

NEW AGE

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"We Want Good Relations With Basutoland"

MANDELA REPLIES TO MOKHEHLE

B.C.P. President Has Broken Pact With S.A. Leaders

JOHANNESBURG.

THE attack on the leadership of the banned African National Congress and on individual Congressmen made recently by the President of the Basutoland Congress Party Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle (reported in New Age last week) was denounced by the underground African leader Mr. Nelson Mandela in a written statement that reached the New Age office on Monday morning this week.

Mr. Mokhehle's speeches to the BCP Youth League conference were "a flagrant violation of vital decisions agreed upon by all of us in the common interests of the toiling masses of our respective countries,"

he said.

Mr. Mandela discloses in this statement that the BCP President had important discussions with Mr. Mandela and some of his colleagues only eight months ago.

"We then agreed to work for complete unity and harmony between our people and for full co-operation in the common struggle against white supremacy and colonial exploitation.

"He has apparently forgotten that in pledging the fraternal support of his organisation for the all-in African talks that were subsequently held in Pietermaritzburg he had strongly condemned the naive and fractional activities of those he now praises." (Mr. Mandela here obviously refers to the support for PAC expressed by Mr. Mokhehle.)

WORK FOR UNITY

The Mandela statement goes on: "For our own part we are committed to fixed principles of political struggle and we will continue to honour and respect these decisions.

"We will strive ever more resolutely to work for greater unity and understanding between the people of our country and those of Basutoland. We will resist most strongly the activities of those who seek to sow discord amongst our organisations and who plan to compromise with the forces of exploitation."

On his personal position, also the subject of an attack by Mr. Mokhehle, Mr. Mandela says: "Two months ago I announced that I would not leave South Africa. Not for one single moment have I done so and I have no intentions whatsoever of breaking this pledge.

"The statement made by Mr. Mokhehle that I fled to Maseru after the May strike is devoid of all truth and most reckless."

Duma Nokwe Cables Kenyatta

JOHANNESBURG.

MR. Duma Nokwe, former secretary-general of the banned African National Congress, cabled Jomo Kenyatta on his release from exile last week.

The cable said "Congratulations on your release. Your courageous resistance to oppressor's persecution has been magnificent. Your unflinching stand for the legitimate aspirations of the Kenya peoples has inspired us.

"We are confident that you will lead Kenya to complete freedom and prosperity as you did through the dark days of colonialism and oppression."

OLIVER TAMBO IN TANGANYIKA



Prominent leaders of the people of Tanganyika were at the airport to greet South African United Front leader Mr. Oliver Tambo (seen above giving the Afrika salute) when he arrived at the airport at Dar es Salaam to attend the Second Pan-African Youth Seminar recently. On Mr. Tambo's right is Mr. Nsilo Nswai, Tanganyika's Minister of Commerce and Industry, and on his left local United Front representative Mr. J. J. Hadebe (carrying Mr. Tambo's coat) and (partly obscured) Mr. Edward Barongo, the assistant secretary-general of the Tanganyika African National Union, the ruling party of the country.

A large contingent of South African ANC members, men, women and children, also drove to meet Mr. Tambo at the airport, where they carried placards of welcome and sang freedom songs. After holding a short press conference, Mr. Tambo addressed the crowd and stressed that the African people were determined to carry on their fight until freedom was won.

The Prime Minister of Tanganyika, Mr. Julius Nyerere, in an historic speech at the Youth Seminar itself, declared his intention of keeping his country neutral in the East-West cold war and added: "I believe that no under-developed country can afford to be anything but 'socialist.' I think, therefore, that we in Africa are bound to organise ourselves on a socialist pattern. But let us at least provide another corrective to socialism, and prevent the wealth we are beginning to build in our own countries from being used for the purpose of acquiring national power and prestige. Let us make sure that it is used solely for raising the standard of our people. Let us not allow the wealth we are creating to live side by side with poverty, and tolerate that poverty."

Hundreds Of Delegates Prepare For Great Women's Conference

HUNDREDS of women in all centres of South Africa are busy preparing for the conference of the Federation of South African Women which will be held in Port Elizabeth on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3.

The discussions at conference will centre around papers which will be presented by four main speakers—African, Coloured, European and Indian.

The speakers will deal with "the disabilities of women," with special reference to "disabilities directly due to the present system of racial discrimination."

Arising from the discussions, it is expected that the conference will direct its attention towards:

- the need for a democratic constitution;
- ways and means of bringing about the redress of the disabilities of women;
- the calling of a national convention representative of all racial groups in the country.

In order to pinpoint the disabilities the main speakers will deal with various aspects of the disabilities of women as "they affect women of all races" within the framework of the country's policies.

The programme of the conference is as follows:

Saturday afternoon, 2.9.61:

There will be an official opening by a prominent guest speaker: the Presidential Address by Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi; a paper will be read and discussed. In the evening there will

be a reception in the Show Hall.

Sunday morning, 3.9.61:

The Federation Secretarial report will be presented and discussed. All conference routine work will be dealt with at this session.

Sunday afternoon:

Three papers will be read and discussed, and conference will pass resolutions.



HELEN JOSEPH—Secretary.



LILIAN NGOYI—President.

THE FIGHTING SPIRIT

JOHANNESBURG.

AMSDEN Slomko, veteran member of the now-banned African National Congress and hard-working seller of New Age, has just spent 6 weeks in Modder B jail.

Mr. Slomko, who is 78 years old and who has been in prison four times since he started selling our paper at the beginning of this year, confused the date of his trial on an incitement charge. Result—on June 20 he was arrested for contempt of court and sentenced to 20 days.

At the end of June, after a remission for good behaviour, Mr. Slomko was due to be released.

But the Chief Warden told him that he had better stay where he was until the original incitement case came up again on August 22—nearly two months later.

For six weeks no one knew what had happened to him, as he is a bachelor and lives alone. Finally, after an urgent application for him to be produced and a fresh bail order,

Amsden Slomko was released on August 9, looking thin and ill-fed but quite cheerful.

"Will you stop selling New Age?" asked our manager.

"Of course not. There is a great deal of work to be done," said Amsden. "Where are my papers?"

Well, all we can say is: that's the magnificent spirit that keeps New Age alive. Come on readers, follow Mr. Slomko's example and play your part in the fight for freedom. Help sell New Age and send that donation today.

Last Week's Donations:

Cape Town:

G.M.J. 90c, Paddy R100, Anon. 25c, R.K.B.P. R2, A.F. 90c, Teeth R26, Blanche (K & L) R2, Unity R40, Gwen (R) R1.

Johannesburg:

Jumble Sale R59, Rebecca (in memory of Jimmy) R10, Flowers R10, Old Friend R4, Greenside R4, Parkview R2, M & M R10, Colls. R5.

Port Elizabeth:

Babs R1.05, Workers' Friend R18, Wagon Wheels R16, Doc R2.

Grand Total: R314.10.

S.W.A. Danger To World Peace

The so-called South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eric Louw, says the allegation that the situation in South West Africa is a threat to world peace is untrue and ridiculous.

In the view of the South West Africa People's Organisation the situation in South West Africa is a threat to peace and security in South West Africa and in the African continent in general. The racist minority white settler government which rules South West Africa with brute force has denied the Africans all rights, and extended the policy of apartheid and Bantu education methods of white supremacy and enslaving African minds. Apartheid and segregated policies are racist dictatorship which are depriving African children of adequate educational facilities, forbidding trade union membership to Africans, and subjecting Africans to carry passes and reduce them to a source of cheap labour.

South West Africa is a rich country but the wealth of the country is exploited by the white settlers while the Africans are living in poverty and misery.

The answer to Eric Louw's statement is that the struggle shall continue. We shall never move an inch until freedom and independence are achieved in South West Africa.

SAM NUJOMA
President SWAPO

West To Blame For Bloodshed In Africa

Thank you for Hilda Bernstein's excellent articles on China and your inspiring article "Soviet Plan for Future" (New Age, 10/8/61). The socialist example is being eagerly watched by the colonial and semi-colonial people of Asia, Africa and South America.

The situation in the "Western World" also provides the people with an example; but what an example! Rising unemployment, rising prices, stagnation of industry and culture, empty bluster and bloody repression in Angola and Algeria that can only be compared with the worst excesses of the German and Japanese fascists during World War II.

What must be clearly understood is that the blood-baths now taking place in Algeria and Angola are the responsibility of the entire "Western World" and the USA in particular. Whilst no American soldiers are actually killing Algerians and Angolans, the killings (on which subject the Western newspapers are remarkably quiet) are only possible because of the existence of NATO which the USA supports to the hilt.

Sekou Toure in Guinea and Fidel Castro in South America have proved that freedom is not merely the acquisition of a flag and a Prime Minister . . . it is the possession and ownership of the means of production by the people.

"MASHAYINQAWE"

Durban.

A Time To Fight

In forging events, humanity need not be guaranteed success or even that political consolation prize "security." We need to feel that the cards are not stacked against us and that the issue will depend to a decisive extent on our own acts and efforts.

We need wisdom, knowledge and sustained courage to combat the decades of oppression in the Black man's hell where humanity is driven to suicide by uniformed beasts. The course we have chosen has faults and entails casualties, but they are the invariable concomitants of life and growth. We prefer it to rigor mortis.

BENNECK MEPHO

Zululand.

EDITORIAL

VERWOERD ON THE RAMPAGE

DR. VERWOERD, like all Nationalists these days, has a split personality, and no doubt this element of schizophrenia contributes to the impression of two-facedness which he creates in his public utterances.

Speaking at the Nationalist Party Congress last week, he had two tasks to perform. On the one hand, he had to satisfy his people that the Nationalist Party still stood firmly for White Supremacy. On the other hand, he had to try to satisfy the outside world that the Nationalist Party did not stand for Oppression.

An impossible task? Not for Dr. Verwoerd.

To his own people he said: "Let me be very clear about this: When I talk of the nation of South Africa I talk of the White people of South Africa . . . I see the Nationalist Party today—and I say it openly—as a party which stands for the preservation of the White man, of White Government in South Africa."

Clear enough. That should send any good Nationalist home happy that there will be as much discrimination as ever in the future. But what about the "bad" Nationalists, and the outside world, who are a little touchy about discrimination these days?

To them Dr. Verwoerd said: "If the policy of separate development is worked out to its logical conclusion, there will be no more discrimination. The Nationalist Party says: Baasskap for the Whites among the Whites and baasskap for the Bantu among the Bantu."

How the Bantu are going to have baasskap in their own areas short of complete independence neither Dr. Verwoerd nor any other Nationalist has yet been able to explain. After all, Africans are not allowed to sit in the White man's Parliament which makes the laws which apply in the reserves. The highest post to which the Black man can aspire under Nationalist rule is that of chief policeman or magistrate—and even that is a long way off in the future. HE CAN NEVER BE A LAWMAKER. And who ever heard of a baas who was not allowed to make laws?

Die Burger at any rate found all Dr. Verwoerd's subtleties a bit too much for it. Casting aside all restraint, and printing what it no doubt thought the Prime Minister was really trying to say, it headlined its report of his speech: "Nationalist Party a Front for Maintaining White Domination." At least we are in no doubt where they stand.

Our answer to Verwoerd's slogan is: You won't disarm your critics by offering the Blacks baasskap in their own areas or anywhere else. The whole concept of baasskap is based on racialism and discrimination, and implies domination of one group by another.

The Blacks have suffered enough from baasskap not to wish to impose it on anyone else. They have declared over and over again in documents such as the Freedom Charter, that, instead of baasskap, what they want is EQUALITY, which is the only guarantee that discrimination will in fact disappear once and for all.

They don't want two South Africas with a barbed wire fence and race hatred between them. They want one country, one nation, one common citizenship in which all can join without any form of distinction based on race, creed, colour, class or place of origin.

Birthday Greetings to Dr. Dadoo

On September 5 this year, Dr. Yusuf Dadoo will be 52 years old. For some years now his birthday has been observed by the oppressed people in this country, for ever since he returned to South Africa after qualifying as a doctor, his life has been interwoven with the freedom struggle.

Since 1953, because of the banning order against him, he has been prevented from personally taking part in the functions that were organised to mark the occasion. In spite of that September 5 was remembered in oppressed peoples' homes in many parts of South Africa. Through their organisations and leaders, by means of individual messages, at public and private gatherings the people have expressed their love and affection for this worthy son of South Africa.

September 5 this year finds Yusuf Dadoo some thousands

of miles away from our shores, strenuously working as always, in the service of the cause to which he has dedicated his life.

We feel it should be an occasion for us to express our appreciation to him and through him to the South African United Front for the magnificent way in which they are carrying on work abroad. We therefore appeal to you to send a message to him. His address is:—

31a John Adam St.,
London W.C.2,
ENGLAND.

Should you prefer us to forward the message to him please let us have it as soon as possible. In any event we would like to have a copy of your message.

Yours for Freedom,
FARID ADAMS,
Secretary,
Transvaal Indian Youth
Congress.



A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY LA GUMA

It was with great shock that I read of the tragic and untimely death of Comrade Jimmy la Guma.

Might I take the opportunity of saying that the death of Mr. la Guma has removed from our ranks one of South Africa's staunchest and most militant fighters for democracy. He was a great socialist and a man of sharp intellect and immense qualities, yet remained also a simple, honest and hard-working working man.

I can well remember the days when he always brought reason and sanity into many of our little quarrels which now and then arose in the movement. Without his advice I think many of us would have gone astray in our fight for a decent life in our country. I am just sorry I could not attend his funeral.

Great men like Mr. la Guma are very few. Don't you think it would be but a small token of the immense respect with which we regarded comrade la Guma if a Jimmy la Guma Memorial Fund were to be set up? This fund could be used to enable keen and struggling students in the movement to further their studies. Seeing that comrade la Guma devoted most of his attention to the labour movement, it would be a fitting tribute if emphasis were placed on this aspect in the memorial fund. I am prepared to approach various people here in London for assistance if you and others think the idea a good one.

Let me also take the opportunity of protesting very vigorously against the arbitrary banning of Reg. September and Alex la Guma. This banning of course will not stop these two fighters for freedom from continuing their relentless battle against the forces of reaction.

The Nationalists have reached their last days. Their sun is setting and ours—the sun of freedom—is waxing. The economic boycott is gaining more and more here in England. Sooner or later the effects will be felt by the racists who are driving our country to

doom.

Once more let me record my unswerving belief that in our lifetime we will have a free South Africa where a man will be judged on merit and not colour.

LIONEL MORRISON

London.

A Great Loss

We regret to learn about the death of Mr. James la Guma, father of Alex. The news came to us as a great shock, when we think of the work he has done for the Coloured people.

The death of this hero and "son of Africa" will be a great loss to the Coloured people and to the Congress movement as well.

Although we are far away, we sincerely sympathise with the la Gumas as well as with the CPC.

We hope that his place in the struggle will not remain vacant and that very soon there will be another la Guma ready to take his place as a leader. He was always willing to answer the call of the Congress Alliance. We repeat: his untimely death will be irreparable to the struggle ahead.

J. BUSA & E. TOLLIE
Kingwilliamstown.

Keep Our Buses And Trains Clean

Can something not be done to improve and keep the different bus services for Africans clean and tidy? Also the railway buses and trains serving Africans are as dirty as a pig sty.

The most neglected transport system in South Africa is the one reserved for use by Africans only. These filthy, dirty, littered things are a breeding ground for terrible diseases like TB etc. Those responsible should see to it that we Africans get a square deal for our money. Why concentrate on "White" transport only?

Humiliated son of Africa
D. MADI

Alexandra.

Third Strike In Ten Days, And This Time BLIND WORKERS ARE SACKED

Another Institution Uses Granite Policies

DURBAN.
YET another strike for higher wages—the third in ten days—has resulted in the suspension of the strikers and the stock allegation by the authorities that this strike, like the previous ones, was “politically inspired” and the work of “agitators.”

On this occasion the strikers were 82 African semi-blind and nine other workers employed at the Bantu Blind Centre at Westville

near Durban. On Monday morning, when the workers reapplied for work, 13 workers were dismissed. Three were taken by the police to be deported to their areas, one was taken to Claremont township by his wife and the remainder were told to find their own way home.

Trouble has been brewing at the Centre for some while. Most of the workers earn the miserly sum of £3.4.0. per month with board and lodging which the Blind Society estimates costs £6.6.0. per month. A minority of the workers earn

between £10 and £18 per month. Two others receive £32.0.0 per month.

According to the President's report of the activities of the Bantu Blind Society for the year 1960, the annual turnover on the sale of products such as shark nets, baskets etc., is £10,000.

Workers interviewed by New Age allege that they are sometimes fined as much as £2 per month if they are found “guilty” of having had arguments amongst themselves. They state that on occasions these fines are deducted from their wages over a period of two years.

Other allegations are that the workers are often insulted and that their living conditions are not good enough.

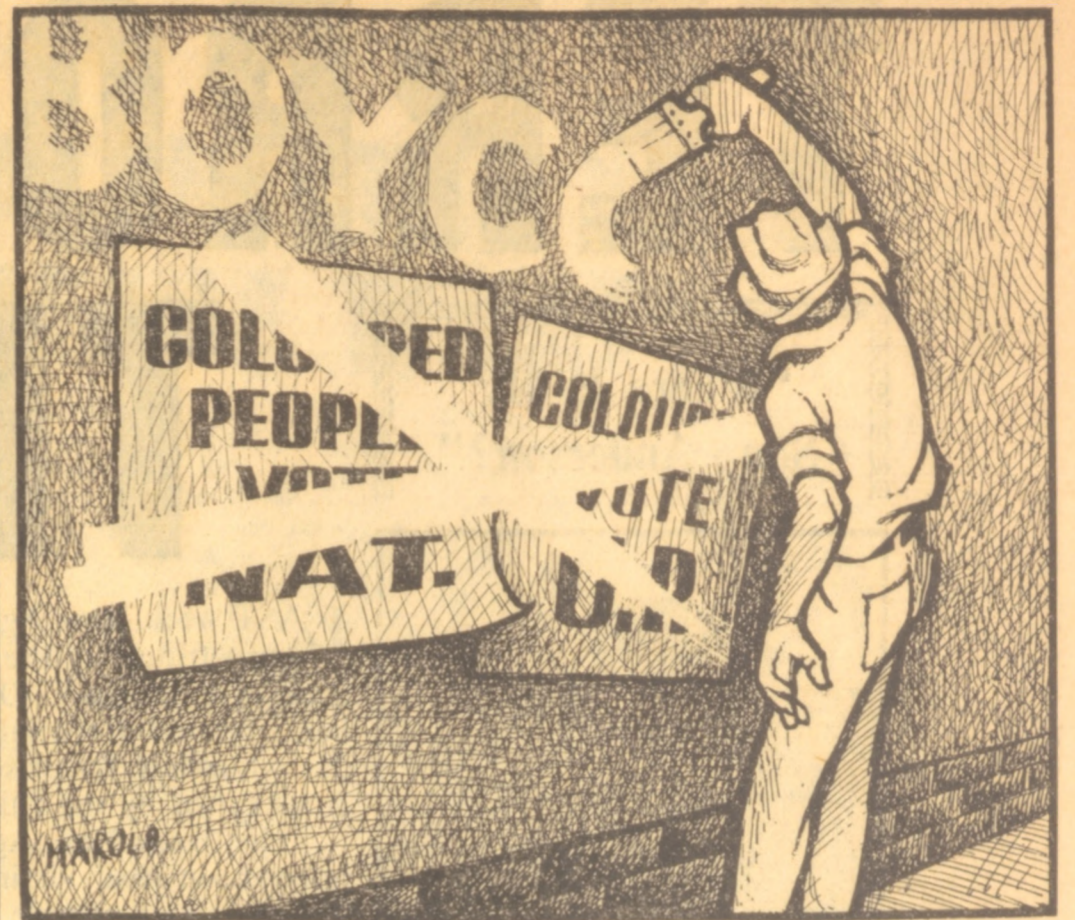
The Government subsidised Natal Bantu Blind Society has only one African on its list of officials—Zulu Paramount Chief, Cyprian. In his capacity as one of the five patrons he has attended very few meetings.

Several workers interviewed by New Age allege that when they approached the President of the Society, Mr. H. N. Cleverley, with a request for higher wages, he was abusive. On one occasion two representatives of the workers elected at the request of the President were called agitators and drunkards.

The two spokesmen—Mr. Bob Msitshane and Mr. Enoch Mpanza—were told that they should be grateful for having a job as they were blind. In Tshaka's time, they would not have been able to join the Zulu army.

Provoked beyond endurance the workers went on strike. They realise that their future is indeed dark, owing to their disability, but as one worker put it: “For how long could we put up with these insults? Our genuine demand for a decent living wage is always met with insults.”

“Does a blind man require less to live than a person with ordinary sight?” he asked.



MORE EXPULSIONS FROM SCHOOLS

Bantu Education Cracking

THE massive breakdown in the whole system of Bantu Education was highlighted again this week by more reports of expulsions, increased activity by the Special Branch among students, and the appointment of paid students to spy on their fellows.

AT TURFLOOP TRIBAL COLLEGE:

THE Rector, Mr. E. P. Potgieter has appointed one paid student from each hostel to act as contact man between him and the rest of the students.

These students, who are known as Primarii, from the Latin for ‘First’, receive an annual salary of £25.

Officially their job is to report sick students and see that each hostel is properly maintained in so far as electricity, hot water, window panes etc., are concerned.

Unofficially their job is to snoop on the students and report any ‘political’ talk to the Rector at once.

At the beginning of this year, when SRC elections were held, the Rector stipulated that the Primarii should have the right to stand for election. **NOT ONE PRIMARIUS WAS ELECTED.**

The SRC has not yet been given an office, and is forced to hold its meetings in a dormitory. It is not allowed to hold any public meetings without the personal permission of the Rector.

Its decision to have a map of Africa as its badge was vetoed by Mr. Potgieter, who demanded that a ‘kafferboom’ emblem be used instead.

It appears as though the Rector has successfully intimidated this Council elected by the students, because it made no attempt to investigate the expulsion of two second-year science students last term and one woman student at the beginning of the new term. Members of the SRC have said: ‘Be careful how you speak to him (the Rector). He will be angry.’

On May 29 the Primarii and the SRC men were the first to go to lectures.

There has already been one resignation from the SRC. The Correspondence Secretary resigned because he said that all letters addressed to the SRC were being opened before delivery.

AT FORT HARE:

TWO students decided to discontinue their studies after an inquisition into the activities of all the members of the Uni-

versity at the time of the May demonstrations.

The two students—Mr. S. Choabi and Mr. J. Bosaletse—were taking their B.A. Honours degree in Philosophy, and were the only members of their post-graduate class.

Their departure was a culmination of a week's bitter attack on them by their lecturer who, New Age learns, accused them during the lecture period of inciting the students against the authorities.

Matters came to a head as a result of a mass meeting of students on August 2. The students passed a strongly worded resolution protesting to the authorities against their indifference to police interference at the College.

Some students had been subjected to interrogation by the Special Branch who alleged that the Fort Hare students and they in particular had engineered the second closure of Lovedale.

LATER: In a bid to prevent the closing of the Philosophy Dept., the Fort Hare authorities persuaded Mr. S. Choabi to withdraw his resignation.

AT KILNERTON near Pretoria:

Ten students have been expelled after they protested against a reduction in the bread ration. Mr. C. W. Prinsloo, Chief Information Officer of the Department of Bantu Administration, said in a statement on the expulsions: “In any institution for higher learning one would expect students to conform to the rules of discipline.” What has discipline to do with hunger?

At INDALANI COLLEGE:

The parents of expelled students have submitted a memorandum to the Chief Bantu Commissioner, Durban, protesting against expulsions.

The parents demand that an African matron be appointed at the institution; that all children be returned to school immediately, and a thorough investigation be conducted to find the cause of the matron's resignation; that good relationship must be established between the school authorities, children and parents, and that African schools be manned by Africans under the supervision of the Director of Education.

HEALDTOWN:

The presence of squads of uniformed and plain clothes police has turned this institution into an armed camp. It is an offence for more than two students to stand together and if they should be seen they are immediately interrogated to find out what they were talking about. The students are also perturbed by the use of some students as informers.

"We Are Treated Like Juvenile Delinquents"

NURSES STILL BOYCOTT HOSPITAL MEALS

DURBAN.
DESPITE the dismissal of six nurses and twelve maids and labourers, food supplied by the authorities is still being boycotted by the majority of workers at King George T.B. Hospital.

Some nurses have capitulated, but there are still a large number who refuse to make use of the dining services provided by the hospital authorities unless the warden who caned twelve student nurses recently is dismissed.

PACKED MEETING

Further support for the nurses' struggle was expressed at a mass meeting of workers held at the Bantu Social Centre last week. The packed meeting congratulated the nurses and other workers in the hospital for their determined stand.

Speaking with obvious emotion, one of the nurses who was dismissed, Miss Savithree Naidoo, told

the meeting: “We are expected to keep quiet and not complain when we are treated like criminals and juvenile delinquents.”

“I committed no crime and am not therefore ashamed of having been dismissed . . . I appeal to all those who are remaining in the hospital to continue fighting for their just rights,” she concluded amidst applause.

The Federation of African Women has written to the Superintendent of the Hospital requesting that he meet a deputation on behalf of the mothers of the nurses to discuss the dispute.

“We wish to state that the mothers are worried about the dispute and are anxious about the future of their daughters . . . They are eager . . . to solve the dispute,” states the letter which is signed by the Federation, Miss Florence Mkize.

At the time of going to press no reply had been received to this letter.

THEIR FUTURE IS DARK



These are four of the 82 semi-blind workers who were suspended for striking for higher wages and better conditions at the Bantu Blind Centre at Westville, Durban, last week.

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