

INDIANS TO HOLD DAY OF PROTEST

All-In Conference Plans Mass Struggle Against Group Areas Act

JOHANNESBURG.—WITH THE FIRST GROUP AREAS GHETTOS LESS THAN ONE YEAR OFF, LAST WEEK-END'S FIGHTING CONFERENCE OF TRANSVAAL INDIANS REJECTED LENASIA AND ALL GROUP AREAS WITH FURY, AND CALLED FOR MASS STRUGGLE TO SAVE THE PEOPLE'S HOMES AND PROPERTIES.

The 1,500 Indians who overflowed from the Gandhi Hall to the street outside

- Called upon the Indian people not to go to Lenasia or to accept group areas anywhere.
- Decided on a day of "hartal" (struggle) and mass prayers. (The date is yet to be fixed.)
- Called for a Council of Action to mobilise the

Delegates rushed from the hall during the Sunday morning session to greet the procession of Indian women who walked five abreast from Fordsburg to the conference hall, the Congress flag at their head and singing in Hindustani "Prana Janda" (Keep Our Flag Flying), one of India's struggle songs.

During the conference every mention of struggle, against compromise, for full rights, for the day of protest and for unity was taken up with waves of applause by the huge crowd, fully half of whom had standing room only.

Loudspeakers in the streets relayed the speeches to the crowds who could not get into the hall.

THEIR ALLIES

Standing with them were spokesmen not only of all the Congresses, but also of the Black Sash movement, which the day before the conference opened held a protest picket parade against the injustice of the Group Areas Act; the Liberal and Labour Parties, and a number of Councillors and prominent Johannesburg citizens and churchmen.

Cllr. J. Lewsen summed up the rejection of Lenasia when he said

people in defence of their homes, properties and livelihoods.

- Called on the S.A. Indian Congress to seek the support of the Afro-Asian powers to influence U.N. states to compel the Union to stop violating the United Nations Charter.
- Set up a fighting fund for this campaign and gave this fund a roaring start by collecting £1,135 at the conference itself.

this first group area for Indians was "the halfway station for a return ticket to Asia."

A group of Indians shown over the new township said they would rather jump in the ocean than settle there.

DECLARATION OF WAR

An executive member of the Transvaal Indian Congress said that with the declaration of group areas "the Government has presented us with an ultimatum tantamount to a declaration of war."

Said Dr. H. M. Moosa, S.A.I.C. joint secretary: "At all costs we must defend our homes, we must mobilise and organise all our people against this vicious attack."

From the floor was put the resolution condemning the rent racketeering of unscrupulous Indian landlords and calling for the forging of

(Continued on page 3)

A New Disease

"This country is suffering from a malignant, infectious and virulent disease—not malaria, but grouparia. Its effect is to make the skin come out in black spots all over. There is one easy cure. In a nurses' exam some time ago the candidates were asked what was the best way of abolishing malarial infection. One nurse wrote: 'The best way is to start by abolishing the patient.' The Government has discovered just such a cure for the disease of this country: painless death—a new kind of eutanasia. It's called 'Lenasia.'"

—Rev. M. Jarrett-Kerr in his opening speech to the All-In group areas conference.

NEW AGE

Vol. 2, No. 44

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper

SOUTHERN EDITION THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1956 PRICE 3d.

NEW RESTRICTIONS ON GWENTSHE

Punishment For Disclosures About Frenchdale Camp

JOHANNESBURG.—Trying to cover up the world-wide fuss about Frenchdale and the other camps for deportees, State Information officials have visited Frenchdale and tried to get Gwentshe to make statements retracting and contradicting the camp exposure.

When he refused he was issued with an order from the Mafekeng Native Commissioner requiring him to report to the Commissioner at Frenchdale between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday "until such time as I may change this order."

THEIR STORY

In their fortnightly digest State Information officials try to shatter all the stories about Frenchdale and maintain that the Frenchdale deportees are not even restricted to the area of the farm. Gwentshe, they say, is merely confined to the large Mafekeng area. But the effect of this new order is to impose the very restriction which they deny exists. Without proper transport and money Gwentshe cannot move into Mafekeng, as the Government claims he is free to do, because he has to be before the Native Commissioner for half a day every two days.

Gwentshe was asked in an interview on August 1. New Age is informed, to refute the "rubbish" reports about Frenchdale which have appeared in the press and for which he was held responsible. He refused.

Then, when the officials could not budge him, Gwentshe was served with this new order.

VERY DIFFICULT

State Information officials do their best, in the official State bulletin, to ridicule the charges against the camps, resorting to heavy, ponderous humour and printing 13 pictures to emphasise their case. They admit though that their interviews with Frenchdale deportees were "very difficult."

"They gave the impression that they had worked out and rehearsed a joint statement which was to be given to any journalists who might come to them for information and were determined to give this standard statement irrespective of any questions which they might be asked."

Sounds very much as though the State Information Department didn't get what it wanted from the other exiles either!

ANC Conference Again Postponed

PORT ELIZABETH.

The conference of the ANC (Cape Province) which was to have taken place over this week-end on August 31 and September 1 and 2 at Blinkwater, near Adelaide, has been again postponed to a date to be announced.

"No Evidence To Justify Removals"

Broeksma Tells Areas Board

CAPE TOWN.

THE Group Areas inquiry into the racial zoning of the Southern Suburbs of the Cape Peninsula was completely invalid, irregular and contrary to the principles of law and justice as practised in a civilised country, Mr. A. H. Broeksma, Q.C., said at the close of the hearings in Cape Town last week.

Mr. Broeksma, who appeared for the Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee, representing 24 organisations, maintained further that there was no evidence to justify the committee making any recommendations whatsoever.

"After three weeks of evidence I ask you on what single reliable fact, on what authentic information, can this committee or any other committee justify any disturbance of the existing order?" said Mr. Broeksma.

TRAVESTY

The proposed demarcation of the Peninsula was the completest travesty.

(Continued on page 4)



ART KNOWS NO COLOUR BAR

Dolly Rathebe, Queen of the Blues and star of "Jim Comes to Jo'burg" and "The Magic Garden," and Dambuzi Mledli, leader of the Manhattan Brothers, chat with Larry Adler, the world's leading harmonica player, during the interval in the Townships Jazz show in Johannesburg last week. (See "African Musicians Top the Hit Parade" on page 6.)

Moves To End Racialism In S. African Soccer

—See page 8



On August 9 over 1,000 women of Bloemfontein gathered at the Native Commissioner's office, from 1 o'clock until 3 o'clock to protest against passes for women. This was a day which the Nats will never forget and which we will remember as the day of unity, the day on which the apartheid law was broken which says that Coloureds must not take part in the freedom struggle side by side with Africans.

The women's deputation saw the Native Commissioner at 2.30 p.m. The leaders are, from the left, Mrs. R. Moketyane, Miss N. Matlhape, Miss M. Ngake and Mrs. J. Seleke, with their banner. The women handed over 1,219 protest forms.

G. A. NYEZI

Bochabela Location, Bloemfontein.



AFRICAN VISITS TRADE UNIONIST KARIBA GORGE

I was sent by my executive recently to investigate the conditions of workers on the Kariba Gorge scheme. When I arrived there I reported to the compound manager and asked for a place to sleep. He declined and sent me to another official who also declined and sent me to someone else. All this just to see my workers.

The officials were suspicious and wanted to know what I was looking for there. After answering some nasty questions, I was given a letter authorising me to sleep in the compound.

I found that the workers there work 11 hours a day, and do not get overtime pay. If they complain they are victimised without any chance of appeal. There is no proper supervision of rations.

THREATS

The next day I went to see the transport manager to discuss the things which affect the workers. If you suggest anything, he said, I will sack every driver. I told him if he did that we would withdraw every worker in protest. He cooled down a bit and said the workers got more money than anywhere else and the complaints were unfounded.

I replied that they might get a little more money, but they worked 11 hours instead of the 8 hours elsewhere in Rhodesia, and therefore the men actually got less pay. I asked him why he refused to allow the workers to meet. He said he didn't; but I nevertheless was not given a chance to see the workers.

I also asked to see the compound manager. He said he could not speak to me without the permission of his seniors. I then handed him two letters, one giving notice of a meeting I wished to hold, and the other inviting him to open the meeting. He rushed off to see his seniors.

THEY WERE WORRIED

I could now see the Whites were worried. There was a ringing of phones and a rushing about and people peeping at me from windows. The officials were sum-

moned to a meeting, African clerks were sent out and the doors were closed. I knew there would be a lot of talking about me.

I went to draw up my report in a friend's room but had barely lifted my pen when a compound policeman entered. "You are wanted by Mr. Louw," he said. I told him to go, I would follow. He said he had instructions to fetch me. I reminded him I was not arrested, and after finishing my job I followed him.

I found the White men sitting there with horrible faces. "What do you want here?" they asked. I replied that my executive had sent me. "You will go back to Salisbury today on foot," they replied.

The compound police were set to guard me and the police were phoned. I was taken in a car to the police station and told I was not allowed there and couldn't organise a meeting. (That night, however, the White workers held a meeting.) The following day I was escorted out of Kariba by Mr. Campbell.

I intend to take the matter up with the Minister of Labour.

J. T. MALULEKE
Organising Secretary,
Trade Union Congress,
Harare, Southern Rhodesia.

THE LION DIDN'T ROAR

The struggle of women against passes came to a climax with the great demonstration in Pretoria on August 9. The Prime Minister Mr. Strijdom conveniently ran away and had no courage to face the truth from the women that the passes are nothing else but a document of slavery.

What a disgrace! Not a roar was heard by the women from the roaring Lion of the North. We are convinced that Strijdom knows perfectly well the strength and determination of the women in struggle. He himself played on

THE CAMPAIGN IS OVER BUT OUR TROUBLES AREN'T

THE appointed day for the winding-up of our National Campaign Fund has now arrived and it is time for us to take stock.

When we launched the appeal at the beginning of March we asked you for £10,000, and a 20% increase in circulation, by the end of June. We pointed out that the achievement of our target would place our paper in a sound position and enable us to face the immediate future with confidence. Subsequently, as you know, we extended the campaign period to the end of this month.

IN SPITE OF THE EXTENSION WE DID NOT REACH OUR TARGET. INSTEAD OF £10,000 WE RECEIVED £5,254 1s. 11d., WHICH IS ONLY A LITTLE OVER 52% OF WHAT WE WANTED.

That £5,000 odd undoubtedly helped New Age keep its head above water—but only just. From the point of view of security the situation has not improved at all. We are still not in a position at the beginning of any month to say whether we shall be able to appear the following month, because, more often than not, we just don't know whether sufficient money will come in to pay our expenses.

CIRCULATION

Nevertheless, the Campaign was not a complete failure. We can report that, at least as far as circula-

tion is concerned, we not only reached but even surpassed our target. Our sales increased by 32% during the period of the Campaign, 12% more than we had bargained for. If only the money had kept pace with the circulation we could really be happy!

Secondly, the Campaign certainly helped to make readers more conscious of the problems of our paper than they ever were before. There can be few active democrats who do not now realise that New Age cannot live on fresh air, and that only their own unremitting support will enable their paper to survive.

FRESH SUPPORT

Thirdly, the campaign has proved that there are a great many more people willing to support our paper than we ourselves had thought possible. As well as new readers, we also found new people to support us financially. In fact, the campaign proved beyond doubt that we could have got very close to our target IF WE HAD HAD MORE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE FROM MORE ACTIVE DEMOCRATS.

Money never walks into our offices on silver legs. It has to be collected, and there is only one way to collect it. You and me and everyone else who has the interests of New Age at heart must go out and meet and persuade those who have money in their pockets to give some

of it to us. And in winning support for New Age you may be sure that you are, at the same time, very often winning new support for the democratic struggle as a whole.

OTHER WAYS

Collecting, of course, is not the only way to raise money. Functions of various kinds are also very useful. We even know of readers who have sold rugby tickets on the black market to raise money for us! We know, too, that the London New Age Committee combined both collections and functions to send us the splendid sum of £70 this week. Only last Saturday a group of young friends and students in Johannesburg quite spontaneously organised a jolly party from which we benefited to the extent of £11 18s. And Abe Hurzuk gave us all the money in his pockets, 10.6d., just before he went into jail.

Efforts like that must be continued. Although our campaign is over, our need for funds is as great as ever. Instead of sitting with reserves in the bank, as we had hoped we would be able to do, we don't know whether New Age will still be appearing in October. It's as bad as that.

So, PLEASE, do not relax for a single instant. Make sure you send your personal donation immediately! Make sure you collect from your friends!

KEEP PACE WITH OUR CIRCULATION! KEEP NEW AGE GOING!

THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Friend £1.7.6; Donation £2; August 10s.; Friend £20; AB £1 10; CD £7.10; Mr. Joubert £2.2; Krugersdorp £1.10; E.F. £20; Young Friends £11.18; Collection List £2.3.10; Farewell 12.6d.; S.G. 1.6d.; H.L. £5.5; K.D. £1; K. £5; B.C. £3; N.J. £3; H & J £50; H.S. £10; A. Hurzuk 10.6d.; B.K. £10; J.B. £10; London New Age Committee £70; Dentist £1.1; Simon 9s.; Sir John £1

Previously Acknowledged	£5,012 11 1
Total This Week	229 12 10
TOTAL NATIONAL	
CAMPAIGN FUND	£5,242 3 11

What About Ethnic Grouping For Whites?

If this ethnic grouping is a good thing, when is our Government going to separate the Afrikaner from the English according to ethnic grouping? There are so many Whites living together peacefully in towns all over South Africa, such as the Jews, Italians, Greeks, Germans and many others from European nations.

I fear that this ethnic grouping amongst Africans and Coloureds is going to cause trouble in future. I have seen this grouping of people in the compounds where I used to be in charge.

SAM AUGUST LESHQAI
Bloemfontein.

ELEANOR BAARD

Port Elizabeth.

Protest At Removals

I arrived in Cape Town in 1930 but I did not have a home to live in until 1939, when I chose Blaauwlei, Retreat, to live with my children. Now we hear shocking talk that we have to pull down our pondokkies and rebuild them at Nyanga.

It will be a great loss to the people to take their old corrugated iron and build another pondokkie with fewer rooms than we have now. Nyanga is far away from town and it will be hard for the workers to pay bus fares, train fares and to feed their families. Most African workers earn about £2 a week. And what about those who have to pay 1s. 6d. return from Nyanga to Claremont to seek work in town?

I once organised a creche in a pondokkie in Blaauwlei in 1948. Later a proper day nursery school was built there. If we have to go to Nyanga these children will have to leave the nursery school, which is a great help to the children and mothers who are working and know that their children are well cared for.

I protest very much against the removal scheme.

Mayibuye iAfrika!

D. TAMANA

Retreat,

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE ALL-IN CONFERENCE

The interdenominational African ministers have decided to call a national conference on apartheid and the Tomlinson report in October. All people belonging to political, cultural, business, religious and even sports organisations have been asked to attend.

What we want to know is: can our clergymen speak the truth without being expelled from their churches, which are controlled by the Whites? Our ministers today are only boy-ministers. They must understand they can only be real ministers when we are free.

My advice to people is this: Go to the conference fully determined that you are not going to be fooled by people whose life has been spent in promising us with eloquent words from the Bible that one day Heaven will be ours.

Press them for action. We are not interested in words. The resolutions should be: Down with discrimination! Votes for All! Away with Baasskap! Freedom in our Lifetime!

Our ministers, our teachers, our intellectuals will all be there fully aware of their obligations. They know they want freedom. Maybe you will be asked to turn to God for freedom on a national scale; well then they have been pre-

sented with a very good example by Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus.

Forward to Freedom! Ignore liberals! Down with the Tomlinson Report which is neither realistic nor practical! Away with Apartheid!

Maitland. M. NDUNA

SACPO Campaign For Amenities in Athlone

CAPE TOWN.

The South African Coloured People's Organisation is launching a campaign, starting on Saturday, September 1, for the establishment of civic amenities for the people of the Athlone area, such as a swimming pool, extension of sports fields, more creches and nursery schools, and improvement of roads and lighting.

All interested in helping with the campaign are requested to be at the Athlone Town Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, from where a drive will be made to collect signatures for a petition to the City Council. Further information about the campaign can be obtained from SACPO chairman Mr. A. la Guma, phone 69-3085.

A PICK AND A SHOVEL



Mavuso Gets Suspended Sentence

JOHANNESBURG.

John Mavuso, banned member of the African National Congress, was last week found guilty of attending a meeting, though the magistrate found that the meeting was already over by the time the Special Branch entered to arrest him. In his judgment the magistrate said that when Mavuso entered, the meeting still retained its original physical form and there was evidence that people were still occupied with matters concerning the purpose for which they had gathered. There was, for example, a bundle of leaflets for distribution on the table in the room. Mavuso was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, suspended for three years.

Mavuso was arrested in Alexandra Township in April. He had entered the house after the meeting to fetch a friend, he said. The police arrived a few minutes later.

There is a story told among the old people which says that one day, many years ago, God summoned White Man and Coloured Man and placed two boxes before them. One box was very big and the other small. God then turned to Coloured Man and told him to choose one of the boxes. Coloured Man immediately chose the bigger and left the other to White Man. When he opened his box, Coloured Man found a pick and a shovel inside it; White Man found gold in his box.

The people have many explanations for their lot. Some of these take the form of folk-tales, superstitions and myths; others are downright logical. But in all there is the common consciousness that oppression, suffering and hardship are facts of life. And they have learned to temper hardship with humour, and to sweeten the bitter pill of their drab lives with the honey of a satirical philosophy. But always they have been aware of pain.

According to the census there are 1,170,000 Coloured people in South Africa. Herded into slums, shivering in shanties, scattered along the hillsides, rocking in buses to housing schemes, living comfortably in bright homes: Frigidaire, His Master's Voice, Edblo. They toil in thousands in big modern factories and push vegetable barrows, dig up roads and teach in schools, grow flowers and run shops. They steal and sometimes murder, they beg or carry loads from the markets. They drink, curse, make love and beat their wives or cheat their husbands. Heroes and cowards, villains and gentlemen, saints and sinners, people.

They went through wars and marched through the muck of France and Belgium. They sweated in Abyssinia, Egypt and Libya, and stole the company beer, laughed at the German army and

cracked jokes as the dive-bombers hurled steel death at them. Some of them died and the rest came home and shook their heads and wondered what they had fought for. They voted at the polls and shook their heads some more. They clashed with the police when they became a little tired of voting, and held their bloody heads. The law, harness bulls, carried its guns openly afterwards, to honour them.

I passed a tiny mission church one night and stopped at the door to listen. The flock was gathered under the pale light of a single bulb, and on the white-washed wall at one end Christ looked down in his agony. The old preacher spoke and said: 'Thus saith the Lord God: Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel; remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people . . .'

ALEX LA GUMA LOOKS AT CAPE TOWN

He was an old man whose face had known pain and whose hands had grown hard with toil in the country. His collar was frayed and his shoulders stooped. His voice was warm as a mother's touch. His people listened and murmured their Amens when he had finished. They sang and the air was full of their happiness and their agony was lifted from them for that brief time.

Saturday night is dance-night. The hall is crowded by nine o'clock and the band has got into its stride. The drummer has taken his coat off and the saxophonist is tireless. The bass-man's head wags with each slap at the strings. 'Mister Sandman, give me a dream . . . Kwela, Commercial quadrilles: Arm in arm, corner swing, half-way, home James. Sambas all the way from Brazil. The girls are gay, wild, ecstatic. Their brilliant skirts whirl and their hair-dos are awry; red lips parted, panting; eyes bright as jewels. The boys are sharp in their zoot suits, yellow socks and Tony Curtis haircuts. They swagger between the dances, showing off their patterned neck-ties and jingling their silver wrist-chains. When it is over and the band plays the Queen they scatter re-

luctantly, perspiring. 'See you next week.' 'Drill Hall.' 'Philadelphia Rhythms.'

In the slums the people huddle, sleeping on staircases and in packed rooms. Everywhere is the smell of stale cooking, sweat and stagnant water. On the corners groups gather in the lamplight and the dice come out and the pennies and tickies clink on the asphalt. Somewhere a guitar twangs quietly and then ripples as skilful, self-taught fingers fly along the frets. The music throbs and an artificially hardened voice rises:

'Onder deze piesang boom, al op 'n eilandtjie,

Daar staan ons twee te vry, Sy rol haar oogies vir my . . .'

When the pubs close the she-beens are open for business. The mailers work all day buying in stocks and are paid a commission on each bottle they obtain. Coloureds are only allowed two bottles of wine per day, or one brandy, so the mailers move from store to store, giving false names and addresses. You can drink in elegant parlours where liquor is served discreetly in tea-pots, or in sordid little dens where the children watch wide-eyed as the boot-leg bottles are pulled from hiding places in back-yard drains and from under the floor-boards. Anywhere you pay through your neck: the cheapest wine costs three-and-sixpence a bottle, and brandy ranges from fifteen to twenty-five shillings. It is whispered that the big houses pay protection to keep the police away.

Yankee ship just come in, and the taxi-cabs ply their trade between the docks and the bawdy houses. 'Know a place we can meet some gals, buster?' There are places. A house can be pointed out where the girls are beautiful as fashion-models, and others where bitter, ground-under, young-old professionals smile bleakly and flash their gold-fillings.

There was a man I heard of who possessed a plot of ground but had no money to buy building materials. So for a whole year he scavenged amongst the rubble of demolished blocks and in other odd places. He carried bricks and timber and sheet-iron to his site in small loads. He carted sand from the beach and scrounged cement and built a house.

In the third-class carriage they

were packed tight. I sat opposite a big, tough-looking docker and talked to him. His face was streaked with coal-dust and dried sweat and he wore a loading-hook in his belt.

'The government?—'

'What are we going to do about it?'

He spat through the window. 'Don't worry, chummy. We'll give them a go one day. Same as Hitler got.'

When the pegamoid covers have been placed over the office machinery and the massive ledgers have been stored in the vaults, the cleaners take over. Stout, middle-aged ladies armed with dusters and brooms. Cooking has to be done early so that supper will be ready when the old man comes home. Nelly or Rachel or Tiema can dish up. High above the lighted city, in chrome, plush and marble offices they work and exchange gossip through the buzz of vacuum-cleaners.

'The ou was full of nonsense again last night. Wish he'd stop his blerry drinking.'

'Did you hear about Mrs. Meyer's daughter? Going to have a baby and won't say who the father is. The children of today . . .'

'What did the Chinaman pull this afternoon?'

On the Grand Parade the unemployed sit, chatting idly, around the base of a statue. 'Never king had more loyal subjects.'

The census declares that we are almost one-and-a-quarter million. But if you identify a people, not by names and the colour of their skin, but by hardship and joy, pleasure and suffering, cherished hopes and broken dreams, the grinding monotony of toil without gain, despair and starvation, illiteracy, tuberculosis and malnutrition, laughter and vice, ignorance, genius, superstition, ageless wisdom and undying confidence, love and hatred, then you will have to give up counting. People are like identical books with only different dust-jackets. The title and the text are the same.

And since man is only human, he must rise in the morning, throw off the blanket of night and look at the sun.

STRIJDOM'S REPLY TO PAARL WOMEN — POLICE RAIDS AND ARRESTS

CAPE TOWN.—Ten days after the Paarl women had demonstrated their opposition to passes for African women, the police carried out a dawn raid on their homes.

On August 9, 64 women carrying 500 signed protest petitions went to the Native Commissioner's Office to register their protest simultaneously with women throughout the country. Leader of the deputation was Mrs. Beatrice Nkewu. There were many young women amongst them, some with babies on their backs, as well as older members of the community.

The women told the Native Commissioner that they were not only opposed to the reference books, but also to the permits which they were obliged to carry. He promised to forward their petitions to Pretoria.

On August 18 at 4.30 a.m., the whole village was upset when six vanloads of police descended upon the inhabitants, raiding for passes. Thirteen women were arrested and subsequently fined £2 each.

An eye-witness told New Age that when one man ran away, presumably because he had no pass, the police fired three shots. The man was not hit.

The Paarl ANC Women's League has already held three report-back meetings on the anti-pass struggle, and the League has grown considerably as a result of the campaign. Mrs. Elizabeth Mafekeng, one of the Paarl leaders, told New Age.

'By Mr. Strijdom's refusal to meet us in Pretoria, he has shown that the pass laws are not a protection to us,' she said.

'The struggle against the pass laws will go on until they are abolished.'

INDIANS PLAN MASS RESISTANCE

(Continued from page 1)

unity between landlord and tenant in the common struggle, a theme taken up repeatedly and with vigour by the conference.

T.I.O. leaders and compromise proposals received short shrift from the conference. Their role was described in a resolution as 'deplorable and damaging,' and their pronouncements on the group areas proclamations were denounced as support for apartheid.

GREETINGS

The first session of the conference was a battery of speakers and messages for struggle against the Group Areas Act.

Wild cheers greeted a message of Mrs. Pandit calling upon Indians to 'unite and organise themselves for peaceful resistance against the implementation of the Group Areas Act.'

Dr. Naicker, S.A.I.C. president, said there could be no room under the Group Areas Act for compromise.

Father M. Jarrett-Kerr, who opened the conference, said the Group Areas Act was a diabolic

piece of legislation 'designed to rob the people of their homes and security, to turn them into serfs and to make burnt offerings of them on the altar of apartheid.'

Who Was There

There were 1,058 delegates (apart from the public) at the Transvaal All-In Group Areas conference. Fifteen towns in the Eastern Transvaal sent 236 delegates; there were 98 delegates from the Western Transvaal. From the Northern Transvaal, including Pretoria, there were 78 delegates; there were 159 from the southern part of the province. The Reef sent 149 delegates. From Johannesburg and its suburbs came 272 delegates. There were also delegates of the Working Committee of the T.I.C. and spokesmen of women's youth, religious and sporting bodies among the Indian people.

Mr. H. Davidoff, M.P., said the Act was a return to barbarism. The Labour Party pledged every assistance in any peaceful and legal resistance to the Act.

Mrs. Ruth Foley, national chairwoman of the Black Sash movement, said: 'We will protest and will go on protesting with all the means at our command.'

Rev. D. C. Thompson said: 'I'm angry and I've never been so angry as in the past week. I appeal to the Government, in particular the Prime Minister and his Cabinet: Beware! And if they will not heed, I propose the resignation of the Government forthwith and the calling of a national convention of the leaders of all the peoples of South Africa who want peace, freedom and progress.'

WOMEN'S ROLE

An impressive feature of the conference was the number of Indian women who came forward to speak. Dr. Zainap Asvat said: 'If the path of struggle and self-sacrifice is inevitably to be our lot, then I am sure that many of my sisters, steeled in struggle, will rise to great heights of achievement.'

She added: 'I say to the men, go

forward, take courageous decisions. We the women will fight side by side with you.'

Mr. G. Hurbans, chairman of the Natal Vigilance Committees set up to fight the Group Areas Act, told conference: 'What is happening to you today will inevitably happen to us. The whole country expects to see that you put up a valiant struggle to retain your homes.'

Aid To Yugoslavia

BERLIN.

The German Democratic Republic will co-operate with the Soviet Union in building a huge aluminium plant in Yugoslavia. The plant, with an annual production of 50,000 tons, will be in production by 1961.

The Soviet Union and East Germany will supply the machinery and engineers to build the plant. In addition they will give Yugoslavia a long-term credit of 700 million roubles, which will be paid back in the aluminium to be produced by the plant.

The agreement between the three countries provides for further aid to Yugoslavia after 1961 to increase the capacity of the plant to 100,000 tons a year.

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.