

ORT #866 19 a copy of 19(a)
ANC (WORKING COMMITTEE)
BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE
TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR. C. R. SWART.

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The following is an extract from a statement which the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, is reported to have made in Parliament on Wednesday, February, 10th, 1955 :

"The police had information that volunteers of the African National Congress would use the following methods to prevent the removal:

"Attacks with firearms; explosives in old motor tyres which would be rolled towards the police; old cars loaded with explosives which would be crashed into the police cars or lorries to be used for the removal; the holding of demonstrations in adjacent areas to divert the attention of the police.

"The police had reliable information that the natives in Sophiatown were in possession of a few machine-guns and revolvers, pistols, hand-grenades and home-made bombs. It was also established that it was the intention to set fire to certain Indian shops and other buildings."

It was on the basis of this "reliable" information that 2000 police, heavily armed, were called from various parts of the Transvaal and concentrated in the Western Areas on the 9th February, 1955, for the purpose, presumably, of engaging the volunteers of the African National Congress in open warfare, instead of arresting persons who, on "reliable information", were known to be in unlawful possession of fire-arms and explosives.

If the Minister made these wild statements with the intention that they should be believed, then he has an extremely poor opinion of the intelligence of his South African audience; for the most credulous of his supporters is hardly likely to believe that to threaten defenceless women and children with 2000 stern guns and bayonets is the method employed by the South African Police in dealing with crime in the country.

The Minister has reminded the country of the East London riots of November, 1952, but he was careful not to mention the fact that, knowing the true causes of those riots, his Government refused to appoint a commission of enquiry in spite of a spontaneous country-wide demand by many leading

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national organisations, including the African National Congress and the official Parliamentary Opposition, the United Party.

All sober-minded South Africans know the stark facts which the Minister's fairy tales were intended to conceal: South Africa has become a police state; the Nationalists, faced with determined and increasing opposition to their inhuman policies, are now resorting to force and violence as the only method by which they can compel acceptance of their wicked schemes. (2000) Two thousand armed police were sent to the Western Areas to forcibly up-root from their established homes people who, supported by the overwhelming majority of South Africans and by the whole of the non-Fascist world, had expressed their strongest opposition to Verwoerd's cruel removals scheme.

The African National Congress, which is a responsible organisation, entrusted with the historic task of bringing freedom and democracy to the oppressed as well as the fear-ridden people of this country, relies for its strength not, as do the Nationalists, on the use of force, intimidation and violence, or the excitement and exploitation of racial hatred, fear and mistrust, but on the unity of the oppressed people, the number and strength of its friends and allies, the justice of its cause, and the unshakeable determination of all freedom-loving people to rid the world of reaction and fascism.

The African National Congress therefore dismisses the Minister's fantastic allegations as irresponsible and cheap propaganda, designed to frighten the most backward elements of the European population into the ranks of the Nationalist Party.

We congratulate our people in the Western Areas, including those who were forcibly removed, on their admirable self-restraint and calm conduct in the face of extreme provocation by the police. We record with satisfaction the good work done by our volunteers in maintaining order and discipline among the people in a difficult and trying situation, and we commend the members, friends and allies of the African National Congress who, by their determined stand in defence fundamental human rights, have compelled the Nationalists to admit that apartheid and the Verwoerd schemes have been rejected by the people and cannot be enforced except at the point of a loaded stern gun and in the atmosphere of banned church services, sport and other social activities. In spite of any show of military power by the

Nationalists,

Nationalists, we shall continue to oppose the Western Areas removal scheme and other acts of aggression on the rights of the people in the full knowledge that we are assured of final victory.

P.F. WORKING COMMITTEE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

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STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE
IN REPLY TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, IR.C.R. SWART.

The following is an extract from a statement which the Minister of Justice, Ir.C.R. Swart, is reported to have made in Parliament on Wednesday, February, 10th, 1955:

Datum
 To: 11/9/55
 Dear: S/S
 Copy by: S/S
 Re: 27/9/55
 2000
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"The police had information that volunteers of the African National Congress would use the following methods to prevent the removal:

"Attacks with firearms; explosives in old motor tyres which would be rolled towards the police; old cars loaded with explosives which would be crashed into the police cars or lorries to be used for the removal; the holding of demonstrations in adjacent areas to divert the attention of the police.

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All sober-minded South Africans know the stark facts which the Minister's fairy tales were intended to conceal: South Africa has become a police state; the Nationalists, faced with determined and increasing opposition to their inhuman policies, are now resorting to force and violence as the only method by which they can compel acceptance of their wicked schemes. Two thousand armed police were sent to the Western Areas to forcibly up-root from their established homes people who, supported by the overwhelming majority of South Africans and by the whole non-Fascist world, had expressed their strongest opposition to Verwoerd's cruel removal schemes.

The African National Congress, which is a responsible organisation, entrusted with the historic task of bringing freedom and democracy to the oppressed as well as the fear-ridden people of this country, relies for its strength not, as do the Nationalists, on the use of force, intimidation and violence, or the excitement and exploitation of racial hatred, fear and mistrust, but on the unity of the oppressed people, the number and strength of its friends and allies, the justice of its cause, and the unshakable determination of all freedom-loving people to rid the world of apartheid and fascism.

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Sgd O.R. TAMBO.

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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

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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

PUBLISHER:

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