

MEMORANDUM ON HBT. SGT. WESSERLS. (Longhand).

The majority of the speeches recorded by the witness were at meetings held in connection with the Bus Boycott, Evaton. The witness gives evidence about 18 such meetings. The accused who were leaders of the boycott aver that they at all times endeavoured to conduct the boycott in such manner as to avoid violence and disturbances, but they alleged then, as I believe they do now, that gangs of "Russians" were employed by the Bus Co. to break the boycott, that the boycotters were attacked on numerous occasions by the "Russians", that the latter did their best to provoke riots and disturbances, and that the police took little, if any, effective action against the "Russians". Despite these facts, the accused leaders allege that they did their best to persuade their followers not to be provoked, to remain disciplined and not to resort to violence. A number of extracts taken from the speeches recorded by the witness bears this out and the witness should be questioned on this aspect. For examples:

MOLIFE (43),
PEAKE (25). See D. 3641. (V. 19). Meeting 228. A.N.C.

1). Police asked bus driver to drive on.

He refused and this caused a riot - bus was stoned - Sgt. Groenewald arrested a person - crowd freed him and attacked Groenewald. Only then did bus move on. Bus driver said, "I'm working for the Italians, not the b...police".

2). Molefi (43) and Make (25) went to

assistance/...

assistance of Sgt. Groenewald and "helped him out of the crowd". (see p.3641, V.19)

MOTSELE p. 3646 (V.19). Meeting 229. A.R.M.

The theme that Africans expect to have violence used against them and expect to be shot and killed in their struggle.

MOLIFE (43) p. 3655 (V.19). Meeting 232. F.R.M.

Molefi talks of two people being killed and says, "We have told you many times we will lose soldiers and be jailed, but we are not here unnecessarily to provoke people but shall defend ourselves if attacked.

(p. 3655, V.19).

MAKE (25). p. 3669. (V.19). Meeting 235. F.R.M.

Non-violence, "We are peaceful",.

Chairman. p. 3674 (V.19). Meeting 237. F.R.M.

(not an accused). complains of provocation despite fact "We have done everything peacefully so far". Confusion re names of speakers See pp. 3673 & 3675 (V.19). Chairman envisages taking action against the police one of these days, but by that he made it clear that this will be done by taking them to Court.

(P.3675, (V.19). 3 hr. meeting on 5½ pages.

G.SIBANDE (71). p. 3680. (V.19)., Meeting 238. F.R.M.

After reference has been made earlier to boycotters being killed, says, "We are determined not to fight".

MOTSELE: pursues theme of non-violent struggle, despite fact that boycotters are being killed, and goes on to state, "We have no guns and we

do not use them". (p. 3682, V.19)†

The word "revolution" is used every now and again by speakers when referring to their struggle against the Government and legislation affecting them, but it is clear that this does not necessarily imply the use of violence to bring about a change in social conditions - See Meeting No. 231, where at p. 3652 (V.19), Make (25), likens the boycott to "a sort of revolution", and when at p. 3653 and 3654 (V.19), Molefi (43) says, "Apartheid to us means revolution", and see further his theory as to revolution.

Although complaints are repeatedly made in the speeches against the police attitude which it is suggested is favourable to the Bus Co. and its boycott breakers, the Russians, when speakers talk of one day taking action against the police it is made clear that what is envisaged is to take the police to court. See the Chairman at Meeting 237, reported at p. 3675 (V.19).

Attention is directed to Meeting No. 243, reported at pp. 3699 to 3704, when the leaders unavailingly tried to persuade the boycotters to accept certain terms to end the boycott. See pp. 3699 to 3704, (V.19).

The witness has recorded the speeches in long-hand and appears to have made a creditable, and I think an honest attempt to get down what was said. It is clear, however, that owing to inability to keep up with speakers he has omitted a great deal, and as such it is possible that things on occasion may have been recorded out of their context. Obvious omissions appear at:

Omissions.

p. 3640	V. 19
3641	"
3643	"
3647	"
3653	"
3654	"
3656	"
3657	"
3658	"
3661	"
3663	"
3664	"
3672	"
3673	"
3675	"
3676	"
3677	"
3687	"
3688	"
3689	"
3694	"
3698	"

The witness has on occasions used his discretion as to what to record and has deliberately omitted certain parts of the speakers' speeches. See:

pp. 3661	V. 19
3663	"
3672	"
3673	"
3675	"
3676	"
3677	"
3682	"
3687	"
3688	"
3694	"
3704	"

The witness's attention should be drawn to the above for the purpose of obtaining a concession that a ~~g~~ at deal more was said that what he recorded and that he recorded what he thought was important and omitted what he thought unimportant.

See also:

Meeting 230: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

3½ hrs. reported on 1½ pages.

Speeches of two speakers omitted, 3649, V.19.

Meeting 231: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

3½ hrs. reported on 2½ pages. p. 3651. (V.19).

MAKE (25) likens the boycott to a sort of revolution.- cross-examine and quote p. 3652, (V.19).

MOLEFI (43) says "Apartheid to us means boycott. p. 3653 (V.19), and see his theory of revolution on p. 3654 (V.19.).

(Extra-parliamentary means envisaged).

Meeting 233: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

2½ hrs. reported on 3½ pages.

Meeting 234: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

3 hrs. reported on 3½ pages.

MAKE (25). At this meeting - after 7 months of boycott - ake stated that although they did not get protection from police at first (and previous meetings indicate time and again that this was a compliant) the boycotters are not getting such protection. p.3664 (V.19). (Read and quote).

Meeting 235: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

2 hrs. reported on 2½ pages.

Meeting 236: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

2½ hrs. reported on 1½ pages.

Meeting 237: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

3 hrs. reported on 5½ pages.

Meeting 239: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

2½ hrs. reported on 3½ pages.

Meeting 240: Evaton Residents' Meeting.

1 hr. 45 mins. reported on 2½ pages.

Meeting 241: A.N.C.

2 hrs. reported on 4½ pages.

Meeting 242: 2 hrs. reported on 4 pages.

A.N.C. S. NATHIE (50). "Freedom will not come from overseas - it lies with us." p. 3697, (19).

On p. 3636 (V.19). KUMALO (V.19) urges racial co-operation, "The A.N.C. seeks freedom not only for non-whites but also for the whites...."

On P. 3697 (V.19). S. NATHIE (50), repudiates any suggestion of help from overseas, "Freedom will not come from overseas - it lies here with us.

Meeting/...

Meeting 494:

C.O.P., Kiptown:

This was the 1955 C.O.P. Conference.

See Vol. 33, 6462,3,4. Witness states all police in public enclosure - 50-60 yards from platform, 1500-2000 delegates in private enclosure, and 3000 to 4000 public in public enclosure. Impossible for witness and other members of the S.A.P. to hear everything that was said.

See also Vol. 33, 6464-5, public address system broke down. very difficult to hear - lot of noise from trains which also made it difficult to hear.

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