

E/1.5.2  
DS.  
50  
T

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DURBAN BRANCH HELD  
ON THURSDAY, 17TH JUNE 1954.

PRESENT: 8 Members.

1. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed.
2. Joint Action Committee. It was reported by J:-
  - (a) That the members of the Joint Action Committee would meet fortnightly.
  - (b) That a mass meeting would be held on the 26th June in the Gandhi Library Hall and the subjects to be discussed are:-  
The Significance of June 26th.  
The Congress of the People.  
Western Areas Scheme.  
  
It was agreed that the C.O.D. would be responsible for sending out invitations to European supporters.
  - (c) That a letter had been sent to the Durban City Council enquiring about the amenities on the Non-European beach.
  - (d) That a joint statement was being issued on the passport ban.
  - (e) That the first conference of the Congress of the People would be held on the 26th July and would be planned by the Joint Action Committee.
3. Finance. The Treasurer reported that £6 had been raised at a house party and that a jumble sale would be held on the 4th July.  
  
It was agreed that the costs for advertising and hire of the Caxton Hall in connection with the Western Areas Scheme meeting would be refunded to JA after the jumble sale.
4. Meeting with Canon Collins. The members noted that a meeting with Canon Collins had been arranged for the 19th June and the members present at the meeting were invited to attend.
5. Western Areas Scheme. It was noted that P. would convene a meeting of the Congresses and Liberal Party for the purpose of planning a campaign to be followed by a conference.
6. A talk was given by BF on the Branchise.



Notas deur *H. White*

VERGADERING : "KAYA MANDI", STELLENBOSCH - 4.11.1954. *g. 330*

**HEM THROK** :- "Mr. Chairman, comrades in the struggle, and friends, what a wonderful strong spirit you have here. I feel that this is the spirit - the spirit that encouraged Sam Kahn, the spirit that encouraged Brian Bunting, Fred Carneson and Ray Alexander, and so lately Mr. Lee-Warden. I feel the warmth of your humanity here.

Now friends, you see that I am very young, and here I am speaking to so many people. My father, my leaders, the older men, have been banned, and now the young people are coming forward. They can ban the leaders and the young volunteers come forward and take their places (applause). Now friends, I want to make a point with you. Mr. Warden is not standing as one man alone - he is standing for the Congress of Democrats, and when they banned the Chairman of the Congress of Democrats, I, a young learner, came forward to stand behind him.

Now friends, what is this organisation - the Congress of Democrats? Some people say "who are these people who have the cheek to call themselves Congress?" We know Congress belongs to the African National Congress. Now we must explain. We have taken the name Congress of Democrats because we identify ourselves with the African National Congress - we are the white brothers of the African National Congress. Together with the Indian Congress we have formed the brotherhood of the Congress movement.

Now friends my organisation has got two big jobs on the go at the moment - two very big jobs, and jobs we can only carry through with your assistance. The first job is the election of Mr. Lee-Warden. Now why do we go in for this election? Every few years you see the Nationalist Party and the United Party sending out cars like those over these (pointing to the Police car), running around looking for voters and they have a terrific time - the quarrel and they argue and nothing changes. One year the United Party comes in and the next year the Nationalist Party. One day it's Malan and the next it's Strauss, and the people still suffer. Now why do we put forward our man for Parliament? First of all there has arisen a new menace in South Africa. The Nationalists we know, the United Party we know, and lately we are learning to know the Liberals as well. Now friends, you will see that when the election for Parliament comes round again how the Liberals run about in big cars looking for the votes of the white people. And we have now got a chance to show that they can only look for votes among the white people. The Africans are much too intelligent to vote for them. And so we are fighting this election because we like to fight the Liberals, and here is where we can never lose, because we are fighting with the African workers.

Now there is another reason why we are fighting the election. You know that Mr. Kahn sat for Parliament. Now we know that by putting forward our candidate the whole of South Africa is bubbling (babbling?). In the fight for Parliament Mr. Warden is taking the banner of the Congress movement into Parliament. What is the banner of the Congress movement? Nkululeko!

Now friends every now and then there are elections with the United Party fighting the Nationalists. We know the position changes but changes will not come about through the United Party of the Nationalist Party. But we do know that Mr. Lee-Warden by himself cannot change anything in Parliament, by himself. We know that Mr. Lee-Warden will never be Prime Minister in this Parliament - we don't think he can do much in Parliament. But by being in Parliament he is a wonderful loudspeaker. The whole of South Africa will hear. You know how the newspapers, like the Argus, talk about Mr. Sam Kahn. And so the white people will have to listen.

The Congress of Democrats has got two jobs. The first one was the election, and the second one is the Congress of the People. Now friends, we ask you to vote for Lee-Warden, but we don't say be satisfied with that. There are many women around here and many, many men who will not be able to vote for Mr. Warden, and that is why we



are starting the Congress of the People ~~campaign~~ campaign. This campaign will give the vote to everybody - not like the elections now. The Congress of the People is the biggest Conference South Africa has ever seen. Thousands of people will come together to speak for freedom. Now these people will be elected by all the people in South Africa, and every man and woman, irrespective of colour, irrespective of religious belief, will be able to vote for the delegates, and these delegates will be special delegates. We know that Mr. Warden is a white man, and that is the best we can do under present circumstances. I am sure the Africans would like to elect an African. With the Congress of the People you will be able to do so. Thousands of Africans will be able to elect their own representative. Indians, Africans, and Europeans will come to the Congress of the People, and this time you will see a massive congress of all races. Now that is what we mean by democracy. We are not satisfied with Mr. Warden going to Parliament alone. We are going further and we are organising elections for everybody through the Congress of the People. This, friends, is the first step on the road to freedom in South Africa. Friends, freedom is very dear - nobody knows that better than you. But freedom is very dear to me also. It is dear to Sam Kahn, it is dear to Lee-Warden. Because in the fascist state of today nobody is free any more. Sam Kahn is banned - Lee-Warden is banned, tomorrow I may be banned.

Three weeks ago the Police put me in gaol. I went to an ordinary conference at George and they put me in "trunk" - and here I am. Friends, I may tell you that some of us are a bit frightened - we are timid - but we have something behind us - Police - and they make us brave (laughter & applause). They put us in gaol. And we know how the people suffer. The best school is not for us - the best school is gaol, and that is where we learn. (Applause). Nkululeko".

In antwoord op 'n vraag het TUROKG gesê :-

"My organisation stands for both Lee-Warden and the Congress of the People. We work hand in hand with the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress for the Congress of the People".

-----

(Notas afgeneem deur Nr. 12461 2/S/Serst. S.H. White).



**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

*©2012*

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.