

THE ANTI-PASS PLANING COUNCIL REPORT TO THE JOINT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THIS PLANNING COUNCIL WAS APPOINTED IN TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE A.N.C. WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS :

RESOLUTION ON PASSES. The year 1958 has seen heroic and inspiring resistance of our womenfolk against the further extension of passes, a law which has become the symbol of White domination, exploitation and oppression. Conference is aware of the fact that the pass laws are the very root of South African slave labour system. Without them, the whole structure of cheap labour, apartheid and White domination would be seriously shaken.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that every Congress-man should be aware of the dangers of creating the illusion that every demonstration and protest will make the pass laws crumble. The enemy facing us is strong and will not readily make concessions on the pass laws. We must therefore prepare ourselves and the people for a long and bitter struggle against the main pillar of our oppression and exploitation.

The intensification of the struggle against passes, demands of Congress that it takes active steps to rally and organise the people. In this way we can only succeed if our Organisational Propaganda Machinery is sharpened and our whole Membership is inspired by the urgent need to implement the organisational tasks which we have placed before us.

CONFERENCE URGES THAT THE FORMS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST THE PASSES MUST BE DETERMINED STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCRETE WORK DONE AND THE STRENGTH OF THE ORGANISATION IN CONFIRMITY WITH OUR STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THE PASS CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO AVOID FAILURE AND DISILLUSIONMENT. HARD WORK AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION IS THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS.

Conference further resolves that the incoming National Executive appoints a PLANNING COUNCIL to study, recommend and report on the measures to be taken to prosecute the STRUGGLE AGAINST PASSES for women and men, and the WHOLE PASS SYSTEM GENERALLY. In furtherance of such recommendations, Conference resolves that a Mass National Conference takes place before the 1st. of May, 1959, to discuss the report of the PLANNING COUNCIL, if conditions permit. Conference urges that the Mass National Conference should be preceded by Mass Regional Conferences throughout the country.

" LET 1959 BE THE GREATEST ANTI-PASS YEAR IN OUR HISTORY ! LET CONGRESS BE STRENGTHENED, AND MAKE JUNE 26TH, 1959 A DAY OF MIGHTY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE P A S S E S ! "

1. The Council examined this resolution and noted that it declares that the struggle against the Pass System is in fact a struggle against the very roots of the entire system of exploitation and oppression against which there can be no short cut to victory. The plan proposed herein is therefore based on this spirit of the resolution.
2. Background of the Pass System. The history of the Pass laws as an instrument of persecution dates back to the day of Slavery in 1760, then as now, their main function was to spackle Africans to their White Masters.

The purpose/....

The purpose of the Pass laws has always been to ensure an abundant supply of cheap, forced labour to the farmers and the industrialists. It should be added that Non-European taxation was introduced for the same purpose and it became part of this system.

3. There is nothing else, except perhaps the robbing of the land of the people by European Settlers which has created so much bitterness, humiliation, misery and oppression than the pass system. It has been the subject of condemnation by numerous organisations, and commissions, but instead of releasing the system, it has been coordinated and extended from time to time.
44. Under the present Nationalist government all the evils of this slave system have been multiplied and have rendered the African virtually a prisoner in the land of his birth. This callousness culminated in the extension of the System to African women by the Natives Abolition of Passes and Coordination of Documents Act of 1952.
55. The Attitude of the People. The people have not been passive in their rejection and resentment of the hated Pass System. They have expressed their attitude in various forms of struggle, which have included Pass - burning, Passive resistance, boycotts, petitions, protests, refusal to pay tax, defiance campaigns, demonstrations and strikes. The landmarks in this heroic struggle are, the 1913 and 1918 the resistance of the African women, the campaigns of 1919, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1945 and the Defiance Campaign of 1952. The rulers have not been moved, not because the struggle has been ineffective but because it was the struggle against the very roots of exploitation and oppression.
- 6.. Today almost all the forms of struggle are illegal. The Planning Council has been charged with the duty of devising means to make 1959 a year of mighty demonstrations against the PASS LAWS, in the face of all these difficulties.
7. It must be said at once that there can be no blue-print for a campaign of this magnitude. What has been attempted here is an outline of the broad principles on which the struggle must be based.
8. There is one answer and one plan against this notorious system, and it is the building of a powerful mass organisation, capable of surviving, severe and trying battles in the face of a crafty and ruthless enemy. Such an organisation must embrace both town and country, men and women under a courageous, determined and disciplined leadership.
9. Such an organisation must base its decision on the form of Mass Action to be adopted on its own strength and the preparedness of the masses. It must be an organisation capable of flexibility and not rigidity. This is the basis of an effective campaign, which can and must eradicate the pass system.
10. Yet another essential element for the success of the struggle, is the building of a strong Workers Organisation and the rapid establishment and strengthening of factory Committees.

11. A Campaign/.....

11. A Campaign of this magnitude will require huge sums of moneys.
12. The experience accumulated over the years of bitter struggle against the Pass laws should be an invaluable guide to the tasks we are about to undertake in the country.
13. In the following Plan of Action there is nothing new, as we could find no new forms or formulae. It is the Council's opinion that new forms will emerge in the process of our struggle and as we gain more and more experience in the field of practice.
14. An essential and indispensable part of the Campaign is the immediate launching of a Nation - wide Agitational and Propaganda Campaign, and the implementation of organisational tasks which must consist of the following :-
 - (a) Recruiting of Congress members and the establishment of Volunteer Corps,
 - (b) The setting up of broad Anti-Pass Committees throughout the country,
 - (c) The issuing of leaflets, pamphlets and stickers,
 - (d) The convening of local, regional and provincial mass meetings and conferences. And the preparation of Speakers Notes for these meetings,
 - (e) The Organisation of protests, demonstrations and petitions.All these should lead up to MIGHTY DEMONSTRATIONS ON JUNE 26TH.
15. JUNE 26TH. The Council proposes that any of the following legitimate and legal forms of struggle should be embarked upon and launched on JUNE THE 26TH depending upon the state of preparedness of the people.
 - (a) Mass demonstrations in the nature of boycott of Public transport in every Area possible,
 - (b) Refraining from buying anything on that day,
 - (c) A boycott of Cinemas and Bearhalls and other places of entertainment,
 - (d) Some form of Industrial action which should include a "Go Slow Strike".
 - (e) The commencement of a country-wide Economic Boycott of Nationalist products.
16. The Council cannot over-emphasise the importance of avoiding to create the impression that June the 26th is the "D - DAY" for the passes. June the 26th must be regarded not as the climax of the campaign but the beginning of forms of struggle against the system. The forms listed above must be regarded as alternative forms and the most suitable form will be the one which the people are prepared for and which can be undertaken with success, in order to raise the campaign to higher levels. This implies that the campaign will be in phases and June the 26th will be the beginning of a phase.
17. The Government will not take this campaign lying low. And it will disregard the fact that the people are employing legitimate and legal methods, and it may even prosecute.

For this reason/.....

For this reason people must be prepared for the continuation of mass trials, involving heavy fines and sentences.

18. Our policy in such a situation must be to introduce the policy of 'Defend yourself!' And be prepared to serve in gaol.' - in other words there should be no more reliance on fines.
19. It is the considered opinion of the Council that this is not an extravagant and ambitious beginning. It is no doubt a formidable beginning capable of widening until more effective forms of action embracing thousands of people in every corner of the country are involved.

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FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

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