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HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
P O BOX 8327, Johannesburg.
8th Novr. 1952.

INFORMATION SERVICE No. 14 /52.

Mr. Ramarao Deshmukh, Member, Council of States, and ^a former High Commissioner for India in South Africa, said in a broadcast from Nagpur on 6th Novr., that Europeans in South Africa in professing to hold up "White Supremacy" were by their methods "digging the grave of the country".

He said that the Indian problem was part of a "tug-of-war" between the forces trying to segregate Africans and Humanity trying to escape from oppression.

Europeans wanted Indians as 'labourers and serfs', but could not tolerate them as free men claiming political, economic or social equality. Basically, Mr. Deshmukh said, this reason generated hostility to their making money out of trade or business and all European legislative and administrative ingenuity had the purpose of destroying it.

Tracing the history of the Indian settlers, Mr. Deshmukh said that the first Indians arrived in Natal in 1860, 40 years after the Europeans, at the "insistent importunities of Europeans who prevailed upon the unwilling Govt. of India to satisfy their need for reliable and efficient labour". In 1872 India stopped emigration in retaliation for ill-treatment of Indians. By 1874 when emigration was resumed, Indians had by their industry fully justified expectations. After the indenture period many Indians accepted lands and by their industry and skill applied in other directions built Natal into a 'Garden Colony'. Dr. Malen's contention that Indians were always intended to be sent back was a 'piece of arrogant nonsense'.

Mr. Deshmukh explained how the arrival of Indian traders in South Africa created 'envy' among the Europeans leading to the cry "White Civilisation in Danger" and the spate of anti-Indian legislation to destroy the economic position of Indians. It was important to remember that more than 70 such anti-Indian enactments existed, he said.

Mr. Deshmukh then referred to the struggles launched by Mahatma Gandhi to achieve full civic rights to the resident Indian population and said

"This tug-of-war still continues each day bringing fresh evils for the Indians". As a result of these events, he said, Smuts acquired a firm belief in the efficacy of soul-force and throughout his life entertained a very high regard for the personality and doctrine of Mahatma Gandhi. "I discovered this to be so even in the critical year of 1946 which had induced me as the last High Commissioner for India, to make one last effort at compromise by the offer of bringing about a meeting between these outstanding world personalities, Smuts and Gandhiji", Mr. Deshmukh said.

He added "If this had taken place some solution might have been found. But History had a different design in view and History must now take its relentless course".

To:
 By: *Matha Mathakone*
 For: *J. T. Swarabai*
 At: *923 Lam. out 26 Bpl. Lok*
 Date: *27-9-55*
 Verified by:

J. Swarabai
13/6/55

M.M.3.

Mahatma Mahatma
Sri. T. Srinivasan
923, Pleasanton, CA

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
P O BOX 8527, Johannesburg.
12th Novr. 1952.

27.9.52

13/6
18/52

INFORMATION SERVICE No. 17/52.

In the course of her speech in the UN Assembly, the leader of the Indian Delegation, Srimati Vijayalakshmi, said "Even as we meet here today, thousands of men and women belonging to different groups in South Africa have united and launched a movement of passive resistance against the wrong being done to them.

"They have not resorted to violent rebellion, though there have been sporadic outbursts during the last few days by other groups whom desperation is driving to regrettable courses. The passive resisters have instead followed the inspiring example of Mahatma Gandhi and are enduring in a disciplined manner imprisonment and even whipping for daring to assert their right to those human rights and fundamental freedoms to which we have all pledged ourselves.

"Such demonstration of spiritual strength can never prove futile and I would like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of these men and women and to give them assurance that there is a large measure of appreciation all the world over of their heroic stand".

The UN Special Political Committee of the General Assembly has adopted by more than two-thirds majority, the Asian-African resolution on the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa. The resolution calls for the appointment of a three-member Good Offices Commission to assist South Africa, India and Pakistan to settle the problem. The Commission is to report to the next session of the General Assembly.

The resolution got the support of 42 nations and was opposed by South Africa only. 13 countries abstained. There was a separate vote by roll call on the clause of the resolution proposing that South African Government be asked to suspend enforcement of the Group Areas Act pending the appointment of the Good Offices Commission. This clause was supported by 32 countries and opposed by 12. There were 16 abstentions.

The Nigerian Minister for Local Government, Mr. Obafemi Awolowo, has said that the joint demand for action by all non-European people can break 'Apartheid' in South Africa.

Mr. Awolowo who is now in Colombo along with Mr. Akinloye, Nigerian Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources, told a news conference that there were only a few voices in the UN today like those of India championing the cause of the non-European peoples. He said that the entire non-European population which outnumbered Europeans should unite and raise a powerful voice to defeat the racial policy of Dr. Malan.

Mr. Awolowo said that the Africans did not support any kind of violence, though it was true that the European people had not been fair to the non-European people in East Africa, keeping the richest parts of the country to themselves.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
P O BOX 8327, Johannesburg.
14th Novr. 1952.

Correction to Information Service bulletin
no.17/52 dated 12th Novr. 1952.

For the first two sentences in paragraph 5,
please read -

"The resolution got the support of 41 nations
and was opposed by South Africa only. 16 countries
abstained".

Bewysstuk No.....
 Gekry by..... *Mattha Mthelakane*
 Deur..... *Sp. J.T. Surampael*
 Te..... *923 Langane 21 Lou Boflin.*
 Datum..... *27.1.52*
 Verwysings No.....
J. Surampael
12/6 11/8/52

18
MAM II.

11/11/52
SAIL Em 3-5-2
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,
P O BOX 8327, JOHANNESBURG,
14th Novr. 1952.

INFORMATION SERVICE.

The leader of India's delegation Shrimati Vijayalakshmi told the UN Special Political Committee on Novr. 12 that the situation in South Africa constituted a flagrant violation of the basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the UN Charter.

Vijayalakshmi was opening the debate on the resolution sponsored by 13 Asian-African countries condemning racial segregation in South Africa.

She said that in South Africa non-whites could not serve as combatants in the armed forces. Even in trade unions there was apartheid and opportunities for skilled work were denied to non-whites. In Govt. services, a systematic drive had been launched to replace non-whites by whites.

The feelings of resentment and bitterness in South Africa were growing and were now shared by an increasing number of Europeans. There was a limit to human endurance and the non-white population had been compelled to resort to non-violent and completely peaceful measures in mute protest against their continued oppression and enforced degradation.

Vijayalakshmi said that the Separate Representation of Voters Act removed the so-called Coloured voters residing in the Cape Province from a common roll to a separate roll.

After referring to the decision of the Supreme Court of South Africa that the Act was ultra vires of Parliament, she stated that the Union Govt. had then enacted another Act entitled "The High Court of Parliament Act".

She observed "I have merely mentioned these matters to indicate that in the pursuit of their reckless racial policies, the Union Govt. have not hesitated to violate their own Constitution".

Hundreds and thousands of ordinary people, workers, traders, teachers, both men and women, cheerfully enlisted as volunteers in the campaign.

She paid a tribute to "the extremely well disciplined behaviour of the passive resisters who, in spite of severe provocation on the part of the police and the more fanatical among the whites, have carried out their movement in the spirit in which it was launched".

Brutal methods involving violence had been used against non-violent resisters. "Conditions in the prisons and the treatment of the resisters by the police and the jail wardens are, from all accounts, appalling.

"But the spirit of the movement which has right and justice on its side cannot be broken by such measures. The movement of resistance goes on. It had met with widespread support from all sections of the non-white community in South Africa and has evoked the sympathy of the liberal elements in South Africa itself and in other parts of the world".

Vijayalakshmi said that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa, Canon Collins, the Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of York and the British Trade Union Congress had condemned South Africa's policies of apartheid.

Turning to international implications of the problem, she said that the members of the UN had pledged themselves to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinctions as to race, sex, language or religion.

The situation in South Africa is already imperilling race relations throughout the vast continent of Africa and beyond.

"Unless this organisation acts and acts speedily to stir the conscience of men of goodwill everywhere in regard to the situation in South Africa, a new and threatening tide of conflict and discord would be created. It is imperative therefore for the World Organisation to take note of the present situation in South Africa and to study and examine its international implications".

The Indian Delegate declared "The purpose of the countries which have brought this matter before the bar of world opinion is not to arraign or condemn the Union Govt. but to take note of the situation and to study it with a view if possible to assisting and helping the South African Govt. to solve it on a rational and humanitarian basis in conformity with the principles of the Charter.

"There can be no solution by continued domination of one race over others but only on the basis of mutual tolerance and understanding. The longer policies of persecution and discrimination are carried out, the more difficult will be the task of finding a fair and just solution of the racial question in that distracted country."

On 12 Novr. when the UN General Assembly's Special Political Committee resumed debate on South Africa's racial policies, Norway supported the stand of the 13-Nation Arab-Asian group that race conflict in South Africa created "a dangerous and explosive situation" and threatened world peace.

Transcript No.....
by..... *Martha Mathelokane*
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Signatures No.....
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13/6 1955

Collection Number: AD1812

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

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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