

Politics - Local Govt - Native Locations

ABX. 480315

Advisory Board

15/3/48

To  
The Chairman of the  
Locations Committee,  
and for information  
To other Councillors.

Sirs, We hereby attach a copy of the letter of grievances and a reply to the registration Regulations. The matter contained therein is the considered opinion of the Board and the resolutions of the residents of the Kimberley Locations.

A matter of vital importance to us is the fact that, it now transpires that at a meeting of the Locations Committee of the City Council, the Councillors were erroneously informed that, the Native Advisory Board had discussed the grievances of the Locations and that the members of the Board ~~had~~ made apologies to the manager. We emphatically refute any such statement as most misleading and incorrect. This matter has never been discussed by us, to say nothing about the apologies which we are supposed to have made to the manager.

What transpired at the meeting of the Board held on the 26/2/48., was that, the chairman, Mr. Vn Zyl., took strong exception to the action of those members of the Board, who had gone to see certain citizens in connection with the grievances of the Locations. On this point Mr. John Matthews asked those members who had done so, to make an apology to the chairman. (Not to the manager). This was rejected.

Another point against which we protest is the fact that one of our members (Mr. Doyle Modiakgotla) has been singled out and accused for agitations in the Locations. We pray the city fathers to institute an enquiry into the Locations grievances in order to enable him to establish his innocence. We feel that our position is dangerous and unless a thorough investigation is made into these allegations, we will all be gradually singled out like him and victimised.

Your Obedient Servants.

Signed.....  
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Kimberley. 15/3/48.

Copy

THE NATIVE ADVISORY BOARD  
&  
LOCATION GRIEVANCES

This Native Advisory Board, representing all the African residents in Kimberley, having been instructed by the chairman, Mr. Van Zyl, to consider and to report in writing our considered opinion on the proposed, "Native service contract regulations," beg to submit the following report.

1. Having thoroughly considered all aspects and implications of the proposed regulations, we have unanimously come to the conclusion that no good purpose can be serviced to either the African community as a whole or decent minded anti-slavery Europeans of Kimberley. These passlaws have been tried in Cape Town and have only resulted in bloodshed and racial bitterness in addition to the financial loss sustained as the result of damages to properties.
2. The constancy which is usually held, that registration or any other form of passlaws will protect local Africans against competition of out-landers in the local labour market is not conclusive, because all Kimberley Africans are linguists, civil and above the average Africans of other centres who generally speak only one language. A Kimberley boy or girl who cannot excel against the ignorant outsiders is useless in any circumstance.
3. It is the considered opinion of this Board that the main object of this regulation, is to foster and maintain white labour policy. Experience has proved that the majority of our oppressors always succeed in working themselves into our affairs, not to help the Africans or to carry out the law as they find it but to put the, so-called Kafir in his place, and to retain him there. The grievances with which the residents of these Locations are seething, and the disabilities under which we labour are cases in point. Another illustration of this anomaly is the fact that, in the estimates for the registration of these service contracts, we find that from the very onset, four Europeans will pull in basic pay alone £1450. This means, more oppressors on the over burdened Africans. On the other hand we find the manager continually importing the Boers from Germiston into Kimberley to push out bona fide residents of Kimberley.
4. The registration of agreements between masters and servants is part of the enslavement policy which seeks to make the African the property of his employer. And as such, we most emphatically protest against the promulgation of such regulations in Kimberley because in spite of all the contentions to the contrary, these regulations are primarily designed to make us the property of others contrary to the fundamental principles of British jurisprudence, that, "man cannot hold property in man," and that, "agreement or contract must not be procured by fraud, fear, misrepresentation or undue influence." The Cape Africans have enjoyed the franchise since 1853, and owing to this liberal policy which your grandfather had extended to the Cape Africans, the latter had advanced rapidly in education and civilisation and the city fathers will readily see, therefore, why the Kimberley Africans view the introduction of passlaws in this twentieth century as a violation of their inherited rights. It is all the more so, after the human race had suffered from the greatest pestilence in history, when millions including ten thousand black and white South Africans have been torn to pieces in all continents when all seas are strewn with human bones in a gigantic struggle to establish and maintain human rights in the whole world including the very people whom these proposed regulations seek to enslave.
5. We know from practical experience that the manager has recommended the introduction of these regulations here in Kimberley and he boasts that he would should us that no matter what we do they will operate here in Kimberley. The local Africans are a civilised community and it would be a very bad reflection on the city of men like the late Mr. Cecil John Rhodes and other liberals, that such regulations should be promulgated here at this time of our advancement. The proposed introduction of these service contracts regulations at this juncture, is all the more unfortunate as the whole country is anxiously awaiting the release of Justice Nkomo Native Laws Commission's report.

5. We know from practical experience that the manager has recommended the introduction of these regulations here in Kimberley and he boasts that he will show us that no matter what we do these regulations will operate here in our midst. Kimberley Africans are civilised and it would be a very bad reflection of the city of men like the late Mr. Cecil John Rhodes and other liberals, that such regulations should be promulgated at this time of our advancement. The proposed introduction of the service contract regulations at this juncture is all the more unfortunate as the whole country is anxiously awaiting the release of Justice Fagan's Native Laws Commission's report. Surely this matter is still subjudice.

6. Since the manager took over, he has failed or refused to co operate with the Advisory Board in all matters affecting the interests of the African in these Locations. Worse still is the fact that he consistently and continually reminds the members of the Board that they are not ing. He does not want any recommendation from them. At a meeting of the Board when a complaint was made about this attitude, he was very emphatic in telling members of the Board that they are nothing, that they were only there in an advisory capacity and not ing else. They had no say in administrative matters. The manager uses most insulting language to our womenfolk such as MOGODOYI, a Zulu word meaning a lean dog, and such words as MRIDE. When asked why he uses such words, he asks, "and what are they." He does not hide the fact that he looks upon Africans as things apart, and not responsible and respectable men and women.

7. An advertisement appeared in the D.F.A. of the 16/2/48, asking for two European applicants for the Locations as corporals in the Municipal police. This was done without consulting the Board and it is in direct conflict with the provision of the Native Urban Areas Act No. 21 of 1923. We respectfully submit, that it was not necessary to have a white Sergeant in these Locations, as these Locations have been under African Sergeants for many years who successfully carried out their obligations. But the employment of white corporals in these Locations at this time of Native education and development when we have Africans who have been specially trained by the army or police work, men of fairly high standard of education, we feel that white labour policy is being forced upon us unnecessarily. The manager seems to succeed in putting the so-called kafir in his place. While it is said to be the policy of this country to allow the Natives to develop on their own, we find that in practice, especially under the present administration we are not afforded the opportunity to do so. But followed up right in our homes and places specially set apart for us and white people are forced upon us to help to oppress us.

8. Lastly, please allow us to inform you that while the manager has employed more police in these Locations, without consulting us, on Friday night, 13/2/48, thieves broke into a cafe in Royal St less than 300 yards from the Location office. The man who sleeps in the premises was held up by two of the thieves while others ransacked the place. When the thieves had left this man ran to the office and reported the matter to the Municipal police. They simply told him that it was a matter for the C.I.D. The next morning the owner of the Cafe when to them himself and he was told the same thing. He went to the C.I.D. and was referred back to the Location police. The result was that although the other thieves had been apprehended, the leader of the gang was at large for many days before he was arrested. In conclusion we have to inform you that at a public meeting held in the Bantu Batho Hall on the 10/2/48, when these proposed regulations were placed before the public a vote of NO CONFIDENCE IN THE MANAGER was unanimously passed. Members of the Advisory Board were requested to send you these resolutions.

GOD BLESS AFRICA.

Signed  
signed

Your Obedient Servants

CDoyle Modirakgotla. Tsaso. J. Oesi. A. B. F. Malunga. B. Liphuko. D. Mpiwa. J. D. Matthews G. Jack. J. G. Hulana. Petrus Lesiba. G. Makoloane. J. G. H. Mohosh L. J. Mokgledi

JOHANNESBURG JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS.

Telephone: 44-4368

P.O. Box 97,  
JOHANNESBURG.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT 8 P.M.  
ON MONDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1948, AT THE BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL  
CENTRE, ELOFF STREET EXTENSION, JOHANNESBURG.

PRESENT: Dr. E. Hellmann (in the Chair), 16 members, 15 visitors and the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. J.L. Arnstein).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

2. ADDRESS BY COL. J.A. BRINK, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, S.A. POLICE,  
COMMANDING WITWATERSRAND DIVISION; "AFRICANS AND THE POLICE"

The Chairman welcomed Col. Brink and expressed Council's appreciation of his ready acceptance of its invitation.

Col. Brink said that he felt it was essential for him to keep in close touch with a body such as Council. Major-General Palmer and Brigadier Mickdal, as well as himself, were fully aware of the important part played by Council in the struggle to achieve good-will between Africans and Europeans in Johannesburg.

In June, 1947, stated Col. Brink, after consultation with the Minister of Justice, the Commissioner of Police issued instructions to Deputy Commissioners throughout the Union to confer with African leaders regarding the problem of Africans and their relationship with the Police. The Minister's policy was directed at removing the suspicion and mistrust which in the past had clouded relations between the South African Police and the African population. Unfortunately, in the past little had been done by either side to bring about closer co-operation.

On assuming command of the Witwatersrand Division of the S.A. Police, Col. Brink had contacted African leaders and local organisations connected with and responsible for, the administration of African affairs. His approach to them was made in order to meet the requirements of African residents of townships, to acquaint them with police procedure, and provide them with effective police protection. Personally, he was very interested in African affairs, said Col. Brink, and he wished to do everything in his power to carry out the policy of the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Police. In pursuance of this policy, he had since his arrival regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Association of Native Administrators of Non-European Affairs. They had accepted his proposal to allow a Police Officer to attend Advisory Board meetings in the various Native townships, in order to discuss police matters. In townships which had no Advisory Boards (such as Alexandra Township), Health Committees would serve the same purpose. In areas such as Sophiatown, Vigilance Committees would be established. A Vigilance Committee had already been established in Sophiatown by Father Huddleston.

Col. Brink stressed that he would always welcome representations by the Joint Council to investigate complaints made by Africans. He would also consider very carefully representations made by all African leaders, but although he was quite prepared to receive self-appointed leaders, he would not be able to attend any of their meetings, as by so doing he would be acting against the policy of the Local Authority and its duly elected bodies.

As a result of the large influx of Africans to the Reef during the war and the consequent lack of accommodation and other civil amenities, crime among both Europeans and Africans had increased alarmingly. Public representations to the Union Government led to the numerical strength of the Police being increased very considerably. This necessitated a revision of the training system of both the European and African personnel.

"Race relations" became one of the most important subjects in the initial training course at the Police College, Pretoria. An Education Officer from the Union Education Department was appointed to the college staff and in collaboration with the Education Committee appointed by the Commissioner, prepared a series of lectures on various aspects of race relations in South Africa.

Col. Brink stated that to follow up this training, he had selected a Police Officer to lecture on race relations at every Police Station on the Reef. He felt confident that the S.A. Police's endeavour to improve race relations by these means would succeed.

Another step decided upon recently was that a general knowledge test on race relations should be included in the Police examinations for promotion. Blue Books dealing with African problems would now be prescribed for the various promotion examinations.

All Non-European policemen would in future be trained at the depot established in Umtata. Special attention would be paid in their training to their attitude towards, and treatment of, members of their own race.

In explaining the role of the S.A. Police in administering Native Affairs, Col. Brink said that it was the duty of every member of the Force to treat the public (irrespective of creed or race) with civility and forbearance at all times.

Africans living in the urban areas of South Africa had discriminatory laws applied to them which the S.A. Police were required to enforce. Consequently, the Police had incurred much unjustifiable criticism from Africans who did not understand that the Police were merely administering the laws. It must, of course, be the object and concern of the Police, as far as compatible with a due administration of the law, to carry out their duties with courtesy and consideration. He did not for a moment intend to convey the impression that the Police were blameless - their task, difficult at all times, was made even more difficult by the fact that they dealt mainly with the people who disobeyed the laws, large numbers of whom were arrested and prosecuted.

Dealing with contemplated reorganisation in Police administration, Col. Brink said that he proposed employing the available man power to the best advantage of both sections of the community so as to provide reasonable police protection for all. The increases in the police force would prove sufficient, and he was of the considered opinion that the position would be much better by the end of the year.

A Police Station had been established at Moroka and in Orlando the erection of Police buildings was about to be started. Orlando would then be supplied with a full quota of men and transport and Kliptown would be attended to as soon as the Orlando buildings were completed. It was hoped that during the course of this year more buildings would be erected for the Police at Alexandra whereupon the force there would be increased. Until this took place Col. Brink had asked Alexandra Township not to hesitate in bringing matters to him for discussion.

Although strong representations had recently been made by Africans for the establishment of a civic guard in Native Townships, the Government had not agreed to the proposition.

In conclusion, Col. Brink stated that at present there were over 11,000 men in the Police Force able to speak, read or write a Bantu language. He was very anxious to increase this number as quickly as possible as by understanding Bantu languages and customs better relations could be achieved.

Col. Brink said that he was quite aware of Council's concern about the administration of section 29 but he did not wish to discuss it until he had completed certain investigations he was making. He assured Council, however, that he would do everything in his power to see that the administration of this section was improved. He would only be in a position to discuss this matter with Council in a few months' time.

The Chairman requested Col. Brink to draw the Governments' attention

to the uneasiness felt by Council at the indiscriminate application of Section 29.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Matloporo pointed out that rural Africans who came to urban areas noticed immediately that African leaders were not treated with respect by the Police and consequently they too lost the respect they had always been taught to show to their leaders. If their own leaders could respect the Police, it would affect considerably the present attitude of Africans to the Police.

Mr. Rathebe stated that educated Africans were fully aware that the Police were only administering the laws but their attitude to Africans had for a long time been a very sore point. Those Africans who had come in contact with the Senior officials in the Police Force had been treated with extreme courtesy, but in the Police Stations the handling of Africans by junior officials had to be seen to be believed. Also, the language used by the Police for Africans was absolutely disgraceful.

Mr. Rathebe put the following questions to Col. Brink:-

- (i) What minimum qualifications were required of Police recruits?
- (ii) Were Police recruits drawn from urban or rural areas?
- (iii) What minimum standard was required of them?
- (iv) What is being done with regard to the training of African Police?

Col. Brink replied as follows:-

- (i) Standard VI. was the minimum qualification required. However, 75% of the younger men in the Force were matriculants.
- (ii) Approximately 75% of the European Police recruits were drawn from the rural areas. The remaining 25% were drawn from urban areas.
- (iii) In the past, no minimum standard could be laid down for Africans as so few of them were literate.
- (iv) African recruits would now receive the same training as Europeans at the new training depot at Umtata. Until now African Policemen had only been trained part-time in Johannesburg.

Col. Brink said that the Africans were also to blame for the Police attitude towards them - they, too, used unseemly language to the Police. Recently European policemen had been accused of stealing articles from the Africans whose homes they had been instructed to raid. He had been most concerned about the accusations made and had investigated the matter very carefully. He had found that most of the charges made were unwarranted. For instance, it was impossible for police to have stolen, as was alleged, sewing machines and radios. He did not deny that Policemen did pilfer articles and possibly cash occasionally. This was most regrettable and all steps would be taken to prevent it in future.

To see that Africans were treated better at Police Stations, he had arranged for a Police officer to be on duty every night at all the important stations.

Mr. Rathebe said that Col. Brink's statement that about 75% of the European Police Force were recruited from the country explained the whole attitude of the Police to Africans. It was a well-known fact that farmers treated their African labour abominably and the sons of these farmers carried the same attitude into the Police Force.

In the U.S.A. and England, said Mr. Rathebe, he had noticed that the Police were regarded by the people as their friends. The Police there were highly trained men - superior beings - and the same should be the case in South Africa. Their attitude should be one of tolerance and Mr. Rathebe thought that if the Police were trained as Recreation Officers much juvenile delinquency would be wiped out. He expressed the hope that the "little men" in the Force would be tackled by the Senior officials.

Mr. D.D. Randall said that the Police in South Africa were actually in a position to help the Africans enormously. They were the people who came most into contact with the Africans, with the exception of missionaries and teachers, and they could, therefore, draw the attention of the Government and the public to the appalling conditions under which the African population were living, their lack of schools and the ordinary amenities of life, etc.

Mr. J.D. Rheinallt Jones said that the Police failed to distinguish between the honest and the criminal elements amongst the African population. For example, the Police, instead of giving every encouragement to Africans trying to study, broke up classes being held in garages. Col. Brink in reply, said that unfortunately if the Municipal regulations forbade the use of garages in certain suburbs for study purposes, the Police were powerless in the matter and had to take action if they were called upon to do so. He would, however, investigate this matter.

The Chairman thanked Col. Brink very warmly for his address and his readiness to answer questions. She well remembered many occasions in the past when she had served on deputations which had urged the Police to consult African leaders. The new attitude of the Police was, therefore, most welcome. The Chairman expressed the hope that the Fagan Commission's report would result in radical changes in the laws affecting Africans in urban areas. The task of the Police would then be considerably lightened.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

The Chairman reported as follows:-

#### (a) Postal Matters:

The Executive was collecting information and it was hoped to have an interview with the Postmaster shortly to discuss matters.

#### (b) Railway Matters:

A reply had been received from the System Manager stating that he was willing to meet a deputation from Council. He had asked Council to submit an agenda.

#### (c) Proposed Purchase by City Council of 500 morgen at Doornkop.

A small sub-committee had already met twice and would be meeting again during the week. Mr. Watson, an architect with considerable experience of town planning, had been most helpful. The sub-committee hoped to be able to submit a very full report to Council soon.

#### (d) Tram Accident:

A reply had been received from the General Manager of Transport which stated that anyone injured had to apply for compensation which was then assessed.

The Chairman remarked that she wondered if the Africans involved knew they had to apply for compensation.

Mr. Rathebe said that in his opinion the onus lay with the Tramways to inform those injured in the accident to apply for compensation.

Mr. Frankel stated that as any claims for damages against the City Council have to be made within 6 months, Africans should be told to submit their claims immediately. He suggested: (1) that Council should ask the Tramways Department for the names of those injured., (2) that the Bantu Press should be asked to publish the discussion which had taken place at the meeting in order to bring to the attention of the injured, their right to claim compensation.

AGREED.

### 4. PROPOSED MEETING AT DONALDSON ORLANDO COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 18TH MARCH, 1948.

The Chairman announced that unfortunately the meeting could not take place as alterations were being made to the Leeke Hall this month. It was hoped that the meeting would take place in April.

## 5. CANCELLATION OF LETTERS OF EXEMPTION:

The Chairman read a letter from the Secretary for Native Affairs in reply to Council's request for the exact number of letters of exemption cancelled during the past 5 years, and matters discussed in an interview with the Under-Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. Rodseth, in August last year.

The letter stated that:-

- i. During the past 5 years 47 certificates of exemption were cancelled.
- ii. All in all, 75 Natives were deprived of their exemptions up to the end of 1947. (Roughly 15% of the total number exempted.)
- iii. The holder is given every opportunity of showing cause why his exemption should not be cancelled.
- iv. A circular is being issued to district officers on the following lines:-

"The Department is anxious that Natives should have impressed upon them that Certificates and Letters of Exemption are of great value, are not lightly granted nor lightly withdrawn and that cancellation takes place only on the order of the Minister or the Governor-General, as the case may be, when such cancellation is published in the Government Gazette.

Officers are therefore instructed that when writing to the holder of a Letter or Certificate of exemption whose exemption it is proposed to cancel, he be informed that in addition to submitting a written statement for transmission to the Minister or the Governor-General, he may appear in person on a fixed day and show cause why his Certificate or Letters should not be cancelled. Native Commissioners are enjoined if possible to interview such a Native personally. In no circumstance should the interview be delegated to junior or Native members of the Staff.

"The Native should be informed that his representations will be submitted to the Governor-General or to the Minister, for decision."

The Chairman stated that the Executive Committee had considered the letter and was most gratified that the representations made by Council had been accepted and that a circular was being sent out to district officers.

## 6. NEW MEMBER:

On the recommendation of the Executive,

Mrs. Charlotte D.P. Slinger,  
Child Welfare Society Nursery School,  
Roodepoort Location, Roodepoort, Tvl.

was elected to membership of Council.

## 7. GENERAL

### (a) Annual General Meeting:

The Chairman expressed the hope that Mrs. Ballinger would be able to address the Annual General Meeting of Council in April.

### (b) Telephone Facilities in Orlando Township.

The Hon. Secretary read the Telephone Manager's reply to Council's letter pointing out the grave deficiency of public telephones in Orlando Township. The letter stated:-

- (i) That the question of providing telephone services for Orlando and all the adjoining townships was now under review.
- (ii) The question of providing public telephones would be given consideration as soon as circumstances permit.



(c) Leave of Absence for Mr. N.A. Mitchell:

The Chairman wished Mr. Mitchell, on behalf of Council, an enjoyable trip and a pleasant stay in England. Mr. Mitchell would be away until August.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS AND THE MEETING ENDED AT 10 P.M.

Duplicated by:

S. A. Institute of Race Relations,  
P.O. Box 97,  
JOHANNESBURG.

ADX. 480320

A. N. C.  
Youth League.

466, Berg Street,  
Pretoria, Orange Free State.  
20<sup>th</sup> March, 1948.

Dr. A. B. Zuma,  
President-General,  
46, End Street,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Surely you must have seen in the Zange  
Case Natal that I am forming the Congress  
youth League in Natal & Zululand. Already,  
I have a pro-tem Committee busy on the  
scheme of approach and the policy to  
pursue, and we are experiencing great difficulty.

We have thought it advisable to ask  
you for the African National Congress Constitution,  
Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the Congress  
youth League, if any, and any document  
that can be of some help to us.

I will also welcome some advice  
from you as the leader of the whole organization.

Yours,  
Sir,

Yours very sincerely,  
Percy Khumalo

ABX. 480325a

GM.

Race Relations

25th March, 1948.

Mr. C.A. Law,  
P.O. Box 7216,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the copy of Evidence given before the Native Laws Commission you were good enough to supply me with and I appreciate this as a personal favour.

Please find enclosed my personal cheque of £2.17.0. in settlement of your account rendered.

Yours faithfully,

A. B. XUMA.

Encl.

32-4438  
133-2311

101' END STREET  
C. B. V. B. XUMA

ДВОУЩЕЛ ВЕТИЕ ВЛИД

# DROUGHT RELIEF FUND

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PHONES { 22-5311  
35-9128

c/o DR. A. B. XUMA,  
104, END STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

VPX-401126

Race Relations  
ATBX.480325t

New York--Problems of policy, functioning and finances in the Council on African Affairs, first raised at a February 2 meeting of the organization, were acted upon at the second meeting held last Thursday, March 25, at the Council's office, 23 West 26th Street, following the hearing of reports from two previously-elected committees of investigation.

The meeting saw the censure of Max Yergan for certain acts committed in his capacity as executive director. A committee of three was also named to replace Yergan as trustee for the Council in a property partnership.

Paul Robeson, chairman, Wm. Jay Schieffelin, vice-chairman, and Yergan were all re-elected to office. In addition, Mrs. Estelle Riddle Osborne was elected as treasurer, and W.A. Hunton, educational director, was elected secretary.

The meeting also adopted several recommendations for improving the efficiency of the Council's work. An eleven-man executive board was established consisting of the five officers above named and six elected members: Herbert Aptheker, Charles Collins, Judge Hubert T. Delany, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, John Hammond, and Dr. Gene Weltfish.

The statement of policy adopted reaffirmed the objectives and program for African freedom aimed at during the Council's decade of existence, and called special attention to the "decisive" role of the United States "in helping to make Africa the new base of imperialist concentration", stating that this "must be made known to the American public" and represented "one of the most important tasks" of the Council at the present time.

"The present war-engendering anti-Soviet policy," the statement declared, must "be replaced by a policy of cooperation toward a common world goal of peace, security and democracy. This could be accomplished through a strengthened United Nations, it was said, and "by giving people everywhere food if they need it, tools and knowledge with which to work, and the right to govern themselves without outside interference."

The business of the meeting was marred, though not interrupted, by prolonged but vain effort of Yergan to secure acceptance of proxies to him dated several weeks ago and which failed to refer to the meeting of March 25; and also by Yergan's walking out of the meeting, accompanied by his supporters, when a vote of censure against the executive director appeared imminent.

The invalidating of all except two of Yergan's proxies did not affect the actual voting, since Robeson at no time during the meeting made use of the 16 proxies on his side. All decisions were based solely on the votes of the members present. There were 21 members of the Council in attendance at the meeting.

(EDITOR: See full statement of policy enclosed.)

COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ABX. 480325c

STATEMENT OF POLICY

(Draft to be presented by the Policy Committee, Mrs. Estelle R. Osborne, temporary Chairman, at the Council meeting, March 25, 1948)

*Race Relations*

The Council on African Affairs exists for the purpose of bringing to public attention the truth concerning present-day Africa and its relation to world affairs, and of enlisting American and United Nations support for the African peoples' struggle to free themselves from foreign domination.

Now in the eleventh year of its work, the Council's record speaks for itself. The record may be seen in the public meetings, conferences, action programs, and direct petitions to government and United Nations officials undertaken by the Council, and in its pamphlets and other publications including the monthly New Africa -- all devoted to the cause of African advancement and freedom.

Included among the Council's recent activities have been:

- \* rallying American support for the rights of oppressed African workers on such occasions as the 1945 general strike in Nigeria and the strike of over 60,000 gold mine workers in South Africa in 1946;
- \* providing detailed information to the United Nations on the conditions prevailing in the African colonies, and publicizing the promises and the failures of the United Nations in the area of colonial advancement;
- \* pressing for United Nations action against South Africa's vicious code and practice of "white supremacy" and its attempt to annex South West Africa;
- \* organizing a campaign for the collection and forwarding of food and money to relieve thousands of starving Africans in the Cape Province of South Africa, the only help given them from the outside world.

The Council must continue to carry forward such activities as these, reaching a still wider audience and achieving greater efficiency in its work.

Today the Council has a much bigger and more important job to do than ever before. For in the present period, it is the United States which is decisive in determining Africa's immediate future. Without American loans and credits, without the political backing of the Truman administration at Lake Success and London, Paris, Brussels, and the Hague; and without the military assistance of the United States already granted or promised, the European colonial powers could not now maintain or continue to maintain the imperialist control they exercise in Africa and other colonial areas.

In helping Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands to hold on to their empires, the United States government hopes to keep these far-flung colonial areas, as well as their European rulers, within the American sphere of influence and the "American way of life".

Some of the implications of this policy may be seen when we hear General Smuts of South Africa, with its infamous record of racial oppression, tell his white countrymen: "We must stand together, not only among ourselves (in the British Commonwealth), but also with the United States, which is now the mainstay of our Western group; we must work together with those countries who have

the same outlook and the same faith and the same way of life as we have."

The European imperialist powers are, indeed, working together. With the blessing of our President and State Department, and with Britain taking the lead, they have formed themselves into an international consortium having as one primary aim the promotion of inter-imperialist collaboration in the intensified exploitation of Africa to satisfy Europe's economic needs, as well as for joint military action in that continent. This plan is strongly supported by such personalities as Mosley, Britain's leading fascist; Jacques Soustelle, one of De Gaulle's top men; and Smuts.

It must be added that the influence of the United States upon Africa is not limited to the buttressing of European domination. On an increasing scale, American corporations and American investors in European corporations are reaping profits in many sections of Africa. Most of the Uranium ore from the Belgian Congo is shipped to the United States, and the Marshall (European Recovery) Plan provides that the United States may get whatever raw materials it needs from the colonies of the Marshall Plan countries. Add to this the fact that American air bases in Africa are reportedly being integrated with the British and French military systems.

The decisive part which this country is, thus, playing in helping to make Africa the new base of imperialist concentration must be made known to the American people. This is one of the most important tasks of the Council on African Affairs at the present time. To shirk this task because it entails criticism of American state policy and may therefore result in the Council being labelled "Communist" or "subversive" would be shameful cowardice. More important, it would represent betrayal of the people of Africa and tacit sanctioning of their further enslavement.

The Council on African Affairs joins with those liberal and progressive forces in America which are demanding that this country's great power be put to constructive instead of negative uses; that the present war-engendering anti-Soviet policy be replaced by a policy of cooperation toward a common world goal of peace, security, and democracy.

This goal CAN be attained through the United Nations, if we will only strengthen it instead of subverting and destroying it. It CAN be attained by giving people everywhere food it they need it, tools and knowledge with which to work, and the right to govern themselves without outside interference.

But the people of Africa cannot wait for help from abroad. If their numerous appeals to the United Nations remain unanswered, they will be forced to rely on their own strength. Though they may be shot down for demanding their rights - as in the latest instance of such brutal murder in the Gold Coast, British West Africa - they will continue to organize and struggle.

It is of the utmost importance that the Council on African Affairs serve as the medium for developing closer contacts between the Negro, Labor, and other democratic forces in America and the rapidly expanding trade union and national movements in all sections of Africa.

The most effective answer that the Council and its friends can make to the new imperialist offensive, to the war hysteria and witch-hunting of our day, is work and more work, effort and greater effort, ideal and higher ideal to rid the world of oppression, exploitation, and slavery.



ABX. 480327a

A. N. C.  
101

Moroka Vigilance League,

No 12480. B.C. Sec.

Moroka Township,

Johannesburg,

27<sup>th</sup> March 1948.

Dr. A. B. Xuma,

President General. U. N. C.

Dear Sir,

I have been directed by the abovementioned league, to bring your attention to the fact that ever since you held a meeting at Moroka Township as regards the Boycott of rentals, namely 15/- and at the same time pledging your support. The above-mentioned league has the pleasure of informing you, that the struggle is still on. Although we are in the meantime at a loss. As we have not heard from our National Organisation. I have no doubt that you must have seen in  
P.T.O.

the Press, that leave to appeal to the appellate Division was granted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1948, of which my league is busily engaged in the matter. Not only do we expect moral support from The National Organisation, we also expect financial support, as you are well aware, as to how costly these litigations are. I would therefore under the circumstances expect a favourable reply.

Thanking you,  
yours faithfully,  
N. K. Peela. (Secretary  
Noroka Vigilance League)

P.O.Box 120,  
Heilbron, O. F. S.  
27th March, 1948.

ABX. 480327b

Dr. A. B. Xuma,  
President-General,  
African National Congress,  
104 End Street,  
Johannesburg.

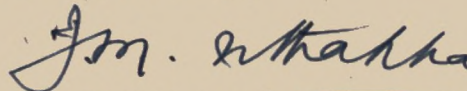
A. N. C.  
(O. F. S.)

Dear Sir,

As the Meeting that was supposed to have taken place on the 7th instant failed on account of pressure of work on your part, I again approach you to ask whether you will be able to address a Meeting on Sunday the 2nd May next at about 9-30 am. If so, I shall be glad to have your reply per return of post or as soon as possible to enable me to give a wide publicity.

Eagan's Commission's report having been tabled, I believe you and your Executive Committee will study it very carefully and give us a lead. A Campaign against the Pass Laws in the Orange Free State and Transvaal Provinces should be launched and intensified. In my opinion Congress should send representatives, amongst other things, to the Chiefs ~~and~~ in the Native Territories to protest against their people being made to carry passes when coming to work in the Mines in the Union. Card System recommended by the Commission is already in operation as far as payment of taxes is concerned. Tax receipts give all essentials for the identification of the holder. The Department is tightening up the present Pass Regulations.

Yours faithfully,

  
(J.M. Nthakha)

A. M. C.  
(O. F. S.)

Montana Store,  
P.O. Witzschbeck  
O. F. S.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1944

Dr. A. B. Kuma  
c/o End & Bree Sts.,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Doctor,

We would like to form a branch out here, of the African National Congress. As a President General, we would like very much your advice.

We also would very much like to have some forms and Constitution and all other necessary papers sent to us so that we can know exactly how to go about forming this organisation.

We shall await your earliest reply in the matter.

Thanking you doctor,  
Yours faithfully,

A. S. Mo-Paulus

Dr A. B. Kuma,  
c/o End of Bee Street  
Johannesburg

Joint Council matters 2/4/48

ABX. 480402a

J.C. 6/48  
LR.2.4.48.

JOHANNESBURG JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS.

Telephone: 44-4368

P.O. Box 97,  
JOHANNESBURG.

2nd April, 1948.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF COUNCIL WILL BE HELD  
ON MONDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1948 AT 8 P.M. AT THE BANTU MEN'S  
SOCIAL CENTRE, BLOFF STREET EXTENSION, JOHANNESBURG.

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of Minutes.
2. Annual Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Elections.
5. Address by Mr. J.G.O. Watson:  
Proposed Conditions for Establishing a Freehold Township.
6. Ambulance Services in Native Townships.
7. Publication of Names of Injured African Miners.
7. Tram Accident.
9. Railway Matters: Deputation to System Manager.
10. Leave of Absence: Father C.E.G. Goodall.
11. New Members:  
Mr. Henry W. Nxumalo,  
P.O. Box 2948,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
  
Mr. D.D. Randall,  
66 Persimmon Street,  
Malvern,  
JOHANNESBURG.
12. General.

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JOHANNESBURG JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS

A N N U A L R E P O R T

APRIL 1947 TO MARCH 1948.

1) MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCES.

During the period under review one Annual General and ten Ordinary Meetings were held.

The average attendance was as follows:

Members	18
Visitors	25.

A special meeting was held at the Donaldson Orlando Community Centre on 16 October 1947 in order to acquaint Orlando residents with the work of the Joint Council. A live interest was provoked and requests have been received to hold a further meeting at the Centre.

In co-operation with the Association of European and African Women, a film evening took place at the Bantu Men's Social Centre on 26 June, 1947, at which films loaned by the National War Memorial Health Foundation were shown.

In July, a visit to Moroka for members and visitors was arranged.

2) MEMBERSHIP

Twenty-five new members were elected and two resigned owing to their departure overseas. Council records with sorrow the sudden and tragic death of one of its most distinguished members, Dr. Vilakazi.

In pursuance of the policy decided upon last year, a number of members, who had neither paid their subscriptions nor attended meetings, were removed from the membership lists.

Membership now stands at 181. It must be pointed out, however, that of these too many are in arrear with their subscriptions and that further eliminations may have to be undertaken during the coming year.

3) OFFICERS

The following held office during the year:

Chairman:	Dr. Ellen Hellmann
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. O.I. Frankel Mr. J.R. Rathebe
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. H.L. Phillips
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. J.L. Arnstein
Hon. Assistant Secretary:	Mr. N.A. Mitchell

Additional members  
of the Executive.

Miss L. Abrahams  
Father S. Carter  
Mr. J.G. Chingathe  
Mr. L.H. Baskerville-Cosway  
Mr. D.H. Darling  
Father C.E.G. Goodall<sup>1</sup>  
Miss M. Leeke<sup>2</sup>  
Mr. P.R.B. Lewis

1 Co-opted May 1947  
2 Resigned January 1948.

Additional Executive Members (continued)

Mr. J.G. Malie  
Mr. N. Moche <sup>3</sup>  
Mr. S.R. Mutshekwane  
Mr. W.B. Ngakane  
Mr. S.S. Ntombela  
Mr. N.N. Sejake  
Mr. O.R. Tambo  
Dr. J. Dexter Taylor <sup>4</sup>  
Rev. S.S. Tema <sup>5</sup>  
Mrs. J.M. Train  
Miss L.G. Wells  
Mr. E. Wilmot <sup>6</sup>

It was with especial regret that Council accepted the resignation of Dr. Dexter Taylor, who is returning to America for his retirement. He has served Council since its earliest days and takes with him its abiding gratitude. Council likewise deeply regrets losing the assistance of Miss M. Leeke who is, on medical advice, returning to England.

4) FINANCE

From the report of the Hon. Treasurer, it will be seen that Council ended the year with a credit balance of £4.9.7. The important point, which must be stressed, is that of a total revenue of £148.13.0., subscriptions only amounted to £88.9.6. While a number of donors have regularly supported Council - and our grateful thanks are due to them - some of the donations are not recurrent. But be that as it may, an organisation can only regard its financial position as healthy if it can rely on its subscriptions to ensure the bulk of its normal expenditure. The annual report last year stated that Council should ensure a revenue of £360 per annum "to carry out the projects suggested for its more effective operation". This modest target has not been attained. We once more call upon members to carry out their own obligations and also to assist in enrolling new members. A brochure setting out the objects and achievements of the Joint Council, together with a membership form, is available for the assistance of members.

5) HOUSING

The past twelve months have revealed no abatement in the gravity of the housing problem in Johannesburg. The most that can be said is that, with the establishment of the emergency camp of Moroka with provision under "controlled squatting" conditions, for up to 100,000 people, an unsatisfactory position has been regularized on an unsatisfactory but stable basis, and the worst hazards to health have been brought under control.

Council welcomed the statement of the Minister of Health and Housing in the House of Assembly on 11 February 1948 that the Government had authorized the National Housing and Planning Commission to build sub-economic houses for Africans and that the whole of the loss in respect of such schemes would be borne by the Government. In its evidence to the Fagan Commission, the Joint Council had submitted that "as the present wage scale and restriction of economic opportunities to Africans is a result of deliberate national policy, the State should bear the entire loss on Native housing, the local authority acting as agent for the Government." Council was convinced then, as it is now, that the assumption by the State of losses on Native housing was an essential element in the solution of the vast problem of expeditiously meeting Native housing requirements. Nevertheless, while welcoming the Minister's statement, it anxiously awaits, in common with other organizations, a classification

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- 3 Co-opted June 1947.
- 4 Resigned December 1947.
- 5 Co-opted October 1947.
- 6 Co-opted May and Resigned August 1947.



in greater detail of the means whereby the National Housing Commission is to carry out its immense assignment. In the past, shortages of personnel and the hopelessly inadequate allocation of building materials for Native housing have been such as to obstruct schemes which municipalities, such as Johannesburg, had planned and were prepared to implement forthwith. Furthermore, Council is apprehensive lest uncertainty as to the financial basis on which future housing schemes will be determined, deter local authorities from proceeding with their own plans for Native housing. In this connection, it regards with particular concern the further progress of the 1,700 units (each of two three-roomed and one two-roomed dwellings) to which the Johannesburg City Council is committed.

(a) Moroka.

Since the establishment of Moroka, where it is estimated that there are now some 60,000, residents, your Council has continuously endeavoured to keep in touch with what was - and continues to be - a most difficult situation. When the Camp was first established, your Council made repeated representations to the City Council urging it:-

- (i) to clarify the basis on which it had framed its financial estimates - the Joint Council felt that to place a globular figure of £252,000 on the estimates for "administrative expenses" (excluding health services, interest and redemption charges, etc), which amounted to 67 per cent of the estimated administrative expenditure on Africans for the whole of the rest of Johannesburg, was not justifiable without the provision of more detailed specifications;
- (ii) to reduce the rent for the 20 foot square plots at Moroka from 15s. to 7s.6d. per month;
- (iii) to make strenuous efforts expeditiously to provide the social welfare services for which provision had been made in the estimates of capital outlay;
- (iv) to amend the regulations applying to the township whereunder it appeared that it was possible (even if it was not being enforced) to prevent African visitors from entering the township without written permission.

(b) Evidence to Fagan Commission.

The above submissions were incorporated in the evidence which your Council presented to the Fagan Commission when, interrupting its work as the Native Laws Commission, it conducted an enquiry into the causes of the disturbance at Moroka on 30 August 1947, which so tragically resulted in the death of three European policemen.

Meanwhile, the City Council has reduced rents at Moroka and Jabavu to 10s. and 9s. per month respectively; this reduction being retrospective. The Government will bear two-thirds of the increased loss, and has increased its stand subsidy from 10s. to 13s.4d. on 11,000 stands as from 28 April 1947. The subsidy paid by the Government on unoccupied stands will remain at 1s.3d. per month.

(c) Freehold Tenure.

In view of the announcement that the City Council was negotiating for the purchase of 500 morgen of land for Native housing at Doornkop, your Council renewed its representations to the City Council to set up an African freehold township, utilizing this land for the purpose. A sub-committee was set up by your Council to discuss ways in which it could be helpful in promoting the implementation of such a scheme by putting forward proposals regarding the size of plots, financial provisions for loans, conditions of grant of tenure, etc. This sub-committee which has not yet concluded its deliberations, has been greatly assisted by Mr. J.G.O. Watson, to whom gratitude is expressed for the technical advice he has so readily given.

The Dube Township (leasehold) scheme has come no nearer realization than it was 12 months ago. Negotiations between the City Council and the Government are apparently proceeding. Meanwhile not a single stand

has been allocated.

6) SECTION 29 OF THE NATIVES (URBAN AREAS) CONSOLIDATION ACT.

Senator H.M. Basner brought to the attention of your Council the manner in which this section is being administered and asked Council to assist in remedying the existing situation. Section 29 makes provision for the removal from the urban area of Natives adjudged after an enquiry by a Magistrate or Native Commissioner, to be idle and disorderly persons. According to evidence supplied by Senator Basner and the Legal Aid Bureau, mass arrests were being made by the police under section 29. Any African could be stopped, his pass demanded, and if he was unable to produce it, he was taken into custody under section 29, and automatically remanded at "B" Court pending investigation, which usually took 10 to 14 days. Bail was not permitted owing to the assumption of idleness. It was stated that Bantu eating-houses in the City were raided at lunch-time, and any Africans unable to produce passes, (even if they claimed to have left them in their jackets at their place of work) were taken into custody.

From enquiries made at the Magistrate's Court, it was ascertained that 14,158 cases were dealt with under section 29 during 1947. In 1943, the number of cases was 2,894. An analysis of the 11,971 cases from 1 January to 31 October 1947 showed that 10,294 (86 per cent) were discharged with a warning coupled with an order to find work, while 1,071 (9 per cent) were ordered to leave Johannesburg (some of them being sentenced to two years detention at Leeuwkop).

Representatives of Council, together with those of the Regional Committee of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations and the Legal Aid Bureau, put these facts before the Deputy-Commissioner of Police, Col. J.A. Brink. It was submitted:

- (a) that it had not been the intention of the Act to apply section 29 as an instrument to effect mass detentions;
- (b) that the provision that any police officer who "has reason to believe or suspect that any Native within such urban area is habitually unemployed or has no honest means of livelihood, is leading an idle dissolute or disorderly life etc." was not being observed by making production or non-production of a pass the sole test for "believing or suspecting" said Native;
- (c) that a system, which rounded up more than 14,000 people in one year in order to convict less than 10 per cent, and kept them all in detention for 10 to 14 days, was not only harsh in the extreme but wasteful of manpower and labour potential.

This whole matter is under investigation by Col. Brink who is planning a reorganization of his department. While unable to discuss questions of policy involved, Col. Brink has promised to bring about expedition in the conduct of enquiries under Section 29.

7. CANCELLATION OF LETTERS OF EXEMPTION.

This matter was originally raised by Mr. S. Mpanza, who advised your Council that his letter of exemption had been cancelled by the Governor-General, and requested advice and assistance from Council. Mr. Mpanza had successfully contested a deportation order by the Government and had won his case on the technical point that he was an exempted Native. Thereafter he had been requested to see the Native Commissioner who had read him a letter stating that the authorities proposed cancelling his letter of exemption for two specific reasons and asking him to show cause why this should not be done. He had replied by letter to both charges. The next communication to him had been a request to return his letter of exemption.

Your Council was of opinion that, irrespective of the merits or demerits of the particular case, the question of the administrative procedure followed in cancelling exemptions called for investigation. It felt that even though, under present legislation, an exemption was

a privilege, once it was conceded that a man had certain rights when he had been granted an exemption, then, if there was a suggestion that his certificate be cancelled, it seemed reasonable to suggest that his case should come before a tribunal and he be given a hearing before cancellation was effected.

A deputation from your Council discussed the whole matter with Mr. Rodseth, the Under-Secretary for Native Affairs. Mr. Rodseth stated that while the Government's decision could not be reversed in Mr. Mpanza's case, it was not intended to take up again matters of the past. He informed the deputation that the number of cancellations was infinitesimal (75 in all i.e. 0.15 per cent of the total number exempted). Nevertheless he was anxious that nothing should detract from the value attaching to a letter of exemption, and he assured the deputation that he would make representations with a view to having an enquiry held before a Native Commissioner when a cancellation was contemplated.

Subsequently a communication was received from the Department of Native Affairs stating that district officers were being circularized to the effect that they were to inform any holder of a letter of exemption, whose exemption it was proposed to cancel, that in addition to submitting a written statement for transmission to the Governor-General, or the Minister, he could appear in person before the Native Commissioner and show cause why such cancellation should not be effected.

#### 8) POSTAL SERVICES.

A number of matters relating to delays in delivery, demands for passes and the latest rent receipts when handing over registered letters and delivering parcels respectively were raised with the postal authorities. Above all, your Council is attempting to impress on the authorities the need to employ Africans to serve Africans, both to facilitate efficient and courteous service and to provide occupational outlets for educated Africans in graded posts - outlets which the South African colour bar denies them. Council was impressed by the fact that while in 1946 there were 35 African matriculants who applied for employment in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, only six were actually in employment in the Department. Enquiries and representations in this connection are being pursued.

#### 9) RAILWAYS

It is gratifying to record that in answer to representations regarding the urgent need for a pedestrian subway at Orlando station which would permit easy access to the station and also from one side of the township to the other, a communication was received from the System Manager to the effect that the administration had under consideration a proposal to construct such a subway, that the matter was under correspondence with the City Council, and that "endeavours are being made to finalize the matter". For the rest, no relief whatsoever appears to have been afforded to ameliorate conditions which have been progressively worsening; appalling congestion, especially at peak hours, and inadequate staff at ticket offices both at Park and Jeppe Stations and in the townships. In this regard, too, your Council is urging the employment of Africans to serve their own people. These matters are being pursued further.

#### 10. METHOD OF ADDRESSING AFRICANS.

The attention of your Council was drawn to the fact that the Rand Daily Mail, which was frequently so helpful, consistently referred to Africans, no matter how distinguished, without the appellation "Mr". In an interview, the Editor gave the assurance that Africans of standing would be referred to as requested.

A request has also been addressed to the City Council in this regard. Your Council submits that the time has passed when the use of a special "greetings" form of address in correspondence with Africans can be justified, and that its continued use can only be regarded as derogatory in intent and meaning. It has accordingly urged the City Council to adopt the usual forms of address customary in conducting official correspondence.

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