

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY

MR. S. M. MAYET

CHAIRMAN - RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sisulu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For many years now delegates to our Annual Conferences have been welcomed by Mr. V. Lawrence, one of the founders of the Natal Indian Congress. But to-day Mr. Lawrence is unable to be with us as he was involved in an accident on Wednesday night. Fortunately Mr. Lawrence has not suffered any severe injuries and the first thing I wish to do in taking his place in welcoming you all to this Conference is to extend our greetings to Mr. Lawrence and to pray for his speedy recovery. Indeed Mr. Lawrence has been a tower of strength to all of us. From the days when he founded the present Congress with Mahatma Gandhi he has consistently worked for the cause of the Indian people. His example inspires us to greater efforts in the cause of the freedom of our people.

The Seventh Annual Conference of our Congress meets at a time when South Africa finds itself facing a serious crisis in race relations. It is a time when men and women of all races who believe in democracy and freedom are called upon to take a clear stand on the basic issues facing the country. Those who believe in human dignity and the brotherhood of man have a definite role to play in stemming the tide of tyranny in South Africa.

In this crisis South Africa is most fortunate in having men of honesty, courage and vision at the head of the national liberation movements. Naturally the most significant national movement in the country is the African National Congress, the voice of the nine million sons and daughters of the soil and we are proud that at the head of this body are men of the calibre of Chief A. J. Lutuli and Mr. Walter Sisulu.

As Chairman of the Reception Committee my first pleasant duty is to extend a very warm and cordial welcome to Mr. Sisulu, the Secretary-General of the African National Congress, who so readily agreed to open this Conference. We know that Mr. Sisulu is a busy man but notwithstanding that he has come from Johannesburg to be with us to-night. I am sure his opening address will give us inspiration and will further cement the unbreakable ties between the Indian and the African peoples in their joint struggles for liberation from a common oppression. We are indeed most thankful to Mr. Sisulu for the honour he has done us.

On behalf of the Reception Committee I extend a warm welcome to all fraternal delegates present here with us and thank those who have sent us messages of support. You will find from their messages that our cause is a universal cause and that no man made barriers can prevent men of goodwill of all races coming together for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice, and fairplay.

I extend a hearty welcome to the delegates who have come from different parts of the Province to participate in our Conference. The Reception Committee will do its utmost to make your stay in Durban a pleasant one but should there be any shortcomings on the part of my Committee please do not hesitate to draw our attention to them.

You as delegates have an important part to play, and my prayer is that may the Almighty guide you all along the path of wisdom for our deliberation and decisions are of great significance to the Indian people and to the entire oppressed and democratic peoples of the country. Not only that but the world at large is interested in the outcome of your deliberations. It is with these fervent prayers that I welcome you all to the SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS.

OPENING ADDRESS OF MR. W. M. SISULU,
 SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN
 NATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
 SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATAL
 INDIAN CONGRESS HELD AT THE MAHATMA
 GANDHI HALL, DURBAN, ON THE 5TH FEBRUARY,
 1954.

Permit me first to bring to this very important Conference of the Natal Indian Congress the warmest and friendliest greeting of the African National Congress and the National Action Committee.

I gladly accepted the invitation to open the Conference because I regarded it as a great honour to me, coming as it did at a time when I had just returned from a very interesting, educational and inspiring trip overseas. I shall not be expected to deal with my experiences abroad, suffice it to say that all the countries I visited enthusiastically welcomed me and took a very great interest in the almost unbelievable racial situation in South Africa. I took advantage of this trip to put our point of view across. I did this in Israel; I did it in England, in Rumania, in Poland, in the U. S. S. R. and China. Unfortunately, circumstances did not permit me to go to India, though the facilities were available to me. My presence was demanded at home. I must mention in passing that on three National Celebrations that I attended on the 23rd August in Rumania, 1st October in China and 7th November in the U.S.S.R. I was also convinced that peace was necessary for the construction of their respective countries. I was also impressed by the youth festival which was promoting friendliest relations between the youth of different countries. The International Union of Student Congress delved into student problems linking them with the realities of life in a very impressive manner. I had much to learn in China, this vast country with a very large population had just emerged from a semi-colonial status to a great power. There were many educative problems which were very much identical to ours, the difference being that they were solving them. I was particularly happy to notice the growing relations between India and China and the manner in which the national and local papers were commending Pundit Nehru and his government for the great role they were playing in promoting world peace. These two great nations are not only a key to peace in Asia as leading Asiatic countries but they are a key to world peace and to us they are a guide as people who have recently overthrown the shackles of Imperialism. The peoples of Asia have taken a very great interest in the struggle carried on by the peoples of Africa. They are naturally opposed to the policies of imperialism, they also firmly believe in the brotherhood of mankind, they are keenly interested in peace that is why Pundit Nehru vigorously opposes the racial policies of South Africa, that is why he opposes oppression in other parts of Africa. No other interest which prompts him to do this other than the fact that he has had to suffer terms of imprisonment under the yoke of imperialism; all people who have suffered oppression, exploitation cannot but be opposed to the continuation of such a system, they also know too well the usual stunt of oppressors and arch imperialists' ridiculous theories that the people are backward, illiterate and that freedom would be dangerous to the Western civilisation and that they are ruling these countries in the best interest of the colonial people, The so-called guardians of Western civilisation and Christian principles, are themselves guilty of crimes for destroying humanity using most barbarous methods, these are the people who are now conducting war against the peoples of Viet-nam, Malaya and Kenya. Being aware

of the fact that our fate is bound together with these colonial people and mankind as a whole, we therefore take profound interest in the present session of the four great powers hoping that the foreign ministers of Great Britain, U.S.S.R and France will use their influence in convincing the Secretary of State of the U.S.A. to see wisdom by not only agreeing to a big five meeting but also actually bringing about conditions for the admittance of China to the United Nations in the interest of world peace. I assume that the two former secretaries will be guided by the broad will of their people in their respective countries. Your conference also meets at a time when the second session of the Eleventh Parliament of the Union of South Africa assembles as usual not to deal with national economy of the country, nor to consider the welfare of the people of South Africa but meet to consider legislation to impose more hardship and intensify their notorious policies of apartheid. This time they will go further than tightening up oppressive machinery against the non-Europeans, they are introducing a bill which will place the Trade Union Movement in the hands of the Fascist Nationalists. They are amending the Suppression of Communism Act to give power to the Minister of Justice to do what he likes without interference by the courts of law. They are going to amend the Group Areas Act. They will continue with the removal of the Coloured Voters from the Common Roll. They are preparing to introduce a law prohibiting people from travelling abroad without their approval. Four of the above have been incorporated in our plan of action, the Defiance Campaign was based on them, and our unity was forged in order to fight for their repeal.

We shall not only oppose every amendment on it but we shall fight until they and others are removed from the Statute Book. The people who believe that these oppressive laws are designed against the Trade Unions and for the non-European only will realise it only too late that they are also in fact designed against the financial houses to give control to the Nationalists. The Jewish Board of Deputies will then begin to see the danger of their opportunistic tendencies when they praise Malan's administration. The South African Indian Organisation and the United Party will not escape it but they shall have to answer to the people for their treacherous role. Many things which are now taking place were predicted by us long ago.

The A.N.C. in the face of this situation has called upon the nation for a historic People's Convention which has been welcomed by the National Organisation of Indians, Coloured and Europeans. This convention will be based on a truly representative form of people from all status in the big cities and in the smallest villages in all parts of South Africa. The detailed plans shall be worked out by the forthcoming conference of the national executives of the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats, the South African Coloured People's Organisation and the African National Congress. You will see therefore from the nature of these organisations that the plans that are going to be worked out by the true representatives of all the sections of our community. The working of a Charter for which this Conference has been called is a very important step in the history of a people. It is this Conference that has a right to shape the destiny of South Africa. We shall also expose the so-called unique problem of South Africa, deliberately created by the racialists led by Dr. Malan for the purpose of perpetuating white domination and inviting sympathies of the Western peoples by claiming to be the defenders of the so-called Christian principles and Western Civilisation. It is the fundamental principle in our struggle to work for the creation of a united democratic nation of South Africa drawn from all sections of our racial groups irrespective of the colour of their skins or of their religion. The only problem we are referring to is not the racial, which does not exist, but the problem of raising the living standard

of our people, the standard of our national economy and the material and cultural standards of all the people. The raising of our standard and the prevention of our country turning into a desert are the matters which we think of when we speak of problems. The people of Natal will be once more in this year expected to take up their usual militancy and be proud of their past and the struggle they have conducted in the beginning of the twentieth century when men like, King Solomon-Ka-Dinizulu refused to turn against his people and suffered imprisonment; people like Bambatha and others who firmly stood for the rights of their people. It is in Natal during the same period that the known Mahatma Gandhi led the masses of persecuted Indians and forced the authorities to abandon their stand. The militant Natal people must be rallied in their millions from all walks of life. The youth must be mobilised; the peasants and workers must be mobilised; the women must be mobilised, the intellectuals must be mobilised, the business people who are in full agreement with our struggle must be mobilised against the oppressor. Chief Luthuli in opening the Conference of the Natal Indian Congress Conference last year said:

"Let us march together to freedom"

He further said, that this formidable alliance is not a marriage for convenience but a political alliance based on a common and genuine regard for true democracy.

In conclusion, we believe in the brotherhood of mankind. We believe in peace and freedom, to this end, it is our duty to use all our methods to bring about an end to hostilities in Kenya. We shall oppose vigorously the plans of the Kenya settlers and the Union Government to send South African troops to crush the defenceless people of Kenya.

Having chosen the right cause to freedom, we are quite confident and certain that no power in the world can permanently resist the march of freedom forces. I now take pleasure in declaring this conference open, wishing you very successful deliberations.

MAYIBUYE AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE AFRIKA !

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. G.M. NAICKER, PRESIDENT OF THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS, AT THE OPENING OF THE 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GANDHI HALL, LORNE STREET, DURBAN, ON FRIDAY THE 5th FEBRUARY, 1954, at 7 p.m.

We are most thankful to Mr. Walter Sisulu, the Secretary-General of the African National Congress, for declaring open this 7th Annual Conference of the Natal Indian Congress. Mr. Sisulu is a person whose name has come to be respected throughout the length and breadth of this country because of the positive role he has played in the cause of freedom and democracy. Only recently Mr Sisulu returned from an interesting visit: overseas where he was a true ambassador of the people for he voiced the hopes and aspirations of the oppressed people of South Africa.

Unlike the official representatives of the Union Government who encounter serious difficulties in gaining support overseas, Mr. Sisulu was warmly received by the people of the different countries he visited, because he was not faced with the task of justifying a policy of oppression. He advocated a policy of equality and preached the gospel of the brotherhood of men.

We, the Indian people of Natal, welcome back in our midst Mr. Sisulu as a true son of South Africa, as a man who stands for freedom and justice for all, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

My comrade Chief Luthuli and I are indeed unhappy that we cannot be present to hear the opening address of Mr. Sisulu, but although we have been banned and cannot be with you on this occasion, let me say that despite the banning orders of Minister Swart, and no matter how many persons he may ban, the noble work of liberation undertaken by the African and Indian Congresses will go on unflinchingly until this country becomes free and takes her rightful place in the family of democratic nations.

Mr. Sisulu's presence today has yet another very significant aspect. It symbolises the spirit of united action for democracy on the part of the African and Indian peoples who are working in conjunction with the Coloured Community and European democrats. Despite all the attempts to sow seeds of division in the ranks of the people of South Africa, and despite the preaching of apartheid and segregation, steady progress is being made in the field of inter-racial co-operation.

While the Government of the day has pursued a policy which has resulted in increased racial tension and friction, the African and Indian Congresses have been the most active force in the promotion of race harmony and in striving for a genuine people's democracy in South Africa.

When we met in Conference last year we were on the eve of a General Election. In my Presidential Address I stressed the fact that both the major parliamentary parties in the country were unanimous in their resolve to maintain White Supremacy and the perpetual subjection of the masses of the non-White people; to preserve the social and economic pattern of domination and subordination, hatred and fear.

The General Elections resulted in the Nationalist Party obtaining an increased majority. The campaigning during the Elections indicated that the participating parliamentary political parties were determined to entrench the iniquitous caste society of South Africa in which the non-European people are relegated to a status of inferiority. Whether they preached apartheid or segregation for the non-European people, these connotations meant one thing - the deprivation of fundamental human rights and the denial of equality of opportunities. The consequences of such a policy can be only disaster for South Africa.

As we meet in Conference to review our past year's work and to plan for the year that lies ahead, a new session of parliament is meeting in Cape Town. The last session of parliament was one during which the Government of Dr. Malan passed measure after measure curtailing the meagre rights of the people of this country. Through administrative action the Government continues to carry out its full fledged attack on civil liberties. The Riotous Assemblies and the Suppression of Communism Acts are being ruthlessly used against the leaders of the National Liberation and Trade Union Movements, not only to stifle and gag them, but to remove elected leaders from their organisations in an attempt to destroy all opposition to the maintaining of Nationalist Apartheid tyranny. To stem the democratic upsurge of the freedom loving people in South Africa, demonstrated in the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign of the Congresses, the Nationalist Government enacted the Martial Law - Public Safety and Criminal Law Amendment Acts.

The Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act deprives the African workers of the right to organise themselves into legitimate trade unions, and prevents them from raising their standard of living and improving their working conditions and wages; while the Bantu Education Act is part of the Nationalists' nefarious scheme to ensure that the African people remain hewers of wood and drawers of water - slaves in the land of their birth.

Yet another attack was made on our people by the enactment of the Immigrant's Regulation Amendment Act, a measure which violates the basic human right of marriage and the sanctity of the family.

The Coloured people face the threat of being removed from the Common Roll. The Separate Representation of Voters Act Validation Bill was introduced at a Joint Sitting but has been temporarily shelved. The danger of the Coloured people losing the franchise still remains.

Added to this battery of vicious measures was the Separate Amenities Act which gives legal sanction to the diabolical fascist doctrine of racial inequality.

The Session of Parliament which is now meeting in Cape Town is, like its predecessors, pledged to carry out a legislative programme further implementing the policy of apartheid aimed at entrenching white minority rule for all times.

The policy pursued by the Government has not failed to have tremendous international repercussions. The name of our country has been brought into disrepute at international assemblies. The blame for this lies squarely with the Malan Government.

Throughout the world great forces are at work for the liberation of mankind. Imperialism is on the retreat. Except for vestiges of Imperialist rule, which are being gallantly eradicated, the Continent of Asia has rid itself of this evil force. With the great awakening in Africa, the last stronghold of Imperialism must inevitably be shattered.

The common people of the world are against exploitation of man by man. They stand for peace and equality, ideals which have arisen in response to the fundamental needs of the human race. It is because of this that we find such tremendous world-wide opposition to colonialism and racial discrimination.

Peoples who were once subjugated and who suffered the humiliation of race discrimination are today smashing the shackles which bind them, and are engaged in the task of building a new society. It is only natural that the Arab-Asian bloc should at the United Nations and elsewhere speak out against Colonialism and racial discrimination.

Today mankind is yearning for lasting peace and progress. Since we last met the fighting in Korea has come to an end. A great feeling of relief passed through the world when hostilities ended there. The attention of the people of the world is now focussed on Berlin where momentous four power discussions are taking place in an attempt to ease world tension. But we are more than satisfied that if racial discrimination is not eliminated from the face of the earth the constant danger of a global conflict will remain.

It is the desire of the peoples of different countries for peace that has been responsible for the continuous attacks on the Union Government's policy of apartheid and segregation.

It will not help the Union Government to find scape-goats in order to explain why the name of South Africa has fallen into disrepute. It may be good strategy on the part of the Nationalists for the Platteland consumption to blame the non-European "agitators" and Pandit Nehru for the attacks on the South African Government, but the Government must realise that these attacks will persist if it continues to proceed along the insane path it has chosen.

A note of warning is necessary on the question of the role of India and Pakistan in the United Nations where they have championed the cause of South African citizens of Indian origin and been instrumental in focussing international attention on the policy of apartheid. There are strong rumours to the effect that the South African Indian Organisation, or members of its Executive Committee, are at present engaged in attempts to appease the Malan Government and advocating the removal from the United Nations Agenda the complaints against the Union Government. Without hesitation let me reiterate that any such move will be most severely condemned by all sections of the Indian people who have unanimously resolved that the treatment meted out to them should become a subject of discussion in the world forum.

The Indian people will not tolerate any individual who, in his own interests seeks to pursue a course of action which can result in incalculable harm to the entire community. Anyone who tries to injure our just cause must be mercilessly exposed. It is criminal on the part of anyone through back-door manoeuvres to attempt to denounce a stand which is demanded by all Indians in South Africa.

We have on all occasions welcomed the support we have received for our democratic struggle from peoples abroad, but we have on all occasions emphasized that our liberation can only and must come from forces within the country. We have unequivocally chosen the path of direct opposition to all that is unjust and inhuman in the body politic of the country. It was in keeping with this approach that Mahatma Gandhi launched out the historic passive resistance campaign on this soil of South Africa, a campaign which was a forerunner to even greater campaigns in giving a new status to the 400,000,000 subjugated peoples of India.

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After the departure of Mahatma Gandhi followed a long period of inactivity, but in 1946 South African citizens of Indian origin again employed passive resistance against injustice and oppression and during this campaign over two thousand people went to gaol as a mark of concrete protest.

The struggle for liberation was launched on a higher plane in 1952 when, in the Defiance Campaign, for the first time, in the history of this country, under the leadership of the African National Congress, peoples of all races took part in united joint action against unjust laws. During this campaign over eight thousand volunteers suffered imprisonment.

The sacrifices our people have made the cause of freedom are great, but we shall be called upon to make even greater sacrifices before we can make our country a true democracy. The road to freedom will be hard and difficult but we draw strength from the fact that our cause is just and that a just cause must triumph. We solemnly believe that equality of opportunities is the birth right of all sections of the South African people. We believe that universal adult franchise is a prerequisite to the enjoyment of that equality. It is for that reason that we reject all other forms of franchise. The African and Indian Congresses, I am positive, will not deviate from this just demand. We welcome the emergence of the South African Congress of Democrats in which European democrats are also pledged to this common ideal.

In December the African National Congress when it met at Queenstown, took vital decisions which must affect our future course of action. I am sure that in the very near future the South African Indian Congress will meet to give serious consideration to the Queenstown resolutions.

The African National Congress Conference has instructed its National Executive Committee "to make immediate preparations for the organisation of a Congress of the People of South Africa, whose task shall be to work out a Freedom Charter for all the peoples and groups in the country." To this end, the Conference urged a meeting of the Executive Committees of the African and Indian Congresses, the Congress of Democrats, the Coloured Peoples Organisation (s) and any other democratic organisations for the purpose of placing before them the plan of the Congress and to obtain their co-operative support in creating a truly representative CONVENTION of the PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA. This resolution in particular must receive the urgent attention of all South Africans who wish to further the cause of democracy.

The year that lies ahead of us will require all our resources and strength to meet the challenge that faces our country. I am more than satisfied that the Indian people of this province will not be found wanting when the call comes. My appeal to the delegates to this 7th Annual Conference of the Natal Indian Congress is that they must advance the cause of freedom; that their activities against reaction and for liberation must not cease until democracy for all has been won. Let this be the only guiding factor in our discussions and deliberations.

Let us move forward unitedly with ever increasing speed and strength, towards a South Africa in which justice and equality will triumph over the forces of oppression and tyranny. AFRIKA!

From: A.J. Lutuli,
President-General; African National Congress,
South Africa.

"In the name of Afrika and Freedom I greet you All ! AFRIKA !
AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE ! INKULULEKO NGESIKHATHI SETHU (Freedom
in Our Lifetime).

"N.B. Let us sing together to Freedom "Mayituye i-Afrika."

"I am happy and proud on my behalf and on behalf of the
African people I have the honour and privilege to lead under the
banner of the African National Congress, to send you, our
comrades, this Afrika message of greeting and expression of our
deepest appreciation in the African National Congress for the
most cordial and friendly active association with you. We have
enjoyed it in our common and joint fight against forces of oppre-
ssion in our land.

"The way before us may be long and dusty, but ultimate
success must be ours because, as confirmed by progressive world
opinion, our cause is just. But, as a sine qua non to the
successful prosecution of our task, we must work in the spirit of
sincere and unreserved devotion, sacrifice and service and bring
into play virtuous human qualities such as patience, tact,
fortea-rance, courage, vigilance, foresight, honesty, loyalty
and love.

"It is fitting and proper to impress upon you most strongly
the formidableness of our task by reminding you that in the
Nationalist Party of Dr. Malan we are facing a ruthless, deter-
mined enemy of true freedom that would rather scuttle the ship
of State than make civilisation and democracy a possession of all
in our land, regardless of colour, race, or creed, and that in
our home-front we have many well-meaning people who suffer from
ignorance of the true import and significance of Freedom. Also,
unfortunately, we are not free from Quislings in our midst.

"We must fight on in all fronts along the path of non-
violence and when, at times, the human weakness of despondency
assails us, let us gain courage and inspiration, not only in the
justice of our cause, but in its universality in all ages. We
should be stirred to greater effort by the knowledge that it is
our underserved honour and privilege to be numbered among the
followers of the HEROES OF FREEDOM of all lands and ages: men
and women who have so meritoriously championed the cause of
Freedom

"With so much already done but still so much to be done-
indeed with much at stake- we dare not be unfaithful to the noble
cause and its noble heroes, past and present. If we do, we shall
deserve the ridicule and scorn of our contemporaries and the
contempt and curses of posterity.

"As you leave the Conference room to translate your resolu-
tions into action I assure you that the African National Congress
leadership is determined as never before to spare no effort and
to count no sacrifice too great in our joint effort to mobilise
the masses and progressive forces in our land in the fight for
Freedom.

AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE ! INKULULEKO NGESIKHATHI SETHU !

P.O. GROUVILLEE MISSION,
NATAL.

From: Paul Robeson,
 President: Council on African Affairs,
United States of America.

"I salute you. The raised-thumb "Afrika" salute, the heroic sacrifices, and the firm and unbending unity and discipline manifested by you and the South African Indian Congress in alliance with the African National Congress have been a tremendous inspiration to black Americans who likewise struggle against the humiliation and degradation of racial oppression.

"I know that your Congress at its 7th Annual Conference will rededicate itself to carrying forward the great task of combat-ing and defeating the forces of fascism and racist tyranny in South Africa and of achieving full freedom and equality for all the peoples of that land.

"We who are on the side of Peace and Freedom in the United States can well understand the desperate nature of the struggle in which you in South Africa are engaged. For if you have your Malan's and Swart's, we have our McCarthy's and Brownell's. South Africa's notorious suppression of Communism Act is paralleled by this country's equally notorious Smith Act and McCarran Act, whereby the ablest leaders and most militant organisations of the American Working class are being jailed and hounded and the way is being prepared for fascist dictatorship.

"Under the McCarran Act, the Council on African Affairs, which I and my esteemed colleague, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois have the honour of heading, is at the present time being prosecuted as "subversive", along with other progressive organisations of black and white Americans. The Council's 'subversiveness' clearly lies in its having taken and maintained a forthright and uncompromising stand for the freedom of Africa's subject peoples and against those forces, including and indeed led by powerful interests in the United States, which would keep Africa enslaved and continue to exploit it for profit and war.

"But their arrogant ambitions are doomed. Their greedy schemes will be ripped to shreds in Africa as in Asia. For the strength of a people determined to be free is invincible.

"No matter how dark the present hour may be, I have absolute confidence that the future will belong to us and our children and our children's children - a future of peace and social progress, of human freedom and brotherhood. I am sure that this same spirit of confidence will illuminate and guide the deliberations of your Conference. I wish you all success."

From: Mr. Fenner Brookway, M.P.
 Chairman - Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism,
 LONDON.

"The movement of non-violent resistance to Colour Laws which the African National Congress and your Congress initiated during the past year has been an inspiration to all who believe in Racial Unity throughout the world. Despite your present difficulties you should have confidence in the Future! History is on your side and Dr. Malan can no more defeat natural laws than could King Canute!"

From: Mr. Louis Saillant,
 General Secretary - World Federation of Trade Unions,
 PARIS - FRANCE.

"On behalf of 83,000,000 workers World Federation of Trade Unions sends warm fraternal greetings to the 7th Provincial Conference of the Natal Indian Congress. WFTU resolutely supports fight for Peace, Freedom and Democracy for all people of South Africa. Powerful lead from World Federation Trade Union Third World Congress inspires greatest unity in action of all those denied just rights. World workers condemn repressive fascist activities of the Malan Government. Evergrowing unity of African, Indian, Coloured and White workers strengthens the fight in all lands for peace, freedom and democracy and improved standards. Wishing every success to your 7th Annual Provincial Conference."

From: Madame Marieclaud Vaillant Costurier,
 General Secretary - Womens' International Democratic
 Federation,
 BERLIN - GERMANY.

"Womens' International Democratic Federation greets the 7th Annual Provincial Conference of the Natal Indian Congress and sends its warmest greetings. We assure you our continuous support for the struggle for peace, freedom and democracy."

From: Mr. Julius Silverman, M.P.,
 Hon. General Secretary - The India League,
 LONDON.

"On the occasion of the 7th Annual Conference of the Natal Indian Congress, the India League sends you greetings and congratulations on your great struggle for justice and in defiance of tyranny."

"The India League, with the great mass of British public opinion, will support you in your fight."

From: Mr. N. Ntsekhe,
 National Secretary - Basutoland African Congress,
 BUTHABUTHE - BASUTOLAND.

"On the occasion of your 7th Provincial Conference the Basutoland African Congress greets you and declares its untiring solidarity with the struggles of your organisation. Long Live Indian African co-operation for National liberation."

From: Mr. G. Surtie,
Secretary - Basutoland Indian Community,
BASUTOLAND

"On behalf of the Basutoland Indian community I wish to send you greetings on the occasion of your 7th Annual Conference. The fight of the undertrodden Indian peoples of Southern Africa is indivisible. Forward to universal victory."

From: Messrs Yusuf Cachalia & D.U. Mistry,
Jt. Hon. Secretaries - S.A. Indian Congress,
JOHANNESBURG.

"We have great pleasure, on behalf of the South African Indian Congress, in greeting you with a message of support and solidarity on the occasion of the Seventh Annual Conference of your Congress, which is being held at Durban on the 5th, 6th and 7th February, 1954.

"We look back with satisfaction and pride to the days in 1945 when the present leadership, on popular vote, defeated the forces of reaction within our own community. This victory was based on carrying on a policy of militant struggle in defence of the rights of the people of South Africa in co-operation and unity with all the democratic elements in our country in our common fight against injustice, oppression and tyranny.

"In the years that followed the Natal Indian Congress, in co-operation with other organisations, made valuable contribution in the direction of consolidating the forces of liberation. Following upon the heroic Passive Resistance Struggle of 1946, which was jointly conducted by the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses, each and every endeavour in which your Congress participated brought nearer the ultimate goal of freedom.

"The historic Defiance Campaign has opened wide the doors of progress and we are now able to march hand in hand with all sections of the South African population, both white and non-white, for the realisation of our common objective. Having consolidated our victories we are called upon to move further along the broad highway of liberation to free the unhappy people of our country from the clutches of fascism.

"During the year your Congress will be called upon to play more vigorously its part in the struggle that lie ahead, and, we are confident that it will, under your wise and able guidance, lead the Indian Community of Natal to greater heights of achievement.

Forward to freedom ! "

From: Mr. M. Matji,
Secretary - CAPE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
PORT ELIZABETH.

"Warmest fraternal greetings to President and delegates. May this message symbolise the enduring strength and vitality of the ties of kinship uniting our organisations. May all your deliberations be directed towards the achievement of freedom in our lifetime."

From: Mr. A. M. Kathrada,
General-Secretary - South African Indian Youth Congress
JOHANNESBURG.

"The South African Indian Youth Congress sends you its heartiest greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your 7th Provincial Conference.

"You are meeting at a time when the attacks on the meagre rights that we still enjoy are being intensified and becoming mere wishes. Some of the best and most loved leaders of the Natal Indian Congress are no longer able to be with you at Conference because of the bannings. In every aspect of our lives we are faced with greater repression and new threats to our existence.

"But repression is greater only because our movement for freedom is gaining strength day by day.

"Repression is greater because our oppressors are weak.

"This is the time, dear friends, to intensify our organisation, to consolidate our unity and to forge ahead towards greater progress.

"We are confident that the NIC will emerge from this Conference a stronger organisation.

"Please remember that throughout your deliberations you carry the best wishes and loyalty of the entire Indian youth of South Africa.

AFRIKA ! AFRIKA ! AFRIKA ! "

From: Mrs. Rica Hodgson,
National Organiser - S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS,
JOHANNESBURG.

"The National Executive Committee of the S.A. Congress of Democrats greets the Conference of the Natal Indian Congress, and through it the Indian democrats of Natal, who stand as we stand for the obliteration of the colour bar and for the fight to win for all South Africans the right to enjoy equal treatment, privileges and opportunities in every walk of life. We pledge the support of democratic white South Africans to your fine struggle, and look forward to long and fruitful co-operation between our two bodies, together with others who think like us, until our cause is won."

From: Mr. A. Domingo,
Secretary - Coloured People's Council of Action,
DURBAN.

"I take this opportunity of wishing Conference success in its deliberations.

From: Mr. P. Raidoo,
Hon. General Secretary - Natal Indian Teachers' Society,
DURBAN.

"My Society wishes the Conference every success".

1. POLITICAL

DELIVERED BY MR. J. N. SINGH AT THE
7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATAL
INDIAN CONGRESS, HELD AT DURBAN ON
THE 5th, 6th, and 7th FEBRUARY, 1954.

The Seventh Annual Conference of the Natal Indian Congress meets at a time when the world and our country are in a great turmoil. Despite the fact that the Axis Powers were defeated on the battle fields years ago, humanity still faces the difficult task of bringing about peace on earth.

While it is true to say that in every country on all continents the forces of peace are making important strides, those who stand to benefit by wars are continuing to make efforts to drown humanity in yet another blood bath notwithstanding the threat of extinction which the world faces as a result of the existence of the atom and hydrogen bombs.

The Indian people, indeed all people, of South Africa must realise that they too have a part to play in the present international situation. As a part of the oppressed people, they naturally stand for peace and against all those conditions which go to present the threat of another world war. We cannot be and are not neutrals on the question of war and peace.

When we met in Conference last year, the war in Korea was still waging. Today we record with gratitude the end of hostilities there, but peace loving people of the world still have the major task before them of maintaining world peace.

The most positive contribution that we can make towards the peace of the world is to aim towards the removal of basic causes of war amongst which are imperial oppression, colonial exploitation and racial discrimination. Thus we unhesitatingly give support to all legitimate struggles of the oppressed peoples everywhere to free themselves from imperialist bondage.

As far as racial discrimination is concerned, humanity has learnt from bitter experience that it bears the seeds of international conflict. The International Declaration of Human Rights today stands as a freedom charter of millions of people who are subject to humiliation and degradation on grounds of that mythical factor - race. The noble ideals embodied in this Declaration, unfortunately, still remain something to be attained by millions of people particularly on the continents of Africa and Asia.

Since the end of the last world war, the peoples of Asia have made tremendous advancement in their march towards the achievement of freedom and human rights. On that continent have emerged independent governments who are playing a vital role in international affairs for the cause of world peace and human freedom.

But what is even more important to us is the awakening of Africa. From North to South and East to West on this continent we today witness growing liberation movements of the people, demanding national independence to mould the future destiny of their countries. These

movements are destined to play a dynamic role in African and world affairs.

Although the voice of Africa is still to be heard directly and effectively in the councils of the world, her aspirations have been revealed clearly at the United Nations by delegates of countries pledged to the democratic ideals. Thus we find an outright condemnation by United Nations of the policies of race discrimination pursued by the Union Government. And again on India's complaint on treatment of South African citizens of Indian origin, the world forum found no hesitation in passing a resolution of censure on the Union Government. We are indeed grateful for the international support we have received. The magnitude of this support bears witness to the justness of our cause.

S O U T H A F R I C A .

Since our last Conference the country once again experienced another General Election in which, in keeping with the caste structure of the country, only the privileged White minority participated. The results only confirmed what the democrats had expected - the return of the Nationalists with even a bigger majority. Our country today stands nearer the abyss of fascism than ever before in its history of white domination. There has been a systematic attack on the democratic rights of all sections of the people and civil liberties face extinction.

We have repeatedly declared from our platform that fascism is making headway in this country because the people who have the greatest interest in the promotion of the democratic ideals are denied the franchise. The privileged White caste regards the extension of the democratic rights to the Non-White people as a threat to their 300 hundred-year-old domination and in their efforts to retain their privileges they are either directly or indirectly destroying all vestiges of democracy.

It is most encouraging, however, that despite the privileges enjoyed by the White minority there are men and women among them who have given the democratic cause their unstinted support. During the year under review the South African Congress of Democrats came into being, as an organised body essentially representing Europeans who believe in the extension of full democratic rights to all sections of the South African people. And their support for the policy and programmes of the African and Indian Congresses is welcomed.

As far as the Liberal Party is concerned its policy is open to strong criticism by the national liberation organisations. Last year our President laid great stress on the stand of the Congress on the question of the franchise and condemned any suggestion that Non-Europeans should have any special qualifications placed on them, and he added:

"Let me say most categorically that only those Europeans belong to the democratic camp, who, without reservation, accept the inherent and fundamental right of all the oppressed people in South Africa to exercise equal franchise with those who enjoy it at present. Any person who denied the right of the Non-Europeans to have equal franchise and speaks of a qualified franchise for them, by his very stand, places himself outside the democratic camp whether such person happens to be White or Non-White."

These words of Dr. Naicker are important in our appraisal of the policy of the Liberal Party. This Party advocates a qualified franchise on the common roll. The effect of this policy is that while Europeans will automatically qualify for the vote, Non-Europeans will have to strive for and succeed in obtaining certain qualifications before they can exercise the vote. In a multi-racial community this policy leads to discrimination in practice and one cannot be blamed for condemning the Liberal Party on its policy particularly in relation to the franchise for in effect the Liberals are saying that the White dominance must remain for many years to come.

Both on the question of the franchise and the method of struggle for the achievement of democratic rights the Liberal party has been strongly condemned. Their motives have been questioned for is not their policy a deviation from the road chosen by the national liberation movement? We want to stress that on fundamental issues we differ with the Liberal Party and therefore Congressmen must realise that they have a duty only to the policies which they have adopted and a further duty of exposing the weaknesses in the policy of the Liberals. This does not however, mean that we will not co-operate with the Liberal Party on issues on which we agree.

As far as the Parliamentary Parties are concerned the only true new factor there, is the formation of the Liberal Party and with the policy of this Party we have already dealt. It is however correct to say that on the Parliamentary front there is no voice to express the real aspirations of the oppressed peoples of the Union.

The United Party, the Independent United Party Group, the Federal Party and the Labour Party are all agreed on maintaining white supremacy. All of them accept segregation, and their stand in Parliament against the Nationalists has amply proved to the Non-European people, if any proof was necessary, that they cannot look to Parliamentary struggle for the achievement of their objective, for Parliament as presently constituted is merely a battle ground to determine which of the existing white dominating groups shall rule South Africa.

Our struggle is essentially an extra-Parliamentary struggle. On that front we believe in united action on the part of all South Africans of all colours who advance the cause of democracy and freedom. The Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign has been the most concrete form of implementing this policy.

Congressmen must be prepared for the grave struggle that lies ahead of the people of the Union. Our task is to form the widest possible united front to go into action against the Government's plans to enforce apartheid. For instance, on the question of the Group Areas Act we must work in conjunction with all those who reject this law in toto in order to defeat the sinister purposes of the architects of this abnoxious measure.

The last session of Parliament was one during which further serious attacks were made on the rights of the people. And notwithstanding the decisions of the highest courts of the land the Nationalist Party is bent on continuing with its disastrous policy. The present session has before it a Bill which seeks to amend the Riotous Assemblies Act and the Suppression of Communism Act so that the Minister of Justice can at his will take away an individual's civil liberties without any recourse to the Courts of Law. The Bill which seeks to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act is yet another measure to preserve for the white ruling caste all the best avenues of employment and to destroy the full and independent trade unions.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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