

Lys Nr. 2 - 10 (16) 16 Eksempelare  
FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE CONGRESS.

Saturday August 22nd, Sunday August 23rd  
1953



TRADES HALL · JOHANNESBURG  
Conference Agenda

Bewysstuk No. 199  
Gekry by Peace Council  
Deur. Sgt. M. K. ...  
Te General House, 110 ...  
Datum 22/8/53  
Verwysings No.

E. 436

SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST:

- 8.30 - 10 a.m. Registration of Delegates
- 10 a.m. Conference Opening by the Chairman, Rev. D.C. Thompson. //  
Greetings to the Conference.
- 10.45 a.m. Tea.
- 11 a.m. FIRST SESSION. THE WORLD TODAY. //  
IN THE CHAIR: Rev. D.C. Thompson  
SPEAKERS: Adv. A. Fischer, Q.C.  
Mr. D. Tloome  
  
Discussion by delegates. Resolution 1.
- 1 p.m. Lunch Interval
- 2 p.m. SECOND SESSION. AFRICA, COLONIALISM & WAR. //  
IN THE CHAIR: Dr. S. Molema  
SPEAKERS: Mr. N. Mandela,  
Mr. Debi Singh.  
  
Discussion by delegates. Resolution 2.

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SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST

~~6:17~~

9.15 a.m. THIRD SESSION. THE PEOPLE AND PEACE  
 IN THE CHAIR: MRS. JESSIE MCPHERSON  
 SPEAKERS: DR. GUY ROUTH  
 MISS IDA MNTWANA

Discussion by delegates. Resolution 3

12.30 p.m. Nominations for S.A. Peace Council.

1 p.m. LUNCH INTERVAL

2 p.m. FOURTH SESSION. THE PEACE MOVEMENT.  
 IN THE CHAIR: Mr. Szur  
 SPEAKERS: Dr. J. Gillman  
 Hilda Watts.

Discussion by delegates. Resolution 4.

3.45 p.m. Constitution of the South African Peace  
 Council. Introduction of Constitution by  
 Miss Ruth First.

Election of S.A. Peace Council

Adoption of South African PEACE DECLARATION.



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① H.L.S.D.(N)(39)



# REPORT OF THE First National South African PEACE CONGRESS

Held in Johannesburg. Aug. 22-23 1953

The people of South Africa have at last achieved the formation of a South African Peace Council. This marks a great step forward for the peace movement of our country, and should be the beginning of spreading organised peace work throughout the land.

This step was achieved at the first national Peace Congress, which was held in Johannesburg and attended by delegates from the Transvaal, Natal, Cape Province, Swaziland and Basutoland. The two-day Congress heard and discussed papers presented by leading members of many organisations; discussed and passed resolutions on peace with particular reference to problems of Africa; agreed on the formation of a South African Peace Council; adopted a Constitution for such a Council; and elected a President, Vice-Presidents and twenty members to a General Council.

This is a report of the Peace Congress, which brought together men and women of many organisations and all races in South Africa, meeting and discussing in an atmosphere of harmony and goodwill, of mutual co-operation and assistance, that was in itself a demonstration of the deep feeling for peace that exists among the people of our country.

## WHO WAS THERE

Two hundred and seventy-five delegates attended, representing nearly 261,000 people, the members of many organisations that sent them.

Twenty-six delegates came from Natal. They represented the Natal Peace Council, Trade Unions, the S.A. Union of Democratic Students, the Natal Indian Congress, the Natal Indian Congress Youth League, African National Congress, (Natal), the Daughters of Africa; and the Women's League of the A.N.C.

The Cape sent four delegates, three from Cape Town and one from Port Elizabeth. These delegates came and spoke on behalf of Peace Councils, the Housewives League, the Modern Youth Society and the Democratic League.

Delegates from/.....

Delegates from the Transvaal included representatives of National Organisations, and the South African Labour Party, the Congress of Democrats, the Springbok Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, and various Trade Unions were among the national bodies officially represented at the Congress.

Trade Unions represented were: The National Baking Workers' Union, National Union of Distributive Workers, Laundry Workers' Union, Sweet Workers' Union, African Mine Workers' Union, Textile Workers' Union, African Textile Workers' Union, Furniture Workers' Union, Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers (Johannesburg Branch), South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union, S.A. Tin Workers' Union, Timber and Coal Workers' Union, African Building Workers' Union, Transvaal Council of non-European Trade Unions.

Sixty delegates attended from 20 Transvaal branches of the African National Congress, and twenty-eight delegates represented the African National Congress Women's League and its various branches. Youth delegates included representatives of the African National Congress Youth League (Transvaal); the Transvaal Indian Congress Youth League; the Students Liberal Association, and two observers on behalf of the Students Representative Council (Mitwatersrand University) and the Students Peace Society.

Delegates from factories represented 4,000 factory workers, and other organisations represented were the S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union; the Brotherhood of Truth and Light; the Transvaal Cape Malay Association; the Berlin Church; and a delegate from the Swaziland Progressive Association and the Basutoland African National Congress.

*Greetings*



The Congress was officially opened by the Rev. D.C. Thompson, formerly Chairman of the Transvaal Peace Council, who was later elected President of the South African Peace Council.

Quoting from the 'Call to Peace' issued before the Congress and signed by many leading South Africans from different walks of life, the Rev. Thompson said:

"We believe that the people of South Africa must find their own way to defend humanity and preserve world peace. All about us military bases are being prepared for war. Neighbouring territories are becoming vital strategic sources of war materials and manpower. Our own country has already paid heavily for the Korean war, is committed

to military/.....

to military pacts in the Middle East, and is becoming one of the prime producers of uranium for atomic weapons. Our racial policies are the cause of international tensions, diplomatic breaches and U.N.O. debates on the threat to world peace. We are moving into the front line of a future war. We make an earnest call to the people of our country to meet and discuss the sources of world conflict and to find a way forward to the achievement of world peace. We believe that in this Peoples Congress for Peace we can draw from our different ideas and ideals that which we have in common, so we can act to preserve peace."



### Messages

Messages of Greetings to the Congress were then read from the Australian, British and Canadian Peace Councils, the World Peace Council, the Women's International Democratic Association, the International Union of Students; from a number of South African Trade Unions not represented at the Congress; from the Southern Rhodesian Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union, who had tried to send a delegate to the Congress but were unsuccessful in obtaining a permit, and who sent greetings and support in the name of 5,000 workers; from the Nyasaland Students Association, another organisation that was unable to send a delegate (this organisation actually appointed two delegates in South Africa to represent them at the Congress, but unfortunately notification of this arrived too late for them to attend).

Other organisations that sent greetings were the Jewish Democratic Association; Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses; and a number of individuals, including Mr. Harmel and Mr. Wolfson, both former members of the Transvaal Peace Council who were banned from participating in Peace Council activities by the government; Dr. Goonam, Dr. G.M. Naicker, Mr. R.K. Cope, Mr. T. Ngevela, Mr. W. Kodosh; and the newspaper "Advance".

## THE WORLD TODAY

The first session of the Congress was: The World Today: Can international differences be settled by peaceful means? Is peace possible between countries with differing systems?

The opening paper at this session was to have been presented by Adv. A. Fischer. Two days before the Congress, however, he was served with notices banning him from all gatherings and from participation in the peace movement. In deep silence delegates listened to Mr. Fischer's voice

speaking a/.....

speaking a recorded message.

"I cannot be present with you today, but I want to express to you my unshakeable faith in the value of the great work you are gathered here to do", he said. "The Peace Movement in South Africa has grown steadily and surely from the small group of people who started it over three years ago into a movement which today can organise a Congress such as this. I have seen it grow. I have seen men and women and youth carry on undaunted by the attacks of the little Hitlers. I have seen hundreds of new workers for peace coming forward to take the place of those removed, and refusing to be intimidated.

"I know that...the real reply to Mr. Swart will come not from me but from the determination of this Congress to spread peace throughout South Africa. I have no doubt I can leave this reply in your hands.

"....In the past the work of organising for peace has been slow and gradual, at times hard and disappointing. But today there is a deep understanding amongst the people of this country of the need for peace and the necessity for struggling positively and in an organised fashion to compel nations to settle their differences by negotiation and not by war. This understanding has grown sharply during the past few months because it arises from the real need of the people for a peaceful world, a world free from the terror of war and liberated from the appalling burden of paying continually for ever-growing armaments.

"There is also the urgent need for South Africa to take her place as a nation in the great campaign in favour of negotiations between the Five Great Powers which is being carried on in all countries of the world following the call from the World Peace Council.

"....I shall be with you in spirit today. Forward to World Peace!"

A proposal that a deputation headed by Rev. D.C. Thompson should interview Mr. Swart, the Minister of Justice, and ask that the ban on Mr. Fischer be raised, was put as an unopposed motion and unanimously agreed to.

*"War has no victories."*

Mr. Cecil Williams, national chairman of the Springbok Legion, speaking in the place of Mr. Fischer, delivered the main paper of this session. "War has no victories", he declared. "War has only defeat and destruction....."

destruction.....

"It is not sufficient to know that 50,000,000 people lost their lives in World War II. We do not understand those figures. If I picture to myself a family in Korea, then I can understand what war means. If I think of it in terms of houses razed to the ground, and our factories and land destroyed and ravaged and rendered unfertile for many years to come, then we can get some idea of why we are here.

*We  
want  
to live!*

"We are here because we demand peace and we want to live. In the past two weeks a precarious end has been brought to three years savage war in Korea. We hope that the wisdom of the world will ensure that this war cannot be re-started. We find war in Malaya and Kenya. We find tremendous tension throughout the world. There is a continuous fear with us and it destroys our capacity for enjoying life. Millions in the world are affected by this tension. Money and manpower which should be utilised for constructive purposes is being diverted into war channels. We are paying for our own destruction.

"Our personal liberties are at stake as long as there is threat of war - and you have seen how these liberties are threatened. Workers for peace must fight against being gagged and insist on the right to make their contribution to preserve world peace. The Government is determined to suppress the voice of the people for peace.

"Some nations are losing their independence because economically and politically they are being subjugated by the major powers of the world. This is true not only of the colonial countries, but is happening to other countries in Europe. This is one of the most threatening features in the world today."

Mr. Williams went on to say that there were antagonisms between different systems, and that some declared capitalism and communism could not live side by side. Then there was the antagonism between suppressed colonial peoples and the major powers that continued to suppress smaller countries. If you said different systems could not live side by side, you denied that people had the intelligence to reason things out. "If you say they can live side by side, you must realise that you are saying there are no problems that cannot be solved by negotiation, and denying forever that there is need for war. You are demanding steps should be taken to lessen tensions; you are demanding a reduction in armaments".

Our answer/.....

"Our answer is that no matter what the problems are, they can be solved. One of the most wonderful things that has happened in the last five years is that all over the world people have said 'We want peace.' People are ready not just to say it, but to act for peace. People came together to form the World Peace Council."

"We must insist", Mr. Williams said, "that our Government do as we demand. We are here to set up a national organisation for peace. We are no longer geographically isolated from war; we are not immune from holocaust. The whole of the Witwatersrand and the Free State could be devastated because of the setting up of plants there for the extraction of uranium."

"Our task is the planning of practical steps to see that our determination for peace is imposed on our Government and ultimately the Governments of the world. Peace is within our reach. It is for us to win it."

A second paper on the subject of World Peace was given by Dr. Dan Floomo.

Discussion on these papers and on the first resolution then took place.

Discussion  
by  
delegates

MRS. THAELE (Cape Town) said: "I want delegates to be impressed how very necessary it is to try and take the message of peace wherever we go. Our people are apt to say nothing will be settled except by war. We have not yet felt the impact of war. We have not yet seen its horrors. I lost my husband on active service. I know how hard it is to bring up a child who lost its father at the age of four. When other mothers rejoiced, tears came to my eyes when I contemplated the activities of my child, when I realised how her father would have rejoiced too. I know what it means to sell up my home because I could not carry on. A practical step should be to bring the message of peace to everyone with whom we come into contact. We would speak to them on an emotional as well as a practical basis."

MR. MATLAPORO (Johannesburg): "We are in agreement with the resolutions. Everybody likes peace, but you have to see that peace is kept. As it is today, some of us cannot even speak. The Peace Council is helping to educate people to speak and act for peace."

.....  
All sections represented/.....



Helping  
to rid  
S. Africa  
of racialism

MR. AMRA (Batal): "A significant thing about this Congress is that all sections of South African people are represented here, thereby helping to rid South Africa of racialism. On a small scale we represent the whole of the world. We have people here from the East, From Africa, from the West. On the African continent we have a great task. Unfortunately, in South Africa there are people interested in war, because it benefits them financially. War destroys our economy as well as our happiness. It is a major task in this country to dispel the feeling of isolation. The six million pounds spent on the Korean war could have educated 60,000 children in South Africa who are running half-naked in the streets in slum areas. Forty-two million pounds has been earmarked for Middle East 'defence' which could place 400,000 children in schools."

MR. C. FEINSTEIN (Johannesburg): "I want to make a plea against the insanity we find in the world today. This is the madness that calls black white, night day. This is the madness that we see reported in the paper this morning when Senator McCarthy says we must kill all Red leaders. This is the madness we find expressed in the Atlantic Treaty Organisation. They have built bases all round the world. They prepare treaties for aggression, and call them pacts for defence. It is what we find expressed in the journal of the Anglo-American Corporation of this country, in articles by a famous Field Marshal who says that instead of training young people to be workers we must train them to be soldiers; instead of using our resources for production we must use them for war. He says this means sacrifice but adds 'Surely you will make those sacrifices to preserve world peace'. This is madness. There is only one way to preserve peace - by outlawing weapons of war. We should tell the people of the world that we do not think it necessary to build bases in Africa to defend America. We must go forward in peace to live a full, free and happy life."

## ✦ AFRICA, COLONIALISM & WAR ✦

At the next session, Mrs. Thole presided, and Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the Transvaal African National Congress, and Mr. Debi Ranch, of Durban, presented the papers on the subject of Africa, Colonialism and War. Mr. Mandela said:

"The events now taking place in Africa constitute the most serious threat to the peace, security and the freedom of the people of this Continent.

For years/.....

"For years now, the capitalist countries have lived on raw materials and cheap labour from Asia and Africa. The rise of the national liberation movements in Asia and the Pacific Regions and the loss of these vast countries as war bases and centres for investment has forced the imperial powers to turn their eyes on Africa.

*Riches of Africa* "It is here that we have rich deposits of gold, diamonds and uranium. Our Continent produces sisal, palm oil, cocoa, coffee and other products. It is in Africa that we have vast supplies of land and cheap labour. Being without any strong trade union movement, the people of Africa are exposed to the most vicious and cruel forms of colonial exploitation. It is this situation that makes the danger of war in Africa very real and close.

"Here the Imperial powers of Britain, Belgium, France, Holland, Portugal and Spain have either their chief or their only Colonial dependencies. The internal contradictions and conflicts within this imperial camp are broadening daily. In their mad lust for markets and profits, these imperial powers will not hesitate to cut one another's throats, to break the peace, to drench millions of innocent people in blood and to bring misery and untold suffering to humanity. The rivalries amongst these colonial powers contain the seeds of an extremely dangerous situation to peace and security in Africa.

*Military Bases* "To protect their markets and investments, to crush the national liberation movements and forestall the rise of revolutionary democracy in Africa, and to ensure an abundant cheap labour supply, America and her satellites have established military bases all over the Continent. America has land, sea and air bases in Morocco and Libya. There are British military bases in Egypt, East Africa, Somaliland and the Sudan. Field-Marshal Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean in 1964 puts the matter very clearly: '...the spread of Communism to China and the uncertain political situations in other countries in the Far East are bound to have the effect of contracting the sources of supply of certain raw materials necessary for the manufacture of armaments, which will result in the intensification of prospecting and development in Africa.'

"According to him the role of the two Rhodesias and Kenya should be to protect and develop sea communications; to

be ready/.....

be ready to send forces overseas; to develop its industries to maximum capacity for war needs. In 1946 the "Daily Mail" made the position equally clear: 'The British decision to quit Palestine, Burma's secession from the Commonwealth, the weakening of ties with India and the uncertainty of Britain's tenure in Egypt have hastened the adoption of plans for a new Commonwealth defence system....Kenya is the new centre of Commonwealth defence and South Africa its arsenal'.

Africa  
is a  
war base

"Almost simultaneously the "Daily Express" wrote: 'East Africa is expected to become a main atomic-age training ground of the British Army and a main support base in the Empire defence system.'

"Africa has now become a war base for the imperial powers in their war preparations and for their schemes of world domination. This is the true explanation of the callous determination and indecent haste of the British Government in ramming through the Federation Scheme in Central Africa, in spite of the united opposition of the African population of these territories. This is the true explanation of the bitter conflict in Kenya between imperial Britain, whose aim is to rob those people of their country and land, and the Kenyan people who are fighting to save their land and country from being transformed into a military base to attack other people.

Victims  
of a  
future  
war

"The people of Africa will be the first victims of a future war. Their industries will produce armaments, their raw materials will be used, not to develop their own economies, but to destroy those of others. The war danger in Africa is very close indeed.

"People throughout the world are coming to understand how closely the struggle for peace and against the menace of war is linked with the preservation of the right of the nation and the individual to a peaceful existence. This Conference shows that more and more people in South Africa have come to understand the most serious threat to the peace, security and freedom of the peoples that exists at the present time.

Foreign  
Armies

"The threat to the national liberation movements in Africa resulting from the presence of foreign armies arouses the deepest indignation of all patriots. The people of Africa are being forced to realise that peace is their most immediate concern. They demand the withdrawal from the Continent of Africa of all foreign troops and the end of colonial oppression and exploitation."

Imperialism/.....

MR. DEBI  
SINGH  
from Durban

MR. SINGH spoke of imperialism, and how it told its own people that they had a 'noble mission' in the colonies... a mission to spread the gospel among the barbarians and bring the benefit of Western civilisation to the colonies. "Bogus scientists have been produced to prove the inherent inferiority of coloured peoples. The motive of imperialism in proving the inferiority and the 'trustee' policy was to estrange the common people of their own countries from colonial peoples. And in turn it has caused the colonial people very often to regard all the people of imperialist countries - for example, all British people, all French people, as oppressors. We of the peace movement say that the understanding of common peoples is essential to peace. There arises our first task - the peace movement will have to bring about friendship and understanding between colonial peoples and the peoples of imperialist countries.

"The immediate reaction of imperialism to the movements for national liberation in the colonies has been to try and suppress them with force of arms. And if the national liberation movements resist, this leads to a first-class war.

If we  
want  
peace

"People have said that if the liberation movements were more moderate there would be no bloodshed. That is a fallacy. Force of arms is always used first by imperialism. A case in point is Kenya. The fact is that long before the Mau Mau started the colonial Government from London used violent force to crush the Kenya liberation movement....

"If we want peace, we must support the national liberation movements of colonial peoples. We are concerned with the prevention of war, and if we can put our finger on colonialism as a definite cause of war, then it is common sense to throw in our lot to resist imperialism.

"Finally, in the rivalry between different imperialist powers you have an ever-present cause of world war. They fight among themselves for colonies and profits, and drag us all in.

### *Discussion during 2nd Session*

In the discussion that followed, the following participated:

MR. R. OAKES (Brotherhood of Truth and Light) spoke of the support that the Peace Council should be receiving from those in the religious field. Nowhere in any religious book was there justification for the lack of brotherhood that one found in South Africa. The Congress

should leave/.....

should leave out political and ideological differences and welcome people of every opinion. We should call on the people in the name of all mankind. There is the same God or supreme power in every person. He wished the Congress every success in its endeavours to bring world peace, which comes, he said, only from internal peace and the brotherhood of man.

MR. LAWRENCE N'KOSI, MR. I. HEYMANN, MR. A. MANALLA, MR. A. KRIEL, MR. J. FODBREY, MR. S. DELAMINI, MR. CHICOLE, MR. I. ROSEN, MR. SIBIYE and MR. GOVENDER also spoke.

In winding up the discussion, MISS RUTH FIRST said:

*The peace movement and Colonialism*

"It is obvious there are some differences among us in regard to what the policy of the peace movement should be. It is simple enough to say our policy is to end war by negotiation. We are here because we hate war, because war means wholesale slaughter and the threat to the survival of the whole human race. We understand that whatever international differences there are, these must be settled peacefully.

"But then one delegate says there is no room in the peace movement for 'isms' and another says war is due to imperialism.

"What are the politics and policies of the peace movement? What is our attitude to the war in Malaya and Kenya? Do we say that Korea is our business, but Kenya is not? Do we say it is not the job of the peace movement to condemn colonialism?

"There is room in the peace movement for people who believe in all kinds of 'isms'. Some people think the United States is to blame for world tensions, some think it is the Soviet Union that is to blame. It is perfectly true the peace movement does not pin the blame on one or another, does not condemn imperialism, nor support imperialism as such; does not condemn nor support capitalism or socialism. That is not our job. But this is the essence: While we say we do not support any one system, we do say that we cannot allow the maintenance of any system by force or by war. When foreign powers invade territories of Africa and try to enforce colonialism, that is the concern of the peace movement. We must have a policy towards such acts. We are opposed to colonialism because it is a breeding ground of war in Africa.

"What is the relation of the peace movement to the liberation movements, to the Trade Unions, to individuals who support one system or another? The peace movement is the common factor among them all.

If we say/.....

"If we say that the Protectorates or Kenya are not our business, we are failing in our duty towards peace."

## THE PEOPLE AND PEACE

The third session, on Sunday morning, was opened by Mrs. McPherson, the Labour Party delegate, who presided. The first speaker was Dr. Guy Routh.

He presented a picture of what the world would be like if so much money were not spent on war. The last world war cost Britain seven thousand million pounds. South Africa spent today twenty-three million pounds on war preparations - a fifth of the whole budget, while only two to three million pounds went to food subsidies. This year Britain was spending sixteen hundred million pounds on war, as compared with 418 million on National Health Services and 305 million on education. How much more could be spent on education, housing and health if such tremendous sums were not being spent on war.

In America a fifth to one-third of the national income went to direct or indirect war preparations - twenty-five thousand million pounds.

Man's struggle for survival could easily be solved, Dr. Routh said, if man were not struggling against man. What would America do if productive forces turned from armaments? Could it not turn to increased production in other fields? A peaceful economy in all countries would mean a far greater development of all those social services so badly needed.

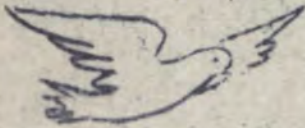
The ending of the Cold War would mean increased trade between East and West. If we could end the Cold War, all mankind would benefit.

Speaking on the same subject, Miss Ida Mtshana, secretary of the Women's League of the African National Congress, said that the government of South Africa spent vast sums of money to help bomb defenceless Koreans, money that would better be spent in providing education, homes and hospitals for our own people. Instead, the people of South Africa had to shoulder the burden of higher living costs, of increased prices for bread, meat, fish, transport.

The women of this country wanted peace, not war. "We want all countries to live in peace, and we want our children to be decently brought up and educated", she said.

South African/.....

South African soldiers should not leave South African soil to kill children of other countries.



## PEACE RENEWS OUR FAITH IN MAN.

A short but moving speech was given by Professor Gillman, of the Witwatersrand University. He said:-

"It is a great privilege for me to be asked to speak to this Peace Congress: Peace turns the back of mankind (and I hope this time for evermore) on brutality, suffering, death, destruction, famine and pestilence, the very negation of all those human aspirations nurtured tenderly through the centuries of suffering as man groped from darkness, superstition and ignorance to light, human understanding and full creative expression.

"Peace brings with it a need to alleviate human suffering, to uplift and rehabilitate the downtrodden that they too may participate in the enjoyment of the fruits of the earth, and the warm, glad sun.

"Peace above all renews our faith in man, for what greater experience is there than the full appreciation of the dignity of man?

*Human Achievement* "As we look backwards through the ages, we cannot but be impressed by the remarkable potential of man; the great cathedrals, the great works of art, the mastery of nature, of the sea, of the earth and of the air. Deserts have been made to flower, unruly forests have been harnessed, and devastating pestilence controlled -- all this, my friends, achieved in the face of hostility. Can you imagine when all the people of the world are liberated, are allowed to understand each other, are given every opportunity to find full creative expression, what joy, what a spectacle of human achievement will spread over the face of the earth? We shall indeed witness the true glory of man. These are not pipe-dreams, these are the things that can come to be if you desire them.

"As I think of Africa today, of that vast territory extending from the Sahara to Cape Town, with its African-Indian population of over one hundred and sixty million, and of its four million whites; as I reflect on the plight of the people -- of the one million lepers, of the millions of tuberculous, parasite-infested human beings, of the millions of babies who are born into filth and degradation, and

who never reach/.....

who never reach the age of twelve months, and when I reflect that there are vast expanses of land stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean which, if cultivated, can food easily the entire continent of Africa as well as Europe, then I know that there is a great, urgent task before us.

"And that is why I talk of peace now. You have got to feel it, dream it, lest you be distracted by other nefarious desires.

"Lest you feel alone here today, lest you feel that you are voices crying in the wilderness, I would assure you that there are at least seven hundred million people thinking the same way. Grasp the hand of your comrades, raise up your voices, that a great cry resound through the entire universe - for peace, and for the restoration of the dignity of man, and all that it means. For happiness! "

## DISCUSSION ON THIRD SESSION

In the discussion that followed, a delegate from the S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union said:-

"Allegations have been made that the Soviet Union is building for war, and this is used as a pretext for building up our own armaments. This is completely false. General Bradley quoted that the Soviet army consists of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> million men, which is the same as the pre-war figure. Twenty-three percent of the Soviet budget is spent on armaments, as compared with seventy percent in other Western countries. In the Soviet Union there is a Peace Defence Law that persons guilty of war propaganda shall be tried as criminals. "

Mrs. Thale (Cape Town) said:-

"The Government should provide homes, schools etc. so that there would be no surplus for armament. The women's delegation to Havana about the rise in the cost of bread and the fantastic cost of living was refused a hearing. Sub-economic loans have been withdrawn, only economic loans are being considered today.

"We must make our Government realise that we are living in such conditions that we simply haven't got the money for armaments."

South Africa and Korea/.....



Waste  
and  
Misuse

MR. SELBORNE MAPONYA (A.N.C. Natal): "The deficit in the Budget is mainly due to our participation in the Korean war. It is a waste and misuse of men's energies. The world is unfit today for you and I to live in. Our leaders are divorced from us and we are being led by the Eisenhowers, Churchills etc. Why don't they make the deserts bloom, develop the potentialities of youth and make them useful to society? Each time there is a war the youth bears the burden and millions do not return - why such a waste of human life? Rather put them under the command of the scientists and make the deserts bloom..

"There is friction in the world today because of differing ideologies, but these must be solved by negotiation. How can twenty men tell thirteen million people to go to war? It should be the millions who tell the twenty we want peace. A war of ideas can lead to a total war but we must face a war of ideas as something to be discussed, not fought over. We must go slowly and carefully, not jump into war but walk to peace.

"Chou En-Lai said in Vienna - 'Korea needs peace but will not beg for it'. But Korea was given no chance to negotiate for peace. They had to defend themselves and use the same tactics as their opponents. In South Africa let us beg for peace before we are forced to defend ourselves. We must overcome all man-made obstacles."

PEACE  
and  
CULTURE

MR. SACHS (Modern Youth Society, Cape Town) spoke on the relationship between peace and culture. He said that economic measures affect our spiritual life. Men throughout the world have common ideas to build up homes, families, and to develop culturally. If the picture of the world is falsified, men become like beasts and hate each other. We are getting this false impression today. Films, radio, books are filled with war, hatred, sadism and violence - this is our education today.

"Hitler would never have had the German people behind him if he had not used these methods of encouraging hatred of other people. War breeds racialism and brutality. The Modern Youth Society's aim is to encourage co-operation, love and friendship amongst the youth which is a very difficult task under the present state of international tension. We, the Modern Youth Society, therefore support this resolution wholeheartedly. We must demand peace, not beg or pray for it - we the people."

All colours/.....

All colours  
can live  
in peace

MR. R. RESHA (A.N.C. Youth League) deplored the race hatred and domination of one group over another in South Africa. Africans have every right to work for peace and to make friends with everyone and to prove that all colours can live in peace and work for peace.

"Throughout Africa there is a struggle to overthrow foreign domination - a fight for peace and national independence. The A.N.C. is waging the struggle against depression peacefully.

"War is never a domestic affair. To quote examples - Rhodesia talks of assisting the Kenya Government; and the interference into the affairs of the Korean peoples by sixteen nations.

"The A.N.C. Youth League has passed a resolution stating that it will never take part in an ideological war or a war on South African territory. We must discuss, not fight. Freedom and peace are indivisible to us."

### *Women of the World must not regard fighters as heroes*

Speaking from the Chair, MRS. McPHERSON said:-

"A peace fight prevails in a country as well as between countries. Except for a difference of language there is no difference between the peoples of the world; we all want peace. We must all sit around a common table and discuss.

"Women of the world must not regard fighters as heroes. The last world war was considered 'for freedom', but the Freedom Charter of U.N.O. has not been carried into practice by the affiliated countries. Therefore we lost the peace. What then was the purpose of fighting? The effect of war on future generations will be destitution, physically and mentally scarred people.

"Toys should not be warlike, and serials on the wireless should change to peaceful subjects.

"The Peace Council should give a token contribution to the rehabilitation of the children of Korea."

The People and Peace/.....

Discussion then took place on the third resolution (The People and Peace), and also a resolution condemning Dr. Milan's recent statements regarding India. This resolution was agreed to in principle.

Congress then passed a resolution supporting the campaign for negotiations between the Big Powers and setting a target of 100,000 signatures to be obtained for the Peace Council's ballot.

## THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN S. AFRICA

The fourth and last subject discussed by the Congress was the South African Peace Movement. Introducing the discussion, the Secretary of the Transvaal Peace Council, Hilda Watts, said:-

"We are part of the World Peace Movement. The World Peace Council came into being at the height of world tensions, when the Korean war had just begun, the cold war and 'atomania' was rife. It was slandered by many - people spoke of 'peacemongers' as though it were something shameful. The programme of the World Peace Council set out certain broad demands - the outlawing of atomic warfare, a pact of peace between the Big Powers - and today its main aim is to achieve negotiation between the Powers in place of war.

"The Peace Movement has grown to embrace all views, all countries, peoples of all professions and occupations. It counts in its ranks world-famous and honoured men and women, and it is also supported by millions of ordinary men and women. Its achievements are significant. It is probable that the great campaign of the World Council stopped the use of the atomic bomb in Korea; certainly the Peace Movement has contributed towards obtaining the Korean armistice. It influences statesmen, and it gives organised expression to the peace longing of hundreds of millions of people.

*A remote  
issue?*

"In South Africa the problem of world peace at first seemed a remote one, the lack of knowledge of people of this country of what modern war really means, the pre-occupation of our people with their own vital struggles. It is easy to see that the people of France, of Britain, of Italy and the Soviet Union understand the meaning of war, and know that war must be prevented at all costs. But the rocket bomb, napalm, the atom bomb seemed to be of only theoretical interest to the African of this country, separated from home and family by Pass laws.

Or so it/.....

"Or so it seemed. But it has proved not to be so. Two factors brought a new awakening on the question of war to the people of this country.

"The first was the war in Korea. Korea, the testing-ground for a third World War, brought a new understanding to our people of the bitter and unspeakable suffering that war brings. And the second factor is that the movement for peace is inseparable from the struggle for national independence and freedom. This is true not only in our country, but also among those formerly great powers, such as France, Britain and Italy, who today feel their own national independence threatened by war preparations of the United States.

"Kuo-Mo-Jo has said: 'Lasting peace can only be based on the ending of national oppression and enslavement'.

"It is true that the World Peace Council lays down the general aims of the peace movement, and that these aims are broad enough to encompass people of all political views, all religions, all sectional points of view. The aims are simple and clear:

- that peaceful co-existence between the differing systems is possible;
- that there is no problem between countries that cannot be settled by negotiation;
- that the immediate need of the world today is a relaxation of the cold war and the arms race.

"But it is also true that the struggle for peace has no meaning for the peoples of Africa unless they can be shown how closely it is part of their own struggles and problems.

"There is no real meaning in the fight for peace, save in relation to the most urgent problems of the mass of the people.

"Each country must make its contribution to peace in the light of the problems which affect the masses of people most deeply, or the demands which represent their most legitimate aspirations."

This problem has gradually become clearer to many sections in South Africa with the growth of the war spots in Korea, Malaya, Viet-Nam, Kenya.

Our problems/.....

Dealing with our problems and opportunities, Hilda Watts said:-

"This presents the South African Peace Movement with great opportunities and with great problems.

"We have the opportunity now to win the mass of non-European people to the cause of peace, by demonstrating how closely the struggles for peace and freedom are linked.

"We have the problem of keeping the identity of the peace movement, and its broad aims, and not to confuse it with the struggle for liberation. For we must still draw in other sections, and the deep racial divisions that exist in our country must not make us reject one section or another. We must win them all for peace.

"The Peace movement does not supersede or replace other organisations. The Peace movement cannot do away with the Pass laws, win democratic rights, nor can it take up campaigns for these things.

"Its greatest strength and strongest support will always come from those who best understand the issues of freedom, colonialism, liberation; but the problem is to win all opinions for peace.

"The Peace movement would not be a mass movement without the support of the African and Indian people, but also it cannot make that claim unless it wins for peace hundreds of thousands of whites in this country, with all their racial prejudices, their fears and false concepts, who yet loathe war and want to prevent another world war. At the same time, we cannot abandon our stand against military adventures to please one person or another.

*Organise all sections* "The South African peace movement must adopt general lines of policy and launch campaigns in keeping with the efforts of particular sections of the people, on questions that are of most vital interest to them. We must appeal to the housewife in terms of war and prices, homes, living costs; to the scientists in terms of the development of science for the cause of humanity, not for destruction; to artists, writers, on how war destroys culture; to churchmen on the moral wrongness of war; and to the African on how the fight for peace assists his own struggle.

"We must organise people in groups, professions, neighbourhoods, as partisans for peace. These groups can wage their own vigorous battles, but at the same time they will be part of the Union-wide peace movement with the same general aims.

Our tasks/.....

"Our policy in months to come must be alerted to what is happening in our own country. We have in the past tended to keep quiet about many vital questions here. We must speak out more of the mining of uranium in South Africa for atomic weapons, and what this means to us. We must campaign on the question of the incorporation of the Protectorates, and the threat to peace that this presents.

"Also, we are the driving point for the peace movement in Africa as a whole. We have already had a response from some of the organisations outside the Union contacted about this Congress. We must spread this work. All eyes are on Africa today.

"Then there is the campaign for negotiation. This great campaign gives us an opportunity to knock on any door, to approach any person, and speak to him of peace.

Tasks  
in  
coming  
months

"We have the task of building the South African Peace Movement. We must draw in the churches, intellectuals, trade unions, women. It is good that we have trade unions represented at this Congress. It is not good that the Trades and Labour Council has not sent delegates. It is a welcome sign that there are religious organisations represented here. It is unsatisfactory that there are so few - this hall should have dozens of delegates from the churches. We are pleased to see representatives of the students here. It is a matter for regret that the Students Medical Association refused to send a delegate, saying that this Congress had nothing to do with them and their work! That is a sign, not simply of their lack of understanding, but of the lack of work we have done among them. We welcome the women delegates from African National Congress branches. Is it not a pity that we have so few European women - and none of their organisations - represented at this Congress?

"Let us then set out to build in South Africa a mighty, powerful and influential peace movement, embracing all points of view among those who want peace. There has never been such a favourable time for peace work in Africa as today. Let this fine Congress be the starting point for a South African peace movement that will bring us to the forefront of the peace movements of the world, and ensure that never may our own children have to suffer the suffering, the terror and the futility of another war."

General Council/.....

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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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