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THE SECRETARIAL REPORT TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

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Since our last report to you many things have happened.

There have been three removals from Sophiatown to Meadowlands, still accompanied by a large armed police force. Although there has not been much work done on any scale near the first three removals, some people show signs of resistance to this forced removal. The local people have explained their difficult position that in order to raise the morale the national supervision and assistance is still very necessary. The special task is to unity the property owners and the masses of the people of the Western Areas, to foster in them a spirit of resistance especially against the sale of their properties so that the government should be forced to expropriate them. This question of removing people from their homes must continue to be used as a national campaign and linked with the Group Areas Act struggle. There are many people who are affected by this type of removal in various other parts of the country. A uniform plan for this fight must be adopted, using the Western Areas always as the central point in the fight against the uprooting of the people from their homes. The African National Congress has a tendency of paying less attention to the fight against the Group Areas Act and the so-called Removal Scheme. Provinces and Branches must tackle this struggle in a more vigorous way than they are doing now.

FINANCE.

Provinces are failing to give the necessary co-operation to the Treasurer-General. As a result the plans of the Treasurer-General to raise funds have been crippled since he must have funds to make a start. His directives are not complied with. The position has become ~~more~~ extremely difficult in carrying on the administration. In this regard Transvaal has been very helpful and is to be credited with the share of rentals of the office and telephone charges. But they, too, have not been able to comply with the requirements of the Treasurer-General. Provinces are using money which rightly belongs to the head office. This is a serious matter which must be properly dealt with by the National Executive. Some other methods of raising funds must be devised. The order for the printing of last Years Report



which contains valuable educational information was placed but this money has not yet been paid. Yet the pamphlets themselves are a means of raising funds. It is estimated that a profit of £95 will be made from the sale of these pamphlets. There are certain important debts which must be met.

ORGANISATIONAL.

It is high time that we should examine carefully the serious weaknesses in our organisation. This matter was properly dealt with in the last year's National Executive Report. The misfiring of our plans, the lack of personnel is largely due to this: Branches do not seem to know their duties properly; the provincial offices are unable to account to the National head office about their activities. No reports are received. No answer to correspondence is received. One of the reasons for this is the machinery of Congress itself. The fact that the National headquarters cannot have direct access to the branches, must be properly examined. The new constitution must cover these weaknesses if we are to make headway. Executive members must work in their respective areas and be part of the branch or the province in order to solve some of the difficulties.

BANTU EDUCATION.

There has been a great confusion in the country which has almost threatened the very life of the organisation. The National Executive must accept responsibility for this situation because it is a reflection on the leadership not on the branches. The postponement of the school boycott action from the 1st April without setting a date created great confusion. Although the reasons for the postponement were very sound, it is clear that in some areas people were unable to appreciate these difficulties. The situation was, however, made worse by the fact that the National Executive was unable to accede to the request of the Transvaal as the Transvaal had already made its intentions to request the National Executive that the areas which were ready should be given a chance to begin the boycott. It seems clear that if the people were given some form of an action on the introduction of Bantu Education, the situation would have been much better.



The Secretariat is satisfied that the boycott in the Transvaal was not inspired by the official leadership and that it became clearly a movement beyond their control. This, however, is a matter which must be explained by the Transvaal itself through its representatives. Our difficulties in giving this report are still precisely because we have not received a written report as to what is happening in the branches.

The Working Committee found itself confronted with the difficulty of the boycott which was started on the Rand. The threat of Dr. Verwoerd and the growing anger of the people which manifested itself in this boycott and the trouble made by unruly and undisciplined elements within the organisation some of whom were responsible for starting the boycott in some areas. But the question which faced the Working Committee was no longer a question of who started "the trouble" but rather the recognition of the fact that the boycott was on. Although some people genuinely believed that they were implementing the decision of the African National Congress, there were two things that were open to the Working Committee - either to issue a statement disclaiming the boycott struggle or to step in so as to bring it within the scope and control of the African National Congress. As a result of this situation, the Working Committee decided to issue a statement congratulating those areas which had already gone into action and calling upon the country to demonstrate by withdrawing their children on the 25th April. The question as to what should happen to the areas which had already gone out was fully considered. It was decided that it should be clarified in the statement that they had protested and therefore done their part, but whether the children should go back to school or not, was to depend on the concrete conditions in each given area. This was discussed with particular reference to the President-General's expressed wish that in those areas which had already protested, ~~it should be suggested to the people that the children should return to school~~. <sup>It should be suggested to the people that the</sup> ~~Working~~ <sup>The</sup> Working Committee felt that it was sufficient to make an explanation of the official position of the African National Congress and thereafter let the decision be taken by the people of the area themselves.

It was after this decision that we learned of the assault of Mr. P.Q. Vundla. We immediately issued a statement deploring the action of those who were responsible. We wrote Mr. Vundla and to the



Transvaal Province asking for full particulars which have not yet been submitted to the Secretariat. Other disturbing factors which require the attention of the Executive is the alleged information that Mr. Vundla did not only campaign for the return of the children to school but also organised a deputation to the Native Affairs Dept. This matter has caused concern in the ranks of the African National Congress. Another matter was the statement of the Deputy President-General in the "Bantu World" which seemed to have been contrary to the Working Committee statement and therefore caused more confusion. All these matters will now be fully gone into and the country should be given a definite lead on this matter of great importance. The Secretariat has not done much about the Educational Council but arrangements have been made for a meeting on Monday, 23rd May. The alternative education, however, has proved from the preliminaries on the Rand to be the most difficult task of this campaign. The Secretariat is convinced that the situation will be made more difficult by giving an impression that the people will walk out of Bantu Education schools into ready-made peoples' schools. The Executive must therefore correct any such impressions by giving the people the exact position if we are to avoid further confusion and trouble in this regard.

TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

The co-ordination between Congress and Workers' movement is still far behind expectation. Even on the question where there was supposed to be a joint action of Congresses and the Trade Union movements on the boycott of U.T.C. products, the results were very disappointing. Port Elizabeth alone, it appears implemented the decision fully. The Secretariat considers that no useful purpose is served by continuing this boycott especially in view of the reported merger of the two main tobacco companies. This new situation requires that the matter be re-examined, and reconsidered. The Working Committee decided to co-opt the newly-elected National Secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, Mr. Leslie Masina, who is also one of the leading African National Congress leaders in the Transvaal. He fully explained his difficulties to the Secretariat. Because of the great task now before him as a National Secretary, he may find it almost impossible to attend all meetings of the



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Executive. We fully appreciated these difficulties and we have persisted that it is both in the interests of the workers and ourselves that he should serve on the Executive and that his difficulties would be taken into account.

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

The President-General has appealed to the country that we should step up our efforts in the campaign for the Congress of the People, which is only four weeks away now. The Secretariat is rather disturbed by the knowledge that the African National Congress has not given the necessary attention and lead on this very great campaign. It is, however, hoped that even with this short space of time the members of the National Executive will work very hard in their respective areas in order to ensure great success. Reports from various regions in the country as given to the Congress of the People Secretariat are rather encouraging. In recent months the National Organiser of the Congress of the People is reported to have given no co-operation to the Congress of the People Secretariat. Nor has he given reports to the Secretariat of the African National Congress.

The Working Committee has issued a statement on the Fort Hare incident and has demanded the return of all the students and an impartial commission of inquiry. The Working Committee has issued a statement on the Senate Bill re-iterating its former stand on the Coloured Voters' question. It regards this matter as of great significance which deserves the serious attention and a positive line of action by the African National Congress.

The Pass Laws are haunting the country. A statement has been issued by the Acting Secretary-General but more has to be done on this very important question.

The Executive must consider the new situation which has arisen in the Transkei, the fact that the Government has recently succeeded in influencing trends of events as shown by the acceptance of Bantu Education and Bantu Authorities Act. This new trend might prove fatal in the struggle for freedom.

Signed.....



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

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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