

TUNIS CONFERENCE DEMANDS

'FREEDOM NOW'

"All Methods of Struggle Are Respectable"—Bourguiba

NEW AGE

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Protest Against French Bomb



Part of the crowd of 200,000 Tunisians who attended a protest rally against the French nuclear test in the Sahara. They carried slogans reading "Explode Your Bomb in France," "Goodbye France," "S.O.S.," "Long Live African Solidarity."

By Tennyson Makiwane, A.N.C. representative, who was elected a member of the Steering Committee.

TUNIS.

DELEGATES gave a standing ovation and spontaneous singing broke out as the President of the second All African People's Conference, Mr. Ahmed Tlili of Tunis, declared the meeting closed exactly at mid-day on Sunday January 31. It was a moment of triumph as another milestone was passed on Africa's march forward to total independence and freedom.

Delegates who had come from all corners of Africa had deliberated for a week on ways and means of bringing their ideals to reality.

THE ACCRA CONFERENCE IN 1958 HAD ENDED ON THE THEME 'FREEDOM IN OUR GENERATION'. BUT THE DEMAND AT THE TUNIS CONFERENCE WAS FOR 'FREEDOM NOW'.

The fast-changing scene in Africa was underlined as speaker after speaker rose to denounce imperialism and colonialism in all forms.

MONSTER RALLY

In the afternoon of the next day there was a monster rally in a square in the casbah to demonstrate against the French plans to test nuclear weapons in the Sahara. Some 200,000 people attended with the delegates of the conference sitting on the platform.

Represented at the conference were delegates from Angola, Algeria, Basutoland, Chad, Congo, Camerun, Dahomey, Ghana,

(Continued on page 8)

Arrested



Dr. Margaret Mncadi, popular women's leader of Ixopo, was arrested together with two others last week on an allegation of incitement. The charge arises out of the refusal of a number of African women to accept passes in this area. Dr. Mncadi, it will be recalled, was one of 350 who served a term of imprisonment during last year's disturbances in Natal. (See New Age, October 22, 1959.)

STILL A MYSTERY AT COALBROOK

Are Union Africans Involved?

JOHANNESBURG. EIGHTEEN days after the Coalbrook mine tragedy the mine management is still dodging questions on the number of miners who were victims of the disaster. To top it all there appear to be two African miners from the Union who were among the victims but whom no one is prepared to name.

New Age spoke to the Coalbrook mine recruiting officer on Monday morning and asked him for the total figure of victims of the accident (because there has been some discrepancy in the figures released from time to time).

The mine official said: "I'm not prepared to answer that question. You must get the figures from the Portuguese Curator and the Basutoland authorities."

Were there any Union Africans involved? New Age asked. The mine official at first said "No." Then he changed his mind and said "Two."

Could we have their names? we asked. The mine official: "Please don't start on that now."

To another enquirer an official of the same mine confirmed that there were two Union Africans among the victims. Their names, he said, could be got from the Government's Bantu Affairs Department.

New Age tried the Bantu Affairs Department Information Section and was told: "We do not know. We have no idea."

Why this mystery? Are two Union Africans among the victims? Have their relatives been notified? Is the mine still trying to unravel its lists of victims even at this late stage?

SAD CARGO

A sad cargo of 400 suitcases will

leave the Coalbrook mine this week carrying home the belongings of the African miners from Basutoland and Portuguese East Africa who lost their lives in the mine disaster.

The Coalbrook mine authorities arranged to buy suitcases to pack the clothes and other possessions of the miners who left the compound on the day of the disaster never to return.

CHANT FOR THE MEN OF COALBROOK

(read at the SACTU Memorial Meeting)

You men of Africa, young sons of our rich soil,
All Africa, Asia and Europe weeps at your loss.
Today and always your sons and ours will hold you deep in our memories.
We, your fellow workers, offer homage in your honour.
We shall shoulder your cause and bring happiness where there is grief.
We are your fellow workers of Africa!
Your grave is the deepest in all the world.
We proclaim our common grief, the symbol of workers' sweat,
Our signal that we who dig the fruitful earth must cement our bonds.
We workers of Africa will take our stand
For future protection, for brotherhood and human worth
For freedom from a sudden death.
We salute
Our comrades gone,
Africa's heroes, Africa's pride.



Mr. Billy Nair, Secretary of the African Clothing Workers' Union, was arrested when he attended court at Camperdown for the hearing of the case against 137 African workers, both men and women, who were arrested at Hammersdale factory. Mr. Nair, who accompanied the chairman of the Union, Mr. Johannes Hlongwane, for whom the police had a warrant of arrest, was charged with Mr. Hlongwane who handed himself over to the police. They were both allowed out on bail of £25 each.

It is understood that a warrant of arrest has also been made out against Mr. Moses Mabhidha, chairman of SACTU. Allegations of incitement have been made against all three. (See story on page 5.)

Q.W.
J.M.
Ed.
M.H.

EB 12 1960



Only Stooges Will Support Union Festival

Your article "Coloureds to Boycott Union Festival" (New Age 14th January, 1960), said inter alia . . . "Malay choirs which have always been a feature of public celebrations will also refrain from participating in the Festival." This is true, but not quite one hundred per cent.

While every right-thinking democrat in this country must agree with the decision of the President of the Suid-Afrikaanse Koor Raad, Mr. Agmat Behardien; "to have nothing to do with this thing," many, very many of "The Old Board" (the board controlled by I. D. du Plessis and that notorious Coloured Affairs Department of which he is "Life President" and of which an employee of the CAD, one Ebrahim Schroeder, is Chairman) must and will support the 1960 Festival of HATE.

During 1952 this new group split on the Van Riebeeck Festival. The split came when the people—the choirmen—realised the political implications of celebrating one's own oppression and, therefore, broke away from those who wanted to support the 1952 Festival—hence the new progressive S.A.K. Raad, totally opposed to the people controlling the Cape Malay Choir Board. This "old board" then are committed to serve their herrenvolk masters for the political oppression and the economic exploitation dished out to the people of this country over not 50, but 300 years.

It will be the duty of every choirman "Malay or Coloured" to start educating those who will support the Festival of Hate and to make it quite plain to them that, like the Eoan Group, they will (and must) be branded as scabs if they support this 1960 Festival of HATE.

The people of Bloemfontein will again deny them the comforts of their homes and, like the Coons who were refused accommodation, direct those who participate, to the municipal stables, for there they belong, not amongst us, the

new world democracy builders.
SEDICK MOERAT
Kensington, Cape Town

Non-Whites are Foes of Anti-Semites

The recent anti-Semitic outbursts and eruptions throughout the world, do not at all appear to be some accidental incident.

To students of modern history, it had seemed that the violent termination of the Second World War had signified the end of militant racialism and anti-Semitism.

Recent events, however, prove that such conclusions were premature. What has been the reason for this mania, this incitement to race pogroms?

To one, it is largely due to the unrestricted licence granted to exponents and preachers of Nazi and Fascist ideologies by the powers that be.

The Non-European people who have been the greatest sufferers under the ruthless policy of race discrimination, know, what it is to be subjected by this race vendetta.

But let racialsists beware! Times have changed. No longer can 'herrenvolk' madmen succeed or gain power by whipping up mass, race hysteria!

This is the age of equality and freedom of the human personality, not of persecution of one human being by another on grounds of race and colour. Man can no longer be a vulture and a beast to man!

Anti-Semites, Nazis, Fascists and their ilk must ponder twice and many times more before embarking upon their lunatic career!

The Non-White peoples of the world will no longer tolerate them, instead, they, the racialsists and war-mongers will find in us, a formidable foe, who will stand firmly and resolutely side by side with the Jewish people in hastening the disintegration of racism in this world, until all the deadly germs of this venomous disease are completely destroyed.

STEPHENS O'DWYER
Johannesburg.

New Age Report of Africanist Conference

Your report on the Pan-Africanist Congress (New Age December 24, 1959) was disappointing. I attended the conference myself at Orlando. I never believed New Age, a people's paper, was capable of such blatant distortions and in fact downright lies.

To give a few examples: First you distorted the central resolution of the P.A.C. conference. Where P.A.C. resolved to "take final and decisive positive action on the pass laws," you report with barefaced mendacity: "Conference adopted a resolution instructing the National Executive to call on the nation to take a decisive final undertaking on pass laws." Why do you choose to avoid the words "positive action?"

Secondly by 4 p.m. in the middle of the Presidential address the Orlando Communal Hall was packed to capacity. There were then anything between 900 and 1,000 people including delegates, observers and the public. Yet New Age and most of the capitalist press were only able to report 400 people at the opening session. Only the "Star" reported more than 600. Why do you hide the truth?

Then you, like the Daily Mail, report only 270 delegates, although there were more than 350 delegates.

Thirdly, you cannot be serious in regarding the P.A.C. conference as a farce and a stunt. Surely you cannot have sunk to such depths of self-deception?

"AFRICANIST"

P.O. Zastron, O.F.S.

[1. Our reporter asked Mr. Z. B. Molete, Pan-Africanist publicity secretary, for the text of the resolutions. He said we could have the 'essence' of the resolutions, not the full text, which was not ready at that stage. He promised to arrange for New Age to get the resolutions later, but did not carry out this arrangement. We experienced similar difficulty in getting the Sobukwe presidential address.

2. We reported 400 present at the open session of whom 270 were delegates. The Rand Daily Mail said 270 delegates. The claim of 900 to 1,000, says our reporter, is a gross exaggeration.

3. "Africanist" may disagree with our assessment of his conference and his organisation, but he has provided no evidence to support his wild allegations of "blatant distortions", "downright lies" and "barefaced mendacity." New Age is quite prepared to publish the facts—when it can get hold of them!—Ed.]

The Tide Will Turn

The tide seems now to have turned since De Wet Nel has taken over the rule of Africans. As he is now the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, does the Nationalist Government mean that our conditions and the poor standard of living shall be improved and developed to such an extent that we Africans will enjoy the same rights of happiness as the Europeans? This is a smoke-screen and it only means that a new apparatus is to be employed to strengthen and develop apartheid.

Where is Mrs. Mafekeng now? The Government should realise that a day shall come at the turn of the tide when all the oppressed of this country will no longer bear the burden of oppression on their shoulders. May God be with Mrs. Mafekeng and all who have been banished.

I vehemently protest against the malpractices of the Union Government to impose vicious and vexatious laws against the will of our people, more especially against the banning of our leaders and our National secretary, Mr. P. Nthithe of the A.N.C.Y.L.

A. P. PETER

Port Elizabeth

EDITORIAL

VERWOERD AND THE REPUBLIC

VERWOERD'S decision to hold a referendum on the issue of a republic places all democrats in something of a dilemma.

On the one hand we favour the ending of the last remnants of the British imperialist connection and the establishment of the complete and independent sovereignty of the South African people. The retention of the British monarch as the titular head of the South African state is an anachronism. We have no need of foreign kings and queens to rule over us. The people are quite capable of ruling themselves, and from this point of view the establishment of a people's democratic republic based on universal suffrage would undoubtedly be in the best interests of the country.

However, Verwoerd's republic is not going to be a people's democratic republic. In the first place, only Whites are going to take part in the referendum, and we can take it for granted that only Whites will be allowed to vote for and sit in the republican parliament. Such a republic will therefore be neither popular nor democratic.

But, some may argue, South Africa is already a state in which political power is monopolised by Europeans only. Will the establishment of a republic be anything more than a formality which will leave the reality of political power more or less unchanged? In other words, is it not possible for, say, a supporter of the Freedom Charter to vote for Verwoerd's republic without at the same time endorsing the apartheid policy that goes with it?

Theoretically, it should be possible for one who takes part in the referendum to say: "I am merely voting for the republic, since it is a progressive step to put an end to the monarchical connection and bring the constitution into line with modern concepts of government."

Practically, however, one must take into account Verwoerd's motives for deciding to stage a referendum on the republic at this stage. There is no doubt he is convinced the referendum will strengthen the Nationalist grip on the country. A majority vote for the republic would weaken the jingo element in the ranks of the opposition and reinforce the dominance of Afrikaner Nationalism in our political life. The establishment of the republic, as Chief Lutuli declared last week, "is no doubt the first step in the direction of a Nationalist dictatorship."

A BOYCOTT?

Thus Congress leaders have emphatically rejected Verwoerd's republic, and all democrats will endorse their decision. But one important question remains: should those who are entitled to take part in the referendum cast their vote against Verwoerd or boycott the whole thing?

To us there seems only one possible answer: However undemocratic the referendum, however restricted the franchise, to ignore it is to put oneself outside the struggle and leave the settlement of one's future in the hands of others. In the referendum an opportunity exists to inflict a crushing defeat on Verwoerdism. A "No" to the republic would be an overwhelming setback from which the Nationalist Government would not easily recover.

European public opinion must be roused to its responsibility in this referendum. The Congresses should give their earliest attention to this matter and leave their European supporters in no doubt as to what line they are expected to follow.

S.W.A.—OPEN LETTER TO MACMILLAN

Sir,

The above political organisation representing the political aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the people of South West Africa, has, as its principal object, the desire to see the mandated territory of South West Africa placed under the Trusteeship system of the United Nations.

We recall that at the end of World War I our territory was assigned by the now defunct League of Nations to His Britannic Majesty, to be administered, on his behalf, by the Government of the Union of South Africa as a mandated territory.

The responsibility of the Government of the United Kingdom towards South West Africa implied in this statement is not to be overlooked nor underestimated.

At this juncture we, on behalf of the people in whose interest the mandate system for South West

Africa was primarily created, would like to register our deep concern with regard to the stand adopted by Her Majesty's Government about the South West Africa issue at the United Nations.

The stand adopted by Her Majesty's Government vis-a-vis the South West Africa case has always been marked by votes against, or abstentions from, resolutions passed by the General Assembly of the World Organisation.

We, therefore, earnestly request Her Majesty's Government to revise and re-examine her policy in regard to this matter, in the light of British traditional fairplay and justice.

WILLY UATJA KAUKUETU,
Deputy President-General.

UASETA MBUHA,
Secretary-General.

South West Africa National Union.

DON'T GET TIRED—THERE IS WORK TO DO

OVER FOUR HUNDRED AFRICANS LOST THEIR LIVES AT COAL-BROOK.

Every day in every mine the African workers take the same risks as their White brothers. True, the work they do is not skilled (this is not permitted by law); but it is also true that the work they do is very much more back-breaking.

Yet compare their wages and the wages of White mine-workers. Africans earn 4/- per shift while Whites earn £3! This scandalous evidence of apartheid is present in every aspect of the African mine-worker's life — compensation paid him, living quarters provided for him (one can continue almost ad infinitum)—everywhere he is the victim of discrimination.

This is merely one of the results of apartheid. Every day millions of our South African citizens are humiliated, arrested, jailed and fined—all

because of the apartheid apparatus which our Government has so proudly created.

New Age, together with the Congress movement, fights ceaselessly against this apartheid. Our voice must not be silenced through lack of funds.

Don't tire of our weekly appeal. And don't tire of giving to New Age. Send your donation today!!

Last Week's Donations:

Cape Town:

S.K. £10, F.S. £10, Sacred River £5, Nessie £1, Cars £2, Bennie and Becky £5, Wyndoc £5, K.P. £5, Bob £1, Premier 10s., Egg £1, Barub £7.10, Dot £1, Cheque £4, J.B. van R. 19s., S. and N. 10s.

Port Elizabeth:

Friend £10.

Johannesburg:

Bernie £25, Friends £20, T. and J. £10, N. Colls. £4, Trudi Colls. £11.10, Self-Jan £5, Gardner £2, Toys £1, Harry £3, H. and E. £1, Izzy £2.

TOTAL: £153 19s. 0d.

Coalbrook Tragedy

THE COMPENSATION SCANDAL

JOHANNESBURG.

IF the Coalbrook mine tragedy does little else it should blow the top off the scandal of the wretched compensation paid to African miners.

The fact is that no pension is paid to the families of African miners killed at work and the lump sum handed over to widows and children is pitifully small and miserly.

THE FACTS

Here are the facts. The compensation paid is a lump sum of three years' wages calculated on the basis of the miner's pay rate and the number of his dependants, with £180 taken as the minimum pay level.

A widow without children draws 66½ per cent of her husband's pay over three years. A widow with one child draws 80 per cent, a widow with two children 90 per cent and a widow with three children the total amount of three years' pay.

The average monthly wage of an African miner underground is calculated as £5.6. The pay per shift underground is 4s 3d. Clydesdale miners working on a bonus payment system are said to have earned above the average wage of just over £5 a month.

Taking their pay as £7 a 30-shift month—and thus giving the mines the benefit of any doubt—a widow with three children and thus qualifying for the maximum grant to dependants would be paid only £252. A widow without any children would get £168 compensation for the loss of her husband.

PRESS REPORTS

Some newspapers reported that African miners would be getting a monthly pension of £4. Their utterly misleading calculation was based on the maximum compensation any African miner could get, that is £960, invested so that his dependants could live on the accumulated interest.

To qualify for this top compensation amount an African miner would have to earn over £25 a month, and how many do that?

The figures given in the House of Assembly of 733 African miners killed last year in mine accidents show that the average compensation paid was £248 with a minimum as low as £120.

The practice in both Basutoland and Portuguese East Africa is for the authorities to take over compensation monies from the mine



ANC volunteers march in formation at the Clydesdale Memorial Meeting.

authorities and when the dependants have been traced, to pay the amounts over in a lump sum. In the Union Native Commissioners in the miners' home area fix the instalments the dependants are to be paid at their own discretion. When the amount is exhausted that is the end of all support for the widow and her children.

TAKES TIME

Compensation payouts take some time, sometimes several months. In the case of Coalbrook the entombed miners are still on the pay list, as they have not yet officially been posted as dead by the mine.

Trade union circles here point out that the payment of a monthly pension of £4 would involve the mines in compensation payments totalling almost half a million pounds—duly managed through the mines' insurance companies naturally—but present-day compensation rates will mean much less will be paid over by the mines. If the dependants in this disaster draw more, that will be thanks to the relief funds set up which have still to face the problem of how to allocate and pay over amounts.

It is true to say, therefore, that the South African public is shouldering the compensation burden that should be the responsibility of our wealthiest industry.

BLACK AND WHITE MOURN DEAD MINERS

JOHANNESBURG.

"WE SALUTE OUR COMRADES GONE, AFRICA'S HEROES, AFRICA'S PRIDE."

THESE words of tribute to the dead miners of Coalbrook were chanted in slow time by the audience at last Sunday's memorial meeting organised by the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

Joining in the tribute to the miners and at the same time pledging to fight for a new life for miners were Mrs. Viola Hashe, vice-president of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions; Mr. Moses Mabhida, Natal Congress and trade union leader sent specially by the workers of Natal to convey their solidarity at this meeting; Mrs. Jessie MacPherson, former Labour Mayor of Johannesburg, bringing solidarity from her party; Mr. Piet Erasmus, a veteran of the White Miners' Union; the Archdeacon of Germiston and the Reverend J. Jolingane of Alexandra.

A choir from the Union of Southern African Artists sang "Oh Lord it is so sad to mourn, it is so sad to be in sorrow"; a trumpeter played the strains of Inkosi Sikelele i'Afrika, and women in the audience wept.

Mrs. Viola Hashe pointed the sharp moral of the tragedy of Coalbrook; "We hope this tragedy will shake up the trade union movement. History was written at Coalbrook when White and Black workers died together. Why can't White and Black workers of South Africa come together and form one trade union movement?"

SMART VOLUNTEERS

One hundred smartly turned out uniformed volunteers of the African National Congress made an impressive entrance at the meeting.

Perhaps for the first time ever a representative of the White Mineworkers' Union spoke from the platform at a meeting almost entirely African. Mr. Piet Erasmus, a veteran miner who served ten years' imprisonment after the 1914 treason case, spoke in Afrikaans.

"It breaks my heart as an old miner . . . worked many years in a mine and I know what goes on underground. We would give our hearts and souls for those 430. We ask the government of the day to carefully investigate that disaster. The Management Committee of the Mineworkers' Union and the union's officials have asked me to tell you that we stand 100 per cent by the dependants of those miners."

Mr. Erasmus announced that his union had voted £500 for the dependants of all the miners, not only the White miners, but the Africans too.

This was loudly clapped by the audience.

NOT IN VAIN

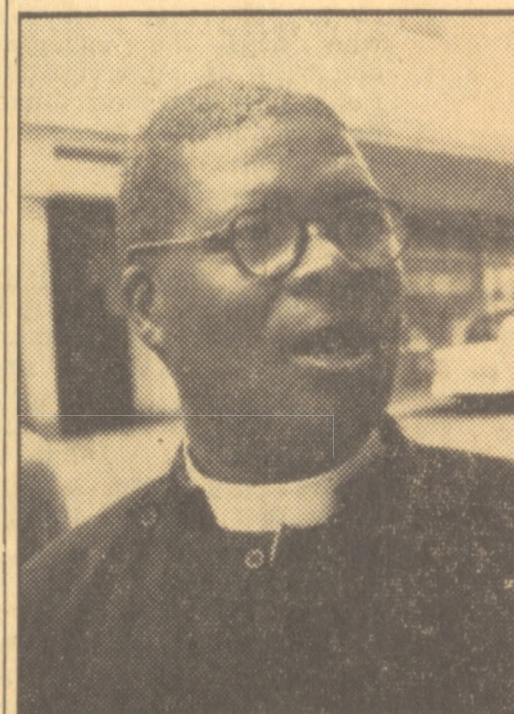
Mr. Jessie MacPherson said: "I have lived in South Africa most of my life—I don't know when I've seen so many people so touched by what has happened. When we know that African miners are going down the mines every working day of their lives, risking death for a few shillings a day, we should feel ashamed."

"The Non-European mineworkers of South Africa must demand forthwith a bigger share in the great

profits mining companies are making."

Mr. Moses Mabhida said: "These workers have built the wealth they never earned. They have made South Africa glitter with gold but they have not a rag to cover their bodies . . . How does that happen?"

"We demand from the Government that it pays full compensation and a lifetime pension to the families of the miners. We know millions of pounds will never pay back



The Rev. Jolingane led prayers at the Memorial Meeting.

the lives of the fallen—they will only be paid back by our efforts to work together."

The Rev. Mento said: "Let them not have died in vain. Let us dedicate ourselves to freedom."

Mr. Solly Nathie, from the audience, said: "Only the day when all the people of South Africa are free will we have done our duty to their families and remembered the dead of Coalbrook."

Mr. Sam Masemola said: "We are responsible, for we should have organised them and told them their rights when it comes to going underground . . . There is no more time to speak . . ."



Women weep openly as the meeting mourns the death of the 435 miners.

Lutuli on Coalbrook

DURBAN

Expressing the deepest concern and sympathy of the African National Congress at the tragic disaster of Coalbrook and stating that the Congress "in the fullest measure share and bear with the families of the entombed men, the agony and grief which this tragedy has brought on them," Chief A. J. Lutuli, President-General of the African National Congress, told New Age: "The occasion is appropriate to call attention to the extremely low, starvation wages paid to the mine workers generally and to reiterate the demand of the Congress Alliance for legislation enforcing a national minimum wage of £1-a-day and for adequate and equitable compensation for the dependants of the miners who died."

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