

# AFRICAN CHURCHES CALL FOR ALL-IN CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID

From RUTH FIRST

JOHANNESBURG.—THE ANGER AND ALARM STIRRING AMONG THE AFRICAN PEOPLE AT THE VERWOERD LAWS PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT LED TO A CALL BY THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL AFRICAN MINISTERS' FEDERATION LAST WEEK FOR THE BIGGEST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS IN 20 YEARS.

All religious, cultural, educational, political, industrial and sports bodies are to come together in Bloemfontein from October 4 to 7 to state their attitude to apartheid, and to find a basis for African unity in the face of Government attacks.

## "Days Of Grave National Anxiety"

These are "days of grave national anxiety for the African people" said the resolution of the 11th annual conference of the Ministers' Federation which met a few weeks ago in Brandfort. This conference discussed the Tomlinson Report and then felt that only an all-in conference would be competent to discuss it and the problem of apartheid in general.

The call of the Ministers' Federation for the conference recalls the 1936 convention when the Three Hertzog Bills were passed in the face of

African opposition. Since the Johannesburg Advisory Board's deputation to Cape Town and throughout the weeks when the new Verwoerd Bills were being steamrollered through Parliament the need has been felt by widely divergent organisations and individuals for a great gathering of Africans of all shades of opinion who will sink their differences to weld a common unity in the face of attacks.

The initiative taken by the African churches is already rallying wide enthusiasm.



Mr. O. Tambo.

## "Every African Against Apartheid!" ANC Calls For Unity

THE slogan of the conference might well be "EVERY AFRICAN AGAINST APARTHEID," Mr. Oliver Tambo, secretary-general of the African National Congress, told New Age in an interview welcoming the conference call by the Ministers' Federation.

These are days of grave crisis for the African people, said Mr. Tambo. The Verwoerd Bills of the last session of Parliament—the amendments to the Urban Areas Act and the Native Administration Act and the Prohibition of Interdicts Act—are new Acts of tyranny which climax painful years in which this Government has piled one injustice after another upon our people.

The anti-apartheid conference initiated by the Federation of In-

terdenominational Ministers is most timely and should be welcomed throughout the land.

I fully support the idea of this conference.

Many things still divide us but the threat to our existence and our rights must now bring us together.

Petty differences among the African people and their organisations, where they exist, must be submerged in the interests of a firm unity in the face of attack by the Nationalists.

Every African must clearly understand that apartheid means permanent inferiority, and acceptance of any apartheid scheme, whether it goes by the name of 'separate development' or any other label, means the abdication of our full human rights.

### WILL TO FIGHT

Conference must not be a mere talking shop. From its sessions must grow a new understanding and determination to fight for the basic civil liberties that are the birthright of all peoples—against the threats to the independence of the Churches from State control and Government interference; against arbitrary deportations and exilings; against the slamming of the doors of the law courts in our faces; against the never-ending uprootings and removals of our people and the pin-pricks and humiliations which are our daily experience under the system of apartheid.

From this conference should emerge a united people attempting not to form themselves into a single body, but to forge ways and means for all the varied organisations and representative groups of our people to act together for the common interest, against attacks on us, and for our rights.

"Workers are walking the streets every day in factory areas, looking  
(Continued on page 8)

## TRADE UNIONS AND THE I.C. ACT—Page 6

## GROWING NUMBER OF COLOURED, AFRICAN UNEMPLOYED

From NAOMI SHAPIRO

CAPE TOWN.—Workers in the building and furniture trades and unskilled workers mainly in the metal industry are the hardest hit by the alarming increase in unemployment in the Cape Peninsula, New Age learned last week. Hundreds of workers in these industries are out of work, while many more are on short time.

In other industries—clothing, leather, textile—there is slight unemployment and also short time, but trade union officials and employers maintain that this slackness is normal for this time of the year.

The official figures show that at the end of May there were

● 1,300 more Coloured unemployed than in December last year;

● 10 times more African unemployed than in February last.

### Metal

"The time is coming when trade unionists will have to start demand-

# NEW AGE

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## GETTING READY FOR AUGUST 9



Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi, African women's leader, in characteristic pose during a recent demonstration against passes for women.

## 2,000 Demonstrate Against Passes But Native Commissioner says "It Never Happened!"

JOHANNESBURG.—Over 2,000 women of Evaton last week marched several miles from their homes to the courtyard of the Native Commissioner to protest against the threat of passes for women. A deputation of 10 spokeswomen was elected, but the Native Commissioner refused to see them, telling them they should return in a group of ten not in thousands.

THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED "THE INCIDENT NEVER TOOK PLACE."

The women marched back four miles to the meeting place where ANC and People's Transport Committee leaders addressed them. In all 10,000 protest forms were left at the Commissioner's office.

The women would not return again to the Commissioner said

their spokeswomen. They had made their emphatic protest.

### VENTERSPOST

JOHANNESBURG.

By 5.30 a.m. a pick-up van and Flying Squad car were running up  
(Continued on page 3)



# WE ARE STILL NOT EVEN HALF WAY

**IT was in response to appeals from all over that we agreed to extend our £10,000 Campaign for two months. There are only five weeks left, but we are still not half-way to fulfilling our target.**

If our target is to be realised it means that each week must bring us in £1,000. Yes, it is a lot of money. But it is not impossible to collect it all. In fact it must be possible. And each of us must make it possible.

This week we must pay tribute

to our New Age committee in London, who have sent us £25. Also, to a domestic worker, who, with the help of her husband, collected £1 2s. 9d. on her collection list. She has taken the list back to collect more.

**FOLLOW THESE EXAMPLES! MAKE SURE THAT NEW AGE CONTINUES!**

**MAKE SURE IT STAYS AN EIGHT-PAGER!**

**THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:**  
Anonymous P.E. £15; E.D.R. £2;  
Dec £7; Tommy 2/6; K.G. £1;  
Anon £15; SACTU 16/10; J.S. £1;

A.N. £2; G.S. £1.1; Free-Press £100;  
Transvaal Indian Congress £200;  
Good news £2; Izzy £25; Half  
jumble sale £10; John £5; Friend  
£25; Friend £25; Regular £20; Din-  
ner £5; Kensington £10; Market £15;  
London New Age Committee £25;  
Durban £15; H.M. £2; Malloy 2/6;  
Garage worker 2/6; Domestic  
worker £1.2.9; Ruth £5; Jackie's  
Bridge Club 3/6.

**Previously acknowledged** £3,666 0 2  
**Total this week** 535 8 1  
**TOTAL TO DATE** £4,201 8 3



## NEW AGE LETTER BOX

### IS VERWOERD DEAF?

Firstly I would like to know whether Dr. Verwoerd, who says he is our chief, is in the Union or outside the Union where he cannot see and hear what the African women are saying and doing.

Protests are being made, where these women tell him through his offices in the Union, that whether these passes are written in gold or silver they are not prepared to carry them.

He says these books will be our protection. How are our men-folk treated? And how many are dead under the very book? I would like the Doctor to tell the world whether he wants to destroy the Africans through this pass, as the slavery document is already making a graveyard in Bethal in the Transvaal.

Now Mr. Strijdom the Prime Minister I call upon you to use your powers as the Prime Minister and let your voice be heard by the country, concerning this cry and protests of us—the women, and mothers of this country. Never mind the colour we have. And don't say the protests are not coming to you, that they are directed to Dr. Verwoerd, that he must answer and not you. We would like to hear your voice as

#### Police Provocation in Pretoria

The Lady Selborne branch of the African National Congress held a public meeting on July 1 to report back on the women's demonstration to the Native Commissioner on the issue of passes.

It was an orderly meeting, but to our surprise the police came with sten guns and the Commandant ordered us to close the meeting down. We had to do so, and in closing sang the National Anthem. For reasons unknown to us the police singled out five persons on the spot for arrest. The people remained cool, calm and orderly in the face of this provocation.

We desire to place on record our firm determination to redouble our efforts towards full attainment of citizenship rights and the unconditional recognition of man as man irrespective of race, creed or colour.

P. MAGANO

Secretary ANC,  
Lady Selborne.

the head of all the portfolios of this slavery Government. Don't do what Pilate did when giving up Jesus to be crucified, by washing his hands.

Let your voice be heard to the country and the women be answered.

Africa Mayibuye ngelethu ixsha.

MRS. MARY J. G. NYEZI  
3297 Bochabela Location,  
Bloemfontein.

#### Advisory Boards Hamper Liberation Struggle

In your issue of July 5 Mr. Stanley Kaba of Grahamstown and "Meyerton Resident" express their disgust at the Advisory Board stooges who always stab the national liberatory struggle in the back. I was surprised that they have just made this discovery.

The African National Congress knew this as far back as 1949 when it decided that "... we resolve to work for the abolition of all differential institutions or bodies specially created for Africans; viz. Local or District Councils, Advisory Boards, Native Representative Councils and present form of Parliamentary representation."

The African people demand immediate direct representation for we believe we are ripe to determine our own fate. If the slogan "Freedom in our lifetime" must be fulfilled we have to cease participating in these dummy elections.

The Boards were specifically created because "the Native is a child, he cannot understand the intricate machinery of Western democracy," and secondly to forestall the rise of a national movement which would be a serious threat to white domination.

To participate in these dummy elections is to collaborate, to accept inferiority. To be in the Boards is to admit that our role in this country is to "advise" and never to legislate. It is a tacit approval of the farcical representation in Parliament. It is dishonourable.

Down with the dummies and forward to freedom.

PETER H. 'MOLOTSI  
Johannesburg.

### PRETORIA WOMEN REJECT PASSES

In Pretoria on the 22nd June, 1956, the African National Congress Women's League, under the leadership of Mrs. A. R. J. Moeketsi as chairlady, worked hard to organise the Anti-Pass Demonstration to the Native Commissioner, Mr. O. J. Cornell, at No. 47 Church Street.

The Minister of Justice sent a team of more than thirty Special Branch members of the C.I.D. to Lady Selborne to prevent the women from reaching the Native Commissioner's Office. These police fought a losing battle on that day. They tried to threaten the taxi drivers not to take women as passengers on that day, but they were very unfortunate because the very taxi drivers were the husbands of the women going to meet the Native Commissioner.

The police did not worry about other locations because they knew the only Congress branch was in Lady Selborne. To their surprise, Eastwood location sent 500 women to the Native Commissioner while Lady Selborne sent 1,289 women. All other areas followed in hundreds; even Vlakkfontein managed to send 150 women.

Women started to enter the Native Commissioner's Yard at 9.30 a.m. At 10.30 a.m. more than 2,000 had already blocked the passage leading into the yard. At 11 a.m. the deputation of 10 women got into the Commissioner's office, and by that time the daughters of Africa were pouring in like water from a tap.

Mrs. A. R. J. Moeketsi introduced the deputation to the Commissioner, and said: "We are here to hand over our objections to you on the issue of passes to African women."

The Commissioner produced his identification card and his wife's card. He said: "European women are carrying these cards, I don't see any reason why you people should be ill-informed about this affair." Later he produced the very reference book for African women and said: "My children, I am advising you to try this book, because it will bring harmony and pleasure in your families. Your husbands will never run away from you when you have got this reference book."

Mrs. Moeketsi: "Does it mean that the men who divorced their wives do not have passes?"

Commissioner: "You are a grown-up person, you know very well that when love is finished you cannot do otherwise."

Mrs. N. Sons: "If so then we

# FORWARD TO AUGUST 9!

ON August 9, the women of South Africa, under the leadership of the Federation of Women and the ANC Women's League, are going on a pilgrimage to Pretoria to lay before the Prime Minister, Mr. Strijdom, their protest against the issuing of passes to African women.

One such demonstration has already taken place—in October last year, when thousands of women invaded Pretoria and tried to present their petition to four Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd. The Ministers refused to receive a delegation from the women, and completely ignored the protest. The first pass books were issued to the women of Winburg last March.

The women of Winburg reacted vigorously and made a bonfire of their passbooks. A number of their leaders were brought before the courts, but the protest of the women all over South Africa has intensified tenfold since then. Demonstrations big and small have been held in most centres of the Union, and more are reported every week.

The demonstration in August promises to be one of the biggest of its kind ever seen in South African history. At any rate, the women are determined to leave Verwoerd in no doubt that they do not want his pass books.

**Verwoerd's blank refusal to take African opinion into account can be considered nothing but a provocation.** When the Advisory Boards sent a deputation to Cape Town to protest against the Prohibition of Interdicts Bill and the Urban Areas Amendment Bill last session, he simply refused to see them. When the women all over the Union send in their protests through the channels Verwoerd insists on—the Native Commissioners—he also pays no attention.

Verwoerd's minions churn out a steady stream of lies and misrepresentations to the effect that there are no more passes, that the reference books are the same thing as White women have to carry, that the pass system is for the Africans' own good anyway. The women are not impressed.

**We have warned the Government before, and we warn them again: don't underestimate the strength of the women's feelings about the passes! And don't rely on your police force and your army to compel the women to submit!**

All previous attempts to impose the pass laws on women have ended disastrously. Verwoerd may consider himself the immovable Minister, but what happens when he clashes with the unbreakable will of the women? Wise Government knows when to yield to public opinion. The Nationalist Government, with its apartheid policy, can make no claim to wisdom, but it should at least be realistic enough to understand that in this instance it is playing with fire.

It is to be hoped that the August 9 demonstration will be on such a scale that even Verwoerd will be compelled to change his mind. The whole progressive movement, and all South Africans who value racial peace, must use this opportunity to make the Government listen to reason.

#### REMEMBER—

● **Not only African women, but Coloured, European and Indian women are expected to take part in the August 9 demonstration. An injury to one is an injury to all.**

● **Not only women from the Transvaal, but women from every centre in the Union are expected to go to Pretoria to voice their protest on August 9.**

● **Those who are unable to go to Pretoria on August 9 should make their own demonstrations to the Native Commissioner in their area on that day.**

**LET VERWOERD UNDERSTAND SOUTH AFRICA IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO PASSES FOR WOMEN!**

are not prepared to take those books."

Commissioner: "It is the Government, I am not the Government."

Women: "If the Government orders you to kill your child will you do it?" Commissioner: "No." "The same thing with us, we are not prepared to kill our children by taking passes."

The Commissioner: "You should respect the law."

The women: "Provided the law is right for us."

Mrs. Sons: "You said that we should take the passes for a trial?"

Commissioner: "Yes."

Mrs. Sons: "Is it possible for one to die, and when he or she feels that it is painful to die, then

that particular person comes back to life again? It is impossible, therefore we are not prepared to try these passes, even if they can be decorated with diamonds or with gold we are not prepared to accept them and we shall not or never take them."

When the deputation came out, it greeted the masses with the Africa salute. The masses replied with shouts of "Africa!" The National Anthem was sung.

"Africa-Africa-Africa. Freedom during the time of women. The future belongs to us in the land of our birth."

SECRETARY

ANCWL, Lady Selborne,  
Pretoria.



# THE FARMERS STILL WANT SLAVES

From GOVAN MBEKI

PORT ELIZABETH.

**D**ISCUSSING a resolution that the Government should enact new legislation to prevent the movement of African labour from the farms to the urban areas, delegates to the conference of the Eastern Province Coastal Agricultural Union held here early last week implored the Government to endorse Reference Books: "Not to be employed in an urban area."

Justifying their request for yet harsher legislation, the farmers stated that the "Natives left the rural areas in droves." What a picture of "their Natives" who, like wild beasts, move in "droves"!

Mr. J. A. C. van Heerden, the Chief Native Commissioner (Ciskei) assured the farmers that the municipalities, like the Department of Native Affairs, were keen to keep the "unauthorised Natives" out of their areas. There

was no need for new legislation, he told the farmers, as it would be superfluous. He put the blame on the farmers for failing to sign the reference books so that when an African came to the Native Affairs Department the officials did not know that the holder of the reference book had been employed by a farmer.

## Sign The Reference Book

In times of slavery it was a normal thing to brand a slave so that his owner could readily stake his claim if his human property should stray; in Hitler's Europe the Jews had to wear a distinctive colour so that they could be easily singled out at a distance; in areas where there is communal grazing each sheep or horse carries its owner's initials so that he can distinguish it from the rest; in South Africa the African is easily distinguishable by the colour of his skin but to establish who his owner is, he must carry the Reference Book—the Book of Passes.

The Chief Native Commissioner's advice is: "Sign the Book of Passes and the Department of Native Affairs will know to whom each African belongs."

Modern methods of enslavement have been humanised! Instead of cutting off a portion of an ear to mark to whom the slave or sheep belongs, the Book of Passes carries a photograph of the holder. When a policeman gets the book which the African must produce on demand he looks at the man, then at the photo, back again at the man. It is established: the man whose picture appears in the Book of Passes, is the owner of the book.

The official thumbs index A to find out in which area the man is permitted to reside: "rural reserve; on farm; in urban area."

Then Index B to find out who his employer is. Farmers are advised to sign index B so that the Native Affairs Department will make no mistake about the holder of that Reference Book. There is no need for new legislation to tie down the Africans, the Chief Native Commissioner told the worried farmers; you must just sign the Reference Book.

## Go To No. 17

As soon as an employer has dismissed his employee he should also endorse in Index B the date of discharge. The "applicant Native," now, of his own accord, goes to the screening centre (the Labour Bureau) where he is allowed limited time to look for work under a new master. The time expires and then that fateful order: "Go to Room No. 17 at the New Law Court," the last gateway out of the urban area of P.E.

Here an official of the NAD takes a rubber stamp and, while still engaged in an absorbing discussion with his friend, glances at the book to ensure he will stamp the correct page. A little pressure on the rubber stamp, he flings the book back.

As the holder leaves No. 17 he opens his book and reluctantly pulls himself up to face the brutal truth that he is "not to be employed in the urban area." He immediately becomes an "unauthorised Native," an outlaw. As long as he carries that Book of Passes the African will be where he is wanted when he is wanted by his owner.



The Native Commissioner at Evaton refused to see the leaders of an anti-pass demonstration in which 2,000 women took part. "As far as I am concerned the incident never took place," he said!

## WE DON'T WANT PASSES FOR WOMEN!

(Continued from page 1)

and down the streets of Venterspost location. The police were tailing the women who were gathering at different bus stops in the location on their way to the anti-pass protest.

A policeman in a flying squad car with four others stopped women who were carrying petition forms and took one to read. "What is your name?" the policeman asked. "Afrika is my name," said the woman. To make sure, the policeman asked the same question again and got the same answer. "And you what is your name?" the policeman asked the second woman. "Westonaria women is my name," she replied.

One hundred and fifty determined women protested against the extension of passes to the African women, against location permits and the re-instating of the location superintendent. "The women of Westonaria location do not want Mr. Harding because Mr. Harding said in court that he did not care to earn the respect of the people whose lives he controlled in the location. How can he be our superintendent if he does not care for our respect?"

### WHO SENT YOU?

Before the women read the 530 signed petition forms, the Native Commissioner asked the women: "Are you sent by the African National Congress?" The women said they had come as the Venterspost women who are also members of the ANC.

Then the women read their petition and handed it to the Native Commissioner, who commented that there were not many complaints. He told the women: "You are living happily in the location. But when you talk of passes you are talking about something which is very far away from you." He said the law was made in Cape Town and, "like it or not, you must take the passes. It is the law of this country."

"It is all right, it is the law of this country," said Mrs. Elsie Nyikiza. "You say we are going too far when we speak about passes. We ask you to tell Verwoerd that we do not care whether it is the law of the country or not, we do not want passes. He (Ver-

woerd) can bring them. We won't take them."

### HE GETS CROSS

The Commissioner said these books were not passes but reference books. Mrs. J. Radebe asked: "Who will pay for these reference books?" The Commissioner said they would be supplied free. He added that the Government would be able to help the old women with pensions when they had passes. "How is the reference book going to force the Government to give the old women pensions?" asked Mrs. Eunice Nontshatsha.

The Commissioner got a bit heated: "Jy moenie kaf praat nie," he said. Mrs. Nontshatsha walked out as a protest against the Commissioner's remark. Mrs. Martha Sejoe told the Commissioner that their children grew away from parents' influence and control, because of the permit system. The Commissioner said it was a matter for the Advisory Board to deal with.

Speaking on passes Mrs. J. Radebe said: "Passes for our men are paid for every month. When a woman has a baby, whom she must nurse at home, who will pay for the reference book? We do not want passes because they separate man, wife and children. We shall not move freely. The passes have made slaves of our men, they will make us slaves too."

One of the ten women wanted to know what will happen if a woman forgot her pass and met the police in the street? The Commissioner said, "If you can forget your pass then one day you will forget your dress."

## WEST RAND

JOHANNESBURG.

"You want trouble and you will get it if you don't accept the passes," the Native Commissioner at Robinson told a mass deputation of African women who last week protested that they would not carry pass books.

Five hundred signed protest forms were handed to the Commissioner. The women walked four miles from their location to see him, many dressed in both overcoats and blankets that cold winter's morning.

The Commissioner told the deputation of ten admitted to his office that "these are not passes. They are reference books. Who told you they were passes? Don't go about picking up things in the street. You are being misled by people from other places."

### MURDERERS

The passes would enable the police to trace "your murderers if you are murdered," he said.

Mrs. M. Matlou wanted to know how many African men who carried passes had been murdered, and their murderers not traced. She could no longer believe what the Government said. Though promised comfort and happiness in Randfontein's New Location, boys and girls were being arrested for permits at the bus stops. "How can we believe the Government if they do not keep to their promises?"

Mrs. S. Gabashane said the permit system had destroyed many families. Many mothers had been working to help pay the rent but had left work because their sons and daughters were torn from them and could not look after the little children at home. She, too, had had to leave work because of the permit system.

"You dress smartly. That is why you left your job, not because of the permits," said the Commissioner!

Mrs. J. Botshe said passes would mean "that my husband, my children and myself will have their home in jail."

The Commissioner said he would convey their protests to Minister Verwoerd. He told them to talk to the Advisory Board about the permit system.

The women marched back to their homes singing: Asikhathali noma Siyaboshwa sizimisele inkululeko."

Pass your copy of  
**NEW AGE**  
to your friends

## Short Story Competition!

We are proud to announce that the following have agreed to act as judges in our Short Story competition:—

Mrs. Phyllis Altman, author of "The Law of the Vultures."

Mr. Harry Bloom, author of "Episode."

Mr. Duma Nokwe, advocate and youth leader.

Mr. Michael Harmel, progressive journalist and former principal of the Central Indian High School.

You have only 10 days left to submit your entry in the competition—by July 31. Entries should be in English, between 2,000 and 3,000 words long, and on a theme with a South African background.

1st Prize—£10 2nd Prize—£7 10s. 3rd Prize—£5



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