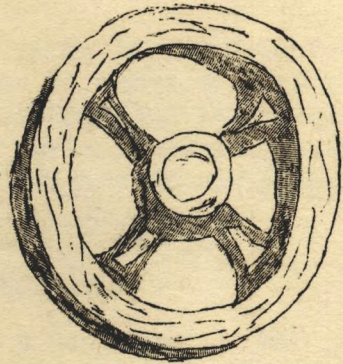


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**WELCOME**

**FREEDOM  
VOLUNTEER**



We welcome you to the ranks of our Volunteer Corps! We welcome you to the ranks of those who carry on their shoulders the great task of bringing into reality the 'Congress of the People'. We welcome you to the ranks of the active organisers and leaders of our peoples fights for liberty and quality.

A VOLUNTEER IS SOMETHING SPECIAL!

He is more than just a Congressman, who pays his subscriptions and attends his Branch meetings. He is, above all that, an active worker for the Congress cause. He is one who gives up his spare time and his leisure, his evenings, week-ends and holidays. to do active work for the Congress movement. He is one who takes on himself the work of explaining, convincing and teaching others that our cause is right. He is a leader of his people in the long hard struggles for freedom.

THEREFORE, A VOLUNTEER MUST BE A DISCIPLINED WORKER!

He must always be ready to do work with others on whatever the majority has decided must be done. He must be ready to carry out the orders and the wishes of his Congress and Volunteer Corps leaders. He must be ready to help others, but also to learn from them, to listen to others and take their advice. He must be prepared to work together with other volunteers, loyally, without petty disputes and squabbles.

THEREFORE, A VOLUNTEER MUST LEARN TO LEAD!

Those who join our Volunteer Corps must learn to understand our Congress Movement and what it stands for. They must study and learn to understand how our people live, and how their lives can be bettered by freedom. They must learn to use their knowledge and understanding



to guide the people they live and work amongst on all the daily problems and troubles of their lives. They must learn how to pass their own understanding on to others, in the buses, and trains and streets and factories, so that they can become real leaders of the community, helping and guiding others towards their freedom. Such people are volunteers! They are something special! There is no prouder title in our movement or amongst our people than the title of 'Freedom Volunteer'. Those who hold it, must live up to it!

What then are volunteers expected to do?

#### A VOLUNTEER MUST ORGANISE.

In the first place he must organise other Congress men and women to join the 'Freedom Volunteers'. He must explain to them what is expected of a volunteer, and fire their imagination with the glorious freedom that active work can win. He must call together all the volunteers in his neighbourhood, and band together with them into a working, neighbourhood group. He must take part in electing a Group Leader, and pledge himself to carry out the decisions of his Group, and respect the authority of his Group Leader. He must go out with his group, into the streets and houses and working places of the people, explaining Congress policy to them, winning them to support the Congress and to unite with others in the campaigns the Congress is conducting. A volunteer is a freedom organiser! A volunteer must plan! He must meet regularly each week, with his group, and discuss what the group is to do to help in the Congress campaign of the moment. He must decide with his group what each and all of them are to do to carry the Congress campaign to the people of his area. He must plan to use all his week spreading the Congress idea and the Congress message in his home area and his working place. He must plan how to bring the people of his area into the whole nation-wide campaign which Congress head-quarters is conduc-



ting and how to win the peoples' confidence for the Congress movement. He must check up on what was decided the week before, and see that it was thoroughly carried out by all his group. And he must plan to see that the weaknesses and failures of last week are not repeated again in the future. A volunteer is a freedom planner.

#### A VOLUNTEER MUST WORK!

He must carry out loyally, with all his ability, every detail of everything he agreed with his group to do. He must set a high standard of reliability, and of devotion to the Congress cause, which will encourage others to copy him. He must strive to be the most active worker in every aspect of every Congress campaign, in his area or his place of work. He must always get others, from inside the Congresses and from outside it, to work and grow to be Congressmen and Volunteers. He must seek to win the trust of the people, by doing every freedom task that arises with all his strength. And he must keep eyes and ears open for every opportunity to put in a word for Congress policy, and to strike a blow for Congress campaigns. A volunteer is a freedom worker!

#### A VOLUNTEER MUST TEACH!

He must teach people that the road to freedom lies through unity with their fellow-men in the struggle led by Congress. He must teach them that their freedom will only be won through their own efforts, and that their strength lies only in unity and organisation. He must teach them to see, in all their little struggles and campaigns, seeds of the great national struggle for freedom which is going on and moving towards victory. He must spread amongst the people understanding and knowledge, by distributing to them the Congress leaflet and pamphlets and the publications like New Age, Inyanisc, Fighting Talk and Liberation which support Congress aims. But to do all this, the volunteer must himself study, learn and discuss. He must study with his group the study notes which will be issued to volunteers.



He must discuss with his group the problems which he meets that arise from the lives of his people. He must listen to the opinions of others and learn from them, so that he can become an expert in the field of organisation for freedom, and pass on to others the understanding which will help them to go forward. A volunteer is a student and a teacher of freedom.

It is not given to everybody to have the high qualities of a volunteer! That is why we say that a volunteer is something special! He is a leader and organiser of his people, who sets the cause of freedom higher than his own comfort and well-being.

Our volunteer movement was started to build the 'Congress of the People'. This is the first and greatest task we set before all Volunteers. Into this work, our volunteers must fit all the other daily, urgent tasks - the fight against Group Areas, Rent Increases, Bantu Education - like individual bricks in the building of a great wall. What are the special tasks of Volunteers in the campaign for the Congress of the People - the great wall of freedom we are building.

### THERE IS THE CALL!

'The Call to the Congress of the People' has now been published in most languages. Our volunteer groups must use it, carefully and thoroughly, to win new supporters for the campaign. 'The Call' must be taken by volunteers to all the important, prominent and influential people in the groups' area work. It must be put into peoples' hands and carefully discussed with them, so that they understand fully what the Congress of the People is. It must be discussed with Vigilance Committee-men, Advisory Board members and trade union officials; with teachers and preachers; with womens' leaders and sports officials; with residents organisations and teachers association leaders; with chiefs, headmen and tribal elders. No one who has influence in the community must be missed out. And all must be asked :



to take a hand in the work of building the Congress of the people. They must be asked and encouraged to help canvass others with the 'Call'. And the most active and influential of them must be asked to serve on a local street, suburban, work, township or factory 'Congress of the People Committee'. This is the first task of all volunteers.

### THE LOCAL CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE.

It is now time to set these committees up everywhere. Our volunteer groups must see that they spring up everywhere - first in the area where the group is working; but after that our groups must spread also to neighbouring areas where there is no volunteer group. Committees must not represent one section of the people alone; they must take in representatives of all sections and all views. In these committees we must start to unite all who are prepared to 'Speak Together of Freedom'. - no matter how their views may differ. Our aim must be to have C.O.P. committees in every township; if possible in every street or block or ward; in every factory or industrial area; in every village and kraal and compound. In all these committees, our Volunteers must be the heart and soul; they must see that the committees meet regularly, plan and carry out a thorough **canvass** of all the people in the area they represent. Volunteers must work to uphold a spirit of unity on the committee, avoiding all petty sectional disputes and squabbles; they must work to bring the committee members closer to the Congress movement; they must check on the committees; they must <sup>work</sup> to unite local committees **together** into District or regional committees which will help all committees to work together as a machine. Volunteers must report to their groups, and through their groups to the C.O.P. Provincial Committees on the work and progress of the local committees. And they must help the local committees to organise the gathering of the demands from all the people for inclusion in the 'Freedom Charter'.  
This is the second task of all volunteers.



THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

v The demands of the common people everywhere must be written into the Charter. Our Volunteer groups must plan this work, organise it and guide the people in their discussions and debates. Meetings must be held wherever possible - house meetings, street meetings, mass open-air and hall meetings - called by the local C.O.P. Committee. Volunteers must canvass the whole area, urging everyone to come to the meeting which is closest to him. The smaller the meeting, the more we can meet individually with the people of each little block or row of houses, the better will be the Freedom Charter. But the whole area must be fully, thoroughly covered, no matter how difficult or heavy is the task of organising hundreds upon hundreds of meetings. No man or woman we can possibly reach must be overlooked or left out. At the meetings, volunteers should act as spokesmen, explaining carefully to the people what the Congress of the People is, what it aims to do and what the Freedom Charter should be like. Volunteers should guide the meeting in the type of demands that should go into the Charter; they should speak of local matters, of rents and freehold rights; of foreman and superintendents; of schools and taps and police raids and transport. 'The Call' should be read aloud to the people, because in it is the outline of the things that people mean when they speak of what is close to them and in their hearts; and they must see that every suggestion, every demand, every grievance - no matter how small or how simple - is written down and voted on by the meeting. Volunteers must make people see 'freedom' as a good life which can be won by the peoples' united efforts along the road the Congress movement leads us. Volunteers must see that all the peoples' demands are written down and sent to the National Action Council. Where meetings cannot be held. Volunteers must organise a door to door canvass, talking to people in their houses, listening to their ideas of what they want when they talk of 'freedom', writing their demands down, sending them in.

This is the third task of Volunteers.



And this - all this is only beginning of the road. There will be more and greater tasks yet for all our Volunteers, before the Congress of the People delegates can be elected and meet together to consider and adopt a Freedom Charter which has been written in the words and demands of the ordinary men and women of South Africa. These tasks are only a beginning! They demand of all the volunteers work, and more work, patience and understanding, devotion to the people. That is why we say 'A volunteer is something special'

Let us be worthy be worthy of that proud title of  
VOLUNTEER.

Let us be able to say:

"All my life and all my strength have been given to the greatest cause in the world - the liberation of mankind".

This is the spirit of a real volunteer! With such a spirit, our victory is certain. Let us work together for freedom!

### WHAT IS THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE?

In answer to a call made by the African National Congress Conference in Queenstown, the African National Congress, South African Indian Congress, Congress of Democrats and the South African Coloured Peoples' Organisation have called the people of South Africa to a great assembly - The Congress of the People.

Never before have the desires and aspirations of all South Africa citizens been gathered into a single declaration a Charter of Freedom.

To draw up and adopt such a Charter of Freedom will be the aims of the Congress of the People. This Freedom Charter will be the South African 'Declaration of Human Rights', which every civilised South African will work to uphold and carry into practice.



The voice of the ordinary citizen of this land will be heard proclaiming to the world his demand for freedom.

### WHO WILL BE THERE?

The Congress of the People will not be just another meeting or another conference. It will be a mass assembly of elected delegates by the votes of people of all races in every town, village, farm, factory, mine and kraal. It will be the biggest single gathering of spokesmen ever known in this country.

It will be held as soon as the whole country has been organised to support it, but not later than June, 1955. The exact date and venue of the Congress will be decided on and announced in good time.

### HOW WILL IT BE ORGANISED?

The whole country will be made aware of the Congress of the People, and its tremendous importance. There will be the greatest possible campaign of printed propaganda material side by side with hundreds of meetings, house to house canvasses and group discussions. Through these activities, the citizens of the country will be urged to speak for themselves, and to state what changes must be made in their lives, if they are to enjoy freedom.

Every demand made by the people at these gatherings, however small, the matter will be recorded and placed before the Congress of the People. In this way the Freedom Charter will become the Charter of the People, with its source in their homes, factories, mines and reserves.

### CAN WE SUCCEED ON SUCH A SCALE?

The main burden of this campaign of national awakening will fall on the politically conscious and active people who make up the membership of the National Liberation Movement.



They carry the message of the Congress of the People and the news of the Freedom Charter to every corner of the country. To do that they must understand the radical changes that such a campaign can make in South African way of life, the spirit of self-sacrifice and discipline, which was the hall-mark of the Defiance Campaign, must be created. People must once again come forward, volunteering to give up their holidays, week-ends and spare-time, without pay, to carry the burden of the campaign.

A corps of freedom volunteers will be built. They will be the heart of the Campaign, ready to do whatever work they can whenever they are required. We will arouse such enthusiasm for the Freedom Charter and the Congress, that the volunteers themselves will be ready to pay the cost of their representatives journey to the Congress.

#### WHO WILL PAY THE BILL?

It will need vast sums of money to get a copy of the 'Call' to the Congress of the People into every home in the land, and to see that delegates are provided for at the Congress. Every supporter will be asked to pledge regular sums of money to the campaign. In the countryside people will be asked to make pledges of cattle and food to feed the delegates at the Congress.

The campaign for the Congress of the People is not only for the members of the Congresses only. All those who wish to hear the voice of the people must encouraged to join in.

Thousands of new, active workers will rally to the support of those start and carry through the campaign. Strength and enthusiasm will grow in our ranks, making it possible for our people to go forward, and the freedoms set out in the Charter which our people will write and adopt for themselves.



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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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