

CRISIS

Africanists Use Violence At Jo'burg Conference

JOHANNESBURG.

THE special conference of the Transvaal ANC called on Sunday to settle internal disputes in the province and restore unity ended in chaos. Even more serious: the cry emerged from the petitioning groups at the conference for a requisition committee led by Leballo and Madzunya to instal itself as the provincial leadership.

At the close of the conference a Congress car was confiscated and the driver stabbed. On Monday morning a raiding party of Sophiatown volunteers led by Segale, a member of the requisition committee and leader of the petitioning branches, invaded the Congress office and removed all the Congress records and property.

Segale's press statement claimed that a vote of no confidence had been passed in the provincial leadership, the constitution was "suspended and a state of emergency declared on the provincial executive."

Segale claimed the conference had given the provincial committee twelve hours to resign.

GANGSTER TACTICS

This group has now emerged into the open. Whatever genuine complaints the branches might have had against the provincial leadership and administration cannot justify gangster tactics of this sort. Even during the conference the petitioning groups turned the proceedings into a rough-house, and seemed more intent on disrupting than setting wrongs right.

The conference itself is a sad story of inefficient organisation against a background of certain delegates, reinforced by their branch followings, determined to pack the conference and make the proceedings as difficult as possible. The entire day till 5 p.m. was wasted in endless argument and counter-argument on the accrediting and seating of delegates, attempts to sort and re-sort those with the right to speak and vote.

The real business was reached only after a whole day of this, and here the absence once more of a proper explanation of the financial position and the refusal of a spokesman of the Provincial Committee to admit any mistakes by his committee inflamed the delegates even more and led to fresh clamour.

The Acting President General Mr. D. Nyembe, presiding, declared the conference closed without its being able to handle its urgent business.

DELEGATES ONLY

Before the conference the Provincial Committee notified the branches that the special conference would be restricted to delegates. Several petitioning branches, notably Western Areas region and the Madzunya group in Alexandra, decided to defy this and urged all members to turn up in force.

The pre-conference feeling was further inflamed by reports that the Provincial Committee was recruiting volunteers to control the conference, but only from the ranks of non-petitioners. So tension was higher than ever just prior to the conference.

Many spectators came to the conference and the task of sorting the accredited delegates was greatly handicapped not only by the laborious credentials committee procedure of the province but also by the general attitude of the spectators of "non-co-operation."

Fights broke out and a number of people were injured when delegations argued against credentials committee rulings and resisted at-

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IN A.N.C.

NEW AGE

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BANTU EDUCATION HANDS THE CHILD A SPADE



African boys and girls in Bantu Education schools have only three and a half precious hours of schooling each day. And a good part of that time they spend, not in the classroom, but in the school grounds or in the streets of the townships, and not with pen or pencil in their hands, but wielding rakes, hoes and spades.

For half an hour every single school day children have a period on "tree-planting and soil conservation." And as if that were not enough, there is an additional two hours a week spent on "gardening."

New Age took this picture at a school in Johannesburg's South West region last week. Similar scenes were witnessed at other schools in the area.

The children are digging up the school grounds. Bantu Education pupils are not only made responsible for gardening in their school grounds but are expected to keep their townships and surrounding residential areas neat and tidy too.

This is what Minister Verwoerd means by his education system "fitting children for their place in society." As hewers of wood, drawers of water and diggers of roads and ditches.

COLOURED ELECTIONS

"PUT AN END TO APARTHEID" —PIET BEYLEVELD'S MANIFESTO

CAPE TOWN.

"If there were votes for all, we would have a true people's government, and men and women of all races would sit in Parliament and make the laws of the country," said Mr. Piet Beyleveld in his first letter to the Coloured electorate.

Mr. Beyleveld is contesting the Peninsula seat under the Separate Representation of Voters Act. Polling day is Thursday, April 3.

"The Separate Representation of Voters Act is part of the Government's plan to degrade the Coloured people," the letter said. "The United Party says it will put the Coloured voters back on the roll if it gets into power."

"VOTES FOR ALL"

"I say more than that," Mr. Bey-

leveld stated. "I say there should be votes for all the Coloured people, not only men but women as well; and not only for the Coloured people but for all South Africans—Coloureds, Africans, Indians, Malays and Whites."

NAT LAWS

The manifesto which accompanies Mr. Beyleveld's letter is headed: "Save South Africa From Nationalist Tyranny!" and shows how the Coloured people have been dealt with by the Government since it came into power. The removal of the Coloureds from the common roll, Group Areas, bus and train apartheid, job reservation are all covered in this striking manifesto.

"In the eyes of the Nationalists the Non-Europeans are merely 'koelies, kaffers and hotnots' who must be made to work for the

Armed Thugs Thrown Out Of Cape Conference

From Govan Mbeki

CAPE TOWN.

A GROUP of Africanists dressed in black shirts and wielding knives and batons made a determined effort to smash up the emergency provincial conference of the African National Congress held in Cape Town last week-end.

From the moment the conference opened under the chairmanship of Mr. Oscar Mpeta, this small clique of wreckers attempted to hold up the proceedings.

Hardly had the first paragraph of a report prepared by five executive members been read out than they started to fight.

One advanced to attack Mr. Thomas Ngwenya, whom he accused of "associating with Jews." He had his baton raised to strike when another thug shouted that Ngwenya followed their line and should be left alone.

From the ranks of these thugs came a regular flow of anti-Semitic and anti-communist cries. Volunteers protected the platform and patrolled the aisle to keep order.

THROWN OUT

When charges against the administration of Mr. Tshunungwa as provincial secretary were being read to the conference, a fight started in a corner of the conference hall, and one of the thugs started beating Mr. Huna on the head with a bottle. Volunteers sprang to Mr. Huna's aid and the thugs, on one of whom a short sword was found, received a severe beating and were ejected from the hall.

Thereafter the conference, which

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whites and who don't deserve any citizenship rights. As it strives to hold the people down, the Nationalists government is sowing race hatred and contempt, setting one group against another, and steadily leading the country into crime, violence and brutality."

U.P. SEGREGATION INJUSTICE

"The United Party will not save you from this fate," the manifesto continues. "The United Party also stands for segregation. It calls it 'segregation with justice.' But segregation means injustice, so how can you have injustice with justice?"

The U.P., Mr. Beyleveld's manifesto adds, has never fought the Nationalists on principle. On the contrary it has accepted the principle of all Nationalist laws. As a party of the mining millionaires, the big industrialists and the well-

(Continued on page 5)

HELP SELL "NEW AGE"!

NEW Age, as is well known, is the only newspaper in South Africa unafraid to open its columns to the Congress Movement. That means a lot in these days of political persecution, blackmail and downright craven fear. And as long as New Age survives it will continue to give voice to the aims and aspirations of the oppressed peoples, as expressed by their leaders and political organisations.

Time and time again experience has proved the value of New Age as an educational and organising medium amongst the people. Political awareness and readiness for action go hand in hand, and every copy of New Age sold adds appreciably to the general store of political consciousness amongst the people.

That is why the problem of New Age circulation—the problem of sales—is one which should be tackled, not only by the staff of the paper, but also by the Congress movement at all levels.

Ours is a political paper, and our best sales are made by agents and sellers who know

what's what politically. The non-political seller soon gives up in despair; the political seller goes from strength to strength.

It must be admitted that our present sales machinery is not keeping pace with the requirements of the political situation. Instead of circulation increasing, there has recently been a tendency for it to drop in various centres. This is due entirely to a lack of suitable sellers and agents. A number of very good agents and sellers have, for various reasons, dropped away, and we have been finding it extremely difficult to replace them.

Now there is only one source from which we can get such replacements and that is the Congress movement. To replenish our depleted ranks we require the active support of the entire organised progressive movement.

Just how much more can be achieved was demonstrated by one voluntary seller last week. He sold 500 copies in one day in Benoni. If he could do it, others can do it as well.

Cape Town, Durban, Johan-

nesburg and Port Elizabeth offices are in urgent need of full-time street sellers. Volunteer sellers and part-time agents are needed throughout the country, in every town, village and factory.

Who else can find them for us except the Congress movement? Who else knows who's who and what is what in the various areas?

It is for these reasons that we issue this appeal to the Congresses:

Help us to find the people we need to renew and extend our sales apparatus. Help us to find full-time sellers. Help us to find voluntary agents in every town, village, local area and factory in the country.

Help raise the political understanding of the people by helping to increase New Age circulation.

Last Week's Donations:

Cape Town:

Reader J.D.C. 3s, B. and B. £5, A.T. 10s., Dom. £5, Egg. £2, Ben. £1, Mick £2, Ken. £1, Music Makers £10.17.

Johannesburg:

Joe £5, Collections £22.

TOTAL—£54 10s. 0d.

EDITORIAL

RACE CLASSIFICATION

THE Cape Times' disclosures about the methods of reclassification of borderline Europeans have shocked the country.

Many people have expressed incredulity that a Government should stoop so low in order to carry out its apartheid policy. The newspapers (Opposition of course) have eloquently described the misery and heartbreak caused to the victims of Dr. Dinges' race probe. Some of the victims themselves have complained of the "humiliation" of being grilled about their ancestry—and the disaster of being, perhaps, reclassified "Coloured."

We, in common with all decent-minded people, express our indignation at the disgusting inhumanity of the Government's actions. But we would ask the Cape Times, and the victims who feel so sorry for themselves: how is it that you do not feel similarly indignant at the humiliation and heartbreak daily caused to millions of South Africans through the operation of the colour bar?

Is it, perhaps, because the victims on this occasion have in the past been treated as Europeans that you deplore what is being done to them now? Why did you not cry out when, in Johannesburg last year, it was the Coloureds who were being reclassified as Africans, having pencils pushed through their hair and pins stuck into them so that officials might decide their racial origin? That probe was not conducted behind closed doors by kind-hearted and sympathetic officials who obviously had no liking for the job that had been entrusted to them—as we are told has been the case with the borderline Europeans. No, on that occasion, Coloured men and women were stopped in the streets by policemen, asked for their passes, thrown into pick-up vans, and interrogated en masse by officials who, for the most part, can only be described as civil service thugs.

And, quite apart from reclassification, what about the degradation which is suffered by the Non-Whites as a whole under apartheid? When a "play-White" complains of the humiliation of being reclassified Non-European, does he think of the humiliation which is the daily lot of the 12 million Non-Europeans in this country?

So long as there is racial discrimination, so long must there be evils such as reclassification in terms of the Population Registration Act, removals in terms of the Group Areas Act, the breaking up of families under the Urban Areas Act, and all the other ills our Non-White flesh is heir to.

That is why Nationalists can contemplate all the horrors they are causing without any qualms of conscience. These human sacrifices are inevitable if their apartheid policy is to be implemented. The lives of thousands of men and women can be blasted—but at least nobody will have the wrong identity card!

And that is why the only answer to these evils is the complete elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. It is no use, as the Cape Times does, complaining of this or that miscarriage of justice without recognising that it is the whole colour-bar system that is at fault.

The events of the last few weeks will redouble the determination of all in the Congress movement to root out racialism in its entirety and substitute for it the noble principles of the Freedom Charter, which says:

"All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride. The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime. All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside."

Why Whites Should Vote For U.P.

Until I saw Mr. Pirow's address to the court in the Treason Trial, I did not know that in the whole world, Russia is the only state which cares for the human rights and sufferings of the black people.

As Mr. Pirow considers Russia the only Christian state even though it is a communist state, I appeal to all White voters to return the United Party during the next election.

Rather let us suffer unconsciously under the U.P. than be skinned alive by the Nats.

CELIA KUSE.

Queenstown.

Africans Want Freedom For All

It is not we Africans who are against the present government; the government is against us. Does the government really think that when we ask for freedom it is because we want to marry European girls?

We want freedom for everyone who lives in this country. Everyone must live a happy life no matter what his colour.

Please Mr. Editor, send a copy of New Age to Mr. Strijdom so that he may read and know that we want a £1 a day for all, and equal rights for all who live in this country. Afrika Mayibuye! Freedom in our lifetime!

D. S. KUNENE



AFRICANS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THEIR CULTURE

From the names that African choirs give themselves, one gains the impression that Africans are ashamed of themselves, their language and their culture.

On page eight of New Age of February 20, there is a picture of an African choir, that calls itself, of all things, the "Katzenjammer Kids." Why? Are the rich and poetic languages of the Zulus, Xosas and Basutos lacking in suitable names?

On the other hand, if African choirs and musicians MUST give themselves English names, why not a name with significance? After all, the English language also has a vast vocabulary and many fine shades of meaning.

Another question that I would like answered is this. Why, why, why, do Africans, when singing modern songs in their respective

languages, pronounce their vowels in the English way. They don't SPEAK like that, so why SING like that. When they sing, they sound like English people singing Zulu (or Xosa or Sesuto) with an Oxford accent. It is so very artificial and 'ersatz.'

Incidentally, katzenjammer is a German word for hang over.

"PHILOLOGIST"

Port Elizabeth.

Workers Must Organise

It is necessary for the workers to know that there is not a single oppressive law which does not affect them.

We must join the trade unions and recognise them as the workers' mouthpiece. We must discuss with fellow workers and analyse our hardships.

The forthcoming Workers' Conference is the crucial point, let us waste no time.

HUBERT JAKAVULA

Port Elizabeth.

Shot While Trying To Escape....

If we were all Congress men we would be free of arrests. The common sinister thing about the police is their shooting of innocent Africans on the pretext that they are wanted for robbery and have been shot while trying to run away.

The weak potentates resort to brute force.

Our country is governed by the law of the jungle—M. C. Boshielo.

Johannesburg.

Algerian Independence Day

On Thursday March 6, the people of the freedom-loving world will commemorate Algerian Independence Day in honour of the struggle of the Algerian people for liberation and as a demonstration against French barbarism.

It is hoped that the freedom and peace-loving people of South Africa, too, in line with the rest of Asia and Africa, will show their solidarity with the Algerian National Liberation Front.

On March 7, lovers of freedom are exhorted to offer prayers for an end to France's bloodbath and an early settlement of Algeria's independence.

A request is also made to boycott all French goods and products until Algeria is granted sovereign independence.

LONG LIVE ALGERIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT! FREE ALGERIA!

DEATH TO COLONIALISM! MALEK RASOOL

Kinross, E. Tvl.

A Child's Funeral

BETHAL

On January 21 we buried a 13-month-old baby in the location cemetery. This child's parents, grandparents and great grandparents were ANC members. It was mostly ANC members who were present at the funeral.

It was my own 13-months-old son who died and the municipal council gave me permission to bury him in the Bethal Location. When we arrived with the body at the location, we, who were not very important in the cemetery, were given permits, but the inspector wasted a lot of my father's time and when we eventually arrived at the graveside, we were at a loss to know what to do.

The treatment we received at the hands of the inspector of the Bethal location was cruel. He does not respect even the dead body of an innocent 13-month-old.

D. L. CTULUBE

(father of the child),

R. T. CTULUBE

(grandfather of the child).

Textile Workers' Protest At Amato Baton Charge

On behalf of the Eastern Cape textile workers, we wish to express our extreme anger with the police for their brutal and unwarranted attack on the Amato textile workers, as well as our deepest sympathy with the victims of the attack.

This attack is yet another example of a dying social system's desperate attempt to maintain itself in the face of the people's liberation struggle.

Amato workers, stand firm. The capitalists are dying. Their whole system is rotting away, but like a mangy dog, it is snarling and baring its fangs, before it slinks off into the bush to die.

MELVILLE FLETCHER, National Organiser T.W.I.U. (S.A.)

WILTON MKWAYI, Branch Secretary, African Textile Workers' Industrial Union.

RACE LAWS CAUSE OF DUBE RIOTS

— TAMBO'S EVIDENCE TO COMMISSION

JOHANNESBURG.

"TRIBALISM has failed throughout history and it is bound to fail here as well. To introduce tribalism in the urban areas is to act against the natural course of the forces of social change."

These opinions were expressed by Mr. O. R. Tambo, Secretary-General of the African National Congress, giving evidence before the Commission of Enquiry on the Dube riots last week.

The Commission consists of three former judges, the Hon. A. van de Sandt Centlivres, the Hon. L. Greenberg and the Hon. E. R. Roper.

A memorandum submitted by Mr. Tambo and Mr. T. T. Nkobi, National Organising Secretary, on behalf of the African National Congress stated that the causes of the Dube riots were ethnic grouping and the general policy of racialism; the sense of dissatisfaction, discontent and frustration under which the Africans live as a result of numerous discriminatory and repressive laws operating against them; the miserable wages paid to the African workers; the fact that Africans are constantly being hunted and hounded by the police in connection with petty offences, viz. pass laws and poll tax, a practice which does not allow the Africans to live the lives of normal human beings; and the migratory labour policy, which makes the African workers temporary sojourners in the urban areas with no permanent homes.

ADEQUATE WAGES

Asked to suggest what should be done, Mr. Tambo said that the evils brought about by the migratory labour system could be reduced to a minimum by the encouragement of a settled community in which the worker lived with his family in the area of his employment.

The accommodation could be provided either by the employer or by the employee if he was paid adequate wages.

TRANSKEI TRIBAL CLASHES

Mr. Justice Centlivres, chairman of the Commission, said that throughout the centuries there have been tribal fights in the Transkei.

"Would you say that the tribal fights that have been going on in the Transkei are due to the operation of discriminatory laws?"

Mr. Tambo: "We are not saying that there can be no fights between tribal groups except as a result of oppressive laws. But what we say is in this instance, tribal fights between ethnic groups are likely to occur frequently because of the effects on the people of these laws."

MISHANDLING OF AFRICANS

Mr. Tambo was closely questioned by the three members of the Commission in connection with the Congress statement that the African people are mishandled by the police, insulted and beaten up and that they finally land in jail for no fault of their own, or for the most trivial reasons.

"The partial attitude of the police is a major contributory cause to the tension and resulting violence now under enquiry," Mr. Tambo said.

Mr. Justice Greenberg: Why do you say the police are partial? It is one thing to attack the police for being incompetent but quite another thing to say they are partial. Just what do you mean?

Mr. Tambo: Sir, that is the feeling of the people.

Yes, people who are misguided and misinformed can say that, but what do you, yourself say? Do you agree with the statement?—I do not dissociate myself from the statement.

Can you tell us why?—The position is this: Firstly, the police should have expected that there would be trouble at Mofolo North

which is a Zulu area, and they should not have taken the procession through Mofolo North. They could have taken a different route. For instance, the route they took on their return from the cemetery. When the police reached Mofolo North there was no necessity for the police to shoot.

Mr. Justice Roper: But we have it on record that the Zulus adopted a threatening attitude.—That is precisely our point sir. The police fired at the people because they showed an attitude.

Mr. Justice Roper pointed out that according to the evidence, when the police officer spoke to the leaders of the Zulus asking him to disperse his people, the leader of the Zulus raised the weapon he was carrying and was about to strike when the police officer fired at him.—If that evidence is correct, there was no necessity for the other police to shoot.

The evidence is that the Zulus threw stones at the police.—Yes sir, that is the mystery. According to the evidence not a single policeman nor a single Mosuto was struck by a stone and our point is that in these circumstances the shooting by the police was absolutely uncalled for if they were being impartial peace-makers.

Tell me how does your organisation arrive at the conclusion that the discriminatory laws have resulted in a clash between the Zulus

and Basutos?—Take for instance, sir, the pass laws have been a subject of protest by Africans ever since they have been introduced. And far from being abolished they have been intensified and made applicable even to women. Hundreds of thousands of Africans have been arrested under the pass laws and

their protests have yielded no results whatever. They have been placed in a position where they feel they have no redress for their grievances. The only redress is that they get arrested. Therefore their life now is not a life in which grievances are redressed by discussion and negotiation.

"RISING TIDE OF HATRED"—

BISHOP REEVES

JOHANNESBURG.

THE Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, told the Commission of Inquiry into last year's Dube Riots here that "there is a rising tide of hatred, resentment, bitterness and frustration" among Africans.

Parents resent what is happening to their children under Bantu Education, African leaders have no voice in the affairs of their people and workers resent the unsatisfactory conditions at work.

"Another factor contributing to the general tension and restlessness is the attempts being made to persuade African women to carry reference books. In the last year there has been serious trouble in Lichtenburg, Ventersdorp, Pietersburg, Standerton, Balfour, Zeerust and Nelspruit all because of the Africans' deep resentment to carrying passes.

"Visiting Lichtenburg after one faithful member of our congregation had been killed in the riots there, I expressed my regret that this man had been killed, only to be told that I was not to regret his death 'because he died for us!'"

"We shall soon face a martyr complex of Africans going to the graves of their heroes; this would be a dangerous thing in any society. For not a sten gun can hold them back in such a condition."

Hundreds of thousands of Africans are punished for technical offences. No radical change will take place until the plan to compel African women to carry passes is dropped, Bantu Education drastically revised and commerce has taken steps to pay more adequate wages, especially to the mass of African workers who are at present living at or beneath the poverty line.



CACHALIA IN COURT

Former South African Indian Congress General Secretary, Mr. Yusuf Cachalia, appeared in court last week on a charge of contravening a notice banning him for 5 years from attending gatherings in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act. The gathering he attended was the multi-racial conference which took place in Johannesburg early in December last year.

The police did not arrest Mr. Cachalia at the conference but last week notified him that he had to appear in court to face the charge.

In his evidence Mr. Cachalia admitted having attended the conference but said that at the time he was under the impression that his ban had been for two years and had already expired.

Judgment was reserved till March 3.

SEKHUKHUNILAND'S CHIEF STILL SUSPENDED: FOR HOW MUCH LONGER?

JOHANNESBURG.

SEKHUKHUNILAND'S Paramount Chief is still under the NAD suspension order, and his people and reserve are asking.

1. For how much longer? and
2. Are these suspensions (there have been two for a month and then for a further three months) not a prelude to deposing him altogether?

Despite NAD and police efforts to dampen their opposition to the Bantu Authorities Act the people of the Transvaal's biggest Reserve still fight on.

The puppet chief imposed on the tribe receives no co-operation from the people. "We will not give way to Bantu Authorities," is the popular slogan among the tribe.

The suspension of the Paramount Chief was made the occasion for a demonstration by the police of their strength. Several people were arrested and some assaulted.

Last week two lorry loads brought a number of the Sekhukhuni people to Lydenburg where the last of the cases arising out of police arrests in the reserve was taking place.



Of four tribesmen who had appeared in court previously three were discharged and only one was convicted. All had been charged with obstructing the police in the course of their duties.

The man who appeared in court last week had been similarly charged and was convicted. The tribesmen are taking both cases on appeal.

OUR PICTURE, taken outside the Lydenburg Magis-

trate's Court, shows Paramount Chief Moramoche Sekhukhuni (wearing medal) and some of the tribesmen who came from the Sekhukhuni reserve to listen to the court proceedings at last week's hearings.

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