

SITUATION.

- The six salient factors in the situation are :
- a) With the aid of the most backward and reactionary section of the white electorate and the passive support or acquiescence of finance capital, the Nationalist Party is rapidly imposing a fascist Republic on South Africa.
 - b) It has entrenched itself in Parliament by ~~various~~ ^{subtle} ~~means~~ ^{secretly} constitutional means to the extent where it cannot be removed by the electorate in a general election or by any constitutional methods of struggle.
 - c) The European electorate as a whole is still orientated to conventional and orthodox methods of struggle and is incapable therefore of arresting the process.
 - d) The Nationalist Party at the most can mobilise less than 1/5 of the total population in support of its government.

AND PROGRAMME

2. The Strategic Needs.

The urgent strategic needs would seem to be :

- a) An all out effort to mobilise the ^{overwhelming majority} (more than 4/5) of the population who are already opposed or who ^{are moving towards} ~~will so find~~ themselves in the process ^{of opposition to} to the Nationalist Party and its programme.
- b) A consciousness of the need for extra-parliamentary struggle, the constant propagation of ^{this} ~~the~~ concept and the organising of the opposition, white and non-white, ^{this} in ~~each~~ ^{its} struggle.

The Congress Movement as a whole is fulfilling this need with varying degrees of success among the non-white population, but little, or insufficient, however, is being done among Europeans.

The Congress Movement consists of four organisations each of which represents ^{a different section of the population} its own ethnic group. While each has a general responsibility for the Congress Movement as a whole. Each also has a specific responsibility for the work amongst ^{its own section} ~~that~~ own ethnic group.

In terms of this the Congress of Democrats has the very difficult task of winning ^{over} the militant anti-nat European

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to the Congress Movement, for an extra-Parliamentary struggle, and for the aims of the Freedom Charter.

To do this it must act in European Affairs as an independent organisation presenting an independent policy and programme. It must avoid the tendency to "fall" on to the ~~most~~ ^{most} progressive element among the white population. C.O.D. must be itself the most progressive in that sphere and strive to draw that element to itself.

The tendency to act as a "ginger group" arising out of a lack of understanding and confidence in the function and role of C.O.D. is to be countered as well. While it is necessary to act as a ginger group at times, this can only be justified ~~in the situation~~ if C.O.D. is at the same time acting as an independent organisation putting forward its own policy and programme in the European sphere. C.O.D. and its rank and file members in particular, must be clear, that numerically weak as it is and despite the difficulties of the task, C.O.D. has an important and vital role and function. It is in fact challenging all comers, including the United Party and the ^{Bernard} Friedmans, for leadership of the militant white opposition to the Nationalist party and its programme. It must do so increasingly ~~more so~~ as the process develops.

In theory as the process of fascism makes its impact on the whites more and more of them ^{will be compelled to} ~~must~~ take their stand on the fundamental principles of democracy, and ^{to} look for militant and realistic methods of struggle. They ^{will be their} ~~are~~ ^{best} potential recruits to the Congress movement.

There is ample evidence that the process has already ~~begun~~. The many different organisations that are coming into existence such as the Covenanters, the anti-Republican League, the ~~Women's~~ ^{Defense} ~~League~~ ^{organisations}, and even the Friedman election indicated that the allegiance of the whites has been shaken and that ^{the situation} it is becoming fluid. It ^{is clear} indicates also that they are conscious in some measure of the futility of a purely Parliamentary struggle and that they are groping for more adequate methods.

It is against this background ~~and in the light~~

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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