

SET THE EXILES FREE!



NEW AGE

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Gwentshe in Exile



This picture of Alcott Gwentshe, banned ANC leader from East London, was taken in the Native Affairs Department's detention camp at Frenchdale.

(From Ruth First)

JOHANNESBURG.

It's been an anxious week of dismayed denials for the Government.

Camps? said Verwoerd. "It's absolutely untrue." It's not policy to put banished Africans together . . . but since 1950 there's been such a stepping up of banishments that the Government has had no option.

To talk of camps is "the biggest nonsense going," N.A.D. Chief Information Officer Mr. C. W. Prinsloo told New Age.

"You can draw out your definition till you can call two families living together a camp," State Information Officer Badenhorst told me.

The Nationalists would like to reduce this flare-up to one of words and definitions, hoping to smother the facts.

But how many people must you doom to a dreary remote spot, trial-less and without any hope of legal redress, before you can call it a camp?

The Nats can pat themselves on the back that they have devised new types of camps, their own dreaded variety. Men are banished to the remote wilderness, silently, swiftly. There are no armed guards, no electrified wiring, no bloodhounds. But men are detained indefinitely, exiles and outcasts for all time. They are the Forgotten Men of South Africa.

That the Government denies too.

DOES NOT KNOW

But the fact is that the Government does not even know who it has banned, how many detention spots there are, and where they are. There is no list available. This Mr. Prinsloo of the Native Affairs De-

(Continued on page 8)

THERE ARE MORE CAMPS THAN ONE...

The detention centre on the FRENCHDALE TRUST FARM in the Mafeking district has been in the glare of the world spotlight this week. Here are held Alcott Gwentshe, Congress leader from East London ordered into exile in May 1953 first to Bushbuckridge in the Northern Transvaal and now in Frenchdale; P. Tsepho K. Mokwena, Matela Mantsoe from Witzieshoek and Caswell Moiloi from Witzieshoek, deported for refusing to repair fences and cull cattle after the disturbances in the Reserves some six years ago; "Bishop" Kuenta, leader of a religious sect, and old Thompson Dhlamini from Bergville, Natal, who was sent to the camp in 1953 after a dispute with a tribal chief.

Frenchdale is one detention centre. There are others scattered about the country.

In the VRYBURG DISTRICT are the farms Glen Red and Driefontein. At Glen Red is Benoni deportee Elias K. Monare deported from his home during the Bantu Education school boycott on the East Rand. Destitute, Monare nevertheless had to send for his wife and four children to join him in exile.

In the Vryburg district is Joel Lengisi, deported from East London together with Gwentshe and removed from his first place of exile in the Barberton area.

On the farm DRIEFONTEIN are Chief Jeremiah Mabe and five of his tribal councillors exiled six months ago from their home among the 6,000-strong Bathlaka tribe in the Rustenburg district. They were deported without warning, allowed to take only their overcoats. They won their case in the Supreme Court but never had the opportunity even to leave their camp, for the day after their court case victory fresh notices were served on them.

At BUSHBUCKRIDGE on the

fringes of the Game Reserve are two members of the Matlata tribe, men from the Matlata location in the Pietersburg area, banished years ago and dumped in this spot, to live in a disused shed pointed out to them by the Native Commissioner.

Saliwa, before he won his court appeal, was exiled in the PIETERSBURG area. How many other men are there?

At NEBO in the Groblersdal district is an aged Mopeli exile from Witzieshoek. A wealthy man in his tribe once, he is destitute, distraught, and cut off from his family and people.

There are other camps in the Union, without doubt, where tribesmen, the Witzieshoek martyrs and men who have fallen out with the authorities are hidden.

These men who are banished are not criminals. They have never been charged before a court or con-

(Continued on page 8)

FREEDOM STRUGGLE MUST GO ON

Luthuli Backs Call For All-in Conference

DURBAN.—"The struggle for Freedom must go on no matter how hard the struggle might be! It must go on because Freedom is the noblest human attainment for which man throughout the ages has willingly paid the supreme sacrifice," declared Chief Albert J. Luthuli, in his presidential address to the annual provincial conference of the Natal African National Congress, held last week-end.

Chief Luthuli, who was making his first public appearance since his banning two years ago, speaking with great emotion said: "To be back with you again is an occasion I would not miss for anything. It makes one feel so good. It gives one the inspiration one needs so much after a long period of enforced isolation.

STRUGGLE MUST GO ON

"It is appropriate at this stage in hinking about our subject: 'The Struggle Must Go On!' to pay tribute to those men and women who have suffered or died for freedom in our country. If all those lovers of freedom are not to have died or suffered in vain it behoves those of us who still, in some way, can act,

"The Atlantic Charter shows this! The United Nations Charter shows this!

"The Bandung Declarations show this!

"The Kliptown Freedom Charter—Our own Charter—shows this!

"It must go on because otherwise we would be so untrue—so disloyal to our dear Africa, for too long despised and called a dark continent: A continent of wild beasts, of deadly diseases, of human savages—you.

"BOYS" AND "GIRLS"

"To this day some white citizens, including some Ministers of the Crown, still openly tell the world that Africans are primitive and savage: many despise you and call your grown-ups—'boys,' make your

(Continued on page 3)



Chief Albert Luthuli, President-General of the ANC—first public speech for two years.

to play our part faithfully.

"Even if some desert the cause, 'the faithful few' must carry on the struggle."

In reply to his own question, "Why are we in such earnest that the struggle must go on?", Chief Luthuli said:

"It must go on because freedom is the noblest human attainment for which man throughout the ages has willingly paid the supreme sacrifice. "Man in his best moments yearns for it.

Group Areas Sitings

Coloured People Want A Hearing

CAPE TOWN.

A RECORD number of people is expected to turn up at the Old Supreme Court building in Cape Town, today, Thursday, August 2, to attend the first sitting of the Group Areas Board which is to decide the fate of 170,000 people of the Cape Peninsula living between Observatory and Muizenberg.

The Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee at a special meeting last week urged all interested people to be present to "show their determination to retain their homes and their freedom."

The Committee will be represented by its legal advisers who will argue its right to be heard before the Board. The Board has so far ignored its request for an oral hearing and has not invited it to

(Continued on page 3)

YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS

REGULAR readers of this column (and we hope that means every reader!) will remember that the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress set themselves a target of £50 for our National Campaign Fund. They reached that figure in a very short time and then went on to raise another £60—£110 in all.

Another organisation which has helped appreciably is the Johannesburg Congress of Democrats. Their contribution of £127 10s. is made up of many personal sacrifices by individual members. The younger people, particularly, were outstanding in this respect.

Our readers in other organisations should draw the necessary conclusion from the above examples and see to it that their organisations, too, play their part in helping to

keep New Age alive. For it is only through the medium of the people's own organisations that our paper can draw on mass support.

It would be very interesting, for instance, to see what Port Elizabeth, with its splendid volunteer organisation, could do for us if they really tried. What about it, Port Elizabeth volunteers?

We need every bit of assistance we can get, and we need it right now. Our printer has informed us that our new shipment of newsprint is on the water and is due to arrive at any time. If we do not have the money to pay for it we shall be in serious trouble.

WE APPEAL TO ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS WITHIN THE NEXT

FEW WEEKS.

MAKE YOUR OWN PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND HELP KEEP NEW AGE IN EXISTENCE!

THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:
Collection Tin 10s.; Mark 10s.; Davis 5s.; Friend £12.10; Lex £3.3; D.B. 5s.; S.M.P.; £2.2.6; L.L. & G. £4; Dora's Quota £5; J.Z. £3.17; Monthly 10s.; R.N. 2/6d.; Well-Wisher £1; Bottles £1; M.G. £2; K.D. £1; Future £1; M.W. 10s.; Latke £1; Harry £1; F.T. 10s.; N.E. £5.

Previously acknowledged £4,435 2 3
Total this week 174 5 0

TOTAL TO DATE £4,609 7 3



Critics of South Africa Are Not All Misinformed

Nationalist rule has brought the stings of tyranny to the oppressed masses of our land.

Whirlwinds of criticism have been rolling on to our shores, with the ruling class replying: "Misinformed, false, and distorted picture of what is going on in South Africa." But people who walk in this country with eyes to see, know the truth.

The white masters believe that the black population should remain ignorant and illiterate forever; that they should be pushed into locations and deprived of their land. They ban innocent fighters for freedom. Hundreds of our brothers are made voiceless.

The black man is not allowed to do skilled labour—"Cut sugar cane—that's better!"

There is no liberty, not even justice. Who suffers is nobody's concern. Such are the racial policies of our land where every white child is taught to hate the black man.

Salvation lies in the unity of the people—with one aim: to fight tyranny and bring peace, order, prosperity, liberty and equality through supporting both Indian and African Congresses until the goal is achieved in the land of our birth.

M. KRISNAMURTI
Candella, Durban.

Klerksdorp Protests Against Passes

A huge meeting was held in Klerksdorp's Jouberton Location on July 22. Women of all races are preparing to march to Pretoria to tell the Government of South Africa that they do not want passes and will not carry them whether painted in gold or silver, for it is these passes which have brought misery to the people of South Africa and disrupted our family life.

Speakers at the meeting stressed that the Government was doing wrong by trying to force our women to carry passes. We of the ANC want the police for the people and the people for the police.

M. MEKULA
Klerksdorp.

Support For Nurses' Stand

The magnificent and gallant "refuse payment" stand by the nurses of this hospital in Durban remains firm and unchanged. The struggle by these brave daughters of Africa is now entering its third month.

Among other things the alleged reasons for this refusal of payment are bad conditions in the hospital, expulsion for petty offences and the system under which nurses receive their pay. The latter has raised a suspicion of under-payment among the nurses.

These people need help from the democrats of this country.

I therefore appeal to the ANC to give its full attention to this matter and see if it can render any assistance.

STEWART JALI
Durban.

Flat Workers Reject Dube

A meeting of African workers from flats, hotels, kitchens, private hotels and nursing homes, under the auspices of the Domestic Workers' Union, was held in the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on July 22, 1956, to discuss the removals of workers from the towns.

Keep It Short

Readers are reminded that they must keep their letters short. We receive a large number of letters each week and regret that we have not enough space to publish them all.

wages and working conditions of domestic workers. The chairman was Mr. Bopape, of the ANC Central Branch.

After welcoming the delegates to the meeting, the chairman asked the members of the Special Branch to leave, which they did.

The first speaker, from the Canning Workers' Union, pointed out that the workers would not be able to improve their conditions until they had organised into a strong union, and worked in co-operation with the unions of other workers.

The next speaker, one of the D.W.U. leaders, said he went to

Dube to see for himself and found that anybody who lived there would have to carry a permit. The police van would trap defaulters at the very gates of the hostel. Therefore Dube was not for the people's comfort.

Other speakers included representatives of SACTU and Dr. Mashilwane, who urged the people to fight against the oppressive policies of the Government for a better relationship and friendship.

The meeting resolved that no worker would go to Dube, that workers should be paid at least £15 a month and should have shorter hours.

M. C. BOSHELO
Johannesburg.

Thanks

I would like to express my thanks to all my friends who expressed their condolences to me and my dear ones on the death of my father, the Rev. Seth Makhele.

At the funeral an uncle said: "I have never seen such love among Congress people. The deceased belonged to the ANC as much as he belonged to his family."

I have received letters of condolence from all parts of the country, but the one that was published in New Age is the one my family and I shall treasure.

May your candle of protest burn; may your day of freedom dawn; may the people have the spirit that ruled Africa in the old days.

Africa! Mayibuye!
ERNEST MAKHELE
Westonaria.

P.E. Council Has Done Wrong

Now that the sheen-skin has been pulled off the wolf, we can recognise that the attitude of the Mayor of Port Elizabeth and those who felt and thought like him in requesting Dr. Verwoerd to banish the so-called unsuitables is an un-Christian one.

These "unsuitables" are made in the image of God and they have the legitimate right to go where they wish and earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. Now the authorities of Port Elizabeth want to deprive these children of God of the right to earn their livelihood.

This is a dirty trick they have played on the people and their conscience will never be clear. My advice to them is that they join the Nats—though I don't think they will accept it because they are neither here nor there.

S. J. TOBIAS
Secretary, SACPO,
Port Elizabeth.

FRENCHDALE

ACCORDING to Mr. Oswald Pirow, a Cabinet Minister told him last week that he was "sick and tired of answering questions about Natives."

That Cabinet Minister and his colleagues, and all who support the evil policy of apartheid, will be a lot sicker and tired before they are finished "answering questions about Natives." For they have a lot to answer for.

Many sections of the South African press and politicians have tried to brush aside the uproar over the Frenchdale concentration camp as though it were a matter of minor importance.

The Minister of Justice Mr. Swart said that "as far as the Department of Justice was concerned there was not a word of truth in the report . . . there were no such camps."

He was given the lie by the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, who admitted there were such detention camps, but denied they were "concentration camps" as described in the English newspaper Reynolds News. In any case, said Verwoerd in the true fascist manner, the only people who were affected were those "found responsible for disturbing order," and they were removed "in the interests of the Bantu community, not of the European."

Furthermore, the Minister went on, "exactly the same procedure for banishment of Natives was followed today as was followed by previous governments, including that of General Smuts." In other words: "I'm not guilty. But even if I am guilty, so are you!"

He was followed by Mr. John Cope, United Party "liberal" M.P., who said personal investigation had satisfied him Frenchdale was not a concentration camp. It should rather be regarded as South Africa's St. Helena, he said, as though that made it any better.

The apartheiders breathed a sigh of relief and settled down again. Another crisis had been survived. Those damned English newspapers had been lying again.

Left To Rot

Meanwhile, South Africans who have been dragged from their homes are still left to rot at Frenchdale, without any means of earning a livelihood, without any hope of ever being allowed to return to normal life again. They are not allowed to plough. They are not allowed to leave the area.

No decent person can allow the matter to rest there. These camps, call them concentration camps, detention camps, St. Helenas or what you like, are an outrage against humanity. They must be cut out of the South African body politic like a cancerous growth.

All South Africans bear a responsibility for allowing Frenchdale to happen. If they do nothing to put an end to this abomination, they must share the blame and the disgrace which will be heaped on our country by the whole civilised world, just as every German who did not fight the Nazis today shares the guilt for the crimes which were committed by Hitler.

South African public opinion must force the closing down of Frenchdale forthwith. But it is not enough to think that that would be the end of the matter. Frenchdale is not exceptional. There are many exiles confined in other parts of the country. There are men and women being hounded out of the towns and families broken up every day under the pass laws. Verwoerd, by means of the Prohibition of Interdicts and the Urban Areas Amendment Acts last session, gave himself and his officials sweeping powers to do this sort of thing on a bigger scale than ever.

Must we wait for the stench to reach overseas nostrils before we put an end to this too?

Cost is Too High

Frenchdale, the banishments without trial, the removals, the endorsements out of town—all these evils flow from the mad apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government and its determination to maintain White supremacy at all costs. Is it not now becoming clear as day that the cost is too high for any self-respecting people to pay?

As day by day our apartheid-intoxicated Government leads us into fresh disasters and disgrace, it is time for the South African people to call a halt. Let all of us who hate fascism put our differences aside and join hands to rid our country of these tyrants. We want an end to the story of Belsen and Frenchdale. We want an end to the raids and arrests, the rioting and the shootings, an end to the banishments, the pain and suffering of the pass laws; an end to the suspicion and hatred and fear that comes from apartheid.

We want to live proud and free like human beings, in peace and amity with one another, not quarrelling like the beasts the Nationalist Government is turning us into. The only foundation on which a brave new South Africa can be built is that laid down in the Freedom Charter; daily events are proving that we must build quick if we are to spare ourselves the worst excesses of fascism.

ENTIRE PROCESSION ARRESTED ON WAY TO NATIVE COMMISSIONER

Communist Victory in Bihar

BOMBAY.

In the first election here since the Khrushov report on Stalin and the cult of the individual, the daily press commentators have been confounded by the victory of the Communist candidate.

The contest was a by-election for a seat in the Bihar Assembly which is controlled by the Congress Party. In a straight fight the Communists won by 12,393 votes to 9,204. This is the first time they have held a seat on the Assembly, which is Congress controlled.

In the election campaign the Congress candidate had concentrated his main fire on alleged "subservience" of the Communist candidate to "the Soviet empire of Khrushov" and had made great play with the Khrushov report.

The complete failure of this line of attack and the fact that in spite of it Socialists and other left-wingers responded to the Communist call for a united front prompted the right-wing Bihar Times to comment: "It is clear that Congress wrongly estimated the effect of the disclosures on the Communists. They have not been weakened, and here at least they are stronger. Congress should re-appraise its propaganda."

Women More Determined Than Ever To Fight The Pass Laws

JOHANNESBURG.—The arrest of an entire procession of 104 Ermelo women on the way to protest to the Native Commissioner against passes, far from frightening the women, has stiffened their resolve for the August 9 demonstration to Strijdom.

All the Ermelo and neighbouring locations are infuriated by the women's arrest and an ugly incident was narrowly averted at a public meeting in the New Ermelo location on Sunday when two squad cars of police arrested the meeting chairman, Mr. S. Mabuza, in full view of the crowd. The charge? Collecting monies without a permit.

Stung to anger by these two incidents, young men in the crowd started pummeling the squad cars with their fists. An ANC speaker told the police to drive off directly and calmed the crowd.

HOW IT STARTED

A women's anti-pass demonstration to the Native Commissioner started gathering early from New Ermelo, Spitzkop, Wesselton locations and the Bellevue mine outside the town, also from farms. All contingents were to join up and go together to the Commissioner. As those from New Ermelo who were walking the four miles to town, approached its border, they were met by a police van. The young girls carrying flags and banners in front of the procession (one banner read "Away with passes, give us water") were told to hand them over.

The police rushed back to town to return with the Native Commissioner, the magistrate and 20 more armed police. They stopped the demonstration.

The Native Commissioner said he had agreed to receive only ten women. "We didn't get your letter," replied Mrs. Elly Nkosi. "All the women want to tell you they don't want passes."

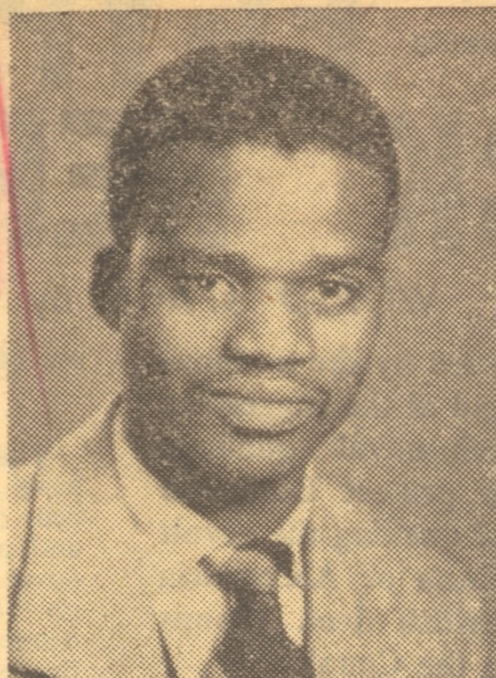
The magistrate said there was no law yet that Ermelo women were to carry passes. "The law has not yet come to my office."

The women greeted each sentence with a shout of Nkosi. Asked where the deputation of ten was, the ten stepped out from the crowd. The Native Commissioner left and the women were told by the police to go and tell the Commissioner what their trouble was.

DETAINED

The women resumed their demonstration but nearing the Commissioner's office were diverted by the police to the police station where they were detained. From other parts of town came other processions of women demanding to be allowed to join the 104. The police refused, and also ordered the young girls to leave the ranks of the procession of arrested women. The women were charged subsequently with holding an illegal procession, and released after some time on their own recognisances. The case takes place today.

THEY RUN THE A.N.C. (NATAL)



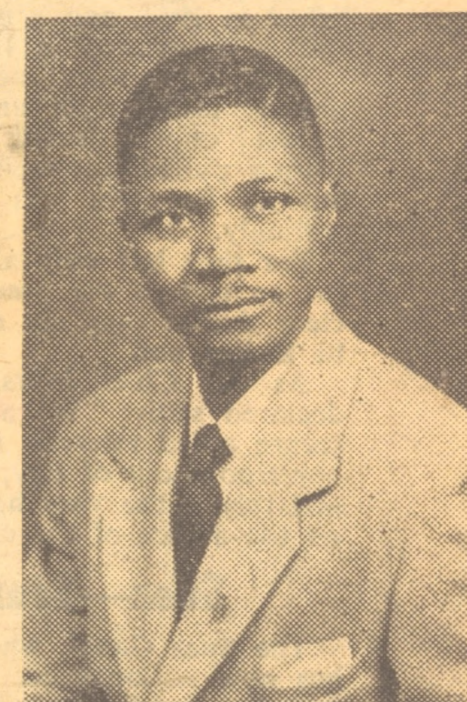
Mr. Elias Kunene, full-time organiser of the ANC, who has revived many defunct branches of the ANC.



Miss Florence Mkize, full-time organiser of the Women's League, whose efforts were responsible for some of the biggest demonstrations of women ever held in Durban against the Government's threat to extend the pass laws.



P. H. Simelane, Treasurer of the Natal ANC, who had to fill the place of Mr. M. B. Yengwa, Secretary of the ANC, after he was banished to Mapumulo.



Mr. Steven Dlamini, organising secretary of the ANC, Natal.

Coloured People Want A Hearing

(Continued from page 1) give evidence. The Board has also ignored some 4,500 people who, under the auspices of the committee, signed protests against the Group Areas zoning.

WILL GO ALL OUT

"The Co-ordinating committee will go all out to get a hearing for the people of the Cape Peninsula who object to the zoning," Dr. van der Ross told last week's meeting.

"The Co-ordinating Committee is the biggest organisation, outside the City Council, objecting on this issue, but the Board has not even taken notice of our request to be heard.

"What guarantee is there that we will be moved into developed areas?" asked Dr. van der Ross. "People have built up their homes with sweat and toil and it will be impossible for them to start buying new properties and establish themselves afresh.

"We must be prepared to go to the Board with determination. What if we stay a day out of work and lose a few pounds? We must count the cost of freedom higher than a day's work."

Mr. E. Albertus reported the firm opposition of the Moslems of Wynberg to the proposed zoning. "They say they will refuse to move, if the Board's decisions go against them," said Mr. Albertus.

Nowhere on the maps was it indicated that the White people were going to be divided into different sections—English, Afrikaans, Jewish, etc., said Mr. H. J. Carelse. "But the Government is attempting to divide the Non-European people,

and this will lead to disunity."

RESOLUTION

The meeting passed a resolution of strong disapproval of the City Council's zoning proposals, declaring its alarm at the Council's attitude.

The Council's proposals to the Group Areas Board were a complete reversal of its original attitude, said the resolution.

"We express strong disapproval of this action and maintain it has seriously undermined the faith which the Non-European ratepayers have always had in the Council."

The South African Coloured People's Organisation has addressed a letter to each City Councillor, expressing its concern at the fact that the General Purposes Committee has made recommendations for the zoning of the Southern Suburbs.

"The implementation of the Act, among other things, means the removal of people from their homes to another area where they would have to start all over again re-establishing themselves," states the letter. "The hardships involved when this should take place, we leave to your imagination.

"The zoning of the areas into different racial groups will only result in factionalism, racial friction and strife. The racial harmony which we are sure you desire in our country cannot flourish under such conditions.

"Our organisation hopes that you as a representative of the people will not be party to the implementation of the Act and will do your utmost to prevent the City Council from putting into effect the policy of the Nationalist Government," the letter concludes.

ANC Conferences in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN.

The annual conference of the African National Congress, Cape Province, is due to take place in Cape Town this week-end, August 4 and 5.

Conference will be held in the Phillips Hall, 6th Ave., Kensington, from Saturday 9 a.m. through to Sunday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon, August 3, the Cape Provincial African National Congress Women's League will meet in conference in the same hall.

In a statement to New Age, Mr. G. Ngotyana, assistant secretary of the co-ordinating committee of the Cape Western ANC, called upon all Africans of the Western Cape to do all in their power to make these conferences a success.

Forward To August 9

The campaign against the extension of the pass laws to our women must start immediately, said the call from the African National Congress. On July 8 the Congress here struck a blow against this wicked, abominable system.

It is through these passes that families are separated, said Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi. The women must prepare themselves for August 9 to march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the laws depriving the Africans of their rights to live in the country of their birth.

MOSTARD MJEKULA Klerksdorp.

LUTHULI'S APPEAL TO WOMEN

(Continued from page 1)

men do domestic work and make them wear real boys' kitchen suits.

"It seems the whole underlying purpose in all this is to emasculate the men and make them lose their dignity and personality.

"We must convince the world of our worth! Nothing could convince the world more than our willingness to die for freedom."

Although South Africa was passing through dark days in the hands of the Nationalist Government with its strong leaning towards fascism, and despite the numerous oppressive laws passed during the last session of Parliament, Chief Luthuli said:

"When a people come to the realisation of their plight and begin to fight back unitedly there is surely room for jubilation and optimism.

"The fight for equality is being fought on every front. The fight has been won by the S.A. Table Tennis Association which has gained international recognition. It is raging furiously between the S.A. Soccer Federation, a non-colour-bar body, and the S.A.F.A. which is for 'Whites only.' We congratulate our sportsmen for upholding the dignity of the Non-White peoples of this country.

ALL-IN CONFERENCE

"Our optimism was heightened a few days ago by the announcement in the press that the Interdenominational African Ministers' Association is calling an All-in Conference to discuss the apartheid policy of White South Africa.

"The African National Congress has always been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and has refused to compromise with this evil thing. In keeping with our stand we assure the Interdenominational Ministers' Association of our full support for this bold and timely move and sincerely congratulate our African Spiritual Fathers for this."

Calling on Africans of all shades of opinion to answer the call of the Ministers, Chief Luthuli said: "Attending this Conference will give the people a rare opportunity of thinking together, planning together and I hope of acting together.

PASSES FOR WOMEN

"Our womenfolk, too, have given us cause to be optimistic of the future. Their magnificent and brave stand against the Government's decision to extend the pass laws is to be highly commended.

"In wishing the women all success in their struggle I call on our women in Natal to rally in full force in defence of their most meagre freedoms; they must rally to the cause whatever some of our conservative men might say."

Stating that the majority of the world's population were in support of the just struggle for freedom and democracy, Chief Luthuli concluded by calling on the people to take courage and say: "The struggle must go on! The cause is worth striving for!"

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