

# Eight Page New Age from Next Week! Organise Sales Drives!

## A.N.C. PREPARES FOR ACTION AGAINST FORCED REMOVALS

JOHANNESBURG.

WESTERN AREAS residents were told of the first measures to resist forced removals on February 12 at a mass meeting called by the A.N.C. in Sophiatown last Sunday. Overseas Press representatives watched the meeting, held despite a heavy rain shower. It was announced that the opposition will be in three stages.

The first stage will be to resist the removal "by legal action." The second and third stages are still to be announced.

"Failure to move out on February 12 is not an offence at all," said Mr. Robert Resha. "All the Board can do is to file an affidavit with the magistrate, showing why a person should be removed. The A.N.C. has arranged for those with notices to be defended by lawyers."

Mr. Resha appealed to those with removal notices to hand them to the A.N.C. Any resident who ignored the A.N.C. call to resist removal should be looked upon as a traitor to the cause of his people.

"The Government is dividing the people into batches to be more easily moved. They are asking the people of the Western Areas to be the first in South Africa to betray the African people by going to Meadowlands, where the increased rentals which are rejected by the African people will have to be paid."

Father G. Sidebottom, head of the Community of Resurrection in Sophiatown, in a short speech stressed that there were many Europeans who supported the anti-removal stand, and appealed to the African people to be united.

The meeting ended with prayer conducted by an A.N.C. chaplain.

Members of the audience interviewed at random by a New Age

reporter were firmly resolved not to move. One woman said—"Sophiatown is where I was born, and Sophiatown is where I want to die. The Government cannot tell me to move, for this is the only home I know."

A school teacher who recently lost his job because of his political views said that over 80 per cent. of the people were against the removal. "The Government is robbing us of our birthright to own land in South Africa," he said.

### "We Shall Not Move"

The Transvaal Resist Apartheid Committee has issued a leaflet entitled "We Shall Not Move," addressed to the people of the Western Areas. "Don't fill in the forms, don't get in the lorry to go to Meadowlands, be ready to obey Congress's call, join and enrol as volunteers," it says.

The leaflet calls the Western Areas removal scheme legalised robbery. This is the first step towards the wholesale uprooting of Africans all over the country. Eiselen has said that the Government means to kick 178,000 Africans out of the Western Province.

Africans in Western Areas are in the front line of defence. "We shall not surrender. Anyone who moves willingly is helping the Government to enslave our people."



A Sophiatown resident, standing on the verandah of the home from which he has been ordered to move to Meadowlands, summed up the feeling of the people living round him—"How can we move when the whole of Sophiatown is staying?"

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## Peace Pickets at U.S. Warship

CAPE TOWN.

EXPRESSING the resentment of the people of South Africa against the United States' war policy, demonstrators picketed the United States aircraft-carrier Midway at her berth last Sunday.

"Friendships, Not Warships," and "Atoms for Welfare, Not Warfare," were some of the slogans they carried.

Others read—"Atoms for Construction, Not Destruction," "The H-bomb Threatens Humanity," "Armed Might is Not Right," "We Want Peace, Not War," "War Makes Prices Rise."

The demonstration, organised by the Cape Town Peace Council, was watched by the many hundreds who had come to see the ship, and support for the pickets—particularly amongst Non-Europeans—was very

evident. A number of them came forward to help as the placards were buffeted by the strong wind.

After about 10 minutes Captain Roussouw's Special Branch arrived to bring the demonstration to an end.

Roussouw himself seized the New Age photographer's camera from her hands. Police moved quickly to seize another camera held by a man in a plain suit who had been busily photographing the demonstration. But Roussouw came to the rescue. It was one of his own men!

## ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE IN POLICE STATE UNNOTICED

From A Legal Correspondent

WITH a six-word amendment to the Prison Regulations, whose significance the whole of the Press has missed, the authorities are attempting to bring in un-noticed an increase of the powers of the police to bring them fully into line with those of the nakedly fascist countries.

The Prison Regulations passed in 1923 provide for a large number of limitations on the freedom of convicts in prison. The amendment simply provides that these limitations on freedom will also apply to persons legally confined or detained.

In other words, they are applicable to any person who may be made to undergo punishment as though he were guilty.

The regulations attempt to force such persons:—

- To submit to being photographed or finger-printed.
- To answer any questions put to them.
- To do any work given to them. A charged person will not be allowed:—
- To converse with another at "unauthorised times."
- To "disfigure or damage" any article in his possession.

- To give or receive any article from another prisoner.
- To talk in a language "not authorised" to a visitor.

There can be little doubt that such powers are far in excess of

those which would be claimed by the police in any civilised country. Even a person against whom no charge has been preferred but who is detained in a police cell or lock-up for less than 48 hours will fall under these regulations.

When the import of the regulations become known it is expected that there will be so great an outcry that the Government will be forced to withdraw them.

## DAY APPROACHES—RESISTANCE STIFFENS

Resistance against removal is stiffening in the area. The Resettlement Board has been trying to entice people to go voluntarily to Meadowlands, and sightseeing tours have been taken there and a rosy picture painted of life in the new camp. But some of those who went to look for themselves later told Congress volunteers that they were not taken in.

Opposition to removal grows stronger as the people see not only what they lose from being shifted from their homes in the Western Areas, but also what new restrictions are to be inflicted on them in Meadowlands.

It is now clear that the rent increases, upset last month in the Supreme Court, are being introduced by the backdoor in Meadowlands.

Every family ordered to move must submit to a means test, and employers are being questioned on the weekly wages of their workers so that the rent can be calculated on a basis proportional to their earnings. Some families will pay as much as 25 per cent. of their wages on rent. So the victory of the people in the municipal elections is being undermined here in Meadowlands.

"Ethnic" grouping of the residents will be introduced in Meadowlands. This has found universal condemnation. Even the conference of the Advisory Boards at Uitenhage earlier this month condemned in the strongest terms this Government effort at forcing the people back to tribalism and segregating them in kraals.

Western Areas residents will have to submit to rigorous screening when removal is started. The Government has kept discreetly silent on the fate of those people who don't satisfy screening requirements. The

unemployed in the Western Areas will probably be among the first unfortunate victims of the Government sifting.

Meadowlands itself will be a police-controlled location, with all the hated apparatus of permit systems, police searches and raids and interference in the people's affairs by location officials. The Western Areas has been the last Non-European quarter of Johannesburg to enjoy the freedoms that go with freehold township, and the people will feel the difference between the old and the new life immediately they take up residence in the Meadowlands township.

## International Conference Report in Zulu and Sotho

JOHANNESBURG.

The Transvaal Non-European Metal Workers' Joint Committee, representing metal and motor industry unions, has issued a leaflet in English, Sesotho and Zulu reporting the Vienna conference last July, representing engineering and metal workers from 33 countries.

The leaflet outlines the resolutions adopted by the conference, which detail 17 demands of the workers, ranging from wage increases, full employment, better working conditions and negotiating rights to world peace and extended international trade.

It related these demands to the special needs of the South African workers in their struggle against the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, Bantu Education and Western Areas removal, and concludes with a powerful appeal to the workers to support their unions.

The leaflet is being widely discussed in the many factories in which it has already been distributed. Copies are available for distribution from the union offices at 55 Progress Building, 156 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

## THREE LEADERS ARRESTED

Johannesburg.

A LARGE group of Special Staff detectives raided the offices of the Transvaal Indian Congress last Friday afternoon. They searched without producing a warrant and when asked to do so, said they were acting in terms of the wide powers of the police under the Suppression of Communism Act. Three men were arrested in the raid: Ahmed Kathrada, former president of the Indian Youth Congress, Mervy Thandray, former Congress secretary, and Paul Joseph, former Congress executive member.

All three have been charged under the Suppression of Communism Act: Kathrada and Thandray for attendance at a gathering and participation in the activities of an organisation from which they have been banned; and Joseph on the former charge only.

The first two were arrested in the early part of the afternoon and the detectives then left the office, only to return a short while after to take Paul Joseph into custody.

All three men have been banned from gatherings under the Suppression of Communism Act, and Kathrada and Thandray have further been ordered not to take part in Congress activities.

The raiding party carried out a search of the office and confiscated a number of documents for which they refused to issue a receipt. Con-

gress representatives demanded the return of the papers, and it was later promised that a list and receipt would be made out of the papers seized. Certain personal letters belonging to individuals were returned.

The three arrested men were taken to Special Staff headquarters for finger-printing, and were then removed to Marshall Square. Paul Joseph was taken to the Immigration Department offices for interrogation and his Asiatic Registration certificate was demanded.

The three spent the night in the cells at Marshall Square. The following morning they appeared in court and were granted bail of £100 each for Kathrada and Thandray and £50 for Paul Joseph. Their trial has been set down for January 28 in the regional court.

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