

Powerful splinter group proclaims 'anti-White' policy

# BIG-SCALE A.N.C. SPLIT

## Armed clash at hall narrowly averted

STAFF REPORTER

### A.I. AFTER SCREEN SCREAM TEMPERS RISE

**IA** Tense and angry scenes that threatened at any moment to break out into open violence, a section of the African National Congress, known as "the Afrinists," yesterday broke away from the parent body to start what they called "a political battle against White domination."

For several hours on Saturday and again yesterday, while the annual congress of the Transvaal African National Congress was in progress at Orlando, outside Johannesburg, efforts were made by the Afrinists to take over the leadership.

Both factions indulged in a pitched battle with heavy sticks and other weapons.

The Afrinists, whose slogan is "Africa for the Africans," have been outspoken opponents of the A.N.C. leadership policy of non-resistance, and have also opposed the President's Charter.

They have claimed that non-resistance to the white was to waste the African people. They have recently received recognition with other racial groups.

In a letter addressed to the members of the congress, the Afrinists stated:

"There is a political battle aimed at White domination. We are not a para-military group engaged in the manner of these Africans."

### WAITED FOR VIOLENCE

"We have come to the point of the war. We are prepared to do our own part as the congress of A.N.C. police or Congress members and pretend to be the line of the Congress leaders."

Throughout the meeting, however, the atmosphere was tense. Delegates openly stated their antagonism of violence. Everybody waited for an open clash.

On Saturday, the Afrinists attempted to speak. Over 500 supporters sat and stood in a group. Many of them carried heavy sticks and knives.

A speech by one of their members was the signal for them to attack their list and to demand "Africa!"

Yesterday, however, the tables were turned. Over 1000 of the leadership had organized their own supporters.

### GUARDS AT THE DOORS

In the morning a crowd of about 200 men gathered before the hall. They all carried weapons of one kind or another. Some had sticks, others revolvers. A few had knives of iron.

Armed guards were posted at all the doors of the hall. No one except members was allowed to enter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

And most of the Afrinists, by a decision of the executive committee, were not delegates. The Afrinists, however, refused to recognize the committee, claiming that it was biased against them.

At a special gathering, the list of the delegates was altered into the hall. More than 100 Afrinists were present. This was the opening of the congress. Had they attempted to go into the meeting, it would have been a pitched battle with heavy sticks and other weapons.

However, they decided to proceed. They held off by the hall and the Afrinists. They refused to recognize the committee. They refused to go into the meeting.

On the 10th day, President L. D. Motswagole, President-General of the A.N.C., addressed the congress, urging the people to accept the new policy and to support the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The congress which followed the address became very hot and noisy. There were constant demands for the resignation of a certain African politician.

One speaker appealed to the congress to stand together as Africans against the Whites. He was greeted by loud cheers.

"The Whites came into Africa to oppress us. Our business is to overthrow them," he said.

"We cannot accept the necessity for us to accept the white man's rule. We must stand in Africa standing up."

As these scenes unfolded, the Afrinists, led by James Mpanza, vehemently opposed the speech of a supporter. He refused to stand with the Afrinists. He was greeted by loud cheers.

Next day a group of African delegates had been refused entry to the congress.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday, supporters gathered in the hall. They were not allowed to enter. They were not allowed to enter. They were not allowed to enter.

Race  
3/11/58



***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

**©2010**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Ce4**

*Document Title:-* **Rand Daily Mail, 'Big-scale ANC split' (copy)**

*Author:-* **Rand Daily Mail**

*Document Date:-* **3 November 1958**