

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE will take place

- when all the peoples' demands for inclusion in the Freedom Charter have been gathered in;
- when the whole country has been awakened to speak of freedom, and the call for elections has been made;
- not later than June, 1955 — at a date and place still to be announced.

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE will be organised

- by 50,000 Volunteers, who will give their time to carrying through the campaign as directed;
- by a network of committees in every village, town and factory, representing and uniting all sections and all races.
- by the National Action Council, composed of all national bodies that agree to act as sponsors.

DO THESE THREE THINGS — NOW !

ONE: SEND IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO A PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, stating that you are interested and would like to assist.

Transvaal Committee, Box 11045, Johannesburg.
Natal Committee, Box 2299, Durban.
Western Cape Committee, Box 4552, Cape Town.
Eastern Cape Committee, Box 1294, Port Elizabeth.
O.F.S. Committee, 3397 Masito Street, Bloemfontein.

TWO: FORM COMMITTEES to campaign for the Congress of the People.

THREE: GATHER GROUPS to send in their demands for the Freedom Charter.

DO NOT THROW THIS LEAFLET AWAY! PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND. DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS. SEE THAT IT IS READ BY MANY PEOPLE.

Issued by the National Action Council of the Congress of the People, Box 11045, Johannesburg.



This Call to the CONGRESS of the PEOPLE

is addressed to all South Africans, European and Non-European.

It is made by four bodies, speaking for the four sections of the people of South Africa — by the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the Congress of Democrats, and the South African Coloured People's Organisation. It calls you all to prepare to send your chosen spokesmen to:

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE,

a meeting of elected representatives of all races, coming together from every town and village, every farm and factory, every mine and kraal, every street and suburb, in the whole land. Here all will speak together, freely as equals. They will speak together of the things their people need to make them free. They will speak together of changes that must be made in our lives, our laws, our customs and our outlooks. They will speak together of freedom. And they will write their demands into

THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

This Charter will express all the demands of all the people for the good life that they seek for themselves and their children. The Freedom Charter will be our guide to those "singing tomorrows" when all South Africans will live and work together, without racial bitterness and fear of misery, in peace and harmony. THIS IS A CALL for an awakening of all men and women, to campaign together in the greatest movement of all our history.

Our call is to you — the People of South Africa. We invite all Union-wide Organisations to join as sponsors of the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, and to take part in its direction. Those who are not afraid to hear the voice of the people will join us. We will welcome them, and work together with them as equals. We invite all local and provincial societies, clubs, churches, trade unions, sporting bodies and other organisations to join as partners in the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE Committee, and to share the work. Those who are not afraid to speak of freedom will join us. We will welcome them, and work together with them as equals.

We invite all South African men and women of every race and creed to take part as organisers of the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE and awaken others to its message. Those who are prepared to work together for freedom and the Freedom Charter will join us. We will welcome them, and go forward together with them to freedom.

OUR CALL IS TO YOU!

- Give your time to spread the message of the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.
- Become a Volunteer to organise for freedom.
- Tell your neighbours and workmates of the nation-wide elections that are coming.
- Rouse the people to discuss what they want of freedom.

LET US WORK TOGETHER FOR FREEDOM!

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WE CALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA BLACK AND WHITE—LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM!

WE CALL THE FARMERS OF THE RESERVES AND TRUST LANDS.

Let us speak of the wide land, and the narrow strips on which we toil.
Let us speak of brothers without land, and of children without schooling.
Let us speak of taxes and of cattle, and of famine.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE MINERS OF COAL, GOLD AND DIAMONDS.

Let us speak of the dark shafts, and the cold compounds far from our families.
Let us speak of heavy labour and long hours, and of men sent home to die.
Let us speak of rich masters and poor wages.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FARMS AND FORESTS.

Let us speak of the rich foods we grow, and the laws that keep us poor.
Let us speak of harsh treatment and of children and women forced to work.
Let us speak of private prisons, and beatings and of passes.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Let us speak of the good things we make, and the bad conditions of our work.
Let us speak of the many passes and the few jobs.
Let us speak of foremen and of transport and of trade unions; of holidays and of houses.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND THE PREACHERS.

Let us speak of the light that comes with learning, and the ways we are kept in darkness.
Let us speak of great services we can render, and of the narrow ways that are open to us.
Let us speak of laws, and government, and rights.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE HOUSEWIVES AND THE MOTHERS.

Let us speak of the fine children that we bear, and of their stunted lives.
Let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, and of the few clinics and schools.
Let us speak of high prices and of shanty towns.
LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

LET US SPEAK TOGETHER

ALL OF US TOGETHER — African and European, Indian and Coloured. Voter and voteless. Privileged and rightless. The happy and the homeless. All the people of South Africa; of the towns and of the countryside.

LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM. And of the happiness that can come to men and women if they live in a land that is free.

LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM. And of how to get it for ourselves, and for our children.

LET THE VOICE OF ALL THE PEOPLE BE HEARD. AND LET THE DEMANDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE FOR THE THINGS THAT WILL MAKE US FREE BE RECORDED. LET THE DEMANDS BE GATHERED TOGETHER IN A GREAT CHARTER OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL ON ALL GOOD MEN AND TRUE, to speak now of freedom, and to write their own demands into the Charter of Freedom.

WE CALL ALL WHO LOVE LIBERTY to pledge their lives from here on to win the Freedoms set out in the Charter.

WE CALL ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO PREPARE FOR:

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE — Where representatives of the people, everywhere in the land, will meet together in a great assembly, to discuss and adopt the Charter of Freedom.

Let us organise together for the Congress of the People.

Let us speak together of Freedom.

Let us work together for the Freedom Charter.

LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER TO FREEDOM!

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NATIONAL ACTION COUNCIL
FOR

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

DRAFT PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

NOTES : (1) This plan is flexible, and will have to be adopted and varied as time goes on, to suit circumstances. It is intended as an overall guide to enable plans to be made ahead of time, and to enable specific objectives to be constantly before us.

(2) Three stages are visualised, each beginning with a session of the National Action Council to review progress and add to the plan for the next stage.

STAGE 1:

Dates are only - not to be fixed by National Action Council in Durban.

AIM :

- (a) To make the C.O.P. known and understood throughout the country.
- (b) To draw in all possible large organisations on national and provincial levels.
- (c) To recruit first 5,000 volunteers.
- (d) To set up provincial committees and to allow them to prepare fully detailed provincial plans of campaign for Stage 2.
- (e) To complete venue arrangements.

METHODS FOR STAGE 1:

SECTION A.

- (a) (i) By this period, 100,000 copies of Call and explanation of COP to be distributed throughout the country to key people - congressmen, shopstewards, teachers, churchmen etc. Done nationally on special days. All main centres to set up distributing offices, and make local appeals for mass turnout of assistants. Carried to country areas subsequently by mobilising all volunteers, and organising countryside trips for purpose.
- (a) (ii) Paste up 10,000 copies of poster where legal in bulk in main urban centres. But also in rural centres, villages etc. by volunteer teams on same day as leaflets. Special instructions in regard to passes, and places to select in countryside to be given to volunteers teams.
- (a) (iii) 250,000 stickers to be posted on doors, busses, public waiting rooms, etc. on National Day by volunteers. (stickers to include selected slogans in all languages)
- (a) (iv) Establish Bulletin editorial and production team, and build up regular fortnightly publication with detailed instructions on next stages of campaign. Distributed by post to all outlying areas, for every volunteer and for selected lists of sympathisers and supporting organisations and press. Volunteers to be asked to pay for copies 3d. each.
- (a) (v) National chalking campaign where legally permitted with 2 selected slogans in all languages, using C.O.P. symbol freely everywhere. If possible issue lino stamps for symbol.

SECTION A (continued)

- (a) (vi) By end of period, have press relations officer, with following tasks carried out and ready for next stage: journalists laid on for weekly article for world press by airmail or cable where possible; machinery in hand to start frequent press bulletins to local press from Head Quarters.

SECTION B:

- (b) (i) Distribute Presidential appeal to every possible national organisation not already covered; follow up with personal letter to officials of all likely bodies, asking for courtesy of reply where none received.
- (b) (ii) Organise in all main centres (including possible regional centres) private round table discussions with personal invitations to prominent people and officials of organisations, where questions will be answered.
- (b)(iii) Issue specific statements through press - possibly take large adverts in appropriate pages - to prominent leaders - Strauss, Malan, etc. - to state their case for not coming in.
- (b) (iv) See that all Provincial Committees immediately get out letter of invitation to all purely local or Provincial bodies to join the Provisional Committees, and to appoint their personnel. (Standard letter drafted and roneoed at H.Q.)

SECTION C.

- (c) (i) Distribute Presidential appeal for volunteers and plan of Volunteer Corps to all Congress branches with aim of 100% enrolment. Organise National Competition between all branches for highest enrolment. Offer as trophy portrait of Luthuli.
- (c) (ii) Organise mass meetings for August 29th, for public pledges and explanation to Volunteers and public of duties of Volunteers and aims of C.O.P. in as many centres as possible.
- (c)(iii) Get out written appeal from Presidents to all contacts made at meetings, conferences, etc. urging them to join as Volunteers, and where possible get printed in display adverts in Press.
- (c) (iv) Produce series of written political lecture notes, hold week-end schools for volunteers selected for future teachers - Basis 200 each in Johannesburg Eastern Province; 100 in Durban; 50 in Cape Town, 25 O.F.S. Total 575 teachers at mass classes, if necessary in open air.

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SECTION D:

- (d) (i) Respective Provincial Committees to be asked to present detailed plans, dates, areas etc. for carrying out second stage of Campaign in terms of this outline, including the carrying of campaign to countryside. Provinces to report to National Council at end of first stage.
- (d) (ii) Set up special sectional committees at Head Quarters on following special sections - Mines, farm labourers, domestic servants, reserves factory workers, youth- to present specialised techniques, propaganda required and special conditions to be coped with. Plans for National Council meeting.
- (d)(iii) Produce pamphlet- minimum 20,000 copies, with all language editions - on "Get your demands in! How to do it!" To be printed by end of first Stage.

SECTION E:

- (e) (i) Venue arrangements to be completed, together with carefully considered draft lease for signature on approval of National Council Meeting.
- (e) (ii) Volunteers to have been specially selected for specialised duties in connection with accommodation, food and all others arrangements for Congress etc. Committee not to start work till after National Council Meeting.

STAGE 2:

PERIOD:

Dates to be specified.

Aim:

- (f) To establish a network of local Congress of Peoples' Committees throughout country in all centres indicated by Provincial Committee Plans. Minimum aim 2,000 committees by end of stage, including one in every town.
- (g) To gather in demands for Freedom Charter from whole country, in writing; with minimum target for each local committee - 10 groups to formulate demands.
- (h) To prepare detailed plan for election procedure, and constituencies.
- (i) To bring Corps of Volunteers up to full quota of 50,000, with each of 575 teachers teaching 50. (Total 28,750 through classes) All volunteer units to receive lecture notes.
- (j) To develop from roneed to printed bulletin for mass distribution.
- (k) To prepare fully detailed plans for delegates travelling, notification, and to carry into effect all the provisions and arrangements for Congress of the People itself.

Draft Plan of Campaign

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METHODS:

Section (f):

- (f) (i) :Get all volunteers out on wee-ends with specific tasks allocated to teams for setting up local committees; set target - one committee for each volunteer! But wherever possible work in teams.
- (f) (ii) Turn every local committee into distributing agency for bulletin, and into groups to do door to door sales with pamphlet "Get Your Demands In".
- (f)(iii) National Council Meeting at end of first stage to issue public call for committee in every factory, farm, street etc. People to take own initiative and make contact with us for authority.

Section (g):

- (g) (i) Produce national 'demands' poster, with space for time and place of gathering, and 10,000 to go out nationally.
- (g) (ii) 20,000 pamphlets to be sold about the Freedom Charter, the elections and the Congress of the People. Local committees to add round sheets to Head Quarters' pamphlet so as to give details of local issues.
- (g)(iii) Produce standardised form for sending in of demands, and get them out throughout country to local committees and volunteers.
- (g) (iv) Organise everywhere great cultural gatherings where people can come together to formulate demands on the basis of occupation, national groups, and religious beliefs, in addition to their primary demands as South African citizens.
"National Charter Day"! Target - 2,000 new volunteers to be recruited for carrying work to countryside. Minimum 100,000 leaflets about Freedom Charter.
- (g) (v) Get full time and week-end teams out everywhere, especially in rural and factory areas with detailed instructions of how to go about it when meetings cannot be held.
- (g)(vi) Produce 100,000 stickers for people to put on own homes "I've said my word for freedom! - Have you?" to be handed out everywhere to people participating in demands. Maybe also new badges for same purpose - (Not Volunteer badge!.)
- (g)(vii) Tremendous volunteers' rallies at end of Second Stage in all centres, with new pledge and dedication ceremonies - and if possible marches calling on populace to join in - "March of Supporters of Freedom Charter"! Speeches to give generalised report on "What is Freedom!" as shown by demands of people in area.

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Section (h)

- (h) (1) :Set up two committees at Head Quarters to make detailed study of Provincial plans, and prepare reports on: constituencies; methods of election and basis of representation, for report to National Council meeting.
- (ii) Circulate plan to national council members each for immediate comments, in order to allow time to prepare and print a pamphlet - Elect Your Delegates - minimum 50,000 copies, to be ready for circulation at beginning of 3rd. stage.
- (h)(iii) Prepare detailed instructions for all local committees, together with report forms, and arrange sending of delegates' credentials as reports come in.

SECTION (i)

- (I) (1) Make every Monday night everywhere Volunteers Education night, with every teacher taking classes of up to 50 over three weeks course.
- (ii) Print summarised booklet - "What good volunteers know of Freedom" based on lectures, for every Volunteer to buy, study and pass on. Minimum target 50,000 copies.
- (iii) On Freedom March day - issue Presidential Call to volunteers everywhere to put on distinctive and unmistakable Volunteer arm-band or tie - and wear it openly everywhere till the Congress of the People.
- (iv) Issue slogan in circular to all volunteers from National Council "each one recruit or more ! "

SECTION (j)

- (j) (1) Start printing bulletin in all languages simultaneously - after National Council meeting - with circulation target for start 15,000 per week minimum - "The Congress Speaks".
- (j) (ii) Select volunteers in all centres as Congress correspondents with weekly reporting task, and send out to them detailed "How to be a reporter" statement.
- (j) (iii) Set target by end of stage of 50,000 per week, with all volunteers taking regularly and selling wherever possible.
- (j) (iv) National Council to consider calling together editors of Advance and other pro-Congress papers with proposal for pooling of resources in single national - 3 language edition paper.

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SECTION (K)

- k (i) Venue committee to select volunteers for sub-sections in respect of food, sanitation, accommodation, travelling etc. and set them all to work.
- k (ii) Issue through National Presidents from National Council call for food, cattle, mealies etc. Each delegate feed one!
- k (iii) Conduct detailed survey of accommodation, approach people in vicinity of venue, and to take boarders.
- k (iv) Make full and detailed arrangements and finalise them for alternative accommodation for the Congress of the People.
- k (v) Set up cultural section to prepare for great cultural festival and contests with real Congress of the People prizes.
- k (vi) Make full plans for announcement of place and time of the Congress of the People. Secretariat only make detailed plans for notification of last minute change if necessary.

STAGE 3. Period: Dates to be specified.

AIMS.

- (m) To convene the Congress of the People and hold National elections.
 - (n) To draft Freedom Charter from demands sent in.
 - (o) To focus attention of whole nation on the Congress of the People and to publicise fully and quickly all its deliberations and decisions.
 - (p) To plan the follow-up to the Congress of the People and decide future of the Corps of Volunteers.
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REPORT FROM NATIONAL VOLUNTEER BOARD

A). PREAMBLE:

"We call for a great nation-wide campaign to rouse the people against Apartheid and to prepare them for decisive steps to defeat it and root it out from the seat of power....."

We call on the citizens of South Africa to take part in the campaign we have launched. We call for 50,000 South Africans to volunteer for active, intensive work in our campaign, mobilising a spirit of resistance to Apartheid and carrying to every corner of the country the message that we must stand and fight till Apartheid is defeated. Our volunteers must raise to new heights, greater even than during the Defiance Campaign, the spirit of our people of all races to win freedom, by their own efforts.....

Our volunteers must carry throughout the country the message of the coming Congress of the People and must gather in the demands of our people for the Freedom Charter which will be adopted at the Congress of the People.....

Our volunteers must meet the reckless violence and reliance, on force of the Nationalist Government with discipline, a refusal to be provoked and a determination to carry on their struggle till our liberty is won.....

We call upon those who love liberty! LET US HAVE 50,000 VOLUNTEERS, NOW, TO DEFEAT MALAN. LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER, TO FREEDOM!"

.....Call for Volunteers by Chief A.J. Luthuli

B). ORGANISATION:

1. Freedom Volunteers: All volunteers are to be known as "FREEDOM VOLUNTEERS", and they will owe their allegiance to their respective organisations.
2. National Volunteer Board: Every sponsoring organisation must appoint a Volunteer-in-Chief. These Volunteers-in-Chief will constitute a National Volunteer Board which will be responsible for all organisation and activity of the volunteers. Where the Volunteer-in-Chief is not resident in Johannesburg the organisation must appoint a ~~deputy~~ resident in Johannesburg. The National Volunteer Board will have the power to make further rules and regulations from time to time.
3. National Volunteer-in-Chief: The National Volunteer-in-Chief will be Chief A.J. Luthuli.
4. Provincial Volunteer Boards: Every organisation must appoint one representative to a Volunteer Board in each Province. The chairman of this board will be the Provincial Volunteer-in-Chief. The Provincial Board must appoint regional and local boards as required. The Provincial Board will be responsible to the National Board, for the direction of the volunteers in each Province.
5. Procedure for Enrolment:
 - (a) Volunteers must sign an application form as per Annexure A.
 - (b) Volunteers must take the pledge at a special meeting. Pledge as per Annexure B.
 - (c) In addition to taking the pledge at this special meeting, all volunteers must take the pledge at a public meeting. The National Action Council recommends that Sunday, August 29th be observed as a National Day of Pledge throughout South Africa. This day should be the occasion for numerous local meetings.

- (d) All volunteers must be placed in units under a unit leader.

NOTE: All applications for enrolment as a volunteer must be carefully scrutinised by responsible officials of the organisation. Any person who accepts the conditions of enrolment may be accepted provided he is not hostile to the policy and leadership of the organisation.

6. **Units:**(a) All volunteers must be formed into units of either:
9 with 1 leader - 10
or: 19 with 1 leader - 20.

(b) Where it is considered advisable, males and females should be organised into separate units.

(c) Boys and girls under 16 should be organised into separate units.

7. **Armbands:** Green, black and gold armbands will be made available for all volunteers.

8. **Badge:** All volunteers must wear a Freedom Volunteer Badge. The Badge is being designed and will be made available shortly.

9. **Study Classes:** It is of the highest importance that all volunteers should be given intensive study classes on all aspects of South African political and economic life. Lectures are being prepared and will be available shortly.

10. **Discipline:** All volunteers must accept the Code of Discipline as per Annexure C.

C). **TASKS OF VOLUNTEERS:**

1. To undertake regular, active and intensive work in mobilising resistance to the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government. Volunteers must campaign against the Bantu Education Act, the Group Areas Act, the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, and the Western Areas Removal Scheme; as well as all local grievances of the people such as housing, passes, rents, and transport.
2. To carry to every corner of our country the message of the Congress of the People, and to gather in the demands of the people for the Freedom Charter. Volunteers must visit every town, village, farm, factory, mine, and reserve in South Africa. This is directly linked with the first task because the Congress of the People must not become an abstract campaign, but must at all stages and in every issue be related to the actual conditions of the people.
3. To assist in any other tasks required for the Congress of the People.
4. To assist in every way possible in the building of the sponsoring organisations.

D). **SUGGESTIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS:**

1. Appeals for volunteers should be made at all meetings.
2. Special appeals should be made through Trade Unions, Churches, Sports Organisations etc.
3. Special encouragement should be given to artists to write plays, poems and songs telling of the Congress of the People and the Freedom Charter, and of the call for Volunteers. This artistic and cultural activity can be of the utmost

value in the course of the campaign.

- 4. Leaflets appealing for volunteers should be distributed by house-to-house visits. This leaflet will be issued by the National Action Council and will be based on the Preamble above.

ANNEXURE A

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT AS A VOLUNTEER:

I, the undersigned, do hereby apply to the Volunteer Board of the National Action Council to be enrolled as a FREEDOM VOLUNTEER

FULL NAME:.....

ADDRESS: RESIDENCE:.....

PLACE OF WORK:.....

MALE OR FEMALE:.....MARRIED OR SINGLE:.....AGE:.....

OCCUPATION:.....

AFFILIATION TO ORGANISATIONS:.....

REMARKS:.....

DATE:..... SIGNED:.....

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NUMBER..... ACCEPTED/REJECTED:.....

COMMENTS:.....

ANNEXURE B

FREEDOM VOLUNTEERS PLEDGE:

Believing that I must fight until Apartheid is defeated, and that the voice of all who love Freedom must be heard at the great Congress of the People, I, the undersigned, Freedom volunteer, do hereby solemnly pledge and bind myself to serve my country and my people to the best of my ability, and in accordance with the policy and programme of my organisation.

I shall be prepared at all times to carry out whatever tasks are required of me by my organisation.

I shall at all times obey the orders of my Leaders and shall strictly abide by the rules and regulations of the National Volunteer Board.

DATE:..... SIGNED:.....

ANNEXURE C

FREEDOM VOLUNTEERS: CODE OF DISCIPLINE:

1. The purpose of a Code of Discipline is to teach all volunteers a sense of SERVICE, RESPONSIBILITY, INITIATIVE AND DISCIPLINE.
2. Volunteers must be encouraged to plan their own work and to accept responsibility for all tasks given to them.
3. Volunteers must obey all orders given to them by their leaders.
4. Volunteers must accept criticism and reprimand without ill-feeling.
5. Volunteers must set an example to all by their appearance, bearing and conduct. Therefore:
 - (a) They must maintain a high standard of cleanliness, both in person and in dress.
 - (b) They must at all times avoid drunkenness and hooliganism.
 - (c) While on duty they must be erect and alert.
6. Volunteers must never allow themselves to be provoked into violent action.
7. Volunteers must always be ready if required for duty.

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MEETING : SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, HELD IN
THE TRADES HALL, 30 KERK STREET, JOHANNESBURG, ON SUNDAY
THE 22ND. OF APRIL, 1956.

CHAIRMAN: "It is quarter past eleven now we will wait until half past eleven and then we will start our meeting."

11.30 a.m. : The meeting will commence now will you all stand up and sing Nkosi Sekelele Afrika".

(Singing of Nkosi Sekelele Afrika).

CHAIRMAN: "This is a conference of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. I hope the people who are here will spread the message, we know when you build a house you cannot complete it in one day. Now you must know that S.A.C.T.U. is your organisation, the success of S.A.C.T.U. lies on you, if you work hard for S.A.C.T.U. the results will be good. An injury to one is an injury to all. Now I think there will be many speakers here who will explain to you the work of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. S.A.C.T.U. is an organisation of all trade unions without a colour bar, we have no colour bar in our organisation. The future is ours. I will call on the Secretary to read his fraternal messages".

SECRETARY: (John Nkadimeng) "Comrade Chairman and fellow delegates this is a fraternal message from the African National Congress Women's League (Tvl.) to the special conference of all workers. Comrade Chair your conference meets at a time when the Nationalist Government (wants to take away the rights of the) working class and to make the trade union movements powerless. The African National Congress Women's League resolves to fight against the Government's reactionary policies and will assist in organising all workers irrespective of colour, race or creed. We wish your conference every success and pledge our support on all items. Yours in the struggle for trade unions."

Fraternal message from the Transvaal Indian Congress: Dear friends, the Transvaal Indian Congress sends its warmest fraternal greetings to the South African Congress of Trade Unions. Your conference is taking place at a time when the Industrial Conciliation Bill is facing us. The policy of the Nationalist Government is clear and that is to (deprive the people of their rights) in our country. We wish your conference every success and hope that your deliberations will inspire all workers. Let us work towards the day

when all will be free to have trade unions. Freedom in our lifetime. Transvaal Indian Congress. Mayibuye Afrika".

CHAIRMAN: "Well comrades I think we shall carry on with our second item on our agenda. The Secretary again will read us the report on the work of the Local Committee".

SECRETARY: (J.Nkadimeng) "Comrade Chairman and fellow delegates this is the report of the Local Committee: Comrades it is during the year that it was proposed at the Provincial Council of the South African Congress of Trade Unions that our task must be to constructively co-ordinate and unite local trade unions, and assist them in every way possible in their struggle against the exploitation of the workers. The formation of our meeting is very important in the organisation of our congress to bring about any results and it occupies a very important place in the struggle of the working people of South Africa for emancipation. As you all know and as everyone knows the working class of any country, without proper guidance and leadership, our struggle to maintain our position, status and principles will be lost, but with it it will win us a place in the world economical and political arrangement.

Our congress set itself as a priority the task to mobilise the masses of the unorganised workers into trade unions. This is still on the agenda and we will discuss it so that you can see that every man should belong to a trade union in our country. Our congress as you know came into existence as a result of the reactionary tendencies of the Government which developed into the South African Congress of Trade Union movement. The measures imposed by the reactionary policies of the Nationalist Government - when certain individuals in the trade union movement took it upon themselves to oppose the apartheid music of the Nationalist Government.

The intentions and aims of our congress are well known to everyone in the country. Our aims are nothing other than the consolidation of the powerful trade union struggle which will bring to the working people of South Africa the right to ensure that the worker must share in the wealth of the country and enjoy in full the fruits of their labour. The activities of the Local Committee - comrades I have presented to you in brief a true account of the main facts of our coming into being and the /...3.

the tasks assigned to us in the light of affilliating the trade unions in South Africa. Our plans have always been in conformity with the instructions of our National Executive Committee and the reason for which we were formed is not yet accomplished.

Our Local Committee were composed of the following:-

Chairman :	Don Mateman.
Vice-Chairlady :	Mrs. Ghicha.
Treasurer :	A.Carters.
Secretary :	(J.Nkadimeng.)

Members of the Committee :-

Ngomo :	Laundry Workers Union.
L.Makwakwa :	Garment Workers Union.
<u>Lawrence Nkosi</u> :	Furniture Workers Union.
Bovugana :	
A.Pathlele :	Textile Workers Union.
J.Makas :	Laundry Workers Union.

Some of the comrades whose names are here resigned from the Committee and other members have taken up their places, and of course, we brought more members into its ranks. The following were brought in :- L.Friedman, M.A.Sijake, and A.Mathlangu.

During the year the Local Committee issued free leaflets calling upon the workers to unite in their fight against the South African Government, urging the unity of all workers who were ruthlessly locked up by their employers, to unite in their fight for higher wages.

Two public meeting were called by the Local Committee one of which was to celebrate May Day, and the other to popularise our national conference which took place in Cape Town. Of these two meetings the May Day celebrations were not well attended by the workers and it became clear that the workers still have to be told the significance of May Day. Our local conference to popularise the Cape Town conference was an outstanding success when over three hundred workers from the factories attended.

The report of the Cape Town conference will be given to-day and you will be asked to carry out resolutions that they passed. In some respects the Local Committee helped other trade/.....4.

trade unions in their struggle and urged them to join the South African Congress of Trade Unions. Comrades we feel that we have not time enough and we hope today that steps will be taken to reorganise ourselves so that our struggle can be a success. We hope too that the new Local Committee which will be elected will mobilise the masses of unorganised workers into trade unions which shall be united under the banner of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. We must produce new leaders so as to get new life in the trade union movement. We must work side by side with other organisations in its fight for the aims set out in the Freedom Charter and the coming into being of a new democratic South Africa. Long live the South African Congress of Trade Unions! Long live the unity of the workers! Mayibuye!"

CHAIRMAN: "Well comrades the Secretary has read you his report and you can discuss it now, you can ask questions that you did not understand. Alright the matter is open for discussion".

SPEAKER: "Mr. Chairman and the house .. (Inaudible)."

CHAIRMAN: "Well comrades I think the comrade is right there, our next speaker is going to give that report to you and then you will be able to bring that point forward".

SPEAKER: (L. Levy) "Comrades and fellow workers, today I am going to talk briefly because I usually have so much to say that I talk such a long time. Comrades today I want to talk about the parliament, not the parliament that you know of in Capetown that sits there, not the parliament of Strydom and Verwoerd, but the parliament of congress I want to talk about."

Comrades the conference that was held in Capetown by the South African Congress of Trade Unions was the worker's parliament and my task today comrades is to tell you what that worker's parliament decided and to tell you how we must carry out the wishes of that worker's parliament.

For the first time in the short space of one year the South African Congress of Trade Unions called a national conference which took place in Capetown from the 1st to the 4th of March, 1956. It was the first time comrades that workers from the factories and from all over South Africa assembled/..5.

assembled in that great hall in Capetown to discuss the problems and the wishes of the workers. It was not only the workers that got up and made fine speeches. There were no big shots there giving the orders it was the workers from the factories standing up and speaking. There were more than one hundred and sixty delegates and observers there and they represented thirty thousand workers - altogether they spoke for thirty thousand workers who had sent them there. Comrades when the workers got up and spoke of the terrible exploitation of the workers the conference determinedly agreed to fight back, to fight back in a way which would win for the workers security, peace and happiness.

Comrades the workers at the conference spoke about the laws which prohibit them and stop workers from attending meetings and form their own trade unions. We realised that to fight back and win is to organise workers into trade unions so that they can oppose their bosses and the Government. Without trade unions comrades it is impossible to organise workers. Therefore comrades we decided the workers should fight to win for themselves the right to organise freely in trade unions and negotiate agreements with their employers directly. Comrades one of these laws is the Native (Settlement of Disputes) Act or should we say the Police Settlement of Disputes Act. Comrades this Act of the Government, the Native (Settlement of Disputes) Act denies the right to the workers to have their trade unions registered by the Registrar and recognised by the employers. Comrades this law deprives the African workers of the right to strike for higher wages. Now comrades how can you ever check your employers if you have'nt got the right to strike. Comrades this law deprives the right to the workers to live decently, to eat healthy.

Comrades at that conference the workers spoke of how the workers are made slaves, the moment they open their mouths they are arrested and victimised by the police. Comrades the workers spoke of a strike and how the police rushed to the scene and arrested the workers. But comrades it was not good enough to hear others complain, it was not good enough just to get up and talk, something had to be done and a way had to be made in order to win for ourselves the right to do these things. Therefore comrades the workers parliament called upon the workers of South Africa to organise and fight for trade unions. Conference called upon the workers to fight determinedly, to fight for the recognition of their trade unions/...6.

unions and the right to negotiate with their bosses and to fight against every form of exploitation, every form of discrimination. Therefore comrades our task today is to carry out these instructions, if we are to carry out the resolutions we must understand it, we must understand the meaning so we know how to go on and defeat these Bills.

Comrades it means that we must build powerful trade unions, that we must organise and educate the workers, it means comrades that everyone of us in this hall must organise and educate our fellow workers. This means comrades that we must win the worker's confidence, that we must show the way out and comrades we can never do that by fine speeches the workers like to see something concrete, something real. It means therefore comrades that all worker's complaints and grievances must be taken up, it means comrades that we must inspire the workers to fight against their bosses for higher wages. We must teach the workers what unity means, what it means to stand together all as one man and fight the employers for higher wages and better conditions of work. Comrades it means that the workers in the factories must become leaders, comrades the secretary of a union cannot do that alone the workers must help him to do that.

Comrades these are new times in South Africa now. The workers are demanding freedom and we must re-double our efforts to get it for them. Comrades this is how we can carry out the resolutions of the Capetown conference, in fighting for higher wages, in fighting against the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, in fighting for the recognition of trade unions. Comrades this is a challenge to the workers of South Africa are we going to accept these laws lying down or are we going to stand up and meet them organised and fight back, are we going to submit to the slavery, the sjambock and the whip, or are we going to form powerful trade unions and force the employers to give way to the wages demand. I believe comrades that we are going to build these powerful trade unions, that we are going to do the same as our fellow workers have done overseas in fighting for freedom and that we shall win our freedom through organising the workers into powerful trade unions.

Comrades the conference in Capetown decided that local committees of the South African Congress of Trade Unions must be built up, that a committee of Congress should be in every centre of South Africa where they can organise the workers/...7.

workers under the banner of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. Therefore it was decided that every local committee of the South African Congress of Trade Unions should set aside certain days in the month through the year as Workers Unity Days. On these days comrades, which we shall call Workers Unity Days, we shall have rallies for the workers, we shall collect funds for the local Congress of Trade Unions and we shall organise those workers who are not in trade unions into trade unions, we shall teach them and inspire them to fight back.

Comrades I sincerely hope that from the floor today workers here will get up and say what they think about workers unity days, how we are going to organise, how we can rally the workers under the congress banner. Comrades we have also decided that those people who dig up the diamonds and the gold and the coal must be organised that those miners who are getting three pounds a month and less must be organised into trade unions. But comrades we have been saying now for many years that we must organise those workers in the mines, comrades the time has come for us to stop talking but get down and organise those workers, and therefore comrades I hope that today too we shall get up and talk about the mine workers and how we can organise them, and how we can rally them into the ranks of the Congress of Trade Unions.

Comrades you realise how powerful we would be if all the miners were organised into trade unions. And what about the farm workers, those farm workers who have been whipped and brought from the farm gaols, what about them, what about organising them too. Our conference in Capetown was determined to organise the farm workers and the miners. Comrades conference also decided to fight for a forty-hour week. Why should workers stand all day and work such long hours, why should they be denied the right to be with their families. Why should workers be denied the right to rest, and to study and to live a decent happy life? Therefore comrades we want a forty-hour week. Comrades we must fight hard and organise all the workers into strong trade unions.

Comrades let us turn our minds for a moment to the Department of Labour. The Department of Labour has collected sixty eight million pounds from the workers, that money was supposed to be for unemployment insurance, but comrades in the first year that Malan came into power that right was taken away from the African workers, all that money that

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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