

A NEW FORCE IN INDIA

INDIA'S Congress Party, which has ruled, almost unchallenged, ever since that country won her independence in 1948, is beginning to break up.

The working committee of the Congress Party came together last week to discuss what the *Times of India* (March 29) described as "a series of party crises in various parts of the country".

Growing dissensions in Congress legislature parties in Mysore, Andhra, Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have been a cause of concern to the Congress leaders, as have serious Congress reverses in the Delhi ministerial elections in which Congress won only 31 out of 80 seats.

S. K. Patil, Minister of Transport and Communications, told Bombay Congressmen that "indiscipline, greed for power and group" politics had weakened the Congress organisation.

DRASTIC STEPS

The working committee resolved to take "drastic steps" to restore Congress discipline and recreate "the sense of mission" of members.

It also issued a directive banning signature campaigns among members aimed at upsetting the existing party leadership. Such campaigns have been in progress during the past few weeks in Orissa, Mysore and Punjab, in each case with the objective of unseating the Congress Chief Minister of State.

These decisions, though sweeping, are far from covering the whole of the party's troubles. In Bengal, where Congress has already lost electoral control of the Calcutta urban area, the Law Minister, Mr. S. S. Ray, recently resigned to publish spectacular charges of inefficiency and corruption against Dr. B. C. Roy's Congress Government.

In Bombay the party, deeply divided by the demand for separate linguistic states of Maharashtra and Gujerat, has lost municipal control of the principal cities—Bombay and Ahmadabad—of both regions.

In Kerala it has lost control of the Government to the Communists.

"The rate of decay is still relatively slow," comments the *London Times* (April 7), "but it is becoming increasingly common to hear members of Congress resignedly express the view that sooner or later the time will come when they must hand over the torch to some other party—which most of them would, with

Italy's Workers Vote

ITALYS WORKERS VOTE

Rome . . . The Communist vote in the trade union elections of Italy's industrial North is on the increase for the first time in the past four years.

The Communist led C.G.I.L. (Italian General Confederation of Labour) headed the poll in the recent shop stewards' elections at the huge Fiat works, with 32 per cent. of the votes against 26.6 per cent. last year. The Christian Democrats dropped from 45.9 per cent. to 13.9 per cent.

Fiat is Italy's largest industrial concern, and the Fiat workers are regarded as among the most politically conscious of the Italian proletariat.

more or less reluctance, identify as the Communists."

The "crisis" meeting of the Congress working committee, whose proceedings were shrouded in gloom and pessimism, coincided with the opening of the Communist Party's annual congress at Amritsar. In dramatic contrast here was the mass enthusiasm, the cheering crowds and the confident appraisal of the party's growing strength.

This conference adopted a revised party constitution which has new features and a new emphasis aimed at preparing the way for the most rapid growth of the party as a mass party able to provide a real alternative to Congress.

PEACEFUL ROAD TO SOCIALISM

The Communist conference approved their Central Committee's thesis, set out in the preamble to the new constitution, that "by developing a powerful mass movement, by winning a majority in Parliament and by backing it with powerful mass reactions" the party can now hope to achieve "full democracy and Socialism" in India by peaceful means and without resort to armed revolution.

In an amendment which attracted wide attention in the Indian press, and opened the prospect of considerable new support for the party, the conference laid down a guarantee of freedom of political organisation under a Communist government to the opposition political parties

WORLD STAGE by SPECTATOR

"so long as they abide by the constitution of the country."

It guarantees the "widest possible extension of individual liberty, freedom of speech, the Press, and association, including the right of political organisation".

The constitution also provides that all party committees from top to bottom shall be elected; the present Politburo is displaced by an elected national council of 100 members and provides for a whole chain of other elective councils down to district level.

But in accordance with the "guiding principles of democratic centralism," the lower party organs remain bound to carry out all directives of the higher, and the individual member is required to subordinate himself to the will of the majority.

NEHRU—QUALIFIED SUPPORT

The party pledged continued support for the foreign policy and economic development plans of Prime Minister Nehru—but it declared at the same time that it intended to intensify its action to break the monopoly of power enjoyed by the Congress Party, and to extend to other states the victory won at Kerala.

While supporting the objectives of India's second five-year plan and the country's socialist objective, the Communists point out that the plan's implementation is controlled by right-wing members of the Congress Party who are openly opposed to Socialism. As a result, the Communists claim, the Government is failing to fulfil the targets of the plan; is granting

unwarranted concessions to big business, and is relying excessively on American assistance.

Solidarity within the ranks of the Communist Party appears to be complete. Mr. Ajoy Ghosh, the secretary of the party, has during the past few years been engaged in heated controversy with those on the left who called for the party to return to a semi-underground revolutionary agitation, and those on the right who called for a full alliance with Congress.

His "middle - of - the - road" thesis was accepted almost unanimously by the conference and every one of the 39 members of the outgoing politburo was re-elected to the new 100-member national council.

WHY PEACEFUL ROAD IS POSSIBLE

Explaining the revision of the constitution, Mr. Ghosh said that a peaceful road to Socialism was possible in India because of the particular circumstances of that country. India, he said, is the only capitalist state on the mainland of Asia in which the Communist Party has been given the opportunity of full parliamentary expression.

In addition, because of the deep-seated historical tradition of attachment to the philosophy of non-violence, it had been a simple matter for the enemies of the party to distort the party revolutionary ideology so that false conceptions stood as a barrier between the party and the people. This would no longer be possible.

Commenting on the conference last week, the *London Times* (April 13) said:

"Certainly no congress of the Indian Communist Party in recent years has attracted such widespread attention as this; and the news of its conversion to parliamentary methods has received gratifying publicity.

"It would be easy to dismiss this decision as a tactical or propaganda exercise, but members insist that it represents a serious revision of Marxist-Leninist theory, "in keeping with the realities of the Indian scene," which will become an integral element of political education in the party."

MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY

The Communists, though still weak relative to Congress, are now the main opposition party, and are taking very seriously the possibility that they may, in the reasonably close future, beat the Congress at a general election.

First there was Kerala. Then there was the election—against fierce Congress opposition—of a Communist mayor of Bombay. And now, in Delhi the Congress has come together with the Communists to support a joint candidate for mayor of that city, Mrs. Asaf Ali, who is a member of the Communist Party. Congress holds 31 seats and the Communists 8 in Delhi's 80-member municipality, and with the assured support of a number of independents, Mrs. Ali is certain of election. In return Congressmen will be assured of Communist support in the election of municipal committee chairships required for the governing of the city.

This is the first Congress-Communist alliance in any major elective body, and is most significant specially as the Communists have specifically reserved the right to oppose any Congress measures in the municipality with which it does not agree.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

NEW AGE has pleasure in announcing its third short story competition. Contributions are invited from readers and should reach the New Age office, 6 Barrack Street, Cape Town, before July 31, 1958.

The prizes offered are:

1st Prize: £10

2nd Prize: £7 10s.

3rd Prize: £5

In addition £2 will be paid to the writer of any story, not being one of the prizewinners, which is printed in New Age.

Stories should be not more than 3,000 words long and should be based on a South African theme.

A panel of well-known writers will be appointed to judge the entries.

The last two competitions were a rousing success, and brought a great deal of talent to light. Help make this one a success too by preparing your contribution now. All entries should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope so that manuscripts may be returned to the authors when the competition is over.

UP MY ALLEY

SO the Nats are back again. A lot of people have been hoping that they'd get in, and I don't mean their supporters only. Some Non-Whites have expressed the opinion that with a lot more oppression the people would decide to wake up and get down to fighting back. Force begets force. That may be so, but oppression can also become so powerful that it becomes pretty difficult to resist. And people can become so demoralised under the weight of the load that it takes years for them to get around to raising a finger to throw it off.

I've heard some saying: "The people will be forced to orga-

success. I have no doubt that the bulk of the people will take it up and put it into practice.

★

I ALWAYS wondered how the mind of the ordinary, common or garden Nat worked, and mingling with the crowd waiting for the election results I had the opportunity of acquiring a few examples of what is probably typical Nationalist small-fry thought.

"Up the Nats!" howled a character in a brown sports-coat every time they won a seat, "We'll show the bloody kaffirs!"

"Strijdom, Strijdom! To hell with Nkrumah and Nasser!" screamed another somewhere else in the street.

Come to think of it, that kind of political thought is not confined to the lower level of the Nat ranks. I seem to have read about cabinet ministers talking in the same vein.

A youth in a leather jacket and jeans, and long blonde hair, started yelling counter slogans: "Up with the ducktails. We want rock-n-ro!!"

● Lord help us from these extremes.

★

AS I said last week, the Nats wouldn't be satisfied with the Johannesburg City Council's commission of inquiry into the Dube riots.

Herr Doktor Verwoerd confirmed same by telling the voters of Hartzbergfontein that if the Council did not change its attitude towards the Africans, he would be compelled to take over responsibility for "Native" policy in the city.

It looks as if the fate of all local authorities is in the balance. We will probably be saddled with Nazi-like "gauleiters" to keep a watchful eye on us if the city fathers don't play ball.

★

THE Nationalist paper "Die Burger" carried an apt cartoon last Friday when the final results were known. It pictured a grave-digger's hand holding a shovel, rising out of a swamp.

● Very prophetic of South Africa's future under the Nats.



By ALEX
LA GUMA

★

★

nise." But if they weren't enthusiastic about it when they were given the chance to, they might find it hard to shake a leg under increased difficulties.

● Anyway, my old school motto said, through difficulties to



AFRICA

FAKE ELECTION IN KENYA

IN spite of the decision of the Kenya liberatory organisation to boycott the "election" of four African "representatives" to the Kenya Legislative Council, eight African stooges have come forward as candidates—some of them men who were decisively defeated at the polls in previous elections.

The latest names to be announced among the eight are those of Mr. John Kebaso, first president of the Kenya African Union in Nairobi, and Mr. Moody Awori, a clerk.

The "election" will not really be an election at all, for the four members are not to be chosen by the people but by the Legislative Council itself—and this, naturally, has an European majority. The Africans will therefore have no say at all in the election of the four African councillors.

This undemocratic process is one of the provisions of the Lennox-Boyd constitution imposed by the British Tory government, supported by the Labour Party, on the Africans.

Their demand that President African members of the Legislative Council. They have agreed unanimously to boycott all the provisions of the Lennox-Boyd constitution.

They have refused to accept ministerial posts at salaries of £3,500 a year, in a country where the average African wage is less than £100 a year. This in itself is a measure of their determination.

The government will, no doubt, appoint its ministers from the

stooge candidates—men who have been unable to win popular support in their constituencies.

A statement by the African elected members organisation reaffirms their determination not to recognise, co-operate with, or work with any Africans seeking election to the special seats. It says: "Those who now seek to stand have identified themselves with those who seek to perpetuate domination and suppression of the African people and consequently must be treated as traitors to the African cause."

Strijdom Wins in Rhodesia Too

The victory of the Dominion Party of Southern Rhodesia over the Federal Party in last week's by-election—when Sir Edgar Whitehead, the Prime Minister, was defeated in the Hillside constituency—is a clear indication that if the white voters of the Federation are given their head by Britain they will faithfully follow in the footsteps of Strijdom.

The Dominion Party, which has now won four by-elections in a row, is Rhodesia's most reactionary party and stands firmly for the maintenance of the colour bar.

The general election caused by the by-election upset will take place on June 5.

AMERICA

THE SLUMP CONTINUES

STEEL production, the key to United States economic health, is down to 48.2% of capacity. Motor car production is one-third lower than it was for the same period last year.

The increase of 25,000 in the number of people without jobs revealed in the government figures for March is all the more significant because there is normally a seasonal decline in unemployment of about 200,000 in this month. President Eisenhower had in fact confidently predicted that the March seasonal upsurge would result in the ending of abnormal unemployment. Instead, official figures now show 5,198,000 unemployed—not including those on part-time and partially unemployed—the highest figure since the U.S. entered the second world war.

SANE NUCLEAR POLICY

The decision of the Soviet Union to stop her tests of nuclear weapons has had its impact on U.S. public opinion. A National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy has been formed, sponsored by (in the language of *Time*, April 21) "an imposing list of well-heeled and influential supporters." These include **Norman Cousins**, editor of the *Saturday Review*, **India Edwards**, former member of the Democratic Party's National Committee, **Paul Tillich**, outstanding Protestant leader; sociologist **Lewis Mumford**, **Elmo Roper**, the head of one of the United States's biggest public

opinion research organisations, **James Patton**, head of the powerful right-wing National Farmers' Union, **Oscar Hammerstein II**, the famous song writer, sociologist **David Riesman**, scientist **Dr. L. C. Pauling** and Alabama bus boycott leader the Reverend **Martin Luther King**.

SOCIALIST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Vincent Hallinan, 1952 presidential candidate of the **Progressive Party** and **James P. Cannon**, national chairman of the **Socialist Workers' Party** have issued a call to all socialist groups and parties to form a united front in preparation for the nomination of a socialist presidential candidate in the 1960 elections.

Hallinan advocated a planned socialist economy, the end of war and the assurance of equality to all regardless of race or creed. "Neither of the old parties," he said, "can do this."

Stating that "we must educate the people of this country to the possibilities of socialism," Hallinan asserted that a "new order is sweeping the world," and pointed

to the superiority already demonstrated by the Soviet Union in the scientific, theoretical and economic fields.

"The radicals in the U.S.," he went on, "have to cut themselves off from the past. They have to stop assailing the Soviet Union. They have to stop saying they love the people of the Soviet Union but despise their rulers."

The Communist Party has not yet commented on the proposal.

JAPAN

Chiang Rebuffed

Chiang-Kai-Shek, of Taiwan, who ordered a boycott by Taiwan of Japanese trade following the £70 million trade pact between Japan and China, has cancelled the boycott within two weeks of announcing it. Tokyo remained unimpressed by Chiang's action and the dictator, who is heavily dependent on his £50 million a year trade with Japan, changed his mind very quickly indeed.

ASIA

INDONESIA SMASHES REVOLT

THE Indonesian government has broken the back of the U.S.-encouraged rebel movement on Sumatra and is now busy with mopping-up operations.

Mr. D. N. Aidit, secretary of the Indonesian Communist Party, has in a press statement declared his full support for the measure adopted by the government against the rebels. Asked to comment on the call by the rebels for the removal of Communists from the Indonesian government Mr. Aidit said:

"That they are anti-Communist we do not doubt, and this is natural, because the Communists belong to that group of people who most actively expose the corruption, smuggling and treacherous activities of the rebels.

"We are proud of the fact that the rebels consider us their enemy.

Their demand that President Sukarno oust the Communists from the Central Government is something that cannot possibly happen because there are no Communists in the present Government."

QUESTION: In the light of the mounting denunciation of the Communist Party by the rebel leaders in Central Sumatra, what effective counter-policies do you intend to take to protect your Party's interests?

ANSWER: I am of the opinion that we need not resort to special counter-policies, since the denunciations of traitors against the Communists help the development of our Party.

What we should do is to explain to the people who these rebels are, and help the Government to smash them as quickly as possible.

A CHANGE?

QUESTION: How do you think a change of Government in Djakarta may affect the future of your Party?

ANSWER: At present we are

anticipating no change in the Government.

Should a change in Government be necessary in the days to come, then the only Government that is sure to receive wide support from the people would be one in conformity with the concepts of President Sukarno.

U.S. ARMS POLICY BOOMERANGS

The Indonesian government

does not intend to permit any new rebel adventures after the one has been put down. She has entered into trade agreements with the Socialist countries for sufficient military material to make her a power to be reckoned with.

A new Indonesian air force of over one hundred jets is planned, most of them Soviet Mig fighters. There will also be thirty or forty IL 28 bombers.

MIDDLE EAST

WESTERN ACTION ON NASSER'S MOSCOW VISIT?

THE West is expected to launch a diplomatic counter-offensive to offset the effect on the Middle East of President Nasser's visit to Moscow this month.

The diplomatic correspondent of the London newspaper *Reynold's News* predicts:

- (1) Important switches in top British Middle Eastern diplomatic posts;
- (2) An attempt to get a rapid settlement of British disputes with Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
- (3) A speech to be made by either Mr. Macmillan or Selwyn Lloyd—calling for revision of the Israeli-Arab boundaries in favour of the Arabs.

Mr. George Middleton, British Ambassador in Beirut, may soon replace Sir Bernard Burrows as Political Resident in Bahrein, the key British post in the Persian Gulf oil States.

Middleton, an outspoken critic of Eden's Suez invasion, has been popular in the Lebanon, even among extreme Arab nationalists.

SUEZ COMPENSATION

At the same time, attempts will be made to wind up the

Anglo-Egyptian talks in Rome bogged down over the question

with Egypt.

Britain is also expected to reopen talks with Saudi-Arabia over the disputed Burami Oasis.



of compensation for the Suez Canal nationalisation and to resume normal diplomatic relations

LEBANON

United Front Against U.S.

Damascus . . . Representatives of almost all Lebanese opposition parties have formed a united front to oppose U.S. puppet-president Chamoun's proposal to amend the constitution in order to make it possible for him to stand again for the presidency in the elections in July. The constitution limits the presidential term of office to six years.

The opposition bloc, backed by the Socialists and underground Communists, decided to nominate **Hamid Franjeh**, a former Foreign Minister, as their presidential candidate.

Chamoun is believed to be preparing a coup by which he will be able to force the constitutional change upon the country against the will of the people.

WEST INDIES

Left Wins First Election

The Federation of the West Indies—a group of islands spread across 1,500 miles of the Caribbean Sea, west of the South American continent and probably best known for its cricket team—has just completed its first general election.

The election, resolved itself into a straight fight between the moderate Socialists (the Federal Labour Party) led by Sir Grantley Adams and the reactionary Democratic Labour Party led by Sir Alexander Bustamante. The Socialists won by a narrow margin of 23 seats to 21, with one seat held by the Barbados National Party, which will support the Socialists.

The Federation of ten territories with just under three million people was officially born on January 3rd of this year. Its members are Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Vincent, the Leeward and Windward Islands, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antigua and Nevis. The nearby territories of British Honduras and British Guiana were invited to join the Federation but decided not to.

BRAZIL

BAN ON TOP BRAZIL COMMUNIST LIFTED

LUIS Carlos Prestes, leader of Brazil's Communist Party, the largest on the American continent—who, as an "outlaw," has been playing hide-and-seek with the Brazilian police for over ten years—has had his outlawry lifted by the government and has re-entered public life officially.

The Communist Party polled 600,000 votes in the 1945 presidential elections, the last time the Party was legal. They are believed to have gained rather than lost public support during their long period of semi-illegality and they have not wasted time in making themselves felt as a new legal force.

They have approached all progressive parties with a call for a united anti-imperialist front and have been warmly welcomed as

allies. A united front candidate has already been found for the 1950 presidential election.

He is **Oswaldo Aranha**, a member of Brazil's cabinet for twelve years, a former Ambassador to the United States and once a United Nations general assembly president.

UNITED FRONT CANDIDATE

Aranha is heading a united front campaign on the policy of freedom from United States interference, the establishment of relations with the Soviet Union and an independent Brazilian integral and foreign policy.

Within a fortnight of the lifting of the ban on Prestes, tens of thousands of Brazilian television viewers saw the Communist leader and Aranha, who for a long time had been in hostile camps, embracing one another and declaring their determination to stand together in defence of Brazilian freedom.



Mrs. Zainab Reddy, the artist, photographed talking to Mrs. Helen de Leeuw, in whose Johannesburg gallery she exhibited last week.

ZAINAB REDDY'S EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

PARTIES may rise or fall, politicians triumph or go into the wilderness, apartheid be ever more the order of the day, but there is still a basement in the centre of Johannesburg where the elegance of the West meets the colour of the East in happy harmony. In Helen de Leeuw's Von Brandis Street Gallery, above the display of modern slatted chairs, mosaic tables, pleated lampshades, exquisite woven rugs and grass screens, the pictures of a young Indian painter hang, perfectly at home: the first exhibition in Johannesburg of an Indian artist's work.

Zainab Reddy, a beautiful and poised young woman, studied at the art school in Poona, near Bombay, where she met her hus-

band, a young medical student from Natal. She came to South Africa among the beat-the-ban wives, and has been living and painting in Stanger, and bringing up two small children. Life there, she admits, is so full and she herself so involved in it that she has had no time to think of being homesick. She has exhibited in Durban and recently in Stanger (where the opening was performed by the mayor), before bringing her paintings to Johannesburg.

EAST AND WEST

In the work of Zainab Reddy is to be traced, not unnaturally, influences of East and West. They meet and mingle and, for the most part, she has made them her own. In her oils, perhaps, is to be seen most strongly and least assimilated the Western influence, particularly that of Gauguin, modulating the Eastern approach and subject matter. In her water-colours, however, her personal idiom most freely derives from traditional Indian painting, and in these she is happier than when painting under strong western influence, retaining a nostalgia for the inescapable heritage. She is an interesting painter, not afraid to experiment either in the application of colour or the manner of drawing.

Most of the pictures on show were painted in Natal—of groups on the roadside or of men and women working in the fields. In *Spring* (26), a group of three women, a subtle sinuous composition, soft in colour, is a memory of an earlier age in the suggestion of detail of leaf and textile pattern. *Figures in a Landscape* (2) is in the proportions of the upright Persian miniature, similar in feeling, brilliant in colour. *Two Women in a Landscape* (19) again has the miniature feeling, its colours, dull green and bright yellows against red and madder. *Holi* (20) is an elaborate composition of many figures, subtle movement, jewel colours. There is, in her pictures, no perspective in the geometric sense. In spite of the feeling of miniature about them, one also feels that many would enlarge into highly decorative murals. Her figures have the angular formality of Indian dancers: there is all the diaphanous drapery and yearning romanticism.

AFRICAN STUDIES

When Zainab Reddy's subjects are African groups, she is less authentic and seems not yet to have captured the essence of the Zulu personality, as indeed, few painters in South Africa have. But in her sketches of vegetation she succeeds in suggesting the dankness of the banana thickets of Natal. She has been successfully daring, again in her own expression of Indian tradition, in her use of strong coloured mounts to set off the paintings.

We cannot, alas, advise you to see this talented painter's work for yourselves, for this exhibition was put on at short notice; thanks to Helen de Leeuw's decisiveness in seizing the chance while her gallery was free for a few days. Zainab Reddy leaves soon on a visit to India, where her husband has to complete his medical studies and she, no doubt, will continue to paint. We shall watch her progress with interest and look forward to future exhibitions of her work.

F.L.

CURFEW IN P.E.

PORT ELIZABETH.

NO African, male or female, may be on the streets of Port Elizabeth between 10 o'clock at night and 5 o'clock the next morning without a written permit signed by his employer, according to a proclamation issued by the Governor-General and countersigned by Minister Verwoerd which was published in the Government Gazette last week.

Permits may also be issued by officials of the City Council or the Government or by any member of the S.A. Police.

The curfew came into effect on April 11. After that date any African found "in any public place" outside a location without a permit is guilty of an offence.

This is the latest step in Verwoerd's "war" against the African people of Port Elizabeth, who are already denied the right to hold meetings in terms of a Government proclamation issued in 1956.

Verwoerd Takes Over in Sekhukhuniland

JOHANNESBURG.

The assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of the Bapedi Tribal Authority of Sekhukhuniland have been transferred to the South African Native Trust, in terms of a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* last week.

This is the latest move in Verwoerd's year-long fight with the Bapedi tribe ever since they refused to accept the Bantu Authorities Act. The Native Affairs Department has made strenuous efforts to find an element in the tribe which would be prepared to cooperate with Government policy, but without success.

Last month, barely a week after the Transvaal Supreme Court had set aside Verwoerd's suspension of Chief Sekhukhuni on the grounds that he had not been given a hearing, the Chief and his family were deported to the Transkei on orders from Verwoerd.

But far from improving matters, this has only served to incense the tribesmen against the Government. Not a single leader of the tribe was prepared to come forward and act as a quisling, so now Verwoerd has been compelled to take the administration of the affairs of the tribe into his own hands.

The general opinion is that if Verwoerd wants Zeerust on his hands, he is going the right way about getting it.

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SOPHIATOWN FOUGHT TO THE BITTER END

(Continued from page 1)

In Newclare, where mass action has become a tradition, people remained in their yards, only a few strolling up and down the streets and now and again looking at the Westbury station to see who was going to work. Western Native Township gave the impression that everybody had gone to work. The place was quiet and looked deserted. Here the people remained in their homes. The armed police stationed there to "protect" those who wanted to go to work had the opposite effect—of frightening the people away from work.

85% AT HOME

This Monday looked like a Sunday morning save that those who went to work looked too frightened to be Christians going to church. There was no doubt 85% of the people in the Western areas stayed at home on Monday.

In Sophiatown the situation was tense. Hundreds of people spent the best part of the morning standing face to face with hundreds of policemen. But when the people realised that there were no more people going to town they went back to their homes. By this time the police had tried a number of methods to provoke the people.

At about 5.45 a.m. the police stopped a car in which Congress leaders and treason trialists, Peter Nthite, Patrick Molaoa and Robert Resha were travelling. Without a word a European policeman opened the door of the car and pulled out Molaoa. When Molaoa wanted an explanation, the only reply he could get from the tall hefty man was "Where is your pass?" And thereafter he pulled Molaoa about.

In the meantime another gang of angry policemen were demanding passes from Nthite and Resha. They too were not given a chance to produce anything. Finally under heavy police escort they were told to drive their car to the Newlands

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20% Reduction to Africans

police station. After answering a number of questions they were released.

A "Drum" photographer who tried to photograph the Nthite-Resha arrest was himself arrested and charged at the police station with being in possession of a camera without a receipt. His release was later ordered by a senior officer.

Half an hour later Nthite and Jonas Matlou, another treason trialist, were arrested after they had stopped their car at the corner of Victoria Road and Millar Street, Sophiatown. Before they were arrested two policemen rushed at them and without saying anything went for their pockets. When they demanded to know what was happening they found they were under arrest. The policeman who arrested Nthite pushed him into the car and with two European police escorts they were told to drive to Newlands police station, where they were detained for 24 hours before they were charged with vagrancy. They were bailed out for £5 each and were due to appear in court on April 22.

ENTERED HOUSES

Later in the day both in Sophiatown and Newclare the police started entering houses and demanding passes, permits and tax receipts. As a result of these raids many people were arrested. Some of the people arrested were charged with incitement to public violence.

On Monday afternoon there were skirmishes between people who had gone to work and those who stayed at home, and a number of people were injured.

During these assaults the promised police protection was missing. The police were busy elsewhere.

The buses were well protected. So well that they were driven into their depot instead of to the usual stops in the township and passengers who had gone to work were left high and dry to make their own way home through hostile groups. Attacks on them were an opening for the police.

On Monday night police in a troop carrier fired shots in Gibson Street, Sophiatown, where a crowd of people had been standing.

ON TUESDAY

On Tuesday the "Stay-at-Home" was even more successful, and 90 per cent. of the people did not go to work. There were a few who went to the bus rank to see what was happening. On this day there were more baton charges and more raids by the police. Shots were also fired in Milner Road, where there was a skirmish between those who stayed at home and those who went to work.

By Tuesday the police assaults had become so indiscriminate that men who had gone to work were

being hit about—and arrested—by police patrols.

Press reporters saw a member of the Special Branch in a car fire his revolver down a street for no apparent reason. A policeman in a passing troop carrier was seen to lean out and smash his baton on to the head of a nearby African.

By Wednesday standing in the street or merely being in a house had become an offence for which the police assaulted, broke the people's furniture and arrested the innocent victims.

EYE-WITNESS REPORT

Here is one eye-witness account: "Police intimidation took the form of indiscriminate baton charges. All day long police convoys, consisting of a flying squad car and senior officers, a pick-up van and a troop carrier crowded with African police, patrolled Sophiatown. They tore their way through the crowded streets, arrogantly taking corners on three wheels. They would then come to a halt and the African policemen, brandishing batons and riot sticks rushed out of a lorry and set to work on anyone and everyone in sight. It made not the slightest difference that people were standing on the verandas of their homes. People were assaulted in yards, small children were chased and even dogs were kicked about. Then a White officer blew a whistle and the charge ended. The policemen returned to their lorry and the convoy drove off to look for other victims."

No less than 50 people were injured during the "stay-home" protest. Many of them had stab wounds and were treated and allowed to go home. Four had bullet wounds. Eleven are still in Coronation Hospital and their state is reported to be critical.

A.N.C. STATEMENT

The Working Committee of the A.N.C. decided, after the first day of protest, to advise the people to discontinue the stay-at-home protest and to return to work. But, said its statement, the Western Areas have for a long time been the victim of frequent mass police raids, of arrests of hundreds of people under the pass laws and of other forms of provocation. On the eve of the stay-at-home protest the police descended on the Western Areas with more raids and arrests, and kept the area under pressure throughout the following day. The effect of this was to increase tension to a degree which compelled the people of the Western Areas to continue the stay-at-home so as to bring the special attention of the voters and employers of South Africa the utterly intolerable conditions under which they live.

Only on Thursday did the Western Areas begin to return to normal as the people went back to work, and the children to school.

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