

NOTES FROM
THE FORT
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ANC CONFERENCE STANDS BY FREEDOM CHARTER

300 DELEGATES DEMAND RELEASE OF ARRESTED LEADERS

From Govan Mbeki

QUEENSTOWN.

"THIS conference notes with deep concern the events of December 5 when a number of progressive South Africans were arrested on charges of high treason. Conference calls upon all provinces, regions and branches to trim their organisational machinery to keep the people in readiness for any action that might be decided upon by the National Executive Committee to meet the emergency situation," declares a resolution unanimously adopted by the annual conference of the African National Congress in a tense atmosphere last week-end.

"The presence of 300 delegates and people here is proof that nothing will prevent the people from attaining the noble goal of freedom," said Elizabeth Motingoe.

With arms raised in the Africa salute, the packed hall rose and feelingly sang 'Our leaders are in jail, we demand their release.'

PROVOCATION

When the conference started, Special Branch men armed with a warrant of search invaded the hall and seized a copy of the N.E.C. report. As Captain Heiberg, who was in charge, removed delegates from the seats they occupied in front to make room for his policemen, the speaker appealed to the delegates to remain calm and not allow themselves to be provoked. Meanwhile armed, uniformed police remained at the ready outside the hall.

At a prayer meeting held in the evening where the Rev. Gawe had been pastor until his arrest for high treason, the Special Branch checked on all entering, while uniformed police stood outside the fence.

The conference, which had assumed a mass character and was attended by large numbers of delegates from the four provinces, carried out its deliberations under emergency conditions. Discussions were led on trade unionism, passes and the Group Areas Act. After Oscar Mpeta had explained the implications of the Industrial Conciliation Act and the Native Settlement of Disputes Act, conference showed keen interest in the organisation of the workers into trade unions.

RESOLUTIONS

After a discussion of the N.E.C. report, conference adopted the

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More Treason Arrests

JOHANNESBURG.

THE preparatory examination into the allegation of treason involving over 150 people was due to begin in the Drill Hall here on Wednesday of this week.

Applications for bail were due to be made soon after the opening of the preparatory examination.

Further "treason" arrests took place during the past week.

In Johannesburg: Advocate J. Slovo and his wife, Ruth First (New Age reporter), were picked up at 5 last Thursday morning. So were Mr. Moses Kotane, Mr. Walter Sisulu (banned secretary-general of the ANC), Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. L. Bernstein, Mr. H. Barsel, Mr. A. M. Kathrada, Mr. Paul Joseph, Adv. Duma Nokwe, Mr. Robert Tunzie.

In Durban: Messrs. Debi Singh, M. P. Naicker and W. Z. Conco (deputy president of the ANC) were arrested after they had voluntarily surrendered themselves to the police.

Acting on telegraphed instructions, members of the Special Branch arrested Dr. H. M. Moosa at the Woodstock Town Hall on Sunday morning, whilst he was helping with the preparations for his sister-in-law's wedding.

Dr. Moosa, a former secretary of the S.A. Indian Congress, had come to Cape Town from Johannesburg to attend the wedding.

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DEPRIVED OF BOTH THEIR PARENTS



This picture, taken about 2 years ago, is of Diane, Nigel and Rosalind, the three children of Dorothy and Errol Shanley, who were both arrested on an allegation of treason on December 5.

WORLD-WIDE SUPPORT FOR TREASON PRISONERS

CAPE TOWN.

THE reaction to the treason arrests and raids continues to be the exact opposite of what the Government expected. Not only the mass of the people, but some of the most prominent personalities in South Africa, have shown they are not prepared to be intimidated by the arrests.

Meetings addressed by Congress and Liberal Party speakers and others have been held in various centres to protest against the arrests.

A national defence fund sponsored by, among others, the Archbishop of Cape Town and two ex-judges, has been set up to assist the accused in their legal defence, to provide bail and to assist the dependants of those in jail.

The arrests have aroused widespread comment and criticism in the overseas press. In England, the Times, the Manchester Guardian, the News Chronicle and Reynolds News were among those papers taking a critical attitude. Their most trenchant remarks cannot be repro-

duced in the South African press as they would amount to contempt of court.

In London Christian Action sent £100 for the immediate relief of dependants in special need, and in co-operation with the movement for Colonial Freedom is setting up a special fund to help with the defence of the accused.

Dr. Guy Routh, the South African economist, has announced that a fund has also been launched by South Africans living in England for the assistance of the accused. The fund hoped to raise several hundred pounds.

The International Lawyers' Association plans to send representatives to the Treason Trials, according to information which has reached an attorney in Johannesburg.

This Association also sent observers to the "Reichstag Fire Trial" in Berlin during the early period of the Hitler regime.

In a telegram received in Johannesburg this week, Canon John Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral,

London, expresses his support for the arrested men and women.

He states:

"KINDLY CONVEY TO PRISONERS PARTICULARLY LUTHULI, SISULU, KOTANE, MANDELA, TAMBO, NAICKER, NOKWE, MATTHEWS MY PERSONAL AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS.—JOHN COLLINS, ST. PAUL'S, LONDON."

NEW AGE FORCED DOWN TO 4 PAGES

SINCE last week, two further members of the New Age staff have been arrested—Ruth First, our Johannesburg editor, and M. P. Naicker, our Durban branch manager. That brings to 8 the total of New Age staff members who are in jail on an

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MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE TO DEFENCE FUND

JOHANNESBURG.

A LARGE number of notable persons throughout South Africa have come to the assistance of the arrested Congress and democratic leaders by sponsoring a national Treason Trials Defence Fund.

The Fund is to be administered by a Board of Trustees, comprising the Hon. Frank Lucas (an ex-Judge), Dr. A. Reeves, the Bishop of Johannesburg, Mr. Alan Paton and Dr. Ellen Hellman.

In a statement launching the fund the sponsors state:

"A large number of people have been arrested on allegations of treason. The majority are prominent

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New Age wishes all readers the compliments of the season —And don't forget the Christmas Eve Dance, Monday night, December 24, in Cape Town.

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