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DEC 13 1960

A. J. LUTHULI,  
Private Bag,  
P. O. GROUDEVILLE,  
Natal.

Dear Mr. Whyte,

In april, 1960, the African National Congress and Pan African Congress were banned by Act of Parliament.

In democratic society, all are agreed that it is inherently wrong to ban a political organisation whose policies are different from or opposed to that of the ruling Party.

The African National Congress established in 1912, represented the great majority of Africans, and it is thus obviously short-sighted and wrong to destroy these means of political self-expression. The great danger is to allow a political vacuum to continue. When a legitimate national organisation with a non-violent policy is banned, anything may take its place. Uncontrolled and undisciplined movements may be formed and terrorism may arise.

We know the government claims that the African people are adequately represented by "Bantu Authorities" and other pseudo-tribal organisations. I must, however, point out that the "Bantu Authorities" as presently established are merely administrative in character. They are not, and can never be, media for political expression.

I therefore appeal to all people of goodwill to ensure through all the channels open to them, that this disastrous situation be terminated when the bannings are reviewed by Parliament next year. I trust that you will use your influence and the auspices of your organisation to arouse public opinion against a renewal of these bans.

Yours sincerely,

*A. J. Luthuli*