

IF GOVERNMENT REFUSES NATIONAL CONVENTION...

Handwritten notes: "L.P.H.", "News P. 5", "J.M."

ALL-IN CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ACTION

NEW AGE

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Mass Demonstrations On Eve of Republic

Photos by Joe Gqabi and Bala Govender and story from M. P. Naicker

MARITZBURG.

THE ALL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE HELD AT PIETERMARITZBURG LAST SATURDAY WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

Over 1,400 delegates attended and unanimously demanded . . .

● "that a National Convention of elected representatives of all adult men and women on an equal basis irrespective of race, colour, creed or other limitations be called not later than May 31, 1961."

The conference also resolved:

- "that should the minority Government ignore this demand of the representatives of the united will of the African people . . .
- 1. To call on the people to organise mass demonstrations throughout the country on the eve of the declaration of the Republic on May 31.
- 2. To call on all Africans not to co-operate or collaborate with the proposed S.A. Republic or any other

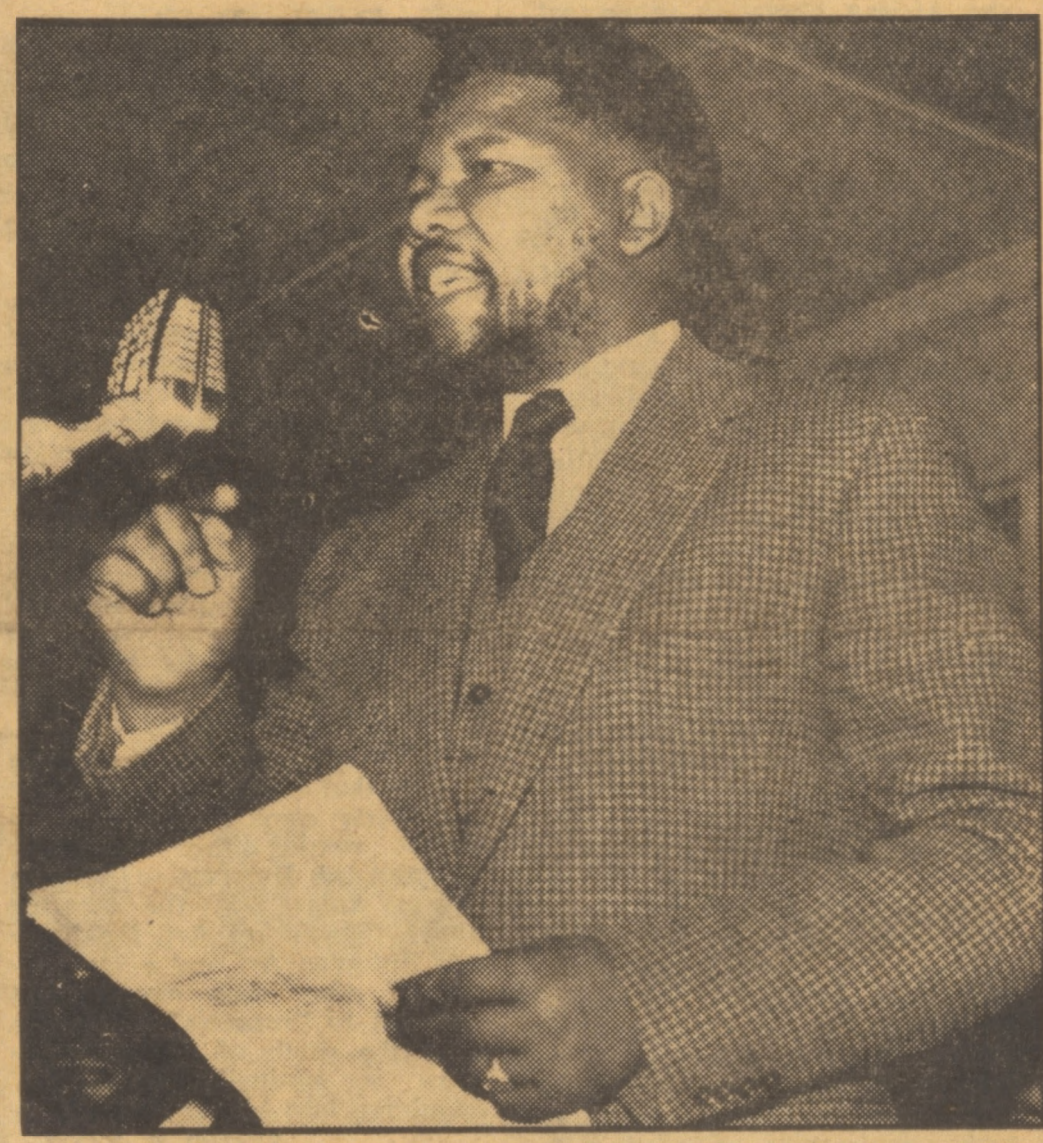
form of Government which rests on force to perpetuate the tyranny of a minority; and, to organise and unite in town and country to carry out constant actions to oppose oppression and win freedom.

- 3. To call on the Indian and Coloured communities and all democratic Europeans to join forces with us in opposition to a regime which is bringing South Africa to disaster . . ."

The highlights of this magnificent Conference were

- The patience and seriousness with which the delegates from all over South Africa met and discussed the problems that faced them. They conferred throughout Saturday night, even though many of them were tired after travelling the previous night in order to get to Conference . . .
- The inspiring opening address by Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the banned African National Congress (Transvaal), whose every sentence was either cheered or greeted with cries of "shame" when he referred to atrocities perpetrated against the people by the Nationalist Government.
- The representative character of the delegates, old and young, who had travelled many miles to be at Conference. There were delegates from Thogazi in Zululand; St. Faith's, near Port Shepstone; Ixopo, New Hanover, Tembuland, Pondoland, Zeerust and Sekhukhuneland.

They came from New Brighton and Moroka, Alexandra and Langa, (Continued on page 3)



Mr. Nelson Mandela delivering his inspiring opening address to the Maritzburg conference.



Abandoning the first hall, which had been wired by the Special Branch, the people marched two miles in the rain to another hall in Plessislaer where the conference eventually took place.

AFRICA DAY SPECIAL

In commemoration of Africa Day (April 15), New Age will distribute FREE with each copy of the paper published on Thursday, April 13, a portrait of Chief A. J. Lutuli. Order your copy now.

TREASON TRIAL MAY END THIS WEEK

JOHANNESBURG.

THERE WAS AN ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERE IN THE TREASON TRIAL COURT WHEN THE JUDGES ADJOURNED THE CASE LAST FRIDAY UNTIL WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK. IT LOOKED AS THOUGH AFTER FOUR AND A HALF YEARS OF PAINFUL NEVER-ENDING EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT THE BIG CASE MIGHT SUDDENLY COLLAPSE.

The judges broke into the Defence argument when Advocate A. Fischer was on his feet arguing on the meetings the 28 accused had addressed. The presiding judge, Mr. Justice Rumpff, said the Bench thought it might shorten the proceedings if it interrupted the Defence argument and adjourned for six days for the judges to consider the legal points so far argued.

The Crown argument has lasted almost four months. The Defence has been arguing for three weeks. This is the second interruption of the Defence argument by the Bench. The first was to call on the Crown to answer the weighty legal arguments advanced by the Defence before its case was fully argued. This second adjournment was called for by the Bench after Mr. Trengove had already completed the Crown's reply to the Defence legal argument.

(Continued on page 6)

NEW AGE LETTER BOX

SWAPO LEADERS CRITICISED

The former members of the now defunct Ovamboland People's Organisation are discontented with the hypocritical position of Mr. Ismail Fortune, the secretary-general of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), and who is at present representing his organisation at the United Nations. They are also discontented with the new airy and ill-defined policy of SWAPO in particular: that of maintaining a "neutralistic" attitude, which is, they say, nothing less than acquiescence to USA imperialism which is at present flourishing in South West Africa.

Certain wealthy white settlers here are interested in people who can be used as a prophylactic of the African liberation movement. The Ovamboland People's Organisation was concerned mainly with the contract labour system. Should the OPO have succeeded in its work, the fabric of the whole white monopoly economic structure would have collapsed. For these reasons the foremost objective of these settlers was to liquidate the OPO.

Puzzling to many is how Mr. Fortune became a national leader overnight. Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General of SWAPO he showed no interest in politics. Therefore it came as a surprise when he approached Mr. Uatja Kaukuetu, vice-president of the South West Africa National Union, with a view to gathering information about existing political organisations on the grounds that he had the backing of a group of Coloured people who wanted to join them, but on condition that they would be represented on the executive by their own people. Mr. Kaukuetu pointed out that nothing prevented them from joining SWANU and being elected to different ranks by popular vote. Mr. Kaukuetu said that there were talks about a united SWANU and OPO, and Mr. Fortune was then anxious to accelerate these talks.

Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of OPO, then in Liberia, wrote to both organisations, urging them to unite, as OPO was being misconstrued as a tribal body by the outside world. But the very same week there appeared a letter in the "Windhoek Advertiser" signed by Mr. Nelengani as Vice-President and Mr. Fortune as Secretary-General, stating that the name of OPO had been changed to SWAPO.

Rape in Pondoland

What has the Government got to say for itself? Recently we heard that Congolese were raping Whites in the Congo. To-day the same thing is happening here—the Government's own White Congolese soldiers are raping African women. It's a disgrace. Mr. Erasmus must see that those rapists are out of Pondoland now.

BALDWIN B. NOCEZO
Nyanga East.

Nyasa Day Of Mourning

Nyasa in South Africa have observed March 3 as a day of mourning for the sons and daughters of our country who have fallen and others who have sacrificed in the struggle for freedom and independence for Nyasaland.

NKARAMBA C. KAUNDA
Provincial Chairman,
Nyasaland African Congress.

Mr. Nujoma did not approve of this and wrote to Mr. Kozonguizi, leader of SWANU, saying so.

The young intellectuals also have openly accused the SWAPO leaders of being "Guests of Uncle Sam" and these leaders' disassociation from Mr. Kozonguizi's statements in Peking to be a gesture to please their American bosses, while the same people whom they claimed to represent are exploited by the American-owned mines here in South West Africa.

WERNER H. MAMUGWE
Windhoek, SWA.

Not Fooled by Radio Bantu

Dr. Verwoerd and his satellites are making a tragic mistake if they entertain the illusion that "Radio Bantu" can ever succeed to divert our attention from international trends.

How far removed from reality are these so-called champions of Afrikanerdom! No self-respecting twentieth century African has got any time to waste listening to the mumbo-jumbo and all the platitudes about tribal authorities over the radio.

One inescapable fact that this strange bunch of rulers ought to grasp is this: no matter what exclusively White political movement comes into power, the African is ever so relentlessly striving to restore his human dignity.

At the same time it is amusing to note that ever since the Nationalist Party came into power and started passing the Immorality Act, the Job Reservation Act, the Group Areas Act, the separate Blood Transfusion Act, the Separate Entrance Act and a multiplicity of other such monstrosities designed to "preserve" the White man, the myth of White supremacy is gradually but surely crumbling into bits and pieces.

SIPHO P. KOTI
Johannesburg.

STOP NEW AGE-CONTACT WAR

I do not go along with Mr. Duncan's views on the Congo, Colonel Mobutu, Mr. Kasavubu etc. Nor do I share his view that Mr. Patrice Lumumba tried to sell his country to the Russians (or anyone else.) In fact I incline to the view that Mr. Lumumba, understandably, tried to retain power by playing East against West as many an African nationalist has done in the past.

Furthermore I feel the Belgians cannot be too harshly condemned for their sinister machinations in the Congo. And like all Liberals—including Mr. Duncan—I find it hard to express my disgust at Mr. Lumumba's murder adequately.

Nonetheless I feel bound to say your editorial attack on Mr. Duncan and his paper "Contact" was rather harsh and somewhat petty.

Mr. Duncan is vehemently anti-Communist. But I think it must be borne in mind that he went to jail rather than give to the police names of several people he believed to be communists. He should be given credit for this I think.

It should also be borne in mind that Mr. Duncan at great personal risk courageously published Contact—giving a factual picture of events—during the Emergency

Africans Want A People's Government

Capitalists have mobilised their forces to fight communism. But the African does not want communism. What he wants is a representative Government which will see to the welfare and betterment of humanity. What he wants is a Government built on the broad will of the people.

We do not care what term they will give that government. We want this sentence in the book of history "You are not a servant of a man, but a servant of mankind." That represents the South Africa to be.

New Age! Inspire confidence and vigour into my heart. Carry on with your contributions to the freedom cause. Do not be hesitant and do not falter along the way-side. Despite Contact's hurling false accusations at you, be well-armed and fully prepared. Turn a deaf ear to that fallacious voice.

ADOLPHUS M. NDARANA
East London.

REPUBLIC NOT WANTED

The Africans of South Africa who are the majority in this country are the most oppressed by the Nationalist Government. We put our trust in the United Nations thinking that they would bring about some change, but in vain! We have now really lost confidence in them because they seem to be the best leaders of the oppressor type.

We, the oppressed people of South Africa have nothing to do with Verwoerd's Republic, which is formed by a clique of rich Nationalist oppressors in order to look after their own interests.

Oh, Verwoerd, our people have died and some vanished to remote areas where a human being like you would never stand it, leaving their families and children as orphans.

We declare that the oppressed people of South Africa stand for equal rights for all—black and white—irrespective of race, colour or creed.

SIMON XAMLASHE
Langa.

EDITORIAL

ANC-PAC BAN RENEWED

LAST week the ban on the ANC and the PAC was extended for another year by a proclamation in the Government Gazette. There has been no debate on the matter in Parliament, hardly any notice in the daily press.

Yet what this proclamation means is that the Government has made up its mind to tolerate no political organisation among Non-Whites which is in any way a threat to White supremacy.

When the Unlawful Organisations Bill was introduced in 1950 (eleven years ago), there was an outcry from the public because its powers were too wide. The Government withdrew the Bill and introduced the Suppression of Communism Bill instead. The then Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, said the Government had no intention of interfering with the freedom of anybody except the Communists.

Speaking against the Bill in Parliament, Mr. Sam Kahn, Communist M.P., said: "If the Minister and the Government gave us assurances that this Bill is only to be used against the Communists, I say that those assurances are as false as a dicer's oath. I would not trust them, and no democrat in South Africa will trust this Hitler-loving Government."

Today we can see that, just as in Germany, the attack on the Communists was only the beginning of an attack on all anti-Nationalists. Now the ANC and the PAC are banned, and there is little likelihood, with the country rushing into ever-deepening racial crisis, that these bans will ever be lifted until the whole apartheid structure is destroyed once and for all.

NO SAFETY FOR ANTI-COMMUNISTS

And there is another lesson to be learnt—and that is that there is no safety even for those who hope to escape Government action because they are anti-Communist. Mr. Patrick Duncan is not the first anti-Communist to be banned under the Suppression of Communism Act and he will not be the last. Anti-Communism does not guarantee immunity—in fact, by dividing the forces of the opposition, it merely plays into the hands of a Government which is determined to suppress all opposition, no matter what its political complexion. The only people who will be tolerated either in Parliament or in the streets will be those who are harmless.

In fighting against these bans, the people must fight equally for the right of the ANC, PAC and the Communist Party to function legally and without restrictions. There can be no freedom for one section of the opposition unless there is freedom for all.

By perpetuating these bans, the Government is not putting an end to the people's opposition. Compare the position in 1950, when the Suppression of Communism Act was passed, with now. The opposition to the Government's policies has increased a hundred-fold in the last 11 years, both inside and outside the country. The greater the repression, the greater the opposition must grow.

The Government's answer to this growing opposition is to rule by the sword. It has broken off all relations with the African people and both last year during the emergency and this year in Pondoland is governing by arbitrary decree, without any form of real consultation with the majority of our population. Now, rather than mend its ways, it is also breaking off relations with an increasingly critical world.

THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ISOLATIONIST INTRANSIGENCE IS BECOMING PAINFULLY OBVIOUS—IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY DEMOCRATIC MACHINERY FOR CHANGE. IT WILL DIE AS IT HAS LIVED—BY THE SWORD. THAT IS THE INESCAPABLE LESSON OF HISTORY.

Giants Have Broken the Chains

We as Africans are today prepared to join hands as brothers being sons and daughters of the African soil, and fight wholeheartedly shoulder to shoulder against the evil might of imperialism, as well as capitalism which has enslaved us every day of our lives. Every African realises today that the giants of Africa have broken the chains of slavery. Those days when the white imperialists were playing havoc with us are gone.

Let us strive hard, pull hard, hit hard, till we enter the gates of freedom.

P. MOISA
Qabane, Basutoland.

When is a Man a Boy?

At one of the southern suburbs stations the other day we saw an unfortunate incident. A man, aged about 32, was watering plants when a youngster aged about 18 turned the tap off and disconnected the hose. When the man came to investigate why his water supply had been cut off, the youngster said: "Don't worry, MY BOY, I'll turn the water on." The man was so taken aback that he gasped.

Why did the youngster call the man "boy"? Was it because this man had a dark skin? We have noticed at De Aar that anybody not classified as White is known as "Die Booi."

We call on all loyal Africans to help break the burden of apartheid.

TWO STUDENTS
Cape Town.

PAUL ROBESON SINGS FOR NEW AGE

THE great Negro singer Paul Robeson and his wife Eslanda were the guests of honour at a party given by the London 'New Age' Committee recently. Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, Mr. J. Kozonguizi and Mr. T. Makiwane from the South African United Front were also present.

Addressing the 200 people present, Paul Robeson spoke of his deep feeling for the struggle for democracy in South Africa and of his long-standing awareness of the courageous role of New Age in this struggle.

"When I read of the trials of my suffering brothers in S. Africa, then I, too, suffer," he declared.

He then sang 'Joe Hill' and the song of the Warsaw Ghetto. These were certainly appropriate to the Sharpevilles, the Group Areas and the locations of South Africa. All understood when Paul's voice rang out "... but I ain't dead."

Afterwards the Robesons mingled among the many South Africans present. Paul said it all reminded him of the United States, and he was struck by the ease with which South Africans, black and white, could mix.

He told composer Todd Matshikiza how much he had liked King Kong.

"Don't listen to the critics," he advised. "You have reached the West End of London and that is of first-rate importance for our people."

An appeal for funds for New Age raised over £200.



WHEN ARE YOU COMING TO AFRICA, PAUL?

The inscription in the top left corner of this picture, sent to New Age last week, says: "Best wishes to the New Age, Paul Robeson."

MARITZBURG CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)
from Sharpeville and Cato Manor, Orlando and Kwa Mashu.

Hall "Bugged"

The Conference, which was advertised to start at the Edendale Community Hall at 2 p.m. on Saturday, was suddenly transferred to the Arya Samaj Hall in Plessislaer at about 3.30 p.m. after an urgent meeting of the organising committee.

It was alleged that microphone and tape recording equipment had been installed by the Special Branch at the Community Hall.

The people, who had been singing National and patriotic songs whilst waiting for the Conference to begin, immediately marched to the new venue—about two miles away—despite the fact that it was raining heavily at the time.

At the new hall which was arranged at the last minute a Hindu prayer was being held to celebrate the anniversary of the victory of Rama, who according to Hindu mythology represented Justice, over Ravana who represented everything evil.

The Hindus cut short their prayers to make way for the adjourned Conference. As one of them put it: "This is an auspicious day . . . The African people are deciding to put an end to the apartheid evil . . . They could not have chosen a better day."

Jam-packed

The Conference proper only began at 5 p.m. The new hall, although larger than the Community Hall, was jam-packed with people. Many delegates had to be accommodated outside in tents.

The Conference began with a speech by Mr. Nelson Mandela, who was appearing on a public platform for the first time in five years as a result of a banning order under the Suppression of Communism Act dating from 1956.

In a lucid analysis of the present political situation, Mr. Mandela

said that the time had come for the African people to fight back against the tyranny of Nationalist oppression.

Call For Action

Delegate after delegate who followed him to the platform endorsed the call for action.

The final resolution that was adopted was a resounding triumph for the organisers of the conference who, ever since the conference was first mooted, have been plagued with difficulties, first by the resignation of members of the former PAC and Liberal Party, and then by the arrest of some of their most prominent leaders.

The conference sent warmest good wishes to the leaders of the All African People's Conference deliberating in Cairo on how to end colonialism in Africa and intensify the struggle for total emancipation of the African continent.

Conference also resolved that the Security Council be urged to convene an immediate session to demand the lifting of the emergency in Pondoland and the release of all exiled, banned and imprisoned political prisoners.

If the mood of the conference is anything to judge by, the conference was a clear indication that the people are determined not to be misled by disrupters and that they are ready for united action against the despotism of the Nationalist Government.



All the way from Port Elizabeth, this old woman and her child remained through the whole night session after spending 15 hours on the road to the Maritzburg conference.

Thousands Lining Up For New Transkei Battle

PORT ELIZABETH.

A CLASH which threatens to assume more serious proportions than anything that has yet occurred anywhere in the Transkei is brewing between the supporters of Paramount Chief Victor Poto and the Nationalist Government on the one hand, and the people fighting against Bantu Authorities on the other.

Chief Poto, accompanied by his chief counsellor Rere, spends most of his time running between his home at Nyandeni and Umtata.

Thousands of men are taking up positions on one side or the other in the two districts of Libode and Ngqeleni. But for the intervention of armed police on Sunday last week there would have been terrific loss of life.

DROWNED

Before the police arrived on the scene scores of huts had already been burnt down on both sides. Sub-chief Stanford Mfunzwanzana's men drove away scores of sheep from Tolikana's location and one of his homes was burnt down. Tolikana's men, who are supporters of the Bantu Authorities, had attacked Stanford's location, but were chased away, and as they fled some are reported to have been drowned as they were crossing a

river in flood.

New Age learns that some men were shot and wounded by the police.

RAPE ALLEGED

Meanwhile the reign of terror in Pondoland continues, and reports of rape and assault by home guards and police are repeatedly made by Pondos visiting Durban.

In a letter Mrs. B alleges that she was raped and assaulted by a member of Chief Gangata's home guards.

"On 7th February," she says, "I went to Chief Gangata's kraal to look for a girl who worked for me. The Chief appeared as I was being questioned by one Piyo and when he heard that I was Y's wife he incited the indunas to assault me with these words: 'So this is Y's wife and you are just looking at her. Why don't you hit her?'"

"Thereupon the indunas assaulted me with a sjambok made from a car tyre and also with sticks . . . The dogs were let loose . . . they tore my skirts into pieces . . . I ran away through the forest to my home."

"On 23rd February, a relative of Chief Gangata and a member of the Home Guards, came to my home and wanted me to accompany him to the Chief's kraal as the Chief wanted to know where my husband was . . . Before we got to the Chief's place this man told me that

he wanted to have relations with me . . . I refused . . . He assaulted me and threw me on to the ground and raped me . . .

FINED £2

"When I went home I told my father what had happened . . . My father took me to see the Chief . . . We did not find the Chief . . . I told the police who were there what had happened . . . The police asked X if the allegations were true . . . He admitted that they were . . . This was on the 27th February."

"On 1st March, my father and I went to see the Chief again. We found the Chief and the police there

. . . X again admitted that he had assaulted and raped me . . . The Chief then said that he was fining X £2."

The letter is now in the hands of an attorney who is taking up the matter with the Attorney General and is investigating the possibility of suing for damages.

COMPENSATION

Meanwhile Gangata's Stormjaers are on the rampage. They are raiding kraals and arresting and beating up men from whom they demand four head of cattle as compensation for damage done during the struggle against Bantu Authorities.



Blanketed men wearing black sashes were sent into Maseru by the chiefs to smash the workers' strike which paralysed the Basuto capital (reported in New Age last week). Here they are seen picketing the office of the Basutoland Congress Party.

SINISTER FORCES IN BASUTOLAND

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