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# TOC H

TALBOT HOUSE



S.A. Headquarters:

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Telephone 33-0551.  
Telegrams: "Talbotouso," Johannesburg.

5th May, 1947.

Personal:

Quintin Whyte Esq.,  
c/o Institute of Race Relations,  
P. O. Box 97,  
JOHANNESBURG.

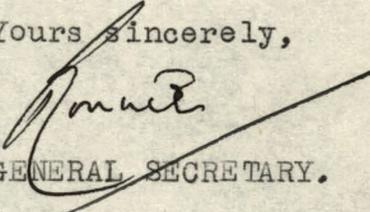


My dear Quintin,

I attach hereto a copy of the memorandum drawn up by our Durban Committee in regard to our communal restaurant effort, for your private information. While obviously we must take note of the findings of our Durban people I do feel that conditions in Chesterville are totally different to those in Alexandra and secondly, I don't think Durban folk have taken sufficient cognisance of the fact that we started off with European staff in the form of a supervisor. Two men held this position neither of whom were in my opinion suitable. By doing this I believe that we played into the hands of folk like Champion with their Africa for the African philosophy. On the other hand we know conditions in Alexandra at the moment are very far from normal. There is a good deal of agitation going on there and I think a very strong "anti-European interference" attitude. It seems, therefore, that for Toc H to go in and start, what might be called a commercial undertaking such as a communal restaurant, would probably draw their fire, whereas if we could start a community centre and develop the feeding as merely part of our service to the community we would be able to do a first class job and win their confidence.

With greetings to you and hoping that we can achieve something in this sphere.

Yours sincerely,

  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

TOC H SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Interim Report on Communal Restaurant run in Chesterville Native Location, Durban, at the request of the Union Department of Social Welfare.

Early in 1946 the Government approached Toc H Southern Africa with a request to start a communal restaurant for the under privileged classes in Durban. This restaurant was to provide meals on a non-profit basis and would be subsidised by the Government in respect of one half of the cost of the equipment with a maximum of £350, and one half of the deficit for the first twelve months, with a maximum of £210, and a further £102 for a period of twelve months towards rental charges.

The situation that occasioned this request was apparently an appreciation of the fact that the undernourishment of the lower paid classes of society generally was so bad that the ensuing malnutrition had reached serious proportions.

Toc H promised the Government that it would run such a restaurant and it was agreed that it should be run in the nature of an experiment for one year.

It was necessary that money should be raised for this venture in order to secure the balance over and above that provided by the Government. An appeal was launched to which the press gave publicity and the public responded most generously. Altogether £1500 was raised for this work. The time has now come when Toc H feels that the public, who gave so freely, and the Government should know, not only the history of this experiment to date, but also the developments made and the difficulties encountered in this work. This report, therefore, is to present the facts as simply and clearly as possible, in order that the whole position may be generally known and understood.

It being generally accepted that the Bantu were the most poorly paid and generally undernourished members of the community Toc H thus decided to direct its efforts to assisting this section of the community. After consultation with the Municipal Native Affairs Department and largely as a result of their advice it was decided to open the restaurant in the Chesterville Native Location Area, where there is a population of 18,000 Bantu (including the Cato Manor Area). It was fully recognised that in the Industrial Areas, such as Jacobs, there was a vast potential field where such an enterprise could be developed, but any scheme in such an area would not only be extremely difficult to organise in such a way so as to cover more than a potential field exceeding 3000, but would also be in direct competition with the present existing Native Eating houses which possibly would alienate the sympathy of the Bantu, further such a restaurant would, in the main, be serving only Natives who were in good employment, and would cut across the Bantu tradition of family meals. Moreover, it would leave untouched the vast number of pre-school age and school-age children and most of the women.

Such were the points considered by Toc H before they finally decided to open at Chesterville Location.

In/...

In order that there might be the minimum of delay, the only available premises at the back of an Indian Store on the very fringe of the Location were obtained and the restaurant opened in May 1946. Meals were sold at sixpence, and the ingredients were meat, potatoes, onions, carrots, samp, rice (or its equivalent) and curry. The hours of service were from 10 a.m., until 4.30 p.m., and the meal could be eaten on the premises or taken away to be eaten at home. Publicity by means of pamphlets and by broadcasts over the Public Health Mobile Broadcasting Unit was arranged. Results were disappointing and the response from the Africans, bearing in mind the population, was very slight. The number of meals served fluctuated, at the most 470 meals a week were served, but by October 1946, this figure had fallen to 243 meals a week. The experiment of opening on Sunday made no appreciable difference. However, the Committee felt that this lack of interest, possibly was due to the inadequacy and position of the then existing premises.

All this time negotiations were proceeding with the Municipality for a site in the Chesterville Location itself, and with the Government for army huts to be used as a building. Eventually, these negotiations were concluded and the restaurant transferred in November to its own building inside the Location, the erection and purchase of which cost £400, on a site, for which a rental of 1/- per annum was paid. In order that the Bantu should have every confidence in this work, the Native Advisory Board at Chesterville was consulted and their chairman and headmaster of a Native School were co-opted to the Committee. Unfortunately they were never able to attend any meeting, or at least never did so.

Although through the Chairman, the Native Advisory Board promised every assistance, it soon became apparent, that even under the new conditions, the Bantu were not using the Communal Restaurant as had been expected. Indeed, it almost appeared as if there were a certain intangible but real opposition to it. Every effort was made to discover the reasons for this lack of support. After many attempts a meeting between the Native Advisory Board and certain European members of the Toc H committee was arranged. The European members went out to the Location as arranged but not one of the Advisory Board turned up. After a great deal of enquiry three reasons were submitted by individual Africans for this lack of co-operation and interest in the work.

1. The Bantu do not eat until 10 a.m., and consequently are not interested in buying food until then.
2. Such a restaurant benefits the shiftless type of African and consequently tends to lower rather than raise the general standard of living.
3. The workers as a whole are adequately fed and any under-nourishment is due to a general shortage which is encouraged by blackmarketeers.

From our own experience other factors also emerge.

1. The Bantu is economising on food in order to buy European clothes and furniture.
2. The African traders oppose any scheme which will affect their own trading or potential trading.

3. There is a general suspicion on the part of the Bantu to all things sponsored by Europeans, a very sad but true fact.
4. The African political parties are not completely in support of such a scheme.
5. A certain pride keeps many Bantu away.
6. That although the Bantu are suffering from malnutrition they are not hungry. The belly is full but the body is starved.

It can be well seen from this, that the work at Chesterville was very difficult, and that it was some little time before the real position could be thoroughly ascertained and understood. It would have been easy to close down and leave it at that, but it was agreed by the Toc H Committee that everything possible should be done before taking such a final step.

Moreover Toc H felt that the children were the main sufferers, therefore it has been decided, so long as funds permit, to give free meals to the children to be eaten on the premises. Actually a charge of threepence a meal was made, but this charge was met by the generosity of certain European donors. In the first three days 800 meals were served, and in the first 35 feeding days 14,000 meals were served. Adults can still buy a meal at threepence, but the number doing this has become negligible. It is impossible to over-emphasise the value of this work. Hithertofore, the children, whose parents have been away from home at work, have, in the main, been left with cold samp. Now they can get a good well balanced meal and the health of these children is being assisted. They are building up a reserve of strength that will aid them in the fight against T.B., and other diseases that so readily seize upon an undernourished body. On the more immediate human side, it is a lovely sight to see these children 4 years old and upwards queuing patiently and then eating their meal with evident enjoyment.

It is, however, obvious, that if a scheme of communal restaurants is to work properly for the adults as well as the children, first the confidence of the Bantu must be won and secondly they must be educated as to the value of a properly balanced diet, and taught that a full stomach is not necessarily the prerequisite of a well nourished body.

There is no question that the Bantu on the whole is not properly fed. If this problem is to be tackled thoroughly, a comprehensive scheme of education and industrial feeding must be investigated. The assistance of the Bantu educationalist and of the individual firms concerned must be obtained. This would seem to indicate that the only body competent to develop such a scheme with any degree of magnitude is the Government itself.

*QW -*  
~~BANTU WELFARE TRUST~~

TELEPHONE 44-4368

P. O. BOX 97

TELEGRAMS & CABLES "UBUNTU"

JOHANNESBURG

8th September, 1948.

Mr Quintin Whyte,  
Institute of Race Relations,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

African Trade Unions Technical  
Advisory Committee.

Dear Mr Whyte,

I wish hereby to remind you that at the last meeting of the Bantu Welfare Trust, you were appointed, together with Dr Ray Phillips and Councillor Thema, as a sub-committee to consider an application from ~~the~~ Secretary of the above organisation.

A copy of their memorandum is appended hereto.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans. Ngallane*  
*(Ass. Secy)*

FOR BANTU WELFARE TRUST  
S.A. INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS  
SECRETARIES.

## AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### TO SUBSCRIBERS AND FRIENDS:

The inaugural meeting of the African Trade Unions Technical Advisory Committee was held on March 15th, 1947, and in July the Committee's Constitution, which had been submitted to the South African Trades and Labour Council for approval, was adopted and an Executive Committee elected.

The decision to establish the Committee arises out of the fact that special difficulties and problems, not normally met nowadays by trade unions of other workers, confront the African trade unions. African workers are excluded from the provisions of the Industrial Conciliation Act. They are consequently denied participation in such collective bargaining machinery as exists. This leaves to the African trade unions only the tardy and inadequate machinery of the Wage Board. Trade Union members expect results. Where results do not come, because of the denial of the rights of collective bargaining and striking, members lose faith in the ability of their trade unions to gain improvements. In the absence of closed shops such members leave the unions.

Other problems of the African trade unions are identical to those experienced everywhere by trade union movements in their infancy: absence of a trade union tradition among workers, lack of organisational and administrative experience, multiplicity of unions in the same industry and tendencies to splitting. Undemocratic measures such as the pass laws and factors such as the compound and migratory labour system and the high proportion of illiteracy also hamper the organisation of African workers.

If all these factors are borne in mind, it becomes clear why African trade unions have financial difficulties, and why, frequently they lack essential equipment.

### AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The manner in which the Technical Advisory Committee tries to assist African trade unions in overcoming these problems is clear from the aims and objects contained in its constitution:

- "to render financial, technical and organisational assistance to African trade unions;
- "to help raise the cultural level of African workers;
- "to organise lectures and classes for African trade union leaders and workers generally;
- "to seek, in conjunction with the South African Trades and Labour Council, the assistance and co-operation of trade unions in South Africa and abroad, and of other progressive bodies and people, in support of African trade union organisation."

- The -

The Committee's constitution, which was drawn up in conjunction with and approved by the Trades and Labour Council, states that the Committee "shall in no way interfere with trade union policy".

COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE:

The Committee consists mainly of trade unionists. On the Executive are two official representatives of the National Executive Committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, Messrs. Briggs and Wolfson. In pursuance of the Committee's aims to secure the co-operation of all persons sympathetic to trade unionism, organisations other than trade unions are also represented on the Executive.

The Officials of the Committee are: Rev. A.W. Blaxall, Chairman, Dr. Ray E. Phillips and Mr. G. Carr, vice-Chairmen; Mr. E.S. Sachs, Secretary; Mr. H.L. Rutter, M.P.C., Treasurer.

The Committee now has pleasure in reporting that during its first year it has assisted sixteen trade unions, in two cases giving financial assistance, in seven cases assisting with the making of representations, in six cases technical assistance was given and in one case legal assistance was arranged. The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions has been assisted financially with regard to office equipment and printing. Appeals for assistance have been received from as far afield as Bloemfontein and Durban. The Committee's sphere of activity is not limited to the Transvaal.

One training course for trade union leaders has been completed and a further course will commence shortly. A pamphlet explaining trade unionism to African workers has been completed and is being translated into the Bantu languages. At the present time the Committee is negotiating with the Medical Association regarding a medical benefit scheme for African trade union members who are not covered by any existing funds. Other activities in which the Committee is engaged include the assembling of a panel of experienced trade unionists to act as negotiators and an analysis of existing wage regulating measures.

In its initial work the Committee received much help, especially from the Garment Workers' Union. We enjoy the hospitality of an office through the kindness of an Industrial Council. The Committee is very grateful to these friends. As a long range objective the Committee visualises a building of their own with offices, class rooms, and rooms which can be rented to African Unions. The realisation of this dream will necessitate a capital fund of at least £100,000.

While the Committee can look back on a successful first year of activity, great tasks still remain to be done. The Committee's aims cannot be achieved without the wholehearted co-operation of all persons and organisations of goodwill.

A.W. BLAXALL	-	CHAIRMAN
E.S. SACHS	-	SECRETARY
H.L. RUTTER	-	TREASURER

BANTU WELFARE TRUST

P. O. Box 1331,  
Johannesburg,  
2nd December, 1947.

The Secretaries,  
Bantu Welfare Trust,  
P. O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

Apex Building Society.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th November, attached to which was a copy of a request by the General Manager of above Society for financial assistance.

I believe that the Equity Building Society is one of the few Societies which today lend money to Africans. The Johannesburg Building Society did make quite an effort some years ago to open a Loan Department for this purpose, but while they found that the African borrowers were satisfactory in that they made repayments regularly and shouldered their responsibilities well, there were disadvantages with regard to accommodating European and African clients in the same office and employing suitable African clerks to handle the business. Finally the Johannesburg Building Society came to the conclusion that the return was not worth the trouble entailed in carrying on this type of business, and the Department was closed down. Other Building Societies no doubt have experienced similar difficulties

I think there is a wide field in the loan business for Africans, but the success of a Building Society running this class of business depends on its ability to raise funds from Europeans and handle the lending side to Africans in a specialised way.

I think the Trust would be justified in advancing up to £5000 to the Apex Building Society for a limited period at, say  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ , provided the Society raise a further £10,000 within the next, say, six months. If the Apex fails it will be because it cannot raise sufficient moneys for its purpose and no doubt the overheads are comparatively high. It would be as well to call for a report on the progress it has made since it was started and an audited statement of its present financial position.

As I am leaving by plain for Cape Town on Thursday and only returning on Saturday, the 6th December I will be please if you will offer my apologies for non-attendance at the meeting to be held on the 5th of this month. Unfortunately Mr Hunter is also away on holiday.

Yours faithfully,  
Signed: G.H.R. Edmunds

502

COPY.

BERONE.  
PALAPYE ROAD.  
Bechuanaland Protector:

3rd March, 1948.

Dr. Ray E. Phillips,  
19, Eleanor Street,  
Fairview,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Over one month ago I received a letter dated the 18th January 1948, from the Bantu Welfare Trust in which I was informed that the Trust has decided to make me a grant of £500 towards the building fund for the Bamangwato proposed Secondary School and that the cheque for this amount would be forwarded in due course. I also gathered from the same source that while the Trust was unable to make me a bigger grant at present it was none-the-less prepared to consider a further application from me in the future.

I had intended to reply to this letter after the generous donation had been received. Up to the time of writing, however, I have not received the promised cheque and as time is passing I decided to write this letter to thank the Bantu Welfare Trust for their generous grant of £500.

As soon as the gift is received it will be placed before a representative gathering of the tribe. In the meantime please convey to the Trust, on behalf of my tribe, my deep appreciation of this very generous donation.

It is noted that the grant of £500 is made towards the "buildings funds" for our proposed Secondary School, and I have been considering to what purpose this donation could best be applied and have decided, subject to the Bantu Welfare Trust concurring, to propose to the Bamangwato Tribe that this sum should form the nucleus of a fund to be raised for the ultimate building of a "Technical and Trades Department" at the Bamangwato Secondary School.

I feel sure that the Trust will be interested to know our plans regarding the establishment of the Technical and Trades School, and I give below a general outline of our wishes and intentions.

Our idea is not to attempt to train artisans for any specialised trades because for this type of training there is a very limited field in that as these artisans would for many years look solely to their country for the utilisation of their skill, the saturation point would very soon be reached. Our proposal should therefore be seen in the light of a developing society and not that of a society already advanced in social and economic organisation.

Our people are undergoing transition from their primitive mode of life and are developing modern tastes as a result of contact with western civilisation. The intended training is therefore planned to meet the social needs of the people as well as to enable them to take active part in industrial development of their country.

As...../

As a background of our problems it must be appreciated that the people of Bechuanaland are all peasant farmers primarily. Thus they are dependent upon the product of their peasant labours for their livelihood. All are land and stock owners and have homes together with such basic equipment for production as ploughs, wagon, to a greater or lesser degree modern kitchen and household furniture.

So great is the need for better homes and amenities, for better care of agricultural and other equipment, for a general all-round social betterment effort on a national basis, which will permeate every aspect of everyday life of our people, and so urgent the need to place into the hands of the younger generation the basic knowledge and handiness to accomplish this awakening, and, finally, to have this training grafted to the existing custom and environment of the people as well as to establish the fundamentals of modern progressive and creative community living and livelihood, that the most effective means at our disposal is through the means of education which has a strong practical and realistic bias and is taught with equal dignity and prestige along side of academic and agricultural tuition.

In short the aim of the school is to train the youth in an appreciation of what they themselves can do with their hands and the materials all around them to better their homes, furnishings, repairs to implements, etc. which must lead to greater pride through self-help and greater production in their efforts in the home, on the lands and with their cattle. Once a student has had basic training in the creation of a more modern home, the construction of simple furniture, the repair of the wagon, pots, pans, farm implements, etc., he will be able to go to his home and village and put into practice this new knowledge for his and the benefit of the community. The Manual Training Course will give to every student some knowledge of general handiness with tools and timber or brick. Furthermore, we entertain the plan to make such training a part of secondary education for all who show aptitude and desire. The training is to include the complete art of building - beginning from the making and burning of bricks, building, plastering, roofing and painting, - of simple plumbing and sewerage laying, knowledge of forge work and repairs to farm implements and the wagon. Such a course to be called "Home Builder Course." The cost of the construction of a suitable building to house the Centre will be as follows:-

Building 55ft x 30ft with adequate doors and windows and a concrete floor and roofed with corrugated iron and ceiled .....  
.....£1650 (say £2000)

Furnishings for carpentry benches, office, tool room and tool chests, blackboards etc.  
....£250 (say £300)

Equipment of tools for carpentry, simple blacksmithy for farm implement repairs, plumbing and soldering, and the building with plastering, painting and signwriting and drain laying ....£400 (say £500)

Salary of one European instructor qualified to give the instructions in each section ....  
£500 x 20 = £600 per year.  
He may later require an assistant.

The recurrent expenses are estimated at £1200, but it is our desire to offset this once the centre is established by the sale of articles made at the centre in the course of instruction.

With..... /

With this vision, and in view of the encouraging letter which I have received from the Bantu Welfare Trust, on behalf of my tribe, I request you, Sir, to place my application before the Bantu Welfare Trust for a further grant of Five thousand five hundred pounds (£5500) towards the building and five years maintenance of a Technical and Trades School at the Hamangwato Secondary School at Moeng.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) TSEKEDI KHAMA.

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