

JOHANNESBURG.  
April 14, 1959.

Subject: Africanist's Conference (continued from last week).

P.S. Also attach Africanist Movement badges which were sold at the conference  
- Page 7 - for 6d. upwards.

(NB: Text now continues from the bottom of Page 4)

- 3) a) What language is to be spoken in Africa if some Europeans decide to stay?
- b) What is the Africanists' stand on education?

**SOBUKWE:** a) "We shall speak the language of freedom - that is the only answer I can give (applause). The people will decide what language to speak. In Africa we have a lot of trouble about language. In French Equatorial Africa, the main language is French. In Portuguese East Africa, it is Portuguese. And elsewhere, it is English. The international language today is English. If you want to be understood in India, you speak English. If you are in Russia and you want to be understood you speak English.

"Although at one time English was not the international language, so in the future, there might be a time when English will again not be the international language."

b) "We condemn Bantu Education outright. But because of the conditions in this country, we have not been able to put up our schools to give our children the education we would like to give them. There is one of two alternatives - either keeping our children ~~xxxxxxx~~ altogether out of schools and having them roaming the streets, or else send them to these schools and have them acquire the three R's., as well as Dr Verwoerd's indoctrination. But all of us here did not learn about the pass laws ~~or~~ or about politics in the class rooms. If we want our children to have any education at all, we are compelled to send them to schools - but our duty is to counter-act ~~what~~ what they are taught. If the child can read we can educate him. If Verwoerd can teach him about Bantu Authorities, we can teach him about the liberation movement. I want to be practical about this: it is easy to condemn Bantu Education, but you want to know about sending your children to school." (applause).

- 4) A man from White City-Jabavu: What does the government mean when it says democracy?

Sobukwe: "Democracy really means that the people have the right to elect the ~~xxxxxxx~~ government they want and to remove the government if they are dissatisfied."

5) Jordan Ngubane, a national vice-president of the Liberal Party. (see notes further on about him). He spoke in Zulu with no interpreter. Applause at the end. Sobukwe: "I want us to think in terms of the present stage of our struggle. I said that the African people were the core of the struggle. Our past experience has been that minority groups declare themselves sympathetic to our struggle and thereby ally themselves with the African people in fighting White domination. But when they come into our ~~xxxxxxx~~ movement they do not accept the programme we have formulated ~~xxxxxxx~~ ourselves. They present us with programmes which protect their ~~xxxxxxx~~ sectional interests. If I am building a house, if there is a friend who wants to help me I expect him to bring building materials with him to come and help me. I do not like him coming with already drawn up plans which will affect my ~~xxxxxxx~~ original scheme [great applause]. That is why I say that Africans must do it by themselves. Later, we will not be thinking of minorities. And the only difference between us and Mr..... there (he referred to me by name - I was the only White present) will be one of colour.

"Mr Ngubane's first question was that we should become a political party and not allow all Africanists join. (I am not sure if this phrasing 100% correct)

3) On June 3, Oliver Tambo, deputy president-general of the ANC, phoned me. He asked me whether I had been to the PAC meeting, and if so, what had happened there. I told him what I knew, and he accepted it ~~as~~ without any comment. Perhaps this was quite straightforward, and there is nothing ~~unusual~~ unusual in one of the highest ANC officials trying to find out ~~what~~ what occurred at a PAC meeting. On the other hand, Tambo before now has professed African Nationalism, and is known to be anti-Red. So possibly there is more in this than meets the eye. But one cannot give any real answer to this question. Still, the fact of it is still interesting.

4) For what it is worth, I would say - from the little I saw of the conference - that it was quiet and well-controlled; ~~with~~ a few snatches of speeches I heard were not tub-thumpers, but serious and purposeful efforts.

(ends,)

JOHANNESBURG

June 13, 1959.

Subject: B.L. Legwate.

Source: Myself.

I saw Legwate - African editor of "T World" - on June 4. I asked him about his column in the paper, which I had not seen for several weeks past. He told me that the column had been scrapped because it was termed an "embarrassment" to the management. At first, the column was by-lined "By the Editor", then "Talking Politics by B.L." Legwate then sounded off generally about being very frustrated at the paper, because he had little to do except write the social gossip column. He said his editorials were chopped around, and until recently, even the drastic alterations made to them were never reported to him, and he merely saw the changes when they appeared in the paper. Now the changes were shown to him but he could not query them. He added that he did not write many editorials these days anyway. He also said that the trouble with "T World" was that it too ~~was~~ closely tied to United Party interests, and would never print anything ~~which~~ which the U.P. might find objectionable.

I also teased him about having seen him at the PAC meeting. He replied that he had gone there merely to see what was happening.

COMMENT: 1) About Legwate being at PAC meeting: His reply is probably eye-wash, as he is certainly an Africanist by inclination up to a large ~~point~~ degree. 2) In regard to his job, I feel sorry for him. He is a nice guy, terribly sincere, and quite bright. He obviously feels frustrated, and what he says, he is obviously in a highly humiliating position. I don't think the full humiliation of the position has really and deeply dawned on him, but that reality is rapidly catching up with him.

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