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PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

34/36

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

June 13th, 1936.

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners
and Divisional Pathfinder Secretaries

I had intended summoning a meeting of the Pathfinder Council to meet at Bloemfontein towards the end of this month, but the work entailed in the preparation of a new Constitution and P.O.R. for the Pathfinder-Scout Association has made it impossible to have the material available in time. The Council will therefore not meet this month. As soon as possible the draft Constitution and P.O.R. will be circulated among Divisions for their information and for their comments.

It is my intention to summon a meeting of the Pathfinder Headquarters Council for December 16th or 17th, to be preceded by a Pathfinder Conference of Officers on December 14th and 15th. Further details will be sent later.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

CHIEF PATHFINDER

/ss.

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PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

CONFIDENTIAL

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners and
Special Pathfinder Commissioners

By this post I send you the draft Constitution of the Pathfinder Boy Scouts Association prepared by the Sub-Committee of the Union Scout Council. As this document has not yet been presented by the Sub-Committee to the Union Scout Council, it must be regarded as confidential to yourself, but, as I am anxious to have some indication of the reception which the Constitution will get from the Divisions and also to have any suggestions or alterations you may wish to make, I must leave you to use your discretion in regard to showing the draft to others. It certainly cannot be presented officially to Divisional Councils at the present stage.

It is likely that the Union Scout Council will meet in November and, as you know, tentative arrangements have been made for a meeting of Pathfinder Headquarters /the Council in Johannesburg in December. Do you think it is desirable that there should be a special meeting of the Pathfinder Headquarters Council before the Scout Council meets to consider this draft Constitution? In the latter case, I would ask permission of the Union Scout Council to submit the draft to the Divisional Councils before the Pathfinder Headquarters Council meets.

I shall be most grateful for your observations.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

CHIEF PATHFINDER

July 30th, 1936.

/ss.

R.R./48/36.

PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

August 21st, 1936.

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners
and Special Pathfinder Commissioners

With reference to my circular of July 30th, I am now authorised to allow the draft Constitution to be considered by the Divisional Pathfinder Councils and I shall therefore be glad if you will take steps to consult your Council on the matter. Several Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners have failed even to acknowledge the circular of July 30th. I can only think that this must be an oversight on their part. If you have not already written to me, will you please be good enough to let me have your views? As Chief Pathfinder, considerable responsibility rests on my shoulders in this matter, and I think I am entitled to ask for the co-operation and help of all Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones
CHIEF PATHFINDER

/ss.

PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

2nd December, 1936.

To Delegates to the Pathfinder Conference
and Pathfinder Headquarters Council

Will you please let me know (if you have not done so already, and are travelling by train) on what day and at what time your train is scheduled to reach Johannesburg, so that members of the Reception Committee (appointed by the Transvaal Divisional Council) may meet you and arrange for your transport to Florida.

As Excursion Tickets to Johannesburg are available in connection with the Exhibition, concession forms will probably not be necessary. In any case, concession forms can be signed by Divisional Officers.

Please bring your own bedding equipment (rugs, etc.). Food utensils and all meals will be provided by the hosts.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones.

CHIEF PATHFINDER

/ML.

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners and
Divisional Pathfinder Secretaries.

Pathfinder Conference - Dec. 14 & 15, 1936
Pathfinder H.Q. Council - " "

In view of the changes which will be made in the Pathfinder Movement on its conversion into a branch of the Boy Scout Movement, I am anxious to have an opportunity of consulting experienced officers and workers in the Pathfinder Movement.

I have, therefore, decided to call a Conference to be held at my home - "Glandwr", Fourth Avenue, Florida on Monday and Tuesday, December 14 and 15, 1936, commencing at 10 a.m. on the first day and closing in the afternoon of the second day.

To this Conference I now invite the following from each Division:-

- The Divisional Pathfinder Commissioner
- The Assistant Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners (if any)
- Special Pathfinder Commissioners
- The Divisional Secretary
- The two divisional representatives on H.Q. Council (who shall be appointed without delay)
- The Officer in charge of training
- Five (District Pathfinder Commissioners
(Assistant D. P. C's.

Please be good enough to arrange for the invitation to be conveyed to the persons concerned in your Division at the earliest possible opportunity. If there is any other person in your Division whose presence you specially desire, please let me know and I will try to include him in the invitation.

The Conference will consider

1. An explanation of the Scout status of the Pathfinder Movement.
2. The proposed alterations to the P. O. and R with special reference to the possibility of modifying or extending Scout tests and activities to suit African Climatic and other conditions.
3. Pathfinder Cub and Rover work - special aspects.
4. Troop, district and divisional organisation.
5. Suggested limitation of numbers in troops and of troops to ensure efficient troop work and effective supervision....

6. supervision of troops.
Training of Officers
 - (a) Existing Officers
 - (b) Teacher Training College and other Students
7. Relation of the Movement to Education and Governments.
8. Scout and Pathfinder publications.
9. Financial Needs of the Movement.

I shall be grateful for any suggestions for the agenda in regard to these or other relevant matters. I earnestly urge you to give careful thought to the subjects to be discussed by the Conference, if possible in consultation with other officers and workers in your Division, so that the Conference may have the benefit in its discussions.

The H.Q. Council will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, December 15 and 16, when matters referred from the Conference and other business will be considered. Formal notice and agenda will be issued later. I shall be glad to hear from you if you have any matters you wish to have placed on the agenda.

Members of the Conference and H.Q. Council are cordially invited to be the guests, under camp conditions, of my wife and myself at our home. Guests may arrive on Saturday, December 12 and remain until Thursday morning December 17 (We ourselves leave for Southern Rhodesia on this day). Wednesday morning and afternoon, December 16 are left free of meeting to enable guests to visit the British Empire Exhibition.

Train leaves for Kimberley and Capetown Wed. 10 p.m.
Port Elizabeth daily 2.15 p.m. & 7.45 p.m.
East London daily 2.15 p.m.

Durban daily 3.20 p.m. & 8.40 p.m.
Mafeking daily 9.54 a.m.
Pietersburg daily 9 p.m.

It will be most convenient for my wife and myself to know in good time how many guests there will be, and I shall therefore be grateful if Divisional Secretaries will let me have the names and addresses of those who are accepting our hospitality. These should be in my hands not later than November 15.

I shall greatly appreciate any help you can give me to ensure a fruitful Conference.

With Pathfinder Greetings,
Yours sincerely,

CHIEF PATHFINDER.

PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

113/35.

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners

Herewith please find the confidential report of the Pathfinder Representatives on the Scout-Pathfinder Joint Advisory Committee. It must, of course, be regarded as confidential, and I am only sending out this one copy to each Divisional Pathfinder Commissioner to avoid the possibility of leakage. Will the Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners please show their copy to the Divisional members of the Headquarters Council, and make strenuous efforts either to have the Division well represented at the Council, or to let me have comments on the Report before the 20th. Telegrams may be addressed "Ubuntu", Johannesburg. In view of the great importance of this meeting, I am anxious that every Division shall be represented, and, to ensure this, I will guarantee that, where a Division is unable to send any representative unless assisted financially, the second class concession return fare will be refunded out of Headquarters funds or otherwise.

With Pathfinder Greetings,

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

CHIEF PATHFINDER

December 12th, 1935.

/LR.

PATHFINDER HEADQUARTERS COUNCIL

12/36.

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

MOST URGENT AND IMPORTANT

To Divisional Pathfinder Commissioners and Divisional Councils

in re SCOUT-PATHFINDER RELATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

The Pathfinder Headquarters Council which met at Johannesburg in December last had before it a report (copy of which is attached hereto) from the Pathfinder Representatives on the Scout-Pathfinder Joint Advisory Committee, in which proposals made by the Scout representatives on the Committee were put forward for the formation of branches of the Boy Scout Movement in the Union to allow of the admission of African, Coloured and Indian boys into full membership of the Boy Scout Movement.

The Pathfinder Headquarters Council gave a warm welcome to the first paragraph of the Report and recognised the generosity of the proposal. As will be realised from the Report, the Pathfinder Movement will be recognised as one of the branches, and both Coloured and Indian boys can be admitted into the branch as before, in separate troops if desired. It is also intended that the Pathfinder branch shall be free to choose whether it wishes to be styled the "Pathfinder-Scout" branch or "African" or "Bantu" Scouts. The Council members preferred the term "Pathfinder-Scout", as it would obviate the necessity for racial distinction in the name.

The Council was much concerned to find that the new scheme, according to the Scout representatives, would involve the separation of the Union and Mandated Territory sections of the Pathfinder organisation from those of the Protectorates and the Rhodesias, although the Protectorates would be admitted if they requested it. The Council was reluctant to see this break-up of the unity of the Pathfinder Movement and passed the following resolution:

"That, in view of the fact that the Pathfinder Movement is already a large, organised body, functioning through Southern Africa, this Council views with dismay any proposal that would disturb its unity, and urges that, while retaining its entity, that portion of the Movement falling within the confines of the Union of South Africa be recognised by the Union Scout Council as a member of the Boy Scouts Association."

With regard to the proposal to set up a special committee to act as a board of control over the Non-European branches, the Council passed the following resolution:

"In the event of one of the Non-European branches passing any resolution considered by any of the branches as detrimental to the policy or spirit of the Scout P.O.R., the matter should be referred to a committee consisting of representatives of all four branches on which the European Scout Council should have the majority vote."

The proposed committee represents a compromise reached after a very severe struggle in the Joint Committee. The Scout representatives considered that, as the present Scout Council is the sole controlling body governing the Scout Movement in the Union today, it should (as the European Boy Scout Council) have control of the Non-European branches through the power of veto. The Pathfinder delegates urged that this control should be vested in a Federal Council, representative of all four branches, but the Scout delegates definitely refused to consider placing the European branch under the control of any organisation on which the Non-European branches would be represented, not even although the Pathfinder delegates agreed to let the European branch have a majority in the membership of the Committee. The Pathfinder delegates, on the other hand, refused to agree to the power of veto being vested in a body where Non-Europeans would have no vote or even admission. The proposal now put forward represents a compromise which the Council hopes will be accepted by the Pathfinder Divisions. The principle of representation of Non-Europeans by Non-Europeans is recognised in the proposal, and it may be that the committee will prove to be a valuable means whereby Europeans and Non-Europeans can co-operate in constructive measures, rather than that it should be a mere court of appeal for grievances.

With regard to the method under which existing Pathfinders would be admitted as Scouts, the Pathfinder Headquarters Council passed the following resolution:

"That the South African Scout Council be asked to agree that all Pathfinders who have been enrolled be admitted as Scouts without further enrolment, under the new scheme, but that wherever possible a suitable ceremony be arranged to mark the occasion in such a form as the Scout Council might suggest."

The Council held that the Pathfinder Promise and Law are in form and substance practically identical with the Scout Promise and Law.

The South African Scout Council is to meet at Durban on February 25th, when it is hoped that the Chief Scout of the World (Lord Baden Powell) will be present. I understand that the main business at this meeting will be consideration of the foregoing proposals, and the Pathfinder Movement will be represented by three delegates. (I greatly regret that at this time of writing there is no likelihood of my being able to attend, owing to my presence at Capetown being urgently required in connection with forthcoming legislation - the Native Bills and others - affecting the Non-European peoples). It is most important that the Pathfinder delegates have before them the views of the Divisions on these proposals, and I shall be most grateful if special meetings of Divisional Councils can be held in the short time available, and replies sent to reach Durban, not later than February 24th, by letter or by wire, addressed to

The Reverend Canon S.P. Woodfield, M.A.,
C/o S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 731, DURBAN.

I very much regret that this circular is so late in going out to Divisions, but the delay is due to my having been on tour in the Cape Province since December 28th

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and having been immersed in important conferences at Cape Town for the past two weeks.

The Minutes of the December meeting of the Pathfinder Headquarters Council should reach Divisions within ten days or so.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

Enclosure.

CHIEF PATHFINDER

At Cape Town,
February 1st, 1936.

/LR.

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