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News

As May 31st Demonstrations Draw Nearer

S.A. HEADS FOR NEW CRISIS

Government Shaken By People's Determination

ONCE AGAIN, BECAUSE THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF DR. VERWOERD REFUSES TO MAKE A SINGLE CONCESSION TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE, SOUTH AFRICA IS HEADING TOWARDS A CRISIS.

● Support for the anti-apartheid demonstrations at the end of May continues to grow. Last week-end at Afrika Day meetings in all centres thousands of people pledged to take part in the demonstrations if the Government refused to call a national convention of all races to draw up a new constitution for South Africa.

● Meanwhile the indications are that the Government plans to act quickly in an attempt to nip the people's plans in the bud. A NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS AND RAIDS CAN BE EXPECTED AT ANY TIME.

● Last week both the Prime Minister, Dr. Verwoerd, and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Erasmus, acknowledged that the situation was serious and warned that they were prepared to take drastic action if necessary. Verwoerd went further and threatened to muzzle the opposition press.

● Last Saturday Die Burger, in its main news story on the front page headed "Non-Whites incited to action," quoted extensively from Chief Lutuli's Afrika Day message and also from last week's issue of New Age. On Monday of this week, Die Burger followed this up with a leading article warning that the activity of "enemies" both inside and outside the country was precipitating "altogether the most serious crisis in South African history . . . not in the undefined future but in the next couple of months."

● In this tense atmosphere, the South African Peace Council has issued a last-minute appeal to the Government to avoid internal strife by entering into immediate negotiations with the people's leaders. (See page 3.)



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Africans Welcome Coloured Support

"Together We Can Win Freedom"

JOHANNESBURG.

THE African people welcome with open arms the call of

the Coloured People's Congress to the Coloured people to struggle side by side with the African people, says an open letter addressed to the Coloureds by the National Action Council, the body appointed to carry out the action resolutions passed by the Pietermaritzburg All-in African Conference.

(Continued on page 3)

Part of the huge crowd that attended the Liberal Party's Afrika Day meeting on the Grand Parade, Cape Town, last Sunday. (See page 3.)



Mr. Reg. September, Secretary of the Coloured People's Congress, told the Cape Town Afrika Day meeting: "We are no longer prepared to let the African people struggle alone."

SOVIET SPACEMAN SHOWS THE WAY

—See pages 2, 4 and 5

NEW AGE LETTER BOX

CONTACT AND KASAVUBU

Before independence Mr. Kasavubu pretended to be a friend and supporter of Mr. Lumumba, the rightful Prime Minister of the Congo regime (Brutus and Caesar). But a few days after the celebrations Kasavubu stabbed Lumumba in the back and expelled him from his premiership, even planning his murder by the Belgians (the most unkindest cut of all).

I wish to connect this shameful incident with the attitude shown by Contact, so-called South Africa's non-racial fortnightly, towards our struggle for freedom in our lifetime. This paper claims it is against discrimination, yet it divides the African people, deviating them from the right track to freedom. After reading Contact for some time, I have come to the conclusion that Contact is not for African freedom at all, but that it stands for white supremacy. Despite the pictures of African leaders that it publishes to attract buyers it is against African freedom.

Psychologically Contact always encouraged hatred between the followers of Chief Lutuli and Robert Sobukwe. Lutuli always advocated unity in the struggle for freedom. Contact has recently attacked the Soviet Union in its protest against the murder of Lumumba by the Belgians. In fact Contact is showing us that it is rejoicing over the death of Patrice Lumumba, while the African people from Cape to Cairo are shedding bloody tears for having lost this soul.

Contact does not see the blunders made by Mr. Hammarskjöld in the Congo. Contact has appealed to all people in Africa not to allow the Soviet Union to gain through the death of Lumumba because the Soviet Union aims at replacing Hammarskjöld by somebody sympathetic to it. Does Contact think we are happy at what the Western powers have done in the Congo? We may be the slaves of the Western powers now, but we are not babies who do not THINK. Contact's behaviour in our struggle is that of Kasavubu towards Lumumba and I am afraid that when the Africans gain their freedom in this country from Verwoerd's tyranny,

Contact will stab them in the back.

I want to appeal to Contact to change and join us in our struggle for freedom in our lifetime. We have never been ruled by Russians in this country. We are the slaves of the Western powers and it is they who tell us to choose east or west. Contact must tell our oppressors to establish their practicability and capability, not to confine us in farm jails or construct big camps for us as if we are Mr. Boswell's wild animals. Contact must not just tell us that Moscow is hell and New York and London are heaven. We have eyes to see and brains to judge.

Phambili edabini!!

E. L. VARA

Cradock.

Congo Solution

The so-called Congo Federation form of government proposed by some of the Congo pseudo-politicians is a method of furthering the sordid aims of stupid tribalism which once reduced the Congo to a chaotic state.

If these politicians have got something with them called patriotism, why do they not dissolve their sectional governments and hold a fresh general election for a single consolidated government for their country?

WILSON B. NGCAYIYA

Johannesburg.

We Want A National Convention

Chief Lutuli and the African leaders, tell the "deliberate deaf" ears of the powers that there should be a national convention for South Africa soon—the sooner the better.

Apartheid is doomed and no power can maintain its existence indefinitely. "South Africa belongs to all who live in it—Black and White." Africa is awakening.

LAWRENCE NKOSI

Botha's Hill.

A TIME FOR DOING—AND GIVING!

MAN in Space . . Bombs on Havana . . Nats on the Run . . People on the Move . . and NEW AGE IN TROUBLE!

Ridiculous isn't it? Ridiculous that New Age should have to worry about how to keep going at a time like this; ridiculous but true.

Dangerously so, for never have our country and our people needed our paper as much as now.

Elemental political forces are on the move. What happens today, tomorrow, next week or next month will shape our future, for good or ill, for many years to come.

New Age has a vital role to play in shaping that future. We can only do so effectively if we have sufficient means. And

with us, MEANS MEANS MONEY!

Give us that money. Give it to us more generously than ever before—and give it immediately.

DELAY MAY SPELL DISASTER!

THE TIME TO GIVE IS NOW!

Last Week's Donations:

Cape Town:

C.P.E. R20, R & B R3, Rimo R10, E.N. R10, Nick R1, Rubar R15, Cnoa R6, John Motloheloa (Lumumba Pictures) R7.50, E.M.B. 96c, J & N R6, R.J.K. 33c, Cake Sale R36.30, Africa Day R16.60.

Johannesburg:

R.R. R4, Playboy R6, B. R10, Metal R2, Medic R4, Clipp R2.

Port Elizabeth:

Babs R2.10, Workers' Friend R14, Wagon Wheels R20.

Grand Total: R196.79.

BEWARE OF THIS SPY

A well-known spy working for the Special Branch was seen in Pondoland recently. He is a young man of about 25, has a diploma in book-keeping and commerce, and, while in Pondoland, claimed to be working for an African newspaper, now long defunct.

He has an office in East London, greets you by saying "Hallo comrade," "Izwelethu," "uhuru," "mayibuye" and he also uses ANC and PAC slogans in his conversation. During the state of emergency many people were arrested in East London through the efforts of this man.

Beware of this sell-out. The man is smart and speaks sweetly. Yet he is a serpent.

L. MAKANA

East London.

A Reply To David Evans

I most heartily disagree with Mr. David Evans on your article re Contact.

He says "Political observers . . . from a distance . . . put forward opinions subsequently regretted."

New Age is by no means at a distance. I should say it is at the very heart of the liberation movement.

Also New Age cannot be said to be making petty attacks on Contact, rather vice-versa.

Why on earth all this emphasis on anti-communism by Contact? Why the wastage of valuable reading space?

I doubt if one in 100,000 people in S.A. even know what is meant by communism. All they want is a say in the government, and rightly so. This is an accepted part of any democratic government in the world.

When the people of S.A. have reached this stage then it will be time to worry about party politics. Now we must all row together to save ourselves from a meaningless poverty-stricken dictatorship.

Why then this ridiculous tub-thumping by Contact about something that does not concern us?

I venture to foretell that Mr. Duncan, fantastic as it may sound, will eventually fall backwards into the hands of the Nationalists to prove his anti-communism. Indeed he seems to have no option now.

F. M. JOYNER

Natal.

Railway Policeman Make Trouble

While in the queue to buy train tickets one morning, a railway policeman decided to ask each individual passenger where he or she was going to, asked for the money and passed the money and information on to the booking clerk—a waste of time, as can be imagined.

My turn came and I was not prepared to speak through an interpreter, which the policeman did not like. He then told the booking clerk not to give me two tickets, which others in the queue had been given.

We know that South Africa is about to become a Verwoerdian Republic. But South Africa is not yet a police state. All I wanted was a railway ticket to Johannesburg and back, not a passport to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

I am sure this type of behaviour is not covered in the SAR police regulations. Surely South Africa is not yet Nazi Germany?

HENRY TSHABALALA

Johannesburg.

SOVIET SPACEMAN SHOWS THE WAY

"It is the White man to whom all the progress must be ascribed of which people all over the world at present boast and in which all participate, White and Non-White, and from which the freedom of all of them has sprung."—The Prime Minister, Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, speaking in Parliament on March 23, 1961.

OUR Prime Minister was once a professor at Stellenbosch, but in making the above statement he reveals either his ignorance or his dishonesty.

Modern civilisation is not the product of the White man alone. People of all races and all countries have contributed to it through the centuries. In mathematics, medicine, astronomy (to mention only a few branches of science), the contributions of Non-White scientists, especially in the earlier centuries of their development, were of decisive importance.

The first man was put into space last week by the combined effort of the White and Non-White scientists of the Soviet Union, who enjoy an equal status.

Yet Verwoerd, with epoch-shaking events taking place on all sides of him, still clings to the outmoded ideas of the ox-wagon era. To him, the freedom enjoyed by some of the former colonial countries today was the gift of the White man.

If that is true (which of course it isn't) why does Verwoerd find it so hard to grant the gift of freedom to his own Non-White peoples?

Of course the opposite is the case. The White man in South Africa (or to be more precise, the Government which rules in his name) is cursed throughout the world for denying freedom to its Non-White citizens.

"Peaceful Co-Existence"

In the same debate Verwoerd issued an "appeal to the Non-Whites of South Africa, to every group of them, not to believe that South Africa and its Government do not want to be the protector of their rights. In fact it is the fundamental policy of this Government and of the voters of South Africa that each of them should have the right to govern their own racial area or racial group, when they have developed to that stage . . . It is our object to have co-existence, not domination."

"Co-existence" is Verwoerd's new fancy phrase for apartheid!

Defending his rule, Verwoerd boasts that the Africans in South Africa are better-paid, better-educated, more advanced than in any other part of Africa. Yet, while the (in his opinion) less developed peoples of Ghana, Guinea etc. are free to enjoy their independence, he continues to deny all rights to the South African Africans, despite their higher level of development.

In "their own racial areas," such as Pondoland, Tembuland, Zeerust and Sekhukhuneland, far from enjoying self-government, the Africans find themselves ruled by force by White soldiers and police acting under emergency decrees sanctioned by a Parliament of Whites only. Despite the fact that De Wet Nel recently proclaimed that "order" had been restored in Pondoland, hundreds of detainees still rot in the jails.

THIS IS THE REALITY OF VERWOERD'S "CO-EXISTENCE."

In this space age, with man standing on the brink of great new voyages of discovery among the stars, and with the Afro-Asian peoples marching towards freedom and independence with giant strides, Verwoerd and White supremacy are an anachronism—sordid, brutal and completely out of date.

An Inspiration

The achievements of free peoples everywhere must be an inspiration and a stimulus to us in South Africa to make a tremendous effort to break the fetters which chain us to the past. Verwoerdism, colour bars and racism must be outlawed from our way of life just like witchcraft, sorcery and all the other mumbo-jumbo of mediaeval superstition.

The Non-White peoples of our country must be freed to take their rightful place in the world, to acquire knowledge and skills like other free peoples, to make their full contribution to the civilisation of the space age, and to enjoy its fruits. The scientists, engineers and technicians of which our country stands in such great need today can be trained in vast numbers from amongst the ranks of our Non-Whites. Once the race barriers are down, the way will be opened to a life of abundance for all.

Today, with a Soviet man in orbit, all can see that the greatest stumbling block to our national development is Verwoerd and the colour bar. Then let us have done with them, once and for all. Let us put an end to race hatred and divisions. Let us, Black and White together, unite and fight to rescue our country from the sterility and backwardness to which it is doomed by Verwoerdism. Let us hasten to rejoin the mainstream of humanity flooding ever more rapidly towards a glorious future for all the peoples of the world.

Perhaps the first man on the moon will be a Black man. PER ARDUA AD ASTRA. REMEMBER THE END OF MAY.

"We Don't Want War, Internal or External" CONSULT WITH NON-WHITE LEADERS SAYS PEACE COUNCIL

AFRICANS WELCOME COLOURED SUPPORT

(Continued from page 1)

The Pietermaritzburg action resolution has a clause calling upon 'the Indian and Coloured communities and all democratic Europeans to join forces with us in opposition to a regime which is bringing disaster to South Africa'.

The open letter to the Coloured people is prompted by the giant meeting of Cape Town Coloureds on the Grand Parade recently which resolved to line up with the African people in the political struggles of the next few months.

EQUAL ALLIES

The letter says: "We accept the Coloured people as full and equal allies in the battle for freedom. We have waited and worked for this day. For, once the oppressed peoples of South Africa achieve full unity, victory will be within their grasp.

"Decades of White supremacy rule have shown us that racialism is the most powerful weapon used by our oppressors to divide us. White supremacy rule has herded us into separate ghettos; ruled us under different sets of restrictive regulations; applied the colour bar with varying degrees of harshness; and has tried to spread the poison of race hatred into our ranks. These tactics were meant to divide us. Instead they have brought us together.

"The African people know full well the misery and poverty that job reservations will bring to the Coloured people, for we suffer under the colour bar in industry. We who have been uprooted from our homes times without number know the sufferings that the Group Areas Act will bring to the Coloured people. The African people lost their meagre political representation in Parliament and now the Coloured people are being threatened with the loss of the Coloured seats.

NEXT VICTIMS

"The Africans have always been the first to fall under the axe of the apartheid executioner; not far behind them the Government has lined up its next victims: the Coloured people and the Indians.

"OUR ANSWER TO THE HATED POLICY OF RACE RULE AND DIVISION CAN BE ONLY BROTHERLY UNITY AND STRENGTH.

"The hated South African Government has never before been so isolated and shaky. The present state of crisis is caused by world condemnation on an unprecedented scale; deepening economic difficulties; and the mounting anger of the South African people.

"THE UNITY IN ACTION OF THE AFRICAN AND COLOURED PEOPLE, OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND DEMOCRATIC WHITES, CAN BRING THE HATED SYSTEM TO AN END.

"The call of the Pietermaritzburg conference for nation-wide action to compel the convening of a National Convention to draft a new constitution was addressed to all South Africans. The Coloured Congress has the honour of having been the first to respond to the call with vigour and boldness.

"FORWARD TOGETHER TO FREEDOM!"

JOHANNESBURG. WITHIN OR WITHOUT, WAR IS WAR.

THE fervent demand of the peoples of the world today is for the prevention of war at all costs, says a statement by the South African Peace Council. From overseas, we hear of campaigns for nuclear disarmament and for total disarmament, of governments working to achieve summit conferences, of discussions at the United Nations for the preservation of world peace. All these represent efforts to settle international differences by a method other than the terrifying one of modern warfare.

But our own government is preparing for war. Parliament is asked to increase its grant for the armed forces. The Minister of Justice announces, moreover, that the new armaments are not intended for international warfare, but for use against the 'enemy from within.'

The South African Peace Council believes that it is as immoral for a state to prepare for war against its own population as it is to prepare for war against another country. We believe that it is better for any disagreement—whether the disagreement be international or internal to any country—to be settled by negotiation instead of by the use of armed force.

We recognise that the condemned policy of apartheid, and that alone, can precipitate open warfare in our country.

In the interests of internal peace, we therefore call on the Government at this late hour to consult with acknowledged leaders of the various races with a view to lessening the painful tension in the country, and as a preliminary to working out a practical and lasting solution to our race problems.

AFRIKA DAY MEETINGS

5,000 in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN. THE people of the Cape Peninsula once again indicated their support for mass demonstrations on the eve of the republic when an audience of over 5,000 who attended the Afrika Day celebration on the Grand Parade last Sunday gave enthusiastic applause to all references to demonstrations at the end of May.

The meeting, which was called by the Liberal Party, was addressed by

speakers from the Congress alliance and other organisations.

"The Coloured are no longer prepared to allow the African people to struggle alone," said Mr. Reg September, Secretary of the Coloured People's Congress amid cheers from the audience.

EVE OF REPUBLIC

Mr. September said that the African people had called for demonstrations throughout the country on the eve of the republic. "The days when the Coloured people stood aside will not be repeated".

The Rev. Clive Macbride, of the Anglican Church, said that the political, economic and social wolves must be chased out of God's flock. "We say to the oppressors: 'Let our people go.' And at the end of May we will show them what we mean."

In spite of a sudden downpour of

rain the crowd remained attentive and enthusiastic. When former ANC member Elliot Nziba appealed for funds, a shower of coins rained on the platform from among the crowd.

Advocate A. L. Sachs, speaking on behalf of the Congress of Democrats, said that the white people must actively dissociate themselves from the policy of apartheid.

"Instead of grumbling about Verwoerd the white people should show their support for a national convention of all people at which a new constitution for South Africa would be drawn up", Advocate Sachs said.

TRAITORS

Those South Africans who had volunteered to fight for Tshombe in the Congo were traitors to South Africa, Advocate Sachs went on. Tshombe himself was a traitor to Africa, for he was the murderer of Lumumba.

Mr. Peter Hjul, chairman of the Cape Liberal Party, urged the people to be ready when the call finally came for them to act. "The Government is beaten," he said. "All it needs is a push."

The meeting adopted a resolution pledging to work for a non-racial democracy for a national convention of all the people of South Africa at which the constitution for a new South Africa would be drawn up.

Other speakers were Messrs J. C. A. Daniels and Hammington Majija of the Liberal Party, Mr. Norman Daniels from the Coloured National Convention committee, Mr. C. Mase of the African General Workers' Union, and Mr. Zollie Malindi.

A large contingent of Special Branch detectives made notes of the speeches.

COD Man Detained

Durban Crowd Angered

DURBAN.

A MASS meeting to commemorate Afrika Day almost ended in a riot when members of the Special Branch detained Mr. Ronnie Karsuls, one of the speakers, and demanded that he hand over notes of his speech. Only the timely intervention of some of the organisers



Bonfires were lit in all the Johannesburg townships on the night of Afrika Day. This one in Alexandra Township lasted more than three hours.



A bumper celebration party for the release of the treason trialists was held at Benoni on Afrika Day. Among the speakers were Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi and the Rev. D. C. Thompson.

and the release of Mr. Karsuls saved an ugly situation.

Mr. Karsuls, who represented the Congress of Democrats at the meeting which was organised by the Women's Federation, was stopped at the end of the meeting and when he refused to hand over his notes was taken to a nearby tea room to phone his legal representative.

As the news got around that Mr. Karsuls was in custody, the people surrounded the police, in spite of the presence of a number of armed, uniformed policemen, and demanded that Mr. Karsuls be released.

When it was pointed out to the people that Mr. Karsuls was not in any danger, the crowd replied that that was what was said about Patrice Lumumba before his arrest and death.

Finally some of the organisers managed to persuade the Special Branch to release Mr. Karsuls and the jubilant crowd carried him shoulder high through the streets.

The meeting itself, which was first advertised on Friday was a great success. The organisers of the meeting informed New Age that the reason for the late advertisement was to avoid having the meeting banned.

Liberal Party's New Economic Policy

JOHANNESBURG.

The Liberal Party in the Transvaal at its week-end annual conference adopted a draft new economic policy which proposes an equitable distribution of wealth and income to be achieved via taxation.

This revised economic policy must go before the party's national conference later this year. The policy is intended to outline the shape of "a non-racial welfare state."

The conference was due to take place at the Duncan Hall but moved when it was realised that Non-Whites are not admitted to this Council Hall. About half the delegates were Africans.

Conference appears to have taken no official notice of the call for a national convention and the eve-of-republic demonstrations. No resolutions were passed on this topic.

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