

MEMORANDUM ON DET. CONST. VAN ZIJL SCHOEMAN.

This witness appears to be an efficient and able reporter and his notes are taken in shorthand. He testifies to 10 meetings and on the face of it it does not appear as if any criticism can be levelled either as to his honesty or efficiency as a reporter. *But see last para. of this Memo*

The witness reported two meetings held in the open at Kliptown, i.e., the 1st C.O.P. Conference, 25th and 26th June 1955. No 494, at p. 6413, (V.33), and the Anniversary C.O.P. meeting held a year later, No. 503, at p. 6058 (V.31). He conceded that at these meetings he had difficulty in recording all that was said - mainly due to the noise of passing trains - that he had difficulty in hearing and that his notes contain many omissions. (see 6091 - V.31).

Generally, the witness also conceded that he is not infallible, and that there may be errors in what he recorded (see p. 6091, V.31, p. 5861, V.30, and p. 5270, V.27).

I do not think that Const. Schoeman's recordings can seriously be attacked, and it would appear that one should content oneself with getting the general admissions from him as to non-violence. In this regard see meeting No. 502, reported both by this witness and Det. Coetsee and at which the latter says that the Chairman urged non-violence and repudiated extremists "who were trying to mislead the people." The Chairman went on to say "we want to live peacefully with everybody". p.5813, V.30. This was said at a meeting of the Anti-Apartheid Committee held at the Trades Hall. See also p. 5815,

V.30/...

V.30, for a further declaration of non-violence. See also Moretsele's (4) speech at the 1st Anniversary C.O.P. Meeting - No. 503, reported by Schoeman at p. 6073 (V.31), ^{Ex 802(P.12)} where he says, "This is a non-violent organisation - we are not prepared to shed blood - we are going to be liberated without bloodshed" and also, "None will come and fight for us here - we must fight for ourselves" p. 6090, (V.31), ^{Ex 802(P.22)} See also Nthithi (53) who is reported by Schoeman to have ~~also~~ urged non-violence at Meeting No. 141 and at p. 2959, (V.15).

I think the witness will readily concede that he has on a number of occasions heard speakers adopt the theme of non-violence.

Meeting No. 141:

p. 2954 (V.15).: At this meeting ^{Nthithi} ~~speaker~~ (41) urged non-violence, p.2959 (V.15) and Resha (63) indicated need for racial co-operation - p.2966 (V.15). But see Resha's speech, p.2964 (V.15), which by implication appears to be an invitation to violence - The Chairman, Nthithi (57) in dealing with Resha's speech at p. 2967, (V.15) & 2968, appears to approve of it. Nevertheless see Nthithi (57) earlier at 2959 where there is a clear call for non-violence.

For cross-examination of witness see 2970 V.15, gap in report owing, witness says, to not being able to hear clearly.

See/....

See also Coaker's notes on Pirow's address
at pp. 14 - 16.

Meeting No. 245:

p. 3719 (V.19): A Springbok Legion cum C.O. D. meeting.
No comments. D. recorded from a dicta-
phone, certain speeches made and there
is nothing to criticise in the recording.

Meeting No. 293:

p. 4054 (V.21)

Trades Hall. A S.A.C.T.U. meeting. It is difficult
to appreciate how any of the speeches
made thereat can be relevant to the charge.
Witness says he concealed himself behind
a cupboard and eavesdropped, and that
although he thought his conduct was not
proper and it was done in order to avoid
being removed by an Order of Court he
nevertheless did so on Maj. Spengler's
instructions. (see p. 4116.4120, V.21).

Meeting No. 294.

p. 4088. (V.21). At this meeting following matters were
discussed and raised.

- (1). Message from W.F.T.U.)
4095
- (2). Support for Egypt on Suez crisis.)
- (3). Women's Passes.- 4096.
- (4). Freedom Charter.- 4103.
- (5). Greetings from A.N.C.W.L. 4101.

Meeting No. 466.

5244. (V.27).

Trades/...

Trades Hall.

Meeting of C.O.P.

No comment - other than that meeting concerned itself with discussing and making preparations for C.O.P. Conference. and why it was considered necessary to hold it.

At this meeting S. concealed himself and listened in same manner as previously set out - for cross-examination see p. 5268, V.27½

Meeting No. 472.

p.5319, (V.27).

Fed. of Women,

Trades Hall.

No comment other than that witness concedes he could not see the speakers and he cannot say if any of the accused were amongst them. - or who organised the meeting. See 5321-5323 (V.27). The matters discussed were, inter alia. Importance of C.O.P. to women and part they must play therein,

Bantu Education,

and for Farms and Reserves.

Migratory Labour System.

Old Age Pensions, Sick Benefit and Unemployment.

Insurance,

Abolition of passes for women.

Schoemen at this meeting also hid himself in manner mentioned before.

Meeting/...

Meeting No. 494.

p. 6413 (V.33). No comments, other than that there was
C.O.P., apparently much noise - many interrup-
Kliptown. tions - trains passing. Recording shews
many omissions.

Meeting No. 502.

Anti-Apartheid, No comment, other than that Father
meeting, Huddleston attended and spoke. Race
Trades Hall. co-operation urged by G. Sibande, p.5858,
V.30.
For expressions of non-violence, see
earlier.

Meeting No. 503.

C.O.P. 1st Anniversary meeting. Matters discussed were:
Trade Unions,
p. 6058 (V.31). Passes for Women,
Peace Movement (Thompson)
Struggle of Women and } H. Joseph
Bantu Education. }
Population Registration and
Group Areas Act.
No comment other than what has already
been set out earlier on "non-violence",
Schoeman's concessions re difficulty
in recording.

(One of the speeches referred to by Adv. Pirow
on the question of "violence"). (See Coaker's
Notes, p.30). but see the following speech
- already referred to - by Moretseli where he
repudiates the use of violence.

REFERENCES DET. CONSTABLE SCHOLEMAN'S NOTES TO
NON-VIOLENCE. RACIAL CO-OPERATION. ETC. ETC.

NTHITHI (57) "Mr. Modise has come up on this platform to try and change the minds of the Nationalists. We appreciate it because it is not our desire to get our freedom with bloodshed." Page 2959. Volume 15.

RESHA (63) "The African National Congress and its national policy also says that we want to live happily with everybody in this country. That policy of the African National Congress must be carried out." Page 2966. Volume 15.

N. B. The above quotation from Resha's speech follows immediately on a very clear invitation to the use of violence which he had been making to his audience just before this.

CHAIRMAN AT AN "We here in South Africa have got
ANTI-APARTHEID
CONFERENCE HEID a very big land - a land in
ON 27. 8. 54.

which we can live with everybody and we want to live peacefully with everybody. The extremists who are trying to mislead the people here are the people who are not going to out. We are

/ not

- 2 -

not worrying about these extremists who are here. They are only here to represent Mr. Swarts and to tell him that the people of South Africa think of him. We here are the non-violent army for the liberation of the people of South Africa. We want to make it fully clear to them that they are the people of violence. We stand for them all as a non-violent army." Page 5813
Volume 30

AN UNKNOWN
SPEAKER AT THE
SAME CONFER-
ENCE.

"The conference is a peaceful conference. We are a peaceful people and don't believe in any violence, and I think it is proper at a later stage for a resolution to be adopted by this conference indicating its attitude to this attitude of violence by Government representatives."

Pages 5814
and 5815.
Volume 30.

SIBANDI (71) "Here in Africa we have many racial groups. When we want this country of ours to establish its wealth we shall have to join hands and work together as brothers and sisters. We must put our hands together to pull South Africa to safety."

Page 5832.
Volume 30.

/ LASINA

MASINA (34) "This is a non-violent organization.
We are not prepared to shed blood.
We are going to be liberated without bloodshed." Page 6073.
Volume 31.

MASINA (34) "We are looking forward when the
Gold Coast and Nigeria will get
their independence. They will
never say they are kaffirs. This
friends, should encourage us in
South Africa to fight for freedom.
None will come and fight for us
here. We must fight for our-
selves. Other nations fought Page 6090.
for freedom and nobody freed them." Volume 31.

N.B. Despite what has been said about this
witness' ability as a recorder, please
refer to my note on P. 10 of the Memo on
G. Ngcai, who recorded the same meeting
as did this witness - i.e. Meeting No. 141.

See next page also.

Refer also to Meeting No. 503 - Ex. G. 902
- which was also reported by Solomon Dunga - Ex.
G. 926. Dunga in his longhand notes has incorporated a number of statements allegedly made by the speakers which are not to be found in Schoeman's shorthand notes. These statements are underlined in Red on Ex. G. 926. Either Dunga has been drawing on his imagination - which does not seem probable or Schoeman has omitted these statements either intentionally or because his ability as a reporter is not such as to enable him to record all that is said by the speakers.

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