



# CHRISTIAN CHURCH MUST HONOUR ITS PRINCIPLES

## Bishop Jordan Says Apartheid Will Fail

JOHANNESBURG.—In an exclusive interview with New Age on the eve of his return to the United States, Bishop Frederick D. Jordan of the A.M.E. Church said that in the long run apartheid and its oppressive legislation must fail because the rest of the world was going in the opposite direction to South Africa.

Bishop Jordan saw this as the redeeming feature of the South African situation. Those, he said, who advocate oppressive and repressive programmes for the benefit of a particular section of the population were creating an explosive situation.

Bishop Jordan is the third Bishop assigned to Africa. The Bishopric extends over the Rhodesias, Kenya, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa and South West Africa, as well as the Union.

Born in the Southern States of the U.S.A., Bishop Jordan, who is a Negro, served for 12 years as a minister in California. In 1952 he was elected to the African Bishopric.

### SENT BACK

In 1952, on his first trip to Africa, Bishop Jordan landed at Livingstone, was detained there and sent back to the States on the next plane. This was at the time of the powerful African opposition to Central African Federation and the authorities were taking no chances of the possible effect on African opinion of the visiting Negro Bishop.

In December, 1953, after a visa had been granted him, Bishop Jordan returned to Rhodesia, spending seven weeks there organising three Church conferences and trying to obtain a transit visa to the Union, even if only to enable him to visit Swaziland, where there are many A.M.E. Church adherents. Finally Bishop Jordan secured a permit to stay in the Union for some months, and this permit was extended till the end of this year.

In the Union Bishop Jordan travelled extensively, covering over 33,000 miles by car and air.

### SCEPTICAL

Speaking of the position of the Church in Africa, the Bishop thought that the African people are becoming sceptical of the Christian position as it conflicts with their practical experience.

People, he finds, respond to the principles of brotherhood in the Church rather than to the ultimate divinity and in the A.M.E. Church even were attracted more by its sociological aspects than its theological principles.

The Bishop put the weaknesses

of Christianity in Africa down to the fact that there appears to be a pandering by the Church to the Government ideology of apartheid, and that in most church organisations Europeans seem to assume the same dominant position as in society generally.

The Bishop thought that the only solution was for the Church to hold firm to a position of principle without regard to any obligations to Government policies. That should be so even if it meant a church with



Bishop Jordan.

only very few European members. He felt this was important in Africa under present conditions as Christianity as a religion was not secure in Africa and pressure on it would only increase.

On Bantu Education the Bishop said that his Church was very anxious about the future of education for the African children. He had no illusions, he said, about the Government's intentions in the field of education, which was part of the repressive programme.

He was convinced, however, that "in a world of enlightenment retrogression would not succeed."

E.W.

### A Quote From The London Times

"The Indian Government has asked the British High Commission here (New Delhi) to provide films and photographs showing the Coronation decorations in the streets of London. They are required by officials responsible for the decoration of Delhi in honour of Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Kruschew, who will visit India next month."

# 79 ON ILLEGAL STRIKE CHARGE

JOHANNESBURG.—Seventy-eight African workers, members of the Iron and Steel Workers' Union, and a union organiser Mr. Nimrod Sejake, are on trial in the Magistrate's Court for taking part in an illegal strike.

The prosecution is under the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act, and the case is being watched throughout by inspectors of the Native Labour Department, and the Special Branch of the police.

All 78 workers are employed at African Lamps Pty. Ltd., an Industria factory.

The trial was held in one of the Johannesburg civil courts and practically every square inch of space was taken up as the 78 accused, twelve deep in six rows, sat on the floor during their trial.

They all went into court smiling and at ease, and throughout the case exhibited both confidence and discipline.

All pleaded not guilty.

First witness for the crown was the factory's general manager, Mr. Richard Kellett. He said conditions in his factory were not governed by any industrial or wage agreement or award, only by the Factories Act.

### GRIEVANCES

On the 29th July he was asked to see a member of the Transvaal Iron and Steel Workers' Union, Nimrod Sejake presented himself to him. "I asked for his identity book and he produced it and told me he wanted to discuss the wage grievances of my employees and why some workers had been dismissed in recent weeks. He was very evasive and non-committal on the question of grievances. I asked him if the workers were members of his union and he said the majority were. I told him I was not satisfied that he was entitled to represent my employees, and that I did not think his union was recognised. I told him I proposed to get in touch with the Department of Labour and the Police before I had any further discussion with him."

Mr. Kellett added in his evidence that when the police arrived they arrested Sejake and "immediately after that the boys went out on strike again." When he spoke to them the workers said their organiser should be released before they went back to work. Mr. Kellett said he would ring the police and eventually Sejake was released and brought back to the factory.

### DISMISSED THE LOT

"I then decided I would dismiss the lot because of their behaviour."

We subsequently re-engaged all except two. We reduced their annual holiday from four weeks to three."

Cross-examined by Mrs. S. Muller (appearing for the 79), Mr. Kellett admitted that Sejake had placed before him certain grievances, namely that overtime should not be compulsory; there should not be dismissals of workers without reason. He did not, he said, recall demands that protective appliances be provided and that doctors' certificates should not be disregarded. He thought, he said, that the "union representative was an agitator type because he organised the workers to strike, and that is why he had called the police."

Mr. Kellett said it did appear that the reason why the workers refused to resume work was Sejake's arrest.

The case is to proceed on November 29.

## Move to Control Meetings in P.E.

PORT ELIZABETH.

A move to control meetings of Africans in the whole magisterial district of Port Elizabeth is under way. The City Council has already decided to ask the Government to apply the necessary regulations and the Divisional Council is considering a similar step.

Regulations empowering a Port Elizabeth magistrate to ban a meeting if there is any risk of "breach of the peace" were first promulgated in February, 1954.

These regulations applied only to New Brighton, and the African National Congress, the Youth League and others have found it so difficult to obtain permission for meetings, that the majority of meetings were held in Veeplaats.

The authorities now plan to control Veeplaats as well.

JAPAN will not tolerate the expansion of U.S. air-fields in Japan and the bringing in of U.S. atomic weapons in contradiction to the current trend of relaxation of international tensions, said the Japanese Socialist Party, the country's second largest, recently.

## P.E. MEETING

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the sky may appear dark, but if it is dark, it is with the wings of the chickens of Freedom coming home to roost."

### NOT ALONE

Mr. P. L. Vogel, chairman of the C.O.D. (Eastern Province), said: "The Non-Europeans of this country are on the march. This is the beginning of the fight for Freedom. You will not be alone in the struggle. Some Europeans will march forward with you."

After Mr. Tobias, the Vice Chairman of S.A.C.P.O. (Port Elizabeth) and Mr. Ismail for the Indian community had spoken the meeting unanimously adopted the FREEDOM CHARTER and pledged itself to strive for its implementation.

After the meeting the police waylaid the people and arrested more than thirty for passes. When they were released the following morning on their own recognisances they gave the Afrika salute.

# AFRICAN ARRESTED AT VERWOERD INDABA

## ANC Call To Chiefs

JOHANNESBURG.—Not honeyed words but stern warnings have been a feature of the Rustenburg indaba where Minister Verwoerd and his officials have been trying to get chiefs and headmen to accept the Bantu Authorities Act, Bantu Education and apartheid.

The chiefs and headmen listened to the Under-Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. C. N. Young, tell them they must not listen to silly and frivolous propaganda. If they acted

"responsibly" they would find officials sympathetic!

They faced a choice of accepting the Bantu Authorities Act or losing their positions. Then, to make sure the chiefs and headmen were protected from all "propaganda," an African distributing an African National Congress leaflet on the Verwoerd indaba, was placed under arrest.

"Stand firm," the leaflet said. "We are confident that you will not sell the birthrights of your African people. The Bantu Authorities Act will turn you chiefs into police boys and make you assist the Nationalist Government to administer all their bad laws to oppress you."

"The Bantu Education Act is to indoctrinate the African child to accept inferiority. Do not sell the rights of your people to Verwoerd."

The chiefs and headmen at this indaba were drawn from the Batswana in the Western Transvaal and the Sotho in the Free State.

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# Textile Workers Fight For Wage Increases

CAPE TOWN.

"Textile workers are fighting on all fronts," Mr. P. Beyleveld, general secretary of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union of South Africa, told New Age this week.

"On the one hand they are fighting employers who are refusing to increase wages while others even wish to reduce them and worsen conditions of service."

"On the other hand, textile workers have had to cope with Government action in banning union officials. In addition, the Minister of Labour has given plateland factories, such as the canvas factory in Standerton, exemption from existing wage agreements."

"The textile workers are determined not to allow all these attacks to destroy their union or lower their standards of living, which they have achieved over so many years of fighting," Mr. Beyleveld continued. "Already a Fighting Fund has been estab-

lished on the Witwatersrand and is in the process of being set up in Natal and the Cape.

"The union is determined to build up sufficient resources to meet all emergencies."

Conciliation Board negotiations into the worsted section of the industry finally broke down in Cape Town last week, fourteen months after they had started.

The employers were prepared to offer only a long service bonus of 1s. per week after five years service with the same firm. The union was determined to accept nothing less than a 10 to 15 per cent increase in basic wages.

There are about 2,500 workers in the worsted section which is the lowest paid in the industry.

Wage negotiations in all other sections, except cotton have also broken down. Union representatives are due to meet employers at a Conciliation Board in Cape Town later this month to press the demands of the cotton workers.

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