

WORLD STAGE
By Spectator

ATOM THREAT TO AFRICA

THE keynote address of Prime Minister Nkrumah of Ghana, to the conference of African States last April contained a passage—ignored by most of the press—which takes on a new significance today.

After urging the Great Powers to divert the vast sums of money they were spending on stockpiling of armaments to the aiding of underdeveloped countries, this is how he went on:

“Like hundreds of millions of people all over the world we appeal to all the powers concerned to cease the testing of nuclear weapons. Radio-active winds know no international frontiers and it is these tests—in a period of so-called peace—which can do more than anything else to threaten our existence.

“BUT WHAT DO WE HEAR? AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS BEING CONTEMPLATED IT IS REPORTED THAT PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO USE THE SAHARA AS A TESTING GROUND FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

“We vehemently condemn this proposal and protest against the use of our continent for such purposes. We appeal to the United Nations to call a halt to this threat to our safety.”

DR. NKURUMAH'S FEARS ARE NOW FULLY CONFIRMED. ANY DAY NOW FRANCE PLANS TO EXPLODE HER FIRST ATOM BOMB IN THE SAHARA DESERT, AND THUS SHOW THE WORLD THAT SHE IS ALSO A “GREAT” POWER.

A QUEUE

Hot on France's heels in the queue to join the select atom club are Sweden, Israel and West Germany.

The situation is indeed serious, and for two very substantial reasons.

Firstly, the atomic bomb tests that have already been held have condemned tens of thousands of born and unborn persons to premature death through radiation. Now a whole host of countries are preparing to further poison the atmosphere with nuclear weapon tests.

There can be no question, either, of the much boosted

“clean” bombs being exploded. The French bomb will be as “dirty” as they come. That is why it is being dropped in Africa and not in France. (After all, what does it matter to the French rulers, who every year are responsible for the murder of thousands of Algerians, if yet another few thousand Africans are condemned to death.)

One wonders where Sweden, Israel and West Germany plan to explode their bombs. The signs are out:

“WANTED: Wide open spaces with few European inhabitants around.”

The second danger is that as membership of the atomic club increases, so will the chances of atomic disarmament decrease. With three atom-rattling powers it is already difficult enough. How



much more difficult will it be when a dozen nations have to submit to an agreement.

ANOTHER DANGER

And with this danger goes another danger, namely that local wars of the type that are at present being fought with “conventional” arms will be fought with atomic weapons.

After all, one need not strain the imagination to visualise people like France's General Massu trying to teach the Algerian nationalists an atomic lesson in those parts of Algeria remote from European habitation.

Similarly, an Israeli Government of the fascist Revisionist Party might not hesitate to “teach the Arabs a lesson” by dropping an atomic bomb on Cairo. And once Israel has an atomic bomb, Egypt will demand atomic weapons, and so the terrible cycle will continue.

Perhaps the greatest threat of all is that West Germany will have at its disposal a stock of atomic weapons. The Adenauer government at the moment is boastful enough about its expansionist aims, imagine how it will be once it speaks with an armory of nuclear bombs at its elbow.

UNHAPPY

It is reported that MacMillan was not too happy when De Gaulle told him recently that France was determined to become a nuclear power. Similarly, America is worried that her monopoly in the West of atomic bombs is being further weakened.

But what could Dulles or MacMillan tell De Gaulle? They could not ask him to stop France's proposed tests, because they themselves are continuing with tests.

They are also scared to share

atomic secrets with France because they fear, not without cause, that too many of France's leading atomic scientists are Communists. In fact, if it were not for the fact that a number of France's leading atomic scientists, like Joliot-Curie, refused to work on the production of atomic weapons, France would probably have been a nuclear power long ago.

SOVIET VIEW

The Soviet Izvestia has this to say recently:

“Instead of following the Soviet Union's noble example in unilaterally ending tests, as the peoples of the world urgently demand, the Western powers are not only continuing nuclear explosions on previously established testing grounds, but are switching them over to new parts of the world, endangering the lives of increasing numbers of people.

“And the clamour about nuclear weapon tests is increasing at the very moment when arrangements are under way for convening a summit conference. The Soviet peoples and all peace-loving peoples share the legitimate anxiety of the African peoples . . .”

STOPPED TESTS

Since that statement was made the Soviet Union has announced that despite Britain and America's failure to follow her lead in abandoning atomic tests, the Soviet Union will not resume such tests.

Announcing this to a delegation of representatives of seven British peace organisations in Moscow recently, Soviet Premier Khrushchov said that the Soviet Union hoped that the pressure of world opinion would change the U.S. and British attitude.

Now the experts of East and West are meeting in Geneva to discuss the problems involved in detecting nuclear tests. The U.S. has refused to agree in advance to the suspension of tests in the event of the scientists at Geneva arriving at agreement.

A CHANCE

This means that the chance exists that such agreement will be reached. For a long time scientists have been saying that there is no question of atomic bomb tests being held in any part of the world, and every time in the past that the Soviet Union has conducted tests the U.S. State Department has announced that fact.

Thus if the experts at Geneva report that it is not possible to hold tests in secret, the Americans and the British will find themselves hard put to resist the swelling popular demand to suspend tests.

There is not much time left. Britain and America must agree to end their tests now, before new countries have time to enter the atom race.

Now that African soil is to be blasted and the air over Africa is threatened with pollution, the voice of the people of Africa must be heard more insistently. Nkrumah has spoken. He must be shown that he speaks for the whole African continent.

And we in South Africa must wake up to the terrible danger that threatens us along with all the other peoples of the world. What are we waiting for? Must an atomic bomb be dropped in the Kalahari before the South African people force our Government to join those demanding an end to nuclear weapon tests as a preliminary to world disarmament?



A NIGHT IN THE LIMELIGHT—AND THEN?

Tennyson Makiwane reports on some men who were once famous but who are now

AFRICA'S SHAKY IDOLS

HOW to make a career out of music?

That has been the stumbling block of our Non-White jazz musicians who've known fame but have struggled to eat.

The new penny-whistle music is putting many on the map and two other big projected shows may win the battle against starvation for some of our top rankers. Alf Herbert's “African Jazz and Variety” is due to make a debut overseas; and the Union of Southern African Artists is getting ready to launch its KING KONG Operetta, which MAY turn out to be a great musical to match Carmen Jones in its gripping passion.

The dusty pavement and crowded dance hall have squired many a brilliant jazz musician—but the man with the saxophone or penny-whistle needs a steady job playing music, and bringing him in a regular pay envelope if he is to stay high in the musical heaven.

The story of talented African musicians who might have been “greats” but crashed to obscurity in the tussle to play and make ends meet is a tragic one.

EVEN while African jazz hits feature morning, noon and night on radio programmes throughout the jazz world, Willard Cele, the very man who rescued the penny-whistle from oblivion languishes in jail. It was his appearance in the African film “Magic Garden” which unleashed the penny-whistle craze in the townships. Earlier this year he was arrested and convicted for forging and selling passes to passless Africans whilst working as a clerk at the Germiston Native Affairs Department.

And what about such talented actors as ace tap-dancer, singer and trumpet player “Schoolboy” Majola who was one of the leading stars of show “Zonk Revue.” There is also his co-star in the same show, Dan Lekoape, at one time known as South Africa's Paul Robeson. He was last seen selling fish and chips in the streets of Benoni loca-

tion. Then again there was the dramatic break up of “Zonk Revue.” Right in the middle of a long season in the Durban City Hall it was disbanded and the performers, all of whom came from Johannesburg, were sent home packing.

SWINDLERS

SINCE the emergence in the early thirties of the popular African musician and stage actor, he has been either a victim of swindling promoters or of a hand-to-mouth existence.

The promoters or managers of many music troupes pocketed the profits and that was the cause of splits in some groups. At the close of some country tours performers would find that they had to sell their last belongings or sign on with labour recruiting agencies to raise the train fare home. Only recently an East London music group which went on tour to Lourenco Marques had to take on farm jobs to raise the fare home after they had been deserted by their promoter.

I have also seen the other extreme: performers surrounding their managers immediately after a show and demanding their shares. Those shares, of course, end up in the local shebeens that very same night.

“FOLLIES”

OF the earlier musical troupes “De Pitch Black Follies” led by the late Griffiths Motsieloa was perhaps the best organised and disciplined. Its variety programme of songs, short sketches, poetry recitals is still unequalled. During the war years this troupe toured the various camps and entertained the Non-European soldiers.

Soon a special troupe founded for this purpose continued to function as the “Nu-Zonk” after the war. Many African musicians thought their troubles were over with the “Zonk” show. They performed to packed audiences in the town halls of all the major cities in the Union.



DOLLY RATHEBE AND DAMBUZI MDLEDLI, SEEN HERE CHATTING TO LARRY ADLER, ARE TOP-LINE STARS TODAY. BUT WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THEM?

POLICE REIGN OF TERROR

JOHANNESBURG.

THE ANC has called for the intervention of members of Parliament in the never-ending reign of terror in the Western Areas by the police.

The letter to all M.P.s from the Western Areas Region of the ANC was also sent to Strijdom and Verwoerd, as well as high-ranking police officials and the Native Commissioner in Johannesburg.

Describing all the hardships suffered by the people of the Western Areas as a result of the pass-laws and police raids, the ANC letter says:

“For the past two and a half years the people have spent sleepless nights expecting the police to come at any hour of the night. The police choose to carry out these raids while the people are in bed. They come in troop carriers, armed to the hilt. They rush into a yard, kick and knock at doors, shouting and using the most abusive language you can think of.

Brutally Assaulted

In cases of delay, unavoidable or not, doors and windows are smashed open. The inhabitants are assaulted in the most brutal man-

ner, some dragged out through windows. Men, women and children with complete disregard for age or health, whether a woman is pregnant or not, all are treated alike.”

People are removed to the Newlands police station in great numbers, crammed into cells, and made to wait for hours before charges are preferred. In the end they are charged with being in the area with-

out a permit and fines of £2 to £5 are imposed.

Because of conditions at the police station and fear of losing their employment, the people have no alternative but to admit guilt and pay the fines.

TENSION MOUNTING

“The Western Areas are at present in a state of great confusion;

men and women live in constant fear. Whilst some evacuate their homes by night, others indignantly remain to face the police. These conditions are absolutely impossible and intolerable, tension is mounting by the day. The feelings of the residents are running very high, yet the Resettlement Board and the police take no notice and continue to harass the people.”

SACTU CONDEMNS SILENCE ON JOB RESERVATION

JOHANNESBURG.

A strong warning to the workers on the serious effects of job reservation was given here last week by the South African Congress of Trade Unions. This is a depression measure aimed at staving off unemployment amongst the Whites at the expense of the Non-White workers, says the statement.

The SACTU statement deplores the fact that many leading trade unions have remained silent on this issue. This was a challenge to all the workers and they dare not remain quiet.

With the job reservation already enforced in the clothing industry, several other industries are now under investigation by the Industrial Tribunal which recommends job reservation.

ASK FOR IT!

But even more deplorable is the action of some white-controlled trade unions in the building and furniture industry who have actually applied for job reservation to be enforced in those industries.

White workers must not be blinded into a false sense of security, says the statement. Already many White workers are either unemployed or are on short time. And many factories are closing down in spite of the safeguards.

20,000

WANTED

A DETAILED plan for its campaign to recruit 20,000 new trade union members and to fight for a national minimum wage of £1 a day was released by SACTU.

The task of organising specific industries is to be tackled not only by SACTU affiliated trade

unions but the assistance of all those active in the progressive movement is to be rallied.

The onus for the developing of the campaign will be placed on the shoulders of the masses of the workers themselves, who will be called upon to organise at their individual places of work.

Congress members who are eligible will be encouraged to join the existing trade unions and to form trade unions where none exist.

Workers committees composed of representatives elected by the workers themselves will form the nucleus of trade union activity in each factory. Later these committees will build up liaison with

similar committees in other factories.

But the workers must reject any committee formed by the employers in terms of any Act or otherwise.

It will be the duty of the workers committees to take up all the local demands of the workers directly with the employer. In this way through united action the workers will develop confidence in themselves and consolidate their unity.

SACTU calls upon every branch of the Congress organisation to place this campaign permanently on the agenda to be discussed and reviewed at each meeting.

Smoke and Enjoy

JOHN CHAPMAN'S

Famous Tobaccos.

Mine Captain

Chapman's Special**

Silver Cloud

Greyhound Mixture

Wayside Mixture

Champion Plain

Champion Mixture

Vryburger Mixture

Iris Mixture



CHAPMAN'S BULK TOBACCOS:-

DARK FINE No. 17 MMR.

MINE CAPTAIN.

“NO” to Ban on Banned

JOHANNESBURG.

“NO!” said the people of the south-western areas, rejecting the City Council amendment to the location regulations preventing anyone banned under the Suppression of Communism Act from standing for election to the Advisory Board.

The amendment arose out of the election of Mr. Leslie Massina, secretary of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions who was prohibited from attending gatherings for five years, but was twice elected to the Dube Advisory Board.

The City Council claims that the Location regulations should be amended to keep banned men out of elections.

HISTORY OF THE LIBERATORY MOVEMENT *By L. Forman*

THE Africans in what is now South Africa enjoyed a measure of democracy long before the Whites did, for rule by the chiefs in council was essentially democratic.

Democratic government for the Whites began in 1853. Until then neither Whites nor Blacks had had any say in the Cape government. The British governor had dictatorial powers. Agitation against this dictatorship had begun as early as 1827 when 1,600 Cape citizens signed a petition asking for the vote. In this agitation the Coloureds participated side by side with the whites.

When Britain granted the Cape its first constitution in 1853 it did so on the condition that there was to be no colour bar, and Non-Europeans, in fact, participated in voting for the election of the commission which, in 1848, drafted it.

Non-Europeans could vote for, and had the right to be elected to, the Cape government. No one, however, could vote unless he possessed land worth £25 or earned £50 per year, and this at first, effectively excluded all but a handful of Non-Europeans.

Didn't Like it

The Whites did not like having the Non-Europeans on the voters' rolls. In the northern republics, free of British influence, the Boers were following a policy many a Cape White settler secretly envied. Their constitutions said: "There shall be no equality between Black and White in church or state" and Africans were not allowed to own or lease land.

The constitutions admirably suited the needs of the semi-feudal, backward, ruling class of the little republics. The Boer landowners were the rulers; the Africans were farm labourers without rights.

Many Cape Whites made no secret of the fact that they would like the Cape to follow the northern example. Non-European leaders quickly became aware that they would have to be alert in defence of their vote. In fact the very first spurt of independent Non-European political activity in modern times occurred when, after the discovery of diamonds, Britain attempted prematurely to force the South African states into a union in the 1870's. Coloured leaders correctly foresaw that this would mean an attack on their rights. The British attempt to impose union failed and the Coloured political activity subsided.

Qualitative Change

Developments in the years 1881 to 1884 are an illustration of the fact that history takes sudden jumps forward—that a change in the economy will lead to the emergence, all at once, of entirely new social phenomena.

The discovery of diamonds in 1870 transformed the country's economy. This in turn created, by the early 1880s the conditions for new political developments.

These were some of the completely new things born in the short period between 1881 and 1884:

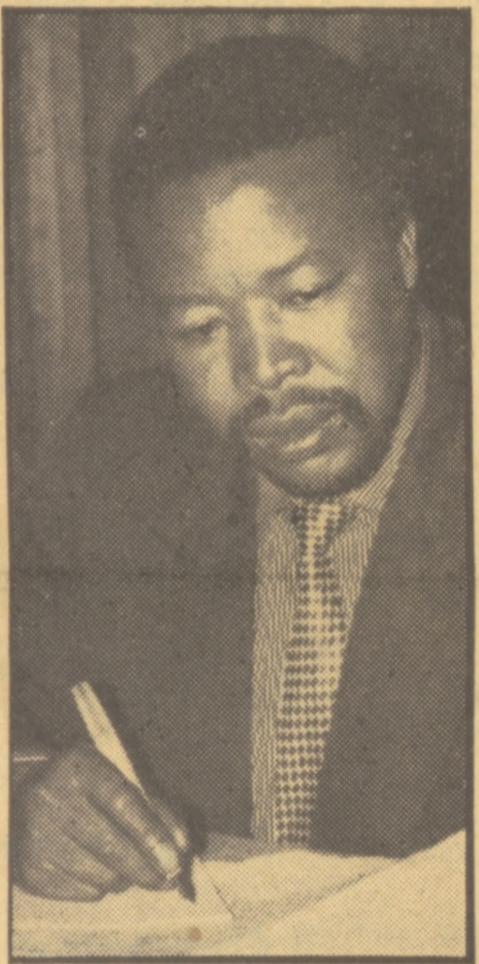
- The first South African branch of a trade union—December 23, 1881.
- The first independent African organisation, the Native Education Association, about 1883.
- Union of Afrikaners into the Afrikaner Bond, forerunner of the Nationalist Party—May 1883.

- The first Coloured political organisations — December 1883.
- The first independent African church—1884.
- The first African political gathering—1884.
- The first African political newspaper — November 3, 1884.

Began With Xosas

The first independent African organisations came into being in what is now the Eastern Province, the home of the Xosas, who, because of their relatively advanced economy and their numbers, were the first African people to come into contact with the Whites and survive.

The fact that the Xosas have by far the longest political tradition of any surviving African people is reflected in modern times by their



The new paramount chief of the Tembus, Sabata Dalindyebo. 74 years ago the Tembu Association held South Africa's first political meeting of Africans.

immense contribution to the Defence Campaign and the high proportion of Xosas in the ANC leadership.

The earliest was the Native Education Association, to the presidency of which Rev. Elijah Makiwane, was elected in July 1884. Makiwane's writings reveal a fairly advanced national understanding and consciousness. The Association did not confine itself to educational matters as is shown by a resolution adopted on June 20, 1884 protesting against the pass laws.

Tembu Church

In 1884 the Tembu Church, the first African-controlled church in South Africa was founded by Nehemia Tile, a former Wesleyan Methodist Minister.

Tile's break-away from White baasskap in the church, and the powerful Ethiopian religious movement which subsequently developed, is of great significance as the first real manifestation of African nationalism.

That Tile was a turbulent priest is illustrated by the fact that he was jailed in 1885 for urging the chiefs not to pay their taxes. Commented a newspaper, *The Journal*: "Advice and warning have been repeatedly proffered him by his

friends but to no avail, his only reply is that neither the fear of imprisonment, nor banishment, nor death shall deter him from doing what he believes to be his duty to his chief and people."

First Public Meeting

Towards the end of 1884 a public meeting of Africans was called at Mount Arthur by the Tembu Association. This was the first African political gathering and it received nation-wide press comment. Even the *Natal Mercury* reported this "new tendency in Native matters" and welcomed "impulses of this sort—so long as they are not identified with sedition and disaffection."

Simultaneously, important developments were taking place in the electoral field.

The Non-European electorate was growing steadily as wealth flowed into the colony as a result of the diamond discoveries.

The Coloured diggers in the diamond field were already facing discrimination, in spite of the absence of race legislation, and they were among the first to organise as voters.

An 'Africander League (Coloured)' was formed at Kimberley in December 1883. Its rules declared "That the object of the League shall be to promote our own general interests and those of our class in Griqualand West."

Electoral Association

At about the time of the general election of 1884 a Native Electoral Association was formed in the Kingwilliamstown constituency, which had the largest concentration of African votes.

It was in this election that a division began to appear in Parliament between those who, like the modern Nationalists, believe that white supremacy is best maintained by naked force, and those who, like many modern White liberals, believe it is best maintained by benevolent fatherliness.

To the Kingwilliamstown constituency with its African voters came the liberal James Rose Innes, and the Native Electoral Association agreed to back him.

There were 7 candidates for the constituency's two seats and Innes was the only liberal. In order to ensure his return the Association decided to advise the 90 registered African voters to vote for him and to waste their second vote rather than give it to any of his competitors.

"This they did with a constituency which created a sensation in the opposing camps," Innes wrote. The result was that he headed the poll.

J. T. Jabavu

Later that year—on November 3, 1884—a group of White liberals, among whom was Innes's brother Richard, founded the first African political newspaper, *Imvo Zabantsundu*. They appointed as editor John Tengo Jabavu, a prominent figure in the Native Electoral Association.

Their aim was to foster the African middle class, and to win over the intellectuals to support for the ruling class as allies against the African masses.

Jabavu was a man of unusual intellect. He was made an editor of the missionary paper *Isigidimi* when he was only 21, became South Africa's first Black matriculant at 23 and the editor of *Imvo* at 24.

But Jabavu was not made of the stuff great men are made of. He

was content to be a toady and a stooge for the white liberals, following them obediently in every twist and turn of policy even when it must have been clear to him that they were acting against the interests of the Africans.

He was throughout his life, the typical example of the aspirant bourgeois among an oppressed people, eager to break through into the ranks of the White oppressor and ready to turn his back on his own people.

So reliable was Jabavu that he was, occasionally, even allowed to write the *Imvo* editorials.

Coloureds

In 1884, too, early signs of a Coloured class-cum-national consciousness came from Port Elizabeth. In December of that year there was a move by the Coloureds to commemorate the jubilee of slave emancipation. A meeting called for "a more general and closer union among the Coloured classes, who have hitherto been separated by unimportant distinctions" and urged that the establishment of a newspaper "suited specially to the Coloured classes" be considered. It was to be in Dutch (the language of the Coloured people) and English.

Imvo's comment indicates that things have not changed a great

deal among the Coloured people. It said: "In the progress of the Coloured classes . . . may be seen an instance of a people who have been, ever since the emancipation, endeavouring to force their way into the pale of European society, but the circumstances . . . have rendered the attempt futile; and we hail this harking back upon lines which alone can make them a not unimportant factor in this country, viz. to build up . . . a society conscious of its independence and vitality."

* * *

The first five years of the 1880's then saw the birth of the national movement, taking the form of a struggle by the intellectuals and aspirant middle class to break into the ranks of the ruling class.

The next five years saw far more dramatic developments. Gold was discovered on the Rand. The first period of South African capitalism, beginning at Kimberley, ended. The centre of power shifted from the Cape to the Transvaal, and the second period began. Simultaneously there began the first attack on the Non-European vote.

These developments resulted in: **THE BIRTH OF THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT.**

(New Age, Next Week)

UP MY ALLEY

● RED HERRING

A READER wrote and asked, "Do you like to go to the movies?" so I took off and went to see a picture running the black belt in the Peninsula at the moment.

It turned out to be one of those "let's be nasty to the reds" things. You know, the kind of stuff they turned out during the war full of bad Germans, only this time they've substituted Russians for the Nazis.

Dana Wynter is a juicy piece—a bit on the scraggy side—who is sought after by Red wolves lusting after her nearer the bone. She's a FRAULEIN (that's the name of the picture, too) whose professor daddy was blown up (probably by a Russian bomb) at the end of the war.

When the Russians come Miss Wynter has the time of her life trying to save herself from a fate worse(?) than death. The Reds are slaving beasts (from Mongolia?) sweaty and with no hair on their heads. They are idiots, of course, who don't know what cigar cutters are used for.

One of them tries to use "diplomacy," even proposes marriage. But, no! Not for Dana.

Enter the hero. Yankee, of course (Mel Ferrer). All the yanks in this film are clean shaven, nicely dressed, and not a nasty word spoken. Lots of cigarettes, chewing gum and chocolates.

But Dana is suspicious of Mel, too. Is he also on the make?

She must be suffering from a complex.

Well, after dodging lots of things, including a house of ill-fame (one doesn't know who is stupider, Miss Wynter or the Russians) she is rescued by Mel from being on the run for the rest of her life, after being convinced that he is on the up and up, and after having been let down by an

old flame who has found a meatier morsel.

There is a Negro G.I. too (James Edwards) who seems to go to lengths to aid this damsel in distress, but of course he's black and what with the Immorality Act and all that he doesn't stand a chance.

AN OVERSEAS REVIEWER STATES THAT THE SCREENPLAY WAS WRITTEN BY ONE

★

By ALEX
LA GUMA



★

OF THE INFORMERS BEFORE THE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE. COINCIDENCE?

● SHADY RING

FOR some relief I went to see "The Harder They Fall," with the late Bogart doing a dishonest journalist boosting a fixed-fight racket. (Us newsmen!) Everything is crooked in this boxing business, and, according to the posters, the only thing that is square is the ring.

AT LEAST IT LEFT ME WITH A SUSPICION WHY SOME OF OUR BOXERS ALWAYS WIN IN SOUTH AFRICA—AND LOSE EVERYWHERE ELSE.

● BLACK TYPE

IN another field of entertainment I notice that the "Torch" now prints the word "herrenvolk" in bold letters, to make counting easier.

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

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 paper documents 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 held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.