

SECOND ASIA-AFRICA CONFERENCE OPENS IN CAIRO

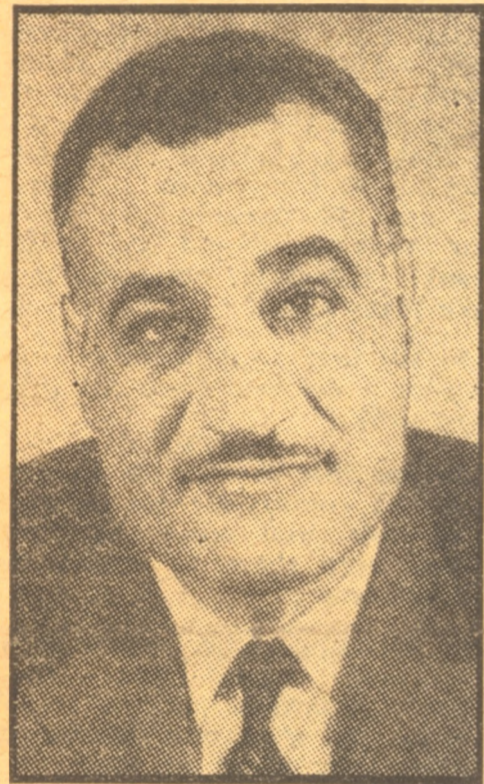
LONDON.

AGAINST a background of stepped-up anti-colonialist struggle in different parts of the world, the second Afro-Asian conference opens in Cairo this week.

HUNDREDS OF DELEGATES HAVE Poured INTO CAIRO TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD—FROM NEIGHBOURING SUDAN, FROM DISTANT JAPAN.

Altogether, more than forty countries are being represented in the biggest gathering ever of its kind.

Amongst the delegates are 40 men and women from the various



Colonel Nasser; his government is host to the Africa-Asia Conference.

republics of the Soviet Union. (At the first Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung the Soviet Union was invited to send only observers.)

Egypt, the host country, is being represented by a delegation of 82.

A number of delegates have also come from Indonesia, which is at the moment one of the key battlefields of the anti-Colonialist struggle.

There can be little doubt that the Conference will pledge full support to the people and Government of Indonesia in their struggle against the Dutch for the restoration of West Irian (Dutch New Guinea).

ALGERIANS WILL BE THERE

Also represented are the courageous people of Algeria, who are fighting for their independence from France. The Afro-Asian countries have consistently backed the Algerian people in their struggle, and the French colonialists will look on with dismay as representatives of two thirds of humanity endorse the Algerians' claim.

At the Bandung conference, Chinese Premier Chou En-lai made a signal contribution to the deliberations. China will be represented at the present conference by 24 delegates.

FOLLOW-UP ON BANDUNG

The present conference differs from the one held in Bandung in that there will be fewer heads of Government in Cairo than there were at Bandung.

Bandung signalled the official determination of the Afro-Asian people to make their collective voice heard in the determination of world affairs.

The present conference represents a desire to consolidate the spirit of Bandung at a lower than Government level.

The delegates at Cairo come from all walks of life. They include politicians, trade unionists, businessmen, artists, scientists, and students.

THE AGENDA

Amongst the items on the agenda are:

**In NEW AGE
Next week
'(Bantu) World'
Follows Strijdom's
Line —**

By Tennyson Makiwane

Imperialism and national independence;

A review of the international situation and its bearing on the Afro-Asian countries;

The prevention of the testing and use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction;

Technical, economic and cultural co-operation between the Afro-Asian countries.

SOUTH AFRICA

Of particular interest to the people of South Africa will be the discussion on racial discrimination.

At the Bandung conference, at which two observers from the Congress movement, Moses Kotane and Maulvi Cachalia, were present, a resolution was passed strongly condemning racial discrimination in general, and apartheid in South Africa in particular.

EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS JAILED

CAIRO.

An interesting political development in Egyptian politics in recent months has been the formation of a new Egyptian United Communist Party.

Although several members of this new Party were recently jailed by a secret military tribunal in Cairo, the Party has stood by its attitude of supporting the Egyptian national front headed by Colonel Nasser.

The new party was formed a few months ago by the unification of two of the three Communist parties in existence in Egypt at the time. A manifesto issued by the new party declares that its aim is to achieve unity with the third group of Communists so that all Egyptian Communists may be organised in a single united party.

The manifesto opens with the words:

"Our country is passing through a glorious period and one of historic importance. Egypt has become an independent republic. For the first time in its contemporary history it rejoices in a national Government. The latter, with our brave people and their army constitute a national front which defends and strengthens our independence.

"The Arab nation is growing and winning great victories," the manifesto continues.

STRENGTHENED DEMOCRACY

"Egypt stands on the threshold of a parliamentary life of a new type; it is taking a new step in the strengthening of a democracy and political and trade union liberties. Our economic independence is being strengthened.

"We can already see the perspectives of a life of well-being opening up, in which we shall be able to begin to reap the harvest of our struggle and to construct a flourishing national economy based upon free trade, modern industry and advanced agriculture."

The workers and their allies in

the Egyptian national front would welcome the unity of the overwhelming majority of Egyptian Communists in a new party, the manifesto claimed.

"NATIONAL BOURGEOISIE"

Among those who would welcome the new party with joy, it added, were the "national bourgeoisie, who have resolutely decided in favour of the road of national resolution.

"They consider the Egyptian Communists as the best defenders of our national Government led by the valiant President Gamal Nasser, and as the best fighters for the advancement of our national economy in which Egyptian capital will play a positive role."

The manifesto ends with an appeal for unity between all Communists and between all Egyptian patriots.

The secretariat of the new party later amplified its attitude to the present Egyptian regime in a statement commenting on an interview given by President Nasser to the U.S. magazine "Look".

DISAGREEMENT WITH NASSER

The secretariat's declaration stated that the party supported the general tendency emerging from the replies given by Nasser, but that it differed from him on certain questions of internal policy.

"We support the general orientation of his policy because it emanates from a national government pursuing a policy of independence in the interests of our people and of the programme of

our Party," the declaration continued.

"We are not in agreement with him, however, on the question of his attitude towards political parties and of the existence of a legal Communist Party in this country—an attitude which weakens democracy and which puts a brake on the development of our national front."

The declaration went on by quoting Nasser as saying that under the cloak of democracy and freedom, political parties in Egypt had served the cause of the agents of foreign countries and not that of the people of Egypt.

Nasser is wrong when he puts all parties in the same category, the secretariat statement comments.

"The popular masses are aware of how we are working to consolidate Egypt's independence and world peace. They are aware of our sacrifices and those of our comrades who are undergoing terror, prison and exile in the police deserts in order that the Egyptian people be sure of their future.

"We protest against the holding of our comrades in the prisons and desert concentration camps."

TRIAL IN CAIRO

At a secret trial in Cairo last month, an Egyptian prisoner was sentenced to the suppression of the Government of Communists had not ceased.

The Court sentenced 13 Communists to hard labour for from three to seven years.

Those sentenced included two girls, one a schoolmistress and one a student. Four of the accused were sentenced in their absence.

Despite these convictions, the Egyptian United Communist Party continues to call upon Egyptians to support the present Government.

The party stated that it regarded the trial as a blow against the national front in which Communists "were playing a distinguished part in support of their country and Government".

Those responsible for the trial were a small group of Big Businessmen behind the newspaper "Al Ahram," who lacked faith in the people and were afraid of imperialism.

"Their temporary and insignificant success should not permit us to forget the successes achieved by the nation under the present patriotic Government led by President Nasser," the statement adds.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT

Outstanding among these successes were the fight against the imperialist pacts and plots, the development of economic, cultural and political ties with the Socialist, African and Asian countries, and the support to Arab nationalism.

"We should not lose confidence in the patriotism of the present Government or in President Nasser," the statement concluded.

"We must continue to support this patriotic Government and reinforce the National Front."

Hungary's Runaways Fight Algerians

Forced into French Foreign Legion

NEW YORK.

HUNGARIAN refugees have been forced to join the French Foreign Legion for war against the Algerian people, the Algerian Front of National Liberation has announced.

The Front's delegation to the United Nations made public a 700-word document based on the testimony of a 19-year-old Hungarian who eventually succeeded in fleeing the Foreign Legion.

He is Sandor Szovinecz, who worked as a specialist in the coal mines of the Tatabanya region in Hungary. After the Hungarian outbreak he fled to Austria and was placed in a U.S. refugee camp at Landeck, Austria, on Nov. 21, 1956.

"Then he and 160 of his fellow countrymen, having signed a contract to work in the French mines, were transported to a refugee camp in Colmar, France," says the document.

FOREIGN LEGION PROPAGANDA

"There they were subjected to an intense propaganda campaign by recruiters for the Foreign Legion.

"Sandor and those of his companions who refused to enlist were sent away to various mining areas, Sandor being sent to Le Forret, near the Belgian border.

"Here, despite his condition as a refugee and a mining specialist, he testified that his living conditions were deplorable. The most difficult work was assigned to foreigners. No safety precautions were taken in the mine.

"Profiting from the general

alarm after the first fatal accidents in the mine, the recruiters for the Foreign Legion once again appeared. But this time no mention was made of the Legion. Workers were asked to sign up for 'service' in the Overseas Territories with the promise that they could later possess their own plot of land and bring their families.

"More than half the refugees, including Sandor, accepted. These volunteers were then given a paper to sign—written in French, which they could not understand.

"Once in Marseilles, finding themselves lodged in the barracks of the Foreign Legion, the refugees (about 30 in number) realised the ruse, and protested vehemently.

"The military police intervened, bayonets in hand, and threw the refugees into prison as 'Communists.'

"In prison they were offered a choice—either to agree to leave for Oran, Algeria, where they would be 'freed,' or to remain in prison.

"Faced with this hopeless 'choice' the 30 Hungarians agreed to leave for Oran.

"However, the efforts of the Hungarians to escape military service with the Legion did not cease. Many, Sandor among them, refused to serve and were placed in the disciplinary camp at Colomb-Bechar. Others attempted to be discharged by eating sardines they purposely left to rot in the sun, or by smoking cigarettes made of quinine powder (in order to appear tubercular)."

Sandor finally escaped and told his story to the Algerian Front of National Liberation.

AFRICANS REJECT NEW 'BANTU AUTHORITIES' SCHEME

JOHANNESBURG.

VERWOERD'S scheme to create "urban tribal authorities" is totally unacceptable to the Africans and is bound to end in failure say the leaders of the people here commenting on the latest NAD plan to create 'consuls' of the Bantu Authorities in the towns.

"The bringing of the Bantu Authorities in the Urban Areas is unwanted and it cannot work" said Mr. P. Lengene, chairman of the Johannesburg joint Advisory Boards in an interview with New Age.

Mr. Lengene said that many Africans had been born in the cities and had never seen the rural areas at all, nor did they have any ties with the countryside. These people could not be expected to accept the tribal system or the authority of a chief.

Urban Africans could not be ruled by people who represented chiefs who were outside the cities and knew conditions quite different from what was going on in the cities, he said.

FACTION RIOTS

Verwoerd's scheme is an attempt to intensify "ethnic" grouping whose disastrous effects have been seen in the recent Johannesburg faction riots.

It appears that the N.A.D. wants to establish stooges who will be the instrument of the government in crushing popular peoples' demands and actions. The 'consuls' will be expected to appeal to members of their particular "ethnic" groups and call upon them to desist from taking action against the government.

A mass deputation which pro-

tests or makes objection to a government scheme effecting a particular area, could be told to go to their respective "tribal consuls" if the scheme goes through. In this manner the N.A.D. hopes to frustrate united action amongst the African people.

ANC STATEMENT

In a press statement the African

National Congress calls upon the people in the towns to stand firm alongside the courageous chiefs who reject the Bantu Authorities Act in all its forms.

"We appeal to the people to be vigilant and be on the guard for this scheme which attempts to impose further restrictions on them and thus increase their exploitation" concludes the ANC statement.

JOHN MDLALO—STORY OF A WORKERS' LEADER

From

Melville Fletcher

"NDIGXOTHIWE NAMHLANJE" "I have been sacked today" were the words with which John Mdlalo, veteran trade union leader and staunch A.N.C. supporter, greeted me when he walked into the S.A.C.T.U. office recently. Mr. Mdlalo's trade union experience goes back to 1950, when he was employed as a labourer at Hulett's Sugar Refinery, Durban.

There he led a demonstration in protest against the poor food given to the contract workers employed in the refinery. Because of his militant leadership, not only the food, but the general conditions prevailing in the compounds, were improved. However, Mdlalo was dismissed, and being unable to find suitable employment in Durban, returned to his home in the Cape.

ORGANISED PRISONERS

From the beginning of 1951 to 1952, he worked at Good Hope Textiles and threw himself heart and soul into organising the African textile workers. After working there for three months,

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- the arrest of Congress leaders
- Congress campaigns and policy
- the 156 on trial

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CONGRESSES PLAN HUGE CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

mines, flats, office workers, farms, tac.

It cannot be regarded as a matter for trade union organisation only.

GET IT TALKED ABOUT

To get this conference talked about, watched and its decision waited upon by the whole country, will need the active work of the entire Congress Movement. For this reason, and because the matters to be discussed at the Conference are of vital importance at the present time, all Congresses have appointed representatives to serve on the £1 a Day Committee.

All regions are asked to give their fullest support to this committee so as to facilitate and make their work easier.

It is appreciated that there are

great difficulties in the way of sending individual factory or shop delegates from other provinces to Johannesburg for the Conference. For this reason, organisations have been asked to work for the holding of local or regional Conferences in all areas on the 15th and 16th February which individual shop or factory delegates can attend.

GREAT DIFFICULTIES

From these conferences, delegates to represent the whole region must be elected to go to Johannesburg on March 15 and 16.

Since the decision of the Johannesburg Conference will, it is expected, be vitally important, it is of no less importance that arrangements be made to allow the delegates to Johannesburg to report back to those who sent them, and carry the message of the Conference to the people as a whole.

NOT FACTORIES ONLY

Congress organisations which are not organised in shop and factory units but in residential areas, have a vital part to play in this campaign. They should hold regular meetings in their areas to tell people about the Conference and to see that their factories send delegates to the Conference. (If meetings are not possible, a door to door canvass should be undertaken). Congress branches must make plans.

- to see that every member organises a delegate from his place of work;
- to see that those with contacts in the countryside get in touch or visit rural areas and farms and urge them to attend the Conference;
- to encourage other organisations—local organisations, trade union branches, etc., to take a hand in organising delegations from their places of work.

NO DELAY, RED TAPE

For purposes of this campaign, there are very few weeks left to go. The work must be done immediately—without delay! In order to cut down red tape and formality, organisations are asked to treat recommendations from the £1-a-Day Committee as matters requiring immediate attention and action. Reports of progress and requests for material, explanations, etc., should be sent direct to the £1-a-Day Committee so as to avoid delays.

Let us make the National Workers' Conference greater than the C.O.P.!

Let us start off the New Year with a really tremendous Conference, launched by a nation-wide campaign! Let us prepare immediately for mass action by the people to back up Chief Lutuli's election call!

Forward for a £1-a-Day!
Forward to Freedom!
Away with Apartheid!
THE NATS MUST GO!

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