

Eq 4.5.15

Festival at Warsaw RF 25

How difficult it is to convey within  
the limitations of every-day language  
anything of the really great  
experience that has been ours  
here in Warsaw. How very  
much ~~more~~ easier it is to  
~~express~~ communicate the tremendous  
sense of jubilation we have all  
felt ~~here~~ in the warm  
embrace of comradeship and in the  
limb clasping of hands.  
From the moment we crossed  
the border the Polish people have  
made us feel thoroughly welcome  
with a truly fabulous display of  
hospitality. In the middle of the  
night our train arrived at the  
first Polish station, to be greeted  
by hundreds of singing and  
cheering people and a large brass-  
band. We danced on the station  
+ ~~received generous food baskets~~  
+ were generously provided for with  
food - hampers + cold drinks.  
This was our first taste of  
the genuine warmth ~~with which~~  
+ goodwill with which we were  
confronted every-where in People's  
Poland.

The reason for this soon became obvious. As the buses took us from the station to our respective residences we saw what war had meant to Warsaw - we saw the fronts of buildings blackened & pitted with the ugly pock-marks of machine-gun bullets. ~~we saw the rubble-heaps to which many a graceful old building had been reduced.~~ Despite ~~Warsaw's~~ unparalleled record of reconstruction ~~the~~ ~~marks~~ left in the city by the war are still only too obvious, and the people of Poland know only too well the hideous implications of war. That is why they made so plain their appreciation of the spirit of this festival of Peace & Friendship & why they made the 30,000 song partners of Peace & Friendship feel so thoroughly welcome.

The solemn official opening ceremony took place in the huge central stadium. The delegates paraded through the streets of Warsaw carrying their national flags & singing their national songs & the international songs & anthems.

Then we all <sup>(3)</sup> assembled at the Stadium to be cheered by a huge crowd of tens of thousands of spectators. How deep an impression that reception made on us - the rhythmic clapping of all those thousands of people - slow at first then working up to a furious crescendo. Those of us coming from countries like South Africa where the burden of oppression seems at times to be unbearably heavy had our confidence in the ultimate victory of the forces of liberation immeasurably reinforced by this gigantic

demonstration of the solidarity of all peoples standing for peace & freedom.

And yet it was not only the massive spectacle and demonstrations that affected us so profoundly. The ~~small~~ less obvious personal experiences too left their indelible imprint on our hearts. One day for instance, as I stood watching a number of young people dancing in the street with the joy & spontaneity that had infected all Warsaw, I noticed an old man standing at the back of the crowd of onlookers.

His wrinkled face <sup>(4)</sup> bore the unmistakable imprint of the years of suffering through which he must have lived in this city with a tortured history.

~~Obsessively~~  
I saw his eyes fill with tears. ~~Obsessively~~ he removed his spectacles & raised a handkerchief to his eyes. How very much there was expressed in that simple ~~gesture~~ yet eloquent gesture.

After the official program we were plunged immediately into a confusing richness of cultural, activity, sporting & sightseeing activities. Our big problem was to choose which of the many fascinating programmes we should attend since there was an unavoidable overlap and we had to miss much that we should ~~very much~~ have liked to see. Thus our days ~~and~~ nights were occupied - national programmes, concerts, sporting events & circuses, cultural competitions, students' seminars for various faculties, exhibitions of art & national life, <sup>cultural</sup> & lastly the enormously profitable inter-delegation meetings at which we ~~made~~ made firm bonds of friendship with people of many other lands.

What struck us very forcibly was the sympathy with which we South Africans were greeted - the same sympathy that existed for delegates from other countries suffering from colonial exploitation or fascist government. Also very significant for us was a Pan-African conference at which the necessity for colonial liberation was stressed as the basis for securing a lasting world peace. It was further emphasized that liberation of one African country is meaningless until the whole continent has won its freedom. The conference, with the support of the World Federation

of Democratic Youth, pledged itself to do all in its power to mobilize the youth ~~with~~ into active support for the proposals formulated at Bandung. It is hoped that a Pan-African youth conference will be arranged in the near future.

Another highlight of the festival were the excursions to a collective farm, to Cracow, Auschwitz & Gdanst. ~~was~~ At Auschwitz, the Warsaw Ghetto & in the building where the Gestapo murderers tortured & killed Polish patriots & hostages.

we <sup>must</sup> all have felt a ~~chilling~~ chilling horror ~~at the same time~~ ~~at a~~ feeling of utter amazement at a unwillingness to believe in ~~the possibility of~~ the monstrous transformation of human nature that fascism ~~was able to effect~~ had effected. At the Warsaw Ghetto I noticed how obviously moved an African woman was by ~~photos~~ photographs of the massacre of the Jews. Fascism in Africa follows precisely the same pattern as that laid down by Hitler's murderers here - there is something very familiar to us in these <sup>old</sup> records of ~~European~~ European fascism at its most ~~bestial~~ <sup>worst</sup>.

When at last the time came for us to part & go our various ways a more sober and reflective mood prevailed. ~~We looked~~ For the last time we looked up at the colossal Palace of Culture & Science (a <sup>post-war</sup> gift to Poland from the Soviet people) dominating Warsaw by its sheer size. ~~It~~ and symbolizing the unshakable solidarity of all the peoples who have already won for themselves the ~~right~~ <sup>basis</sup> upon which they can work ~~unimpeded~~ <sup>unimpededly</sup> for Peace, Progress & true Democracy. We return to South Africa with a heightened sense of what we are working for.

P.T.O.

Let us march  
forward  
our life time  
& friendship  
of all  
races and  
nations

⑦

Freedom and Peace  
between

Truth First  
Progress Second  
27/7/58  
E P

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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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