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RESOLUTIONS

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27/9/1955
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5th May, 1955.

Summarized

RESOLUTION OF MERGER.

This conference of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions warmly welcomes the establishment of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

We consider that the workers of South Africa, both black and white, have reached the stage where the existence of a national, non-racial, trade union co-ordinating body has become a prime necessity for the entire future of the workers' movement. It is for this reason that the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions has taken a leading part in convening and forming the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

Having achieved the establishment of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, this conference now considers that the historical task of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions has been accomplished and that its proud tradition of leading the struggle of the African Workers will now be best carried on by the new National body.

It is, therefore, hereby resolved that all steps shall be taken, without delay, to merge the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions with the South African Congress of Trade Unions and the executive Committee is hereby instructed to complete the merger in a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity.

Recognising that the interests of the workers are inextricably bound up with the question of war and peace, this conference of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions hereby firmly declares its opposition to preparations and its firm adherence to the struggle for peace. Conference demands that all disputes between nations be settled by negotiation and that all criminal weapons of war, such as bacteriological warfare and the atomic bomb, be banned.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. Box 6781.

30 Progress Buildings,
156 Commissioner Street,
Johannesburg.

No. 10/1.

1st October, 1956.

TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS AND TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES:

Dear Comrades,

PRESS STATEMENT

In the name of the majority of South Africans of all races, the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats, the South African Coloured People's Organisation and the South African Congress of Trade Unions join together to record their strongest protest at the declaration of a state of emergency on the copperbelt, whose effect has been to disrupt a legitimate trade union campaign of the African miners, to cancel the legitimate democratic right of Africans to assemble together, and to facilitate the arrest and imprisonment without trial of the legitimate leaders of the Workers.

We place on record our conviction, based on a study of all the available information as well as the official statements by Government spokesmen, that there was no threat to the continuance of law, order and civil government which can justify the abrogation of elementary rights and the resort to martial law. It is, however, clear that a determined, peaceful, non-violent and legal campaign - a model, sober, responsible, militant trade unionism - threatened to win for the African miners two of their foremost demands, viz., recognition of the right of their Union to speak for all African employees and the removal of certain racially discriminatory regulations. We, therefore, consider that the Federation Government acted not to protect the peace, but to protect the mining companies and their profits from a legitimate trade union claim.

We convey to the Government of the Central African Federation our conviction that this action exposes the claim of "partnership" said to exist between Africans and Europeans as a fraud, covering much the same master race and subject race reality as exists in our own country. We call for immediate withdrawal of the martial law regulations, for the release of the arrested leaders and for a return to the normal processes of civil government.

We convey to the workers of Northern Rhodesia, in particular, to the Rhodesian African Mine Workers' Union our solidarity and support in their struggle for better conditions of life, and pledge them every assistance which is in our power to ensure that they advance, together with us to the ending of rule by government decree, to the breaking down of all barriers of race discrimination, to freedom and liberty

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS.
SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.
SOUTH AFRICAN COLOURED PEOPLES' ORGANISATION
SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS.

Recd - 16/10/56
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SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. Box 6781.

30 Progress Buildings,
156 Commissioner Street,
Johannesburg.

No. 10/2

1st October, 1956.

TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS AND TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES:

Dear Comrades,

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE WORKERS' UNITY DAY MEETING
HELD AT KLIPTOWN, JOHANNESBURG, ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1956.

1. This meeting calls upon S.A.C.T.U. to:-
 - a) Organise all the unorganised workers both in the rural and urban areas into militant trade unions and to fight for increased wages, better conditions of work and shorter hours.
 - b) ensure that S.A.C.T.U. Local Committees should without delay campaign to organise Workers' Unity Days on a local and regional basis to increase the solidarity of the workers by social and political contacts which will foster mutual understanding of individual worker's problems. In future, these Workers' Unity Days should become Workers' Days of Dedication.
2. This meeting pledges its solidarity with the people of Egypt in their struggle against Anglo-French imperialism and in defence of their sovereignty and independence. We firmly believe that the Suez Canal which was built by the sweat of the Egyptian people rightly belongs to them.
3. This meeting deplors the activities of certain Trade Union Co-ordinating bodies who have appeased the Apartheid policies of the Government by dividing workers on racial basis and thereby betraying Trade Union principles. These elements now seek to divide African Trade Unions by sponsoring bogus Liaison Committees. This meeting warns all progressive Trade Unions not to fall into this trap.
4. This meeting demands the repeal of all Pass Laws which have brought unbearable miseries amongst the workers. This meeting further strongly warns the Government against the attempt to extend this vicious system to African women.

With Trade Union Greetings,
Yours fraternally,
L. MASSINA.
General Secretary.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions cannot agree with, Mr. T.G. Rutherford, President of the S.A. Trade Union Council, that the decision of the Government, not to proceed for the present with the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill, shows any moderation in the Government's attitude towards free trade unions. It is obvious that the temporary reprieve of the trade unions is due only to the Government's preoccupation, at the moment, with the Constitution. The attack on the trade union movement shall come. Should the Senate Bill become law, that attack can only be more vicious. Nevertheless, the workers have been given a further opportunity to fortify their ranks against the impending assault on their rights of association and collective bargaining.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions believes that free trade unions cannot survive when democratic institutions are being destroyed. It therefore, calls on all workers actively to campaign against the Senate Bill. It also endorses the call for a national day of protest against this measure, which will vest absolute power in the Strydom Government.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions declares its readiness to co-operate at any time with all other trade union and democratic organisations in opposing the march of the Government to dictatorship.

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From Henry
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Progress Below In lab
27/9/1955
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RESOLUTION TO BE MOVED UNDER
ITEM 7 OF ORDER PAPER:

Verwysings No.

History has shown that unorganised workers are unable to improve their wages and conditions of work on a lasting basis. Only where workers have organised in effective trade unions have they been able to improve their lot, raise their standard of living and generally protect themselves and their families against the insecurities of life.

The whole experience of the Trade Union Movement the world over has, furthermore, established the fact that the Movement can only progress on the basis of unity and in the spirit of brotherhood and the solidarity of all workers. Trade Unions must unreservedly reject ^{any} attempts ~~of hostile governments and employers~~ to sow disunity among the workers, on the basis of colour or nationality, or any other basis.

Just as the individual worker, or any group of workers, are unable to improve their lot without organising into a Trade Union, so is the individual trade union powerless unless there is in existence a co-ordinating body of trade unions which unites the efforts of all workers. For such a trade union federation to be successful, it must be able to speak on behalf of all workers, irrespective of race or colour, nationality or sex.

The future of the people of South Africa is in the hands of its workers. Only the working class, in alliance with other progressive minded sections of the community, can build a happy life for all South Africans, a life free from unemployment, insecurity and poverty, free from racial hatred and oppression, a life of vast opportunities for all the people.

But the working class can only succeed in this great and noble endeavour, if it itself is united and strong, if it is conscious of its inspiring responsibility. The workers of South Africa need a united trade union movement, in which all sections of the working class can play their part unhindered by prejudice or racial discrimination. Only such a truly united movement can serve effectively the interests of the workers, both the immediate interest of higher wages and better conditions of life and labour as well as the ultimate objective of complete emancipation, for which our forefathers have fought.

We, who are assembled here to-day on this 5th day of March, 1955 representing as we do trade unions with members, therefore resolve here and now to lay the foundation for a truly united and powerful trade union movement of South African workers.

We firmly declare that the interests of all workers are alike, whether they be European or non-European, African, Coloured, Indian, English, Afrikaans or Jewish. We resolve that this co-ordinating body of trade unions shall strive to unite all workers in its ranks, without discrimination and without prejudice. We resolve that this body shall determinedly seek to further and protect the interests of all workers and that its guiding motto shall be the universal slogan of working class solidarity:

" An injury to one is an injury to all! "

I therefore move that ~~the D.A. should be~~
~~the~~ a coordinating body of D.A. trade unions, based on the above principles, be hereby established.

PRESS STATEMENT

The attempt made in the Senate Bill to pack the Senate with members of the Nationalist Party is a long step towards the creation of an autocratic state along the lines built by the Nazis in fascist Germany.

This Bill not only threatens the established rights of the coloured voters which is its declared object; but also creates a permanent Nationalist majority in Parliament which could over ride the will even of that majority of our adult population which alone is entitled to vote. The workers of South Africa cannot be indifferent to these threats to democracy. They are bitterly aware of the anti-labour bias of the Nationalist Government which has raised the cost of living immeasurably and through the Suppression of Communism Act and Native Labour Act (Settlements of Disputes) and numerous other measures shown their hostility to and intolerance of the Trade Union Movement.

We call upon all workers and all sections of the Trade Union Movement to take vigorous and direct action as workers and as citizens against the vicious Senate Bill, which, if passed can only lead to the still further reduction of the workers standard of living and the outlawing of the Trade Union Movement.

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It must therefore be concluded that in Government circles, no worker is considered ready for trade unionism.

L. MASSINA.
GENERAL SECRETARY.

S.A. Congress of Trade Unions,
30, Progress Buildings,
156, Commissioner St.,
JOHANNESBURG.

9th May, 1956.

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR A NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION

PHONE 22/6026

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS.

Carey by..... *J.P. Mabasa*.....

156 COMMISSIONER ST.

Deur..... *J.P. Mabasa*.....

JOHANNESBURG

Te..... *30 Progress Bldg.*.....

4th October, 1956.

Datum..... *10/10/56*.....

Verwysings No..... PRESS STATEMENT.....

Plans are at present being made for the holding of a National Peace Convention at the Gandhi Hall, Fof Street, Johannesburg on 27-28th October, 1956. The following South Africans have, to date, agreed to sponsor the Convention:- Mr. I. Glyn-Thomas, Professor D. Cole, Mr. A.J. Cutten, Mr. Lee-Warden, M.P., Dr. G.M. Naicker, Dr. M.M. Motale, Mr. A. Sibeko, Mr. A. la Guma, Mr. Uys Krige, Mrs. Phyllis Altman, Mr. Alfred Hutchinson, Dr. R. Forsyth, Rev. D. Thompson, Rev. Brunson, Mrs. M. Murray-Parker, Mr. G. Ngotyana, Mr. Salim Saleh, Dr. R. Press, Mrs. Lilian Ngyoi, Dr. H.M. Moosa, Dr. A. Kazi, Mr. S. Dorfman, Mr. L. Massina, Mrs. Lucy Mvubelo, Dr. N.M. Padyachhe, Adv. H.M. Mall, Dr. Z.E. Aswat, Mr. G. Hurbans, Mr. G. Singh, Mr. J. Baker.

These sponsors include doctors, university lecturers, a member of Parliament, trade unionists, barristers, ministers of religion, teachers, writers and artists.

The Convention is being sponsored by the following organisations:-

South African Peace Council; Friends of Peace; African National Congress; S.A. Congress of Trade Unions; S.A. Indian Congress; Jewish Democratic Association; Transvaal Indian Congress; the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation; S.A. Congress of Democrats; Federation of S.A. Women; African National Congress Women's League; African National Congress Youth League and the Transvaal Indian Congress Youth League.

The individual sponsors and organisations have signed the following statement.

CO-SPONSORS' STATEMENT

"..... the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with hydrogen bombs is quite likely to put an end to the human race..... there will be universal death, sudden only for a fortunate minority, but for the majority a slow torture of disease and disintegration."

BERTRAND RUSSELL.

We do not accept these prospects as man's destiny. On the contrary, we believe that the centuries of struggle and sacrifice, of inspiration, achievement and progress are leading slowly but steadily toward a fuller, richer life for all mankind.

Even without a war, scientists are already warning us of the harmful genetic effects on unborn babies of the radio-active 'fall-out' from A- and H- bomb test explosions. And, nuclear weapons apart, other weapons of war are so devastating that we believe that there should be total disarmament among the nations of the world.

In South Africa, particularly, the question of peace is of vital importance- peace among all races, for it is from local quarrels and tensions that total wars arise.

With an urgent awareness, then of our own responsibility, desiring moreover to give a lead to our fellow-citizens, we are co-sponsors of a National Peace Convention to be held in Johannesburg on October 27-28th, 1956.

There is no power on earth as strong as the force of informed and organized public opinion. We are confident, therefore, that the opportunity provided by the National Peace Convention for South Africans of all races, creeds and political beliefs, to express their determination to prevent war will greatly strengthen the world-wide movement towards peace. We sincerely believe that mankind can in this epoch advance toward the highest peak of human endeavour - an end to war and a triumphant entry to ever-lasting peace."

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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