

"LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM"

In the Name of our beloved Africa I greet you all!

It is an encouraging sign of the growth of our Liberatory Movement when Indians, Coloureds, Europeans and Africans can become, through their respective national organisation, co-sponsors of a multi-racial, all South African Assembly, the Congress of the People, wherein all areas and centres in the Union of South Africa will contribute through their elected representatives to the formulation of a Freedom Charter.

This Congress of the People, in its Provincial and National levels, will be a practical demonstration of what the first so-called National Convention that brought about the Union of South Africa in 1910 should have been like in its composition, instead of being an affair of Europeans only, as were all Union Parliaments that were to flow from "the Act of Union" created by that Convention.

A CALL FOR 50,000

I reiterate my call for 50,000 Freedom Volunteers. I call upon Natal, my own province, to play an honourable and effective part in this, our second large effort to give a forward kick to our Liberty Movement, and thus help to keep up the spirit aroused by our non-violent Defiance of Unjust Laws campaign, now of historic fame.

The memory and fear of that campaign apparently gave the Government and the police unnecessary sleepless nights when they heard my call for 50,000 Freedom Volunteers; a harmless army of non-violent voluntary organisers and propagandists whose twin task will be to interest and enrol people for the Congress of the People meetings, and under the call "RESIST APARTHEID," educate the people on the evils of apartheid.

The ascendancy of the Nationalist Party has sharpened the challenge that faces the progressive forces in the Union. It has posed questions which all true South Africans can no longer shelve or evade. This challenge of our time is: **Shall it be freedom for all in our land or for whites only? Shall it be an indefinite continuation of the status quo? or a marching together to freedom?**



Congress President

CHIEF ALBERT R. LUTHULI'S

Address to the Natal Congress of
the People Conference.



Even British South Africans, who are the kith and kin of the British people whose magnanimity in granting the Boer Republics responsible government, shortly after defeating them in the Anglo-Boer war, set the Afrikaner on the road to the full freedom he now enjoys, are being scornfully and most arrogantly called upon to toe the line of Nationalist policy or else suffer the indignity of having no direct effective say in the governing of the Union.

INTO MOULDS

The challenge is much sharper for non-whites, especially Africans who are the worst victims of the Nationalist Government policy. According to the Nationalists, non-whites, especially Africans, **must be made to fit into the rigid apartheid mould designed to ensure their subjection and permanent relegation to a position of inferiority and servitude.**

In the process of fitting them into this rigid apartheid mould, any of their limbs that protrude outside the mould are ruthlessly chopped off, as in the mass removal scheme of Africans from the Western Areas of Johannesburg and from Charlestown in Natal, and as will be the case when the implementation of the Group Areas Act is under way.

In the Industrial and Land Tenure laws of the country, re-enforced by a reactionary hostile white public opinion, the ability of non-whites, especially Africans, is suppressed and compressed to fit into the lower unskilled categories in industry and farming.

In the Bantu Authorities Act Africans are being cut off from the democratic stream which should reach its highest water-mark in his participation as an equal partner in all legislative organs of the State — local, provincial and national.

In the Bantu Education Act of 1950, on the pretext of fostering self-help in African communities, the contribution of the State to this most important service is frozen to £6,500,000 for all time; and no doubt in content education will be inferior to that of whites, since it must fit the African to be only a good servant or a conservative docile peasant in the already congested African Reserves.

The situation intensified by the Nationalists is not a challenge to non-whites only, as the main victims of Apartheid; but is a challenge to all freedom-loving fellow white South Africans, who would be false to democracy if they remained quiet or indifferent to the oppression of non-whites.

The situation presents an inescapable challenge to religious leaders in our country, especially Christian leaders who proclaim a God-inspired message that all men are created in the image of God and so "are born equal", and that divine approbation, now or in the hereafter, will be determined by the efforts one makes to help his less fortunate brother, and not on his efforts at self-preservation and self-elevation.

NO MORE BANS

It is no exaggeration to say that in the mass banning, deportation and imprisonment of non-white leaders the Government is unwittingly confessing to a fear it has of the leaders of the people, and no doubt, by removing or silencing them, hopes to demoralise the people and create chaos among them and so pave the way for a "Bhengu-type" of Congress. Remotely the authorities might even anticipate violence among the leaderless masses, and so have excuses to shoot down non-whites to instil fear into them.

I invite you to condemn most strongly the action of the Government in indulging in the mass banning, deportation and imprisonment of the leaders

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