

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES.

- (i) Appellate Division Quorum Bill.
- (ii) Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act.
- (iii) Group Areas Amendment Act.
- (iv) Senate Bill.
- (v) Native Resettlement Act.

(1) Conference condemns the Appellate Division Quorum Bill as an attempt to pack the Bench with Nationalist supporters and undermine the integrity and authority of the Courts. It sees in the passing of this Bill a further attempt to deprive the coloured people of their vote and an attempt to make further inroads on the Entrenched Clauses of the South Africa Act with the eventual aim of setting up a Fascist Republic.

(ii) Conference views with grave concern the passing of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Bill and condemns the wide powers given to the police as undemocratic and a threat to the privacy and civil liberties of all South Africans.

(iii) Conference condemns the attempts of the Government to side-step the rule of law and deprive persons from obtaining a hearing before the Land Tenure Board. It therefore vigorously opposes the Amendment to the Gestapo-like Group Areas Act and resolves to actively assist those organizations at present engaged in opposing this vicious Act.

(iv) Conference condemns the latest attempt to rig the Parliamentary System so as to create a 2/3rd majority of the Nationalist Party and thereby undermine the provisions of the South Africa Act and introduce naked fascism into the Union. Conference therefore condemns the Bill to reconstitute the senate and reaffirms its view that the only effective safeguard against Fascism is a fully democratic government based on the universal franchise of all South Africans regardless of race, colour or arbitrary qualifications.

(v) Conference condemns the Native Resettlement Act and takes strong exception to the Government's action in forcibly removing 60,000 people from their homes in the Western Areas in Johannesburg. Together with the Group Areas Amendment Act Conference sees in the actions of the Government an attempt to drive the people into Ghettos and so lay the basis for a racially divided Police State.

A. RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

- Native (Urban Areas) Act.
- Departure from the Union Regulations Bill
- Population Registration Act.

Departure from the Union Regulations Bill

Conference condemns the recent attempts of the Government to impose further restrictions on the freedom of movement of the South African people and in particular condemns legislation which for the first time in South Africa, imposes fascist restrictions on persons wishing to depart from the Union and makes it a punishable offence for such persons to leave the Union without a permit or passport signed by the Minister of the Interior.

Native (Urban Areas) Amendment Act.

Conference condemns the Natives (Urban Areas) Amendment Act which imposes severe restrictions on African domestic servants employed in flats and Europeans residential areas. Conference deploras the wide powers given to Native Commissioners under the Act, particularly those powers which enable them to order Africans to "work institutions" without a proper trial or hearing.

Population Registration Act.

Conference condemns the extension of the iniquitous pass system to other racial groups in South Africa and therefore sees in the Population Registration Act a further curtailment of the freedom of movement of the South African People.

Conference calls for the repeal of these and other acts which place fascist and undemocratic restrictions on the people.

C. The Suppression Act.

Conference calls for the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Act, the Criminal Laws Amendment Act, The Riotous Assemblies Act, and other Acts which have the effect of curtailing the freedom of the press, the freedom of Speech, and the right of Assembly of democratic South Africans. It condemns the recent bannings' unjust sentences and brutal deportations of persons convicted under the Suppression Acts.

Conference further condemns the clandestine efforts of the Government to introduce concentration camps for their political opponents and views with grave apprehension the recent attempts to create concentration camps in remote parts of the Union on the same lines provided for the Mau Mau by the authorities in Kenya.

Conference resolves to work unceasingly for the defeat of such Fascist ideologies and those quarters responsible for their perpetration.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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