

21st July, 1958.

TO ALL ACCUSED !

- (1) For your information we are sending you herewith a short summary of the indictment against us. We must emphasize that this is a summary only, and is not the full text of the official charge. The reason for this is:-
- (i) The Crown has sent our lawyers 92 copies of the indictment, but the majority of them are essential for use by our lawyers. We are not able, therefore, to send a copy to each of you, although we are trying to get more. In the meantime, such copies as are available for us have been distributed to different provincial centres, to be lent to those who want to read it. They must be returned so that everyone can have a chance to read it in full.
  - (ii) The indictment is so complicated that we felt that many of us would make more sense of a shortened and simplified, but unofficial, version. We hope we will be proved right!
- (2) In order to put everyone into the picture of what our lawyers think of the case, what they have done to date, what steps they intend to take in the future on all aspects of the case, we have arranged for a general consultation with all Accused with Counsel to be held on

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 2nd at 10 A.M.

This will be the day after the case starts. It is impossible to organise it before this date. At that consultation Mr. Maisels and others will be present, and will answer all your questions and listen to all your suggestions.

It is intended, from that date onwards, to arrange fortnightly or weekly consultations of the same kind, at which all aspects of the case can be fully discussed by all Accused with their Counsel. We hope that this will help to break down some of the barriers that seemed to exist between us and our legal men.

- (3) The transport situation between Johannesburg and Pretoria is still not settled. We have been told that we are to be given tickets for train travel. This will cause obvious difficulties; not only will the time spent by some of us in travelling from our homes to the city and then from the city to Pretoria be dreadfully long; but it will also mean that should any one Accused miss the train due to a delay on his bus or train into the city, the whole case will be delayed until he turns up. And trains between Johannesburg and Pretoria are far from frequent! Our lawyers are negotiating with the Crown, in an attempt to get the arrangements changed, and to get buses provided, with different picking up points convenient for people living in different areas. So far no finality has been reached.

We are charged with committing High Treason between 1st October, 1952 and the 13th December, 1956.

How? By acting together to do one or all of the following things:-

- (a) to subvert, overthrow and destroy the state;
- (b) to prepare a violent revolution;
- (c) to endanger the security or authority of the State;
- (d) to hinder or coerce (i.e. compel) the State;
- (e) to resist the authority of the State, especially its power to make and enforce laws;
- (f) to set up a Communist State or some other State in place of the present State.

In doing this, it is said, we acted either as individuals or as leaders, office-bearers or members of the following organisations:-

A.N.C., A.N.C. Youth League, A.N.C. Women's League.

S.A.I.C. Indian Youth Congress.

Federation of S. A. Women.

S.A.C.O.D.

S.A.C.P.O.

S.A.C.T.U.

S.A. Peace Council

S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union.

National Action Council of the C.O.P.

Printers and Publishers of New Age Newspaper.

And all the local and provincial branches of all these bodies.

Our aims, it is said, were to be achieved through the action of these bodies, and also through the actions of other people, 152 of whom are named in the charge, and others who are unknown to the Prosecutor (who are called "co-conspirators").

It is also said that our aims were to be achieved, amongst other things, by the following acts:-

- (i) by calling the C.O.P. there adopting a Freedom Charter, and by taking steps to bring into being a Communist State in the form of a People's Democracy, People's Republic or something similar;

- (ii) by organising a militant corps of Freedom Volunteers on a semi-military and disciplined basis, who took an oath to carry out the legal and illegal orders of the leaders of the organisations;
- (iii) by inciting one another and our "co-conspirators" to use extra-Parliamentary, unconstitutional and illegal methods, including the use of violence;
- (iv) by organising campaigns against certain laws and against the enforcement of those laws, especially the laws relating to:-

Western Areas Removal;

Bantu Education;

Passes;

- (v) by causing feelings of unrest or hatred between different sections or races of the population;
- (vi) by advocating the ideas of Marx and Lenin, including teaching the need to set up at once a Communist State in the form of a Peoples Democracy, Peoples Republic or some similar form;
- (vii) by advocating that illegal or unconstitutional methods be used to replace the present State;
- (viii) by inciting the people of South Africa to support those activities by mass action.

It is said that to bring about our aims, we attended meetings, made speeches and adopted resolutions, whose effect was as set out above. And also that we wrote, printed and distributed articles, newspapers, pamphlets, letters, lectures and resolutions, or had in our possession such written matter for purposes of spreading them.

And finally that to bring about these aims, we attended the C.O.P. in Kliptown, took part in the gathering, and there and then drafted the Freedom Charter and pledged ourselves to campaign for its achievement in our lifetime.

Attached to the charge are several schedules, which you will hear reference to. They are:-

SCHEDULE "A" - The list of organisations given above.

SCHEDULE "B" - The list of 152 "co-conspirators".  
(This list includes the names of all the people originally charged with us, but now discharged).

VOL. II. SCHEDULE "C" - A list of meetings which the Crown is relying on to prove its charge. This list sets out the date of the meeting, the place of meeting, the name of the organisation which sponsored it, the name of the speakers, extracts from the

**Collection: 1956 Treason Trial**  
**Collection number: AD1812**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:-* Johannesburg

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