

IS THE A.N.C. DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS? NO!

SAYS ROBERT RESHA

WHAT is the substance of the allegation that Congress is dominated by outside forces?

It is a malicious lie, deliberately intended to sow seeds of dissension and confusion within the ranks of the organisation.

Secondly, this pernicious propaganda is used as a shield and an excuse for inactivity by those Congressites who want to keep out of the struggle in the interests of their own skins.

Thirdly, this theory of "Domination" is a product of inferiority whereby some people look at Europeans and Indians as superior beings.

So that, wherever they are, they must be in control.

This complex flows from the slave mentality that "An African is incapable of standing on his own in the presence of men of other nationalities."

The allegations of Communist influence in Congress only cropped up after the National Government had passed legislation to outlaw Communism and the Communist Party in South Africa.

Congress itself being a mass liberatory movement of the African people, has always had, and will continue to have, people of various and divergent ideologies, Nationalism, Communism, perhaps even "Africanism" if and when this becomes a philosophy.

COMMUNISTS

The truth is that Communists have either been members of

Congress or worked with the A.N.C. since the Communist Party came into being in 1921.

Perhaps the Africanists do not know that the policy they claim to be parties to, "African Claims" and "Programme of Action," have been produced by our leaders among whom were Moses Kotane (then Secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa), Edwin Mofutsanyane and J. B. Marks who were both outstanding leaders of the Party and known as such.

In addition these three men were for a long time leading members of the National Executive Committee of the A.N.C.

Our fight in South Africa today is, not an ideological one.

It is a natural struggle of a people who demand the end of colour-bar and fight for economic and social changes, equal opportunities for all irrespective of race, colour or ideology.

It is, however, significant that the leaders who are being accused of having sold out Congress to Europeans and Indians, are tried and fested leaders who suffered imprisonment, bannings and banishments.

SURELY, SUCH MEN AS CHIEF A. J. LUTHULI, O. R. TAMBO, PROFESSOR Z. K. MATTHEWS, TO CITE A FEW, CAN ONLY BE THOUGHT OF AS BEING STOOGES BY PEOPLE WHO ARE EITHER DELIBERATELY MALICIOUS OR COMPLETELY NAIVE.

This is the second of two articles by Mr. Robert Resha, who is a member of the A.N.C. National Executive.

ACCUSATIONS

This slander is not new. It has been used by the enemies of liberation movements throughout the world. The result would be to destroy the movement and render the African people leaderless.

We of the African National Congress are not perturbed by the break-away of the Africanists. We know that the Africanists are the remnants of the splinter group that broke away from Congress in 1950 and styled itself the African National Congress National-Minded Bloc.

The present leader of the Africanists, Josiah Madzunya, was an enthusiastic member of the Group. He came back later, confessed his mistakes only to lead another break-away in 1958.

In 1950, when the National-Minded Bloc left Congress, it was led by prominent leaders with the late R. V. Selope-Thema as president. Selope-Thema was undoubtedly an outstanding leader. He was a foundation member of Congress, its former Secretary-General, member of the Native Representative Council until abolished in 1951, former Editor of the "Bantu World." His

right-hand man was C. S. Ramohano, president of the A.N.C. Transvaal Branch for a number of years.

SHORT-LIVED

But when Selope-Thema and Ramohano ceased to be Congress members they lost the tremendous influence they had among the African people and finally lost their following as well.

The National-Minded Bloc was short-lived and died peacefully.

Naturally, the Africanists, offspring of the National-Minded Bloc will follow the same path. In fact, it would not be surprising to learn that the Africanists are planning a come-back to old wiseman Congress.

There can be no doubt that the African National Congress will continue to lead the African people because of the correctness of its policy which is CO-OPERATION WITH ALL RACIAL GROUPS IN THE FIGHT FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF A MULTIRACIAL DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA DURING OUR LIFE TIME.

As an afterthought, one is persuaded to think that in the final analysis, it is a misnomer to label the Africanists as anti-White or anti-Indian, for in fact, they are not anti-anybody, but a bunch of opportunists masquerading as purified African nationalists so as to receive favours from the powers that be.

All political comment, unless otherwise stated, by C. L. Eprile, of 15 Troya Street, Johannesburg.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2618-Cs10

Document Title:- Newspaper clipping: Post: Is the ANC dominated by Communists?