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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (TRANSVAAL) CONFERENCE.

HELD AT THE COMMUNAL HALL,
WESTERN NATIVE TOWNSHIP
FROM OCTOBER 9TH TO 11TH, 1954.

A G E N D A.

1st Session - Saturday October, 9th.

- 2 p.m. Opening of Conference by Chaplain
- 2.20 Speaker's opening remarks.
- 2.30 Fraternal greetings
- 3.30 Election of Committees:
 - a. Credentials Committee
 - b. Resolutions Committee
 - c. Press Committee
 - d. Recording Secretary
- 3.35 Minutes of the last Annual Conference and arising
- 4.35 Credential's Committees Report
- 5.15 Important message to every African.

ADJOURNMENT.

2nd Session. Sunday October, 10th

- 9 a.m. Public Meeting at C/r Victoria & Morris Streets.
- 2.00 Credentials Committee's Report
- 2.30 Presidential Address
- 3.15 Executive Report
- 4.00 Discussion on reports.

ADJOURNMENT.

3rd Session, Monday October, 11th.

- 8 a.m. Treasurer's Report
- 8.30 Discussion
- 9.30 Resolutions
 - a. 1949 Resolution of Conference led by Mr H.G. Makgothi
Discussion
 - b. Other resolutions
Discussion.

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH.

- 1.45 Congress of the People and Volunteers by Mr R.M. Resha
- 3.00 Elections
- 3.15 Closing of Conference.

AFRIKA! AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE!

INKULULEKO NGE KESHALETU!

TOKOLOHO KA NAK' EA RONA!

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J.M.K. 16

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (TVL)
SUBMITTED AT THE 42ND. ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE
AT THE COMMUNAL HALL, WESTERN NATIVE TOWNSHIP, JOHANNESBURG
ON - 9TH. - 11TH. OCTOBER, 1954.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. This 42nd. session of the African National Congress (Transvaal) assembles at a time when the struggle for National liberation and Independence has assumed dimensions hitherto unknown in the annals of the fight between oppressor and the oppressed. The world over, the oppressed peoples have come out in open defiance of their enemies. On the other hand, we witness attempts by the reactionary Imperialist powers under the influence and leadership of American Imperialism to plunge the world into another blood-bath, that will bring nothing but death, misery, and starvation to suffering humanity. With this object in view, the Imperialist-Capitalist powers are intensifying their oppression and exploitation of the Colonial and Semi-Colonial masses.

The enslaved masses everywhere are very much indebted to the progressive powers such as the U.S.S.R., China, the new Democracies and India for the role they are playing in international politics. Were it not for their existence, together with the peace and freedom-loving peoples of the world, the slavery would have been the order of the day in every Colonial and Dependent territory. Needless to say, that the subject people of South Africa, who today living under such deplorable conditions, would have been in a much more hopeless position. It must be understood that our position is linked with that of oppressed and freedom-loving peoples of the world.

My reference, in this address, to the international situation is to reassure you that South Africa is part and parcel of the world and not a unique and mysterious piece of land that has very little or nothing in common with the rest of the world, as Dr. Malan and his clique would want the civilised world to believe.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The position of the non-Europeans in general and that of the Africans in particular has never been a happy one in South Africa. But with the advent to power of the Nationalists, this position has been very much aggravated. There is no fundamental difference in policy between the present and past Governments. - Be they Nationalist or United Party. The policy of all White South African Governments has been, and still is, that of keeping the African in a state of perpetual subjugation. In other words, the African is treated like a beast of burden and must remain a hewer of wood and drawer of water until doomsday. It is against these ignominious policies that the A.N.C. is leading the millions of toilers onto their national emancipation.

Because of the evergrowing consciousness of the people coupled with the effective leadership given by the African National Congress, the Government in their fear of the masses, have decided to unleash various forms of terror with a view to intimidating and breaking up the organisation of the people.

At this juncture it behoves me to remind you in what circumstances I have been elevated to the Presidency of the A.N.C. (TVL). It was only after your democratically elected leaders such as Nelson Mandela, David Bopape, J.B. Marks and others were gagged and commanded by the "almighty" Swart, Minister of Justice, to resign from the A.N.C. and never to become members again, that you called upon me to take up the leadership. Since then, I have tried to execute my duties to the best of my ability.

This attack on your leaders and organisation does not show signs of abating. On the contrary, it is being intensified. Daily, more and more of the leaders of the A.N.C. are being removed against the will of the people. Swart has gone so far as to ban Chief Luthuli, our President-General, and has confined him to the Lower Tugela. Not satisfied with the banning, the Minister has now banished from their places of domicile three of the noblest Sons of Africa, namely, Gwentshe, Lengisi, and Yengwa. They have been torn away from their families and sent to some of the remotest parts of the Union of S. Africa, and made to live under the most primitive conditions. The Government is aiming at removing/.....

aiming at removing progressive leadership and outlawing progressive organisations, such as the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, The Coloured Peoples Organisation and, last but not least, the Congress of Democrats.

The Kalan Government derives its support from the most politically backward and reactionary section of the White electorate in this country - the big farmers and land-lords. This section of the White community has swallowed hook, line and sinker, the Governments policy of Apartheid which is oppressive in form and in content.

The results of the recent Provincial Elections were disappointing but not surprising. They exposed the political shallowness of the electorate, and their readiness to fall victim to the clever demagogy of the Nationalist politicians. Thus they are running away from reality and civilisation. Because of these and other successes, the Government has become bolder in forging ahead with its plot to transform South Africa into a Police State. In this "triumphant" march towards fascism, the so-called White opposition has collapsed. So now the only effective opposition to the Government are the National Movements and their allies. Theirs is to grapple with the potential fascist beast to the bitter end.

The Government of the day has attacked the African in all walks of life: Their general attitude is characterised by the following legislative measures:

(a) The Bantu Education Act which is designed to retard the mental development of the African child and to make him imbibe an education which will create within him a slave-mentality.

(b) The Resettlement Act. This Act empowers the Government to expropriate African-owned private land and to remove any African community from one place to another whether the people concerned like it or not. This is the Act that is going to be employed in the removal of the African from the Western Areas (Sophiatown and New Clare).

(c) Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act. This is to prevent the the Africans from being organised into Industrial organisations and to abolish existing African Trade Unions and in the final analysis to reduce the wages of all Africans.

(d) Separate Amenities Act. This Act legalises the unequal treatment and discrimination against non-Europeans.

All these enactments are indicative of the vicious nature of the policy of Apartheid in which the Nationalist Cabinet members, together with the overwhelming majority of the White people of South Africa, see the permanent suppression and oppression of the non-Whites within the sub-continent. Please let us have no illusions about the policy of Apartheid. It has nothing good in store for us. Woe unto the Africans who support that evil policy. Apartheid must be fought tooth and nail.

THE PLATTELAND.

It is in this part of the country where the overwhelming majority of our people are concentrated and where oppression is most sharply felt. Needless, to tell you, what happened at Bethal, Koster, Rustenburg - where Africans have not only been made to work themselves to death, but were actually whipped until they died. Time is long overdue for the A.N.C. to stretch its tentacles into the Reserved, Rural Areas, Farms, and deliver the message for the struggle against the inhuman conditions under which they live. As many as possible of the African chiefs must be drawn away from the influence of the Commissioners into the ranks of the African National Congress.

TRADE UNIONS.

With the ruthless attempt to implement the policy of Apartheid in industry as well as in all other walks of life, it has become more than ever before necessary for the A.N.C. to orientate itself towards the organisation of the Trade Unions with a view of finding in them one of its strongest allies in the struggle for better conditions and against White domination. During the/.....

During the period under review, the attacks from the Government side have been almost incessant. Wheresoever you went, in the locations, villages, townships, reserves, on the farms, you could hear the name of Malan mentioned in connection with hardship and oppression.

The Africans in the Western Areas are threatened with expropriation. The Africans resident in Municipal locations are facing an exorbitant increase in rentals. The police are raiding houses and offices of those opposed to Apartheid. Peaceful meetings are being invaded by the police. Pass and liquor have become the order of the day.

The Government is attacking from the left, right, rear, front and above.

OUR TASKS.

The President-General, Chief Luthuli, on the occasion of his ban in Sophiatown, made an appeal to the country for volunteers to organise Congress and to stop the Western Areas Removal Scheme of Dr. Verwoerd and company. This call must receive the full response and support of every branch of the A.N.C. throughout the Transvaal. Where necessary, every member of the A.N.C. should become a volunteer. The Transvaal should give at least 25,000 volunteers.

Another significant political development in the country is the call issued by the A.N.C. calling for a Congress of all the people of South Africa, irrespective of their nationalities. This call is being supported by the South African Indian Congress, the Coloured Peoples Organisation, and the Congress of Democrats. This Congress must lay the bases for the co-operation of all the peoples of South Africa.

The Government has provoked and attacked, but we have remained disciplined. In other words, we have not allowed the Government to choose the time, place, and battle-ground for us. Today, I say to the African people: INTENSIFY YOUR ORGANISATION, AND STAND-BY AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS.

Bewysstuk No.
 Gekry by..... *J.M. Kuyalo*
 Deur..... *John W. Wells*
 Te..... *Wagon in E. Kame*
 Datum..... *27.9.55*
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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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