

Copy - original transcript. Asst. Boelzee 1.

MEETING : AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS : SUNDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1955,
AT CORNER OF MORRIS AND VICTORIA STREETS, SOPHIATOWN,
JOHANNESBURG.

SPEAKER: ([REDACTED]) Spoke in a Native language, not interpreted into English.

SPEAKER: ([REDACTED]) "Afrika! Afrika! Fellow African slaves we meet here this morning whilst there are two other meetings being held, and the Chairman who was supposed to be here are very busy and cannot attend just now. He is with the meeting of the students in the Mothabi Hall.

Now, I prefer to speak in this foreign language for the benefit of the members of the Gestapo who are present here as you can see. They would do well to take down what is being said here. It is important that what we say should be brought to the ears of Dr. Verwoerd and his henchmen.

Fellow Africans, we are living in a country which is being ruled by a clique of mad people. We are living in a country that is being ruled by a gang, we live under a Hitler Regime in South Africa, fascism is knocking on our doors. We live in a country where retrogression is at the order of the day. You know since this Nationalist Government Has come into power what has been going on, you have seen what has been going on, you know what has been going on.

But I am not here to speak I am only here to announce the speakers they will tell you what is necessary to attain your freedom. I can only tell you that the present Government is out numbered. Strydom is already shivering in his boots. Strydom is already dying from fear.

Now the Police which you see standing there, they are the poorest section of the Afrikaner people brought from the backveld to spy on us. This is the first time they are wearing boots they did not have boots to wear at their homes. But now I will call my next speaker. Some of our speakers are not here but they will come very soon."

SPEAKER: ([REDACTED]) "Sons and daughters of South Africa, I am very glad to be here today and I am also very glad to see so many of you here, it shows that the African people are interested in what is going on. /Sons.....2.

Sons and daughters of Africa, at present we are faced with the worst of the events in our history. This is the last of the rivers we will have to cross before we attain our freedom. I say so because when some time back when the African National Congress said that Dr. Malan is only a small boy and that he would run away, nobody would believe us. But today we know that Dr. Malan has run away because he has seen the rising of the African giant. Dr. Malan was worried and he knew that he was only wasting his time in Parliament making laws which only affect the Africans, laws legislated to oppress the African people. He noticed that after he had spent six months in Parliament making a law, the African National Congress finds a loophole in the law, and so he had to go back to Parliament for another six months to amend that law.

So far we have done very good, and we are now faced with 1955. In its very beginning we are faced with two important issues, namely, the Removal of the Western Areas and at the same time the Bantu Education Act. Really I must say that I am very worried to see that there are very many African people who are interested in other things not in these two issues. They are the people who will be happy to be removed from Sophiatown to Meadowlands. I must say that I am really glad to be able to compliment the African National Congress. Nobody - yes nobody will be in a position to say that the African National Congress has not done its job properly. You remember on this same square the African National Congress told you about the reference books, what it really was, and then there were people who said that the African National Congress was wrong, and that these reference books would do away with the passes, but where are these people today, they are crying today. Today when you lose your job in Johannesburg you cannot go and look for a job again in Johannesburg you have to go to the farms and the mines.

So I am really surprised to see that there are still tenants who do not believe that we, Congress are here to fight for their rights, their fundamental rights. I do not want to tell you about this removal, other speakers will do it, but we know what it is, it is just oppression on its way, we know at Meadowlands we will not have the facilities which we have here, we will not be allowed to have meetings such as this for instance. Permit laws are going to be introduced there. We know that in Municipal areas houses are not for your children or your parents but only for yourself. Meadowlands is where you will see the danger of the reference books.

/The Superintendent..3.

The Superintendent of the location can give you seventy-two hours notice and you will have to leave. You know that if you lose your job and go to the Native Affairs Department, and suppose they don't fancy you, they tell you to go to a certain Mr. Van Tonder on the "plaas" and work for him or go to the mines.

If you have visitors here in Sophiatown everything is alright, but there in Meadowlands you will have to go to the Superintendent and say to him please Mr. I have visitors can they sleep in my house tonight. Here in Sophiatown I can live with my grandmother, my grandfather, my parents or with anyone else and everything is alright. But there it will be different.

We know that we are slaves, everywhere, in the mines on the farms everywhere we are slaves, but we must see to it that our children will have the same right as what Mr. Van Tonder's boy have. It is quite clear to me that the Government does not want us to become civilised but they will not be able to stop us as from now. According to the Bantu Education Act you know that school hours will be between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and what do you expect children to learn in that period of time, it shows that they do not want us to become civilised.

Now some schools have religious ministers as heads, but according to the Bantu Education Act the schools will be built on farms or on mine properties and a mine official or a farmer will be the head of the school. And as soon as this mine official or this farmer gets tired of the school on his property he says "Oho die kaffers word nou bietjies te oulik" and he says to the Government I do not want this school on my farm any more, and the school is to be shifted.

We must try to unite the Africans as much as we possibly can. We have got to go back to the time of our grandfathers, people like Tshaka and Dingaan. You all know that Tshaka was one of the kings whom not even the white people could come near. Let us find out why. For instance those of us who have been taught history, were taught that Tshaka was not a good man, he was very cruel. Now I want to tell you that Tshaka was far removed from being cruel, instead he was very kind. One day whilst he was still a boy a wolf attacked a child and he went and killed the wolf. He did not think about himself but about the child. Rather than let the child die he did this. Also when he was still a boy a lion attacked his friends. He fought the lion and killed it. He thought he would rather die than his friends. Because of his determination he managed to

/kill the lion/..4.

kill the lion and only through determination shall we be able to conquer these people here who oppress us. One other thing. Tshaka was very brave, he was very good. He gathered all the African people around him and called them Zulus. All those who were black he gathered around him because they were the sons of one soil.

That is why today the leaders of the African National Congress has also taken up the same attitude and follows the same path. There is no Swazi, no Sesutho, no Mapedi, we are all Africans, that is what the African National Congress says.

If we regard ourselves as Africans? we shall all come out and fight these Acts, the Bantu Education Act and the Western Areas Removal Scheme."

SPEAKER. ([REDACTED]) "Ladies and Gentlemen the Police complain they say they cannot hear what we are saying here. I have three speakers here this afternoon who will speak to you. They will speak to you on the Western Areas Removal Scheme and they will thoroughly analyse this as well as the Bantu Education Act. I do not want to waste your time and call upon the first speaker. "

SPEAKER. ([REDACTED]) "Sons and daughters of Africa, the time has now come, the long awaited day is about to come. We have stood for years on this square trying to make it clear that one day the Africans will have no alternative but to take a stand in South Africa. That time has now come. Now the policemen, the detectives, the informers, the pimps, everyone, must take up their position in the affairs of this country. In due course, in a matter of days we shall see everyone taking up his due position in the affairs of this country and in the affairs of this township particularly.

It has been told to you for three years now that one day our houses are going to be stolen from us. It did seem as if that day was far off but today that day is at hand. It is very clear that the Government of this country have for a long time now been asking for bloodshed and one must ask oneself whether bloodshed cannot be given to them. We have given you all details as far as the plans of the Government are concerned for robbing the people of those things which they have earned through labour and hardships. Today it seems to me to be very clear that in the forthcoming days there are going to be proper

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suffering. We are going to suffer from now on. The next few days will show who are going to stand by Congress. We want to know who stands with us. Those who are with us must now stand with Congress, they must assemble around Congress, and they must head the warning of Congress to stand and defend their homes, they are the brave ones. I speak of the mighty few because I know that only a few are prepared to stand for what they have. They are those who will prove to the white man and the world that the Nationalist Government will never succeed with their plans. I want to take this opportunity to make this particular point clear because I know what is going to happen in the next few days. I want you to realise clearly that when you have made up your minds to defend your homes, there is going to be great suffering. I want everyone of you here to know what is going to happen if you fall into the hands of the Dutch who are standing there. There is nothing that they will not do to you. But we will do to them what they have done to the English in this country. They know that when people are ready to move forward there is nothing that will stop them .

I want you to realise that with these Dutchmen, they do not want to stand there, they are not standing there because they have nothing else to do, they want to go and play rugby and tennis, they do not stand there because they are stupid, they have been told to do it. But they have not learnt the lesson of nationhood in history. But you must realise that it is not only the Dutchmen that we will have to fight, we will have to fight our own brothers. People have to make a living somehow, and some sons of Africa are now policemen and detectives, but they will have to choose. Then only can they live. Nothing pleases me more than that the African people are being driven into a position where they are being forced to take up position whether they like it or not. We are forced to take our freedom in our lifetime.

What you must realise is this that today some of us are very busy preparing what we are going to do, because it is only a short time before we will have to take up position in the defence of Sophiatown, but it is only one of those things which will occur on the path to freedom. And all of us must decide what to do today. This Removal Scheme shall drive us a good way towards freedom.

In conclusion to my speech I want to mention one or two things. Where ordinarily it would have taken us thirty
/years6.

years to achieve freedom it is now going to take us one fifth of that period to achieve freedom, in other words it will take us much shorter now. It is just one of those things which we will encounter in our history, it is the starting point of quite a change in Africa."

SPEAKER: (Ladies and gentlemen the choir will sing now.)

NATIVE WOMAN SPEAKER: (██████████) "Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to meet you here as usual. As I stand here on this platform and listen to the song I think of things that are very far. I think of the person who have composed that song. That song must have been composed by prayer.

Sons and daughters of Africa, we have come to the end of the road. The African is no skunk, he turns around, if he was a skunk he would not have turned around, yes we have come to the end of the road. Now as soon as we have realised that, we must find out what must be done. If a man stands on this platform he must realise his position and must not be afraid of things to happen. Things have gone from bad to worse and the time is short I want to be very short, I don't know what to say.

It is a fact that the Afrikaners have come across to us to oppress us, they have come to step on us and this business must end. We must take our stand - man and woman. As the position is today we have come where every man must ask himself the question and that question is where is my place. We must know that what we are going to do is foul, but we are going to kill these people. We know very well that what we have done in the past is nothing. What these people have given us is poison and they are aware of it, let us place them where they have placed us all the time. They have killed us, they want to kill us, now we will kill them. Every man must ask himself this question. The white people say there is a Commandment 'you must not kill' but they do not heed this Commandment. They are placing upon us difficulties which they are not prepared to bear, but we are not afraid to die for our freedom like the children of Israel. They died because of their cause and we shall die in the same way.

There is a lot of work to do - suffering - what are we going to do with our children - you may have a normal child but what can he do. We must now be plain to these people, we must be very clear to them. They say we have to listen to God, they claim He is greater than themselves. God determined these things.

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who is to say what we have to do. Remember that God did not allow these people to kill us.

They are still going after us, after our properties, they are still pursuing us. Now they have got their own Moses who will take over the gang, but remember Moses did not go as far as Canaan and their Moses will not go into Canaan either. They must see they will end in the same way as Moses did. Afrika!"

CHAIRMAN: ([REDACTED]) "I am going to call upon Mr. Resha. I do not want to say anything I will leave it to Mr. Resha. The choir will sing now."

(Choir.)

ROBERT RESHA: "Sons and daughters of Africa, a good man is someone who tells you what to do and when you don't do it he does it himself. We have told you that Dr. Verwoerd is bad on this square. Today the removal of the people from Sophiatown is not merely a matter which we talk about but something which is going to happen."

Before Christmas - before Christmas eve Mr. Strydom over the Radio wished the African people a most happy Christmas. I told you that the Afrikaners are the biggest enemies of our people and I am very happy that the detectives are taking notes. Whilst Mr. Strydom was saying happy Christmas to the Africans he issued removal notes on the same Christmas eve, that is his happy Christmas, that is the Christmas he wishes you. On the 28th of December when the people were away Strydom's boys were saying that you must vacate, and the Dutchman Prime Minister says that he is very happy and he wishes you happiness. But I do not want to tell you what Strydom has said, I want to tell you what the people of Sophiatown must do and finally I am going to tell you what Congress are going to do and at hand I am going to tell you

Now you have seen the forms sent to us during the Christmas period. Now some of the people who received these forms went to Meadowlands to see what the Government have done who loves the Native so much. What did they see? They saw beautiful three and four-roomed houses, beautiful in comparison with the hovels which we live in in Sophiatown, some of them came back pleased, meaning that they will no longer be victims of the never satisfied landlords of Sophiatown. They came back pleased and they thought for the first time me and my families

/will live.....8.

will live for the first time in a three or four-roomed house. We are going away from these dirty landlords to our own homes in Meadowlands.

My friends, I agree not all of the landlords in Sophiatown have been good to tenants, I agree. Therefore some tenants have every right to feel that it is freedom to go away from Sophiatown, so therefore I understand their anxiety to go. So they decided to go saying that let us see and examine these houses where Africans are going to be housed.

Now are we ready to go - but before we go let us pause, let us see whether it is the land of Canaan. Yes Dr. Verwoerd in the notices he has sent to the people say that you have been given a house at 741 - 4th Street, Meadowlands. It is very nice and we are going to live in this beautiful house, at such a date we are going to move. It is all very nice. But what are the circumstances? A nice house is one which you buy and one which is your own, but these beautiful houses do they belong to you? To every notice sent to you there is an extra note attached to the first one and this form you have to give to your boss, your boss will complete this form and send it to the Native Affairs Department who will then tell you how much rent you will have to pay.

That is what Dr. Verwoerd will say to you, you might have to pay £5 per month. If the rent is going to be one pound five, why is he ashamed to tell us? It is alright we are getting £20 but for how long are we going to get £20. Now it is alright but what about later? You cannot pay five pounds if you lose your job, if you are kicked out, and it has happened everywhere, in Western Native Township, and they don't give you time till next month you must pay now, that is what they say. So that in fact you will be leaving a small house for a big house but one which you might not have after a while. It is like a man who buys a third class ticket and then goes into a second class compartment and sit down and is kicked out. So what about these four-roomed houses in Meadowlands?

Then there is another thing. In Meadowlands the streets will be divided. There will be streets for Zulus, Msotho's and Mappedis etc. There will be fight between these different sections in Meadowlands. There will be fights you know it. There is a woman with three children here in Sophiatown, a Zulu woman, whose husband is a Msotho and she has got a notice to go to Meadowlands, but her husband was told to stay on in the house. So what is going to happen here, will here be a divorce case.

/So I want.....9.

So I want to warn you that in Meadowlands you will have to divorce and re-marry again. Also in Meadowlands boys and girls over sixteen cannot stay with their parents but must go and stay in the Hostels, alternatively they must go and work for the low ignorant Dutch. Yes friends this is another story, these notices say we have mentioned all the members of your family and only those can go into Meadowlands. Not even your father can go in if he is not mentioned.

If you go to Meadowlands today you are finished. You will have to go to the Superintendent every day and say please boss, you will cry. But the African National Congress wants to avoid this crying, we say, it is only a few days, we will not move, we will not move, we will not move.

(Speaker continued his speech in Native language - not interpreted.)

Sons and daughters of Africa show your worth. I want to put a very pertinent question to you. If I say you will not move what will you say? You will say you will not move and by saying that you mean you will sit down you will not move. But a man who is determined to move you will lift your body and soul and put you outside and what will happen then? I can answer that question or perhaps you will answer it for me. I can answer that question yes but I cannot decide for you you must decide for yourselves. Personally I have satisfied myself and if you ask me what is my answer I say you shall not move. The white man considers himself next to God and when he says move he expects you to move. Therefore friends the decision you must make must be one you must defend to the bitterest end.

Yesterday Mr. Prinsloo Chief Information Officer of the Native Affairs Department, telling lies as he usually does, said that if you fail to move on the date stated on the notice it is an offence. He is lying it is not an offence. Or perhaps even if it is an offence and the magistrate say six months, what then. But it is lies. I want no answer from anybody I have answered it for myself, I want no bluffing. I want to show you sons and daughters of Africa that you can go to gaol for six months. How many Africans are serving gaol sentences for kissing European women, serving perhaps fifteen years for that. So what if you serve six months for your own property.

Why is it that we see today that the Police have seen fit to have two-way Radio cars in Sophiatown - a few days before removal, why is it that every day your houses are /being.1 0

being searched for dangerous weapons every day - every night? Ask yourselves friends, why is this big police barracks being built. Why is it that the Europeans come and write down on Sundays what we dirty Natives say. They do it to kill you and rob you of your own properties.

We have been running away for three hundred years, now we must turn back and face it. And the only difference will be that we shall see their backs for a turn. The second difference will be that whilst their bullets are coming towards us we shall be getting nearer and nearer. They may bring all the police they like to Newlands but we will not be outnumbered, we the African people must stop running away. You must be determined and say that if I die I must die for a good cause, otherwise every man will despise me. Many people say Congress is wasting time they are lying. I have met many young men playing dice instead of coming to this square. Yes yes friends we may have been wasting our time. We have been wasting time because it was never our intention to attack anyone, but Africa's freedom is being attacked. I want to agree with the sons who say Congress is wasting time, but I and you will now go into action. But I want you to understand, not stone throwing and running away, standing on corners and throwing stones at Police Vans. No, Congress will show the way. We will go to the enemy in broad daylight and face them. I have lived long in Sophiatown and know what material we have here.

Dr. Verwoerd did not tell us what he is going to do, so we are not going to tell him what we are going to DO and on what day. I shall be there my friends and if I am arrested it does not matter.

When you go back to your houses you must mark in red ink from the first of February. February will show whether in fact the Africans are cowards. Some time in February it will be decided whether South Africa is going to be white man's country or whether for us. This is our home Sophiatown we shall not move. If the Government succeeds in moving us we must do something to make us remember Sophiatown."

(The choir sang a song about Sophiatown).

CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible - spoke about function of Congress as National organisation. One minute speech.)

SAMUEL HENDRIK WHITE, verklaar :-

Ek is 'n Speurdersersant
in die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie, verbonde aan die Veiligheids-
tak te Kaapstad.

Op 23 Januarie, 1955, het
ek, vergesel van ander lede van hierdie personeel, 'n
vergadering van die "African National Congress", op die
Parade, Kaapstad, bygewoon. Die vergadering was geadver-
teer deur strooibiljetoe wat oor die hele Skiereiland
versprei was, en was bygewoon deur ongeveer 400-500
naturelle, mans en vrouens, en 'n aantal kleurlinge en
verbygangers.

Ek het in snelskrif notas
gemaak van die toesprake, wat hieronder weegge word. Die
Voorsitter was JOHN MTINI en ander sprekers was ook ANNIE
SILINGA, SONIA BUNTING, D. MGUGUNYEKA, J.P.S. MOTHOLOE
en R. SOGIBA.

Nadat NGUGUNYEKA 'n gebed
in Xosa gedoen het, het MTINI die vergadering as volg
toegesprek :-

"We are gathered here this afternoon because
of the pressure put on us. We are therefore here to tell our
people of the struggle in order that we can fight our
enemy.... and the decision of the National Congress is that
we must make nothing that we are not ordered to do. We
are in this struggle and this struggle must be carried forward.
We are here because our women are ordered to carry passes.
And we are also here because our women are being expelled
from the Western Cape to the country where we come from -
which means that they have no more husbands. They are
widows and widowers, Dr. Verwoerd. I think we have nobody
responsible for our affairs. There is only one body that
is protecting our interests and that is the African National
Congress (applause). So we call upon the people that like
freedom - white, black or yellow - in the African National
Congress there is no discrimination. Everybody must live
in this country peacefully. Africans, you know all of you
that during the last years we have been under the oppression
of Dr. Malan and today Dr. Malan has retired. And we know
that today we are under another leader, whom we all know
is an extremist. He has already told you that he is going
to amend all the laws relating to the Africans in this
country. And these laws we know already are scattering
you about with your belongings and all. So the Congress
is going to fight the fascism in this country. We're not going
to go back any more. We are prepared, in spite of these laws
to go forward. And all the Africans are prepared to put up
that fight until there is only one man left. We are going
to fight the struggle together with the allies of the African
National Congress. You know that we have the Indian
Organisation and the Congress of the coloured people. You
know that we have as well another organisation called the
Congress of Democrats. These organisations are prepared
to stand side by side with the other people. You have
heard what I have said. The call has been published to
all the African people. You must remember that all this
is going to happen.

"You know that from the 1st of April Dr. Verwoerd
has arranged to start a new education for the African people.
And on that date the African National Congress has come
to the decision that no African children will go to
school to accept that inferiority position. Education we
pay for.

There is...../2

There is another point to be mentioned here. This is the moving day in Johannesburg. As you know the inhabitants of Johannesburg - a location called Sophiatown - the inhabitants are going to be moved to some other place. And the African people have to come to a decision. They must come to a decision that the African people must not obey the law. All the African people all over the Union must support that decision.

"With these few words I want to refer to our women folks. This meeting here is held under the auspices of the Cape Western Region for the purpose of the laws that have been introduced against our womenfolk. And they are here to protest against the pass laws which they are to carry - laws that separate them from their husbands. So we made an arrangement with the Council to give us a permit so that we should be in a demonstration right up Adderley Street into Parliament Street. And the Council has refused to give us that permit because the Council knows it will be a disgrace for them. That will not deter us from carrying out our programme. So Africans, you must be prepared to fight in the struggle as aborigines of South Africa. And we are not prepared that our womenfolk must be separated from us. Now I am going to call upon my first speaker.""

ANNIE SILINGA said :

"Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to have this opportunity. I am standing four feet square in the struggle - this is that women that is prepared to resist all the laws that will separate husbands from their wives and wives from their husbands. The trouble started in 1952, and I still have the same spirit as when I started. Intimidation doesn't worry me. I want to tell the Government that we are going to fight and remind them of the defiance of 1952. The Government must tell them in Roeland Street that when any women are arrested they must give them something to eat there. As we are separated from our husbands we are prepared to ~~eat~~ fight, all of us. I am sure that before the end of February....(n.h.) I hear of women arrested in Stellenbosch - they must report to the Regional Committee here. I still have the same spirit I had in 1952. It doesn't matter that the Government wants to take the spirit out of the people. The African people all over the Union must demand their country back. I want to appeal to all you here to support the women because we are going to carry on the fight. We want to fight with our men but we will leave them aside and let the women do the fighting. The women must fight with all their strength. Under these laws we are prepared to fight against the Government. We are going to expose the actions of the Government all over the world. Because this Government only represents the Dutch people - all the other people, coloured, Indians, Europeans, are not wanted. We appeal to the wives of the members of the United Party, to come together with us to fight the pass laws. Our leaders have been calling the United party for a long time to stand side by side with the Congress. to fight apartheid, but the United Party is afraid to come forward. We also appeal to the wives of the Indian people, the coloured people, to come and fight with us, and for their husbands not to interfere. I want you to understand that if you are arrested all the people must support the one that is arrested. We don't care whatever is being done because this government has oppressed us very severely. Why does Dr. Verwoerd deprive us of the education? We want to tell him that we don't support the Bunda in the ~~Transkei~~ Transkei because that organisation is no good. I appeal to you not to be afraid. Our children are asking us what kind of

education this Government is going to give us. The white people's education is high. We also want higher education. I want you members of the African National Congress and women in particular to come forward and fight against the Dutch. Whenever anybody of the African National Congress is arrested everybody must support that person. All we have today is what we get from the African National Congress. I want those who have not joined the African National Congress to join now and get that protection. It doesn't matter what your husband does. I know that as I am here it may happen that tomorrow I may be getting a notice. And if that notice is delivered to me you will see what you call a heroine. I remember what Mr. Kahn said: 'these laws are not directed only against communists, they are directed against all people who like freedom'. When Mr. Kahn was arrested I was not a member, but as I speak here I must become a member at once. I wish the Government will send that notice to Mrs. Silinga, because all the women here are behind me. I will take my people out of Egypt and into freedom. I am not going to speak much but I am going to appeal to you for finance. You must carry out the orders of the African National Congress. As you have already been told your children must not go to school on the 1st of April in protest against the Bantu Education Act. All the money Mr. Verwoerd gets is because he oppresses the people. You must not be afraid of what the Government has done to Mr. Gwentshe. The Government doesn't know what to do. Gwentshe doesn't belong overseas, he belongs here. The Government says womenfolk must be treated tenderly as they are weak people. I want to tell you this, whether or not you are a member of the African National Congress, the Government is going to follow you because he knows tomorrow you will be a member.

"The people of Kenya did the same thing we are doing here but when freedom was not granted then they did what they are doing today. This is what God expects from you. Get up and fight for your country. Will you get your freedom without fighting for it? Will you eat your food without cooking it? Africa for the Africans! Africa!"

MTINI :

"I am going to call upon the next speaker, a member of the Congress of Democrats. That shows you that the African National Congress has also got allies. I am going to call upon Mrs. Bunting."

MRS. SONIA BUNTING:

"Mr. Chairman and fellow strugglers for freedom: This meeting which is being held to protest against the Native Laws Amendment Bill, and particularly against the implementation of the notorious Section 10, especially as it is being applied to women. In April 1950, the man who was then our Minister of Native Affairs, and who is now our Governor-General, Dr. Jansen, gave his solemn promise to the people of South Africa that the pass laws would not be extended to African women. But less than two years later they extended the pass laws to every man, woman and child. Now we know how much we can rely on the Government.

"I am speaking on behalf of the Congress of Democrats. This organisation was one of those invited by the African National Congress to discuss the convening of the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, and now my organisation, together with the South African Coloured

Peoples Organisation and the Indian Organisations, are working together to make this Congress of the People a mighty success to draft the Freedom Charter for the people of South Africa. We of the Congress of Democrats, realising that we are Europeans, and of the privileged section, we realise that all of us in South Africa can live like brothers together. We realise that until this happens our own freedom is in danger. In fact our freedom doesn't exist at the moment. There are hundreds of Europeans who have been banned from attending meetings, banned from joining organisations. They are watched day and night by members of the Special Branch of the C.I.D., and new threats are made all the time. There is the Population Registration Act which is at this moment being implemented. There is the threats to the Courts which is taking place now and will be brought up in Parliament and, of course, ~~there is the~~ there is the Public Safety Act, which can be applied at any time and suspend all existing laws, so that people can be arrested at any time for anything. These dreadful laws threaten all sections of the community - the Europeans just as much as the non-Europeans. And, as I have said we Europeans realise that it is in our interests to fight for a South Africa in which we will all be equal and free citizens.

"I think it is important that we examine the position in South Africa today. Let us discuss it in relation to the Native Law Amendment Act, particularly Section 10. Under this section the African loses every little bit of security he ever had. Parliament has given the officials who control all these laws power to implement them. They have complete control over the lives of the Africans now because section 10 says that all Africans who do not all work and live in the towns can be evicted at any time. At the moment there are two exceptions. If a man has worked for one employer for over 10 years or if he has been in residence for over 15 years without any convictions whatsoever. Now I am sure not many of you Africans fall under that category. ~~Not 1/10/10/10/10/10/10~~ For the most part the Africans are given the unskilled jobs. These jobs seldom last for 10 weeks, never mind for 10 years. Otherwise you are hounded by the pernicious pass laws which make you a criminal without committing any offence. It is certainly not a crime to walk about in the country of your birth. Also, you have to go to your homes to see how your wives and children are getting on, how your land is going on. And they talk about 15 years unbroken in towns. The position of women is even worse. They are not part of the economic life of the people of South Africa. Which woman can say she has worked for one employer for 10 years? The Government knows that there are few of these people in those categories. The laws are deliberate. They don't want a stable, settled, African community living in towns. Such a community can be organised, especially in the African National Congress. The African people will become strong and militant trade unionists, and the African will force themselves on the economic life of the towns and, of course, it will threaten white supremacy, and that is what they want to stop happening. They want Langa for single men, or men without their wives, to live in. As Mr. MGOTYANA said some time ago: 'they are making widows of our women whose husbands are still living and they are making orphans of our children'.

(BUNTING Continued-

"The further step will be the Eiselen line which you have been reading about in the papers recently. All the Africans will be evicted behind the line of this Eiselen. Even the limited protection of the 10 or 15 years will be taken away. They are starting with people like Mrs. TAMANA. Fortunately she can prove that she has been here for longer than 15 years. And they are also refusing to renew their licences. They say the Africans are being integrated into the life of the towns. The industrialists claim that the whole scheme is impossible and that they will not be able to carry out this scheme without African labour. We agree that it is impossible but it is also undesirable even if it was possible. Time is going against it not with it. Another stupid argument of our Government is that they are putting up this Eiselen line in order to protect the coloured people. But if they are so concerned about the coloured people why don't they do away with the tot system and provide them with decent houses? And what about doing away with the colour bar? Unfortunately I haven't time to quote Sam KAHN's speech at the time when this Bill was first introduced, but I want to make this point. He said 'the object of the Bill is to make the African a homeless tramp, and it is also designed to compel him to go where the Government expects him to go and work'. Because it is on the mines and the farms that the Government wants you to go. These places are short of workers and they pay starvation wages. In the towns you have better conditions and of course you want to stay here. But the Government wants to drive you to the mines and farms because of the dreadful conditions there.

"The African men have as much right to live in the towns of the Western Cape as the white men have. The Bushmen and Strandlopers were the original inhabitants of the Cape. But where are they today. The black men were the first in Natal and the Transvaal and the white people should therefore get out there (laughter and applause) But I don't want to think in these terms. I want to think of us living where we want to live, freely and in equality.

"Today we are protesting particularly against Section 10 of the Act. But we must protest against the vicious system that the Government is building up in this country.

"We are getting together thousands of people for the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE that will be held this year. We are trying to find out the demands of the people, and we are finding that out from the people and the people are electing their delegates themselves to go to this Congress of the People. And this people's charter for the first time will show the Government and the world outside South Africa exactly what South Africa wants, and they will see that it is not something special, that it is just freedom. And it is because we are organising throughout the length and the breadth of South Africa that the Government fears us. And that is why every session that this Government has, new laws are passed. That is why they have to resort continually to banning more and more people. That is why they have to deport people to places where they think they cannot do any harm. And they try with their police raids, intimidation and police terror. But the cause of freedom still remains and will always remain. They cannot stifle the voices of ten million people in South Africa all the time, and I say down with Strydom and the Nationalist Government! Africa! (Applause and shouts of 'Mayebuye').

MTINI :

"Sons and daughters of Africa, I am still going to appeal to you. You know whenever you start a fight you need weapons. I am going to appeal to you that when I send my people to ask from you it musn't be copper - it must be silver. Anything from a tickey to a million pounds we want here. I ask all those who volunteered to come forward to collect pennies for us".

D. MGUGUNYEKA:

"Africa! Africa! Mayebuyei! Ladies and gentlemen, I have come from Queenstown area. This must be clear to you. You must lead. You must not put the women in front. (Appealed for funds).

"You have been told by the first speakers we are gathered here because of the pass laws being applied to our women. One of us gathered here says 'I am born here'. One of them referred to the Bantu Education Act, and one of them referred to the removal of the African people from Sophiatown. This point of the removal of the people from Sophiatown has already been mentioned. It must be clear to all of us that freedom is no more. I am going to dwell on the pass laws. Mrs. Bunting has also explained to you about Section 10. That point is not for me. The Government has introduced this position while you are in South Africa. The Government makes decisions while you are here. The Government has expelled our Mr. Kahn from Parliament. They did it that under the Suppression of Communism Act. I want to point out this fact as well. There is a point referred to in the pass laws. These passes are going to be issued to men, women and children. Do you think there will be any children that will obey their parents once they carry passes? Because if you carry passes you are slaves. Why don't they at the same time give passes to the white women. As immigrants are barred from coming to this country so it must be clear to you why this Act was introduced. These passes must be given to those working in private houses. These people working in private houses don't know anything. It is here where you are going to understand. If you happen to be at loggerheads with your mother you won't remain. The pass laws will keep you where you are now. You can never go anywhere else and you can never ask for more money. They got no way of driving us out of this country unless they know that you belong here. You must know how we work in the pondokkies outside. When these passes are given to our women they will be told that they can stay for such and such a time. You will see what the end of it will be. You won't be able to visit your people. You won't be able to see your friends without passes. This is not our first education. It is not felt if it affects our children as explained. It will make our children infants. It is a kind of poison given to our people. Native children haven't got the same education that the whites have. And the white children will sit in peace knowing that the native children have not got the same education. That is where the danger lies, because this education is connected in some way with the pass laws. The Government is going to send out doctors to examine our children to see which child should receive higher education and those which cannot go beyond standard two and must go to the farms. They don't play with us. The Government by transferring education to the Native Affairs Department knows exactly what it is doing. There is a place in Langa called the Labour Bureau. In that Labour Bureau in Langa the Africans sell their labour for anything.

Africans.....

Africans cannot choose their work, the Government chooses their work for them. Whatever education you have acquired is no good to you. If you are a woman you must work in a kitchen. Why should a big multitude of Africans like you keep so quiet. This is the last point I am going to touch on. In Newclare in Johannesburg the Government is against the African people because they want this place for themselves. The Africans residing there need not go to the City Council to get permits..." (not understood).

J.S.P. MOTHOLIE:

"Mr. Chairman, before I read these few resolutions to you I would like a few words, and it is an appeal from the African National Congress to those gathered here this afternoon. The message is this: That all the African people should join the ANC. That all the coloured people, just as oppressed as the African people, must join the S.A. Coloured Peoples Organisation. And the last message to the white people - all the democratic loving people should belong to the Congress of Democrats. The ANC calls upon the people of South Africa to fight for freedom. The ANC has appealed to all existing organisations and accepted political parties in South Africa to be co-sponsors of the CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE. But we knew that the Nationalist Party would never come to the colours of the African National Congress because the Nationalist Party is a fascist party. We also knew that the United Party would never give any sympathy to the Congress of the People because they are the capitalists. Friends, in this country, like in any other country, there shall never be freedom until the capitalists and fascists are got rid of. We can see what is happening in Asia. The Indian people in India were oppressed for more than four centuries by the capitalists of Great Britain and, friends, during that time the life of the Indian people were just the same as the life of the African people in this country. So the people of India realised that by forming a big organisation like the Indian Congress to fight against the capitalist system. Also in China the Chinese people are fighting American imperialism. And here in South Africa the Nationalists were assuming that Hitler would win the war. The nazis under Hitler were just like the people here in this country today. If you join the African National Congress and these other organisations I have just mentioned which come together, you will do just like the Italian people done to Mussolini.

"I will now read the resolutions, and those in favour will signify with their right hands :-

- (1) That this mass meeting protests most strongly against the implementation of the Urban Areas Act. The removal of thousands of Africans from the Western Areas is causing great grief and anger among our people. We call upon all freedom lovers to call for the repeal of this vicious Act;
- (2) We hereby reject the slave education of African children under the Bantu Education Act. We want them to read and write and attain the finest standard of education. Bantu Education is intended to produce a nation of inferior labourers. This mass meeting of Cape Town citizens hereby endorses the decision taken by the African National Congress that

calls for.....

calls for all children to remain away from schools as from 1st April, 1955.

- (3) Atom bombs mean death. We call for the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction.
- (4) Colonialism and Imperialism mean oppression for the masses of the people. We want complete independence for all countries.

Africa! Mayebuye!""""

R. SOGIBA :

"I am very thankful that you have listened to the speakers here. Comrades, this one thing I want to make clear to you. All the speakers have told you what is needed. I want to tell you what to do. We appeal to all sections here, Africans, Indians and whites. Those who want to give the ANC a contribution can get the address from the ANC headquarters. You are here because of the intimidations made in the locations. If at any time you hear that anyone of us is under arrest - we don't think of passes now - we only think of intimidation. These passes have been brought in so that they can lift the dresses of your women folk. It is not right for the Police to call upon you for passes - only when you have committed a crime. I wonder if civilisation came from the West and not from the East. The white people here came with civilisation and when they landed they forgot all about God. When you go to a house you must not be misled by the religious ministers who say you must pray to God."""""

MTINI:

"I am very glad that you are here at this meeting this afternoon. You must carry this message with you. The work of a man and his wife - you must go from house to house. The ANC is not something to paly with. All these people you see here are the Executive Committee of the ANC. So I thank you all. You must go home. Thank you."""""

Al die resolusies wat deur MOTHOLOE ~~met~~ voorgelees was, was deur die vergadering aangeneem.

Die vergadering het om 5.20 nm afgesluit met die sing van NKOSI SIKELELE AFRIKA.

(w.g.) S.H. WHITE.

12461 S/SERS.

Die verklaarder erken dat hy ten volle op hoogte is met die inhoud van hierdie verklaring.

Beëdig voor my te Pretoria hierdie 13e dag van Julie, 1956.

(w.g.) A.J. KRUGER. NR. 20819

S/SERS. S.A. POLISIE.

KOMMISSARIS VAN EDE,

MAG. DIST. PRETORIA.

G. 95.

COPY OF NOTES MADE BY N/D/CONST. PHILLIP MASOKANYE AT
A MEETING ~~OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS~~, IN CONNEC-
TION WITH ' CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE ', HELD AT KLIPTOWN
ON 30. 1. 1955 .

12.40 p.m. 3. p.m. (1)
~~(3)~~

Chairm: Meeting of the Congress of the people, I am surprised whether we should go with the Meeting as I cannot see most people here. Congress is belonging to the people ~~and~~ ^{the} to the officials and you should see whether we should continue and we should ^{see} if we could postpone this meeting, to a near future when we could see that we are all here . We have a branch of the African N.C. Our aim is to organise the people so that we could tell the Gov. that this S.A. belongs to the people and we hear lot of talks at trains and parties and I tell you that we are the rightfull owners of this country and we could easily defeat this Gov., and ~~we~~ ^{know} ~~that~~ ^{that} the town like Vereeniging is there with our hands if we have organised ourselves effectively S.A. belongs to us and all of us should organise so that tomorrow we should go to Strydom and say you do not regard S.A. as father land as they should have organised ourselves together because the people like Gov. officials do not take us as the people.

1st. Indian male. Moola :

I am sorry that I would not carry my work as Mr. Daniels who has devoted himself to the Congress of the people he is blind has no eyes but his work is important towards the people of Africa and he will tell us what is the Congress of the people and all the non Europeans of Africa and he has organised.

organise.

2nd. Daniels, on behalf of the South A. Coloured Congress of the people :

I am here to explain the aim and the object of this Congress. about 4 months ago a very inspiring Conference was held at Johannesburg, where about 1,000 delegates were there expressing their confidence in the Congress Campaign and the delegates impress themselves to call on 15,000 Volunteers as Chief Lutuli has asked and this Volunteers should work for the people of S.A. and this brings the first movements of the Congress, the people have been called upon to Volunteer to take the demands of the people in the Freedom Charter at a certain time ~~these~~ delegates will be called by the 12 ^{11/12} ~~Coloured~~ people of S.A. in that Congress of the people the Freedom Charter will be adopted and in the first place you can all be Volunteers and this will be done by the T.I.C.A. A.N.C. and after Congress and ^{other} you will be to collect the demands of the people for the Freedom Charter in order to ^{11/12} local area Committees are formed, and ^{it is unfortunate} for which that we are not represented this meeting. I feel that I ^{have} a ^{motion} that the A.N.C. Branch here should form themselves ~~in~~ a Committee and in order to know that in future we should have a proper Committee here and I believe ^{that the} ~~that~~ this little gathering will have their ^{motion} ~~work~~.

MATSEDANA

3rd. Mrs. Ruth Matsedane :

Chairman and friends I am here to day about the Bantu Education and this ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{pastly} speaker has ^{founded} ~~the~~ ^{the} Congress of the people and ^{most} ~~the~~ people do not know the motive and object of this Congress of the people and this is the coming together of

together of the Congress and the people have seen that before the organisation could come together to fight the present Gov. as the idea of the Gov. is that we should be the slaves and I will ^{now} ~~want~~ explain to you what is Bantu Education. I see no women at this meeting and I believe that the men will take this message to ^{their} ~~the~~ women folk, the B.E. is to see that the Black are oppress^{ed} and is the establishment ^{ed} of the White Supremacy, the minister of the N.A. has told us ^{that} the Bantu Ed. should be established in ~~the~~ Native Reserves and ^{that} ~~this~~ B.Ed prepares the native child what kind is he going to life will be made to use his own hands and he will not be learned to be wise as he should be a labour he will be learned only 3 things at the school which will be only be to write to read and only to be able to ^{carry} ~~convey~~ messages and you will only be able to know these things in English and Afrikaans so you should be taught to a certain and of Education and most people ^{are} ~~and~~ devided here in S.A. and they will only be learned to be slaves and the children will be taught that they are slaves and they will only be in school in 3 hours a day and Verwoerd does not hold himself responsible for your children after school and where will your child be at that time after school and I know that they will tell you that your child will be at home so that you could be able to sent him, and you can see that your children should be taken to youth camps where the farmers could ^{top} ~~take~~ the cheap labour from ^(U.C.) camps and Verwoerd is not prepared to build your schools and and a farmer will be able to give you place There and we women will build mud walls and we are in the farm and that will be part of ⁿ ~~manul~~ work and the farmers will see that the cows are milked and the fields are ^{ploughed} ~~planted~~ and the farm belongs to him he could do ^{what} ~~as~~ he wants and here is the bad thing when the farmer becomes tired of the school he will say

~~will say~~ take this school away I do not want it and the farm belongs to him and when we come to ~~teachers~~ ^{matter} we feel very sorry they will be employed of the A. affairs and you will know that the teachers work for nothing and ~~Ver. Ver.~~ ^{Ver. Ver.} ~~say~~ ^{they} that they get to ~~take~~ ^{take} of money and they are told that they are to be with good conduct and should not talk bad about Bantu Education and the teachers are sacked if they found that they have no good conduct and even the present teachers will not be the same as ^{the} teachers of old days as they will not be given certificates after leaving ~~the~~ the 3 years course are you going to allow your children to be taken by the Gov. with this Bantu Ed. and he is deprived of his liberty what shall we do for our children are we going to let some body give poison to our children and this Bantu Educ. will start on 1.4.55, and we should keep our children at home, we should not take our children to school on that day they should remain at home and you will say that a whiteman is superior, I know the parents always say what can we do, we have long been defeated and we should not sent our children to the school but on that day you will see who are the cowards I now appeal to you Kliptown women to organise and have a Committee as we have at Orlando, and you should go from house to house here to have organisation and ^I sent you men to tell your women folk about the organisation and I am ashamed when I look at you I see you ^{one} stone cold, you should all awake if you have children to fight this Bantu Ed. and you have heard Verwoerd said there is no African in the European Community.

4. Obed Motsabi : ^{Touch}
I do not tough your feelings because you have been here for a long time, I came here with one important ^{expect} ~~expect~~ of which is to remove 60,000 people of Sophiatown from their houses and the peace where the

~~where~~ the policemen will be ^{((leg.))} to play their part where the people will see how they will ^{be} and old women will be taken as wash women and they have no right to be there and they will be told that there is no place for them at Meadowlands and you will see what will happened in Meadowlands, you see what happened in Park town and our children have no place ^{to} play and the Gov. could not build more Sports Grounds in Meadowlands before the removal you can see that you have no Gov. and you could see that there are ^(illeg. intelligans) in Parliament and I can say that because the very same thing happened where the Minister said Africans were donkeys and cows, what are we going to do about the removal I put ^{that} ~~the~~ question to you all that ~~will~~ ^{we} stand with the people of Sophiatown, We are prepared to stand with them with all costs and as the Bantu Education plans are under way there will be more schools and the Native affairs will see that he gets more institutions to enable him to oppress our children and to ^{educate them} ~~eliminate the~~ manpower of their fathers and our children are to be taught in a manner the Gov. likes, and they will only be taken to the farms to help building the fences we are not going to tolerate those horrors and in order to be slaves more than what we are today we should see that this Gov. gives up and you can see what happens in the trains we pay lot of monies but we get less wages and we should become the Gov. of this Country and you see that people have no houses to day but now the people will be taken from their houses and taken to Meadowlands we are not happy ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ this Gov. , is pursuing ^{the} rule of Hitler, same as those small boys in the flying squads and even in the Gov. of Hitler they people were prosecuted, and they are not invited here and they are here because

their bosses in the parliament are there to see that they are not to be opposed and here in S.A. if the African people stand together, some thing will happen as to Hitler himself and we shall get everything here if we beat this Gov. and the society is to be made by you here and we should all stand together and fight against these oppressive laws, and S.A. is not to be Gov. by the Cowards and you should realise.

.....
Resolutions.

Moosa Moola :

I hope most of you have understood about the Conference of the people this Congress is not a new organisation and the people are wrong ^{ry} by sayⁿ that, it is the new organisation under by the 4 Congress of S.A. and it was ^{Passed} ~~passed~~ the the Chief Lutuli where he spoke of Congress of Democrats, Indian Congress, Congress of the people, we are now going to the people of Kliptown and we will tell them what is the Congress of the people, the ^{children} ~~chairman~~ are now suffering from T.B. because of the Gov. which underfeds us here in S.A. and we want healthy children, I am an Indian and the Gov. wants to take me to Lenasia and is far from Meadowslands ^{and} we say to the Gov. and I say we shall not go there and they want to put the natives in ^{ethnic} groups and they want to make the same ^{Law} ~~as the~~ with the Indians, they have already build a school ~~in~~ at Lenasia, (RESOLUTIONS)

this mass meeting of the residents of Kliptown held under the auspices of the Congress of the people strongly opposed to removal of Sophiatown and this meeting will support the stand taken by the people of the Western area and strongly opposed to the Bantu Education and the adoption of the resolution that was made at Durban to withhold of our children from the school on the 1.4.55 or the parents to form themselves .

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

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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