

A.N.C. LEADER COLLECTS FREEDOM CHARTER PROPOSALS IN GAOL

CAPE TOWN.

WHEN Mr. J. S. P. Motloheloa, acting general secretary of the Cape Western Region of the African National Congress, spent the night in the Cape Town remand cells last Wednesday, he collected a number of demands for the Congress of the People Freedom Charter.

All the Africans he found there on that night as well as 30 at the Langa remand yard the following morning were awaiting trial on charges under Section 10 of the Urban Areas Act, Mr. Motloheloa told New Age. He himself was arrested for an alleged offence under that section.

On Wednesday afternoon of last week a European constable came to the A.N.C. office in Cape Town and asked Mr. Motloheloa whether he had "his Langa papers." When Mr. Motloheloa said "no" he told him to come to the police station with him, informing him that he was under arrest.

REFUSED TO ANSWER

At the police station a sergeant asked him where he was born. Mr. Motloheloa refused to answer that question. He was taken to an officer who asked him the same question and again he refused to answer it. Mr. Motloheloa then claims that the officer said:

"I have reason to believe that you are a Native, from your appearance, the colour of your skin, the tone of your voice—and I can ask you anything." He is also said to have added that if Mr. Motloheloa did not answer he would have him locked up, and would not allow bail.

From here Mr. Motloheloa was taken to the charge office. He informed the constable there that he has lived in Cape Town since 1938. He was allowed to speak to his lawyer on the telephone and then taken to the remand cells.

SECOND TIME

Mr. Motloheloa's lawyers, Messrs. S. Kahn and Co., immediately took the matter up, and a member of the firm called at the police station requesting his release on bail. The lawyer pointed out that Mr. Motloheloa had been arrested and prosecuted earlier this year on an identical charge and that on the 10th January he was acquitted, on the

grounds that he had established his right to remain in the area in terms of Section 10. In spite of these representations, bail was refused.

That evening Mr. Motloheloa refused to have supper, and also breakfast the following morning, maintaining that he did not go willingly to the jail and would therefore not partake of its food.

CHARGE WITHDRAWN

The following morning early Mr. Motloheloa was taken to Langa, but it was already lunchtime when he was informed that the charge against him had been withdrawn.

Here are some of the Freedom Charter demands collected by Mr. Motloheloa in jail:—

"I would see that people are not harassed under the pass laws," said W.

"Freedom of movement, speech, Press and thought to all people of this country, and free and compulsory education for all," were J's demands.

"Equality to all people without any qualification—equal wages for equal work," said B.

"First, freedom for all, to be followed by equal rights for all," said T.

"Freedom to all people in the country and an end to pass laws and colour discrimination," demanded D.

"I would see that Africans are not hounded all over the country for passes," said S.

"If we could make the laws in this country we would see that our present fascist government is not returned to power again," another group of prisoners said.

CONCILIATION BOARD

to consider and determine a dispute between 105 employees as represented by the Food and Canning Workers' Union under power of attorney and Messrs. Crosse & Blackwell has been appointed by the Minister of Labour in Cape Town. The union is looking forward to negotiating a new agreement on behalf of these workers, whose present wages are governed by a wage determination of 1942, acting general secretary Miss R. Lan told New Age. The first meeting of the Conciliation Board will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 1955.

WITS. CONVOCATION BACK STUDENTS

JOHANNESBURG.

AT a lively and at times stormy meeting of the University of the Witwatersrand Convocation which represents all University graduates, held last week, resolutions were carried which criticised segregation existing at Wits, and also urged the rescission of the new Statute of the Wits S.R.C. which is before Parliament.

The Convocation of the University, which is comprised of all the graduates of Wits., is usually one of the most inactive of University bodies. But last week, at one of the best attended annual general meetings held for a number of years, the majority of members present displayed a determined opposition to the University Council and the Government, and many speakers stated that it was not the students who had been "unreasonable" or "lacking restraint," but the Council.

A storm of protest greeted the report of one of the Convocation representatives on the Council, who alleged that segregation was necessary in the University's Great Hall "because the University must conform to public opinion, as it is dependant on Governmental funds," and also that the students "over the past ten years or so had steadily de-

veloped an attitude of complete indifference to discipline." Towards the end of the meeting this member of Council was called upon to resign as he did not represent the true views of graduates on Council, and had consistently supported the reactionary policies of the Council.

A resolution moved by Professors Nabarro and J. Gillman stated that "all functions in the Great Hall should not be segregated even when the public is admitted."

Another motion moved by Mr. Coaker and Dr. Brenner stated that the new S.R.C. statute interfered with the "traditional autonomy of the student body" and asked for its withdrawal. A further motion stated that the policy of holding the doors of the University open to all without discrimination was in the best interests of South Africa.



Mr. Motloheloa.

S.A. PEACE APPEAL UNDER WAY

JOHANNESBURG.

The South African Peace Council's Appeal against the Preparations for Atomic War is now in full swing, and South Africans everywhere are being asked to put their signatures to it.

The appeal states:

Today certain governments are basing their military strategy on the use of atomic weapons.

They are trying to make the people accept it as inevitable.

The use of atomic weapons would result in a war of extermination.

We declare that any government that lets loose atomic war will forfeit the trust of its people and find itself condemned by every people of the world.

Now and in the future, we shall oppose those who organise atomic war.

We demand the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons wherever they may be and the immediate stopping of their manufacture.

Among those who have already signed the appeal are Johannesburg

Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz, Professor J. Gillman, Mrs. Lesley Cope, the artist, Mrs. Phyllis Altman, the writer, Mr. L. Massina, secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and Mr. Lee Warden, M.P.

Other signatories are:—Fathers Savage, Dakers and Gardner, all of the Society of St. John the Evangelist; Dr. Robert Forsyth; Mrs. Murray Parker; Harold Rubens, pianist; Uys Krige, poet; D. R. Ulster, musician; Dr. R. E. v.d. Ross, Coloured leader; John Motloheloa; C. B. Mussard; Mrs. Gladys Smith; Mrs. A. Silinga; Mrs. J. Dick; Anna Scheepers and A. Calmeyr, trade union leaders; and Rev. M. Brunsden.

The Transvaal Peace Council will hold a peace week from May 16 to 22, to coincide with the Helsinki World Peace Congress. During this week signature-collecting drives will be organised, and meetings held. At one of the Council's public meetings Dr. A. E. H. Blesley will speak on the Hydrogen Bomb.

Three new Transvaal peace branches have been set up in the last week, at Moroka, Dube and White City Jabavu.

(Continued from previous col.)

activities aimed at destroying the rights of the Indian people, and to make the Indian commercial class realise that its only hope of survival is by allying itself with the masses of the Indian people and the liberatory movement of South Africa, as only such unity can guarantee the defeat of the Group Areas Act.

Thus Conference resolved: "That the entire activities of the Natal Indian Organisation and the S.A.I.O. are calculated to undermine the struggle of the Indian people and India against the Group Areas Act, and that there is therefore no place for the S.A.I.O. in the life of the Indian people."

Natal Indian Congress Set "Four Vital Tasks"

DURBAN.

Four vital tasks face the Natal Indian Congress and the Indian people this year, according to the deliberations and resolutions of the N.I.C. conference last week. The first is the reorganisation and consolidation of the masses of Indian people, wherever they live and work, to wage a relentless struggle against the Group Areas Act and save their homes.

There are clear indications that the implementation of the Act will be speeded up in Natal this year.

The second major task is intensified trade union activities throughout Natal to ensure the organisation of unorganised workers, and the mobilisation of all Indian workers behind the Trade Union Congress; as well as campaigns for civic amenities, houses, education and other needs of the Indian people.

Thirdly, there is the organisation of the Indian people together with other Non-European peoples and European democrats, for the Con-

gress of the People, and the fight against the Government's attempts to establish a fascist republic.

EXPOSE TRAITORS

The fourth task is the exposure of the traitorous element in the Indian community who are seeking to protect Indian vested interests at the price of the Indian people and who are prepared to accept group areas zoning if the Durban central area, where the Indian commercial class is concentrated, is left alone. Congress recognised the urgency of creating mass pressure to end these

(Continued in next col.)

MANY WORKERS UNEMPLOYED AS MINE CLOSES DOWN

Poverty Is Reward of Years of Service

DURBAN.—The closing down this month of the Dundee Coal Company colliery at Burnside, Northern Natal, has brought tragedy to hundreds of Non-Europeans and their families.

Over 2,000 Indians and Africans were dismissed, and thrown out of their jobs and homes, for many lived with their families on the mine property.

The Non-European workers of Burnside Colliery have suffered this crushing blow despite the abundance of coal which still remains in the colliery, and the country-wide shortage.

According to the company, production has ceased at Burnside because of the truck shortage and the lack of overseas contracts.

BUT IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CLOSING OF THE MINE HAS LED TO HIGHER PRICES FOR THE DUNDEE COAL COMPANY SHARES.

TO INCREASE PROFITS

Many associated with the mine believe that the mine was closed down in order to reduce costs and increase the profits of the other mines.

Although the majority of the African miners have been sent to other mines, nobody knows what is

to happen to the remainder. These African miners are not allowed to seek work in the town, where the chances of securing employment are more favourable. Many of them lived with their families for years in the mine village.

EVEN HARDER HIT

But even harder hit are the 140 despair-stricken Indian families who have worked and lived there for 50 years. These Indian miners are the descendants of the men who were the first to dig the coal from the earth of Burnside Colliery, giving their lives and those of their sons for the development of one of Natal's most lucrative industries.

The Indian miners who have lost their jobs and homes will have to go with their families to other towns in search of work and new homes.

The other coal mines do not employ Indian labour, while it is even

more difficult for an Indian worker to secure employment than an African.

Where is the money to come from to pay for the travelling and removal expenses of whole families and to maintain them until the breadwinners find other jobs? There can be no savings, since these workers received an average of £4 10s. a month.

AMONG LOWEST PAID

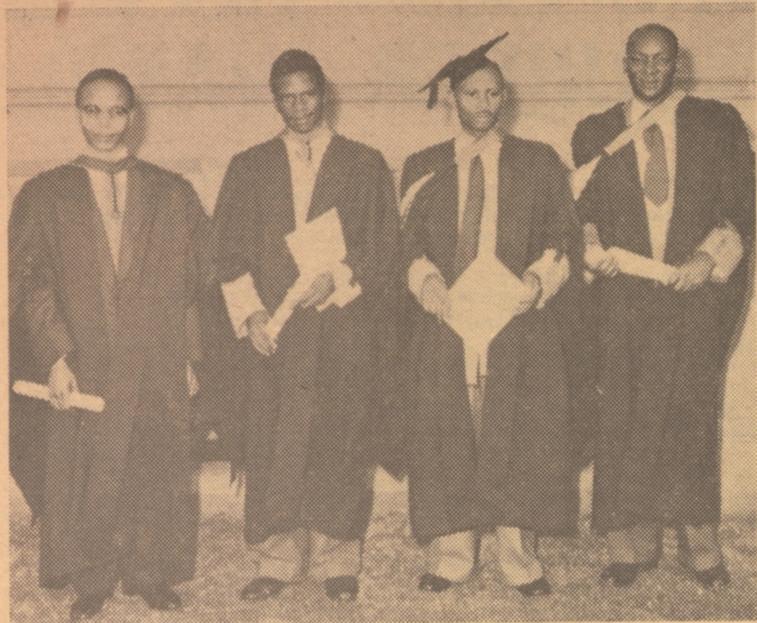
The Northern Natal coal miners are among the lowest paid workers in industry, working for wages that can keep their children from neither hunger nor cold.

And what now is the reward of these workers who have toiled so hard to create one of Natal's most profitable industries?

JUST THIS SCRAP OF PAPER:

"I have to advise you that, as the mine will cease production on March 31, 1955, your services with the company will terminate on that date," with subsequent orders to the workers to quit their homes by the end of the month.

NEW AFRICAN GRADUATES



These four Africans received their degrees at the graduation ceremony of the Natal University last week. From left to right—Messrs. C. Kumalo, M.A., Soc. Science; R. Kunene, B.A.; C. Kanya, B.A.; and S. Mzolo, B.A.

VICTORY OVER U.S. RACIALISM

NEW YORK.—A United States Court of Appeals has held that social segregation, which is prevalent in many parts of the country, is illegal.

The case started in 1950, when an American Negro and his four children were ordered off the beach at Baltimore, Maryland.

The Negro took his case to court, and last December a Federal district judge ruled that he had no right to be on the beach, because Baltimore had separate but equal facilities for Negroes.

The judge held that the decision of the United States Supreme Court last year banning segregation in public schools did not apply to fields other than education.

The Appeals Court has now reversed the judge's finding. "It is now obvious," said the Appeals Court, "that segregation cannot be justified merely because the tangible facilities furnished to one race are equal to those furnished to the other."

If the Appeals Court decision stands, Negroes will be free to use public beaches, bathhouses and parks long closed to them in the South.

Some Southern state racist leaders, who have threatened to close rather than de-segregate their public schools, began to talk about closing their public parks, too, showing that, although the court decisions are a great victory for U.S. progressives, the fight against racist inequalities in America is still far from having been won.

MR. GILBERT NGWANE, of the Moroka branch of the African National Congress was found guilty in the Magistrate's Court, Johannesburg, recently of collecting funds without having obtained permission. His was the test case following the arrest of four Moroka A.N.C. members on this charge. The other three cases have been held over pending the hearing of an appeal in this case. Mr. Ngwane was sentenced to a fine of £10, suspended.

BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH of the A.N.C. held a meeting attended by over 600 people recently at Freedom Square, Bochabela. Branch Secretary L. Malau and other speakers condemned the Bantu Education Act. They said that rather than take their children to school they would keep them at home.

C.O.P. Elections

(Continued from page 1)

Bloulevi residents:

The inspectors do the work of the police. We don't want the inspectors entering our homes. We don't want to carry passes. Everything is done to make us leave Cape Western. We are not allowed to repair our pondokkies. This must stop. The pass laws for women must be repealed. We don't want to leave our husbands and children. We want to be the government of Bloulevi. We want to live in peace in South Africa and we want the world to be at peace.

A meeting at Maletsie Location, Pietersburg:

We reject the community schools of the Bantu Education Act.

A Student at New Brighton, Port Elizabeth:

Our country needs a constitution which will guarantee human rights for all men irrespective of race. The Government must be subject to the people. The laws must be the expression of the will of the people, through their representatives. Justice must be carried out according to just principles.

A meeting in Alexandra Township:

The people need good education and the right to own their homes.

University students:

The only qualification to enter universities should be academic. University fees should be lowered, and grants and loans made available to all who need them, irrespective of colour. Art and culture should be allowed to flourish freely in the university and functions in the Great Hall should be non-segregated since art is the common heritage of all and should be enjoyed by all. All religious orders should be given the right to organise schools freely and unhindered. University students should have the right to assemble and organise freely. The new Wits. S.R.C. statute should be repealed.

The African Dingaka Association, Lady Selborne, Pretoria:

The Dingaka Association should be recognised as the representatives of the African Bongaka; that all association members who are examined and approved as dingaka should be licensed to practise; that the various organisations of the African Bongaka be combined in one body and amalgamated with the Natal Native Doctors' Association; that the prices charged by the dingaka should be under the control of the state.

PORT ELIZABETH COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS has written the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions applauding the formation of this new body and offering support to it. It has enquired about SACTU'S constitution and affiliation to the new co-ordinating body.

THE S.A. CONGRESS of Trade Unions has urged all trade unions to send in freedom demands to the Congress of the People.

AT AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING of Africans and Coloureds in Kraaifontein, near Cape Town, last week, a large number of demands for the Congress of the People was collected.

Members of the audience followed one another in quick succession, stating their demands for the Freedom Charter.

Successful Congress of the People meetings were also held at Langa and Nyanga over the weekend.

AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, Kensington, Cape Town, a unanimous vote was taken last week against the election of school committees in terms of the Bantu Education Act.

At the Wesleyan School, Kensington, the majority of parents also voted against electing a committee.

"**IF OLIVE SCHREINER** were alive to-day she would be officially listed and named as a person with 'dangerous thoughts,' and she would be prohibited from attending all political gatherings." — Julius Lewin, speaking at an Olive Schreiner Centenary meeting in Johannesburg recently.

NO TROOPS FOR MALAYA

The Australian Labour Party conference held at Hobart (Tasmania) recently decided to oppose the sending of Australian troops to fight in the Malayan war.

The conference, attended by 19 delegates but boycotted by 17 others as a result of a party split, adopted a resolution stating that such a move would only antagonise Asian feeling.

At the time the conference was meeting, Australian Premier Menzies was in the United States negotiating for further American aid. The Sydney Telegraph correspondent Alan Reid telegraphed that Menzies would get dollars and other "aid—at a price."

It also called upon the Australian Government to send observers to this month's Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia — which China will also attend.

The party's official statement on foreign policy issued at the end of the conference supported the admission of China to the United Nations.

DURBAN RACING

First Race—1 TISA, 2 Fair Polly, 3 St. Merryn.
Second Race—1 FAIRY KING, 2 Piety, 3 Aces Five.
Third Race—1 IRELAND MAID, 2 Farmer, 3 Poem.
Fourth Race—1 TOTERUSH, 2 Chesapeake, 3 Spur.
Fifth Race—1 FIRE BRICK, 2 Rameses, 3 Jan Styler.
Easter Handicap—1 MOONFISH, 2 Feyerton, 3 Knowsley.
Seventh Race—1 TENNATA, 2 Corrobore, 3 Faince.
Eighth Race—1 MEAL FEAST, 2 Gaslight, 3 Drang.
Ninth Race—1 AFTER MIDNIGHT, 2 Demagogue, 3 St. Easton.

MADNESS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

By PETER MEYER

WE all know that in the long run apartheid can never work. But we must not be blind to the plans that are being put into practice meanwhile. The habit of dismissing all Dr. Verwoerd's speeches as symptoms of moon madness is sometimes carried too far, and some people are inclined to scoff too heartily at what they call the apartheid fantasy.

For the workers of South Africa apartheid of course has never been a fantasy. They have felt the bite of its cold, grim jaws. But they have no reason to be pessimistic or depressed; indeed, they have much more cause for self-assurance and contentment in their daily lives than Dr. Verwoerd with all his power and glory. Precisely because they have borne the brunt of apartheid, they know what it means. But let us admit that there are plenty of anti-Nationalists in the country who five or six years ago made jokes about apartheid schemes that, in spite of their craziness, have since been put into effect.

South African citizens have learnt a valuable lesson since 1946: it is that it is not sufficient to dismiss a Verwoerdian idea as nonsense simply because it is nonsense. It is not enough to know that apartheid defies all the laws of humanity, decency and history. The Nationalists have shown us that they CAN stop historical processes. Of course, it is a momentary brake, and the tide of humanity wells up to burst through later with redoubled vigour; but for this momentary period apartheid comes into operation and the people writhe and suffer under its heel. This is no fantasy.

APARTHEID IN OPERATION

Six years ago, people laughed at the Nationalists when they said they could check the flow of African workers to the towns. Today, the flow still continues, but the fact cannot be denied that more and more Africans are being "diverted" to the farms and the gold mines, and that those who slip through the net are hunted with greater persistence and ruthlessness than at any other period in our history. There are other examples to illustrate this point. By being utterly uncompromising and oblivious of human feelings, Dr. Verwoerd is bringing apartheid into operation.

Since Mr. Strijdom became Prime Minister, and particularly since the start of the present Parliamentary session, Dr. Verwoerd has stepped apartheid into high gear. His hands are moving with great dexterity laying foundations, tying up loose ends, choking up loopholes.

CONGRATULATIONS

To my comrade Mr. S. V. Reddy on his marriage to Miss Nyanambal Pillay. — Arnold Selby.

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