

# "INDIANS AND RUSSIANS ARE BROTHERS"

"THERE had been no such excitement since Independence Day, no such pomp since George V, King and Emperor, summoned the princes of India to pay him homage at a royal durbar in 1911 . . . Red Soviet flags flew everywhere. Street names with an 'imperial' flavour were changed, such as Queensway, which became Road of the People . . . A season's harvest of roses, marigolds and other flowers were gathered for the occasion."

Thus did Time (Nov. 28) describe the visit of Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin and Communist Party Secretary Kruschov to India. Time concluded angrily: It was "a performance which, if it did nothing else, could only serve to lend respectability to Russia's leaders in the eyes of India's millions."

In fact, of course, the visit did a great deal more than that. It brought India and the Soviet Union into closer friendship than ever before in the history of the two countries—and it laid the basis for the expression of that friendship in concrete terms through economic, scientific and cultural co-operation.



From the day the Soviet leaders landed, when over a million cheering people lined the streets of Delhi, to the time of their departure, the excitement was maintained.

All Delhi papers devoted their entire front pages to the welcome given to the Soviet leaders on their arrival.

## WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

Typical comment was that of the Hindu Standard which declared in an editorial: "The Indian people's desire for the Soviet Union's friendship is not luxury nor fancy but necessity, because the peoples of both great countries need peace and good neighbourliness for carrying out far-reaching plans of economic and social development."

### VISION OF FUTURE

The Statesman declared that "to many minds it has conjured up a vision of the future in which India, Russia and China representing a huge segment of the world's population, will strenuously cooperate for the advancement of mankind."

And without exception, India's newspapers of all political opinions, echoed these views.

In their eighteen-days visit the Soviet leaders managed to see much of India. They laid a wreath on India's most important memorial, Raj Ghat, where Gandhi was cremated. They visited an ancient observatory where, at Kruschov's request, the priests commenced the long task of working out his horoscope. They marvelled at the Taj Mahal, and danced arm in arm with Indian workers who greeted them everywhere with a song specially composed for the visit—Indi Russi Bhai—Indians and Russians are brothers. They visited schools where the children shouted with delight when the Soviet leaders wore their Gandhi caps.

Together with the sightseeing there was a good deal of talking—significant talking.

At the banquet welcoming the guests, Prime Minister Nehru said that during his recent visit to the Soviet Union he saw "mighty tasks undertaken and many accomplished for the well-being of the people. I saw above all the urgent and widespread desire for peace."

### INDIA'S PRESTIGE

In his reply Mr. Bulganin remarked that "the international prestige of India is increasing year by year. It is playing an increasingly important role in discussing and solving Asian problems—and not only Asian problems."

Addressing the Indian Parliament the next day, Mr. Bulganin noted that "a distinctive feature of our times is the profound change in the political situation in the countries of Asia and the entire East."

"The great historic progress of the awakening of the peoples of the East and their entry in the political arena is taking place. This process is going on full blast and there is no force capable of checking it."

### MUCH IN COMMON

Bulganin continued that there was much in common in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and India. "In the final count we have one aim: to ease international tension, to maintain and strengthen

peace, to prevent war and to spare mankind its horrors, to assure the people's tranquil labour and the joy of peaceful life," he said.

### WESTERN PRESS

For the first week of the tour the Western press was in the greatest difficulties. They could hardly ignore the news—and as hard as they tried they could find no way of squeezing anti-Soviet propaganda out of it.

Then at last they thought they had a windfall. Speaking in Bombay, Mr. Kruschov explained what he meant by co-existence.

"When I speak of co-existence it does not mean I want capitalism to go on existing," he said. "What it means is that I recognise this system de facto." He pointed out that "when the first proletarian state was born it was not greeted with the ringing of church bells. The English came to our country, the French landed in Odessa, the Americans followed the English example, and the Japanese followed suit. What happened everyone knows. All these troops were thrown out of our country in the same way as a housewife throws out garbage. But this was not enough for some gentlemen—they started the Second World War, they sent new troops against our country and these troops were the troops of Hitlerite Germany."

### FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT

With the most reckless distortion, the Western press headlined garbled reports of Kruschov's speech "WEST DESCRIBED AS GARBAGE," and "BRITAIN STARTED THE WAR," says Kruschov. And probably basing his opinion on one of the headlines, a British Foreign Office spokesman rushed into print with a violent attack on the Soviet leaders. The London Daily Mail, and other papers, suggested that the invitation to the Soviet leaders to visit Britain, should be cancelled.

Speaking in East Punjab, Kruschov raised loud cheers and laughter when he made reference to the Western press alarm at the success of the tour. "Those who are displeased by our trip to India are writing these days that Kruschov and Bulganin are artful men, and that they can deceive India by their technical aid promises and that the Indians should keep an eye on them."

"To those who are writing this, we say: perhaps you will challenge us in a race for the friendship of the Indians? We accept the challenge. It is better to compete in this manner than in the manufacture of atomic and hydrogen bombs."

The Free Press Journal in an editorial described Western comments as "absurd." "Undeterred by fulminations and insinuations, India has accepted the hand of co-operation extended by Russia for her economic development," it declared.

### REASON FOR HOSTILITY

The Bengali daily Jugantar noted that the Western countries were hostile because they were afraid that the establishment of heavy and basic industries in India would mean the loss of their markets, and because their own economy as well as industry and commerce were dependent on the maintenance of colonial empires and the exploitation of backward countries.

The hasty British Foreign Office statement attacking the Soviet leaders boomeranged very badly in India—and as a result Mr. Eden announced the purge of the official concerned.

When the announcement of the explosion of the Soviet Union's test hydrogen bomb came, the Western press immediately reported that it had resulted in a cooling of the reception given to the Soviet leaders. These reports were, however, based on wishful thinking, and not on fact.

### SEEK REFUGE!

On the day after its report that India's reception of the Soviet leaders was cooling off, the Cape Times carried a front page news item reporting how a Calcutta crowd of two million people, shouting "Russians and Indians are brothers," had jammed the streets so tightly that the open car in which the Soviet leaders were travelling had broken down and they had had to continue their journey in a police van.

The Bengal Prime Minister explained: "There was an unprecedented crowd, enthusiastic and clamorous all along the route. The anxiety of the people to come near, and even to shake hands with the leaders, exceeded a sense of discipline and it was impossible to proceed."

As the Soviet leaders said farewell to the people of India and left for the next stage of their triumphal tour—Burma and Afghanistan—no less a person than Pandit Nehru gave his reply to those who were alarmed by the success of the visit, those "who cannot help thinking in terms of rival camps and military alliances."

"No one should object to friendship and co-operation," said Mr. Nehru. "It is hatred, violence and hostility that should be avoided."



# The Hideous Face



Survivors of Belsen? No, the malnourished Maharaj babies mentioned in this article on slum conditions near Durban.



The mother of these children goes to work. The eldest boy, 11 year old, looks after the other children. This is the type of one-roomed shack in which most African families live.

## Call To Settle Arab-Israeli Dispute

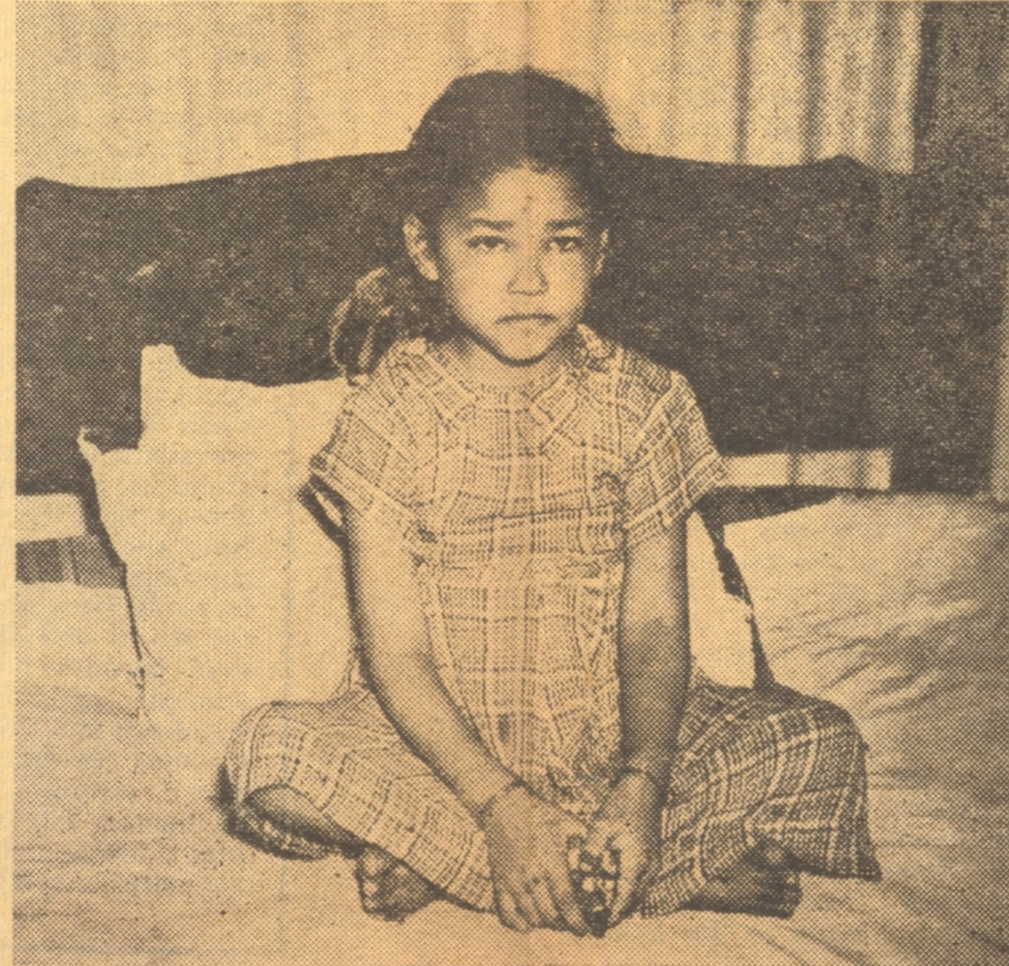
JOHANNESBURG.

A resolution calling upon the United Nations Organisation to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute immediately through negotiations was passed at a meeting held by the South African Peace Council at the Skyline Hotel, Hillbrow, last week.

The speakers included Mrs. Jessie McPherson, the Rev. D. C. Thompson and Mr. Malcolm Clarke and the chairman was Mr. Julius Baker. About 80 people attended.

Another resolution called upon the Great Powers to agree upon a disarmament plan and to outlaw weapons of mass destruction, and demanded that uranium, including the vast quantities produced in South Africa, be used for peaceful purposes for the benefit of the people.

Welcoming the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Geneva as a further step towards the relaxation of international tension, the meeting urged the representatives of the Four Great Powers to reach agreement on the urgent problems of European security and the reunification of Germany.



Below: Six-year-old Parvathie Govender, suffering from a weakened heart following rheumatic fever.

# STARVATION AND DISEASE IN DURBAN SHACK-LAND

From JACQUELINE ARENSTEIN

DURBAN.—In the area of Newlands, on the outskirts of Durban, the majority of the population of 10,000 Africans and Indians, housed in demoralising and health-destroying shacks, fight desperately for survival against the crushing evils of poverty, ignorance and the laws of the country.

Malnutrition, the polite word for starvation, is a permanent physical condition for over 70 per cent of the population, according to the local health centre. Tuberculosis and many other diseases hover over every shack.

This is the picture of life at Newlands—overcrowding, shacks that give little protection against the weather, a daily diet of mealie rice and bread, insufficient clothing, blankets made of rags and sacks, fly-covered children growing up under-nourished and illiterate, the old-aged, and widows with children left to fend for themselves on their meagre resources.

Living conditions among the Indians appear to be deteriorating and unemployment increasing owing to their replacement by cheaper and unorganised African labour.

Most of the Indians and Africans are engaged in industrial and commercial occupations in Durban. A minority are market gardeners who cling to small pieces of leased land.

The income of few families is above £17 a month. The majority earn less, Africans usually below £10.

## One Tap For 500 People—And Some Drink From Pools

There is no electricity, roads are impassable after rain and a danger to traffic and people. Sanitation and sewerage are primitive.

There is no irrigation and little water so that the majority of market gardeners depend solely on rain for the raising of their crops. If it rains, the land will yield two crops of vegetables a year and sufficient money to keep the families just above starvation level for about half the year.

In one section of the area there is one tap to serve about 500 people. Often the tap is dry and the people are compelled to use dirty stream water. In other districts of Newlands there are no taps at all, the residents relying on muddy, germ-infested pools and streams that have been tested and condemned as contaminated and unfit for human consumption.

This lack of "protected" water is responsible for a high incidence of bilharzia, and during the season bilharzia is diagnosed in 40 or more patients a week at the Health Centre.

Half of Newlands is under the authority of a Health Committee and the other part under the Magistracy of Verulam.

Although the same misery exists in most Non-European areas here, Newlands is worse because it is beyond the municipal boundary, away from the public eye and deprived of even the negligible help and hope that the people in the town receive from a town council (which is subject to pressure), and various social welfare agencies.

### THE PEOPLE SUFFER

And against this background of impoverishment at Newlands must be viewed the personal sufferings of the people.

I found the Maharaj family of eight living in a shack 18ft. x 12ft. On one of the two beds lay the baby, a few months old, dying from malnutrition. The baby was born in a weakened state from a malnourished mother who could not feed her. The mother had no money to buy adequate quantities of artificial foods. In any case she was ignorant of what foods to buy.

Next to the baby lay her sister, fifteen months old, who had just returned from hospital where she had been treated for acute malnutrition. A few days after I had seen them, the baby was sent to hospital as an emergency case. If she survives, arrangements will be made for her adoption, as the family cannot afford to keep any more children.

The whole family was found to be suffering from malnutrition, and on a ledge in the shack stood a giant-size bottle of vitamin tablets given by the clinic.

The father had been unemployed for eight months. Casual employment has now been found for him and when there is work he earns about £2 a week.

Last week the family faced the dismal prospect of possessing no shelter at all: they had been given a week to vacate their shack which is to be demolished because it does not conform to health regulations.

### NO SCHOOLING

Playing outside another shack was a ten-year-old Indian boy. Like so many children at Newlands, Devani had never been to school. He said he would like to learn to read and write, but his parents could not teach him because they had never been to school. Nor could they afford to pay the 2/6 a month to send him to school.

On Devani's feet and legs were the big sores that you see on the



An Indian market-gardener, Nair, was too ill to work his land, so his wife cultivated it. They earned about £15 a month from the vegetables they grew. A few weeks ago his wife became ill and now she, too, cannot work. There are nine children. The card which she received from the clinic states that she is suffering from malnutrition and an acute state of anxiety due to poverty.

legs of so many of the children. The flies settled on Devani's sores, one on top of the other, until you could not see the sores at all. I flicked them off, but before my hand was back in position the flies were back again, feeding off the sores. They did not seem to irritate the boy: he was used to flies and sores.

Further on there lived the Sookdew family—the parents and five children. For two years the father was down with tuberculosis. The disease has been arrested and his T.B. grant withdrawn. He is now supposed to find "sheltered" employment where there will be no strain to cause the return of the disease. But who will employ him? He still searches for a job and his wife tries to earn some money. Health workers point to the ominous white patches of malnutrition on her face.

### CONTRACTED T.B.

At the F.O.S.A. tuberculosis settlement was Paul Turin. A short while ago he returned from the T.B. clinic to his shack at Newlands to inform his wife and children that he had T.B. and was to go to hospital the next day. On the same day the wife had been told that the family must leave their shack which would be demolished because the landlord had received no rent from the Turins for several months.

This was not the end of Paul Turin's problems. Deeply religious, conflict between his superstitions and medical advice aggravated his

distress. The swami (Hindu priest) had told him that he must leave the area where evil spirits were responsible for his illness and go to a certain place. Rejecting the clinic's instructions, he disappeared. He was suffering from advanced tuberculosis and without immediate treatment could live only a short while, the doctor had warned his wife. Some days later he was found and persuaded to go to FOSA with his family. But he is still full of despair: he is not yet convinced whether the swami's advice or the white man's medicine will cure him; or, if he is cured, what will happen to him and his family when they are discharged from FOSA.

### EJECTED

One night Lutchmie Maharaj, her husband and twelve children were ejected from their shack. For three hours they walked from hill to hill looking for shelter. The labour pains which were to produce Lutchmie's thirteenth child had started. At eleven o'clock that night an old woman took pity on the family and gave them a room. A few hours later Lutchmie's baby was born.

### WEAK HEART

In another shack, sitting on her bed, was six-year-old Parvathis Govender. Following an attack of rheumatic fever, her heart is weakening rapidly.

Rheumatic fever, according to statistics, is much more prevalent in these depressed areas. It is believed that bad housing, which causes excessive exposure to cold

and dampness, plus malnutrition, might be the reason.

Parvathie was supposed to be in hospital. She was at McCord's hospital for some time, but, after having paid £7 10s., her parents could not afford to leave her there any longer. She was taken home and Parvathie was happy to be with her family again. Her happiness was short-lived. The Health Centre advised that she go back to hospital again where treatment provided greater chances for rehabilitation than she could receive in the shack.

Last week her parents' dread became a reality. Parvathie, tearless but sad, was removed for free treatment to the King Edward Non-European hospital, the hospital that every Non-European shuns because of the overcrowding and the unsatisfactory attention they receive.

### AFRICAN AREA

Moving into the African area of Newlands, I found Elizabeth Kuzwayo sitting outside her shack. She was very old and her hands trembled.

Elizabeth said she was born a few days after Cetewayo returned from banishment. After marriage she came to live in Durban where her husband worked.

Some years later her husband died and in quick succession her four children followed him. She said she did not know what killed them but they always coughed a lot.

Left with no one to support her she went to work for a European, where she fell and broke her arm. Since then she could not use her arm and nobody would give her a job.

She lives in a rent-free shack given to her by the landlord and begs for her food and clothes. For three years she has been going to the Native Affairs Department for an old-age pension to which she was long ago entitled. Her last visit a month ago secured the promise that she would get her pension.

Now, every day—and there are not many days left for Elizabeth—she sits and waits for the promise of a pension to materialise.

### LIQUOR BREWER

On the other side of Newlands lives Marie Mbata, a widow with a mentally deranged daughter and three illegitimate grand-children to support. For some time all efforts to get an old-age pension for Marie failed and in desperation she turned to liquor brewing. She was caught and sent to jail for 2½ months. When she was released from jail the Health Centre, where Marie was being treated for a heart disease, appealed to the Native Commissioner to grant her a pension. Now she receives £1.7.6, a month on which to keep her family.

Near Mrs. Mbata lives Mrs. Mbele. She is a widow with six children. Her husband was stabbed. To keep her family from starvation she used to sell meat, but one day she was arrested and charged for hawking without a licence which she could not obtain. She is sick and unable to work. She, too, is being treated at the Health Centre for malnutrition. She has a few dozen fowls to sell. She does not know what will happen when they are finished.

Last week she was ordered to pay a fine of £1 for not taking out a licence for her dog which she needs to prevent her fowls from being stolen. Her rent is in arrears and she has no money to pay the fine.

Many times Mrs. Mbele has gone to the Native Affairs Department to help for her destitute family. Each time the officials scornfully tell her: "Find another husband."

# 'I WAS SO HAPPY I FORGOT I WAS BLACK'

ELIZABETH MAFEKENG DESCRIBES HER EXPERIENCES OVERSEAS

CAPE TOWN.

By NAOMI SHAPIRO

"I was so happy in Bulgaria that I even forgot that I was black," Mrs. Elizabeth Mafekeng laughingly told me last week when she related some of her wonderful experiences overseas.

Mrs. Mafekeng, president of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, recently attended the second international conference of the Food, Tobacco, Hotel, Restaurant and Cafe Workers' Trade Union International in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Looking much younger than her 37 years, she is the mother of nine children, the eldest 17, the youngest three.

"I will never forget the welcome I got from the Bulgarian people," said Mrs. Mafekeng. "I was the only black delegate, and it overwhelmed me to see with what joy and friendship the white people received me. Everywhere I went I was given bouquets of flowers, and when I walked in the streets, they needed a special traffic controller to direct the cars and the people, so much did the people crowd around me!"

Mrs. Mafekeng arrived early for the conference and her hosts decided that she should spend the time of waiting at a holiday resort. Should we send you to the mountains or to the sea? they asked, and after giving her a thorough medical examination, sent her to the mountain rest home of the food and canning workers.

## REST HOMES

"In Bulgaria every trade union in every industry has its own rest homes for its workers, where they spend their leave. At the homes there are doctors to look after you and I spent three wonderful weeks regaining my health."

At the conference itself, Mrs. Mafekeng was elected to the praesidium and took the chair at some of the sittings. "I was quite afraid and very shivery, but I carried out my duties as best I could, realising what an honour it was to me and my people."

From the reports of the dele-

gates — there were 122 delegates representing 66 countries—I learnt much of conditions in other countries and on the third day of the conference I was called upon to give my report on South Africa.

"I told the conference about the different racial laws in South Africa, about the Bantu Education Act, that African trade unions are not recognised by the Government. I told them about conditions in the canning factory where I worked from 1932 to 1953 and how things improved after our union was formed in 1941. I told them about the disfranchisement of the Africans, about the threat to the Coloured vote, and how the Coloured people are now fighting side by side with the Africans for the liberation of our country."

"I told the conference about the police attacks on our union, about the banning of our leaders and the expulsion of the people's delegates in Parliament. I explained that in South Africa Africans are not allowed to do skilled work. I spoke about the Land Act and how our people live."

## TERRIFIC UPROAR

"I was very nervous when I began to speak, but at the end there was a terrific uproar. Delegates rose to their feet and surrounded me, some kissing me, some crying, others shaking my hands, speaking words of encouragement and support. The proceedings of the conference were interrupted for half an hour by this display of love and friendship."

"I was tremendously encouraged. I realised that we in South Africa are not isolated from the rest of the world in our struggle for freedom. I also realised that if the workers are organised, nothing can stop us."

Mrs. Mafekeng was accorded another honour at the conference: She was one of the four chosen to lay a wreath at the tomb of Georgi Dimitrov, first people's President of Bulgaria. She did so in the name of all the African people, giving the Afrika salute.

When food and canning workers from Sofia visited the conference to bring gifts of flowers and scarves to the delegates, Mrs. Mafekeng was

presented with two scarves for "Queen Elizabeth of the African food workers!" She received so many flowers, she had to have help in carrying them to her hotel.

## YOUTH FESTIVAL

Before Sofia, Mrs. Mafekeng spent ten wonderful days at the Warsaw Youth Festival. She speaks with horror of the devastation caused by the war and of the terrible sights she saw at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"All these things made me make up my mind that I will work for peace with everything in my power. I would not like to see such things happening again, not in South Africa or in any other part of the world."

"At Auschwitz I touched the ashes of people who were burned in the gas chambers, and I could not help but cry. I thought that if such terrible things could happen in a country where there is no colour discrimination, they could easily happen here, too, unless our people were on their guard. It taught me again that our big task is to organise our people so that we will all act together for our freedom."

## IN CHINA

After Sofia, Mrs. Mafekeng spent four weeks in China. She speaks excitedly about the collective farms she visited, about the large number of schools, libraries, the palaces of culture where workers spend their evenings ("I've never seen anything like that before, it was wonderful"), about the factories.

Of the collective farms, she said: "Instead of one man owning a big piece of land, here a number of people own the land, and work it together for the benefit of all. The collective farms have their own hospitals, creches, nursery and higher schools. The workers live in decent houses."

"In the factories the workers work an 8-hour day, expectant mothers get an extra hour's rest during the day. Each factory has its own doctor and clinic, and all the workers are examined once a week. Hospitals and doctors are free for all in China."

## GREETED WITH FLOWERS

As in the other countries she visited, Mrs. Mafekeng was everywhere greeted with huge bunches of flowers.

"It was clear that I was in a very happy country," said Mrs. Mafekeng. "And yet, the Chinese people were terribly oppressed before. They also had their apartheid laws and notices which said: 'No dogs and Chinese allowed.' They lived in houses worse than our shanties. The whole life of China has now changed, and it is the people of China who brought about their own liberation."

Mrs. Mafekeng said that one of the conclusions she reached from her visit overseas was that the struggle of the few European South Africans who have identified themselves with the Non-European cause is a harder struggle than that of the Europeans in Europe.

"Before I went overseas I was interested only in the liberation of the Africans," said Mrs. Mafekeng. "Now I have changed. We want freedom for all the people of South Africa. There is no freedom when any one section is oppressed. All must be free, irrespective of race or colour."

"I am confident that we in South Africa will be able to free ourselves, and I call on all South Africans to unite in the struggle. Peace will only come to our country when there is freedom and equality for all."



## Police Again Raid Freedom Charter Tables

JOHANNESBURG.

For the second time, police raided the tables of Freedom Charter signature collectors in Hillbrow recently. They refused to produce a warrant, saying it was not necessary.

The signature collectors protested vehemently, demanding the right to call their legal representative. The police told them they could lodge their protest at police headquarters, but when one of them said she wanted to accompany the police in order to do so, the squad car drove off.

Approximately 4,000 signatures had been collected on the Rand by last Friday, 860 of them in Germiston and 340 in Alexandra.

## Residents Complain at Verwoerd's "Model" Slum

JOHANNESBURG.

Residents of the Reef African township of Davytown held a meeting last week to voice their grievances against the conditions in the township, which was originally described as a "model township for Natives."

For the people of Davytown, living conditions have become unbearable. Not only are they the victims of a "site and service" scheme, but the full weight of apartheid laws has been inflicted upon them.

During the last few weeks, heavy rains have brought new hardships to the people of Davytown. Living as they do in "temporary" shacks, poor shelter and almost non-existent drainage have left Davytown flooded out.

## PERMIT SYSTEM

Also causing hardship in Davytown is the permit system that is forced upon the visitors to the township. Only residents can apply for visitors' permits. Therefore, anyone wishing to visit Davytown has to enter the township without a permit, seek out his host and get him to apply for a permit.

Not only is this a long and wearisome task, but it can be highly unpleasant for the visitors, for being without a permit they are liable to be arrested.

Davytown has very poor shopping facilities. Many people, there-

## ANC Women's League Conference

JOHANNESBURG.

The first national conference of the African National Congress Women's League will be held in the Magasa Hall, Bloemfontein, on Friday, December 16, just before the national annual conference of the ANC.

The main items on the agenda are passes for African women and Bantu Education.

Women from all the provinces of South Africa have been invited to attend.

## Will NUDW Affiliate To SACTU?

CAPE TOWN.

By 31 votes to 3, the Witwatersrand Branch of the National Union of Distributive Workers recently voted in favour of affiliation to the non-colour-bar S.A. Congress of Trade Unions.

Affiliation meetings are being held in the union's branches throughout South Africa and seven other branches—Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg, East London, Vereeniging, and Van der Byl—have voted that the NUDW remain independent.

At some meetings, a motion to affiliate to the South African Trade Union Council (which excludes Africans) was defeated.

The Cape Town branch will vote on the question in January.

The Wits branch is the union's largest branch, comprising one-third of the membership. The whole matter will be discussed again at the union's annual conference which takes place in Port Elizabeth in February.

## Midnight Census

JOHANNESBURG.

Indian families living in Boksburg's Asiatic Bazaar were pulled from their beds at midnight one night recently. The superintendent of Stirtonville Location and some of his constables were doing their twice-yearly check-up on how many people occupy the houses in the Bazaar, and who lives where.

It was only their routine census, they said, but they carried it out at midnight!

## Mass Meeting for Signature Campaign in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN.

"Away with bus apartheid! Down with the Industrial Conciliation Bill! Away with pass laws! Fight reclassification of Coloureds! Forward to the Freedom Charter!"

These are the main slogans for the public meeting on the Cape Town Grand Parade next Sunday, December 11, at 3 p.m. organised by the Cape Western Consultative Committee of the ANC, SACPO, COD and SACTU.

Thousands of leaflets are being distributed calling on people to come to the meeting. Prominent speakers from each of the sponsoring organisations will speak and an appeal will be made for signatures to the Freedom Charter.

"The people of Cape Town are being menaced by bus apartheid; thousands will lose their jobs if the Group Areas Act is implemented and we face the complete disintegration of our social life, just to satisfy the whims of the racialists of the Nationalist Party," Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana, secretary of the Consultative Committee, said in a statement to New Age.

"We appeal to the citizens of

Cape Town to come along in their thousands to this meeting to express their indignation and disapproval of the oppressive measures of the Government and to pledge their determination to fight the Government's attacks on the rights and liberties of the people with all their might."

## CONFERENCE

In the morning of Sunday the 11th, there will be a conference of all youth and cultural organisations to discuss Chapter 8 of the Freedom Charter, which is headed: "The doors of learning and culture shall be opened."

The conference is being held at 92 Loop Street, Cape Town, from 10 a.m., when a full interpretation of this clause will be given and ways and means of its implementation discussed.

Freedom Charter volunteers met with a keen response from the Coloured and African people of Elsies River when they invaded the area with copies of the Freedom Charter last Saturday afternoon.

The volunteers will collect signatures in the same area this coming Saturday afternoon.

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