

C O P Y

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SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. BOX 17133
HILLBROW

JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH AFRICA.

27th November, 1962.

The Hon. The Ambassador of the
German Federal Republic,
German Embassy,
180 Blackwood Street,
Arcadia,
P R E T O R I A.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the 54,000 workers of all races, affiliated to the South African Congress of Trade Unions, we ask you to convey to your Government our strongest possible protest against the trial of the Association of the Victims of Nazism in the Federal Administrative Court of West Berlin on 29th November, 1962.

It is incomprehensible to us that an organisation such as the Association of the Victims of Nazism, representing those who suffered under a regime which, for all time, will be remembered with horror and detestation by mankind, can now be persecuted. This persecution confirms the indications, already overwhelming, that the rebirth of Nazism is actively encouraged by your Government. We warn your Government that the revival of Nazism will not be tolerated by workers throughout the world, as it was this hated creed which cost the lives of millions of workers and of men, women and children of all races in World War II.

We also protest against the proposed ratification of emergency legislation which is obviously designed to curtail the freedom of the press, thought and association and, as such, is a direct threat to the workers and trade unions of West Germany.

The workers of Africa and of South Africa, in particular, know what degradation and human suffering result from the belief in the theory of the Master race. They are, therefore, especially concerned at the resurgence of this belief in West Germany.

We state that the trial of the Association of the Victims of Nazism and the ratification of the proposed legislation both constitute threats to world peace as they will allow for the remilitarisation of West Germany. Accordingly, we demand that the emergency legislation be withdrawn and the charges against the Association of Victims of Nazism be dropped.

Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) P.M. ALTMAN
ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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