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THE SISULU BANNING .

The banning of the Secretary-General of the African National Congress , Mr. W. M. Sisulu , represents the climax to a desperate campaign by which the government hopes to halt the steady growth of the A.N.C. and its policy throughout the country .

Mr. Sisulu was elected to the position of Secretary-General at the historic national conference of the A.N.C. in 1949 . He , more than any other elected at that conference reflected the new militant mood of the people that was crying out for an end to the hesitancy and vacillation that were characteristic of the previous decade in African politics. As Secretary-General , in control of the organisational machinery, it would be his task to see that the African people played their part in the fight against the fascist government of Dr. Daniel Francois Malan.

In spite of the failure of their policies to meet the urgent needs of the times, the men in whose footsteps Sisulu followed , had rendered very great service to the African people. In particular the man who held the position of Secretary-General before him - Rev. J.A. Calata - was a tried leader of long standing who had made tremendous sacrifices and performed great deeds in the cause of African liberation , with a tenacity and modesty that confounded many a carping critic who today languishes in the political desert

Sisulu was elected in difficult times and stepped into the shoes of a big man. But the last five years have proved that he was a worthy successor to the great A.N.C. Secretary-Generals , Plaatje , Skota , Calata . The Sisulu regime has been full of mighty events and in each of them he played a key role . For instance it can now be revealed that ~~the Defiance Campaign was Sisulu's brain child . More we need not say .~~

In banning W.M.Sisulu the government has acted precipitately and without much thought . To ban Sisulu is to attempt the vain task of silencing the humanitarian and progressive policy for which the A.N.C. stands . It marks the end of any little restraint the government might still have had in its mad rush towards the final establishment of a naked fascist state in South Africa .

To the African people and particularly to the African Youth the banning of the Secretary-General represents a challenge. ~~Sisulu is not interested in our protests and resolutions . He is expecting the Youth to come forward in large numbers to join the Luthuli Volunteers. He is expecting the volunteers to organise and spread throughout the country, to all the people the message of the Congress of the People - the message of Peace, Democracy , Peoples Nationalism and Land for the people - the message for which the fascists have banned Sisulu .~~

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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