provincial Presidents which would, if properly arranged, provide a clearing-house for the scrutiny of the decisions of the Working Committee in an advisory capacity to the President-General, particularly in view of the fact that decisions of the Working Committee are subject to ratification or otherwise of the National Executive Committee. Natal has been gravely embarrassed by the publicised agreement and pronouncements of the Working Committee which have not been endorsed or considered by the President of the Province who could, in turn, harness the co-operation of his Provincial Executive Committee in order the better insure a

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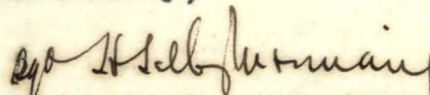
a measure of unanimity in all decisions of the H. our National Movement. There are questions of high national policies which cannot be left entirely at the discretion of the Working Committee and upon which the President-General should be chary to act without precognisance of the Vice-Presidents with whom he shares a joint responsibility, the National Executive Committee.

You mention the fact that the agreement was signed by Dr. Naicker on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress. He represented a Province in which he had, insofar as my Executive Committee is aware, done nothing to foster the spirit of co-operation which (co-operation) involves in this Province the fulfilment of certain vital conditions responsible for the very strained relations between the two races. In the absence of indications that the co-operation sought would guarantee the Africans a measure of protection from the Indians, you will readily agree that it would not be possible for Natal to accept an agreement in the framing of which she had not been consulted or given an opportunity to express her wishes and opinions.

Our Executive Committee has refrained from declaring what it knows to be the universal feeling of the Africans in this Province as it would not like to hasten a rapture within the ranks of Congress. It believes that time alone will solve this most delicate problem. In the meantime, it seeks to give the President-General an opportunity of presenting his case before the people of Natal, if he should so desire.

I shall await to hear from you immediately after your Conference next month as I am due to convene a meeting of our Working Committee immediately thereafter for the consideration of this correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

  
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

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