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Joint Action Committee  
of the  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
AND NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

Telephones  
A. N. C. 27704 — N. I. C. 22643

P. O. Box 2299.

DURBAN.

I

20th November, 1953.

The Chairman,  
Durban Branch,  
S.A. Congress of Democrats,  
c/o. Mr. R.I. Arenstein,  
Masonic Grove,  
DURBAN.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd instant informing us of the formation of the S.A. Congress of Democrats and requesting a meeting between representatives of your organisation and ours.

We take great pleasure in informing you that our respective organisations at its last meeting decided to meeting your Executive at the residence of Mr. J.N. Singh, 166 Mansfield Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 2nd December, 1953, at 7.30 p.m. 9th December

We trust that the date and venue will suit you. If however, you wish to make any alternative suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours fraternally,

31974

for: J.M. Mabasa  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

for: P.H. Nankun  
NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS.

Natal Headquarters: 17 & 19 Lakhani Chambers, 2 Saville Street, Durban.

6.760

102 Roseacre,  
30 Cooper Street,  
Cyrildene.  
Johannesburg.  
5th December, 1953.

The Chairman,  
S.A. Congress of Democrats,  
P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.

Bewysings No. ....  
Gekry by *S.D.C.O.D.*  
Deur *Mr. C.R. Swart*  
Te *Box 87. 110*  
Datum *27-9-53*  
Verwysings No. *6*

Dear Piet,

In terms of the order from the Minister of Justice, Mr. C.R. Swart, I must reluctantly tender my resignation as a member of the S.A. Congress of Democrats as from today.

I am confident that the Congress has a great historical role to fulfil and that it will meet whatever demands that may be made on it, adequately.

With best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely,

*Jack Hodgson*

file Natal Region  
Durban Region

6.423

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (Durban Branch)  
C/o. P.O. Box 700,  
Durban.

22nd Dec., 1953.

Secretary,  
S.A. Congress of Democrats,  
P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.

Protest No. ....  
G. Kry by *S.A.C.D.* .....  
Dear *D. J. ...* .....  
Tel. *Box 87-110* .....  
Date *27-9-55* .....  
Verwysings No. *2* .....

Dear Friend,

I wish to advise you that a meeting held on the 13th December 1953 it was formally decided to form a Durban Branch of the S.A. Congress of Democrats.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 18th November 1953 and wish to reply as follows:-

- (a) Newsletter. We have not yet received copies of the National newsletter "Counter-attack" and look forward to receiving these soon. May we, at this stage, have twenty copies? We shall advise you later whether we will be requiring more in future.
- (b) Pamphlet "The Threatened People". We shall be pleased if you will send us five dozen copies of this pamphlet - we had a copy at our recent meeting and the members are anxious to have them for distribution as soon as possible. Our cheque in payment will follow receipt of the pamphlets.
- (c) National Council Meeting. At our meeting held on the 13th December it was decided to send three delegates to be meeting to be held in February. Details of who will be coming will be sent to you a little later. Suggestions and proposals for the agenda will also be forwarded to you later.

The Branch has asked me to approach you with the recommendation that the conference be held on the 13th and 14th February or the 20th and 21st February, the reason for this request being that one of our proposed delegates (Mrs. P. Lavoipierre) will be in Johannesburg during that period and will, therefore, be responsible for her own travelling costs thus enabling us to send an additional delegate.

Will you kindly address any correspondence, pamphlets etc., simply to : The Secretary, S.A.C.D., C/o. P.O. Box 700, Durban.

Yours truly,  
*J. Woolfsway* Secretary.

① P.O. Lyonsville Mission  
via Durban  
27/9/55

S.A.C. & Democrats

6.355.

I posted  
I posted my message at on Saturday  
at the corner of the Park 37 West St. of Durban  
I have misplaced your address.

I do not know if by the time you  
receive this letter you will have typed my  
address. If I make some corrections in a  
hurry. On page one, the 10th line from the  
bottom, I have after "and so" we added  
"help her". Please correct this "help her" as  
it does not agree or make sense  
with the rest of the sentence.

Read this

or better still alter the whole construction  
construction to read "and so help  
her, on the basis of Western Civilisation let  
us best, to make a distinctive Contribution  
Contributions, etc

I hope you will be able able to  
make out my bad typing. Please  
send me a duplicate of your  
the copy you will make

sent No. ....  
by S.A.C.O.D.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
ings No. 14

Yours faithfully  
Albert Nene

27-9-55

PER AVION

LUGPOS

AIR MAIL

AEROGRAAFME  
LUGBRIEF  
AIR LETTER

(2)



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South African Congress of Democrats

5, SOMERSET HOUSE,

110 FOX Street,

Johannesburg

Texas Road

AS ENIGETS INGESLUIT WORD, SAL HIERDIE  
BRIEF PER GEWONE POS GESTUUR WORD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER  
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

A. J. Lutuli

Box 100,

Stanger

Natal.

ERSTE VOU - FIRST FOLD

TWEEDE VOU - SECOND FOLD

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

67

(1)

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
24th September, 1953.

Dear Sir/Madam,

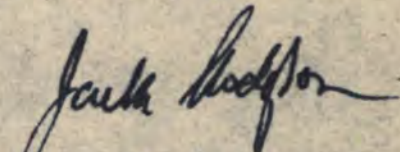
A conference is to be held at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th, convened jointly by three organisations of progressive and democratic South Africans - the Democratic League(Cape); the Springbok Legion of Ex-Servicemen and women; and the Congress of Democrats (Witwatersrand).

It is the convenors' belief that there is a deep need to gather together into one Union wide organisation all those South Africans who believe unequivocally in the ideas of democracy, so that their special viewpoint and outlook may be forcibly and actively represented in all the affairs of the country. It is their belief that at this Conference broad agreement on a democratic programme can be reached through free discussion and debate, and the foundation laid for the emergence of a powerful union wide body based on the pooling of resources and aims of all the separate organisations and unorganised individuals who see democracy as the way forward for South Africa.

In this spirit, the convenors have pleasure in extending to you an invitation to attend the conference and to participate with full delegate rights and status in its deliberations. The draft agenda, resolutions and constitution, which will form the basis of discussions at the Conference are enclosed herewith, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the UNO General Assembly.

Should you be unable to attend the Conference, the Convenors would deeply appreciate your careful consideration of the enclosed documents, and would welcome your views, suggestions and comment in writing. They would also appreciate it if you would complete and return the enclosed form if you cannot join the proceedings of the Conference.

Yours sincerely,



for the Convenor: Democratic League  
Springbok Legion  
Congress of Democrats

-----  
To the Convenors,  
South African Conference of Democrats,  
P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.

Sirs,

I will/will not be able to be a delegate to the forthcoming Conference.

I am interested in the Conference and its outcome, and would like to be kept informed of its decisions and future effects.

Signed : .....

Address: .....

.....

Please delete whichever sections of this form are not applicable.

DS 62  
DS 62

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS,

C/o. 311 Temple Chambers,

Durban.

2nd November 1953. I

The Secretary,  
African National Congress (Natal),  
P.O. Box 2299,  
Durban.

Dear Sir,

I wish to bring to your notice that a new organisation, The South African Congress of Democrats, was formed at a recent conference in Johannesburg and that at this conference (at which representatives of the South African Indian Congress and the African National Congress were present) a decision was taken that there should be co-operation between the three organisations.

At a committee meeting of the Durban Branch of the South African Congress of Democrats held recently it was decided to approach your Organisation in order to exchange views on the subject of local co-operation. We suggest, therefore, that a meeting be held with your organisation and the Natal Indian Congress and look forward to an early reply from you suggesting the date of such meeting.

Yours faithfully,

CHAIRMAN  
DURBAN BRANCH.

6344 (2)

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
11th November, 1953.

Dear

In terms of your intimation of interest in the S.A. Conference of Democrats which took place recently, and your wish to be informed of the outcome, we are enclosing herewith a copy of the Report on Conference, the Constitution adopted, and copies of the papers which were read and discussed and referred to branches for further discussion.

As you will see from the Report, the South African Congress of Democrats was constituted and an Executive Committee elected. It remains now for the organisations sponsoring the Conference, the Congress of Democrats, the Democratic League and the Springbok Legion to decide the future of their organisations in relation to the S.A. Congress of Democrats.

While it is not for us to anticipate their decisions, we are confident that the S.A. Congress of Democrats will be established on a nation wide basis and that already it offers a real alternative to the organisations founded on half principles, to those of us who are looking for a chance to build an organisation through which to work effectively for the real interests of South Africa.

We are also enclosing an application for membership form which we hope you will complete and return to us. If you know of others who may be interested we will be only too pleased to let you have more forms.

Yours sincerely,  
*Jackie Rodolph*  
National Secretary.



S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

6424

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
5th January, 1954.

The Secretary,  
Durban Branch, S.A.C.O.D.  
P.O. Box 700,  
Durban.

Boekwysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by..... S.A.C.O.D.  
Deur..... Johannesburg  
Te..... 700 8th. 110  
Datum..... 27-9-55  
Verwysings No. 1.

Dear Friend,

My National Executive Committee has requested me to notify you that they learned with pleasure of your decision to formally constitute yourselves into a branch of the S.A.C.O.D. In reply to points in your letter I have been asked to advise as follows :-

a) Pamphlet "The Threatened People"

5 dozen copies have already been dispatched and you should have received them by now.

b) Newsletter.

As the office had been closed for 2 weeks we are only now re-organising. I regret that they were not sent off and am dispatching them immediately.

c) National Council Meeting.

It was decided at our N.E.C. Meeting last night to hold the National Council Meeting on 13th and 14th February, which meets with your request. You will be circularised with the N.E.C. resolutions within about a fortnight and notified of the venue. Will you please send us any resolutions which your committee wish to submit at this meeting as soon as possible.

The Natal Indian Congress have invited us to send delegates to their Eighth Annual Provincial Conference which takes place on the 5th 6th and 7th February, 1954.

The N.E.C. recommends that you send your elected representatives to the National Council to attend this Conference and we have written to them accordingly.

We trust that you will agree with this recommendation and if so will you please notify the President, Natal Indian

6424

- 2 -

Congress, Box 2299, Durban, of the names of representatives ?

Wishing you and your committee a very happy  
New Year.

Yours sincerely,

National Organiser.

6.490

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
9th March 1954.

The Editor,  
The Rand Daily Mail,  
P.O. Box 1138,  
Johannesburg.

The Nationalist Government is introducing an Amnesty Bill into Parliament.

Is it the purpose of this Bill to redress wrongs done, since the Nationalists took over in 1948 to reinstate General Poole, Colonel Powell; to rescind posthumously the dismissal of Field Marshall Smuts; to withdraw the proscription against Cecil Williams, Abraham Fischer, E.S. Sachs, Yusuf Dadoo, Nelson Mandela; to compensate Piet Huyser, Jack Hodgson, Issy Wolfson ?

Is its purpose to redress the wrongs done to these and other men and women who have given devoted service to their country lest it should share the fate of other countries who have known the horrors of fascism? Every South African knows the answer to these questions. This Government which freed traitors who had been imprisoned for treason now intends to honour the Hitlerites who would have betrayed our country in the midst of a desperate war for survival. These very same men would have plunged this country into untold misery in the wake of Hitler, are now to be amnestied and compensated.

That this crew should have been let loose upon our people is bad enough but that homage is to be paid to them, that they are to be compensated for their foul deeds out of the taxes paid by their intended victims, is an insult to every man and woman who fought against Hitler, is a foul gesture at the majority of the people of our country. It is also a deliberate demonstration of high policy, a clear warning of the Nationalists intention to establish a complete Police State with Gauleiters all ready.

Throughout the world there are thousands of towns which have their monuments to the victims of the last war. We have them here too and we still pay lipservice to these men and women on the 11th November of each year. But soon unless we do something, these heroes will be the traitors the homage we pay will be illegal and there will be monuments to the Robey Leibbrandts and their kind.

Minister Sart has persecuted and harassed hundreds of the finest sons and daughters of South Africa under laws which were passed after Parliament had been regaled with hair raising stories of plans to sabotage power stations, to poison reservoirs and water supplies. Every South African should know that these were monstrous lies, but do they also realise that the men who must be amnestied and compensated did in fact attempt these crimes?

We call upon you to fight this Bill relentlessly and to call upon the peoples of South Africa to come to your aid in a united struggle against it.

Yours faithfully,

For National Executive Committee.  
RICA HODGSON  
NATIONAL SECRETARY.

ewysstuk No.....  
iekry by..... S.A.C.O.D.  
Deur.....  
e.....  
um.....  
K.

27-9-55

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
11th. March 1954.

The Editor,

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by..... S.A.C.D.  
Deur..... J. Hodson  
Te..... 207 85-110  
Datum..... 27-9-53  
Verw. No. .... 11.

Dear Sir,

I have been directed by my National Executive Committee to send you the following press statement which your paper may consider publishing.

" The Amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act being piloted through the House of Assembly by the Minister of Justice are intended to close all loopholes in the Act, and will be a further step towards the extinguishing of democratic rights of South Africans.

Four years after the passing of the Suppression of Communism Act the Government is still perfecting a measure which places almost absolute power in the hands of one man - the Minister of Justice - to ban organisations and newspapers, prohibit individuals from membership of organisations and attendance at gatherings.

What relief the Courts have afforded individuals who appealed against the Minister's power is now to be denied.

The requirement that a person about to be benned should be informed of the charge against him and given an opportunity to defend himself was a petty enough safeguard, since the Minister was under no obligation to pay any attention to the representations made to him. Now even this safeguard is to be abolished.

The amending Act will also deprive a section of the people of the last vestiges of their freedom to elect to Parliament representatives of their own choice. At present a member may be expelled from the House but there is no means of preventing another of similar views taking his place. The amendment will give the Minister the right to veto candidates in this election and will drastically limit the free choice of the voters.

Over the years the Government has made determined efforts to crush democratic organisations. It has moved from one excess to another, whittling away the rights of first one section and then another. The Congress of Democrats calls on all South Africans to oppose the Amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act and to resist by every means in their power this and every advance of the Nationalist Government towards dictatorial rule.

Yours faithfully,  
Rica Hodgson.

National Secretary  
for National Executive Committee.

Smith Street

S.A. Congress of Democrats

P.O. Box 700, Durban

Durban

13th

Smith Street

December 53

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S.A. Congress of Democrats

S.A. Congress of Democrats

S.A. Congress of Democrats

S.A. Congress of Democrats

Chairman, ~~Secretary~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

S.A. Congress of Democrats

Secretary and Treasurer

S.A. Congress of Democrats

S.A. Congress of Democrats

Constitution

signatories

2539  
Smith Street

29th December 1953

S.A. Congress of Democrats, Durban Branch.

CHAIRMAN: P. Lavoipierre

SECRETARY: J. Hoogendyk

TREASURER: J. Arenstein

J. Hoogendyk

Durban

13th December 1953.

29th December

53

N198 SACOD.  
NIC

**B. 515**

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

*b. 515*

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P.O. Box 4088,  
Durban Johannesburg.  
6th January, 1954.

The President,  
Natal Indian Congress,  
P.O. Box 2299,  
Durban.

Bewysstuk No.....  
Gekry by..... *S.A.C.O.D.*  
Dek..... *D. Parker*  
Te..... *Box SA-110*  
Datum..... *27.9.55*  
Verwysing No..... *2.*

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your invitation to us to send fraternal representatives to your Eighth Annual Provincial Conference.

We are requesting our Durban Region to send their elected representatives on our National Council and they will advise you of the names and number of representatives who will attend.

Wishing your Conference all success.

Yours sincerely,

National Organiser.

N199. SAEOD.

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6516.

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
8th January, 1954.

The National Secretary,  
S.A. Indian Congress,  
P.O. Box 2948,  
Johannesburg.

Bewysstuk No.....  
Gekry by..... S.A.C. 2.  
Deur..... H. K. K. M.  
Te..... Box 97. 110  
Datum..... 27-9-55  
Verwysir..... 2.

Dear Friend,

I have been instructed by my National Executive Committee to invite your organisation to send fraternal delegates or observers to our National Council Meeting which takes place on Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th February in Johannesburg.

We will notify you later of the time and the venue for this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

National Organiser.



(2)

6400

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

Johannesburg Region.

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.

12th Jan. 1954.

TO ALL MEMBERS.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT

No. 1 Trades Hall,  
30, Kerk St.,  
Johannesburg

on Tuesday, 26th January, at 8 p.m.

The Region has been asked to submit resolutions for the National Council meeting which is taking place on the 13th and 14th February. Will all Branches please send in their resolutions which will be duplicated and distributed at the General Meeting.

Many serious problems face democrats and the Congress Movement, and we therefore appeal to all members to attend this meeting to plan our work in the coming months.

- AGENDA:
1. Organisational Report - Secretary.
  2. "The A.N.C. Faces 1954": A Review of the Queens-town Conference decisions by Mr. Walter Sisulu.
  3. Discussion on Resolutions.
  4. General.

(11)

Nwysstuk No..... S.A.C.O.D.  
 Bekry by..... J. A. C. O. D.  
 Deur..... 150 Forth St  
 Te..... 27-9-55  
 Datum..... 10  
 Verwysings No.....

P.O. Box 4088,  
 Johannesburg.  
 13th January, 1954.

**B. 430.**

The Secretary,  
 Cape Town Region, S.A.C.O.D.,  
 P.O. Box 436,  
 Cape Town.

Dear Friend,

The National Propaganda Sub Committee has asked me to convey to you the following :

a) Counter Attack is the National Newsletter of the S.A.C.O.D. and contributions from your region in the form of short articles, news, branch activities etc. would be appreciated for inclusion in this publication. Would you let us know how many copies of this newsletter you would be requiring each month for distribution amongst your members.

b) Public Meetings or Forums.

The importance of bringing to the Public/<sup>the policy</sup>of the S.A.C.O.D. cannot be stressed too strongly. It has been recommended that your region consider the possibility of holding regular public meetings, forums, debates, or brain trusts in order to give the general public the opportunity of hearing subjects of interest to the C.O.D. and on which our point of view can be expounded.

Will you give this matter your due consideration and advise us soon on what you think of the above suggestion ?

Yours sincerely,

National Organiser.

Expeditio No. 5.720.2  
 Gekry by  
 Deur.  
 Te.  
 Datum 27-4-55  
 Verwysings No. 7.

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

Yours fraternally,

Please write to us from time to time. We always appreciate news from the Regions and we would be happy to hear from you more often.

In order to get as wide a circulation as possible for the pamphlet "The Threatened People" we have approached bookshops in Johannesburg asking them to take copies on the basis of sale or return, to be sold at 6d. a copy, 3d. to be retained by them and 3d. to be paid over to us. Some of them have agreed to handle the pamphlet, and we therefore would like to suggest to you that perhaps you might consider making a similar approach to bookshops in your area?

Dear Friends,

M. G. J. J. J. J. J.  
 t. Durban Region

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**S.A. COUNCIL OF NATIONS**

8431.

P.O. Box 4888,  
 Johannesburg.  
 15th January, 1954.

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

P.O. Box 4088,  
Johannesburg.  
19th January, 1954.

To all Regions

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by S.A.C.O.D.  
Deur W. G. G. G.  
Te 110 Fox St  
Datum 27-9-55  
Verwysing No. 9.

Dear Friend,

Re: National Council Meeting.

The National Council Meeting will take place on Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th February at the Trades Hall Board Room, Room 111, Union Centre, Pritchard Street.

The agenda will be as follows :-

- a) Political Report - Review of the political scene.
- b) Organisational Report to include the following items: "fighting talk", Rules, News Letter, Branch, Liaison with other organisations
- c) Financial Report
- d) Election of Secretary

The National Executive Committee is submitting the attached resolutions for discussion at the meeting.

The N.E.C. requests that your Region prepare a report to be submitted verbally at the National Council Meeting on the state of organisation in your area. In addition will you send in your resolutions as soon as possible, and notify us of the number of delegates who will attend, when they will arrive and whether they will require accommodation.

This information will assist us to facilitate the arrangements for the conference.

Yours sincerely,

National Organiser.

**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

***PUBLISHER:***

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