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INDIAN CONGRESS

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

The Transvaal Indian Congress contributed its maximum share of delegates to the Congress of People. Amongst the delegates most prominent were the Indian women. The Indian women without doubt played an important role than their menfolk at this historic gathering of the Congress of the People. We were left to make the arrangements for the catering and accomodation of most of the delegates and this task was successfully carried out by our constituent bodies. After the adoption of the Freedom Charter all efforts were put in by us to collect signatures for the Freedom Charter and this was carried out unceasingly by our members.

Union wide Raid.

After the Congress of the people, the Government carried out Union wide raids on homes and offices of the sponsoring organisation of the C.O.P. Armed with warrant of sedition and treason, personal and official documents were removed from the offices and homes of various people. Since then the Liberatory movement was threatened with persecution for seditious and treasonable charges, but these charges up till now has not been preferred against our Congress.

In September, 1955, one of the three great South Africans that was honoured at the ~~great~~ historic assembly of the people of S.A. namely the C.C.P. was requested by the Community of Resurrection to whom he belonged to return to England. This request and his intended departure came as a ~~great~~ great shock to the non-white people of this country, because this champion of justice and righteous was leaving this country. The Transvaal Indian Congress in the departure of Father Huddelston has really lost a friend and a worthy champion of our cause and indeed one of us.

In September, 1954, your Congress together with the other Congresses adressed an open letter to the Commonwealth Parliamen

Delegation that visited South Africa, pointing out to them that if permitted, we would like to have the opportunity of showing you something of our South Africa, the people's South Africa. It would no doubt be different from the official South Africa of monuments and game reserves which they will see but we would like you to see the slum of Moroka where 55,000 live in home made hovels of hessian and cardboard, and to Western Areas where 58,000 live under the shadow of imminent forceful deportation from their traditional freehold homes, and we could meet some of the African boys and girls who struggle each year to be in that one third for whom there is any place in our schools, and possibly we could visit Nylstroom and Lydenburg and gaze upon the rocky outcrops of wastelands to which the local town councils propose to relocate the local Indian Community.

During 1955 the Govt. of India withdrew the High Commissioner of India from this country on the request of the S.A. Govt, because the Govt of India has consistently championed the and pursued the cause of the non-white people of S.A.

Western Areas Removal.

The 9th of February, 1955 will go down in the annals of history of S.A. when the oppressed people and democratic Europeans will record the removal of Africans from the Western Areas to Meadowlands. Two thousand policemen, armed to the teeth, carrying out this military operation. Such a show of force has never been seen in South Africa before. Sophiatown was in stage of siege, gatherings of more than ten persons were banned by the Minister of Justice between Johannesburg and Roodepoort for 20 days. The T.H.C. condemned the removal scheme and participated in the meetings and organising the people against it.

Womens Protest.

Indian women of the Transvaal played a very prominent part in the national Womens protest March to the Prime Minister in Pretoria. About 20,000 women gathered in Pretoria from many parts of Transvaal and the Union.

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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