

0 NRMS *Cal. 11-4-5 ANCO (TV) Branch*

THE REMOVAL OF THE WESTERN AREAS OF JOHANNESBURG.

At a Special Conference of the Transvaal <sup>BRANCH</sup> Conference of the African National Congress held in Johannesburg on the 22nd April this year under the chairmanship of the National President, Dr. J. S. Moroka, and attended by delegates from all parts of the Province, it was unanimously resolved to oppose the removal of Africans and other residents from the Western Areas of Johannesburg. Conference pledged itself to fight the scheme <sup>all</sup> with the means at its disposal and instructed the Provincial Committee to rally the masses behind this decision.

Conservative estimates indicate that the scheme will cost approximately £18,000,000. The Government has announced that it will provide £5,000,000, and has already allocated the sum of £500,000 for work on the scheme which is likely to begin almost immediately. Despite official public assurances to the contrary, the City Council of Johannesburg has now accepted the scheme and a "Research Department" has been busy for months collating material in connection with the scheme.

According to the latest census figures, the total population of the Union of South Africa is 12,000,000, made up as follows:-

Africans	-	8,000,000
Asiatics	-	358,000
Coloureds	-	1,078,000
Europeans	-	2,000,000

These figures show an increase of approximately 1,000,000, over the last census figures held in 1946.

With regard to the subject of land distribution, available figures show that Africans, Asiatics and Coloureds, a population of well over 10,000,000, own only 13 per cent of the land. Whereas 87 per cent is allocated to a white minority of barely 2,000,000. These figures of land distribution are cited for what they are worth as the overwhelming majority of the population of the country have not the means to verify them, and since history is replete with many instances where the ruling circles falsify statistics in order to deceive the public as to the true facts on a given situation, we are perfectly entitled to be suspicious and to express the opinion that the land allocated to the former groups might even be less than 13 per cent. These figures furnish the clearest and irrefutable evidence of the obsolete and retrograde economic system still prevalent in our country, an economic system no language can be strong enough in condemning. The expropriation of our people from Newclare, Sophiatown and Western Native Township will further reduce the above percentage.

Meanwhile, there are no less than 50,000 Africans, Asiatics and Coloureds on the waiting list for accommodation in the municipal area of Johannesburg alone. If account is taken of the fact that 50,000 is merely the number of those people who have fulfilled the stringent qualifications laid down for applicants for accommodation, it will be readily appreciated when we observe that the number of homeless people in Johannesburg alone must be anything between 80,000 and 100,000. In terms of Council Regulations to qualify for accommodation an African must be married (and this fact must be proved only by the production of documentary evidence), must be employed within the municipal area of Johannesburg, must carry a Pass and be in possession of an up-to-date Poll Tax Receipt. Even when all these requirements have been fulfilled an applicant may have his name entered in the list at the expense of his job since

/the...

*Mandela  
Gekry by...  
Dour...  
8/15 Juliano west  
2/19/66  
23*

*Documents No. 1096  
Johannesburg  
Must be seen before 1966  
found*

the procedure is so cumbersome and out-moded that applicants very often, two or even more days before they are attended to. It is against this background that the Western Areas scheme must be examined and it is perhaps, appropriate at this stage to state most categorically that a scheme such as this, decided upon without reference to the people most vitally affected by it, is by all standards undemocratic and nefarious, and is bound to produce passions almost amounting to spiritual and physical anguish. *See meeting change are necessary in South Africa*

take  
against

The concentration of vast areas of land in a small community whilst confining the majority in a small area has resulted in chronic over-population, and has had a boomerang effect on the ruling circles. The alarming extent of soil erosion and dessication which are now corroding the heart of South Africa are eloquent evidence in support of this contention. Even Dr. Ross, Director of Soil Conservation and Extension is forced to admit that about a quarter of the Union's soil fertility reserve had been lost through erosion. This had resulted in a permanent lowering of the country's food production potential, and every year that passes sees enormous additional quantities of fertile soil being destroyed. Dr. Ross estimates that the current rate of soil erosion loss is equivalent to the destruction of about 200,000 morgen of productive land a year. This rate is increasing every year.

\* In view of this situation we are entitled to feel that the Malanites are mismanaging the government of the country and have thereby betrayed South Africa, for none of them has exhibited a statesmanship and patriotism commensurate with the developing crisis. Instead racial passions are being deliberately fermented and the African people have been brought into a grim realisation of the perfidy of sectional rule based on the principle of the superiority of one race over another. Leaders of thought from all sections of our multiracial community might be excused, if they feel that there is a gathering storm and that the Western Areas of Johannesburg may live to be the granary of African martyrdom.

\* The increase in the population disclosed in the last census will aggravate the position.

JOHANNESBURG.  
2ND NOVEMBER, 1951.

*in July that for such change are necessary in South Africa,*

③

Amount of land available for Europeans and for  
Santo occupation are  
Europ. 415,000 square miles (approx. or about 87%) of  
the total.  
Santo 58,000 square miles (approx.) or about 13%

of total.  
My figure includes the land made available  
for ~~total~~ occupation of the total land of  
1936

**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.