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RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS HELD IN ORLANDO COMMUNAL HALL, 31ST
MARCH - 1ST APRIL, 1956.

1. This special conference of the African National Congress assembled at Johannesburg on the 31st March and 1st April, 1956, having examined the reports on the Anti-pass campaign from various centres throughout the Union, and having discussed the implications of the pass laws and their effects on the African people, reiterates the long-standing condemnation of the pass system and rejects its extension to the women.

Conference therefore calls for the mass mobilisation of the African people for a determined, and sustained struggle to attain the abolition of this vicious and wicked system which has caused hardship and misery among the people.

We call upon the Africans, in towns, locations, villages, farms and reserves to organise every man and woman into the campaign against the pass laws and to embark upon any effective political action commensurate with the state of organisation and not to relax until the pass system has been abolished.

2. This conference strongly condemns the Prohibition of Interdicts Bill now before Parliament, which is designed to deprive the people of South Africa and the Non-Europeans in particular of the democratic right of challenging executive and administrative orders in the Courts of Law.

3. The decision of the Government to ban all gatherings of more than ten Africans in the Port Elizabeth Area is an attempt to suppress the People's Movement and to crush resistance against tyranny and oppression. Hardly a month after the imposition of the aforesaid ban - a clash occurred between Africans and the police in the course of which an African was deliberately killed. Conference calls upon the Government to withdraw the ban forthwith, and restore to the people the democratic right of assembly and association which is recognised and upheld throughout the civilised world.

4. This conference is deeply shocked at the outrageous and brutal murder of Peter by the police at the Charge Office, "Wynberg, Cape Town. This incident together with many others that have occurred recently clearly reveals that South Africa has now become a full-fledged police state where murders are committed by those whose duty it is to preserve law and order and to protect life.

5. This conference instructs the National Executive Committee to cyclostyle the copies of the Draft Constitution and circulate them to all Provinces, Branches for study and amendments etc, etc.

6. This conference realising that the Charter expresses the aspirations of the broad masses of the people, does hereby, and in accordance with the will of the millions of the people, who sent their representative to Kliptown, adopt the Freedom Charter.

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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

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