

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TREASON TRIAL

International Solidarity

IMPRESSIVE demonstrations of international solidarity with the treason prisoners were given on the day the hearings commenced in Johannesburg last week.

In London a delegation of Labour members of Parliament and a group of South African students presented petitions of protest at South Africa House. In New York White and Negro Americans picketed the South African consulate in protest. Officers of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs in New York expressed "shock" at the treason arrests.

An eminent Queen's Counsel from Britain, Mr. Gerald Gardner, flew from London to attend the hearings on behalf of the Bar Council, Christian Action, the Inns of Court Conservative and Unionist Society, the Association of Liberal Lawyers and the Society of Labour Lawyers.

Pressmen Shocked by

Police Brutality

THERE is a big battery of pressmen and photographers covering

the treason trial for the South African and overseas press. Many of them have been shocked by the brutality with which the police handled the crowds outside the Drill Hall.

Among the many observers from other countries was a detective-inspector of the Kenya C.I.D., who attended the hearing because "I thought it would help my education."

He tried to take a cine film of the disturbances outside the Drill Hall, and was "shooting" a scene of a policeman hitting an African with his baton when he himself was struck over the head with a baton, seized and hustled off to a room in the Drill Hall buildings. He was pushed inside and locked in.

He was rescued by a police official who knew him, but was nevertheless forced to destroy his film before he was released.

"I have fought Communists in Malaya and the Mau Mau in Kenya," he told the Argus correspondent, but it "was never like this."

Cape Committee Formed

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting held in Cape Town on Sunday night, attended by a represen-

tative of the Johannesburg People's Defence Committee, decided to constitute itself into the "Stand By Our Leaders Committee." The new committee will conduct a vigorous campaign in the Cape, in solidarity with the 154 arrested leaders.

Rhodesian Support

THE Southern Rhodesian African Transport Workers' Union called a meeting at Harari, Salisbury on Sunday morning at which it was decided to establish a "South Africa Defence Fund" to aid the 154 leaders accused of treason in Johannesburg. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Southern Rhodesian Africans' Association, the National Youth

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Cape Town £61 7s.; Johannesburg £21 10s.; Indian Students, Johannesburg £3 1s.; Port Elizabeth 10s. Total £86 8s.

League, the Trade Union Council, the African Chamber of Commerce and other African organisations.

The Bishop Was Pushed

Around

THE Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, was pushed around by a policeman outside the Drill Hall when he protested against the ban arbitrarily imposed on Non-European press photographers.

Some time after the Court adjourned, the Bishop and Mr. Alec Hepple M.P. were walking towards their car when they noticed the police manhandling a number of Africans and Indians who were attempting to use their cameras. The Bishop intervened and informed one of the policemen that Col. Grobler had granted permission for all photographers to carry out their work unmolested. He was roughly pushed aside by the constable with the injunction, "Go and talk to my sergeant."

Thereupon the Bishop approached the sergeant of police who declared that as far as he (the sergeant) was concerned anybody could take photographs. The pressmen were then allowed to proceed.

Aid from Cricket

Crowds

CROWDS at the second test match between the Kenya Asians and the non-white South Africa XI were besieged by young women with collection tins in aid of the Treason Trial Defence Fund. Over £100 was collected.

Further Arrests

FURTHER arrests took place last week, bringing to 154 the total number of persons appearing at the preparatory examination into allegations of high treason.

In Johannesburg, Mr. Motsommai K. Mpho, an active ANC member and contributor to New Age, was arrested while standing amongst the crowd which had assembled outside the Drill Hall waiting for the treason examination to begin.

Mr. John Nkadineng, a prominent trade unionist and Transvaal ANC Executive member, surrendered himself to the police the day before the examination was due to begin. A warrant for his arrest had been out since December 5.

In Durban Mr. A. B. Ngcobo, former president of the S.R.C. (N.E.) of Natal University, was arrested.

Leaders Caged

AT the resumption of the treason hearings on the second day the 152 leaders were enclosed in a six feet high wire cage in the centre of the Court. Advocate Franks, Q.C., on behalf of the defence, lashed out at this "unprecedented scene." He indignantly declared:

"It is a shame that the accused should have this degradation imposed on them. The cage in which the prisoners have now been placed makes them appear before this court like wild animals or beasts."

He said that if the cage was not removed all the defence counsel would withdraw from the hearing.

The court adjourned and agreement was finally reached between the defence counsel and the Prosecutor that the front portion would be lowered and the grill covering it removed. The sides of the cage would also be lowered.

When the prisoners first walked into the dock, one of the accused leaders put up a sign on the grill reading: "Do not Feed—By Order."

Appalling Conditions At

The Fort

CONDITIONS under which visits could be made to prisoners at the Johannesburg Fort were described as "appalling" by the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Bishop of Johannesburg, after a visit by himself and Mr. Alex Hepple M.P., leader of the Labour Party, to the prison last week.

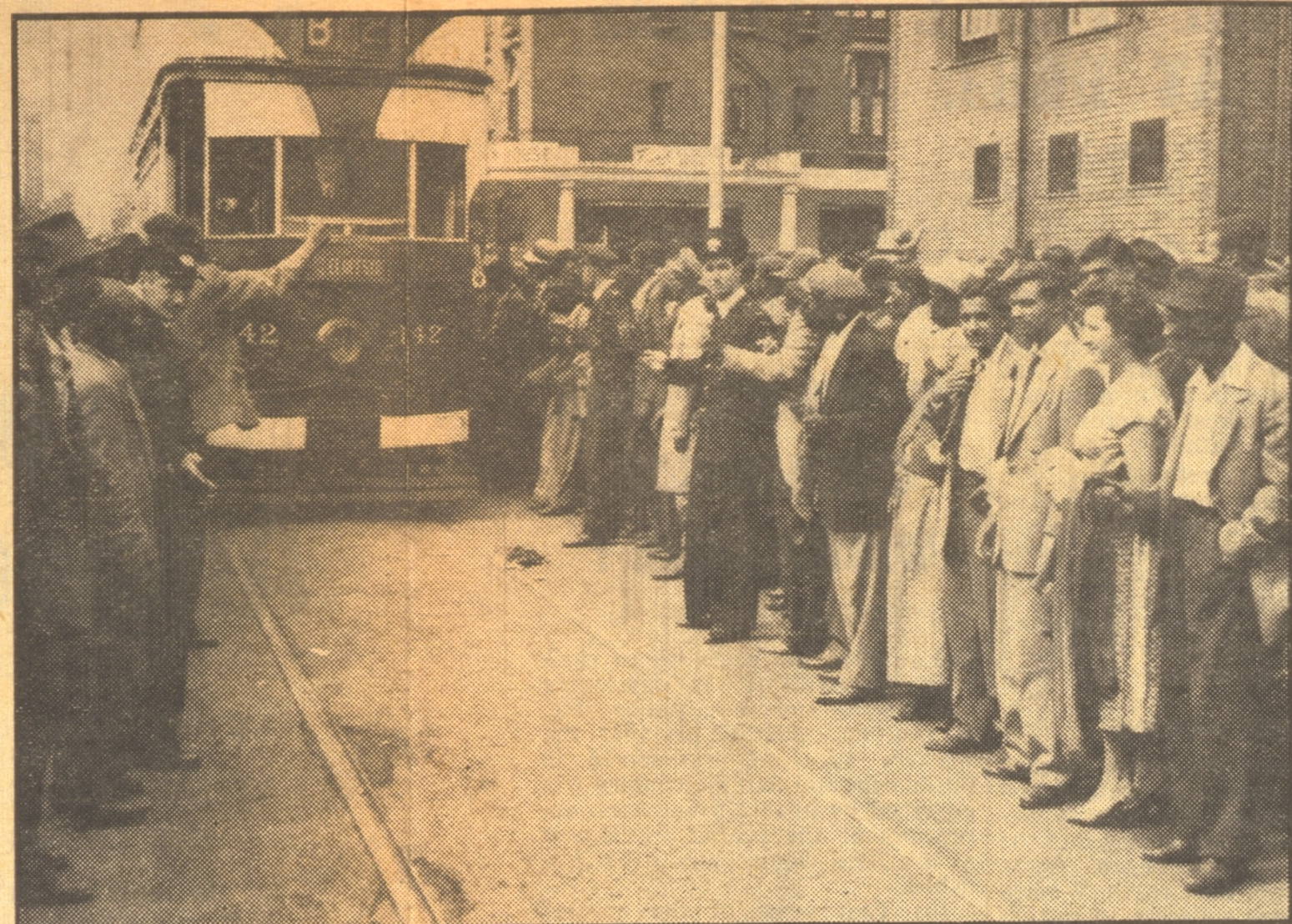
The Bishop and Mr. Hepple, who asked to see Chief Luthuli, Mr. Oliver Tambo and Professor Matthews, found that they had to stand behind a wire grille which was separated by a large space from the iron bars behind which the prisoners stood. Both the prisoners and their visitors had to shout to be heard. The result was pandemonium.

In the European section, the Bishop stated, it was also impossible to conduct any sort of conversation with the prisoners.

The Bishop described how the wife of one of the European prisoners (Mrs. Hilda Bernstein) arrived at the Fort direct from the nursing home with her week-old child, to see her husband who was arrested two days after their son's birth. "She was given no special consideration, but made to see her husband separated by the grille and bars together with other visitors."

Mrs. Bernstein stated that she had come "from one confinement to another."

Mr. Hepple is taking up the Fort conditions immediately with the Director of Prisons and will raise the matter in Parliament next session.



MAKE WAY FOR THE TRAM — Crowds attempting to attend the "treason" hearings at the Drill Hall flowed right across Twist Street. Traffic officers clear a way for the tram to go through.

"I was not aware that such scandalous conditions existed in our gaols," he said.

Empty Chairs at Durban

MORE than a thousand people assembled in the Gandhi Hall at a Civil Liberty meeting to welcome back the people's leaders from Johannesburg. Empty chairs bearing the names of the leaders who could not be present were on the platform. The speakers included J. N. Singh, Vera Ponen, V. Lawrence, R. Mohale and J. M. Diddcott.

ALL ACCUSED OUT ON BAIL

JOHANNESBURG.

WHILE the 152 treason trial prisoners waited patiently to be released last Thursday evening, defence lawyers worked feverishly to prepare the necessary documents which would enable the accused to

be set free on bail.

Also waiting were the many sureties who had undertaken to stand bail for the accused to the extent of many thousands of pounds.

Earlier the same afternoon the Supreme Court had granted bail to all the accused. European prisoners were granted £250 bail, Indian and Coloured prisoners £100 each, and Africans £50 each. These amounts were substantially less than had been asked for by the Crown.

Prisoners, sureties, and about 20 magistrates stood by as the Chief Magistrate, Mr. F. C. Silk, explained the conditions on which the accused were to be released.

These conditions, which amount to a "banning order" for each of the accused are: None of them are allowed to attend any gathering other than those of a social, religious, educational at a recognised educational institution, sporting or recreational nature; they shall not address any gathering of any kind.

The ban on gatherings is not to affect Mr. Lee-Warden M.P. from attending or addressing Parliament. The Rev. D. C. Thompson may only preach a sermon after the police have "vetted" it. Legal practitioners are not in any way to be prevented from carrying on their practice before the courts.

All accused have to report every Thursday before 10 a.m. to a named police station. Five accused in possession of passports had to surrender these to the magistrates.

After their patient wait, the prisoners and sureties were gradually brought before the magistrate on duty, and were issued with warrants of liberation. Accommodation at private homes and Church hostels was rapidly arranged for the accused not resident in Johannesburg.

Tired, but jubilant the prisoners walked out into the fresh night air after their 16 days in jail.

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HOW ANC CONFERENCE FACED THE CRISIS

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

A WEEK after the spectacular dawn arrests and raids the 44th annual conference of the ANC was due to commence at Queenstown.

From all parts of the Union, under difficult travel conditions, the delegates flocked into Queenstown. From the Transvaal, Natal, and the Eastern Cape they came on lorries with hastily rigged tent covers.

From many other parts of the country they travelled by train to come to a conference which was to give the answer to the Nationalist unbridled reign of terror. People's leaders had been arrested, but the people's movement threw up new leaders.

It was in this atmosphere of grim determination that the conference opened about midday on December 15, 1956. Mr. Alfred Rakauwane took the chair as Speaker. With him on the platform was an array of young men and women on whom lay the responsibility to conduct the conference. They were a representative team drawn from the four Provinces. An emergency situation requires emergency measures.

SPECIAL BRANCH

Also present at the conference was a large number of Special Branch drawn from all parts of the Union. When conference told them that their presence was undesirable Captain P. J. Heiberg in charge of the contingent came into the hall armed with a warrant authorising him not only to search for documents but also to remain in the hall with his men throughout the proceedings. He was accompanied by armed police in uniform and men dressed in plain clothes with revolvers slung over their shoulders.

While the Special Branch sought for documents on the platform and provocatively removed delegates from their seats the armed uniformed police besieged Mallat Hall. Meanwhile the tricolour Congress Flag flew outside the Hall. The atmosphere was tense and the Speaker, realising the position, appealed for calm, and also asked the Chief of the Special Branch to consult the chair in order to ensure order.

ORGANISATION

In spite of the calm, determined and unemotional manner in which

gave a vivid description of working conditions there, "I have spent my life," he said, "working for 10/- per month and a paraffin tin of meals while my wife worked for 5/- per month in the kitchen."

To get meat, he graphically told conference, he followed the buzzard and helped himself to a carcass of some dead animal, no matter what the cause of death had been.

"Yet to this day I have nowhere to stay, and in addition to these wrongs the Government arrests our leaders." He sobbed and tears fell from his eyes.

The Pass System came under the severest attack and speakers emphasised that the campaign was not only confined to women but affected the men as well.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

"Trade unions are the roots through which the great tree which is the ANC receives its nourishment," declared Mr. Oscar Mpeta. That the conference realised the important role of organised workers to the liberatory movement was indicated by the resolution which called upon all the branches to submit a report at regular intervals on the extent of organisation in various industries in their area.

The realisation of this fact is probably the most significant milestone that Congress has reached in its 44 years of existence, and if it applies itself diligently to this task it may well be that a new chapter has opened in the history of our people's struggle for freedom.

GREAT SUCCESS

The conference was a mighty success both from the point of view of attendance and the standard of discussion. The Speaker had adopted a businesslike attitude and wanted as much time as possible devoted to the discussion of the NEC Report. At long intervals the hall, which was packed with more than 500 people, sang the song which had superseded the popular Freedom Songs:



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CHOU EN-LAI CALLS FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.S.

CALCUTTA.

CHINA had done her best since the Bandung conference to improve relations with the United States but had not had a favourable response from the U.S. Government, Premier Chou En-lai told a press conference here during his recent tour of India.

"If the United States Government wants to satisfy the desire of the American people for friendship with the peoples of the world, including the Chinese people, they should do something to improve Sino-U.S. relations," he said.

Answering a question on the situation in Hungary, Premier Chou replied: "The most important point is that certain groups within the Western countries tried to exploit a people's movement and dissatisfaction in order to engage in subversive activities in Hungary. For a time such activities had the upper hand and people were massacred.

"The Hungarian people, in order to save their socialist achievements, could not tolerate this. The socialist countries also, in order to safeguard their solidarity and to protect the interests of the socialist countries, could not allow their solidarity to be disrupted.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

"The governments of some countries are making baseless allegations all the time that others were carrying on subversive activities in their countries. But in fact they themselves are engaging in subversive activities against the socialist countries. Of course one cannot tolerate this situation."

Asked about differences between Premier Nehru and the Chinese Government on Hungary, Premier Chou said: "It is just as Nehru said—it is friendly disagreement."

WORLD PEACE

Referring to Premier Nehru's visit to the USA one correspondent enquired if he had asked Nehru to convey any suggestion or message to the American Government. Premier Chou said: "Prime Minister Nehru is an envoy of peace. No matter where he goes or whom he sees he will talk about questions which have a bearing on world peace. If Nehru and Eisenhower talk about relations between China and the USA, we believe that Nehru will certainly put forward such views which he thinks will be useful for the improvement of relations between China and the USA.

"We know that Nehru has more understanding of the world situation than we do. Therefore any suggestion we could make could not be more than what he has in mind. Particularly Nehru has a better understanding and more knowledge of the internal situation of the USA than I do."

The BBC correspondent asked whether, after his present tour of India, the Premier thought the British had done more evil than good to India and if so, how.

COLONIALISM

The Premier smiled and said, "This question should be answered by our Indian friends. But I can tell you about the evils of colonialism left behind in China.

"In the colonies or semi-colonies," the Premier added, "colonialism always tries to impoverish the people and prevent them from making economic and especially industrial progress. That is why all the countries in Asia and Africa, with the exception of Japan, are decades behind the Western countries." He said, "They have been turned into sources of supply of raw materials and markets for exploitation. That is why they do not have an independent economy and least of all complete industrial systems."

"Without an independent economy and a complete industrial system

they cannot become modern countries and cannot improve the life of their people. It is because of this that to us, Eastern people, colonialism is a horrible scourge. This is precisely why we want to drive out colonialism. This was the unanimous demand of the Asian and African countries in the Bandung Conference.

"What we are against is colonialism and not against the people of the Western countries. Furthermore we Eastern people know that the people in the Western countries are more advanced in scientific knowledge and in other fields, because they have better opportunities. We

should learn from them what is useful to us."

CHIANG KAI-SHEK

Answering a question put by a Daily News correspondent, Premier Chou reiterated what he said in Phnom Penh, that "the Chinese Government is making all efforts for the peaceful liberation of Taiwan as well as efforts to win Chiang Kai-shek over. If Taiwan is restored to China then Chiang Kai-shek would have made a contribution and he could stay in any part of his fatherland according to his wish.

"You have mentioned an offer of a government position to Chiang Kai-shek. What actually happened was that one correspondent asked if Chiang Kai-shek would be offered a minister's post. I said a minister's post is too low."

"APARTHEID IS DOOMED" SAYS BANNED RABBI

Exclusive Interview With New Age

PORT ELIZABETH.

"YOU are hereby ordered to leave the Union of South Africa not later than January 15, 1957," said the deportation letter served on Rabbi Dr. Andre Ungar recently.

Dr. Ungar, who is a Rabbi of a Jewish community here, came to South Africa two years ago. He was born and grew up in Hungary where he witnessed the spectacle of Jews being herded into ghettos by the Nazis.

When the Group Areas Committee announced the dates when it would sit at P.E. to consider proposals for the grouping of races under the Group Areas Act, he appeared on a public platform with others who were opposed to the Group Areas Act.

When New Age interviewed him as to the reaction of his community to the Government deportation order and his personal impressions of the racial situation in South Africa, Dr. Ungar said it would be misleading to claim that his community as a whole either supports or opposes the principles he professed, but, he said:

"I do hold that if my community were fully aware of the ethical implications of the religious tradition they profess to uphold they would present a solid and unmistakable opposition to racialistic theories and practices in all forms."

Commenting on his impressions of the racial situation in South Africa and on the apartheid policy he said:

"It seems to me obvious that segregation of inter-linked and inter-dependent sections of the community is utterly impracticable. Also I think that it is ludicrous to hope that a small minority can keep either by force or persuasion a large majority in permanent subjection.

"From this angle," he continued, "I see the racial situation in this country as tense, explosive and pregnant with seeds of tragedy to all concerned.

"From a moral angle I find it quite indefensible to try and justify the continuation of an oppressive and discriminatory system. The white community, by its acquies-

cence in its own privileged position allows its own ethical and cul-



RABBI UNGAR

tural heritage to be poisoned," concluded Dr. Ungar.

Mrs. Ungar and her three-year-old daughter will leave on Sunday by air, while Dr. Ungar is due to leave the country on January 15, 1957. He is going to London where he has been invited to serve as a Rabbi.

SAIC Backs Call For Multi-racial Conference

The South African Indian Congress has issued a statement wholeheartedly and unequivocally acclaiming the bold and courageous decisions taken by the leaders and organisations of the African people at the Bloemfontein Conference which was convened by the Inter-denominational African Ministers' Federation. The total and unambiguous rejection of Apartheid expresses the genuine feeling of all democratic South Africa irrespective of race, colour and creed.

BRUTAL POLICE ATTACKS AT DRILL HALL

(Continued from page 1)

ing a noise and interfering with the proceedings.

Mr. Alex Hepple, M.P., leader of the Labour Party, appealed to Col. Grobler not to order a baton charge. He said that the alleged noise made by the crowd was hardly audible inside the Court and was not interfering with the proceedings. He offered to address the crowd and appeal for it to withdraw.

This offer was refused, and the police continued roughly to push people away. "I saw one elderly African woman who tried to avoid being knocked over having the umbrella she carried wrenched out of her hands by a burly policeman who broke it and threw it into the gutter," an eye-witness told New Age.

DREW BATONS

"The moment the police reached Plein Street they drew batons and violently charged the already retreating crowd. They swung into the helpless crowd and began hitting everyone within their reach. Women were the biggest sufferers. In retaliation some of the crowd began to throw stones. Just then two shots rang out—a young constable had opened fire.

"I was about ten feet away from the main police detachment who were ordered to fall into a line and then let off a volley of shots into the crowd that scattered wildly in every direction. Reuben Maluphale (20) of Orlando was hit in the leg by a flying bullet. Four Whites and about ten Non-Whites were admitted to the General Hospital. Two White police constables were among the injured.

"It was a terrible sight to see young policemen indiscriminately beating up women and elderly men who could not run fast enough to escape them."

PREGNANT WOMAN KICKED

The people scattered, pursued by some of the more zealous policemen, who continued, writes the Cape Times correspondent, "shooting at the remaining stragglers.

"Among these," he writes, "was a pregnant African woman who, stumbling on the rubble of the empty stand, fell on her hands and knees. The policeman caught up with her, stopped and kicked her three times in the side."

Commenting on Minister Swart's statement, issued after the shooting, that "demonstrations" would be combated "with the full force and might of the law," Mr. Hepple demanded a judicial enquiry into the conduct of the police. "Does the Minister consider that the act of waiting in a queue for admission to a public court constitutes a demonstration?" he asked.

On the third day five hundred armed policemen cordoned off the Drill Hall and its environs. The White police were armed with stunguns and batons, the Africans with klerries and assegais. No attempt was made by the crowds, who had again come seeking admission to the court, to pass through the police barrier. Yet there were again baton charges against these people innocently standing outside the cor-

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don. Twenty-seven people were injured, five Africans being admitted to the General Hospital.

Johannesburg is seething at the behaviour of the police, which most eye-witnesses considered completely uncalled for.

IS FREEDOM CHARTER TREASON ?

(Continued from page 1)

had reached the stage where capitalist imperialism was developing into fascism and was a police state. It was undemocratic in that the workers were not represented in Parliament and that the country was governed by financial magnates, oppressors of the people. Parliament as it existed would have to be abolished.

(b) That some of the accused made speeches inciting to revolution, violence and bloodshed as a means to achieve this aim.

PEOPLE'S SUPPORT

After the adjournment of the court, Chief Luthuli briefly thanked the people of Johannesburg for their magnificent support. The Rev. Thompson, as a member of the World Peace Council, wished everybody a Merry Christmas and peace in the world.

Owing to pressure on space the Letterbox has been held over until next week. Sorry!—Editor.

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