

# MARRIAGE EDICT ROUSES ANGER

Indian Delegates Arrested

BLOEMFONTEIN. Dr. I. Moosa, who led the fraternal delegation from the South African Indian Congress to the ANC conference here, was arrested by special branch police immediately on entering Bloemfontein on December 17, together with his delegates. Up till the time conference ended on Sunday evening, they were still in jail. Appearing in court last Monday, they were remanded on bail until January 22.

Conference registered its strong protest against the unjust denial of the right of free movement.

## Attempt To Bully People Into Having Photographs Taken

JOHANNESBURG.—Great indignation has been roused by the latest official attempt to bully people into having their photographs taken for the population register—the announcement by the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths that no marriages would be registered after January 1 unless the couple produce their identification numbers and those of their parents.

In a statement condemning the measure, the Congress of Democrats says that it "is closely linked with the anxiety felt in official

quarters at the slow progress made in photographing people for the Population Register and is intended to exercise an indirect form of coercion on people to have their photographs taken."

The statement describes the measure as unnecessary and undesirable.

The Anglican Church has asked the Government to withdraw the stipulation that couples have to give the identity numbers of their parents as well as their own.

"We do not like this new regulation—and particularly the part laying down that the identity numbers of the parents have to be given," said Archbishop R. P. Y. Rouse, of Johannesburg.

Although no date has been fixed for when people in Johannesburg must have their identity cards, many people have been confused by the semi-official statements which are put out, and have allowed themselves to be photographed.

A recent announcement in the Government Gazette setting November 30th as deadline for "all Europeans, Coloureds, Cape Malays and Asiatics" did not apply to Johannesburg, but many mistakenly had their photographs taken.

Despite official pressure, however, and despite the unscrupulous activities of certain photographers in Indian areas, who are spreading rumours that as soon as the Indian people are photographed they will be given liquor and political rights, the card-indexing of the nation is proceeding at snail's pace.



People signing the Freedom Charter at one of the three tables set up for the purpose at the P.E. meeting.

# 3,000 VOW TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM CHARTER

PORT ELIZABETH.—Three thousand people, three thousand lovers of freedom, declared at a meeting at Malasky Square on December 11:

"We, the people of South Africa, gathered here this day, resolve as equals, countrymen and brothers, that we pledge ourselves to strive together until the changes set out in the Freedom Charter have been won. We call upon all who love their people, freedom and country to resolve, as we do, that for these freedoms we will fight, side by side, throughout our lives until we have won our liberty."

The meeting was held under the auspices of the sponsoring organisations for the purpose of collecting signatures for the Freedom Charter.

Mr. M. Fletcher, representing the Congress of Democrats, said the Liberation movement must realise that the struggle for liberation was not a struggle between Black and White. Had it been so he would not have been at that meeting. He felt that in due course the whites in South Africa would realise that if they were not prepared to share freedom with others they themselves were not free. As they made this discovery more and more of them would be present at meetings such as those that took place that afternoon. Even in P.E. there are a number of Europeans who are in agreement with the basic people's demands expressed in the Freedom Charter. They did not come to these meetings because they were afraid that they would lose their jobs.

"There will come a time," stressed Mr. Fletcher, "when a man has to choose between his money and his conscience." WHO ARE THE SEDITIONISTS? The Nationalists and many other Whites in this country regard the members of the COD as seditionists because they dare claim the sharing of rights and freedom with Non-Whites. But who are the seditionists? asked Mr. Fletcher. A seditionist is the one who withholds freedom from others.

The Government and the owners of wealth were afraid of the day when White workers would join hands with the Black to fight for a better future. White workers have been bribed but a lie has short legs, concluded Mr. Fletcher.

As Mr. Fletcher started to speak

Special Branch detectives photographed him, and when he left before the meeting was over they followed him in their car.

Among other speakers that afternoon were Miss Stella Damons, M. Kepe and S. Fischer.

# ... ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO APARTHEID

DURBAN.—The only alternative to the Government's programme of apartheid is the Freedom Charter, declared Mr. N. T. Naicker, General Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, at a mass meeting to protest against the Group Areas Act held last week.

The meeting was organised jointly by the African and Indian Congresses and the Congress of Democrats.

Mr. Naicker said that the Charter contained the true aspirations of the millions in South Africa and enshrined the basic principles of human freedom, justice and equality which transcended all forms of racialism. For this reason the Government feared the Charter and the people who created it.

## POLICE ACTION

Mr. Naicker criticised the Government's police action against the people. "The people's presence here is symbolic of the feeling of resentment that runs against the Government's police state activities, it is symbolic of our abhorrence of racialism, and it is symbolic of the Congress spirit which preaches a high sense of friendship and goodwill to all people in South Africa. "The anti-democratic forces," he continued, "accused the Congress movement of treason and sedition and on that score the country has been subjected to police raids and intimidation. Our loyalties to South Africa were questioned. But let it be known that as loyal South Africans we have an inherent right to criticise the unjust policy of the Nationalist Government."

"The Nationalist Government represents a minority of a minority and when it made laws which subjugated and degraded the majority of the people we were justified in protesting against these laws which are opposed to all principles of justice and democracy."

# I.C. BILL WILL DESTROY FREE TRADE UNIONISM

The new draft Bill which has come out of the Parliamentary Select Committee is worse than the old one, says trade unionist KARL ENGELS in this stimulating article.

victory. What a victory! For these self-same leaders have since been compelled to admit publicly that the new draft which has emerged is "more vicious" than even the first Bill.

possible and (b) to prevent Africans from becoming organised.

## AMENDMENTS

In 1937 the I.C. Act was again amended, in some parts benefiting the workers, but, with the usual capitalist law of compensation, further tightening up the Government's hold on the trade unions and endeavouring to make it still more difficult to conduct strikes on a legal basis. And once more the Nationalist-United Party Government (The "Fusion" Government) maintained the principles of the Act by continuing to exclude Africans from the scope of the Act.

Because of the wording of the I.C. Act, which defined African employees as "pass-bearing Natives," African women were not debarred from being regarded as "employees" under the I.C. Act. As African women came into secondary industry they were organised and became legal members of recognised trade unions whilst the hundreds of thousands of male Africans were still excluded from the trade union point of view.

## MAIN FEATURES

What are the main features of the new Industrial Conciliation Bill? In order to appreciate this it would be useful to find out what the present Act is and where the new Act will differ from it.

The Industrial Conciliation Act was also introduced by a Nationalist Government in alliance with the Labour Party (in the "Pact" Government) in 1924. It was the capitalists' method of checking the rising tide of militancy of the S.A. workers exemplified in the great 1922 strike which shook the country to its foundations in spite of the fact that it did not mobilise the African workers.

To prevent the workers taking the next logical step, which would have meant learning the lesson of the defeat in 1922 and the organisation of the African and European workers in a common front and in one organisation, the Government introduced its panacea for "industrial diseases"—the Industrial Conciliation Act for the White, Coloured and Indian workers, and the Wage Act, in the main, for the African workers. But to make doubly sure that the fountains of really cheap "Native Labour" would not dry up, all mining and agricultural operations were excluded from the scope of the Wage Act.

The trade unions of importance in existence at that time, including many of those today affiliated to the "respectable" S.A. Trade Union Council, opposed the I.C. Act in 1924 because it specifically excluded "Natives" from its scope and thus prevented African unions from being legally recognised and debarred them from the legal right to bargain collectively with their employers.

The main objects of the I.C. Act of 1924 were (a) to make strikes difficult, if not almost im-

Even this piece of appeasement did not satisfy the insatiable appetite of the Nationalist Government, and it is proceeding to carry out its plan as outlined in the programme of the Nationalist Party, which is nothing less than the complete destruction of the democratic trade union movement in South Africa.

What is more, the Minister of Labour has refused to budge on the main principles, notwithstanding the disgraceful offer of some of the leaders of the S.A. Trade Union Council to kow-tow still further by agreeing to more apartheid in their unions, by stating that they would be prepared to accept separation on racial lines in existing registered unions so that it would become illegal for unions with mixed memberships to hold joint meetings of all their members, European, Coloured, and Indian.

What are the main features of the new Industrial Conciliation Bill and how they will affect the existence of the S.A. Trade Union movement? The main aim of the new Act is to break up what are termed "mixed unions" i.e. unions with a membership of White, Coloured and Indian workers in industries where they are organised, and to prevent such unions from coming into being in the future.

And once again, running true to form, the opportunity will be taken to "tighten up" on the trade unions, to make strikes still more difficult, to make trade union machinery so cumbersome and involved, and so subject to state interference that they will become akin to the organisations in the Hitler Labour Front.

The Bill will also encourage breakaway unions to be set up and give them the legal right to break up the existing trade union organisations and trade union funds built up in many cases over a long period of years by the humble contributions of the workers.

All in all, it is a most vicious piece of legislation, as has been recognised even by many of the appeasers in the trade union movement.

(Continued next week)

## Residents Refuse To Leave Benoni Location

Refusal to collaborate in the Benoni City Council's Scheme to move the people from their homes, and full support for SACPO "in its fight for a free South Africa where the Freedom Charter will be put into realisation," were expressed in a resolution adopted at a mass meeting of residents in Benoni Location, called to protest against the Municipality's plan to demolish Benoni Location and remove the people elsewhere.

The meeting was attended by a large audience of Coloureds and Africans.

The resolution stated that residents would not move voluntarily from their homes "until the City Council has given us the assurance that decent, alternative accommodation will be given us."

unions and employers' organisations in South Africa.

In the main the Commission proposed "Apartheid" and more "Apartheid," and the Government has acted on these lines because it dreads more than anything else the creation of unity among the working people of South Africa the development of a mighty trade union movement wherein unscientific and unnatural racial and colour barriers will be swept aside and which will usher in an era of true brotherhood between the working people of South Africa.

And not only Government fears this, but also the most powerful and influential employers' organisations, the mine owners (mainly British capital), the rich farmers, many industrialists, and, let us be frank, many "respectable" trade union leaders.

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(Continued next week)

## EDITORIAL

# HOLIDAY FOR RACIALISTS

LIKE most "public" holidays, December 16th, the Day of the Covenant, celebrates the heroes, triumphs and prejudices of the rulers of South Africa.

This year's celebrations, as in the past, were marked by the glorification of the Voortrekkers, tributes to the greatness of the white races, and appeals for European unity in the face of the "enemy."

The Day of the Covenant commemorates a Boer massacre of the Zulus in Natal 117 years ago and no speaker lost the opportunity of drawing a parallel between the position of the trekkers and the position of the Europeans today. Racial hysteria was the keynote of the speeches. Eric Louw, Minister of Finance and External Affairs, said that owing to liberalistic influences South Africa was in greater danger today than on the eve of the Battle of Blood River.

"Today it is the Declaration of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms which is the basis of the attacks which are being made on the European population of South Africa, at the United Nations and in the overseas press," he said.

If liberalistic influences were to win the day in South Africa, it would lead to political and social equality, with the result that White leadership would be doomed, he said.

After a drive through Martizburg's streets in a replica of Paul Kruger's coach, the Governor-General, Mr. Jansen, hinted darkly against "influences which are undermining the national character of the Afrikaner."

"We must be ready at any time to fall back on the mercy and help of God when danger threatens to overwhelm our people—dangers that are often greater than we think," he said.

The future was black, he said, if the Europeans did not reach "a basis of co-operation" and stop distrusting one another. He did not want to talk about relations with the Non-Whites because he wanted "to avoid the political field."

Mr. D. E. Mitchell, leader of the United Party in Natal, said that the Europeans had paid for their "sovereignty" over South Africa by sacrificing many lives during the past 300 years, and that they should now "stand to face our destiny unafraid."

The "Bantu" were a "barbarian people" who had obtained peace and security at the hands of the European, he said.

"Let not be forgotten the part played by men of many nations who brought the Gospel to a very dark Africa."

Celebrations also took place at Piet Retief's farm, Mooi-meisiesfontein, where for the first time a military unit participated in the festivities.

It was not surprising that none of the speakers referred to the role of the Non-European peoples in the building up of South Africa, nor of the atrocities and massacres of innocent women and children committed by the Voortrekkers. The myth of the divine mission of the Afrikaner peoples and the superiority of the white races has to be maintained at all costs, for it is one of the pillars of the doctrine of white supremacy.

The Day of the Covenant is not a 'national' celebration: it is essentially a celebration of the subjugation, dispossession and oppression of the African peoples. It celebrates, with the appropriate religious trappings, the institution of white supremacy, and helps to perpetuate it through a blatant distortion of history.

There can be no room for this sort of celebration in a free South Africa.

## SUPPORT FROM OVERSEAS

Readers and supporters in England show a commendable consistency in raising funds for New Age. A few weeks back they sent us £16 and a letter which arrived this morning advises us that a further £13 15s. is on the way. In addition, the London New Age committee has published an attractive Xmas Card which is being sold on our behalf.

The committee's correspondent writes that "It would do your heart good if you could see how the papers are eagerly grabbed when we sell them at meetings. Even papers that are four or five months old are sold with no difficulty." A fine compliment to New Age—and to those South African democrats in England who, in spite of being separated from their homeland, continue to play their part in our struggle.

It is no accident that they have rallied around New Age in order to do so. Our paper is an indispensable weapon in our struggle for freedom, whether here or abroad. It is the most important medium through which the South African workers and oppressed people make known their demands—a bright banner

proclaiming to all the world our determination to put an end to national oppression and racial persecution.

We must not allow our banner to vanish from the battle-ground. It is too important a rallying point for the democratic forces in our country. Without New Age we would be blind; easy prey for those who seek to disperse and disunite us.

HELP KEEP THE BANNER FLYING! SEND YOUR DONATION TO NEW AGE IMMEDIATELY.

Fred Carneson.

## P.S. Remember our addresses:

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Johannesburg: No. 5 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner Street.

Durban: 6 Pembroke Chambers, 472 West Street.

Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street.

## Group Areas Conference in February

DURBAN. One of the most important conferences to be held since the 1946 Passive Resistance Campaign against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act will be convened by the Natal Indian Congress in February for the purpose of formulating a plan of action against the implementation of the Group Areas Act.

The first batch of letters informing all organisations to prepare for this conference has already been sent out. Application has been made for the use of the City Hall for the opening of the conference. In a letter to all Non-European and democratic bodies, Mr. N. T. Naicker, general secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, says:

"As the Group Areas Law strikes at the very heart of our livelihood, let alone progress and advancement, there is no doubt that delegates from the different organisations participating in the conference will endeavour to consider and formulate a clear, decisive and united answer to the Nationalists."

Mr. Naicker states that as it is essential that a concrete plan of action against the vicious Group Areas Act should emerge from the conference, it is the duty of every Indian and democratic organisation to send its full quota of delegates.



## Catholics Not Opposed To Bantu Education

S. Xamashe (New Age, December 8) called upon Africans and all South African citizens to support Catholic bishops in their stand against leasing their schools for Bantu Education.

In my opinion Xamashe does not understand the policy of the Roman Catholic Church against Bantu Education. We Africans are opposed to the Act as such, especially the syllabus which is designed to keep the African under European domination forever. On the other hand the bishops are not campaigning against the syllabus but against leasing the schools to the Government, a fact that will not benefit the African who is called upon to help those who are campaigning for the control of schools. In addition to the surrender to the Government the Church has reduced salaries of African teachers by 25 per cent. It should be noted that though the salaries are cut down, the mission schools still offer Bantu Education.

It is quite clear that oppression is so much in South Africa that some of the people are already confused. They tend to co-operate even with enemies as long as they oppose the main enemy. The policy of the Roman Catholic Church is well known. It has tended to be a "watch-dog" of the Government. Its policy is best illustrated in "Against the Stream" by Father Schimleli when the C.A.U. was established as opposed to the A.N.C. which was described as Communistic. As a result, Catholic members were debarred and are still prohibited from joining the A.N.C. or any association that is fighting for African liberation from the European domination.

### NO CHARGE

That the Catholic policy has not changed was revealed in an article in "Southern Cross," Wednesday, November 16, 1955, headed "Danger of extreme nationalism in community schools"—by Archbishop Denis H. E. Hurley, O.M.I., when he declared in an interview to the "Natal Mercury" that African nationalism could not be suppressed and that it is always fed on imaginary grievances. According to him Africans should always be under European supervision and African nationalism should be tempered and balanced with Christian conviction and practice. He further said that our leaders are propagating extreme

## We Will Not Poison Our Children

A meeting which was to have been held for the election of a Bantu school committee in Worcester was a failure. The meeting was due to take place at the Magistrate's office, but the ANC warned the people that if they attended, they would be forcing their own people to accept the poisonous education against their will.

Only eleven people turned up and the magistrate postponed the meeting to December 22, to be held this time in the location.

We, the people of Worcester will not assist in the guillotining of our children. We will oppose this action of the Government and not associate ourselves with the poisoning of the men and women of tomorrow.

J. P. BUSA,  
(Secretary, A.N.C.)  
Kwezi Location, Worcester.

African nationalism clothed in the jargon of Marxist dialectics.

The Archbishop closed his article by expressing the Catholic record of opposition to Communism. In other words he is in favour of capitalism—the exploitation of man by man, which is a cause of all the international wars accompanied by millions of deaths.

Every day in these Catholic Mission Colleges we are informed that socialism is the worst of the economic systems and that capitalism is the only system. We are told terrible things about Russia and China—all of course propaganda.

How many times have we been told by these Catholics that we should not support African "political agitators." At school we are not allowed to read any progressive papers—not to speak of criticising Bantu Education and all the racist laws. We are always informed that we have no right to depose a Government that was instituted by God.

These are the bishops that we are called upon to support in their exploitation of Africans. If the bishops are fighting for universal education for all, irrespective of colour, let them stand and support the COP, accept the ANC and endorse the Freedom Charter.

Yours in the struggle  
A. A. ZWANE.  
Johannesburg.

## Israel's Right To Exist

Your editorial reply to Mr. Wener (New Age, December 8) would indicate that you regard the removal of Western influence from the Middle East as the key to peace in that area. In fact, your statement that if the peoples of the Middle East were left to solve their own problems, there would be peace in the Middle East seems to be supported by the Czech newspaper "Rude Pravo" when it said recently: "The peace-loving policy of the Arab countries in general is well-known, and Egypt in particular conducts a policy of international co-operation aimed at easing international tension."

The most notable contribution to this line of thought comes, as is to be expected, from Colonel Nasser, who told the Cairo correspondent of the "New York Times": "We must destroy Israel." Is this any guide to the kind of peace which you advocate for the Middle East?

W. HAMM.  
Parkhurst, Johannesburg.

(The Israeli people, like any other, are entitled to the right of self-determination. New Age has never queried this right, and would not support any attempt by the Arab states to "destroy Israel." At the same time, New Age considers the Israeli Government's policies, particularly in relation to the Arab refugees, have made no small contribution to the dangerous situation in which she finds herself. Furthermore, by supporting the West, Israel condones the denial to others (the colonial and semi-colonial territories) of the right of self-determination she insists on for herself. The experiences of Israel herself, not to mention Egypt (before the expulsion of the British), Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus and all other nations fighting for their independence show that peace and security can be guaranteed to no nation, big or small, so long as imperialism survives.—Ed.)

## WORLD STAGE

# BRIGANDS OF BAGDAD

WITH the North Atlantic Treaty linking the countries of Europe in a war pact, and the South-East Asia Treaty linking the puppet governments of that region, the West needed a new chain to join the two. Last month it succeeded in closing the circle when the permanent council of the Bagdad pact, linking Britain for military purposes with Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan, was set up.

For a week the limelight was focussed on Mr. Harold Macmillan, the British Foreign Secretary, who, accompanied by a British general and an American admiral, superintended the formation of the council.

From the first, Mr. Macmillan's task was not a happy one. His reception ranged from violent hostility to amused contempt. The Egyptian press baited him mercilessly.

"Not even his closest friends can claim that Mr. Macmillan is really an Arab, or even a Turk," commented one paper. "Nor has anyone so far asserted either of these distinctions for General Sir Gerald Templer or Admiral Cassidy. What then are they doing so far from home?"

### JUNIOR BIG BROTHER

The Middle East countries did not fail to note that while the western press was putting up an immense smokescreen of indignant comment on "Soviet interference," all the interfering was being done by the forces behind Macmillan and Cassidy.

Britain's Macmillan was the man in the public eye at the Bagdad talks. "But Britain, as each of the Premiers realised, was only the junior Big Brother," said Time (Dec. 5) with brutal frankness. "Major economic aid, and military aid too, depended chiefly on the support and benevolence of the U.S., and the new METO allies were frankly counting on more of both as a price for daring the wrath and possible economic reprisals of Russia."

The governments which Macmillan was able to pressure into his pact are a sorry lot.

PAKISTAN, which has never had a general election, is no new acquisition, for she is already a member of Seato. This is a country where, according to the right-wing Pakistan Times, "from 55 to 70 per cent. of the central budget in the past four years has been spent on police and military expenditure, whereas only one per cent. has been spent on education."

TURKEY is also an old hand, being a member of NATO. Her government is totally unable to overcome economic crisis resulting from incredible corruption. The army is unable to go out on manoeuvres because the U.S. oil companies have refused further supplies until there is cash to pay for them. Strikes are forbidden. Any criticism of the government leads to arrest.

IRAN and IRAQ are the two new acquisitions. In the former country, where opposition to the Pact is intense, people's leader Dr. M. Yazdi is under sentence of death at the hand of the ruling fascist dictatorship. After a visit to Iran recently the correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph wrote: "A thousand wealthy families rule the country.

They own up to 200 villages apiece, but their peasants are without land or homes, and sometimes do not even own the clothes they wear."

The only elected government which Iran has had in recent history—that of Mousadek—was forcibly overthrown with U.S. and British help when it angered those powers by nationalising its oil.

In Iraq too, it is illegal to strike. When the oil workers came out recently, demanding trade union recognition and better pay, they were fired on by the police. One worker was killed, at least 15 injured. Martial law was declared and troops sent to suppress the strike.

### "FREEDOM'S" ALLIES

These are the so-called allies of freedom in the Middle East.

And even these puppet governments had their qualms about joining the pact. "Adherence to the treaty, linking Iran more closely than ever to the western political structure, without providing any immediate strengthening of defences, was certainly a risky decision for the Iranian Government to take," the London Times noted. "Russia is very near and very touchy on the subject of alien influence in Iran, and it is only a few months since the banned Tudeh (Communist) Party came near to a successful military coup. . . . The Tudeh Party, though proscribed is still active in Iran—and even has the audacity to print its own newspaper, which is regularly delivered to embassies and other interested parties through the mail.

On the eve of Prime Minister Hussein Ala's departure from Bagdad for the pact meeting, there was an attempt on his life in a Teheran mosque. The would-be assassin was a member of the fanatical religious group, Fadaiyan Islam, which stands for the elimination of all foreign influences from Iran.

The popular opposition to the signing of the pact had been great. But the final foundation of the Council last month brought the revulsion to a peak.

"The pact is deplorable from the point of view of peace and security," said Nehru bluntly in an address to Parliament. So strong was the indignation in India that there were moves to withdraw from the Commonwealth as a result of Britain's part in the Bagdad meeting.

### GOVERNMENT FALLS

Egypt and Syria added their protests, and in Jordan, most acquiescent of Britain's puppets, a government has fallen and the people have come out in revolt against the moves to bring Jordan into the war alliance.

Linked with all this, Cyprus, which was to have been the bastion of western military strength in the Mediterranean, has flared up as its valiant people fight for their independence.

As they watched the opposi-

tion mounting, the Western powers were having difficulty in seeing what they had got for their trouble. "The pact's military strength may for some time be small. Its political stability remains in doubt," the London Times observed in an editorial.

### "DON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH"

And Time asked: "How strong a bastion will METO prove in the Middle-East's shifting sands? Truth is that METO is more a geographic than a military entity, more a psychological pact than a strategic strongpoint. . . . To the Middle East's defences, METO adds only the forces of Iraq and Iran—and a defence position. The forces do not amount to much."

All the same it would be unwise to underestimate the power for evil which is the Bagdad Pact. While the main ostensible purpose of the pact is to close the military ring around the Soviet Union, the real aim is to wage war on what the western governments call "Communism"—that is, the national liberatory struggle of all colonial peoples for independence and freedom from foreign rule.

The Bagdad Pact is intended as a barrier which will dam the inexorable march to freedom of the people of the Middle East. But it is a puny structure and it has no foundations. Under pressure it will collapse and crush those who are trying to hold it up.

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