

4. The South African Congress of Democrats should not ignore Election whether Parliamentary, Provincial or Municipal, but should use such elections to propagate its policy and the aims and obligations of the Freedom Charter. (The work done in the Hillbrow by-election was quoted as an example) It is also recommended that regions should consider nominating candidates in elections where and when doing so will serve as the most effective means of mobilising Europeans in demonstrating their support for the Freedom Charter.
5. The South African Congress of Democrats having specific responsibility to propagate the aims and objects of the Freedom Charter among the European population, and mobilising them in support of it, should work increasingly to get the European to endorse the Charter; and should make every endeavour to maintain contact with the signatories with the object of recruiting them into Congress of Democrats and so into the Congress movement.

Some practical suggestions were made by representative of branches as to methods by which the above decision can be implemented, For convenience we list them as follows:-

1. Issue leaflets (By N.E.C. on National issues and by regions on Local and Provincial issues) on all political matters, stating Congress of Democrats policy and views as opposed to that of other political groups.
2. Hold public meetings in the name of Congress of Democrats when and wherever the opportunity offers itself of recruiting people outside our own ranks.
3. Prepare questionnaire on certain political aspects and canvas the European population with the object of establishing contact with progressively thinking people (Example: what do people think of the Pass laws, University apartheid, Bus apartheid in Cape Town, Bantu Education etc.)
4. Consider every election campaign on its merits, and determine our own action, having regard to the circumstances and our own resources.
5. Hold Freedom Charter signature drives by means of tables at street corner or public meetings. Follow this up by distribution of literature to and a personal canvas of signatories, organise discussion groups with signatories as participants with the object of maintaining contact with them and recruiting them into South African Congress of Democrats.

At its first meeting the newly elected N.E.C. considered the implementation of the resolution, and it was decided that to get the most effective co-ordination between regions and the N.E.C. it is necessary for regions to discuss the above recommendations, and to immediately report to the N.E.C. on these discussions, and the plans to implement them.

The N.E.C. will in turn from time to time/^{as} issues arise send directives to the regions.

Your prompt acknowledgement to this circular and your immediate attention to contents will be appreciated.

Yours fraternally,

P. Beyleveld
P. Beyleveld.
National Chairman.

08 SACOD.
b1001, P.C. 20

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

PHONE 33-0975.

HEAD OFFICE:

8, SOMERSET HOUSE,
(Second Floor)

110, FOX STREET,

P.O. BOX 4088,

JOHANNESBURG.

5th September, 1956.

Dear Friend,

In the two and a half years of its existence the Congress of Democrats has made a magnificent contribution to the struggle against the fascist programme of the Nationalist Government. This contribution cannot be measured only in terms of the part that the C.O.D. played in bringing about the Congress of the People and the birth of the Freedom Charter (both of which were of tremendous historical significance in themselves) Nor can it be measured only by the many and various campaigns in which it has participated together with the other Congress organisations. These in themselves would be matter for congratulation. Its contribution must be measured also by the fact that it is an established organisation of white democrats who have taken their stand on the fundamental principle of full equality, and that it is recognised and accepted both inside and outside of the Congress Movement as an integral part of that movement. The effect of this has been a change in the character of the National Liberatory Movement. A change which must have vital significance for the struggle.

These are the achievements for which we have every reason to be proud. Their magnitude is readily apparent when we examine the circumstances in which C.O.D. has had to work; the racial attitudes and prejudices of the white group as a whole, the fear complex engendered among them as a result of Nationalist terror which has immobilised so many, and in particular the small number of COD members.

These achievements are the direct result of the individual and collective efforts and sacrifices of our members. Of course, the contributions of individual members were unequal. Some did less than others and, if we are to be honest about it, most of us did not do as much as we could have done. Nor did we give as much as we could or should in subs and financial assistance.

The struggle is beginning to sharpen. The Nationalist Party Programme with its consequences for race relations and the economics of the country is making its impact on wider sections of the population. This must create more and ever more opportunities for mobilising people into active opposition to the Nats. It

will bring about more favourable conditions for winning numbers of them to the Congress Movement and the Freedom Charter. How effectively we will be able to exploit these opportunities and more favourable conditions is dependent in the final analysis on how much each individual one of us is prepared to do and how much in terms of hard cash we are prepared to give.

It is in this context that we ask each one of you to re-examine your physical and financial contribution to see if we can get that little extra that can make the difference. We ask you . specifically to :-

- a) Donate more than you are now doing - more than you can really afford.
- b) Increase your regular subscription - Double it if possible.
- c) Participate in C.O.D. activity with energy and enthusiasm.
- d) Support COD functions and bring your friends too.

Make a start immediately by sending us a contribution no matter how little.

Sincerely,

R.E. Press
R.E. Press

Chairman

Johannesburg Regional Committee.

b. 1001.

I. L.B.W. 2
SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

PHONE 33-0975.

HEAD OFFICE:

8. SOMERSET HOUSE,
(Second Floor)
110, FOX STREET,
P.O. BOX 4088,
JOHANNESBURG.

27th November, 1956.

Mr. L.B. Lee-Warden,
P.O. Box 4347,
Cape Town.

Dear Len,

It is our turn now to apologise for the long delay in replying to the points raised in your letter of the 17th October.

As so often happens when a controversy is started certain angles become emphasised out of all proportions, and it is because we wished to satisfy all members of the N.E.C. that we spent some time reaching a considered opinion.

Some of our members were upset by the omission in your letter of an acknowledgement that you are supposed to express the views of the Congress movement in Parliament. They did not feel that your reference to the A.N.C. boycott of parliament was relevant, since you were elected with C.O.D. backing to act as a spokesman for the Congress movement.

We feel sure that you have no desire to depart from C.O.D. policy which is determined in conjunction with the other constituent members of the Congress movement. Despite your strained relationship with the Cape Town Branch, we believe that in the interests of the movement you should re-establish contact with them, and through them with the congress movement as a whole. Isolation from your branch can only lead to further difficulties, and we are confident that this can be overcome in the interests of the work.

We are writing to the Branch asking them to play their part in establishing harmonious working relationships with you.

Best regards,

Yours fraternally,

Y. L. Yella
National Secretary.

6
L. A. H. v

QUESTIONNAIRE
Issued by the S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

The object of this questionnaire is to find out what a representative cross-section of white South Africans think about the Pass Laws. Your name and address is not required - only your sex, age and occupation. The following factual information may be of use to you in formulating your answers.

- a) The African describes as a "pass" any document which he is required by law to carry with him at all times and to produce on the demand of policemen, municipal authorities and other authorised persons. Such documents are now chiefly co-ordinated into the "Reference Book" (which contains name, address, photograph, registration number, tribal origin, tax-receipts, service contracts, permit to look for work or refusal of permit, and any exemptions,) but there are also immigration permits, "curfew" or "night" passes, lodgers' permits, and several others relating to labour services on farms and so on. If any one of these documents cannot be immediately produced on demand, or if any one of them is not in perfect order, the African is liable to arrest and prosecution as a criminal.
- b) Mass "pass raids " take place at all hours and in all places - in streets, busses, beer halls, locations. Every African knows what it means to have his home invaded by the police in the middle of the night. (The slightest sign of resentment against this degradation of his women-folk and frightening of his children often incurs reprisals on his person or belongings.)
- c) Although it was claimed by the Nats. that the new "Reference Books" first issued in 1952, had "abolished passes", the number of Africans convicted under the Pass Laws of various kinds has rapidly increased from 232,420 in 1951 to 337,603 in 1955. The "criminals" are fined or sent to gaol - frequently to private farm gaols.
- d) The 1952 Act lays down that "Reference Books" must be issued to all Africans, women as well as men, over the age of 16 years. It was only in 1956 that a commencement was made with the issue of these books to women - even though before this many had been forced to carry various kinds of permits. As a response to this new development mass protests of women have taken place all over the country, culminating to date in the huge demonstration of 15,000 women of all races at the Union Buildings on August 9th.
- e) An "identity card" contrary to the assertions by government spokesmen, is not a "pass". It need not be produced on demand - the owner may only be required to prove within a reasonable period that he possesses such a document. Identity cards are to be issued only to Whites, Coloured and Asiatics, and it is their main function to fix for all time the race of an individual and his descendants. To further this discrimination, numbers of Coloured people have recently been arbitrarily re-classified as Africans, and the onus of proving the contrary has been placed on the person concerned.
- f) The 'United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights' lays down the principle: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state." (Article 13.) In Article 2 it is stated that all rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration apply to everyone "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, etc." The South African Pass Laws are, therefore, in direct contradiction to the decision of the highest organ of the civilised world.

g) In Johannesburg at Kliptown, on June 25th, 1955, 3,000 delegates and 5000 observers, from all parts of the Union and representing all sections of the population, drew up the "Freedom Charter", which embodies the aims and demands of the common people of South Africa. One section of the Charter reads :-

ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS !

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children ;

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law ;

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;

Pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

CI (56) SACOD. (CAPE WESTERN REGION)

(20) 24/1/58. NRM + CRT
79 67


① CAPE WESTERN REGION,
CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS,
P.O.Box 4347,
CAPE TOWN.

The Secretary,
African National Congress,

Dear Friend,

Would you please send our region five copies of the report presented at the Annual Conference in Durban. Please let us know how much this will come to. The report has roused widespread interest in our organisation.

Yours fraternally,


P.P. Lee Warden (chairman).

Order
Copy by *Handwritten* *Yambo negeri*
Dear *Handwritten* *Robertson*
To *Handwritten* *25 Fax B.P. Johanesburg*
Date *Handwritten* *27/9/56*
Handwritten *20*

Inlae Verbode

No Enclosures Permitted

BRIEF-
KAART



LETTER
CARD



The Secretary,

African National Congress,

~~Kort~~
4 A ~~Kort~~ Street

Johannesburg.

INDIEN H HOER POSTARIEF VAN TOEPASSING
IS OP DIE LAND VAN BESTEMMING, MOET DIE
ADDITIONELE POSGELD VOORUIT BETAAL WORD

IF A HIGHER POSTAGE RATE IS APPLICABLE
TO THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, THE
ADDITIONAL POSTAGE MUST BE PREPAID

NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

TWEEDE VOU - SECOND FOLD

CAPE TOWN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

Chairman. L. Lee-Warden, M.P.

P. O. Box 4552,
Cape Town.

G 804

SIGN THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

The FREEDOM CHARTER declares :
that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white,
and that no Government can justly claim authority unless it is based
on the will of all the people,
that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land,
liberty and peace by a form of Government founded on injustice
and inequality,
that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our
people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities,
that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people,
can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour,
race, sex or belief.

NAME.

ADDRESS.

~~Mr. Muntz~~
~~preby~~

main rd 91
7 Baby Point Baby Bay.

M. Hunt.

22 Inwinta Rd Sea Point

G 804

23/6/56

①

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

PHONE 33-0975/6.

P.O. Box 4088,
Johannesburg.

6.182.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing two copies of our pamphlet "Educating for Ignorance" for your information.

You will note that Father Trevor Huddleston CR wrote the introduction to the pamphlet, in which he stated "I wholeheartedly welcome this pamphlet and commend it to all people of goodwill in this land".

As we feel that the implications of the Bantu Education Act must be brought home to wide sections of the population, we consider that the pamphlet will be of interest to a large section of your readers. We would be grateful, therefore, if you could have this pamphlet reviewed in your paper.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

P. Beyleveld

National Chairman.

Verwysings No. 44 (1)
 Datum 27-9-55
 Te. Mr. N. K. ...
 Dear Mr. N. K. ...
 Gekry by Mr. N. K. ...
 Benymerk No.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Issued by the S.A. Congress of Democrats .

Part Two.

1. Do you think Africans resent carrying passes ?
.....
2. Do you think that passes cause unnecessary hardship ?
.....
3. Do you think that the carrying of passes really does reduce crime ?
.....
4. Do you think that African women should also carry passes ?
.....
5. Do you approve of the Women's Protest Demonstration held on August 9th ?
.....
6. Do you think that the money spent on enforcing and implementing the pass laws, is money well-spent, or do you think that it could be put to better use ?
.....
7. Do you think a Population Register is necessary ?
.....
8. Do you think that the classification of the population according to race is necessary ?
.....
9. Do you think it is reasonable that the police should enter your servant's room at any time and at all hours of the night to demand his pass and/or tax receipts ?
.....
10. Do you think that the police should have the right to enter your home to demand your identity card and your income tax receipts at any and all hours of the night ?
.....
11. If (10) in affirmative, do you think that it would be correct for the pass system to be extended so that it applies to everybody, including Europeans ?
.....
- 11b. If (10) in negative, do you think that the system should be abolished : (i) gradually ? (ii) immediately ?
.....
12. Are you in agreement with the demands of the section of the Freedom Charter quoted in Paragraph (g) above ?
.....

Every year more gauded for pass offenses.

What are passes.

Came with bitterness

If you walk down any CT street

Have you ever seen a police van ~~stop~~ by suddenly stop
suddenly. A person a passy affair then bundle
them into the van, resume to proceed — as
suddenly as not you saw a pass offender
they arrested. For every year — out with arrests

What is his crime? If you ever asked yourself
find it was failure to have in person any one of...
28 ready to be removed.

Abolition of passes out — increased offenders.

What does out say.

Connected with VAA, after controls

Apply to women — deputations from CT.

Case of Anne Seliga

6.997.

QUESTIONNAIRE
Issued by the S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Issued by the S.A. Congress of Democrats .

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- 11b. If (10) in negative, do you think that the system should be abolished : (i) gradually ? (ii) immediately ?
.....
12. Are you in agreement with the demands of the section of the Freedom Charter quoted in Paragraph (g) above ?

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

6751

P.O. Box 4088,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to have received your request for further information about the South African Congress of Democrats. We are enclosing herewith for your information a copy of our Constitution, which contains our aims and objects; a copy of a recent issue of our monthly news-letter to members, 'Counter-Attack'; and a copy of our pamphlet, 'The Threatened People'. We hope you will find them of interest.

Should you wish to join our organisation, please fill in the membership application form enclosed and return it to us. But if there is anything more you would like to know, any questions you would like answered, please write to us. In the meantime, we are putting your name on our mailing list for future material from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

L. Bernstein

Acting Secretary.

DS 32

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No. _____

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.—POSKANTOORTELEGRAAFDIENS.

Class Klas.	Office of Origin Kantoor van herkoms.	Words Woorde	Time Tyd.	Service Instructions Diensinstruksies.
TO AAN <p style="text-align: center;">J.G.N. STRAUSS ASSEMBLY CAPE TOWN.</p>				

Sens.
Oorgesain.

Urge National Day Protest Senate Bill All people to remain at home

FROM
VAN

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.—MOENIE OORGESEIN WORD NIE.

Signature of Sender _____ Address _____
 Handtekening van afsender _____ Adres _____

N.B.—The Department is not liable for losses incurred through incorrect transmission, delay or non-delivery of telegrams.

L.W.—Die Departement is nie vjr verliese weens onjuiste oorseining, vertraging of nie-aflowering van telegramme aanspreeklik nie.

G.P.-S.101845—1954-5—50,000-250. \$

T. 20.

Ef 2

③ 6183

No. _____

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.—POSKANTOORTELEGRAAFDIENS.

Sent.
Oorgeeide.

Class. Klas.	Office of Origin. Kantoor van herkoms.	Words. Woërds.	Code. Kode.	Service Instructions. Diensaanwysings.
TO AAN Chief Luthuli Mc. Cords Hospital Durban				

National Executive Committee South African Congress of Democrats
watching your progress with warmest feelings and looking forward
to the time when you will be amongst us again

FROM
VAN Beyleveld National Chairman

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.—MOENIE OORGESEIN WORD NIE

Signature of Sender
Handtekening van afsender

Address
Adres **Box #088, Johannesburg.**

N.B.—The Department is not liable for losses incurred through incorrect transmission, delay or non-delivery of telegrams.

L. W.—Die Departement is nie vir verliese weens onjuiste oorsending vertraging of nie-aflewering van telegramme aanspreeklik nie.

§G.P.-S.12865—1950-1—12,500,000 S.

SACOD.

file

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

6383
①

P.O. Box 4088,
Johannesburg,
9th. March 1953.

The Secretariat,
World Council of Peace
Palais Sia Prague,
Prague,
Czechoslovakia.

Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by *S.A.C.D.S.*
Deur *W. J. van der Merwe*
Te. *Box 4088*
Datum *27-9-53*
21.

Dear Friends,

Further to my letter of the 3rd. February, I am directed to inform you that at a National Council Meeting of my organisation held last month a resolution was passed instructing all our members to join their local peace committees. In addition my organisation is in close contact with, and assists wherever possible the work of the South African Peace Council.

I am further directed to send you the following resolution from my National Executive Committee for your forthcoming World Peace Meeting:

" The South African Congress of Democrats pledges its support to your organisation in its work on behalf of peace. We wish your meeting all success and are confident that your deliberations will ~~take~~ be an additional ~~step~~ step forward towards ensuring everlasting peace in the world. "

Yours sincerely, for peace,

National Secretary.

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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