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RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (NATAL), ON 30TH AND 31ST OCTOBER, 1954, AT THE BANTU SOCIAL CENTRE - DURBAN.

- 1) This Annual Conference of the African National Congress Natal Province held on the 31st October, 1954, deplores the banning and banishment of leaders and spokesmen of the A.N.C., and South African Indian Congress, Trade Unions and other democratic organisations by the Nationalist Government whose aim is to silence and oppress the vast masses of the non-white peoples.

This Conference calls upon the African people to rally to the cause of the National Liberation and urges them and other progressive people to show their sympathy by contributing to their banned leaders for the assistance of their families.

This Conference further demands that the Nationalist Government abrogates such vicious legislations as the Suppression of Communism Act and the Riotous Assemblies Act.

- 2) This Conference reaffirms its fullest confidence in the National policy of the A.N.C. which is to militantly fight for the freedom of all peoples in South Africa and calls on all Branches of the African National Congress to take all possible steps subject to our policy of non-violence to implement this programme.

Conference recognises that the basic task confronting the ANC is to build a broad, united, anti-Nationalist Front, comprising of all sections of the South African population and there calls on the African people and all their allies to rally to the call for the Congress of the People.

- 3) This Conference deprecates the retrogressive step taken by the recent so called Unity Conference of trade unions held in Durban which by a majority vote excluded African workers, and applauds the stand taken by the minority of Unions at that Conference who supported the establishment of a Trade Union Movement without colour or race discrimination.

This Conference recognising the need for a united trade Union Movement to meet the grave threat embodied in such legislations as the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act and the Industrial Conciliation Bill calls on all Trade Unions, particularly those with African members to join the proposed new non-colour bar Trade Union Centre.

This Conference further places on record its admiration for the workers who during recent months have taken strike action in four different industries to win higher wages and better working conditions and calls on all workers to support those who have been victimised for having taken this bold and courageous action

- 4) This Conference condemns the diabolical Bantu Education Act which aims at:-
(a) enslaving the African people mentally so that new generation could meekly submit to the policy of Apartheid and to give them an unequal and inferior status;
(b) freezing the funds made available for African Education to a sum of 26,500,000 annually, thereby cutting African Education from the general revenue inspite of the major contributions made by the African peoples directly and indirectly to the general revenue of the State.

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE REPORT 1954.

OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR:

President:	Chief A. J. Lutuli.
Deputy President:	Dr. W. Z. Conco.
Secretary:	Mr. M. B. Yengwa.
Assistant Secretary:	Mr. A. Gumede.
Treasurer:	Mr. P. H. Simelane.
Speaker:	Mr. G. Dumisa Nyembe.
Chaplain:	Rev. A. Skakane.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Messrs H.M. Conco, H.S. Mtetwa, Frank Bhengu, A. Nene, Stephen Dhlamini, Rev. J.M. Sibiya and Rev. J.M. Yengwa.

POLITICAL REMARKS:

Since our last conference in Ladysmith last year important events have taken place affecting the political life of the African people and South Africa at large. The alliance of democratic forces in the liberatory movement has broadened to embrace all sections of the South African population. Whilst the oppressed are all black people and the oppressors are all Europeans, the struggle for Freedom has become not one of European versus African but between the forces of democracy and freedom for all and those of white supremacy and apartheid. The Congress of the People whose task is to draw a Freedom Charter of the people of South Africa has become a living symbol of unity of all races of South Africa, pledge to rid South Africa of racial bitterness engendered by white oppression and domination of the Non-White people. The Freedom Charter when drawn will represent the wishes of all the people of South Africa irrespective of race or colour, and would correct the mistake of 1910 when only the white people decided to have a union in which over eighty per cent of the population were excluded from participation.

The success of the Congress of the People and the country-wide support of the call of Chief A.J. Lutuli for 50,000 volunteers for the Congress of the People and "resist apartheid" campaign has frightened the Nationalist government. The Government armed with despotic and fascist powers under the Suppression of Communism Act and the Riotous Assemblies and Criminal Law Amendment Act, has banned almost the entire membership of the African National Congress, from attending public gatherings and from moving freely in the country of their birth. By these measures the government hopes to cripple the Congress and liberatory movement by banning and deporting its leaders. The Congress, pledged to attaining freedom in our lifetime cannot be intimidated by these harsh measures, but in face of these draconian measures will fight even more vigorously than before until freedom is won. As new and more severe measures are passed, we have to counter them by new and more efficient methods of organisation.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT QUEENSTOWN: DECEMBER, 1954:

The National Conference which met in Queenstown in December last year, decided among other things to make a call to all national organisations for the organisation of the Congress of the People, whose task would be to draw up a Charter of Freedom. The Conference further

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This Conference, therefore, whilst rejecting the Bantu Education Act in its entirety demands that African Education be reverted to the Provincial Administration and demands further that sufficient schools be built so as to accommodate the thousands of schoolless children.

This Conference, further expresses its very deep and sincere appreciation to all those organisations and churches who have condemned this pernicious measure and calls on the African people to close their ranks and to support the demand for the repeal of this obnoxious piece of Apartheid Legislation.

- 5) This Conference strongly condemns the unjust rent increases imposed on the African and other people residing at Municipal Locations and Housing Schemes and calls on those concerned to close their ranks and totally reject these increases.

6) Congress of the People:

This Conference notes with deep satisfaction the response received from the National organisations of the people of South Africa to the request of our National Conference last year to organise a Congress of the People.

The Joint declaration and call subsequently made by the African National Congress, South African Indian Congress, South African Congress of Democrats and the South African Coloured Peoples' Organisation to all the people of South Africa, both black and white is clear evidence of our desire for full freedom and democracy for all the peoples of our country.

This Conference, therefore, calls on all African National Congress members and sympathisers to volunteer and take the message of the Congress of the People to the mass of our people. This Conference further pledges to make the slogan "Let us Speak Together of Freedom" resound in every home in South Africa.

called upon the provincial branches to organise a campaign of political boycott of all business organisations which discriminate against the African people by way of employment and in trade. Conference further discussed the boycott of discriminatory political institutions. These will now be discussed in detail.

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE FREEDOM CHARTER:

The historic decision of the African National Congress to call upon all national organisations to sponsor the organisation of the Congress of the People, was immediately accepted by the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats and the Coloured Peoples' Organisation. Provincial conferences of the Congress of the People have been held in all the provinces of the Union. The Natal Provincial Conference was held on the 5th September, 1954, under the auspices of the African National Congress, the Natal Indian Congress and the Congress of Democrats. A Regional Conference for the Northern districts was held on the 19th September and representatives of the African National Congress and the Natal Indian Congress and the Liberal party addressed the meeting. In all these meetings a call was made for Chief Lutuli's Freedom Volunteers, and the response of the people was enthusiastic. Over 250 Volunteers have already joined. The Congress of the People has further emphasised the correctness of the policy of Congress of co-operating with the other racial groups who are opposed to white baaskapism and apartheid in our fight for freedom in this country. Since June 26, 1950, despite consistent and malicious attacks from the reactionary African press and chauvinistic elements amongst the African people in this province the African National Congress has advocated a policy of co-operation with all national organisations which have similar objectives and principles. The enthusiastic support by the African people and all the sections of the South African people of the Congress of the People has shaken the government and are adopting harsh and gestapo methods in an attempt to kill it and intimidate the people. For some time now members of the police force have been raiding peaceful meetings of the Congresses, under pretext of investigating certain crimes, and taking the names and addresses of all those present. It is quite obvious that the aim was to intimidate the people and frighten them away from meetings of the Congress. It is only as a result of the political maturity of our people, that despite all these raids they come to meetings in greater numbers than before. A campaign of slander and deceit, aimed at discrediting the Congress of the People before the eyes of the people has been carried on by the government, through the Commissioner of Police in the daily press, that the Congress of the People is a communist master plot to bring chaos to the country, and that it is a communist controlled. The Minister of Justice under the Suppression of Communism Act has ordered many of our leaders to resign from Congress and not to participate in Congress activities, and under the Riotous Assemblies and Criminal Law Amendment Act has banned them from attending gatherings and from being in certain areas in the Union. All these measures have not daunted the spirit of the people, but we cannot ignore their importance, and carry on as before, we have to strengthen the Congress of the People committees, and double our efforts in taking the message of the Congress of the People to the four corners of Natal.

ECONOMIC BOYCOTT:

The Queenstown Conference decided that Congress should boycott all business institutions that discriminated against Africans in employment and trade. The boycott had to be under the control and supervision of the Provincial executive, and selected establishments who practiced discrimination would have their products boycotted by the people. So far the Cape Province has organised successful boycotts of some establishments in the Eastern Cape. A Campaign to boycott the United Tobacco Company products has been started on a

nationwide basis, as a result of the refusal of the UTC Management to recognise the African Trade Union in Durban. It is hoped that the Natal branches of the Congress will give this campaign as wide a publicity as possible.

POLITICAL BOYCOTT:

The 1949 decision of the African National Congress to boycott all discriminatory institutions was reviewed at the last National Conference, but no decision was arrived at, and the matter was referred back to Provincial conferences for further consideration. The Natal Conference at Ladysmith last year had passed a resolution re-affirming the boycott of discriminatory institutions policy and deploring the action of those that despite this policy still stand or encourage and help others to stand for Advisory Boards, and Native Representation in Parliament. This Conference will have to review the matter afresh in terms of the National Conference decision.

THE WESTERN AREAS REMOVAL SCHEME AND OTHER APARTHEID MEASURES:

During the last session of Parliament the Nationalist Government passed an Act to remove the people of Sophiatown and other Western areas of Johannesburg to Meadowlands. Under this Act the people of Western areas who have property rights of ownership, and have been settled in this areas for over half a century are going to be forcibly uprooted from their homes and deprived of their rights to own land and will be moved to a government housing scheme where they will be tenants for the rest of their lives. The Congresses have vigorously opposed the implementation of this scheme, and all the provinces under the slogan "resist apartheid" have held conferences to oppose the removal scheme.

Last year the Chief Native Commissioner announced to the people of Charlestown that the Government intended to remove them from the Town of Charlestown to Buffalo Flats a rural area about fifty miles away from Charlestown. This removal scheme is under the Native Urban Areas Act. The people of Charlestown like those of the Western Areas of Johannesburg own the land from which they are to be removed. There are reports that African lot holders at Farleigh and Lennoxton in Newcastle are to be removed from this area under the Group Areas Act. These are only a few of the many instances of the injustice and hardship caused by the Government policy of apartheid.

BAN ON LEADERS:

In its attempt to cripple the liberatory movement the Government has banned many leaders of the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, and the South African Congress of Democrats. These leaders have either been ordered to resign from their organisations or not to attend public gatherings for a certain period or deported to certain areas. The list is long and grows longer almost daily. In Natal the President-General Chief A.J. Lutuli has been ordered not to attend public gatherings for two years, and not to be in any Magisterial district except the district of lower Tugela, Mr. M.B. Yengwa, the Secretary has been ordered to leave Durban and go to the District of Mapumulo for two years, and not to attend public gatherings for two years, Mr. P.H. Simelane has been ordered not to attend public gatherings for one year. In the Transvaal, Mr. W.M. Sisulu, the Secretary General of the African National Congress has been ordered to resign from Congress, Mr. O.R. Tambo, has been restricted to the district of Johannesburg, and many others. In the Cape Dr. J.L.Z. Njongwe, the Acting President, and Mr. R.M. Matji, the Secretary, have been ordered to resign from the Congress, and Messrs Gwentshe and Lengisi, Chairman and Secretary of the East London Branch of Congress have been deported to different farms in

the Transvaal. The government hopes by these prohibitions to isolate the leadership from the mass of the people. It is important that contact with the people and their leaders be maintained at all times. The Congress in all provinces has established Secretariats, whose task is to carry on the duties of the banned leaders.

ORGANISATION OF BRANCHES:

The Provincial Executive has taken a keen interest in maintaining contact with the branches, through letters to branch secretaries, and meetings where Members of the Provincial Executive speak. Local issues like the increase in rents have been taken up and members of the Executive have spoken on these issues in places like Chester-ville and Sontseu Road. A Regional Council has been formed in Durban with Mr. P. H. Simelane as Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman and Mr. S. Dhlamini as Secretary. A Northern Natal Regional Council was formed in September with Mr. G. Nyembe as Chairman, Mr. P. L. Kumalo Vice-Chairman, and Mr. L. B. Mtshingila as Secretary. Members of the Executive as late as this October visited the Northern Natal branches, to address a series of meetings. The Illness Lase Natal together with its correspondents who hide under pen-names have been vocal saying that Congress is doing nothing in Natal. We have not wasted our time by replying and giving information to people who we do not know, but our members know that within the limits of our powers we have always taken them into our confidence and told them of our plans and they know that apart from the fact that Congress is not dead, it is very much alive. At a special conference of the Natal Congress held at Clarendon in September, it was decided to establish Chief Lutuli's Fund, and a start was made there and then. This fund is to help Chief Lutuli whilst he is being banned from moving out of Stanger District. It is also meant to give an opportunity to the people of Natal of demonstrating their loyalty to our great leader. Congress has been greatly handicapped by the fact that there was no office clerk since Mr. Mponya left owing to ill health. This has seriously impaired the efficiency of the office and members have at times found it difficult to renew their membership cards, because there was no one to attend to them at the office. This is a position that has been occupying the attention of the Executive Committee, and plans have to be made to correct the position at the soonest.

THE TSHAK' CELEBRATION:

The Natal Congress comprising as it is the Zulu section of the African people has been very interested in the Tshaka celebration. Besides other activities the Congress issued a leaflet specially written for the occasion by the President. Congress presented a Feast to the Paramount Chief on this occasion.

P. H. Simelane
For: MASABALALA B. YENCWA
SECRETARY.

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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (NATAL)

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 30TH and SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER,
1954.

AGENDA

OPENING: Speaker Mr. G. D. Nyembe.

DEVOTION: Rev. Skakane.

COMMITTEES: (i) Credentials Committee.
(ii) Resolutions Committee.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE.

MINUTES AND BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES.

PRESIDENTIAL'S ADDRESS AND DISCUSSION THEREON.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS: From:

South African Indian Congress.
Congress of Democrats.
Natal Council of African Women.
Durban and District Womens' League.

SECRETARIAL REPORT: and discussion thereon.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

NEW BUSINESS AND MOTIONS.

REPORT OF BRANCHES

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.

GENERAL.

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE REPORT 1954.

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Deputy President:	Dr. W. Z. Conco. —
Secretary:	Mr. M. B. Yengwa. —
Assistant Secretary:	Mr. A. Gumede.
Treasurer:	Mr. P. H. Simelane. —
Speaker:	Mr. G. Dumisa Nyembe.
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P. H. Simelane

FOR

MASSABALALA B. YENGWA
SECRETARY.

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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