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DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

CULTURE:-

The effectiveness of a cultural boycott of South Africa as part of a universal move to isolate this country, and bring about pressure to bear in the fight against racial discrimination, was discussed at length by the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

The Committee welcomed with gratitude the spontaneous initiatives taken by several overseas artists, and by the British Musicians Union, which contributes in some measure towards this aim. It expressed its belief that similar action taken by more and more artists with a view to enveloping the cultural world in a universal boycott, would:-

- a). Serve to impress upon racist South Africans, that in their Herrenvolk policies they stand isolated from the rest of the civilised world.
- b). Give rise to greater political consciousness among European South Africans and will contribute to bring about more sympathy and support for the national liberation movement.
- c). Leave an indelible political impact on increasing numbers of non-white people and constantly reassure them of the tremendous support they enjoy in their struggle for freedom. While declaring its attitude in favour of an international cultural boycott of South Africa, the Executive Committee believed that such an aim cannot be effectively furthered in the absence of a precise policy of the National Organisations on the question.

Therefore, in its aim to initiate discussion and flowing from it a national policy, the Executive Committee calls upon the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress to declare its attitude in favour of an international cultural boycott of South Africa.

It further calls upon the Annual General Meeting to resolve to do all in its power to secure a similar decision by the SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS.

PAUL ROBESON:-

The Transvaal Indian Youth Congress strongly condemns the American Authorities for the manner in which they have attempted to terrorise and victimise the innumerable individuals who have been outspoken in their condemnation of war, colonialism and racialism, and who have advocated a policy of peace, friendship and co-operation with the peoples of the world.

This meeting views with grave concern the recent summoning of Paul Robeson, that great democrat and fighter for Peace and Freedom to appear before the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee.

We firmly believe that the Un-American Activities Committee is nothing but an inquisition whose aim is to silence the ever-growing critics of the reactionary policy of the United States Government.

The people of Africa regard Paul Robeson as the dauntless champion of the oppressed and exploited people of the colonies; as the consistent opponent of imperialism and therefore believe that any attempt to muzzle him is an attempt to bolster imperialism and perpetuate colonialism.

We greet Paul Robeson and many like him who have refused to be intimidated and who have resisted the nefarious attempt to have their minds and voices shackled.

3). POLITICAL:-

- 1). Throughout South Africa young people are fighting for better living and working conditions; for cultural and sporting facilities; for an opportunity to participate on an equal footing with other groups for those things which rightfully belong to young people wherever they might be.
- 2). The struggle the youth are waging is indissolubly bound with the overall struggle for equal democratic rights in South Africa. Seldom before has the fundamental rights of the people been at such a low ebb as they are today. With each new session of parliament the mockery of our parliamentary democracy becomes more farcical. The narrow restrictive laws of the Nationalist Government have today debarrred the African people of the legal right to defend their homes: the vicious Population Registration Act has subjected hundreds of Coloured men and women to insufferable misery and hardship. African women are faced with the burden of sharing the humiliation of the Reference Book with their menfolk: the workers everywhere have been threatened of their economic rights by the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act: working class unity- the lifeblood of united working class struggle- has been threatened by the Nationalist anti-working class laws which bring in their wake the destruction of the Trade Union Movement in South Africa.
- 3). The youth who are workers, students, clerks, cannot afford to stand aloof from the infringements of their rights and the rights of others. They are not unaffected by forced mass removals, by the insecurity wrought upon their fathers by the Group Areas Act or the Land Tenure Act. Theirs is also the struggle for democratic rights: the struggle for democracy in South Africa.
- 4). Yet the youth have specific struggles which are their very own and which are near and dear to them: the need for cultural, educational, sporting opportunities which have been denied to the Non-European people for so long. They cannot be unperturbed at the Fascist Bantu Education Act which has been enacted in order to instill Nazi-like theories of inferiority in the minds of their African brothers. Today it is Bantu Education but the signs are not wanting that tomorrow there will be "Coloured Education" and a special "education" adapted for Indian Youth. We condemn this Act and pledge ourselves to fight it to the bitter end.
- 5). The young people take their stand together with their brother and sister youth against those sporting bodies which seek to deny them their right to participate as equal partners on the sporting fields. The youth pledge themselves to defend their right to be represented in all matters of sport within South Africa and beyond its borders, and it will continue to uphold this right with all its energy.
- 6). Culture is not the prerogative of any one group or race of people but is the heritage of all. We pledge ourselves to fight for equal cultural rights for all people.
- 7). We pledge ourselves to fight Baskkap and Apartheid, and all the laws of the country which prevent the youth and the masses of South Africans from playing an equal part in the affairs of the country. We pledge ourselves to the Freedom Charter, and to those freedoms which will make South Africa a land fit for all the people to live in.

RESOLUTION.

(3)

B 240

"This meeting held at the Congress Hall, Johannesburg, on the 30th September, 1956, warmly congratulates the Chinese people on the 7th Anniversary of the foundation of the Peoples' Republic of China. Their rapid advance in all fields of endeavour acts as a glaring example to all the peoples of the world; especially those who are suffering under the iron heel of imperialism and oppression. We in South Africa are particularly thankful for the friendship and moral support given to the just struggles of our people, and the liberatory struggles in the various parts of the world by the Peoples' Republic of China.

" We condemn the imperialists for having prevented this country of over 600,000,000 people from taking her rightful seat in the Councils of the United Nations, and we fully support the admission of the Peoples' Republic of China to this organisation.

"Finally the progress of the Chinese people under the chairmanship and guidance of Mao Tse-tung and other leaders will beyond any doubt be a great spur to the other peoples of the world who are struggling against colonialism, oppression, and exploitation.

" The Chinese people have also shown the oppressed people of the world that no obstacle can stand in the way of progress when a people are determined to fight for freedom and equality."

RESOLUTION.

(4)

B240

"This meeting held at the Congress Hall, Johannesburg, on the 30th September, 1956, expresses its solidarity with the people of Egypt in their stand on the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company.

"We congratulate the Government of Egypt for having justly claimed that the Suez Canal which runs through Egypt was built by Egyptians, should therefore, belong to the Egyptian people, and the revenue obtained should be used for the benefit of Egypt. We further condemn the sabre-rattling of the Imperialist powers as we feel that this is inimical to world peace. We know however, that peace and prosperity belongs to the Egyptian people, as indeed it belongs to all the people of the world. With the rapidly growing forces of peace, and the decay of imperialism, we are confident that the struggle of the Egyptian people against the forces of reaction will inevitably succeed. And we know that this victory will also act as an inspiration and a spur to the peoples of Africa who are fighting against oppression."

FFCB.132RESOLUTION.

The Indian Youth of the Transvaal, meeting at the 11th Annual General Meeting of the T.I.Y.C. being aware of the acute housing problem of the Indian people requests the T.I.C. to do all in its power to bring this to the notice of the proper authorities.

It further condemns those elements in our community who are responsible for charging ^{exorbitant} exorbitant rents and goodwills as they are forcing the Indian people into Group Areas and indirectly doing the work of the Government.

This meeting further condemns the S.A.I.O. for suggesting residential segregation and this accepting Group Areas. We deplore the underhand methods employed by them in conducting Closed Door negotiations with the Government. We further challenge them to a public meeting in order to clarify their position.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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