

the highly concentrated industrial set up of the Western Powers the latter would be at a disadvantage as compared to the Eastern Countries in a warfare based on atomic and/or nuclear weapons.

IT WOULD therefore be suicide to start a war with the East. The people's governments have no wish for war they are too busy with their internal problems of vast economic and social developments.

(3) THE CLASH of interests of the Western Powers make it almost impossible for them to work together. For example, during the Indo-China war, America wished to extend the struggle whereas Britain and France wanted peace. The American policy as regard to China is not to recognise the present government there and if possible to overthrow it, whereas Franco-British policy is to improve relations with China and to enter into trading agreement with this country. Whereas America has made it a corner stone of its international policy to arm Western Germany, the aim of the majority of people in Britain and France is to prevent the rearmament of Germany.

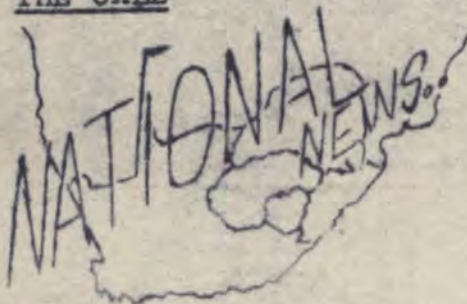
(4) THERE IS also a clash of interest between the countries that lost the war and America. The recent change in the Japanese Government was accentuated by the desire of all classes in Japan to break with the American puppets in their Government and to develop their own political and economic policy which is opposed to the policy that the Americans have been trying to impose on them. For example, Japan wishes to trade with China and the Soviet Union and to normalise its diplomatic relations with these two countries. As the previous Government opposed this policy it fell just as in France the Government fell when it refused to arrange a truce with Indo-China.

FOR THESE reasons we can expect that there will be no major war between the so-called East and West. However, that does not mean to say that there will be no wars at all. Probably, there will be a number of minor wars and perhaps a major conflict between the Western Powers themselves. In future articles we shall explore the meaning of these developments and whether a period of prolonged peace and co-existence must mean a depression to the Capitalist countries.

HOWEVER, vigilance is necessary to save the peace. Peace is more important to every one of us than any other problem. With the present destructive weapons, the whole of civilisation could be destroyed within a few hours. Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg could be utterly destroyed by three bombs. If we are therefore fighting for the future of our people, we must put as our number one target the struggle for peace.

IN ORDER to lead our people to a free and happy life in South Africa we must not only understand our own problems thoroughly, we must also study what is happening in other countries. It is, therefore, the intention of these articles to give a basis, once a month, for the discussion of the most vital, current problems both here in South Africa and overseas.

THE CALL



The WESTERN AREAS CAMPAIGN. 5.

9th February, 1954, will go down in history as the day on which the Government of South Africa openly and shamelessly exposed its Fascist character.

On this day over 2000 members of the Police force and army, armed with bren and sten guns converged on Sophiatown to remove a few hundred African families.

This was the first part of the Nationalist plan to remove over 60,000 men, women and children from their homes to Meadowlands, an area about 14 miles away from their present homes.

SOPHIATOWN IN STATE OF SEIGE.

CONGRESS OFFICIALS who were on the spot on the day the removals began report that Sophiatown was in a state of seige.

EVERY STREET in Sophiatown was seething with police patrol cars. All along the route from Orlando to Sophiatown armed guards were stationed at regular intervals.

MEETINGS BANNED.

MINISTER Swart using the despotic powers he has under the Riotous Assemblies Act banned all meetings in Johannesburg and Rodepoort for a period of 20 days. Although this reactionary and undemocratic law provides for banning of open air meetings, the Minister fraudulently issued his edict banning even meetings in halls. Permission had to be obtained even to hold a bioscope show.

PROTEST MEETINGS.

MEETINGS were, however, held at Durban, Port Elizabeth, and Cape Town.

THIS CAMPAIGN of meetings must be followed up. Every Branch of the Congress must organise meetings of protest against the removal scheme and of solidarity with the people of the Western Areas.

NIC Branches that are holding their Annual Meetings must have a special speaker on this important question.

CALL FOR assistance, if required at the offices of Congress. 20,000 leaflets entitled "We shall not move" have been issued and more will be printed if required by the Branches. Three issues of "Flash News" on the subject have been issued and more will be issued from time to time. Keep in touch with the office for latest news.

READ NEW AGE.

THE 17th February, issue of the "New Age" gives a very vivid and clear picture of this shameless police action which was reminiscent of the Nazi method of forced deportation of the thousands of French, Belgium, Russian, Jewish and other nationalities to special camps.

THE CALL*NATIONAL NEWS Continued.*

Read the "New Age" and use the facts presented in its news columns and its editorial for Branch discussions and as speakers' notes.

Non-Colour Bar Trade Union Centre.

ON THE 5th and 6th of March this year the most important move in the history of Trade Unionism in South Africa will be made - the establishment of a National Trade Union body with no colour bar.

THE ESTABLISHMENT of this body was made inevitable after the dissolution of the Trades and Labour Council (1949) and the formation of the Apartheid, South African Trade Union Council which debar African Trade Unions from its membership.

AT THE last Conference of the Trades & Labour Council and at the inaugural Conference of the T.U.C. progressive trade unions led by the militant Food and Canning, Tin and Textile workers Unions fought against the dissolution of the T. & L.C. and for the inclusion of African workers in the T.U.C.

THEY WERE, however, defeated by the numerically strong craft unions who were aided in their anti-Trade Union activities by such unions as the Garment Workers Union of the Transvaal and Cape and the D.I.M.E.S. of Durban.

THIS SELL-OUT of Trade Union principles was condemned by the progressive Unions mainly on the ground that African workers formed the bulk of the industrial workers in this country and that their exclusion from National Trade Union body was a negation of Trade Unionism which is based on the

slogan: Workers of the World Unite - you have nothing to lose but your chains.."

THE ACTION of those unions who have, for their own petty reasons and through fear of Government intimidation, accepted apartheid in Trade Unions, in spite of the very grave dangers that disunity represented, has brought about the conference referred to earlier, - A Conference which will meet in Johannesburg on the 5 and 6th March, 1954 to discuss the formation of a new National Trade Union Centre which will embrace trade unionists representative of all sections of the South African working class.

THIS CONFERENCE, therefore, is the most important event in the life of the progressive Trade Union Movement. The Transvaal Council of non-European Unions have decided to dissolve their organisation and call on their affiliated unions to join the new body when it is formed. Support for the new Centre has come from almost every non-European Union and several European Unions.

EACH UNION should endeavour to send its full quota of delegates to this important Conference. Unlike the usual Trade Union Conferences of this nature, rank and file members should be elected to attend so that they may be inspired by the trade unionists from other centres.

HAS your union appointed its delegates yet? If not do so now!

*Send letter of PROTEST
From your UNION-CONGRESS!
AGAINST W. AREAS SCHEME!*



COP

NEWS

by
Majibane
Africa.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM

N. NATAL & MIDLANDS REGION FORGE AHEAD.

Since the formation of the Northern Natal Regional Committee of the COP, 10 COP Area Committees have been formed in the various centres under the jurisdiction of the Region. Regular bulletins are being issued by the region and the demand for copies far exceed the number produced.

Demands for inclusion in FREEDOM CHARTER

Already demands for inclusion in the Freedom Charter are coming in.

From far away Charlestown the Committee received among numerous demands one calling for decent houses for the people and opposing the removal of settled communities. It may be remembered that for sometime now there has been continuous threats of action by the authorities to remove Africans residing on properties adjacent to the National Road and, it is only natural that such a demand should come from this area.

NQUTUS COMMITTEE submitting a few of their demands state that the burning problem among the Africans in the rural areas are the questions of more land and an end to cattle culling. So, they wish to include these demands in the FREEDOM CHARTER.

MIDLANDS Campaign

IN THE Midlans Region there are seven district Committees of the COP. All of them are extremely active. Each week area drives are held to distribute leaflets and to sell the "New Age" and other literature. Their present order for "New Age" is 400 copies per week and the Region is confident that it will not be long before this number is doubled. Each volunteer pays a subscription of 6d per week and the committee reports that the discipline of the volunteer is very high indeed.

DURING THE month a conference of

COP District representatives was held to receive reports from the various districts and to discuss plans for the future. Among other decisions this conference decided to issue 15,000 leaflets in Zulu and English calling on the people to submit their demands for inclusion in the freedom charter. Distribution of these leaflets have already begun. During the coming weekend a team of volunteers will be touring Howick, Merrivale, Nottingham Road and Mooi River to assist local committees there to collect demands from the people.

DURBAN'S PLANS

PLANS are afoot to call a conference of all COP Committees, factory representatives and Congress branches to discuss detailed plans for a campaign of mass meetings on the COP and to receive demands from the various committees for inclusion in the Freedom Charter. Posters, leaflets and stickers are being printed to assist

C.O.P. News Cont.

in this campaign. A special series of Flash bulletins will be issued during the period preceding the conference.

RECENTLY successful drives to recruit volunteers have been held in such areas as Clare-Estate, Riverside, Merebank, Claremont, Chesterville, etc.

CLASSES.

MEREBANK AND Clare Estate Action Committees which started political classes at the beginning of the COP campaign in Natal are still holding regular weekly classes. Numerous other committees are also holding or planning to hold similar political classes.

WE HOPE that the International and national reports that appears in this issue, and which will appear regularly in future issues will be discussed at such classes.

WE HOPE further that those Committees that have not started their classes will begin to do so on receipt of this issue of the "Call".

AN URGENT TASK.

THE URGENT task confronting the Regional Committees of the Congress of the People is the collection of demands for inclusion in the Freedom Charter. Every region, every COP Committee and every volunteer must see that in the coming weeks that this task is fulfilled.

*ANC News. Cont.**TASKS AHEAD.*

BY far the greatest single task facing the ANC in the coming weeks is the job of making known the National Conference's decision on the Bantu Education Act to the people of Natal.

ALTHOUGH work in this direction has been started much has still to be done.

THIS RAISES the big problem of a full time functionary that has been troubling ANC Leaders in Natal and at National Headquarters for some time. At the moment Volunteer organisers are assisting the Congress and although this is a good sign the Natal Executive realises that a full time man on the field could be of invaluable assistance to the movement.

THE NORTHERN Natal organisational trip reported earlier in this article was carried out by a volunteer organiser of the ANC Youth League who sacrificed two weeks of his holidays to serve the cause! This is the spirit that is prevalent in the movement and the Natal ANC should not find it too difficult to appoint a full time functionary soon.

IT IS reported that the question of a full time organiser is receiving top most priority of the Executive and we hope to report progress in this direction in our next issue.

★ Colonial Youth Day RALLIES

ORGANISERS.
ANC YOUTH LEAGUE
& N. I. Y. CONGRESS.

★ WILL BE HELD AT *Cherrywood & Durban*

★ ON MONDAY - 21ST FEB., 1955.

ANC NEWS

BY VUKAYIBAMBE.

REORGANISATION Campaign.

SINCE THE National Conference of the African National Congress which was held in Durban in December last, the Natal ANC has been busily engaged on an intensive reorganisational campaign.

AN ORGANISER toured the Northern Natal and Midland areas with the twin tasks of assisting COP regional Committees and revitalising ANC branches in these areas.

NORTHERN NATAL BRANCHES VISITED.

IN HIS report to the ANC Executive the organiser stating that ANC Branches were overwhelmed by his presence in these areas appealed to the Executive to send down organisers more regularly. He visited Ladysmith, where a mass meeting was held at Rossboon to discuss the Bantu Education Act and the Congress of the People. This meeting, he said, unanimously endorsed ANC Conference resolutions on the Bantu Education Act.

NEWCASTLE ALSO held a mass meeting to discuss the rent increases imposed by the local municipality. The meeting condemned the action of the Municipal Council in demanding economic rents from location residents despite the Transvaal Supreme Court's judgement in this matter.

PRELIMINARY arrangements were made for the formation of a branch at Lennoxtown Township in Newcastle.

VALUABLE organisational work was done at Glencoe, Colenso and P.M. Burg.

HIS REPORT on the activities of the Pietermaritzburg ANC Branch and of the COP Committee there was most glowing and it is hoped that P.M. Burg will continue with the good

work they are doing.

CONFERENCES PLANNED.

THE NATAL ANC Executive is planning to hold a provincial conference on the 13th of March to discuss the Congress of the People and Bantu Education. This Conference will be followed by three regional conferences which will be held on the 27th March. The Durban branches will hold their conference at Durban, the Midlands Regional Conference will be held at Pietermaritzburg and the Regional Conference for Northern Natal at Ladysmith.

IN THE preliminary arrangements for these conferences, apart from attending a large number of meetings with Branch committees, Congress officials have held seven mass meetings. These meetings were held at Claremont, Umlazi Glebe lands, Point and in four different areas at Cato Manor.

THE EXECUTIVE is discussing the possibility of sending an organiser to Zululand soon. It is hoped to give a fuller report on this in our next issue.

/Continued on page 8..



N.I.C. ANNUAL Conference..

THE MOST important organisational task confronting the branches of the Natal Indian Congress is the holding of Annual General Meetings in preparation for the Provincial Conference which will be held on the 25, 26, and 27th March, 1955.

THE ORGANISING Committee of the NIC together with volunteers has been concentrating its activities in those areas that needed assistance to organise their meetings.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE ON THE JOB..

THE ORGANISING committee performed two tasks in fulfilling this objective. One, was the job of visiting homes in the area they choose to acquaint the people of political developments and urging them to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Branch concerned. The methods they adopted was to take printed and cyclostyled literature and copies of the New Age to assist them.

THE SECOND task they performed during these operations was to recruit volunteers for the COP and to assist them in similar tasks in other areas.

SO FAR Riverside, Clare-Estate and Clairwood have been tackled by this Group. The Result: 47 New volunteers for the COP, 850 New Age, and 250 copies of Educating for Ignorance and 100 copies of "Parliament of Oppression" were sold.

PLANS have already been made to cover Mayville and Overport. Other branches have already held their Annual Meetings or are preparing to do so.

COUNTRY BRANCHES ALSO ACT..

LADYSMITH WAS unavoidably delayed in holding its Annual General Meeting

owing to the tremendous task undertaken by the Branch to assist the victims of the recent floods there.

IT MUST be reported here that 95 percent of the victims of these floods were non-Europeans and Congress officials and members together with other local citizens maintained over 200 Indians and 50 Africans who were housed together at the local Madressa and about 50 men, women and children who were isolated at the local African location.

HOWEVER, Dr. Sader reports that the Annual General Meeting of the branch will be held before Conference.

PIETERMARITZBURG will be holding its Annual General Meeting on the 27th of this month. Dr. Wilson Conco, deputy President of the ANC Natal will open their meeting.

NEW BRANCHES..

THE ORGANISING Committee has held preliminary meetings at Malvern and Sea Cow Lake where they expect to form new branches in the near future.



TRADE UNION NEWS

by
PROLETARIAN

THE EUROPEAN Trade Unions in Natal are going through a lean period. With prominent Trade Unionists such as S.V.Reddy, Cassim Amra and others banned and with reactionary legislations such as the Native Labour (Settlements of Disputes) Act in existence, non-European Trade Unions are fighting for their very existence.

Whilst this overall picture looks gloomy those Unions that "have weathered the storm" are daily gaining strength. And, African workers particularly are becoming more and more Trade Union conscious.

Hereunder, is a brief report on what some of these unions are doing:-

FOOD WORKERS.

TOWARDS the end of last year an Agreement was made between the Food and Canning Workers Union and the employers in the reserved Food Industry, which brought about increases in wages ranging from 6d to 4/9d per week, on basic rates of pay. In addition to this, Trade Union facilities were granted by the employers and this will enable the officials to visit the workers in their cloak rooms, collect subs and enrol new members.

BOX WORKERS.

AS FROM 1st January, 1955, the workers at Acme Timber Industries Ltd, Jacobs, received increases in their basic wages from 3/- to 10/- per week. This was as a result of successful negotiations concluded by the Natal, Box, Broom and Brush Workers' Union.

CIGAR WORKERS.

SINCE ITS re-organisation last year, the Durban Branch of the National Union of Cigarette & Tobacco Workers submitted demands to the cigar

employers in Durban - Messrs Imperial Cigar Co., Standard Cigar Co., Royal Cigar and the Hollandse Cigar Co., After the employers rejected the Union's demands, the Union made an application to the Minister of Labour for the appointment of a Conciliation Board. The Application has been granted, and the Board will have its sitting in Durban on the 23rd Feb. As the Cigar workers are the lowest paid workers in any industry, it is hoped that the employers will accede to the Union's most reasonable demands. It may be mentioned that the workers are determined to get it!

TIN WORKERS.

ON THE 4th February, 1955 the South African Tin Workers Union submitted demands to the employers giving them time until the 4th of March, 1955 in which to reply to the demands for higher wages and better working conditions. Should the employers reject the demands, the Union is going to apply to the Minister of Labour for the appointment of a Conciliation Board.

IN THE meantime, the Minister has appointed a Wage Board to investigate Tin and the Sheet-Metal Working Industry. The Wage Board will commence its investigations in Durban on

T.U. NEWS Cont..

9th March 1955. The Union made an application for a Wage Board investigation years ago, and repeatedly requested the Minister to grant the application, and at last, he has done so. The last Wage Board investigation was undertaken 14 years ago. A comprehensive Memorandum has been submitted to the Board on wages and conditions in the Industry and making demands for improvements.

WHEN THE Board meets in Durban on the 9th, the Union will be fully represented by officials and members of the Union and its legal representatives.

CHEMICAL Workers..

THE CHEMICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION submitted demands for higher wages and better working conditions on the 25th January this year. The employers on the 7th of February, through the Natal Employers' Association, rejected the Union's demands claiming inter alia.. that, as they regard your demands as utterly unreasonable, they are unable to accede to them, and they are hereby refused." The Union is going to have an emergency meeting on the 19th February to discuss what steps to take next.

THE IMPORTANT fact that must be noted so far as the Union is concerned is that the African workers have enrolled to the Union in very large numbers, and are giving the demands their fullest backing. This is a very good sign, and with the maximum unity of all workers the demands of the Union will be won.

DAIRY Workers..

ON its registration in August, 1954 the Natal Dairy Workers' Union has prepared a comprehensive memorandum of demands for higher wages and for

improvements in working conditions in the Dairy Industry. A general meeting will be held on 12th March, 1955, where the demands will be discussed and finalised, after which they will be submitted to the employers.

UP TO NOW there is no Wage Determination or Agreement that covers the Dairy Industry with the result that wages are low; and in many cases hours of work are as high as 70 hours per week, no lunch-hour, no rest intervals - In fact the workers in the Dairy Industry enjoy none of the facilities that workers in other industries enjoy. The Union is determined to see that all these bad conditions are removed and above all, to see that the workers earn sufficient to keep their wives and children alive - In a nutshell - the Dairy Workers want to live and work as decent human beings and they are not to be kept what they want!

RUBBER Workers..

AFTER the case of comrades S.V. Reddy and M. M. Mahar, the Howick Rubber Workers' Union was the worst to suffer. One of the major difficulties that faced the Union was the engagement of a capable Secretary; and although they have a Secretary now, it seems that things are not going too well. The Annual General Meeting of the Union is already due, has not been held, and it is a requirement under the Industrial Conciliation Act to furnish to the Registrar of Trade Unions the names of office-bearers of the Union. If this is not done the Union is liable for de-registration. This is what the Howick Rubber Workers' Union face - DEREGISTRATION!

AN EXAMINATION has been obtained from the Department of Labour for the holding of the Annual General Meeting,

T.U. News Cont..

and endeavours are being made by some Durban Trade unionists to assist the Howick rubber workers to hold their meeting.

ALUMINIUM WORKERS..

AN APPLICATION has already been made for the registration of the Natal Aluminium Workers' Union, and the Union has been notified by the Registrar of Trade Unions that their application will be publicised in the Government Gazette of the 25th Feb, 1955. It is expected that some Trade Unions will object to the granting of registration BUT the members of the Union are determined to take Court Action.

THE NEXT ISSUE..

IN THE next issue I shall deal with the Garment Workers Industrial Union and put forward a suggestion for discussion amongst Trade Unionists in regard to the organisation of African Workers.

THE QUESTION of the formation of a National non-colour bar Trade Union Centre has been dealt with under "National News" in this issue of the "Call". All I can add is that Trade Unionists must fully support the call made by local Trade Unions to get representatives to attend this important conference.

A.T.C. Branches NOTE!
ANC. Conferences
DURBAN - 13th MARCH.
P.M. BURG & LADYSMITH
27th MARCH.

NIC News Cont..

THE SEA VIEW BELLAIR Branch which had been inactive for sometime has been reorganised and apart from holding its Annual General Meeting which was a huge success the branch took up the issue of water taps in a section of its area and after protracted negotiations with the City Council managed to get corporation water supplies to about 50 families who had hitherto been dependent for their supplies from the Umhlantunza River.

THE CLAIRWOOD BRANCH will be holding its Annual Meeting on 20th Feb, 1955. The Branch officials had to interrupt their preparations for this meeting in order to make urgent representations to the Regional Industrial Town Planning Commission which met to discuss the future of Clairwood. The Commission is discussing a suggestion that Clairwood should be declared an Industrial area and that the 30,000 people residing there should be removed to the adjoining areas of Merebank and Jacobs. This interruption however, will not in any way affect the meeting. On the contrary branch officials anticipate a huge meeting as the people of the area are totally opposed to giving up their homes.

The newly elected Committee of the Riverside Branch is planning an Anti-Group Areas Conference of all organisations in the area. It will be remembered that in the days of the Nationalist bloc that the City Council was defeated by the organised might of the people in this area when it decided to expropriate Indian owned land. The immediate task of all branches is to see that the Provincial Conference is made a success. No effort must be spared to hold the biggest conference ever. This will be an effective answer to the banning of our leaders by the Government.

Call. (TIC)

D.A.S. 14.

1A

FORWARD TO THE
CONGRESS OF THE
PEOPLE

SPECIAL
ISSUE!

GALL

P.O. BOX 226
DUBAI.

MAY, 1955,
ISSUE.

ON WITH THE JOB!

JUNE 25-26 - D-DAYS

ONWARD TO THE C.O.P.



Now the news is out! The Congress of the People will take place on Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th. It will take place Kliptown, Johannesburg. It is less than two months to go; and in that time, the progressive movement must arouse the whole country so that delegates pour in, in their thousands to this great assembly, meeting on a historic day.

THERE IS a great deal to do before we can say "Now we are ready; the people are ready; our Congress of the people will be a tremendous success."

WHAT ARE the things the Congress activists and COP Volunteers need to do? Right away, starting from today, demands must be gathered in from the people for the Freedom Charter; and at the same time delegates must be elected!

WHAT IS THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE? - It is an assembly of delegates of all the people of South Africa, where they can speak of Freedom, and how to get it; there they will adopt a Freedom Charter drawn up from all the views of all the people everywhere of what they would do; if they could make the laws.

WHO CAN SEND DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE? - Any group of men and women, no matter how many they are; they should live in the same block or street or village or town; or they should work together in the same factory or office or shop or farm.

HOW ARE DELEGATES TO BE CHOSEN? - By a vote of the people who came together in a meeting in a house, or in a hall or wherever they may meet, where they can talk over and agree on what they want in the Freedom Charter and what their spokesmen to the Congress of the

People must say.

WHAT ARE DELEGATES TO DO? - They are to travel to Johannesburg, so as to arrive not later than 10 a.m. Saturday morning, June 25th 1955. In Jo'burg, they are to report to offices of the African National Congress, South African Indian Congress, S.A. Congress of Democrats or the S.A. Coloured Peoples' Organisation. They are also to bring their own blankets. Where they have no friends to accommodate them for the night, accommodation will be provided.

WHO IS TO PAY FOR THEIR FOOD & TRAVELLING? - Those who elect the delegate must pay for his travelling, and give him 5/- for his food. If they are willing to speak of freedom, they must be willing to collect money to help win it! Those who can, should collect food-mealies, potatoes, rice, for the delegate to take to the Congress of the People delegates' kitchen.

**CAN YOU SAY: "I HAVE DONE MY FULL SHARE?"
IF NOT - GET ON WITH THE JOB!**

WHAT IF MONEY CANNOT BE RAISED? -

If every effort to raise the money fails, or if no one at your meeting can leave work to travel to Johannesburg, appoint a friend or relative who lives on the Witwatersrand to represent you. Write and tell him that he is to attend - speak for you, and tell him what you want him to say. Tell him to take your letter to one of the Congress offices, and ask for a delegate card.

WHAT IF YOU KNOW NO PEOPLE ON THE RAND? -

Then write to the Congress of the People Committee at Post Office Box 11045, Johannesburg. Tell them what kind of people you are, where you live, and where you work. Tell them what demands you have for the Freedom Charter. They will find a suitable person to represent you at the Congress of the People.

HOW DO DELEGATES GET CREDENTIAL CARDS? -

As soon as delegates have been elected, write to the Congress of the People Committee at P.O. Box 2299 Durban for a delegate's card, or ask your local Congress Branch Secretary for one. Fill it in carefully before giving it to the delegate.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH DEMANDS FOR THE FREEDOM CHARTER? -

They should be written out, in any language, and send it now to the Congress of the People committee, saying how many people were present when they were discussed, and which town or place of work they come from. Or if time is too short, there is space for it to be written on the back of your delegate's card.

WHO IS TO ORGANISE ALL THIS? -

You are; because you want freedom as much as anyone. Start by yourself; talk to your neighbours and your work-mates. Organise a little meeting for them. Then get them to do the same in other places. And write about it to your relations and friends, especially in the country-side and the reserves. But YOU DO IT!

WHEN IS THIS TO BE DONE? - NOW! RIGHT AWAY, TODAY!

There is no time to lose. Delegates have to be elected; money for their fare collected. So do it now! The Congress of the People is on June 25th and 26th.

**WE MUST HAVE A DELEGATE
FROM EVERY SUBURB AND
TOWN IN NATALOO**

IS THIS POSSIBLE? - We say, "Yes" it is!" But it depends on you and your organisation, and upon how quickly you get working to carry out all the following suggestions. These are the things your organisation should do now, without delay.

1. Discuss in your Congress Branch meeting or COP Committee meeting how you can divide your area up, canvassing it block by block, calling the people in each block to have a meeting, where they can discuss demands and elect delegates. Try, if possible to cover every block of your area, call at least one meeting every night.

DEMANDS & DELEGATES: That's the Job, for you! 3.

2. At every meeting, try to get the people present, - or some of them if it is a very large meeting - to form themselves into a committee to collect funds for the delegates travelling expenses. See that one person is appointed convenor or Secretary of the Committee, to handle funds, and to keep in touch with you for all arrangements that have to be made.
3. Don't forget to tell the people at the meeting that they must all - repeat all - write to their friends and relations, especially in the reserves, the mines and the European farms, telling them about the Congress of the People and getting them to send delegates in too.
4. Check through your own members: Where do they work? Has each one called a meeting in his factory or shop or office building to get a delegate elected. Where do they live? Has each one called a meeting in his own street or block to get a delegate elected. What other bodies do they belong to? Churches, trade unions, Advisory Boards, etc. Has each one got his other organisation busy working for the Congress of the People, canvassing their own supporters about it? If not, start now with all these things
5. Please keep in touch with - the Congress of the People Secretariat, P.O. Box 2299, Durban Let them know what you are doing, how many meetings you are calling, how many area drives you have made how many delegates you have organised. Unless they know how the campaign is going, how many delegates are going to attend and so on, they cannot

CALL TO VOLUNTEERS!!

A volunteer is an organiser and a leader of the people. Starting right away, now without delay, he must organise people to formulate their demands. We must call people together, explain to them the Freedom Charter, encourage them to speak out, listen to their demands, and record their demands and send them into the Congress of the People Committee. For some volunteers a start can be made in their own factories or their own place of work - where lunch-hour discussion with his work-mates can be arranged. For all volunteers, a meeting of neighbours in a house, perhaps only of one street or block, can be called together. From these small beginnings we must branch off, going from street to street, from block to block, organising meetings, explaining, listening, recording. For the next few months, volunteers must work like missionaries, without resting. It should be our aim to meet with one group of people or another every night, systematically covering our whole town or locality so that no citizen of South Africa is left out of the discussions on the Freedom Charter.

possibly make the arrangements for travelling etc.

ACT NOW, TODAY!

SOME QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

4.

CAN ORGANISATIONS SEND DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE?

YES, they can, if they want to do so! We want tried representatives of the people, elected by the people themselves in their houses and places of work - not representatives of organisations and committees. Delegates from organisations are not what we want for a People's Parliament! And this goes for your own organisation. Don't just send a delegation from your branch; organise the ordinary people about you; and if you do it properly, your members will be elected as delegates to the Congress of the People, representing not organisations but people, voters!

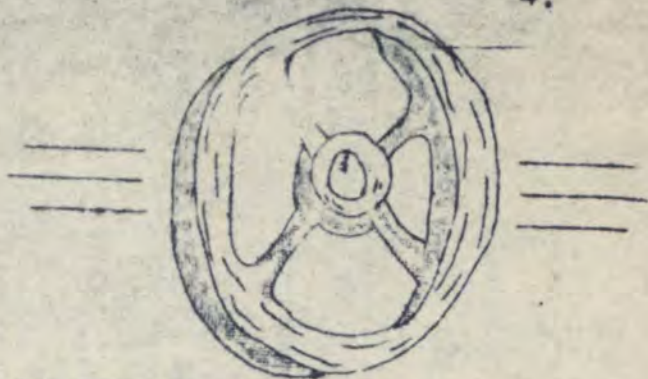
WHO WILL PAY THE COSTS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE?

As explained before, those people who send delegates must pay the costs of his travelling and give him something to put into the common feeding fund when he gets to Johannesburg. Witwatersrand will pay for all the costs of the national Congress of the People at Kliptown. Other areas will pay for their own travelling expenses, plus 5/- per delegate for food.

**NO EXCUSES
FROM VOLUNTEERS!**

There can be no excuses for failure. Every conceivable assistance has been given to activists and volunteers.

GET ON WITH THE JOB!



**AFTER C.O.P.
WHAT NEXT?**

A BIG task faces the volunteers after the Congress of the People meets at Kliptown on the 25th and 26th June 1955.

THIS IS the task of continuing with the work of organising COP local committees in all areas and to work for the implementation of the Freedom Charter which will be adopted at Kliptown.

THEREFORE, volunteers and local COP Committees must not think that their job is done once the Congress of the People is held.

THEY MUST REMEMBER THAT...

A VOLUNTEER IS SOMETHING SPECIAL !

He is more than just a Congressman, who pays his subscriptions and attends his Branch meetings. He is, above all that, an active worker for the Congress cause. He is one who gives up his spare time and his leisure, his evenings, week-ends and holidays, to do active work for the Congress movement. He is one who takes on himself the work of explaining, convincing and teaching others that our cause is right. He is a leader of his people in the long hard struggles for freedom.

*WE MUST CONTINUE WORKING UNTIL
WE ACHIEVE FULL FREEDOM FOR ALL!!*

5.

THEREFORE, A VOLUNTEER MUST BE
A DISCIPLINED WORKER !

He must always be ready to do work with others on whatever the majority has decided must be done. He must be ready to carry out the orders and the wishes of his Congress and COP Committee. He must be ready to help others, but also to learn from them, to listen to others and their advice. He must be prepared to work together with other volunteers, loyally without petty disputes and squabbles.

THEREFORE, A VOLUNTEER MUST
LEARN TO LEAD !

Those who join our Volunteers Corps must learn to understand our Congress Movement and what it stands for. They must study and learn to understand how our people live, and how their lives can be bettered by freedom. They must learn to use their knowledge and understanding to guide the people they live and work amongst on all the daily problems and troubles of their lives. They must learn how to pass their own understanding on to others, in the buses, and trains and streets and factories, so that they can become real Leaders of the community, helping and guiding others towards their freedom. Such people are volunteers! They are something special! There is no prouder title in our movement or amongst our people than the title of "Freedom Volunteer". Those who hold it, must live up to it!

WHAT THEN are volunteers expected to do after the COP.

A VOLUNTEER MUST ORGANISE.

In the first place he must organise other Congress men

and women to join the 'Freedom Volunteers'. He must explain to them what is expected of a volunteer, and fire their imagination with the glorious freedom that active work can win. He must call together all the volunteers in his neighbourhood, and band together with them into a working, neighbourhood group. He must pledge himself to carry out the decisions of his Group, and respect the authority of his officials. He must go out with his group, into the streets and houses and working places of the people, explaining Congress policy to them, winning them to support the Congress and to unite with others in the campaigns the Congress is conducting for the implementation of the Freedom Charter.

A Volunteer is a Freedom organiser! A volunteer must plan! He must meet regularly each week, with his group, and discuss what the group is to do to help in the Congress campaign of the moment. He must decide with his group what each and all of them are to do to carry the Congress campaign to the people of his area. He must plan to use all his week spreading the Congress idea and the Congress message in his home area and his working place. He must plan how to bring the people of his area into the whole nationwide campaign which Congress head-quarters is conducting and how to win the peoples' confidence for the Congress movement. He must check up on what was decided the week before, and see that it was thoroughly carried out by all his group. And he must plan to see that the weaknesses and failures of last week are not repeated against in the future. A Volunteer is a freedom planner.

OUR OBJECTIVE: *Liberation of mankind!*

6.

A VOLUNTEER MUST WORK!

HE must carry out loyally, with all his ability, every detail of everything he agreed with his group to do. He must set a high standard of reliability, and of devotion to the Congress cause, which will encourage others to copy him. He must strive to be the most active worker in every aspect of every Congress campaign, in his area or his place of work. He must always get others, from inside the Congresses and from outside it, to work and grow to be Congressmen and Volunteers. He must seek to win the trust of the people, by doing every freedom task that arises with all his strength. And he must keep eyes and ears open for every opportunity to put in a word for Congress policy, and to strike a blow for Congress campaigns. A volunteer is a freedom worker!

A VOLUNTEER MUST TEACH!

He must teach people that the road to freedom lies through unity with their fellow-men in the struggle led by Congress. He must teach them that their freedom will only be won through their own efforts, and that their strength lies only in unity and organisation. He must teach them to see, in all their little struggles and campaigns, seeds of the great national struggle for freedom which is going on and moving towards victory. He must spread amongst the people understanding and knowledge, by distributing to them the Congress leaflet and pamphlets and the publications like New Age, Inyaniso, Fighting Talk and Liberation which support Congress aims. But to do all this, the volunteer must himself study, learn and discuss. He must study with his group the study notes which are being issued to volunteers through the medium of the "Call".

He must discuss with his group the problems which he meets that arise from the lives of his people. He must listen to the opinions of others and learn from them, so that he can become an expert in the field of organisation for freedom, and pass on to others the understanding which will help them to go forward. A volunteer is a student and a teacher of freedom.

It is not given to everybody to have the high qualities of a volunteer! That is why we say that a volunteer is something special! He is a leader and organiser of his people, who sets the cause of freedom higher than his own comfort and well-being.

Our volunteer movement was started to build the 'Congress of the People! This the first and greatest task before all Volunteers into this work, our volunteers must fit all the other daily, urgent tasks - the fight against Group Areas, Rent Increases, Bantu Education - like individual bricks in the building of a great wall.

THESE tasks are only a beginning! They demand of all the volunteers work, and more work, patience and understanding, devotion to the people. That is why we say "A Volunteer is something special!"

Let us be worthy of that proud title of
VOLUNTEER.

Let us be able to say:

"All my life and all my strength have been given to the greatest cause in the world - the liberation of mankind."

The COUNTRY WE LIVE IN 7.

The second of a series of lecture notes for C.O.P., Congress branch and Trade Union classes.

The first of this series was produced in our last issue. It was entitled "The World We Live In."

THE WAY of life of the people of South Africa has been shaped by imperialism. In the earliest days, when slavery was still common in many parts of the world, slave traders raided Africa, rounding up the people who lived here, and shipping them abroad like cattle to be sold on the slave markets. These slave-traders cared little about the way people lived in Africa. They came, they captured slaves and they departed.

NEW INVADERS..

BUT LATER, a new kind of invader came to Africa - the imperialist. He searched not for slaves to capture and ship to foreign lands, but for workers at low wages to exploit the people and the natural riches of the land. At first, the imperialists found little to interest them in South Africa. Farming in many places was poor, unable to develop along the great plantation lines of other colonial lands; there were no signs of oil or rubber or timber forests sugarfields or cotton such as drew the imperialists to America, to Malaya, Burma, India. There were no signs, in those early days, of precious minerals, coal, iron, gold and diamonds. And so for a long time, imperialism passed South Africa by, leaving it to a handful of white settlers to try to settle down and make a living by farming and supplying vegetables and fruit to passing ships.

MINERAL RICHES..

BUT ALL that changed 100 years ago, when diamonds were first discovered in the Northern Cape near Kimberley. Suddenly, imperialism became hungry for South Africa and her wealth. There was a new invasion of South Africa, not by men with arms, but by men seeking riches from exploiting the minerals and the people. First it was diamonds; then gold on the Witwatersrand; then coal, platinum, copper. In a short space of time, South Africa passed from a backward farming country to one of the world's richest sources of raw materials, and of riches for those who were to exploit the people.

THE NEW PATTERN..

THE IMPERIALISTS made South Africa to suit themselves. They made it a place where labour is cheap, a place where the natural riches of the country can be cheaply produced, a place where people are poor, oppressed and ruled by an iron hand.

IMPERIALISM'S first attack on the way of life of the people of South Africa was designed to break down their independence, to tear them away from their self-supporting farming and make it necessary for them to work for wages. The imperialists worked together with the white farmers, making allies of them against the black people. Together they stole South Africa's farming land from the people, first by armed invasion and conquest, made easy by the superiority of imperialist fire-arms against the assegais, and hide shields of the inhabitants. Gradually the African people were pushed back into smaller and smaller little islands of land. In 1913, armed conquest gave way to "law" - laws passed by a parliament whose authority came not from the people - because only a small white minority had votes - but from the overwhelming force of police and army behind it. In 1913, Parliament passed the Land Act, by which the white minority reserved for themselves for ever nine out of every ten morgen of South African soil. For the Africans - 8 million people - 4 times as many as the white population - only one tenth of the land was reserved. Into this one tenth the overwhelming majority of the African people have been herded; here they try and keep body and soul together on tiny plots, overstocked, overcrowded and eroded. These areas - the reserves and so-called Trust Lands - are truly reserves of poverty; 3½ million people live in them, many thousands with no land at all. Even those who have strips of land are unable to raise sufficient crops or cattle on their tiny plots to keep their families alive, and to pay the heavy taxes which have been imposed on them. And so these reserves of poverty become also reserves of cheap labour, from which ever year hundreds of thousands of men trek to the towns and the European farms, to earn cash wages to supplement their farming income.

THE SYSTEM suits the imperialists perfectly; it makes for high profit in large-scale farming, Mining and industry. Wages remain low since the workers from the reserves have only to support themselves on their wages, while their families live and eat off their reserve farms. Conditions of housing, education, health and recreation are poor, since these workers are only "temporary" workers - working perhaps nine months or a year in the towns and then returning to their rural homes.

THE PEOPLE NOW

IT IS this system of cheap, semi-rural labour which imperialism has perfected in South Africa, and which sets the standards of life and work for all other workers. Of the Africans in the Union, 3½ million live in the reserves and trust lands; 2½ million work on European farms as labourers or labour-tenants, who exchange their work for the right to live on their bosses property and grow a small patch of crops; ¾ million live in compounds attach-

to the mines and other great industries. But as gold and diamond mining developed, so manufacturing industries grew in towns to supply them - clothing factories, engineering factories, food processing factories, etc.; 1½ million of the African people have gradually drifted away from the countryside to work in the town, in the factories and the homes of the white population. Though their cash wages are far higher than those paid to reserve workers who work on short contracts on the mines, even their wages and conditions are kept at a very low level by the standards which are set by the greatest employers of all - the gold mines.

LET US look at how some of these people live.

MINERS of GOLD, COAL, DIAMONDS.

FIRST THE gold, coal and diamond mines. These are the richest in the world, paying over £26 million in profits each to the shareholders, many of whom are abroad in England, America and France. On the gold mines alone, there are 45,000 European workers, and 312,000 African workers. The average wage of the European worker was £803 a year; but of the African only £55 a year, with, perhaps, a further £13 a year as the value of the rations supplied to them. Thus a labourer earns perhaps one twelfth of the wage of a European worker. In mines in Britain or America, a labourer earns approximately two thirds of the wage of a skilled miner. From this can be seen how effectively imperialism has kept wages low in South Africa and profits high.

LAWS OF POVERTY.

A WHOLE system of laws has been passed by Parliament to keep things this way for the benefit of imperialism and the big farmers. Hut and poll taxes, payable in cash, to drive men from the reserves to earn cash wages; Masters & Servants Acts to force men to complete their contract of 270 shifts before they can change their jobs; Urban Areas Acts to keep the workers from settling in the towns after their contracts are complete, or from bringing their families into town during their contracts; Native labour Regulation Acts to protect "recruiters" who scour the reserves for labour without competing with each other and thus forcing up wages; laws like War Measure 1425 to stop the miners holding meetings to improve their conditions. Thus the laws of South Africa grow out of the needs of the rulers of the country - the imperialists and their allies, the big farmers.

(Owing to an error in typing the paragraph entitled "Land Barrons" appears on page 14.)

time the farmer pleases. There are also convict labourers, supplied to the farmers by the Government, kept in private farm prisons, and in all respects treated like slave labourers. So workers on farms, on an average earn even less than workers on the mines.

AND HERE too special laws have been made by the Union Parliament to protect the profits and privileges of farmers. Pass Laws to prevent the African workers moving away from the rural areas; Influx Control laws to keep Africans from entering the towns.

TOWN WORKERS

LET US look at the town workers. Their numbers are growing every year. Of the 4½ million people in the urban areas, just over half are Non-Europeans. In manufacturing industries, whose ownership is exclusively in European hands, two out of every three workers are Non-European. Yet here too, imperialism has left its mark. In 1946 for example, the Non-European workers - two thirds of the total number of workers - earned an average wage of £117 a year each; while the European workers - one third of the workers - earned an average of £425 a year. Profits are high and wages low, and the living conditions of the workers is poor. Housing is bad, often unobtainable; wages only cover the barest necessities of life, poor unbalanced diets of mealie meal, bread, with little else to add, and second-hand cast-off clothing. Yet even this has been fought for and wrung from the unwilling employers by the workers' own organised struggles. Since the beginnings of industry, workers have banded together to form trade unions, and through long and bitter strikes and demonstrations, have gradually raised their standards above the minimum levels set by the mining companies.

HERE TOO, many laws have been passed to keep wages low and profits high. There is the Masters and Servants Act, which binds workers to their bosses and makes it a crime to disobey an order. There is the Mine and Workers Act which reserves all the highly paid jobs in mining and building - the so-called "skilled" jobs - for Europeans. There is the Industrial Conciliation Act which refuses any legal rights to trade unions of African workers; and the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act which outlaws strikes of African workers. There are the many pass and influx laws which make it illegal for an African to be more than seven days in town without a job, and force him thereafter to work on farms or mines.

A SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION

THIS IS the system imperialism has built to protect its high profits at the expense of the people of South Africa. Such a system - a system by which a small group of men grow rich at the cost of the misery, slavery, and poverty of many, is always in danger of overthrow by the oppressed people. This is true of South Africa also.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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