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Bewysstuk No.

Gekry by: *J. D. van der Merwe*

Dem: *1st N. C. C.*

To: *1st N. C. C.*

Datum: *2/12/56*

Speakers Notes.

Preparing for April 6

Verwysings No.

1. General Background: Since the Nationalist government came into power, the people of South Africa particularly the Non-white people, are facing greater difficulties and sufferings than ever before in their history.

Apartheid has turned out to be nothing but a cheat. It is a trick to take away even the little rights the people had before. We know now that when the Government talks about "separate" rights for Africans, Coloureds and Indians, they mean to take away the little we have and give us nothing in return. There are no decent houses for the thousands who live in Jabavu-Moroka, etc., yet they talk of kicking out non-europeans from the Western areas. They take away the coloured vote in the Cape. They want to abolish the three Native representatives. They talk about giving the Africans power and authority in "their own areas". We know what they mean. Authority for some Africans to carry out the oppression of their own people on behalf of the Government.

One bad law after another has been passed by Parliament, against the non-European peoples, Bantu Authorities Act, Group Areas Act, Mixed Marriages Act, Suppression of Communism Act, Coloured Voters Act, Citizenship Act, Population Registration Act, Native Laws Amendment Bill, etc. One could go on just giving a list of the dangerous laws they have passed.

The treatment of people:

Every day we meet with insults, hostility and often assaults from police, and officials in the pass office, the railways, post offices, etc. Race hatred and colour prejudice is incited by the Nationalists. They talk about Kaffirs, Coolies and Hotnots, and set one group against another.

We are starving: caught in a trap between high prices and low wages. In the country areas, farm labourers are being pushed back to slavery. The peasants are forced to submit their cattle to culling. The workers' only weapon, their trade unions, is being threatened. All-ready African unions are refused recognition under the Industrial legislation commission, Minister Schoeman's baby, threatens to split the unions into pieces with apartheid, and make them into Nazi organisations controlled by the bosses.

Preparing for war, the Government neglects the peoples needs. No schools, no school-feeding, no houses; yet the Minister of Finance talks of more money for armaments. Over a million has been spent on fighting in Korea, where we have no business. Millions more are to be spent this year, as much as £50 million pounds. Think how many houses and schools that money could build. Where will the money come from? It will mean higher taxes, higher prices for food, clothes and rent.

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To sum up: The South African people are being placed in a desperate situation by this Government. We must take action now if we are to save ourselves.

2 African National Congress gives the lead.

At the Conference of the A.N.C. at Bloemfontein in December, 1951, it was decided that action must be taken this year to defend the interests of the African people. This decision has since been supported by the South African Indian Congress, by leaders of the Coloured people and by democratic elements among the Europeans.

A campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws will be launched throughout South Africa on April 6th, when big demonstrations will be held everywhere. In Johannesburg the people from all areas, including Reef towns, will gather at the Newtown Market Square from 12 o'clock. Volunteers will be called for to take part in the campaign. These men and women will be the honoured heroes of the people in their disciplined struggle against oppression.

The first step in the campaign was taken when Dr. Moroka wrote to Dr. Malan, calling for the ending of laws discriminating against non-white people, especially for the repeal of the Pass Laws, the Group Areas Act, the Stock Limitation measures, the Suppression of Communism Act, the Coloured Voters Act and the Bantu Authorities Act.

Dr. Malan replied refusing even to consider this request and threatening violence and repression against the Congress.

The next step rests with the people. Dr. Moroka and Dr. Dadoo and other leaders can only carry the struggle forward if they are supported by you. Already hundreds of thousands, in all walks of life, workers and farm labourers, teachers, business men, housewives, lawyers and doctors have come forward. You must play your part.

Why these particular laws?

Let us examine the particular laws which Congress is concentrating on:

Pass Laws: Every number one of the Africans. They keep the people poor; lead to endless raids, pickups, arbitrary arrests. Now women and even children are faced with this system of slavery. Over 100,000 Africans were jailed last year for pass offences. Passes must go. Makaphelenamapasi.

Group Areas Act. Western Areas scheme exposes true meaning of this Act. Non-Europeans have hardly any land or property. The Act aims to take away even the little free hold they have. There will be no place that African, Coloureds or Indians can call his own. We'll be even worse off than the animals in the National Park. Everyone will be in a fenced section or a compound or a ghetto or a concentration camp.

Stock Limitation the Government maintains that Africans in Reserves and Crown Lands have too many cattle.

What do they mean by too many cattle? The African on the land will agree that his cattle are "too many" the real trouble is that they have too little land. Only 15% of the Unions farm lands are farmed by Africans. Yet they form 90% of the farming population. What is required is to redistribute the land, so that the soil belongs to the people who water it with their sweat.

Coloured Voters Act. For 90 years or since Europeans in the Cape got their vote, the Coloured people have had this right. Now the Government wants to take it away. It is obvious why. No Coloured man would vote for the Nationalists unless he was mad. The Government would try to take the vote away even from Europeans unless they are Nationalists. South Africa will never be a free country until all people have the right to vote, men and women, African, Coloured, Indian and European in all four Provinces. We must therefore support the Coloured in the Cape in their fight to keep the vote.

Suppression of Communism Act. This Government would like to shut the mouth of everyone who disagrees with apartheid and baaskap. They have started with the Communists banned their party and are trying to get Sam Khan out of Parliament. But who is a Communist as far as this Government is concerned? We know they consider everyone who is against them to be a Communist. They have called the Labour Party and even the United Party "Communists". Now they are out to stop the Guardian. This Anti-Communist Law is the most dangerous Act of dictatorship in South Africa. Anyone can be named, anyone can be gagged. And who decides? Not the Courts nor the judges, but the Minister of Justice.

Bantu Authorities Act. Under this law the chiefs will be made to do the work of the police and government. Advisory boards will become tools of the government to help the Government to carry out the Pass Laws, Influx Control. They will help to direct the labour from the reserves, group area concentration camps, locations, they will be the spies for the police, they will be used to terrorise the masses of the people. They will become the Non-European Nazis of this country. People will be divided into tribes. They will encourage people to quarrel among themselves.

Apartheid. These then are some of the laws of Apartheid. We must join together and fight these laws. Zulu, Mosotho, Xhosa Betswana, Venda, Shangaan and all others. Africans must stand together with Indian and Coloured people and democratic Europeans. That is our only hope of avoiding a Nazi slave state. If we fight one another we are doomed. We are not to fall for this trick and thus commit suicide.

What to do. Come to the demonstration on April 6th at the Newtown Market Square.

2. Become a volunteer for freedom.
3. Congress wants 1,000,000 shillings. Make a sacrifice and help your own people.
4. Carry the message to others, in the street where you live, the factory where you work, the bus or train where you travel, your sports clubs, trade unions, churches, stock-exchanges - wherever you go. Be true, be disciplined and orderly in your demonstrations. Show the world that we are ~~not~~ not dumb animals to be kicked around.

The World is With Us. All over the world people sympathise with the struggle of the non-European people of South Africa. Our sufferings are spoken of at U.N.O. in Europe, East and West, in Asia, in America, throughout the continent of Africa. Even many Europeans in this country hate this Government as we do. The only thing necessary is that we show unity and determination to win our rights.

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INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION COMMISSION REPORT.

This means apartheid in the trade unions. Separate trade unions for, Europeans, Indians, Coloured, African trade unions will be controlled from the pass offices. The workers will not have the right to form their own trade unions. Government officials will say who will be trade union organiser, or secretary, or chairman or even executive. This is aimed at crushing the right of the workers to fight for better wages and conditions so that the masters and bosses can get more profits. Divide and ruin is the policy. Workers must fight ~~among~~ <sup>for</sup> themselves. The I.C. Act must recognise African trade Union rights. Workers are workers black and white are entitled in any civilised country to organise themselves. Non-European form over 70% of the labour force of the country. They have helped to build this country. They are helping to build the high buildings the stations, the railways the steel works, they produce food, tools, clothes. Yet they earn the lowest wages, travel the longest distances to work. It is our right as men to organise. No law must stop us. Workers demonstrate your protest on April 6th wherever you are called upon to do so. No mans job is safe so reject the report.

- WE WANT FREEDOM.
- WE WANT FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
- WE WANT FREEDOM TO HAVE TRADE UNIONS.
- WE WANT HOMES AND LAND
- WE WANT THE RIGHT TO WORK
- WE WANT THE RIGHT TO HAVE BETTER S.
- WE WANT FREEDOM OF WOMEN
- WE WANT SCHOOLS FOR OUR CHILDREN.
- WE WANT FREEDOM OF SPEECH.
- WE WANT A FREE PRESS
- WE WANT THE VOTE.

SUPPORT THE CONGRESS PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DEFIANCE OF UNJUST LAWS...

PASS LAWS GROUP AREAS , STOCK CULLING? APARTHEID , MUST GO.

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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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