

Eg 74-3.5 CD (TV. Provincial Committee)
REPORT OF MR DAVID MAHOPO TO THE
PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

Sirs,

On the 11th of November I received instructions from the Secretariat for the Congress of the People in the Transvaal to go to Hammanskraal, Warmbaths, Nylstroom, Naboomspruit and Potgietersrust and establish Congress of the People committees in these areas.

I left on the morning of the 12th for Potgietersrust. I had no contact at this place but on my arrival I met a Mr Mangwale, a business man who directed me to a Mr Mokonyane, a vice-chairman of the local Advisory Board. I met Mr Mokonyane and explained my mission to him. On the evening of the same day I was invited to a meeting of the Advisory Board where I made another explanation on the Congress of the People. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided to constitute itself into a committee for the Congress of the People. Mr W.H.A. Mokonyane of P.O.Box 59, Potgietersrust is secretary. During the same evening I had the opportunity of meeting chiefs who came from the so called "big indaba" at Olifants River. They were pleased and enthusiastic about the part played by the A.N.C. at the indaba. Later on I had a long discussion with chief Seleka. He welcomed the Congress of the People and invited me to come and explain the C.O.P. to his people at a later date.

NABOOMSPRUIT.

On the 14th I proceeded to Naboomspruit. On my way to Naboomspruit I travelled with a certain Mr Marutle of Potgietersrust. He became very enthusiastic and promised to give all possible assistance to the Advisory Board. I suggest that the Secretariat should write to him. His address is P.O.Box 59, Potgietersrust.

Mr Seledisha who was my contact here took me to Mr Khabo also a member of the Advisory Board. I told Mr Khabo what my mission was. He called other members of the Board. Five instead of six attended the meeting. The chairman was absent as could not be contacted. Here again the Advisory Board agreed to become a Congress of the People Committee for the area and that they will co-opt men as the location is divided into blocs. They also agreed to undertake a house-to-house drive soon. Mr S.M. Malatji is secretary.

His address is P.O.Box 96, "aboomspruit.

NYLSTROOM.

On the 15th I left for Nylstroom and I was given the name of "r Mohapi, a principal of the methodist school and an old member of the A.N.C. Mr Mohapi told me that he has already received the bulletins of the Congress of the People as well as the call. The call was widely distributed in the area so much so that after three days police cam from "aboomspruit to enquire about the distribution of the leaflets. A school boy was found ~~wik~~ in possession of a leaflet and was questioned. He replied that he picked up the leaflet in the street. The people were asked to please inform the police as soon as they come across any body distributing pamphlets bearing a symbol of a wheel.

It became impossible to contact the people because of ~~the~~ the intimidation. I, however, had a discussion with Mr Mohapi and his assistant Mr Mazwi, another congressite. They both undertook to form a committee and will write to the office. Mr W.H.A. Mohapi's address is P.O.Box 52, Nylstroom.

WARMBATHS.

On the 16th I proceeded to Warmbaths. Mr Mohapi had given me the name of a Mr Motsitsi as a contact. On my arrival I went to Mr Motsitsi's house who is a well known resident in the place. Never before have I met people who are so afraid of Congress. the minute I told them I was a member of the A.N.C. They rushed to the windows as if there were people who were listening in. It became impossible to discuss anything with them and as I went out they pleaded with me that I should not tell any body I was with them as they would lose their jobs, if this was heard. "r Motsitsi is a supervisor of schools.

I met Mr "asamola, a member of the local Advisory Board. He told me that it was very difficult to rganise Warmbaths because meetings were not allowed in the location and no visitor was allowed to comein unless his mission was known to the police. He tried to contact certain people but he failed. He promised to do his best to form up and committee and write to the office

HAMMANSKRAAL.

At Hammanskraal I was not able to enter the municipal township. I then proceeded to Mahobanstad which is about 15 miles from Hammanskraal itself. Here I met a Mr Mathipe, principal of the Mahobane Public School. He welcomed the Congress of the People and promised to do all in his power to bring about a committee. His difficulty at present he told me was that the people are fighting their chief for agreeing with the Native Commissioner that their land be made a trust land.

MATHIPESTAD.

After school, Mr Mathipe took me to his brother who is a chief in Mathipestad about six miles from Mahobanestad. I was ~~xxxxxxx~~ warmly received by Chief Mathipe and he immediately sent for his brothers and councillors. I had a meeting with his councillor he was also there. The Councillors expressed the opinion that the Congress of the People was a very good thing. They asked me to remain in the area for three days, during which period they would call a mass meeting of the tribe to discuss the Congress of the People. I refused to stay but promised them that I will write as soon as I get home and advise them when to call the meeting.

MAKAPANSTAD.

On the evening of the 18th I went to Makapanstad which is also few miles from chief Mathipe's place. I met Mr Kgafe, a teacher. He was very enthusiastic about the Congress of the People but as teacher he was afraid to ~~be~~ organise for it. In the morning he took some copies of the call with him to school. Few hours later a child was sent to come and get more Calls. Later on I was approached by some of the teachers who volunteered to organise for the Congress of the People provided ~~the~~ chief Makapanix could allow them to do so. Before I could go to the chief I met a Mr Thibedi a staunch supporter of Congress. He told me it was not advisable to go and see the chief before I have contacted some of his influential Councillors including his brother who is a prosperous business man in the area. I had no time to do that as I had to rush to Mathipestad to catch the next

bus to Hammanskraal on my way home. Mr Thibedi undertook to contact ~~xx~~ these men and would advise the office of the progress he is making. He pleaded with me that the office should inform him whenever there was a conference as he is very keen to learn.

REMARKS.

At all places I have visited people who knew what the A.N.C was were keen to join. Those who had a vague idea were equally eager to know what it is and how it could assist them in their difficulties, such as the gradual taking away of their land by the Government, the influx control in the urban areas which has brought misery and starvation as ~~xxxxxxx~~ the men are daily ~~xxxxxxx~~ being endorsed out of the towns and are now wandering about in the reserves. People are also worried about Bantu Education. The Chiefs are keen to get Congress to send its organisers to the reserves. The reason for this enthusiasm on the part of the chiefs appears to be the good result of the good work done by members of the A.N.C. during the big "indaba" at Olifants River recently.

Should the Secretariat of the C.O.P. or the A.N.C. itself decide to send organisers to the reserves, I suggest that the organisers should work in the reserves at least for a month as no good purpose ~~xxxxxxx~~ can be served by a week's visit. Seeing that the areas to be covered are big it would be a good idea to provide the organisers with ~~xx~~ bicycles to facilitate the travelling from one area to another.

Forward to Freedom,

David M^hhopo.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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