

# AFRICAN CHILDREN TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOLS

## A.N.C. Conference Outwits Swart on Luthuli Ban

From our Correspondent at the A.N.C. Conference

DESPITE THE BANISHMENT OF CHIEF A. J. LUTHULI TO HIS HOME DISTRICT, THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS ADDRESSED THE A.N.C. NATIONAL CONFERENCE LAST WEEK WHEN THE TWO HUNDRED DELEGATES TRAVELLED IN BUSES FROM DURBAN TO HIS HOME DISTRICT, THUS ENABLING CHIEF LUTHULI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION DURING THE MOST IMPORTANT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.

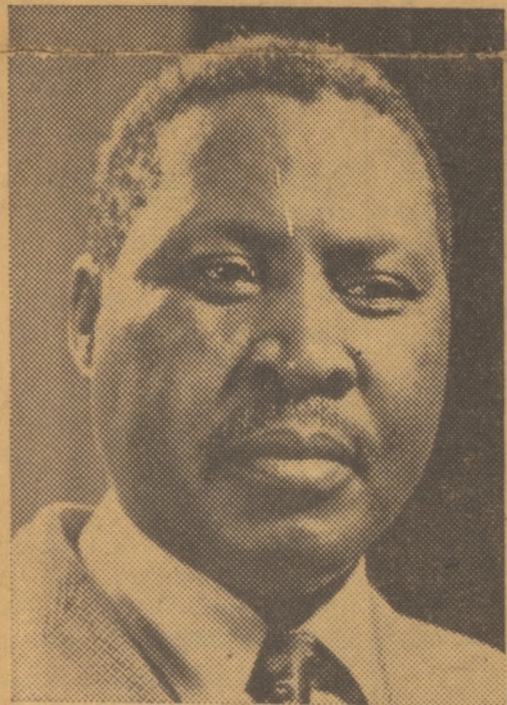
At this session, under Chief Luthuli's leadership, conference resolved that all African children in primary schools should be withdrawn from school on April 1, 1955, the date on which the new syllabus is to be implemented. The call to African parents informing them of this decision asked them to await further directives from the National Executive Committee. At the same time, it was decided to support those churches which were taking a definite stand against the Act.

The Congress of the People, the Bantu Education Act and the Western Areas removal scheme were the three main problems discussed at the conference.

It was essential that the A.N.C. take a militant stand against the Bantu Education Act, said Chief Luthuli. "The Act must be fought to the bitter end."

### CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Leading the discussion on the Western Areas removal scheme, which he characterised as the testing ground for apartheid, Chief Luthuli called upon the African



Chief Luthuli

people in every corner of South Africa to do all in their power to give support to the people of the Western Areas.

Chief Luthuli said: "As long as there is one person unsettled, the whole of the African population is unsettled. The African National Congress has accepted the challenge from the Government on the Western Areas scheme."

Conference pledged full support to the people of the Western Areas, congratulated them in their solidarity to fight to defend their homes and properties, and called upon all Africans and all people in South Africa to centralise the national effort against the Natives Resettlement Act in the "Resist Apartheid campaign."

### CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

In a resolution unanimously adopted on the Congress of the People, conference appealed to all national organisations, church movements and associations to support, join and participate in the great campaign for the calling of the mighty Congress of the People, "having as its aim the drawing up of the Freedom Charter, em-

bodying the aspirations of the people of South Africa for a free, united, multi-racial democratic community, in which oppression and exploitation will be things of the past."

The organisation of the Congress of the People is a common task in which all democrats can participate, said the resolution. "Therefore conference pledges its support for the call by President Luthuli for 50,000 volunteers to carry the message of freedom to all sections of the people, to gather the demands of the people and to ensure that the Congress will be the most representative assembly in the history of our country."

Other resolutions unanimously adopted expressed full confidence in the present leadership of the African Congress, which has led the people's struggle during the past five years and which continues to point the way forward to freedom.

### BANS, PERSECUTION

The resolution states: "The national conference pledges itself to adhere strictly to the forward-looking democratic dynamic policy of freedom for which the leadership of the organisation is being persecuted, banned and exiled. Conference calls upon the National Executive to preserve the present leadership and ensure that we continue to be led and guided by political leadership of our own choice, whatever eventuality may arise.

"In this respect, conference views with very serious concern the unwarranted acts of Minister of Justice Swart in depriving the liberatory movements of their democratically elected leaders and the deportation powers which have been used against some leaders."

Conference rejected in toto the "Native policy" of the United Party because it is indistinguishable from the apartheid policy of the Government.

### ON KENYA

In a resolution on Kenya, conference "realising that the problems of Kenya cannot be solved by intimidation and violence against peaceful populations," resolved to urge the British Government, in the interest of all the people of Kenya, to end the emergency and to create a healthy atmosphere by the release of Jomo Kenyatta and all other persons charged with political offences, to remove the ban on the Kenya African Union, to stop all military measures against the people, and to arrange a round-table conference of all groups to decide on the transfer of power to a democratic government.

Conference condemned the plans of the ruling clique of America to precipitate a third world war, "and supports the struggle of the World Peace Movement and confirms the faith of Congress in the peaceful co-existence of peoples of all countries."

In another resolution, conference called upon the executive to work with the trade union movement and to co-ordinate activities to ensure better organisational work with trade unions. It was also decided to contribute a portion of Congress funds towards strengthening trade unionism among Africans.

Conference called for the extension of the Resist Apartheid campaign to the rural areas and, on the rent question, warned that increased rents would be reimposed in another form, and called upon the executive to prepare plans for mass action in opposition to such a move.

### PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

"Let me most emphatically state that while the African National Congress must naturally work for its own growth, it is equally committed to the policy of forming a multi-racial united democratic front to challenge the forces of reaction in this country," declared Chief Luthuli, in his presidential address to conference, which was delivered by Professor Z. K. Matthews, owing to the Chief's banishment from Durban.

## Prime Minister, M.P.'s Trade Unionists, Writers, Churches, All Send Greetings to Conference

DURBAN.

MESSAGES of support for the African people in their struggle for freedom have been received by the National Conference of the African National Congress from organisations and democrats all over the world.

The All China Federation of Trade Unions, sending greetings on behalf of the entire Chinese labour-

ing people, wished Conference success "in uniting Africans and all South African people, irrespective of race or colour, in the struggle for defending fundamental human rights and against racial discrimination and oppression and for peace, freedom and progress."

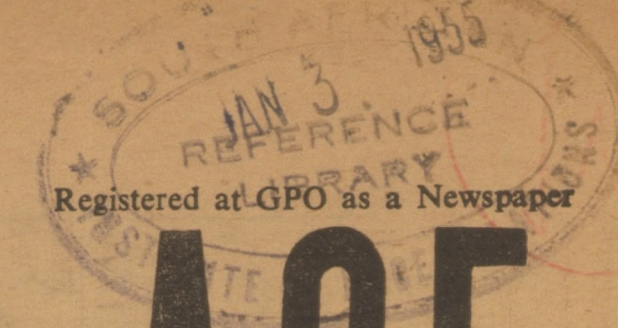
From Howard Fast, the great American writer, came the following message:

"Even here, so far away, we know your name, your courage, and your brave and fine role in the cause of human dignity and freedom.

"We live in a land where, unfortunately, the horror of race discrimination exists on every hand. How well do we know the misery and suffering that the Negro people in our land and in yours endure.

### COMING TO END

"But the time of that endurance is short, and the age of vileness and shamefulness is coming to an end. Already, colonialism crumbles on every side, and in those places of the earth where evil and greedy men



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## Robeson's Message to A.N.C.

"WE come from a mighty, courageous people, creators of great civilisations in the past, creators of new ways of life in our own time and in the future. We shall win our freedoms together. Our folk will have their place in the ranks of those shaping human destiny," is the message from Paul Robeson, the great American singer, to the African people.



Paul Robeson

In his message, addressed to Chief Luthuli and other leaders banned from taking part in the conference of the African National Congress, Paul Robeson says:

"In America the position of your Government has been subjected to the sharpest criticisms in the general Press and especially among Americans of African descent. We shall do all we can immediately to move great masses into the struggle behind you. This can be done.

"Americans are being forced to see a new world coming on, a new world getting stronger and stronger. They see hundreds of millions in India pressing on. They have seen 600 million of the Chinese people become a major Power. They see new People's Democracies leaping into struggles for their freedom. So they understand your aspirations, and great sections of opinion here can, and must, be moved into action—in

the United Nations, through our Council and in many parallel ways.

"There should be, and must be, much closer and stronger bonds between us because of the very nature of our common struggle for human decency and dignity, for the welfare of all men, and for an enduring peace based upon democratic co-operation among all peoples. I shall continue to do all that I can towards the strengthening of these bonds and towards the final achievement of these goals."

## Symbol of Unity

DURBAN.

FOR the first time in the history of the African National Congress a national conference was opened by an Indian last week, Dr. G. M. Naicker, acting president of the S.A. Indian Congress, symbolising the achievement of unity between the Indian and African people.

"The invitation which you have extended to me shows the great unbreakable links which have been forged between our Congresses and between the African and Indian people we represent," said Dr. Naicker.

As he is one of the banned leaders, Dr. Naicker's opening speech was delivered on his behalf by Advocate H. Mall.

strive to perpetuate feudalism, a mighty wind of anger is beginning to blow. Then let it blow harshly and strongly. The end of the bondage of mankind is at hand.

"I greet you, brothers, in the name of the future, a future wherein the whole brotherhood of mankind, in all his beautiful and wonderful diversity, shall stand up free and proud.

"For peace, equality, freedom and democracy."

### INDONESIA'S PREMIER

Other messages of support and sympathy came from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, the Women's International Democratic Federation, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the General Secretary of the India National Congress, R. Palme Dutt, for the British Communist Party, Rev. Michael Scott, the Neo-Destour Party of Tunisia, Canon L. Collins, The British Council of Churches, the Sheffield Branch of the Fire Brigades' Unions and four British Parliamentarians.

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