

ANC HOLDS CONFERENCE IN LOBATSIS

SECRET

NEW AGE

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JOHANNESBURG.

THE two fronts of the African National Congress—the banned and underground organisation inside South Africa and the ANC representatives abroad in a number of world capitals—came together in Lobatsi, Bechuanaland, last week-end in national conference.

Between 50 and 60 delegates converged on this conference for concentrated discussions and planning of future action.

Oliver Tambo, Deputy President General of the ANC before he was sent abroad on the eve of Sharpeville to open the ANC office in London and travel the world on ANC missions, headed the contingent of ANC men abroad who included Tennyson Makiwane, from the ANC office in Dar es Salaam; M. M. Piliso, from the Cairo office; Moses Mabhida, former ANC leader and trade unionist from Natal who has been a South African trade unionist working with the world trade union movement; and Joe Matthews who now lives in Basutoland.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The South African representatives were drawn from every corner of South Africa despite the immense difficulties of organising an underground conference. Prominently to the fore were delegates from the Transkei, Sekhukhuleni, Zululand and Zeerust as well as the vital urban centres.

The chief conference items were the South African political situation and the new Government offensive after the Sabotage Act against the liberation movement, the work of the ANC missions in African states and the world, and Mr. Mabhida's report on the trade union situation.

Discussion on the Transkei figured importantly at the conference.

To date no details on resolutions and conference decisions have reached New Age. But reports have filtered in of the vigorous spirit that dominated the proceedings.

The press was not admitted to any session.

Reports of Mr. Nyerere and other African statesmen invited but not pitching up were completely unfounded.

APARTHEID SCOURGE

This was a working conference of the ANC.

It took place only two months after the meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, of ANC representatives abroad which laid plans for "determined and concerted international action to rid the world of the apartheid scourge."

A communique issued after that meeting said the South African Government had broken whatever peace remained in South Africa and had started aggression against the African people. In the light of this attack it is inconceivable that the African people could sit back and not defend themselves.

This Dar es Salaam conference said far-reaching decisions were taken.

The Lobatsi conference will have considered not only international action on South Africa but a course of action within South Africa, the main front of struggle in the eyes of the ANC.

FOOTNOTE: Special Branch detectives took up posts on the South African-Bechuanaland border once the news of the Lobatsi meeting leaked out and demanded identification papers from Africans crossing over. It is understood that several men were detained but it is not known whether they were bound for the Lobatsi meeting.

"HANDS OFF CUBA!"



Special Branch men confiscated the placards and took down the names of the men and women who took part in a demonstration in support of Cuba in Durban last week.

MR. K. SAVES CUBA AND PEACE

see pages 4 & 5

South Africans Demonstrate Against U.S. Aggression

WHILE the world teetered on the edge of war last week, South Africans in many centres took action to express their opposition to the American threat to Cuba.

The South Peace Council warned urgently that nuclear war would spell the doom of mankind—and tried to put straight the facts on the Cuba crisis.

A poster parade was organised outside the offices of the United States Consulate in Johannesburg. Demonstrators' placards read: 'Kennedy, Don't Gamble with our Lives,' 'Hands off Cuba' and 'Cuba does not Warrant an Armed Conflict.'

"NO COMMENT"

Upstairs in his fifth floor office the American Consul received a deputation from the South African Congress of Trade Unions and the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress. Mr. John Gaetsewe of SACTU handed his organisation's letter to the Consul (who received the deputation in his shirt-sleeves) and the

Consul said "No comment now."

Mr. F. Adams of the Indian Youth Congress said lives were at stake now and the Consul replied: "You have a perfect right to your own opinion."

Over in Pretoria a deputation from the South African Peace Council went to the United States Embassy. The press attache received them. The deputation asked him to convey to the United States President that the situation proclaimed by the USA in blockading Cuba had brought the world to the brink of catastrophe.

The delegation stressed that all differences and problems should be settled by negotiations, which in this case must start immediately.

U.S. REPLY

The Press Attache denied that the U.S. Government was aiming at war. The blockade in the Caribbean was also undertaken to preserve peace. The U.S.A. could not allow a missile base to be created within 90 miles of her shores.

The interview lasted more than half an hour, and the Press

Attache made notes of the points raised to report to his Ambassador.

S.A.C.T.U. VIEW

The SA Congress of Trade Unions letter to the U.S. Consulate read:

"To attempt to crush Cuba, in order to re-impose the conditions which prevailed at the time of the Batista regime—starvation, exploitation, imprisonment without trial, torture and death—the United States has used as an excuse the allegation that there is a missile base in Cuba. The cynicism of this, when the United States itself has 360 bases in Europe and the far East is beyond our comprehension.

"In our opinion, it is tragic beyond words that the United States of America, which claims to uphold the traditions of Western civilisation and democracy, can by taking this step, violate every tenet of international law, disregard the authority of the United Nations, violate the independence of Cuba and hold the world to

(Continued on page 8)

NO INVASION OF CUBA

What President Kennedy Promised Khrushchov

Mr. Khrushchov to President Kennedy:

"I regard with respect and trust your statement put forward in your message of October 27, 1962, that no attack will be made on Cuba, that no invasion will take place, not only by the U.S. but also by other countries of the Western hemisphere, as your message pointed out. In view of this, the motives which prompted us to give aid of this nature to Cuba are no longer applicable.

"Hence, we have instructed our officers—and these means, as I already stated, are in the hands of Soviet officers—to take the necessary measures to stop the building of the said objectives, dismantle them, and return them to the Soviet Union."

—From letter dated October 28.



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

TRADITIONAL DRESS PART OF AFRICAN REVOLUTION

The tendency towards traditional dress is a symptom of the general trend amongst the masses of the African people to assert themselves. Unless we understand this, we are likely to fall prey to the ridiculous criticism that traditional dress is "a form of escapism," "a return to heathenism, darkness and superstition." Of course the criticism is rarely couched in such forthright terms; it is more common to hear some people saying: "Oh yes, we don't really quarrel with people preserving their traditional culture, but to encourage traditional dress is to encourage tribalism and to play right into the hands of the Nat. Government . . ."

It is interesting that nobody has been heard to call into question the preservation and development of African languages as a reactionary tendency. The days of sterile argumentation about the necessity to nurture a "common language" amongst the African people in order to foster national consciousness are gone forever. Gone, for that matter, are the days when an impeccable Oxford accent or proficiency in English (still less Afrikaans) stamped the possessor as an unquestioned leader. The wheel appears in fact to have turned full circle, and the possession of these qualities, particularly when allied with a condescending attitude towards African languages, is sometimes a source of suspicion.

And as far as dress is concerned, we have become sufficiently acquainted with the grotesque spectacle of thoroughgoing tribalists sporting the most up-to-date creations of Bond Street and Saville Row to recognise the absurdity of this type of criticism of traditional dress.

The most that could be said for people who display an excessive partiality for Western European dress is that they show reverence for that culture. When Mrs. Nelson Mandela was invited as a guest of honour to a recent national conference of the Indian people, she honoured the dignity

of the occasion by appearing in Indian traditional dress. Knowing how Africans themselves display sensitivity about their own tradition and culture she sought to convey the same sentiment of respect for the culture of a minority oppressed people. One would venture to say that if she had made her speech in any of the Indian languages, an even deeper sense of appreciation would have been evinced.

We are living in a period of revolution in Africa, not simply in a time of sophistication. Only the unconscious apologists of white supremacy and those who do not appreciate the objectives and the content of the African revolution need to be alarmed.

H. G. MAKGOTHI
Johannesburg.

TRIBAL DRESS

With all respect to Mrs. Winnie Mandela's views in your issue of September 22, I think that this tribal dressing is turning the struggle into a Xhosa struggle. To the on-looker and the one who mixes with the crowds, Congress struggle is being relegated to the Xhosa tribe.

Now that is defeating the very aim and efforts of the leaders. We have heard remarks made by enemies of the struggle that Mandela was a Xhosa, Sisulu was a Xhosa, Nokwe was a Xhosa, Xuma was a Xhosa and the predominant tribal dress was Xhosa.

That is why when Dr. Moroka became President he also started addressing the people in his traditional "Serolong." Now this is surely not what we want and it cannot bring the maximum support required.

Traditional dress and items could be left to the Theatre and stage, the preservers of culture.

PAUL MATHABE
Johannesburg.

MAGNIFICENT EFFORT IN LONDON

WE have some very heartening news this week—our London New Age Committee has made the magnificent sum of R400 at a party held in London two Saturday nights ago.

This is the result of some very hard work put in by our Committee there, in particular its chairman. To all of them we extend our very heartfelt thanks. This sum is a tremendous help to us in these difficult times and it also acts as a morale-booster to know that so many people outside South Africa have our welfare at heart.

Not only from London, but also from Dublin comes a message of solidarity with us. . . . I can understand that the situation must be very tense and it must only be a matter of time before the only organ through which the true feeling of the masses is adequately expressed, is

banned. We here admire your courage tremendously and have confidence that as long as you are able you will rally alongside the people. Best of luck in your noble struggle."

We want similar support from our readers here—as far as selling the paper is concerned (both areas sell New Age regularly) and also as far as collecting money for it.

Please help us keep New Age going. Send us YOUR personal donation today!

Last Week's Donations:

Johannesburg:
Monthly collections R24, W. birthday R5, Part collections R475, Collections R26.

Port Elizabeth:
Sister R2, Doc R2, Old friend R15, Good friend R20.

Cape Town:
Blanket R13.20, Cakes R2, Ruth and Bernard R4, Mac-Sweeney R1, Haan R4, Wire R2.

London:
New Age Committee (part proceeds of party) R20.

Grand Total: R615.20.

EXECUTIONS AND THE COLOUR BAR

One law for the rich and another law for the poor is bad enough; but one practice for the whites and another for the non-whites is infinitely worse.

It is a sad fact that, on the issue of capital punishment, it is primarily applied to the poor, the friendless, the ignorant, the unfortunate without resources, and especially to non-whites.

During the period 1950-6 there have been 285 executions. Of these, the startling percentage of 95.3% were non-whites, though the non-white population was not much more than 77%.

Crime and poverty and ignorance have always gone hand in hand, while the discrimination in the world, and especially South Africa, tries to perpetuate poverty and ignorance.

T. KLOPPENBURG.
Durban.

INDIANS IN SWAZILAND

The letter of "Lingene Ema-shobeni-Emuva (Hlatikulu)" (New Age October 4) warrants reply.

He is under a misapprehension that we, of the Swaziland Indian Association, challenge the Swazi nation for discriminating against the Indians. This is not so.

It is not the Swazis who are being attacked. Our objections and protests are directed against the British administration which saw fit to single out the Indians in barring their entry into the protectorate territory.

Land held by the Swazi nation cannot be sold to any other racial group. This safeguard we support and also encourage the purchase for the Swazi people of land which is owned and held by non-Swazis.

The grounds for our dissatisfaction are that land and properties in Swaziland are sold to Indians by Whites and others, but the Indians are denied residential permits! There is no difficulty at all for any other racial group to enter and reside in Swaziland. It is only the Indian who is so nakedly discriminated against!

The Indians who have invested money in Swaziland, have not done so to exploit the Swazis. They have bought interests there because they are denied this right in South Africa and also because Swaziland is a multi-racial country.

We, the Indians are the allies and friends of all peoples aspiring in their just struggles for freedom and independence. We believe in the rule of: "ONE MAN ONE VOTE." We stand for all humanity—FULL EQUALITY FOR ALL!

FORWARD TO A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND A UNITED SWAZI NATION!

M. RASOOL
INDIAN-SWAZI
Kinross.

EDITORIAL

RUSSIA SAVES THE PEACE

LAST week the world stood on the brink of atomic war. By imposing its naval blockade on Cuba, the United States threw down a challenge which, had it been accepted by the Soviet Union, would have led to nuclear rocket warfare between East and West. By now millions of lives would have been sacrificed and most of the main centres of the world's population been razed to the ground. Because of radio-active fall-out, life could have been made unbearable for all humanity.

The issues which are at stake in the Cuban crisis are discussed elsewhere in this week's New Age. What needs to be stressed here, however, is the fact that the peace was saved last week, as on so many occasions since the end of the last war, by the restraint of the Soviet Union, just as it was imperilled by the provocative unilateral actions of the United States.

The danger now is that Soviet restraint will be mistaken by the West for either cowardice or appeasement. The Soviet reaction to the present crisis might encourage the war party in the United States to rely entirely on a policy of "acting tough."

What was clear last week was that the American Government was desperately anxious to find a pretext for invading Cuba and putting an end to the Castro regime. The Soviet willingness, in the interests of preserving world peace, to remove each cause of objection as it was raised has now left the United States without a leg to stand on. If there is any further interference with Cuba, the United States will be branded as a brutal aggressor against a small country which constitutes no possible threat to her military security.

By its actions to date in the present crisis the United States, the so-called upholder of the "rule of law" and the Western way of life, has shown that she is quite capable of ignoring the rights of small nations and the jurisdiction of the United Nations when it suits her. **What is worse, she has shown that she is ready and even anxious for a showdown with the Soviet Union, even at the cost of a nuclear war which will threaten the whole human race with extinction.**

Thus despite the temporary easing of the Cuban crisis, the danger of world war has by no means been eliminated by the events of the last week. The ruling circles in the United States have apparently decided that the time for a showdown has come, before the balance of world forces is permanently tipped against them. **They were ready for war last week, and nothing that has happened since is likely to have convinced them that their strategy is wrong.**

If a bully wants a fight he can always find an excuse to start one. The patience of the Soviet Union is not limitless, and she can be driven by further provocation and aggression to the point where she is forced to defend herself against attack.

Before this point is reached, it is up to the people of the world to make it abundantly clear that they will not tolerate any acts of imperialistic aggression in this nuclear age. Not only the safety of Cuba but the future of the whole world has been at stake in the past week, and is still threatened now.

The ordinary men and women of all countries, the innocent victims of any future war, must now take a hand in the present crisis and swing the balance decisively on the side of peace. They must say with a firm and united voice:

● Hands off Cuba! End the provocative blockade!

● Better one year of negotiation than one day of war!

● Outlaw atomic war and destroy all atomic weapons!

THERE CAN BE NO VICTORS IN A FUTURE ATOMIC WAR. THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD DEMAND PEACE.

They Know How To Avoid The Struggle

To blubber about, fighting each other, recklessly flinging insults at each other, is nothing less than to destroy and sabotage the smooth running of the liberatory movement and treasonable at that.

You get those who prefer discussing round a liquor-filled table; those who prefer to hail "Izwe" rather than to help those they know to be active in the struggle for liberation; those who would cling to a newspaper as if they were glued to it, misinterpreting the article they quote from, misconstruing its terms and distorting the whole truth. All of them are saboteurs. The last lot may be so without knowing but the first two do so deliberately. And they should be regarded as traitors.

It is sometimes better to pay attention to people like Matanzima than to masqueraders who dis-

guise as liberals and tend to identify themselves with the partisans in the liberatory movement in the outer cover, but are tearing wolves in the inner skin. They will tell you how cruel and atrocious the Nationalists' laws are, but they offer no practical solution other than to visit a posh restaurant and be asked to move out as it is for a certain section, and they move out.

They will go to the bush and dig out a wild animal rather than tame the animal in sight. You know that sort of scare about the Communist menace.

Just for argument's sake agree with him, whenever he confronts you with such nonsense, and ask him "What to do now to remove the rampaging scourge of the Nationalist Government?" He will tell you to leave your reference

book at home and present yourself at any police station. That's sending you to rest via those despicable police stations. He will tell you to wait with your arms folded for the 1963 deadline. Absurd.

Organise, strengthen our movement in all corners and cleanse it of opportunistic and reactionary elements, then their blubbery will be ineffective. They appear silly and cowards in the face of the people already.

Friends, freedom fighters, we must be blind to insults and scandals.

We will march on. Our road is clear except for a few blocks here and there. We can remove them without difficulty.

TALL MOUNTAIN
Port Elizabeth.

POLICE TERROR MUST

REPORTING AT MARSHALL SQUARE



Mr. A. Kathrada, under house arrest, goes down to Marshall Square every day to report to the police. His flat has been turned into his prison for all but 11 hours a day.

STOP!

Third Degree Methods Continue in Port Elizabeth

PORT ELIZABETH.
THE reign of terror launched by the police in Port Elizabeth townships after recent sabotage attempts in this centre continues unabated. An average of 12 persons have been arrested and held for questioning each day.

New Age interviews with those subsequently released reveal that the police are practising brutal third-degree methods on a wide scale. Men, women and even children have been beaten with open hands, sticks and lengths of rubber. They are sworn at, abused, punched and in some cases strangled almost into unconsciousness.

Mrs. Emily Ntlali, a widow, told New Age: "They woke us between 3 and 4 a.m. on Thursday, October 25. The house was searched and the police found a list used by Zinakile Mkhamba for collecting funds for the families of workers fatally injured at their place of work.

AT POLICE STATION

"We were taken to the police station where a lot of questions were asked. I could not answer them. A white plain-clothed policeman beat me hard on the face with his open hand, saying that I was a bitch. He spoke Xhosa.

"He asked me rude things like how did I bear a child when my husband died ten years ago. I told him I had a boy-friend. They took me to my boy-friend's house and searched it. The search yielded nothing.

"The policemen were very angry when they came out of the house. When we returned to the charge

office, they again started to beat me.

"The same white policeman strangled me until I nearly lost consciousness. One twisted my arm while the other beat me many times, saying that I was a bitch. I cried. They beat me all the more.

"At one stage I asked to be allowed to go to the toilet. The policeman told me to . . . there in the room, otherwise he would make me do so. He again strangled me while the other beat me with his open hand.

"They asked me about James Kati and George Sambudla, who they alleged had once held a meeting at my house. When I denied this, one strangled me again.

"I then admitted that Kati and Sambudla had once attended a meeting in my house. This was not true in fact, but I said it because they beat me."

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Mrs. Ntlali was released from this terror only at 5 p.m. that day. A medical certificate dated October 26 states that Mrs. Ntlali suffered contusion of neck muscles and of the right lower ribs.

On October 23, the police called at the home of Gilbert Yonke and arrested Rosy Yonke, Handiba Yonke (15) and Nontsikelelo Yonke, a 12-year-old schoolgirl. They were questioned separately at the police station.

Handiba told New Age that he was beaten with open hands, punched in the stomach and thrashed with a length of rubber similar to a fan belt.

The police asked him if he had seen the fire when a policeman's house was burnt. When he said he had not, a uniformed white policeman renewed the assault. He was made to kneel and slapped hard on the face. The police threatened to beat him to death and dump him at sea.

Fourteen men arrested at Zakhale and Veeplaats were also assaulted at the police station. They were beaten with a length of rubber which they too describe as being similar to a fan-belt.

FACE SWOLLEN

Freddie Ngxakeni was also arrested on October 25, and taken to the charge office. When his wife visited him later that day she was not allowed to speak to him. She says that his face was swollen. The police told her to report to the charge office the following morning.

The police then questioned her about certain people who they alleged were involved in sabotage or Congress activity. When she denied any knowledge of them, a policeman slapped her hard, knocked her head against a wall and called her a bitch.

At the charge office, where she was later taken, Mrs. Ngxakeni was beaten with a stick.

Among others arrested last week were Messrs. Washington Mabongo and Hlolimpi John Soyeye, both of whom had previously been arrested and then released.

Soyeye, who was acquitted in the Strachan case, is a mental outpatient at the Livingstone Hospital.

SISULU RETURNS HOME



After a loud police hue and cry for Walter Sisulu, former secretary-general of the African National Congress, here he is, taking from the door of his home the Minister's house arrest order nailed there by Special Branch detectives. Mr. Sisulu's order restricts him to his home between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays, and at week-ends. Detectives told Mr. Sisulu he would be allowed NO visitors, not even callers who came to see his wife Mrs. Albertina Sisulu.

NAICKER CONGRATULATES CHIEF LUTULI

DURBAN.

WHILST the world recognises the greatness of our Chief A. J. Lutuli, former President-General of the African National Congress, in South Africa he is imprisoned in the Groutville Mission Reserve by Government edict," said Dr. G. M. Naicker in an exclusive statement to New Age.

Dr. Naicker, who was commenting on the latest honour paid to Chief Lutuli with his election as Lord Rector of the Glasgow University, by an overwhelming majority of the students of the University, said that under democratic processes Chief Lutuli would be the President or Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa.

"The South African Indian Congress and all South African democrats congratulate Chief Lutuli and in doing so express their warm appreciation to the students of Glasgow University for their choice.

"Their action is yet another expression of support for the oppressed masses of South Africa and shows that the banning of the ANC has not undermined the influence of its most trusted leaders," said Dr. Naicker.

Stating that he also wanted to express the heartfelt appreciation of all the oppressed peoples to Mr. Sterling Moss, the British racing driver, who stood down in favour of

Chief Lutuli, Dr. Naicker said: "Mr. Sterling Moss has risen in the estimation of the peoples of South Africa for, not only is he a great sportsman, he has, by his action, proved to be a friend of the non-white peoples of South Africa."

A message from Johannesburg says that the S.A. Peace Council has congratulated Chief Lutuli on his election as Rector of Glasgow University. It is gratifying in these troubled times, said the Council, that the man chosen should have been so closely connected with the peace movement both in South Africa and abroad. "The honour is well-deserved."

Wage Increases

After almost a year's negotiations the South African Tin Workers' Union has won 7½% increases for all workers employed in the sheet metal working industry.

Giving New Age this information, Mr. D. Thambiran, General Secretary of the Tin Workers' Union, said:

"Had it not been for the determined and full support our negotiators received from our members and the unprecedented support we got from sheet metal workers all over the world we would not have been able to obtain these increases," he said.

The increase means that workers will now receive between 40 cents and R1.36 above their present wages.

FINED R150 FOR PAINTING SLOGANS

JACK Tarshish and Aubrey Hoffman were found guilty in the Wynberg Magistrate's Court last week of malicious damage to property by painting slogans on a wall at Kenilworth station and sentenced to a fine of R150 each and three months imprisonment, conditionally suspended for three years.

The accused originally appeared on two counts. Their plea of not guilty to a charge of painting slogans at Kenilworth racecourse was accepted and they pleaded guilty on the other charge.

Evidence was given that the two men were found by the police in a car near Kenilworth station on which the words "Free Mandela and Sisulu" and "Hang Vorster" had been sprayed in red paint.

The charge sheet stated that the offences had been committed under circumstances which made the provisions of the General Law Further Amendment Act passed last session applicable.

Addressing the court in mitiga-

tion, Mr. W. E. Cooper (instructed by Messrs Frank, Bernadt and Joffe) stressed that it was not for the court to punish the accused because of their political beliefs.

STRONG CONVICTIONS

"The accused are not dishonest or mercenary persons seeking material gain for themselves but persons who have acted in the way they have done because they obviously feel strongly about their political convictions: by voicing their protest against the detention of certain non-white political leaders which they consider to be contrary to the interests of the people of this country.

"It may well be argued that the restrictive legislation and numerous administrative measures which curtail the freedom of the individual and by-pass the courts lead to a state of affairs which is conducive to or results in this type of protest."

The magistrate said he realised this was one of the first cases of its kind in the Western Province, but the offence was serious and should be dealt with accordingly.

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