

"My Visit Overseas Inspired Me To Greater Efforts For Freedom"

—Says Coloured Woman Leader
CAPE TOWN.

"NOTHING can break the people's determination for world peace. I realised that when I saw the strength of the world peace movement—first at the Congress of Mothers in Lausanne, Switzerland, where hundreds of mothers had gathered from all over the world with one thought in mind—peace; and later at the Warsaw Youth Festival, where I saw thousands of people marching through the streets with the very same thought uppermost in their minds," Mrs. Gladys Smith told me when I spoke to her about her recent visit to Europe.

Mrs. Smith, who is president of the Federation of South African Women and a Cape regional committee member of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation, had been a delegate to the World Congress of Mothers, had spent three weeks in Rumania, about ten days in Warsaw, and a short while in Denmark.

"The spirit of unity among the different races, colours and creeds overwhelmed me," said Mrs. Smith, speaking of the World Congress of Mothers. "There were no restrictions, no hard looks, no feeling of being unwanted. I straightaway felt at home. People were hugging and kissing each other, dancing with each other, exchanging news about their countries. Every morning when we came to our seats at the conference we found presents from other delegations."

Mrs. Smith was among the delegates who were invited to tea with the Mayor and Mayoress of Lausanne and, seated with the Soviet, Indian and other delegates, she was charmed with the friendly way in which the hosts moved among the guests, personally seeing to their needs.

INVITATION TO RUMANIA

At the World Congress of Mothers Mrs. Smith received an invitation from the Rumanian delegation to visit Bucharest, which she gladly accepted, joining a group of 14 other visitors.

"The Rumanians very proudly showed us their country," said Mrs. Smith. "We visited factories and saw that each factory has its own nursery school and creche where the mothers can leave their children in safety while they work. The workers do not contribute a penny towards the upkeep of these creches and nursery schools."

"We were told by the workers that expectant mothers received half their baby's layette as a free gift, three months' pregnancy leave; that before and after birth they receive regular attention from doctors and nurses; that all mothers go to maternity homes for their confinement, as there are sufficient such homes in the country. Mothers are given time off from work to feed their babies."

HALLS OF CULTURE

"In the factories, also, there are large halls of culture to which the workers return at night for concerts, dramatic productions, etc."

"We saw cotton and tobacco factories where they had special suction ventilators which sucked in all the cotton and tobacco dust which, in so many other parts of the world, go straight into the workers' lungs. At these Rumanian factories the workers are examined once a week by the doctor, and are provided with a free daily ration of milk."

Another highlight of Mrs. Smith's stay in Rumania was her visit to the Palace of Pioneers where every day children gather to pursue their favourite hobbies and pastimes. "Here they find pianos and violins to practise on, model aeroplanes to work on, art and dancing classes—just whatever they are interested in, and there are always teachers to help and advise them."

"Everywhere in Rumania," Mrs. Smith went on, "we were greeted with big bouquets of flowers. At the Palace of Pioneers we were given a special welcome by the children, who tied scarves round our necks, and sang us a song of welcome."

WORKERS' REST HOME

Another memorable visit was to

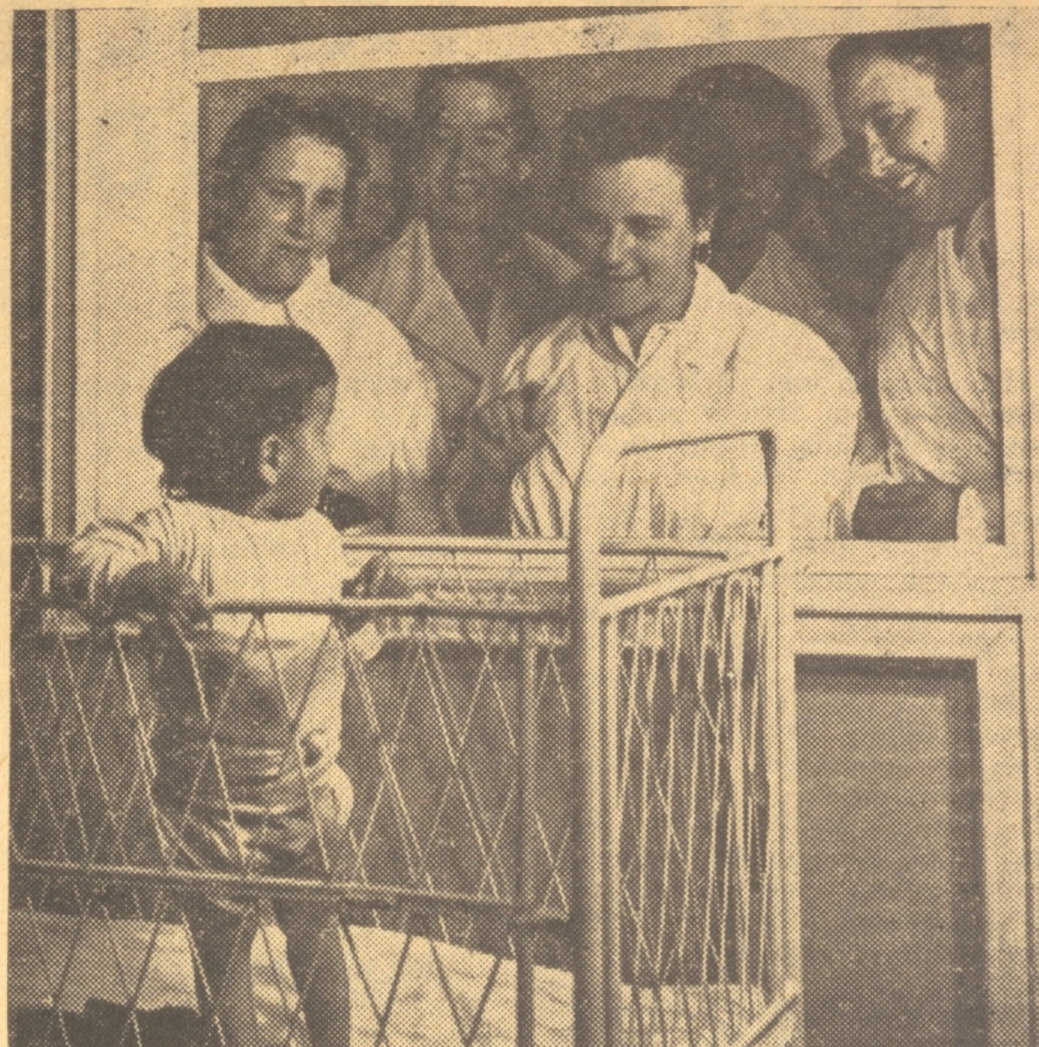
a workers' rest home in the mountains. "Workers bring their whole families here to spend their yearly leave. The charges are so moderate, it is well within their means."

When visiting a collective farm, said Mrs. Smith, "I thought what would many of our people not give to live in these pigsties! These sties would be a palace to our people!"

Mrs. Smith was also very impressed with the large numbers of parks in Bucharest "practically at every street corner" and the big and beautiful churches.

"My visit overseas has been a most inspiring experience, which I shall remember forever and ever," said Mrs. Smith. "I saw that liberation lies in our own hands and that we shall have to fight harder for unity among ourselves so as to achieve our aim—freedom and peace."

NAOMI SHAPIRO.



Mrs. Smith (extreme right) visits a creche in Bucharest.

SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO WORK FOR END TO TENSION

But U.S. Reluctant To Follow Suit

LONDON.—DESPITE THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES TO FOLLOW SUIT, THE SOVIET UNION IS CONTINUING ITS STEP-BY-STEP CAMPAIGN TO RELAX INTERNATIONAL TENSION.

In the last two weeks, the Soviet Union has:

- Agreed to the return of German war criminals to their home country;
- Announced a general amnesty for Russian war-time collaborators at home and abroad, excluding only those sentenced for murder or torture;
- Promised to speed-up the relaxation of censorship on outgoing press reports from the Soviet Union;
- Begun the evacuation of the naval base at Porkkala, in Finland, as part of a campaign, in the words of Marshal Zhukov, "to liquidate bases in general."

Mr. Quarles, speaking to foreign air attaches in the United States, declared that the U.S. now has a "crushing force" which was "a convincing deterrent to war."

"We intend it shall exist in every foreseeable tomorrow," he said. These actions by the United States have been severely criticised in the Soviet and foreign press. Pravda said the U.S. had abandoned the spirit of Geneva and was reverting to "position of strength" policies.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. James Reston, commented: "It is still widely and erroneously assumed that the U.S. is thinking about one of the many systems for reducing arms to such a point that a major war would be impossible."

ANSWER IS 'NO'

"The objective of U.S. policy in the foreseeable future is not 'disarmament' at all but at best a 'limitation of arms.'

"So when the Russians ask, as they have been asking in the U.N. 'disarmament' talks, whether if they accept our alarm-system of inspection, we will adopt their system of banning and destroying all weapons of mass destruction, the answer is 'No.'"

If this is the attitude the United States intends to take up at next month's conference of the Big Four foreign ministers, the outlook is grim indeed.

SHARP EXCHANGE

The sharpest exchange in the diplomatic sphere during the last fortnight took place, not in New York, but in Moscow, where

German Chancellor Adenauer was told bluntly by the Soviet leaders that it was time his Government came off its high horse and accepted the responsibility of the German people for the last war.

Adenauer had started off in aggressive style by insisting that two items must be discussed before all others—German unification and the repatriation of almost 100,000 war prisoners from the Soviet Union.

Marshal Bulganin replied that the question of German unity had been prejudiced by West Germany's adherence to NATO. The Soviet Union was now only prepared to consider German unification in the context of a general European collective security system.

INFLATED LISTS

As for German prisoners in the Soviet Union, he said, Adenauer's total had been inflated by claiming as prisoners those who, in a British war casualty list, would have been listed "missing, believed killed." In fact, the Soviet Union had released all war prisoners, but was still holding 9,626 German war criminals who had been sentenced in Soviet courts.

Adenauer apparently became angry at this, and burst out: "Indeed Hitlerite troops on the territory of the Soviet Union committed many serious crimes, but Soviet troops who were on German territory also committed certain acts."

This brought a sharp reproof from Mr. Krushov who said:

"I categorically deny this. Soviet troops continued hostilities on German territory to fulfil their sacred debt before the Soviet peo-

ple. I consider that an offensive remark that has been made about Soviet troops and it compelled me to make this statement.

"BE BRAVE"

"We fully understand the sufferings and sorrows of millions of German people who have heard nothing of the fate of their relatives. But be brave and admit who is guilty."

"Who is guilty that these people failed to return to their relatives? If there were many Germans who perished, there were even more Soviet people—and who is to blame for these? We are not guilty. It was not we who crossed the frontier. It was not we who began the war."

Mr. Molotov made the point that the German people had not been able to throw off Hitlerism by themselves, and owed Hitler's downfall mainly to Russia's prosecution of the war.

Adenauer, now considerably set back, replied in more conciliatory tone:

"Gentlemen, do not take any offence at what I am going to say now. It does not concern the Soviet Union alone, but a number of other countries too."

"Why, after 1933, did the Great Powers make it possible for Hitler to grow in strength? This is the crucial question. When I think of the honours accorded to Hitler by the Great Powers—as for instance, at the Berlin Olympics—I am asking you to understand that I really cannot control my feelings."

ALLOWED TO GROW

"I will never forget how Hitler, with impunity, got away with any

The only reply of the United States to these generous advances has been:

- The announcement by Mr. Harold Stassen at the meeting of the U.N. Disarmament Sub-Committee in New York, that the U.S. "reserves its position" on disarmament;
- The boast by U.S. Chief of Air Staff, General Twining, that the U.S. Strategic Air Command (the H-Bomb fleet) is ready to deliver an attack at any time—of course "in retaliation to an aggressor";
- The statement by the new U.S. Secretary for Air, Mr. Donald Quarles, that the United States, so far from disarming, intended to maintain "overwhelming air-atomic power".

violation of international treaties. This turned Hitler into a hero in the eyes of certain stupid Germans, while others were reduced to despair. They must have seen, as I saw from 1933 onwards, how this man was allowed to grow to such dimensions.

"We too—I mean the Federal Government and the members of our Parliament—are the unfortunate heirs to all that. We must try, too—since Germany suffered a lot from the war—to rebuild Germany. We must try again to win the confidence of foreign powers, as well as your confidence."

He appealed to the Soviet leaders not to let him go home without an agreement on the issue of the prisoners. In the end, the Soviet leaders agreed to reconsider the cases of the German war criminals, and an agreement was signed between the two countries providing for the exchange of diplomatic representatives.

Adenauer's performance in Moscow, despite U.S. attempts to claim it as a triumph, was severely criticised in other countries, not least in West Germany itself.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' VIEW

Herr Ollenhauer, leader of the Social Democrats, said: "German reunification and German freedom cannot be achieved without the Soviet Union. Therefore we oppose the implementation of the Paris Agreements." The Social Democrats had recently withheld criticism of Adenauer in order not to be accused of impeding his negotiations in Moscow. Now they felt obliged once more to voice German alarm.

SIXTEEN FAMILIES FACE EVICTION

JOHANNESBURG.—Sixteen families living in New Court Chambers in Commissioner Street have been served with eviction orders. None of them have been able to find any alternative accommodation.

The building was declared a slum just over a year ago, but the Medical Officer of Health granted extensions of time for the families because the housing shortage for Non-Europeans is so acute that it is virtually impossible for families to find accommodation.

Faced finally with the last ultimatum to quit the building the families have appealed to the City Council for accommodation. But to a deputation from the Transvaal Indian Congress that put their case, an official of the Council's Non-European Affairs Department said the families should move into Lenz, the Indian ghetto.

This was the only solution the Council was prepared to consider, the official said. Lenz would probably be declared the Indian group area, and the Indians should move there.

When the Congress explained the objections of the Indian people to Lenz on the grounds that it is to be the Indian ghetto, the official replied: "Beggars can't be choosers!"

MILITARY BARRACKS

Even in Lenz the only accommodation offered is in the former military barracks which, on the admission of the Council, need considerable time and money before they could be repaired and made fit for human habitation.

Meanwhile in New Court Chambers the 13 Indian and three Coloured families are at their wit's end. As far as the landlord is con-

cerned, they have already left the building. The bathrooms and toilets are being dismantled and the water shut off. It is clear the families will have to vacate the building, but where can they go, they are asking?

Many families have lived in the building for as long as 7 and 8 years.

Some of the families of 7, 11 and 12 members occupy two tiny rooms. Six of the families are of five members each and live in one tiny room.

FILTHY BUILDING

The building is in a filthy state, and has not been repaired for years.

Nevertheless to these 16 families

AFRICAN WORKER, Albert Mokoena, formerly of Thermal Welding Products in Benoni has been charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act following a strike in which the workers at that factory took part.

The summons served on Mokoena says that he threatened to assault persons with sticks if they went to work. But the charge states that the Crown will accept a "nominal admission of guilt in this case."

it is the only "home" they know. One old tenant fainted when the ejection order was served on him. Another, a young woman with four small children, did not go to work for a week but spent her days trying to find some new home. She has been as unsuccessful as all the families in this building.

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, the Petersen family of Woodstock, whose picture appeared in last week's New Age, are still without accommodation and living in a field with all their belongings exposed to the wintry weather.

French Communists Oppose North Africa Oppression

PARIS.—The Communist Party of France has proposed a joint meeting with leaders of the Socialist Party to discuss joint action on French North Africa. In a statement, the Communist Party condemns the repression being carried out by French troops in North Africa, and calls for the opening of real negotiations with the qualified representatives of the peoples of Morocco and Algeria.

Members of the French National Assembly's defence committee have protested to the War Minister, General Koenig, against the call-up of reservists for the armed forces. By October France will have 1,200,000 men under arms, and the armed forces budget will have been swollen by £200 million. The defence committee was neither informed nor consulted on the recent decrees providing for the call-up of reservists.

Meanwhile, the French are continuing reprisal raids in Morocco and Algiers. In raids in Paris and its environs tens of thousands of

North Africans in France were "screened," and several hundred arrested in connection with charges of "plotting against the external security of the State."

In recent years, more and more Algerians have been emigrating to France in search of employment. They drift to the towns, where they are given only the most menial jobs and live in conditions which, according to the Paris correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, "compare unfavourably with the slums of Cairo or Bagdad." About 50,000 Algerians are unemployed in the Paris area alone.

FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS PROTEST TO GHETTO BOARD

"People Have Right To Live Where They Choose"

CAPE TOWN.—The Food and Canning Workers' Union has protested to the Land Tenure Board against the Group Areas allocations for Paarl and Wellington. It demands that the people be allowed to remain in their present homes and stresses their right to live where they choose.

The union has a large number of members in these areas who, states the memorandum, "through their sweat and labour enabled the canning industry to develop to its present height of productivity."

The memorandum continues: "From the very earliest days of Paarl and Wellington's coming into being the Coloured and European peoples have lived side by side in the most cordial relationship. There have never been any race disturbances or any racial animosities. They have lived and built the town and their industries in complete harmony."

The removal of the Coloured people from the places where they live and have built their homes would involve them in severe hardship, states the union.

"Their homes which have been built up brick by brick are to be uprooted. They will have to spend more money on transport, as the areas which are allocated are far away from the factories where they work as well as from the shopping area, churches, schools and other social amenities. They are to be moved to

areas without roads and without lighting. These conditions will place an added burden on them."

LOWERED LIVING STANDARD

The lowering of the people's standard of living, the union continues, is bound to increase the prevalence of tuberculosis and similar diseases.

"Longer hours of travelling, less hours to rest and sleep, less money to buy food and clothes will have a bad effect on the health of the people."

A large number of individuals have also submitted letters of protest to the Land Tenure Board while the Paarl Coloured community as a whole, in a memorandum, denied that different races cannot live together peacefully. Compulsory apartheid, said the memorandum, brought bitterness and swept up one race against the other.

A.N.C. REGION BACKS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

Anti-Pass Campaign to be Extended

CAPE TOWN.—The Cape Western Region of the African National Congress gave full approval to the campaign to collect 1 million signatures for the Freedom Charter when it met in conference in Worcester over the week-end.

The conference unanimously decided to accept the Joint Congress Committee, consisting of delegates from the A.N.C., S.A. Coloured People's Organisation and Congress of Democrats, which has been set up to organise the campaign.

As a first step in the signature campaign, the conference decided to elect delegates to be present at the meeting of regional executives of the three congresses in Cape Town on Saturday, which has been called by the S.A.C.P.O. and where the Freedom Charter and the signature campaign will be discussed.

Conference, which was attended by 24 delegates from 12 branches throughout the Western Cape, also gave unanimous approval to the report of the Women's Anti-Pass Committee in which the women declared their determination to carry the campaign into the rural areas.

Another of the major items discussed was the question of rent

increases at the Worcester location of Kwezi and also at Nyanga, where a number of people are still paying the higher rents, though not legally compelled to do so.

COLD AND DAMP

Mr. Joe Ndamoyi outlined the people's dissatisfaction at the houses

at Kwezi, which were cold and damp in winter, and declared that the people could not afford higher rents.

The A.N.C. decided to sponsor any court action that may be necessary following the rent increases.

Mr. John Mtini presided over the conference which was spirited and militant throughout and which was attended, also, by a large number of Worcester residents who came as observers.

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Mr. T. Phirayane, last known address 16 Miller St., Sophiatown.

Mrs. Emily Gordon, last known address Block B, Crown Mines.

New Age wishes its Jewish readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year and well over the Fast

CONGRATULATIONS

To Florence Fortoen who celebrated her twenty-first birthday on September 20. Best wishes from Kay, John and Arnold.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED
Young Coloured lady with two children requires accommodation. A room or board and lodging. Can produce good references if required. Reply Lucy, P.O. Box 491, Johannesburg.

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