

Case No. 226/62

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STATEMENT.

WITH REGARD TO THE ALL-IN AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT PIETERMARITZBURG ON THE 25th AND 26th MARCH, 1961.

As a result of Press Statements and political pronouncements by organizations, both African and non-African, and also by political leaders in the country, emanating from the All-African Leaders Conference held at Orlando in December, 1960, and the coming All-in African People's Conference to be held in Pietermaritzburg on the 25th and 26th of March this year, it has become increasingly necessary for us as African Nationalists and as those who were invited and attended to reiterate the circumstances and reasons for our participation in the last Conference. Those of us who were invited and did attend made it abundantly clear to the sponsors and to Conference that we would only attend the Conference only if non-Africans were excluded from it and further that we would not be a party to any discussion relating to the calling of a multi-racial conference whatsoever. That explains why at the beginning of the Conference when two non-African members of the Liberal Party gate-crashed the Conference, Masere Molefi, Molete and Mbelu threatened to leave the Conference unless these men were told to leave.

We genuinely sought, as we now do, a genuine basis of unity among the African people into a compact whole ready for an assault against white domination. We still stand firm by these conditions.

Be that as it may, with various Press statements and pronouncements it has become increasingly apparent to us that the main purpose of the Pietermaritzburg Conference this month has shifted from "to seek unity among the African people" to one of preparing the ground for a multi-racial Convention and to prepare a "new constitution for South Africa."

Our position then becomes clear. We intend therefore by this means to place on record our attitude which we make bold to say is the inescapable standpoint of all genuine African Nationalists in the

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country. It is essential that the true objectives of the Africans be clearly grasped and the African leaders should exercise exceptional vigilance in guarding, controlling and advancing the liberatory struggle.

The Africans must guard against the infiltration of ideas that are well calculated to confuse and make obscure the goal towards which we are struggling. It is the duty of the African leaders to correct any visible diversionary tendency. It is the leaders duty to see that the African masses keep strictly within the confines of activity inspired by and rooted on the ideology of African Nationalism. The programmes that flow out must be implemented accurately to their mathematical details.

The leaders are the political guardians of the African masses in their struggles towards the realisation of freedom and independence and as such must unequivocally refuse to be used as tools by individuals or organisations, which do not share a common concept with them; they should reject infiltrations of ideologies and policies which serve to mislead us in favour of the East, West or Middle East.

If we understand this stand-point, the only basis of co-operation that is acceptable and practicable in the struggle is UNITY IN POSITIVE ACTION, on the basis of African Nationalism. The attention of the African masses throughout Africa to-day should be focussed on all the arrested, detained and imprisoned leaders.

Our stand-point is that the Africans ALONE can solve the problems besetting South Africa. We ALONE can achieve Freedom and Independence and any suggestion that we cannot ALONE do so, is a frontal attack against our stand-point and genuine African Nationalism. The Africans have not lost faith in themselves. We, the indigenous African majority, pursuing a Pan-African programme, -- only WE can provide a lasting solution to the problems not only of the so-called South Africa but of the Continent. We therefore cannot be a party to any conference based on preparation for a futile and barren imbaba.

- H. HLATSHWAYOBURBAN ^{PHC}
- C. MAKHETU.....CAPE TOWN. ^{PHC}
- C.J.FAZZIE.....EAST LONDON.
- J. MABOZA.....PORT ELIZABETH. ✓
- SGD. J.S.P. MOLEFI.....EVATON.
- Z.B. MOLEFE.....EVATON.
- R.A. TEBEHLANAJOHANNESBURG. ^{PHC}

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