MINUTES OF THE 2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN HELD AT THE TRADES HALL, KERK STREET, JOHANNESBURG, ON SATURDAY 11th AUGUST, 1956,

Ey 1.2.2.2 MAM AAA 43

At 11.30 a.m. Mrs. Mary Randa of Johannesburg, took the Chair and led the delegates in singing Freedom Songs.

Mrs. Randa appealed to every mother to listen carefully to all the speeches, and then called on Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi, President of the African National Congress, Women's League, National Vice President of the Federation of South African Women and Chairwoman of the Transvaal Region of the Federation to open the Conference.

OFFICIAL OPENING

aller "

Bewysstuk

Greeting women in the name of the Federation, Mrs. Ngoyi said that the time for mourning had passed and the time for action had come. The women's League of the African National Congress had grown strong and not weaker because of the work of the Federation, which had brought women of all races together in love and friendship.

Through the Federation women could establish links with women in other parts of Africa and in other parts of the world, for our fight should be to uplift not only courselves, but the whole African continent, and to obtain the support of women of the whole world.

The President appealed to the Conference to take the anti pass campaign to a further stage by carrying the message of organisation to all parts of South Africa, so that country conferences could be held, broad committees formed, house to house work carried on in dorps and villages, individual pledges obtained from African women that they would not carry passes. She reminded Conference also of the thousands of Indian women leading lives constricted by backward customs, of Coloured women, humiliated through reclassification, of the few European women, who in their friendship and equality gave the lie to 'White supremacy'.

The President spoke with pride of the great demonstration of 20,000 women to Pretoria, two days before the Conference, the greatest demonstration held in South Africation in which women of all races had joined together, inspired by the same ideal, mother love, their determination to resist the slavery of passes. She had seen the future of Africa unfolding before her eyes when she saw the mothers of South Africa standing united, side by side, in discipline and dignity, courageous and determined. The message of the Federation to all women must be "ORGANISE AND UNITE".

Mrs. Ngoyi appealed to women to unite with other women of the world in demanding the end of atom bombs, for women create life and hate war, because war brings death. She urged women to be patient of others but impatient of the future, to build a mighty organisation of South African women that, together with other progressive organisations and the people of Jouth Africa, would bring an end to suffering and oppression and set our children forward on the road to happiness and world peace.

The Chairwoman then called on Mrs. Rahema Moosa to welcome the delegates to the Conference.

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Mrs. Moosa welcomed the delegates in the name of the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African women, and spoke of the many women, such as Ray Alexander, Hetty McLeod, Fatima Meer, Hilda Watts and others who could not be at the Conference for the sole reason that the Government had prevented them, and reaffirmed that no Government could keep these women from the movement for freedom and the omancipation of women. The Charter adopted at the 1st National Conference in 1954 had rallied thousands of women to march forward in the struggle for freedom and equality. Amongst the most vicious of discriminating laws was the extension of the degrading pass system to African women, but the fight against these pass laws was not only the business of the African people, for every section of the South African people should support the struggle to end passes and all other racialist laws.

2/

The hand of friendship was extended to all White citizens and the Federation called upon them to stand with all women against the fascist menace. In this spirit, Mrs. Moosa again welcomed the delegates who had come to the city from all parts of the country to unite in the struggle of women. wysings

m

5.1...

2/34

3/

No

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Resolutions Committee :-

Mrs. Mji, Mrs. Lily Diedericks, Mrs. Fatima Seedat Mrs. Elizabeth Mofokeng, Mrs. Helen Joseph.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Credentials Committee :-

Miss Katie Hess, Mrs. Letele, Miss Bertha Mashaba, Mrs. Holen Joseph.

The Chairwoman then called on Mrs. Frances Baard of Port Elizabeth to address the Conference on "Houses, Comfort and Security." 1 3

Mrs. Baard appealed to women to treat this section, the ninth in the great Freedom Charter, as one of the most important, "All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, to bring up their families in comfort and security." She emphasised that adequate non racial provision of decent houses will bring people together and lead to harmony and understanding, and that the present policy of segregation in housing is based on the principle of "divide and rule". She condemned the high rents charged to poor families and the proposals of Verwoerd for increasing rentals in the townships, and as a mother looking for a solution suggested that the levelling of incomes would provide sufficient funds for providing health and security services for all, proper houses, enough money for food - houses, security and comfort!

Mrs. Katie White of Cape Town was the next speaker, addressing Conference on the "Cape Municipal Vote".

Speaking in Afrikaans, Mrs. White referred to the threat to remove the Cape Municipal Franchise from the Coloured people, the last of their rights remaining to them. She stressed the importance of women of all races being able to vote for and to stand for the City Council and she assured Conference that the women of Cape Town would fight for the right of every man and woman, irrespective of race or nationality to elect and be elected to any Government or Municipal Body. While in the rest of the world the vote was being given to more and more people, especially non white people, in South Africa the vote was being taken away. Mrs. White spoke of the 10 million Africans with only 6 people to speak for them, and then not the real people of their choice, and of the 2 million whites who can choose freely 216 people to speak for them. She referred to the European woman who cannot write her name, but can vote, and the African woman graduate of a University who may not vote and emphasised that no non European woman may vote for any member of Parliament and that now even the vote of Coloured women for the Council was to be taken away.

Conference adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mrs. Katie White, National Vice President and Acting National President took the Chair.

The Secretary road greetings to the Conference from Father Trevor Huddleston, the South African Congress of Democrats, the African National Congress, the South African Coloured peoples Organisation, East London Women's League of the African National Congress, Hilda Watts, Ray Waterman, East London Branch of the African Food and Canning Workers, the National assembly of Women (London) and the Congress of Canadian Women. I 923 Gourgane St.

Bewysstuk No.

The Chairwoman then called upon Mrs. Fatima Seedat of Durban to speak on the Areas Act. Verwysings No. Group Areas Act.

Mrs. Seedat pointed out that the African people, not only the Indians and Coloureds would suffer under the Group Areas Act. Wicked acts such as the removal of the Africans from the Western Areas of Johannesburg would be repeated all over the country as the government tried to eliminate "black spots". The most recent proclamation/would uproot the Coloured and Indian people from Pageview, from Albertville where they had struggled to establish themselves, to own their own homes, to run their own businesses, to gain security for their old age, protection for their children. In Durban the attack would soon be made on all non white people and over 80,000 Africans, 60,000 Indians and 7,000 Colourods would be removed, while only 3,500 Europeans would be affected.

Mrs. Seedat reminded Conference how the Indian people were threatened continuously with repatriation, with discriminatory laws. Just as the cry in America had been "Send the negroes back to Africa" so the cry in South Africa was "Send the Indians back to India", but the Indian people reply in the words of Douglas Frederick, the slave who fought against slavery, "We shall live, struggle and die here". In the Cape Province the Coloured and Malay people until now had lived peacefully amongst the white people, enjoying a little more privilege and freedom than non whites in other parts of the country, but now even this would be destroyed under the Group Areas Act. Mrs. Seedat called upon the women to stand together and play their part in the struggle against oppression, to build a mighty Federation of South African Women, to build a mighty South Africa, free from facial prejudice, for South Africa could no longer remain a lake of racialism in a rapidly changing world. She warned those who were expropriating land today that the people would restore the land again, when South Africa governs itself and the Freedom Charter becomes a reality. When women unite they become the strongest force. Even Strydom, the "lion of the north" came back from London to be the "lamb of the south" when he was faced by the women and refused to meet them.

The Chairwoman then called upon Miss Bortha Mashaba of Germiston to address the Conference on "The struggle against Passes".

Miss Mashaba outlined the history of the pass laws and refuted the claim of the Government that pass laws had been abolished. In 1952 the Native Laws Amondment Act had been passed stating that "All Natives, men women and children fell inside the provisions of the pass laws". Verwoord had affirmed that passes would not be extended to African women "until they had been educated to realise it would be for their own benefit!" Yet in September 1953 he had announced that as from January 1st, 1956, african women would be issued with passes.

Miss Mashaba dwelt on the real meaning of the pass laws and their effect upon individuals, men women and children, their disruption of family life, the reduction of the African people to slavery. Already nearly a quaster of a million men went to jail every year only for contravoning the pass laws, and if women carried passes their suffering would be even worse, for they would be torn away from their children and exposed to brutal treatment at the hands of the police.

Influx control had already brought suffering to many thousands of men, and now also to women. Annie Selinga, our women's leader, had been deported from Cape Town, although she had lived there for 18 years . Yet she had been convicted under Section 10 of the Urban Areas Act and deported to the Butterworth district. There were many other examples, more and more as the days go by of inhuman suffering of women under the pass laws. She had seen for horself in Cape Town how women were arrested for not being in possession of residential permits. They were fined £4 or 40 days. Now the Municipalities had been given even more power under the Urban Areas Amondment Act - the power to banish Africans - the peoples leaders - from their homes.

Miss Mashaba asserted that it was clear to the African people that pass laws were not for identification but for controlling the labour and the movements of

4/

African people, for making them slaves, and denying them freedom of movement. She reminded Conference that the African women had always resisted pass laws. Forty years ago in 1913, the women of Bloemfontein and of the rest of the Free State had resisted the introduction of passes, had sacrificed and suffered imprisonment, and they had won that struggle. Today all over South Africa women have stated clearly that they will not carry passes. Many people tried to claim that the women of South Africa are not 'ready' to resist the passes, but it had been proved by the demonstrations. From October 29th when 2,000 women went to Pretoria, to August 9th when over 10,000 went, by the thousands of women who have demonstrated throughout South Africa, that whenever and wherever women are called upon, they <u>are</u> ready to resist. This must not be doubted any longer after these mighty demonstrations have shown South Africa what the women mean when they say "We don't want passes!"

The Federation of South African Women was sometimes accused of being "led by White women" - but this was only Government propaganda and we must recognise it for what it is. The Government was against the Federation because it was even more afraid of it than of the A.N.C. Women's League. The Government was afraid of the Federation because it is multi-racial. Although Verwoerd refused to meet the Federation last year because we went as women of all races, the Women showed on August 9th that we cannot be divided, we went together, and if we have to go a third time, we shall still go together to demand our rights.

(An announcement was made by Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi that a communication had been received from the Superintendent of Orlando that no Europeans would be permitted to enter Orlando that night and that therefore no European women would be able to attend the reception for the delegates. This announcement was received with great distress, and Mrs. Joseph speaking on behalf of European women assured the non European women that she and other European women would be there in spirit and that neither this or any other petty mean action of the authorities could divide the women of the Federation).

RESOLUTION

5

do

C

No

n

a

Here cha hoa

le plue

9.9

Gekry

Bewysstuk No.

The Transvaal Regional Secretary proposed the following resolution :-

We women gathered together at this great Conference recognise the Pass Laws as being at the basis of exploitation and cheap labour in South Africa. We know we cannot ever win our demands for women and children until the pass law are completely abolished for everyone. We see the pass laws as one of the great barriers that stand in the way of human advancement - a barrier that must be destroyed. This is the reason that the campaign against passes for women has been waged so vigorously during past months. To resist and defeat the attempt to make women carry passes is the first step towards destroying these evil and hated laws for mon and women alike.

We are proud of the great demonstrations against passes for women that have taken place during past months, and the wonderful demonstration at Preteria on August 9th, a demonstration which showed not only Strijdom, not only the people of South Africa, but the whole world just how determined and Udisciplined are the wamen of South Africa in this struggle against passes.

But we are conscious of the fact that our campaign has only just begun, and our work and organisation must be tremendously widehed if we are to succeed. We therefore resolve:-

. that every delegate at this Conference will sincerely pledge herself to take back the message of Preteria's demonstration to every woman in her area, and organise every woman to resist pass laws;

. that every one of us who has relatives or friends in country areas will make it a duty to carry this work to the countryside and to remote places, so that every woman is fully aware of what the "reference books" mean;

5/

. that we will obtain individual pledges from women that each woman will refuse to accept or carry a reference book;

. that we will organise women, through the Women's Federation, through the Women's Loague, through other organisations and through broad antipass committees where necessary, on a house by house and street by street basis;

. that we shall carry on this individual work, patiently explaining the meaning of pass laws, until we have won the vast majority of women of our land to active resistance;

. that this struggle, because it is not the private concern of African women alone, but of all women, and not of women alone, but of all people in our country, must be conducted not by one section or another; we will widen our campaign to include all racial groups, and we will continue this struggle by these mouns and whatever other means are possible until we have finally brought about the complete end to passes for women and men alike.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Bertha Mashaba and adopted unanimously Conference adjourned till, the following day out a hour and four and the second and the second and the second at 10.45 a.m. Mrs. Ruth Matsonne took the Chair and the chai and with acclamation.

4.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH . MORNING SESSION.

Conference opened at 10.45 a.m. Mrs. Ruth Matsonpe took the Chair until the arrival of Mrs. Ngoyi.

Mrs. Helen Josuph, Secretary of the Transvall Region of the Federation, spoke on the work of the Federation of South African Women. She spoke of the recent racialistic legislation and the present regime of intensified oppression, but pointed to the energence of wemen in unity and organisation. In South Africa as in all countries of the world women were beginning to take their rightful place as equal partners of men and were no longer content to be slaves and servants. The whole position of women was changing as women played their part in the production of the wealth of the country, and women were deeply concurred with the injustice and oppression existing in South Africa today. As women go forward the need for women's organisations arises, but in South Africa women are divided by the colour ber. White women have been organising for 50 years in South Africa but they have been organising themselves - the N.C.W., Vroue Federasie, Black Sash, etc. Recause of the colour bar women had failed to come together as women. But in 1954 at the first National Conference the Federation of South African Women had been formed to unite women of all races in the common struggle. (The sims and objects of the Federation as set out in the draft constitution were read). Mrs. Joseph explained that it had been realised from the outset that any womens organisation that stood outside the struggle for national liberation would stand apart from the mass of women. The Federation had therefore tried. to bring together the women of all races in their organisations on the basis of federation, not to establish a new competitive organisation which would suck to draw women away from the Congresses. At the first National Conference the National President, Vice President and Executive Committee had been clocted, but as a progressive wemen's federation which refused to accept the colour bar, the Federation had been the target of banning orders by the Nationalist Government and had lest many officials and members of the National and Regional Executives. Nevertheless, as women had been removed others had come forward to take their places and the attacks of the Government had failed to destroy the Federation.

The establishment and development of the Federation had reached different levels in the regions and the muchinery of affiliation had been slow, as organisations had hesitated and waited to see how the Federation had developed. The following organisations had alrendy affiliated: the South African Coloured People's Organisation, the South African Congress of Democrats, * the African National Congross Nomen's League, the Food and Canning Workers' Union, the Cape Housewives Longue and the League of Non-European women.

In the Cape Western Region the Federation has initiated compaigns on many issues; women have agitated for and obtained creches, street lighting, telephone booths and controlled street crossings in non European areas. Today the Cape women are campaigning vigorously against the removal of Coloured voters from the Municipal Voters Roll. A Cape Western Regional Committee has recently been formed which will campaign actively and seek to draw in other women's organisations. In the Cape Eastern Region, S.A.C.P.O. and A.N.C. women have worked closely together and have formed a Regional Committee of the Federation. Twe women's Conferences have been held, one on Bantu Education and the other on Phases for women. In Natal progress has been slow but a Working Committee of the Federation has been set up and work will be done amongst the Indian women through the formation of study circles.

- 6 -

The Transvaal Region has been outstandingly active. The Regional Committee was formed soon after the 1954 Conference and has worked in full co-operation with the Congress Movement. Together with the A.N.C. Women's League, the Federation organised accommodation for 1,000 delegates to the Congress of the Poeple. A conference of women was held to draw up the demends of women for incorporation into the Freedom Charter. After the Congress of the Poople, the Federati n convened the Transval Congress of mothers held in support of the World Congress of Mothers. This was the first Conference to adopt the Freedem Charter. On October 29th, 1955 the Transvial Region organised the historic protest of 2,000 women of all races to Pretoria to demand the repeal of oppressive and unjust logislation. A mass conference on passes for women was held on March 11th, 1956, attended by nearly 2,000 people, at which the decision was taken to organise a second mass demonstration to Preteria. This demonstration was organised on a national scale and culminated in the vast protest of August 9th when 10,000 women went to Pretoria to protest to the Prime Minister against passes. Through the Federation's Regional Committees women were organised in the large contres of the Union, and Coloured, European and Indian women joined their african sisters in this unsurpassed demonstration, which has made such an impact on South Africa. The Transvaal Region has organised other conferences and meetings, including a conference in 1954 on the threatened rent increases in African and Coloured townships and a mass meeting on International Women's Day in 1955. Leaflets on various subjects have been produced and two pamphlets have been issued, one on Children in South Africa and the other (together with the A.N.C. Women's League) on passes for african Women. The Transvaal Region issued press statements on all matters of national and regional interest. An impressive exhibition of photographs depicting the life of women in many lands has been displayed at several conferences.

The Federation of South African women may be proud of its achievements in the first $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of its existence but we must also examine our failures and our short comings. The Federation hus not succeeded in winning the support or even the interest of women's organisations outside the Congress movement and the progressive trades unions. A small impact has been mide on Coloured and Indian women but we have failed to make any serious impact on European women, even in the progressive movement. This must be the task of the Federation in the coming years - to win the support of women of all races, to unite them in our common struggle as women.

Conference would be asked to adopt the Constitution, to elect a National President and office bearers, to elect the National Executive. It would be their task to develop the Federation of South African Momen, to make it the greatest women's organisation in South Africa.

The Report of the Federation was adopted.

Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi then took the Chair and reported that the reception to the delegates held in Orlando the previous night had been invafied by a gang of hooligans resulting in fighting. Several people had been injured and it was remarkable that it was the attackers who had caused the trouble who had been taken by the police in ambulances to the hospital while the people who were there lawfully were left unattended. The hall had been dam.ged and many windows broken. It was suspected that this attack had been organized deliberately to smash the reception.

The Chairwoman then called upon the Secretary to read the Draft Constitution, and after a few clauses had been read, Miss Joan Anderson abkod for permission to move a resolution. She stated that the organisations and groups which constituted the 7/... Federation had not had sufficient time or opportunity to circulate the draft constitution for consideration and discussion by the general membership and moved that the adoption of a Constitution be postponed either for six months or until the next National Conference. This resolution was seconded by Miss Avril Chait.

Mrs. Joseph replied that the draft constitution had been circulated to organisations more than 12 months ago, and if these organisations had failed to discuss the constitution or circulate it, this must be laid at the door of those organisations. This, however, should not be allowed to hold up the development of the Federation of South African Women. A national conference could be achieved only at long intervals. It was the second time that a draft constitution had been placed before a national conference of the Federation of South African Women. If the constitution were adopted today there would be provision for amendments at the next National Conference. Mrs. Joseph moved a counter resolution that seeing all organisations had had ample time and opportunity during the past twelve months to circulate and discuss the draft constitution, it should be discussed and adopted as amended at this conference. The counter resolution was seconded by Miss Bertha Mashaba.

Several delegates spoke from the floor, stating that they had not seen the draft constitution and would prefer to take it back to their regions and branches for discussion before adoption. Other delegates felt that this would hold back the development of the Federation and urged that the draft constitution be discussed, amended and adopted at this Conference.

Conference appeared to be divided on this matter and after many expressions of opinion Mrs. Joseph offered to withdraw the counter resolution on the grounds that there would not be sufficient time left to discuss the draft constitution. Conference refused to allow the counter resolution to be withdrawn and the resolution and counter resolution were put to the vote. Conference decided by 291 votes to 79 that the draft constitution be discussed and adopted as amended at this Conference.

The Chairwoman then called upon Mrs. Joseph to read each clause of the draft constitution. The proceedings of the Conference from this point were conducted in three languages, English, Sesuto and Xhosa. Amendments were proposed and adopted by the Conference.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 1. <u>Name</u>. As in draft constitution.
- 2. Aims and Objects. As in draft constitution but Clause (b) para (3) to read -

"Better living conditions, including proper homes, compulsory, free and universal education".

3. Membership

Clause (a) to read "The Federation shall be open to organisations or organised groups of women".

Clause (b) to read "The National Executive Committee may accept any organisations, branches of organisations or organised groups of women as affiliated members of the Federation".

Clause (c) as in draft constitution.

4. Administration

Clause (a) to read "The highest body of the Federation is the National Conference".

Clause (b) to read "Representation at National Conference shall be one delegate for every 25 members of affiliated organisations or organised groups of women."

Clause (c) as in draft constitution.

Clause (d) to read: "National Conference shall be hold annually if possible."

Clause (c) as in draft constitution.

5. National Executive Committee

Clause (a) to read "The N.E.C. shall consist of a president, 4 Vice Presidents, Treasurer, General secretary and 20 other members, to be elected at the National Conference."

Clause (b) to read "The N.L.C. shall most not less than twice a year. The quorum for the N.L.C. shall be not less than 7 members of the Committee including officials."

Clause (c) to read "In electing the National Executive Committee not less than 7 members must be elected who reside within 20 miles of the headquarters of the Federation."

Clause (d) as in draft constitution.

Clause (v) to read: "The N.E.C. shall have the power to establish regional committees in any area, define the areas of jurisdiction of regions, and do all other things as in the opinion of the N.E.C. are in the interests of the Federation and its affiliated organisations."

Clause(vi) As in draft constitution.

Clause (vii) As in draft constitution.

6. Head Office. As in draft constitution.

7. Finance

Clause (i) as in draft constitution.

Clause (ii) As in draft constitution.

- Clause (iii) to read: "The Treasurer shall present a financial report quarterly to the N....C."
- Clause (iv) to read: "Regions shall pay a proportion of their income to the N.M.C. as decided by the N.L.C. in consultation with the region.
- Clause (v) to read: "Statements of income and expenditure shall be prepared quarterly by each Regional Treasurer and a copy submitted to the N.E.C."

Clause (vi) to rend: "Balance sheets and statements of income and expenditure shall be prepared by the General Sucretary ind each Regional Secretary in respect of each year ended 30th of June."

8. Regional Committees

Clause (i) to read "The N.E.C. may establish Regional Committees in any area."

9/ ...

11 .

- 9 -

Clause (ii) to read: "The N.J.C. may approve working rules for Regions."

9. Amendments

To read: "Any of the provisions of the Constitution may be repealed; amended or added to in any manner by a majority decision of the next National Conference. Two months notice of such amendment must first be given to all regions and all affiliated bodies."

10. Expulsion

- Clause (i) to read "The Federation shall h ve the right to expel any affiliated organisation or to take other disciplinary measures against any affiliated organisation which violates the principles pelicy and programme of the Federation."
- Clause (ii) to read "any such affiliated organis tion may appeal against the decision of the Federation and such appeal shall be considered at the next dational Conference."
- 11. Dissolution. As in drift constitution.
- 12. General. As in draft constitution.

Mrs. Joseph proposed, seconded by Mrs. N. Reshe THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AS ANUNDED BE DOPTED. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

VENUL OF HEADOU RT_RS

Conference decided that the Headquarters of the Federation until the next National Conference should be in Johannesburg.

LISCTION OF OFFICE BARRERS

National President	Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi.
National Treasurer	Nrs. Rahima Noosa.
General Secretary	Mrs. Holon Joseph.
National Vice Prusidents	Mrs. Lily Dicaericks (Cape) Mrs. Mala Noune (O.F.S.) Mrs. Fatima Seedat (Natal) Ars. Marcello Goldburg (Transvial)

National Executive Condittee

Miss Rortha Machaba, Mrs. Magdalen Resta, Mrs. Albertina Sisulu, Mrs. Ruth Matsoane, Miss Lily Meidoo, Mrs. Kitie Shite, Mrs. Qirane, Mrs. Vuyilura Bissett, Miss Katie Nees, Mrs. Frances Baard, Mrs. Florence Skize, Lius Marbura Cooper, Mrs. Mary Moodley, Mrs. Hilda Shezi, Mass clizabeth Mareia, Mrs. Nellie Jubelisa, Mrs. Notsabi, Mrs. Blauw, Mrs. Edna Folo, Mrs. Hilda Waleza.

RESOLUTION

Mrs. Rahimo Moosa proposed, seconded by Mrs. Frances Baard the following resolution:-

10/ ..

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

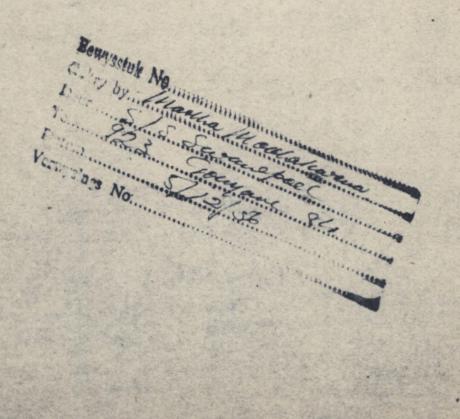
We welcome the great advances made by the Federation of South African Women, and congratulate all those women who have contributed so much to advance the organisation of women in the past two years.

We are pledged to fight on behalf of the rights of women and children of all races, and we pledge ourselves anew to play an even more active part in securing true justice and happiness in our country.

We are determined to resist all attempts of the government to divide us on racial lines. We know that what affects one section of the women affects women as a whole; we are as one body, we feel each other's sufferings and oppression, each of us can only breathe freely when the rights and happiness for which we fight are enjoyed by all.

We know that a Conference such as this is a severe blow to the government, to its apartheid policies; we know how they hate to see women of different races meeting in harmony and friendship. Therefore we make this pledge: we shall not be divided! we will resist the attempts of all disruptionists to set us apart! we will preserve our principles of working together, until these principles are the accepted laws and customs of our land. ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Conference closed at 6 p.m.



Collection Number: AD1812

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: Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand Location:- Johannesburg ©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.