

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS:

AFRO - ASIAN CONFERENCE.

This Conference acclaims the Afro-Asian Conference which is being convened at Bandung, Indonesia on the 18th April, 1955.

It is our considered opinion that the masses of Africa and Asia should make their united contribution in the cause of world peace and race harmony. Africa and Asia have suffered the agony of imperialist exploitation and today when Asia has almost overthrown the shackles of imperialism and when Africa is awakening and her peoples are being organised for liberation it is only natural that their common aspirations should find a joint channel of expression.

The oppressed people of South Africa will give their whole-hearted support to all anti-colonial and anti-racial pronouncements made at Bandung.

We earnestly hope that our country ^{also} [too with ~~its~~ our united struggle for liberation] will be active participants at such conferences in the future, shaping the destiny of the ^{two} ~~two~~ mighty continents.

Conference notes that India and the Republic of China will play a significant role at this Conference.

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" we acclaim the holding of the Afro-Asian Conference which is unique in world history and which is to open at Bandoeng, Indonesia on the 18th April 1955" says a statement issued jointly by the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress .

" At this Conference where more than half of the peoples of the world most of whom have been ~~recently~~ liberated recently from colonial, semi-colonial and imperial exploitation and oppression in the continents of Asia and Africa (will be represented) we anticipate pronouncements which will support the world wide cause against ~~injustice~~ injustice and racialism," continues the statement. " In non-white people of south Africa are particularly interested in the outcome of the conference as it will have a direct bearing on the questions of race prejudice and colour discrimination. The Government of the Union of South Africa which enforces the pernicious policy of apartheid can have no place in such a conference, but the overwhelming majority of the people in that country will support the conference in its attempt to free humanity and to foster unity and brotherhood of man regardless of race colour or creed.

The mighty ~~South African~~ ~~South African~~ Africa have long suffered colonial exploitation in consequence of which they have been denied their proper place in the family of nations and a proper share in the deliberations and determination and settlement of world problems and issues concerning the self-determination of peoples and governments and the peace of the world. ~~South African~~ Asia and Africa today earnestly desire peace to enable them to develop their peoples and countries to the fullest and on the sincere endeavour to reduce world tension and to establish friendly relations and cooperation between ~~different~~ countries with different levels of developments and different political systems."

" To day " continues the statement, " there are vast sections of people in Africa from the north to the south who earnestly

look forward to the deliberations of
 this Conference and we have
 no doubt that Africa and Asia
 will take a leading part in the
 major decisions that will affect
 the course of world history. There
 the unity of the peoples of ~~the~~ these
 continents is one of the most
 positive aspects in securing a lasting
 peace in the world.

deeply expressive
 "We hope that at next future
 conferences our country too would
 take its rightful place
~~not~~ as an active and
 potential participant for the
 progress and happiness of
 mankind.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Delegates from 32 countries of Asia sat shoulder to shoulder to participate in the historic conference which was a momentous demonstration of the Unity of Asian Freedom loving people.

New hopes and aspiration, new dreams and visions throbbed in every one of our hearts at this majestic sight of the potential might of Asia.

The whole hearted response to the invitation of India from all the people of resurgent Asia and the unqualified success of the Conference was the manifestation of the indomitable urge for freedom, culture, unity and strength. It was a challenge to dying and tottering Imperialism. It was a friendly but firm warning to the warmongering Imperialist that the people of mighty Asia are awake and are not only not going to tolerate any form of exploitation in Asia, but they are going to extend their strong arm of help wherever there is a struggle for Democracy and Justice.

The people of Asia who have for centuries paid so much in blood and money for freedom are not going to be the plaything of others.

And in answer to those gangs of warmongers that tried to slander the Inter Asian Conference by attributing Pan-Asian and Anti-Unc Motives Conference declared that its design was a great design of promoting peace and progress all over the world.

The Freedom envisaged is not to be confined to this nation or that or to a particular people or race but to spread out over the whole human race. Universal human freedom cannot be based on the supremacy of any particular class or race. It is to be freedom of the common man everywhere and full opportunities for their development.

Not discouraged by disaster, unshaken and undefeated by failures of the past, with no sense of revenge or grievance

against those evil forces which have not only dragged the people of Asia down to the lowest level of existence, and which have led to two mighty and bloody wars within a generation, unanimously declared under the banner of the Conference against war and for a just and democratic peace. The delegates further declared that the only way to achieve lasting peace is by strengthening the U.N.

Whether it was the Women's movement, The status of woman, Labour problems, Racial problems, Agricultural reconstruction, Industrial development, or Transition from Colonial to National economy, when any item on the agenda was discussed the delegates went straight to the root of the problem which, when unearthed in each case, was found to be Imperialism. And they decided unanimously that as a prerequisite to progress this decaying root must be pulled out and hurled into the dust bin of history.

This great ideal of friendship, of solidarity, of freedom, of peace and progress took flesh and blood in the Inter Asian organisation, the child of the Conference. History has entrusted it with a noble and difficult task. The task of effectively maintaining peace - not an imperialist peace, not a peace of surrender not a peace of negation but a militant and creative peace. A peace that is going to build a happy new world of freedom, equality and brotherhood.

We took the opportunity of meeting and discussing our problems and struggle with delegates of Tibet, Nepal and Soviet Socialist Asiatic Republics from the North, delegates from China and Malaya from the East, delegates from Ceylon in the South and delegates from Egypt, Iran and Arab League in the West, with delegates fresh from the trenches, the battle-scarred patriots of Indonesia and Viet-Nam - This is a reminder to us that Freedom must be won and cannot come as a gift. The enthusiastic way in which they listened to our problems and those of the other oppressed countries and

their inspiring message and the promise of renewed support for our cause was at first embarrassing. And in the words of His Excellency Aszad Rasha - the Secretary General of the Arab League. "The Arab League needs no thanks for the part they have played in supporting the Indians case at UN. The Arab League will always support any struggle for just and democratic right as the Arab League stands for human brotherhood, democracy, justice and peace." During our short stay in our Motherland we travelled extensively from West to East and South to North. We met and discussed our problems with the people of British India, Peoples of the states, with the Princes, with leaders of Trade Unions, members of the Interior Government, Pandit Nehru, Mahatmaji, Jinnah, leaders of the Communist Party and the Chamber of Commerce with Industrialists, students and the All India Womens Conference - The way we have been feted with flowers, with words, with messages, all this not to us personally but as a tribute to your gallant army of men and women who have welcomed prison bars to the fight for freedom. In our ears still ring their determined and passionate promise to give us all possible help in our unequal battle for fundamental right.

Whether India in all probability is going to be split into two or 3 different states - Hindustan, Pakistan and Rajistan, but however the division and whatever the internal differences may be, India is as one behind the struggle of their compatriots for honour and dignity.

They are well aware of the new Imperialist tactics - The Imperialists are leaving India and the East, not of their own will. They are not presenting freedom to India and other Eastern countries because of some noble idea and gesture - They have been forced to leave because of the strength and determination of resurgent Asia to free herself from the shackles of Imperialism. While the

Imperialists.../4...

Imperialists are forced to adopt this new technique of retreat they hope to leave behind a country torn by civil strife. Giving them time enough to recuperate, the British Imperialist policy forced out of Asia, having been gradually allowed out of the Mediterranean by Dollar Imperialism, finding no prospect in Europe are looking to the Continent of Africa as their domain for exploitation. The recent utterance of important personnel of Britain and the activities of the Agents of British Imperialist here in South Africa of which Field Marshal Smuts is the spearhead are unfolding clearly the Master Plan of the Imperialists.

Our struggle - not merely a struggle for fundamental rights of the Indian minority in South Africa but a spearhead of the struggle of the oppressed people against the establishment of this Master plan.

A word about our reactionaries. Far too much importance has already been given to these handful of servile weak-kneed reactionaries. Smuts and the European press have been cherishing and nourishing them for their own benefit. Field Marshal Smuts has not forgotten his friends Kajee and Pather for keeping him out of a difficult dilemma, during the Pegging Act period. On the eve of his departure to attend the Dominion Conference where his position would have been untenable because of the criminal discriminatory Pegging Act, when the Allies were fighting a life and death struggle. Kajee and Pather presented Smuts with the Pretoria Agreement which enabled Smuts to silence his critics at the Dominion Conference. The Pretoria Agreement having served the purpose Field Marshal Smuts on his return to South Africa declared the Agreement to be stone dead. He is once again in such a dilemma. He has to face UN and explain why he has flouted the UN recommendation. He expects Kajee and Pather to come to his rescue once again.

.... / ...

And like the stupid nincompoops they are once again ready to play ball with him.

If Rajee and Father who were a party to the stand taken by the Indian Government in recalling His High Commissioner and the Trade embargo and also rushed to Lake Success to help India delegation, think they can influence the government of India to withdraw its stand and to help them to stab the Indian in the back, then they have a lot more thinking to do. The Indian people and the leaders will have no truck with a handful of men who are so ready to sell the honour and dignity of the Indian people.

Having failed in their object of making us of Rajee and Co. to influence the Government of India they are putting their hope on the prospect of India not being represented at next session of U.N. Divided or United India will be there at the sitting and will speak as one and the Government of South Africa had better put up a better case than the last, because India will have the whole hearted support of the Progressive world.

A year ago we assembled here and took a solemn pledge to sacrifice and suffer for our freedom. Then we were alone. India was under the heel of imperialism.

Today we are assembled to renew our pledge and we can do so with greatest determination and courage - for we have India on the verge of complete freedom and with a promise of the 32 Asiatic countries, the U.S.S.R. and the rest of the Progressive world to support our just struggle. We have since translated the growing desire for Unity among the various sections of the oppressed people here into reality.

Today we have to pledge with cold blooded courage and determination that we will rather stand on our legs and fight and die if need be than grovel on our knees and live for the crumbs that may fall to us. There can be only one answer you can give and that is "WE SHALL RESIST".

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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