

1953.

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Proposed Arrangements for Conference.

The Joint Legion and Congress Executive Committee submit the following proposals in respect of the Conference arrangements, composition, agenda etc. for the consideration, amendment, and approval of those concerned.

Composition of Conference.

It is proposed that Conference shall be constituted of

- (a) delegations of all of the members of
 - (i) the National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion,
 - (ii) the Executive Committee of the Congress of Democrats,
 - (iii) the Executive Committee of the Democratic League,
- (b) delegation of all of the members of
 - (i) Branch Committees of the Sponsoring Organisations in the distant towns such as Port Elizabeth, Durban, Benoni, Pretoria etc.
 - (ii) Provisional Committees in the distant towns.
- (c) Two delegates each from the Johannesburg and Cape Town branches of the sponsoring organisations.
- (d) Five delegates each, who are prominent and active members of their respective organisations, from the A.N.C., the S.A.I.C., and the S.A.C.P.O.
- (e) Interested individuals who attend on invitation from the Sponsoring organisations.

Others who may wish to attend, including members from the sponsoring organisations, may do so and may speak but not vote, if they have satisfied the Credentials Committee as to their bona fides.

Fraternal Delegates.

It is proposed that additional fraternal delegates be invited from the S.A.I.C., the A.N.C., the S.A.C.P.O. and other sympathetic organisations.

Chairman or Chairmen of Conference.

It is proposed that the chairman, or chairmen, of Conference shall be appointed by and from the delegations of the Sponsoring organisations in consultation immediately prior to the Opening of Conference.

Accommodation of Delegates.

Arrangements will be made to accommodate the delegates from the distant places, where necessary and Committees should advise the Springbok Legion office of such accommodation they may require as soon as possible to ensure that their delegations are taken care of.

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AGENDA

Saturday 10th October, 1953.

- 10.a.m. Opening of Conference by prominent member of National Liberatory Movement.
- 10.30.a.m. Messages from fraternal delegates.
- 11.15.a.m. Adjourn for Tea (Ten minutes Break)
- 11.30.a.m. Paper on "The Need for a National Association"
Moving of Resolution 1.]
- 1. p.m. Adjourn for Lunch
- 2.p.m. Reassemble
- 2.30.p.m. Adoption of Resolution 1.
Conference goes into Committee on Constitution.
- 4. p.m. Adjourn for Tea (Ten minutes Break)
- 5.50.p.m. Adoption of Constitution.
- 6. p.m. Adjourn.

Sunday, 11th October, 1953.

- 10.a.m. Conference re-assembles.
- 10.10.a.m. Credential Committee Report
- 10.15.a.m. Paper on "The immediate programme of action for the Association. "
- 10.45.a.m. Resolutions arising moved and seconded and discussion.
- 11.15.a.m. Adjourn for Tea (Ten Minute Break)
- 11.45.am. Nomination of Officials and Committees
- 12. Noon Continue discussion programme and resolutions
- 1. p.m. Adjourn for Lunch.
- 2. p.m. Re-assemble
- 2.10.p.m. Election of Officials and Committee.
- 2.30.p.m. Continue discussions on Programme and Resolutions.
- 3.50.p.m. Adoption of resolutions.
- 4.00 p.m. Adjourn for Tea (ten minute break)
- 4.15.p.m. Election Results.
- 4.20.p.m. Close Conference
- 4.30.p.m. Meeting of National Council.

Draft Resolution :

"We delegates here assembled, acting in our individual capacities, and without incurring any obligations on behalf of the organisation of which we are members :

proclaim our support for the thirty articles of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation. We proclaim our belief that the doctrines of "Apartheid", white supremacy, trusteeship and segregation, like all other doctrines of racial discrimination, are inimical to the peace, happiness and prosperity of South Africa.

We proclaim our conviction that racial conflicts and national oppression are linked with international conflict and war in a chain of cause and effect which threatens the advancing standards of life and liberty of mankind. "

Then :

"We therefore resolve to found an Association to advocate the principles of equality and the brotherhood of men, to strive for the maintenance of world peace and the ending of national discrimination and oppression, and to win South Africans to support a programme of extending rights and liberties for all our people. "

Aims and Objects.

a) The Association shall work to secure for all South Africans, regardless of race, creed, or colour, the rights laid in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," with particular reference to

i. Equal civil liberties

- the freedom of thought, speech and press :
- the freedom of movement and assembly :
- the freedom of organisation and religion .

ii. Equal political rights

the right to vote in and to stand for elections to state and local law-making bodies :

iii. Equal economic opportunities

- the opportunities to qualify for and engage in all trades, crafts, occupations and professions :
- the opportunity to acquire and own land and property

iv. Equality of Social Status

in every field of state and administration, public activity, education, culture and recreation

b) The Association shall work to secure friendly international relations based on the equality and independence of all nations, and negotiations to settle international disputes, in order to secure a prolonged era of world peace.

c) The association shall give active support to, and co-operate with any individual, group, party or movement working for or having the same or similar aims and objects, and shall take such other action as it deems fit to further its aims and objects.

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Draft Resolution 11.

- a) "That each delegate present at this Conference be asked to signify his personal support for resolution No.1 as amended by this conference.
- b) that this conference thereafter stand adjourned.
- c) that those delegates pledging their support in terms of 2a above gather in private conference to discuss the constitution and programme of such an Association on the basis of the draft Constitution already circulated.

Bewysstuk No.....
 Gekry by..... *Y. Baganblad.*
 Deur..... *W. V. Papendrop*
 Te..... *S. H. O. D. handout - JMB*
 Datum..... *22-9-57*
 Verwysings No.....
F. 1 (2)

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SACOD.

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

A G E N D A.

- 2.p.m. Opening of Conference
- 2.15.p.m. Election of Credentials Committee
Election of Resolutions Committee
- 2.20.p.m. Greetings from Fraternal Delegates
- 3.20.p.m. Chairman's report
- 3.45.p.m. Tea
- 4.p.m. Discussion on Chairman's Report
- 5.p.m. Report of Credentials Committee
- 5.5.p.m. Nominations for National Executive Committee
- 5.10.p.m. Organisational & Financial Report.
- 5.40.p.m. Discussion on Organisational & Financial Report.
- 6.40.p.m. Conference adjourns for Dinner.
- 7.30.p.m. Resolutions
- 9.30.p.m. Matters for discussion
 - a) Population Registration
 - b) Federation of South African Women.
- 10.0.p.m. Nominations and Election of National Executive Committee
- 10.15.p.m. General.

ORGANISATIONAL REPORT.

This report must be limited largely by observations made in Johannesburg as news from other centres has been spasmodic. Other Regions will have the opportunity of adding to or amending accounts given in the report, at Conference.

An assessment of the organisational strength of the S.A. Congress of Democrats could almost be the story of the bannings over the last two years.

Shortly after the inception of the S.A.C.O.D. in September 1953 leading personnel in all the Regions were banned. However it is indicative of the quality of the membership of this organisation, particularly in Johannesburg where numbers are greater than in the other centres, that they could rise to the occasion and fill in the breach. The majority of members who joined in the face of ever increasing fascist legislation directed towards more and more apartheid, remained solidly with us and our stand for equal rights. Without accurate figures from all the regions I venture to say that membership has increased slightly over the last eighteen months. In Johannesburg a number of new recruits were made amongst the youth but there were casualties in the Eastern Branch which did not function after Rica's banning. Port Elizabeth was hard hit by the banning of Gus Coe and because of its limited experienced personnel there was a drop in the membership. Activity in this Region has almost been at a stand still over the last few months. Numbers of members in Durban, always disappointing, remained static. The Cape Western Region, whose C.O.D. activities were temporarily affected by bannings and election work for Lee-Warden, has over the last six months formed new branches, including a very active one at Claremont.

Membership of the S.A.C.O.D. has by no means exhausted itself but it may be recognized that because of the economic set-up of this country, where a minority of Europeans are enjoying comparatively good conditions at the expense of the Non-Europeans, recruiting cannot be on a mass scale.

It does not follow though that our impact on the political life of the country has been small. Working in conjunction with the other Congresses, the Congress of Democrats has kept before the European electorate the view that the days of undisputed White Baaskap are over, that the demands by the Non-Europeans for equality and justice are very real and impelling ones. Much of the work has been done through our pamphlets and leaflets, limited house to house canvassing, and work in many fields. I shall deal in detail with some of the campaigns embarked on by the C.O.D.

WESTERN AREAS PROTEST COMMITTEE.

in Johannesburg
C.O.D membership/ was very active in establishing local committees in the suburbs, where some good public meetings were held. Many members accompanied the Deputations organised by the Protest Committees to the Johannesburg City Council. The Durban Branch of Congress of Democrats helped to organise two public meetings around the Western Areas Campaign. Father Huddleston addressed one of these meetings which was very successful.

Anti-Bannings Committee.

Here again membership was active. The Hillbrow branch in Johannesburg was responsible for organising tables in the suburbs and centre of town, where thousands of postcards were signed protesting against the bannings.

Population Registration.

The Johannesburg Region of S.A.C.O.D. initiated a campaign against the taking of photographs for registration and brought out a leaflet which was well distributed. Valuable work was done at petition tables where the whole question of population registration was discussed with interested and agitated members of the public.

BANTU EDUCATION.

The Propaganda Committee attached to the N.E.C. must be congratulated on their timely publication of "Educating for Ignorance" Over 15000 of these pamphlets have been sold. The pamphlet has been warmly received by Non-Europeans in the remotest part of this country as well as by Europeans as far distant as London.

C.O.D. sent two delegates to the A.N.C. Conference which met in Port Elizabeth over Easter to discuss Bantu Education. As a consequence there has been much co-operation between this organisation and the committees established to fight Bantu Education and to provide cultural activities for children not attending schools.

Congress of the People.

Much work was done by C.O.D. members in all the Regions in preparing for this Congress, but insufficient headway was made in bringing the message to the Europeans. This is a difficult task but has to be faced. The Bellevue Branch/did^{Jhb.} some concentrated canvassing in buildings in their area and found people interested and willing to listen.

THE SENATE BILL.

A campaign calling for a National Day of Protest was initiated by the N.E.C. of C.O.D. who had attempted to co-operate with representatives from political parties and organisations in planning joint action against the Bill, but were unsuccessful. The Cape Western Region of S.A.C.O.D. also endeavoured to obtain the support of the Liberal Party in campaigning against the Bill but met with no success. Johannesburg and Cape Town Regions were compelled to go forward on their own to mobilise public opinion around a National Day of Protest. In Johannesburg a telegram campaign, urging Strauss to call for a National Day of Protest found a ready response from the man in the street, who showed a need for a guide to militant action against the Government. Over 1500 telegrams were sent from tables in Johannesburg. At a protest meeting called by the Mayor of Johannesburg, attended by thousands of people, C.O.D. Banners calling for a National Day of Protest were prominent. Ordinary people in the audience were demanding a Day of Protest in contrast to the 'wishy-washy' resolutions put forward by the organisers of the meeting.

A picture of Strauss's Protest Meeting in Pretoria showed a banner calling for a National Day of Protest in English and Afrikaans. This was not a C.O.D. banner. The idea had caught on.

Cape Western Region showed spirit and initiative by taking over an ineffective U.P. Meeting on the Parade, when they addressed the crowds from a loud speaker in a car. They were cheered by the crowd who showed their support for a National Day of Protest.

Durban Region attempted similar negotiation with other bodies to form a joint action committee and met with the same fate as Cape Town and Johannesburg. With the small forces at their disposal the Region found it difficult to proceed with a public campaign on its own. Their predicament can well be understood, but independent action requiring much public activity, when negotiations with other so-called allies fail, as they so often do, is something that will have to be tackled, by all our Regions and Branches.

To this end better contact must be established between Head Office and the Regions. Inactivity and isolation breeds depression and defeatism, and finance permitting Regions who require organisational assistance, should be given it.

There are a number of local issues taken up by the branches too numerous to be mentioned here, e.g. Cape Western's role in fighting the Land Tenure Board, their exposition of City Councillors acquiescing to Apartheid measures in buses and parks etc., Johannesburg Region's participation in Municipal election in support of progressive candidates opposed to Western Areas Removal Scheme etc. etc. C.O.D. membership are active in other organisations such as the Peace Movement, Federation of S.A. Women, Youth Festival and other organisations pledged to work for progress and against discrimination.

FINANCE.

submitted

A detailed report will be submitted by the treasurer but tribute must be paid to the Johannesburg Region in this report. After the banning of Rica in September 1954, leaving a very depleted Head Office Staff, rank and file membership in Johannesburg assumed the responsibility of carrying the organisation

financially. They shouldered the task of finance in a magnificent manner, and it was mainly through the efforts of the Johannesburg Region that there was a decided improvement in the finances of the organisation up until the end of April this year. May month found us in the cart again, but that is due to all emphasis being placed on C.O.P. finances, where again Johannesburg membership played a significant part. Much of the money raised in Johannesburg is done so by members who tax themselves with heavy subscriptions and money that might otherwise have gone into the coffers of African Theatres or such other 'inferior' entertainments, was spent on C.O.D. Functions through the persistence of the enthusiasts.

Other Regions must make a contribution in the coming year and help to make it possible to spend more money on organisational work.

Although this organisation has participated in many campaigns and activities, there has been a general weakness. We have sprung from one campaign to another without consolidating our work, without reviewing our potential, and making the necessary plans to cope with new contacts. Area work has been haphazard and unplanned, with the result that opportunities to educate and lead the people have been lost because of insufficient contact with the people. New young recruits are gladly welcomed to do jobs, such as leaflet distribution, ticket selling, etc. but not enough attention is paid to their political needs.

Reasons for these weaknesses are very apparent. Much has to be done with small numbers, overburdened with too many meetings and little time for careful analysis. Nevertheless these are mistakes and must be rectified.

The most encouraging factor about our membership is its sincerity, spirit and devotion to the fight for liberation. People who stand in our ranks today are men and women who have refused to compromise and appease the fascists because they believe in the future - a future that belongs to us. Let us plan and work wisely to achieve it.

Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by..... S.A.C.O. 31
Deur..... ~~W. K. K.~~
Te..... ~~Box 87. 110~~
Datum..... 27-9-551
Verwysings No. 4.....

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS TO BE HELD AT
JOHANNESBURG ON THE 24TH JUNE, 1955.

The S.A. Congress of Democrats came into being in September, 1953, to fulfil certain basic political needs; political needs which arose out of the fact that the Non-European peoples of South Africa had, through the Defiance Campaign, unequivocally staked their claim for equal and full democratic rights, thereby creating a situation which made it imperative for democratically-minded Europeans to mobilise themselves in support of a people's movement for freedom and equality.

It is the view of your National Executive Committee that the S. A. Congress of Democrats has largely fulfilled this requirements.

Co-operation with the Liberatory Movement.

To this end close liaison has been established with the liberatory movement. It can safely be said that in the minds of the people the S.A. Congress of Democrats is today completely identified with the Congress or Liberatory Movement.

Over the last twenty months the S.A.C.O.D. has taken its place as an equal partner with the A.N.C., S.A.I.C., and S.A.C.P.O. in the people's struggle for freedom. We have joined on all levels with these Organisations in campaigns to mobilise the people of S.A. against the tyrannical and oppressive measures of the present Government, and in their struggle for a democratic S.A.

Personnel :

During our short existence we have suffered more from banning notices in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act, in relation to our numbers than any other organisation. We have in this way lost the invaluable services of people like Jack and Rica Hodgson, Rusty Bernstein, Ruth and Joe Slovo, Louis Baker, Molly Fischer, Athol Thorne, Mary Butcher, Len Lee-Warden, and many

others. All these people were banned because they were in the forefront of the fight for freedom. The best way in which we can show our appreciation for the work done by them is to carry on with that work, and so prove to the Government that you cannot destroy a people's movement for freedom by discriminatory action against its leaders. The fight for freedom depends on the desire and will of the people to be free and not on individuals.

The Resist Apartheid Campaign.

In June 1954, a Resist Apartheid Committee was set up to campaign against apartheid legislation on which the S.A.C.O.D. had equal representation with the A.N.C., S.A.I.C. and S.A.C.P.O. This Committee's activities were mainly directed against the Western Areas Removal Scheme.

It was mainly as the result of the work of the C.O.D. that the Western Areas Protest Committees were formed which brought a large number of the European population of Johannesburg into the fight against this scheme. It was also as a result of the work done by the C.O.D. that Europeans throughout S.A. were aroused in protest against the Scheme.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE C.O.P.

The C.O.D. joined with the other Congresses on an equal basis in the sponsoring of the Congress of the People. C.O.D. personnel in all the main centres of S.A. have performed a gigantic task in relation to our numbers in the preparation for this conference. The Progressive Movement in S.A. has for a long time needed a manifesto in which its aims and objects are clearly and unequivocally stated. The Freedom Charter will give us such a document. It will rest with the Congress Movement to mobilise the people of S.A. in their demands for the realisation of its aims and objectives.

Elections for Native Representatives:

After extensive consultation between ourselves and the A.N.C. the National Council decided to abandon the original intention of nominating candidates for the election of Native Representatives for the constituencies of the Transkei and the Eastern Cape. This was done mainly as a result of

the strong opposition amongst the A.N.C. in those areas against the system of separate representation. C.O.D. however, nominated a candidate in Cape Western, where Mr. L. Lee-Warden was elected. The N.E.C. expresses its appreciation to him for the excellent work done during his short term of office.

Propaganda:

Realising the importance of political propaganda and the important role that the C.O.D. can play under the circumstances in this field, the N.E.C. has endeavoured to print as many pamphlets as possible during the last twenty months. The following pamphlets were published during this period: "The Threatened People", "Where the Devil Drives", "Educating for Ignorance" (2 editions). All these pamphlets were very well received, which proved the fertile field for this type of activity. Lack of funds prevented publication of more pamphlets.

The Propaganda Committee are to be congratulated on the comprehensive Speaker Notes which were prepared for discussion by regions and branches on the following issues :-

- Congress of Democrats
- Indians in South Africa
- Race and Intelligence
- National Liberation Struggles in Asia
- History of the Non-European Franchise.
- Western Areas Scheme.
- Suppression of Communism Act
- Segregation in South Africa
- Attack on Civil Liberties
- Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill.

Counter Attack, the organising bulletin, due to various difficulties, has not appeared regularly. It is however hoped to overcome this difficulty in future. Regions and branches should be urged to supply the editors regularly with branch news so that it can be a truly organising bulletin.

A memorandum on the proposed increases of rents in sub-economic housing schemes was prepared and presented to the City Council of Johannesburg.

Organisation:

During its short existence the C.O.D. has built up and maintained a solid nucleus of politically conscious and hard-working membership, and although the membership figures are not spectacular, it is regarded as satisfactory in the present political situation. This is especially true of Johannesburg and Cape Town. It is, however, felt that more could have been done by our Durban and Port Elizabeth branches. We have also failed to establish contact with progressive-minded people in centres other than the four mentioned.

THE TASK AHEAD.

Refusal by the masses of Non-European people and the small minority of progressive Europeans to acquiesce has so far been the only stumbling block which prevented the Government from turning S.A. into a Fascist Police State in the full sense of the word. The C.O.D. has played an important part in this struggle. We will have to continue doing so without fear and with increased determination and vigour in the knowledge that we have the people on our side.

The future of S.A. must inevitably be decided in a struggle between the Nationalist Party with its policy of Baaskap on the one hand, and the liberatory movement with its policy of full and equal democratic rights on the other hand. The middle of the road groups are fast disintegrating, and this disintegrating process will gain momentum as the conflict sharpens. The oppressive apartheid measures of the Government can only have one result, and that is to increase the desire of the people to rid themselves of the yoke, and will lead to an intensification of the struggle on their part. This in turn must lead to increased police state measures. In such a situation the middle of the road groups will be forced to take sides. The proportion of this group which comes over to the side of progress will to a large extent

depend on the work done by ourselves. It is to meet such a situation that we must gear our forces and Organisation.

Organisation:

It is unrealistic to expect a spectacular increase in our membership within the near future. The Organisation must, however, immediately make an all-out effort to mobilise its potential into active and working branches. These branches should constantly carry out a canvas for prospective members on a selective basis. The selective method of canvas and recruiting is preferred to a general and overall canvass of the European population, which is beyond our resources, and from which the result will be negligible in proportion to the work required.

Political Education.

There are large numbers of Europeans throughout S.A. who, although not ready for active membership of the C.O.D. are nevertheless prepared to support our organisation on specific political issues, while others are sufficiently politically conscious to listen to and debate our point of view. C.O.D. branches and members must establish and maintain constant contact with such people. This can be done through discussion groups and by drawing such people into political campaigns on specific issues. The large number of Europeans in Johannesburg who were mobilised in protest against the Western Areas Removal Scheme is a good example of what can be achieved in this way.

Liaison with other Organisations:

We must continue to join with the other Congresses and S.A.C.P.O. in all struggles affecting the masses of the people. The people can only be mobilised for freedom and democracy through struggle, and no issue must be regarded as too small or insignificant for our Organisation to give and maintain a clear and unequivocal lead.

The Working class must of necessity be in the vanguard of the people's struggle. Our organisation has in the past paid too little attention to this aspect. All our branches should detail personnel whose

task it should be to assist the Trade Unions and especially the African Trade Unions in their work. We should also offer and give assistance to the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions to organise and educate the masses of unorganised workers.

Peace:

The progress of the world depends on whether the people can enforce their will for peace. C.O.D. must play its part in assisting the S.A. Peace Council in its work to mobilise the people of S.A. as an effective force against war.

Finance:

The ability to raise enough money to conduct the affairs of a political organisation is closely linked with its state of organisation and the degree to which it inspires its members with determination to achieve its objectives. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for organisations, such as ours, to raise money outside the ranks of its own membership.

A high level of political understanding and activity on branch level and the linking of all such activities with the raising of finance must, therefore, be our main source of raising the money required for carrying on our work.

The fight for freedom and democracy in S.A. demands fearless and determined struggle in which there is no room for despondency and despair. Neither is there any real reason for despair. It is true that the Government is riding on the crest of the wave, but let us remember that their utmost potential comprises less than one-fifth of the people of S.A. It is also true that inherently there is no difference between the fascism of Strijdom and that of Hitler or Mussolini. They, however, had the support and acquiescence of the people of their country, something which Strijdom will never get from the masses of the people in S.A. World opinion and political development all over the world is against them and is on our side. The days of Colonialism and its accompanying oppression of peoples are waning fast; a development which cannot leave S.A. unaffected. Theirs is a creed of oppression and wrong. Ours is one of freedom and right. Who can doubt which will be victorious?

tribute to ~~banned~~ banned leaders,

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE OF

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S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS HELD 24th. JUNE 1955.

1. POLITICAL)- Restrictions on civil liberties.

I

Conference is opposed to all forms of inequality and racial discrimination; all laws and practices which are undemocratic and discriminate against the majority of the people of South Africa; laws which debar people because of their colour from participating on an equal basis in the life of our country. This conference is opposed to all these laws and pledges itself to work unceasingly for the defeat of such fascist laws and ideologies and those quarters responsible for their perpetration. We draw particular attention to the laws which follow:-

(i) APPELLATE DIVISION QUORUM ACT.

Conference condemns the Appellate Division Quorum Act as an attempt to pack the Bench with Nationalist supporters and to undermine further the integrity and authority of the Courts. It sees in the passing of this Act a further attempt to deprive the coloured people of their already limited vote and an attempt to make further inroads on the Entrenched Clauses of the South Africa Act with the eventual aim of setting up a Broederbond Republic.

(ii) CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE ACT.

Conference views with grave concern the passing of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act and condemns the wide powers given to the police as undemocratic and a threat to the privacy and civil liberties of all South Africans.

(iii) GROUP AREAS AMENDMENT ACT

Conference vigorously opposes the Group Areas Act and resolves to assist actively those organisations at present engaged in opposing this act. Conference further condemns subsequent legislation to deprive the people of their rights before the Land Tenure Board.

(iv) SENATE ACT.

Conference condemns the latest attempt to rig the Parliamentary system so as to create a two thirds majority of the Nationalist Party and thereby undermine the provisions of the South Africa Act and introduce naked Fascism into South Africa. Conference therefore condemns the Act to reconstitute the Senate and reaffirms its views that the only effective safeguard against fascism is a fully democratic Government based on the universal adult franchise for all South Africans regardless of race, colour or sex.

(v) NATIVE RESETTLEMENT ACT.

Conference condemns the Native Resettlement Act and takes strong exception to the Government's Action in forcibly removing thousands of people from their homes in the Western Areas of Johannesburg and the wholesale removal of African women in the Western Cape. We support the people in their opposition to the implementation of this Act. Together with the Group Areas Amendment Act Conference sees in the actions of the Government an attempt to drive the people into ghettos and so to lay the basis for a racially divided police-state.

(vi) DEPARTURE FROM THE UNION REGULATIONS ACT.

Conference condemns the action of the Government in imposing further restrictions on the freedom of movement of the South African people and in particular condemns legislation which for the first time makes it a punishable offence for persons wishing to depart from the Union to leave without a permit or passport issued by the Minister of the Interior.

(vii) NATIVE (URBAN AREAS) ACT

Conference condemns the Native (Urban Areas) Act which imposes severe restrictions on African domestic servants employed in flats and European residential areas. Conference deplores the wide powers given to Native Commissioners under the Act, particularly those powers which enable them to order Africans to "work Institutions" without a proper trial or hearing.

viii) POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT:

Conference condemns the extension of the iniquitous pass to other groups in South Africa, and therefore sees in the Population Registration Act a threatened curtailment of the freedom of the South African people.

Conference calls for the repeal of these and other Acts which place Fascist and undemocratic restrictions on the people.

(ix) The Suppression Acts.

Conference calls for the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Acts, the Riotous Assemblies Act, The Criminal Law amendment Act, and other Acts which have the effect of curtailment of the freedom of the press, the freedom of speech, and the right of assembly of democratic South Africans. It condemns the bannings unjust sentences and brutal deportations of persons convicted under the Suppression Acts.

Conference further condemns the clandestine efforts of the Government to introduce concentration camps for their political opponents.

EDUCATION.

a) Bantu Education:

Conference condemns the forcing upon African children of the vicious poison of the Bantu Education Act, which is designed for the purpose of indoctrinating African children to accept a position of permanent inferiority, and supports the active opposition of the African parents who withdrew their children from schools. Conference resolves to give the fullest active support to whatever measures are adopted by the African National Congress to provide alternative education for African children.

b) Fort Hare

Conference condemns the fascist action of the authorities in closing down Fort Hare University College, and dispersing the students to their homes, for in this drastic mass punishment carried out with police assistance, Conference sees a further attempt to break the increasing resistance of the African people by attacks on their youth receiving higher education, and by the selection of entrants to the University on the basis of political screening, and urges that all students should be readmitted and thereafter an impartial commission of enquiry into the grievances of the students should be appointed, on which the students should be represented.

c) University Apartheid

Conference totally rejects the principle of segregated University education, and supports the struggle of the student body against the introduction of University apartheid, and the combined attempts of the Government to exclude non-European students from the non-segregated Universities. Conference deploras the threat of the Government to ignore the report of the Holloway Commission which, despite the arbitrary limitation of the terms of reference recommended that University segregation was not a practical possibility.

d) Language Ordinance

Conference condemns the language ordinance which deprives parents of their fundamental right to decide in what language their children are to be educated. Conference is of the opinion that this language ordinance is politically motivated and therefore resolves to take every opportunity of making the European population conscious of this aspect and to organise public opposition as far as may be possible.

3. THE TRADE UNIONS

Appreciating that the workers as a class have the greatest interest in the development of full democracy in our country, and that well organised and militant trade unions will play the most important role in the liberation of all oppressed peoples, the with-holding

the with-holding of labour being the most important weapon the movement has, Conference welcomes the establishment of the truly democratic multi-racial trade union body and expresses the hope that the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions will prove an effective means of uniting all sections of the working class into one powerful trade union organisation, capable of defending the rights and improving the living conditions of all the working people of South Africa.

It is resolved that:

- (a) All members of the S.A. Congress of Democrats who are eligible should be members of their trade union;
- (b) All members shall assist any section of the workers in their struggle for just demands;
- (c) As many members as possible shall give technical and other assistance to the S.A.C.T.U., its affiliated bodies and all sections of unorganised workers;
- (d) As an organisation we shall co-operate fully with the S.A.C.T.U.;
- (e) The organisation must make greater efforts to work amongst and influence the white workers and to this end it is suggested that a special pamphlet appealing to this section be published for sale at places of work and at Union meetings.

B. LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE TRADE UNIONS.

Conference condemns the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill and Native Settlement of Disputes Act as a means of forcing apartheid on the Trade Union Movement and thereby splitting and dividing the working class into factional racial groups. Conference pledges support to those organisations engaged in opposing these apartheid measures.

4. PEACE AND THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Barely ten years have elapsed since the end of the most devastating war the world has ever known. Mankind has only just recovered from the last holocaust and already military groupings are being set up in Europe.

The arms drive and the establishment of bases on foreign territories together with the policy of colonialism, is increasing international tension. The dangerous revival of German militarism has now become a reality.

Today the threat of atomic war is the shadow that darkens the lives of men and women throughout the world. An example of this is the decision of the NATO ministers to organise for atomic war.

We in South Africa are not remote from the war of danger. We are in fact close to the threatened world war, since the production of uranium turns our towns into targets.

We, as democrats, as believers in peace and progress, and with a firm faith in the future of mankind therefore resolve:-

- (I) To support the campaign of the Peace Council for the immediate outlawing of all weapons of mass destruction, for the reduction of all armed forces and for the prohibition of war propaganda.
- (II) To support the policy of peaceful co-existence, security and independence of all states; the replacement of military alliances by peace pacts and the settlement of international disputes by negotiation.
- (III) To condemn the rearming of Western Germany as a serious threat to world peace.
- (IV) To work for the inclusion of the People's Republic of China in UNO and for its recognition as a major world power.
- (V) To support the struggles of the peoples of Africa and Asia in their liberatory struggle by demanding a round table conference with the leaders of the Resistance Movement and the withdrawal of foreign troops.

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(VII) To oppose the use of South Africa's natural resources for war preparations and to insist that uranium be used for peaceful purposes only.

(VIII) Conference extends its fullest support to the World Peace Council and hails the Helsinki Conference and the World Conference of Mothers as great steps towards world peace.

Conference urges all members of the C.O.D. to support the campaign for signature to the petition against the preparations for atomic war.

(IX) to keep before us in our work and general propoganda, the urgent and pressing needs of peace, so that work for peace becomes part of our struggle in South Africa for democracy, equal rights for all, racial harmony and for human happiness.

5. EDUCATION AND PROPOGANDA

Conference attaches the utmost importance to the dissemination of political propoganda and emphasises the which can and must be played by our organisation in this field. Conference RESOLVES that the Propoganda Committee be instructed to intensify its efforts in this field ...

Conference urges all regions and branches :

- a) to make full use of the lecture notes prepared by the N.E.C.
- b) to prepare and organise discussions as political education
- c) to organise study groups and study material on general politics to raise the political understanding of the members.

Conference recognises the vital role played by "NEW AGE" as the only truly democratic newspaper in the country.

Conference recommends:

- a) that regular financial assistance be given to NEW AGE through regular personal contribution of the members
- b) that specific functions be organised from time to time for NEW AGE
- c) that branches undertake to sell NEW AGE as regard this a one of their activities.

6. YOUTH WORK

Conference attaches the greatest importance to the establishment of a strong progressive youth movement. Conference calls upon all regions to organise youth groups.

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① 2 copies
MINUTES OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS
HELD AT KHOLVAD HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG, ON FRIDAY, 24th JUNE, 1955 at 2.30 p.m.

X OPENING: The National President, Mr. B. Byleveldt, welcomed the delegates to the First Annual Conference of the S.A. Congress of Democrats. He stated that Chief Luthuli had sent a message to open the Conference and called upon Mr. Hutchinson to read the message, which he did.

Mr. Byleveldt said that we were highly honoured to have received such a fine message.

ELECTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Having been duly moved and seconded J. Anderson & A. Sachs were elected.

X ELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Having been duly moved and seconded R. Press, N. Levy and B. Turok were elected.

X FRATERNAL GREETINGS: Mr. Tshunungwa from the African National Congress wished our Conference, meeting on the eve of the Congress, every success. He said that at a time when the fascist regime was reaching its highest peak he felt confident that the Congress of Democrats will stand with the other partners in the Congress Movement.

H.M.

X Dr. Mosea of the S.A. Indian Congress said that we were meeting in a fascist police state. The Nazi Government is passing measure after measure to oppress the people, but all these acts make us more determined in our struggle.

X Mr. Stanley Lollan in bringing greetings from the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation said that while our organisations may be small in numbers at present, because of the righteousness of our cause we shall ultimately emerge victorious.

X Mrs. Helen Joseph on behalf of the S.A. Federation of Women said that the struggle of women for their rights was part of the struggle of all the oppressed people.

X Dr. R. Press (?) for the S.A. Peace Council pledged their support wherever possible, stating that the Peace Movement and the S.A. Congress of Democrats were indissolubly linked.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman delivered his report as circulated.

Mr. B. Turok stated that the Report had been read with great interest by the Branches in the Cape and they congratulated the Chairman on it.

The Report was then adopted.

After the tea interval it was agreed to adjourn ~~proceed~~ the Conference to dinner time when it was hoped that the attendance would be more representative.

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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:

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