

PRESS RELEASE.

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① "Since the last conference of our Congress the Indian people, in common with the African and coloured peoples, have been subjected to unmitigated oppression on grounds of race and colour. These two years have witnessed the culmination of the nefarious policy of apartheid in its most naked form." Dr. Moosa Joint Secretary of the South African Indian Congress said, when he delivered his Secretarial Report to the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Congress. Like the Jackboot of the Nazis, he emphasised, "the iron heel of the Nationalist fascist dictatorship is crashing the most sacred rights of man. Under its brutal dictates there are despicable outrages on life and liberty; there is uprooting of homes, separation of families, destruction of wealth, deprivation of means of livelihood and devastation of dignity.

"Never before in the history of our people has travesty of justice been so glaring, never before have we been confronted with such naked hostility of the authorities of South Africa. "The first period of Nationalist rule", he went on, "was used for building a framework for the establishment of a Police State. Discriminatory laws against the people, inherited from former regimes, were consolidated and crystallised to suit the pattern of apartheid. In the process of this crystallisation Ministers responsible for each aspect of the life of the people were given complete and unrestricted powers of dictatorship. The Ministers of the Native Affairs and Interior were responsible for the enactment of laws such as the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Authorities Act, the Native (Abolition of Passes and Co-ordination of Documents) Act, the Bantu Education Act, the Population Registration Act, the Natives Resettlement Act and numerous similar Acts of legislation. Each of these gave the head of the department concerned absolute powers to deal with the African, Indian and Coloured peoples.

SWART - LORD OF THE LAW.

Dr. Moosa, referring to Minister Swart, said that under his administration, the police are told to shoot at will, they can do the most provocative thing and even get away with murder. His pattern of delivering the country into the clutches of dictatorship began with the passing of the Suppression of Communism Act, the first was to ban the former Communist Party, a political party which has consistently opposed racial discrimination and oppression. Under this law many able and courageous leaders of the liberation and trade union movements - communist and non-communist - have been banned from offices of public organisations. He has the power to

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declare a state of emergency, can take the most drastic actions first and then legalise them afterwards. In his hands he holds the power of life and death over all - both white and non-white.

JOINT STRUGGLE

The Report dealt comprehensively with the joint struggle of the Non-White political organisations. "The Campaign for defiance of unjust laws in 1952" said Dr. Moose, "apart from other achievements, was a turning point in opening the road for advances in this direction. This Mass Movement was directly responsible for the development of fraternal alliance of the African, Indian and Coloured peoples and also brought into its toll those whites who are here in the region and who have the courage of their convictions to stand for that which is just and right."

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

Referring to the Congress of the People, he said that it was held under difficulties and that it was to the credit of the people that they were able to accomplish this gigantic task in the face of unprecedented obstruction and opposition from the authorities.

"The historic Assembly of the Congress of the People" Dr. Moose continued, "was a further milestone in the struggle for liberation."

FREEDOM CHARTER - NO ORDINARY DECLARATION.

"The Freedom Charter", he said, "was no ordinary Declaration. It not only reflected the true aims and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the people of our country but was in fact drawn up as a result of demands submitted by thousands of people at large and small gatherings throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Charter gives a common perspective to the Liberation Movement. Demands contained therein reflect the common aims and objectives of the Congresses and the political organisations in their struggles to free the people from bondage they are a guide to action and as such are an extension of the aims and objects of the Congress Movement.

Dealing with the Nationalist Government's insatiable thirst for power, Dr. Moose asserted that whilst the political issue between the Nationalist Party and the Liberation Movement is straight forward, it is not so between the Nationalist Party and the Parliamentary opposition. By successfully exploiting the susceptibilities of the white workers the Nationalist party was initially able to gain power. In the course of office it made use of race prejudice for furthering its own aims of establishing permanent one-party rule. The Nationalists became entrenched to such an extent that there is wide-spread dismay and

despair within the ranks of the parliamentary opposition.

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BROAD DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

"If South Africa", declared Dr. Moosa "is to be saved from the horrors of race conflict then all the advanced elements - both white and non-white - must join hands and create an effective opposition to apartheid."

He said, "The objective situation is ripe for the creation of a broad democratic front."

NO COMPROMISE.

"In the name of apartheid the non-white people have been subjected to the most ruthless tyranny and oppression. It is clear to the Indian people that they could never compromise on the basis of apartheid for they can never be a party to their own destruction."

"Racial discrimination and inequality, remnants of imperialist domination are being destroyed and the area of freedom extended. The struggle of the people in the north, east and west of this continent will inevitably succeed. The people will rid themselves of foreign domination and exploitation.

Dr. Moosa predicted, "As sure as the sun rises in the east so sure will there be the deliverance of the people of this great continent."

SACRIFICE.

"In the difficult days that lie ahead we will be called upon to make the greatest sacrifice if we are to save ourselves from the terrible onslaughts of the fascists. We can only do so if we are able to unite our people completely and mobilise them effectively.

"The Indian people have in the past withstood persistent onslaughts by carrying on determined struggles for the vindication of their honour and self-respect, he added.

"Our struggle at home is difficult but we shall not fail if we organise and go forward. If we maintain an allegiance with our loyal and true friends, the African people headed by the African National Congress, then we must go forward. We do not expect others to fight for us as we depend on ourselves."

Issued by: South African Indian Congress, Johannesburg.

20th October, 1956

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PRESS RELEASE

Feb. 23 4

ISSUES BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

"The grim story of oppressive rule over non-whites of successive White Governments in the Union of South Africa climaxed by the tyrannical rule of the Nationalist Party Government, which has plagued the Union of South Africa for eight hard years, has confronted non-whites of the Union with inescapable challenge:" declared Chief Luthuli in his Opening Address to the 22nd Biennial Conference of the South African Indian Congress which was held in the Gandhi Hall Johannesburg on Friday evening: "Either they meet it fearlessly to their honour and the salvation of South Africa or evade it to their dying shame and the desecration of our beloved land, South Africa.

He continued: "When we are faced with a Government that is carrying out a policy that is a negation of all that is best and noble in a civilised country: justice, fairplay, it is time you in co-operation with other decent people in the land stood up unequivocally in defence -- not of your property or property rights, but of your souls and human values that are being trodden underfoot by the Nationalist Party Government and those white people who unfortunately accept the leadership of the Nationalist Party when it comes to the treatment of non-whites; unfortunately at present such whites form an over-whelming majority of the White community, in the Union of South Africa."

"The Group Areas Act in all its tyrannical provisions and its nefarious objectives as voiced by some leaders of the Nationalist Party including Cabinet Ministers, spells utter doom to the Indian community and the Coloured community as does the mopping up process among Africans carried out under the Resettlement of Natives Act, recent amendments to the Urban Areas Act and the intensification of the elimination of so-called "Black Spots" in rural areas under the provisions of the Native Land Act 1913, as amended and the Native Land and Trust Act, 1936, as amended.

"I assure you again of the support not only of the African National Congress, but of the responsible people in our community typified by the 349 leaders and delegates who attended the recent All-In Conference of the African people in Bloemfontein who with one unanimous voice said: No to the Tomlinson Commission Report as an instrument of Apartheid. May the South African Indian Congress continue in its laudable efforts of seeking to co-operate with all people of goodwill who love and believe in freedom for all and with all such people form a liberatory movement that will oppose and

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eventually defeat enemies of freedom in our land, South Africa, whoever they may be and wherever they may be."

Dr. Naicker in his Presidential Speech delivered in absentia as Dr. Naicker is a banned man and read by Dr. M.N. Padaychee said: "I am addressing this Conference in absentia owing to the ban which has been imposed on me but I share with you, one and all the great joy that Chief Luthuli is once again actively with us. We are proud to have him once again to declare this 22nd Conference of our Congress open. Chief Albert J. Luthuli has become the foremost spokesmen of the underprivileged South Africans of all races. We rightly claim him to be our leader just as the African National Congress does. His inspiring address will live long in the memory of freedom-loving South Africans."

"Chief Luthuli is coming to us from a historic conference held earlier this month at Bloemfontein where African leaders gathered together at one of the most representative conferences ever to be held in the Union to discuss the Tomlinson Report and its underlying policy of Apartheid. That Conference marked yet another milestone on the hard and bitter road to freedom in South Africa."

"The Bloemfontein Conference was convinced, that the present policy of apartheid constituted a threat to race relations in the country, therefore, in the interests of all people and the future of the country, it called upon all national organisations "to mobilise all people, irrespective of race, colour or creed to form a united front against Apartheid."

"In this one world, our struggle against segregation and apartheid is only just one facet of the great international struggle for freedom. We welcome the world-wide support we have received for our struggle and unhesitatingly declare as our own the world-wide struggle on the part of colonial peoples everywhere for their liberation."

Dr. Naicker said that: "On the international front, the Bandung Conference has given a new hope, particularly to the people's of Africa and Asia who are today united as never before in their common resolve to end imperialism and eliminate racial discrimination. We note with pride the positive role played by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in international affairs and in particular in the cause of world peace."

"Once again, on the international scene, the racial policies of the Union Government will come up for discussion in the general assembly of the United Nations. While we re-iterate that our freedom in this country will come from our own efforts we nevertheless realise how important it has been for us to receive the support of the memberstates of the United Nations."

Dr. Naicker went on and said that: "On the national front the most significant event since we last met in Conference has been the holding of the Congress of the People at Kliptown, Johannesburg on June 25th and 26th last year. The Freedom Charter which this conference formulated has become the guiding star of all South Africans of all races advancing on the road to freedom. In all our deliberations, decisions and actions, our main concern should be to make this great Charter a living reality."

Referring to the threatened removals under the Group Areas Act, he said: "This conference meets on the eve of contemplated forced expulsion of our people from the Western Suburbs of Johannesburg. The proclamation of Group Areas in certain parts of Johannesburg has forcefully brought to the notice of South Africa and the world the truth of our contention that the Act spells our economic doom.

"I am sure that conference will give detailed consideration to the grave threat which faces our people from the Group Areas Act and the Group Areas Development Act. It is for the South African Indian Congress and its constituent bodies to give our people a clear lead on this question in every city, town and village in the Union. We have seen how effective our policy of a united front can be by the way in which democratic forces rallied to the call issued by our Congress against the Group Areas Act both in Natal and the Transvaal. We must strengthen that United front and go forward until we defeat this obnoxious law.

Dr. Naicker concluded: "Since we last met in conference the Nationalist Government has placed a large number of Apartheid laws on the Statute book. These laws have seriously curtailed the meagre freedom which the Non-White people have enjoyed in the Union. The country under Nationalist rule has become a fully fledged police-state. It is our task to prevent South Africa drifting further on the road to disaster and chaos."

The Business sessions of Conference will continue on Saturday afternoon and the whole of Sunday and is being attended by delegates from Natal, Cape and the Transvaal.

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PRESS RELEASE

ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS.

The keynote of the deliberations at the 22nd Biennial Conference of the South African Indian Congress was the total rejection of apartheid and all its ramifications. The Conference, in a resolution declared that the policy of apartheid is purely and solely aimed at bringing about an oppressive fascist dictatorship of the minority over the masses of the people of South Africa. It noted the implementation of apartheid was causing bitter racial contention and conflict in South Africa, being based on the ideology of race superiority and that it must inevitably lead to racial oppression and strife. It therefore constituted a serious threat to world peace.

Delegates at Conference unanimously acclaimed the bold, courageous decisions taken by the leaders and organisations of the African people at the Bloemfontein Conference which was recently convened by the Interdenominational Ministers' Federation. The Conference representing as it does, South Africans of Indian origin, solemnly pledged that it will do everything in its power to assist in the convening of a national multiracial conference to form a broad, united front against apartheid.

The most critical issue that faced delegates at the Conference was the implementation of the Group Areas Act which means the uprooting of thousands of people in settled communities from their homes and businesses. On Saturday afternoon, most of the discussion centred around this particular issue and after lunch on Sunday, in a resolution moved by Dr. A.H. Sader of Ladysmith and seconded by Mr. Salim Saleh the Conference rejected the Group Areas Act and demanded its immediate repeal. Conference expressed its strong determination to defend to the utmost Indian homes, places of business and means of livelihood and all the social, educational, cultural and religious institutions which were built and fostered with sweat and toil. The Conference called for the establishment of Regional and Local committees of all sections of the people to bring into united action all those who are opposed to the Group Areas Act and also called on the Executives of the constituent bodies of the S.A.I.C. to organise a Day of Hartal and prayer to arouse the conscience of South Africa and the world.

Conference also called on the Indian people in South Africa not to aid or acquiesce in the implementation of Group Areas in any manner whatsoever and not to move into proposed Group Areas such as Lenasia proclaimed for Indians.

This resolution was moved in hushed silence and delegates who were waiting patiently for a lead from the S.A.I.C. against the callous and inhuman intentions of the Government, realised the task that faced them in the immediate future.

Conference also spent considerable time in discussing the trend in South Africa during the last 2 years towards a one-party dictatorial regime of a fascist character. In 2 separate resolutions, Conference condemned the Suppression of Communism Act and viewed with concern the Police State methods used by the Special Branch to intimidate supporters of the Congress and Trade Union Movements. It expressed its strongest indignation at the threat of a Government spokesman to ban the African National Congress in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act. It regarded such threat as the expression of the police state Mentality which is unable either to answer or to tolerate democratic criticism and opposition. It specifically condemned the Government for refusing Passports to persons even remotely connected with the Peoples Movements, refusal of permits to South Africans of Indian origin who wished to travel from one province to another in pursuance of their political and trade union and business activities. It also condemned the police raids made on the homes and offices of Peoples Leaders.

Conference accepted that "the law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children and to the privacy of their homes from police raids shall be protected by law and all shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from Province to Province, and from South Africa abroad.

The S.A.I.C. met at Conference for the first time after the historic Congress of the People held at Kliptown in June last year, un-animously adopted the Freedom Charter which it regarded as significant and the assembly at which it was formulated as unique in that it was the first multiracial conference held in South Africa to lay down the basic minimum demands of the people both black and white for Freedom and Democracy.

Mr. G. Hurbans of Natal presided throughout the sessions of Conference which was opened by Chief A.J. Luthuli, President-General of the African National Congress. Delegates at Conference displayed a remarkable appreciation of the grave political situation that faced not only the Indian people but also other sections of the South African population and in very serious debate felt that there was no effective parliamentary opposition to the present Government except the

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extraparliamentary forces such as the Congresses. The sessions which started on Friday concluded on late Sunday Afternoon and was attended by numerous visitors from all sections of the population who displayed a very keen interest in the deliberations of the S.A.I.C.

Dr. G.M. Naicker was elected President of the S.A.I.C. and Mr. G. Hurbans and Advocate H.E. Mall were unanimously elected Joint Secretaries, to serve for a period of 2 years. Dr. A.H. Sader and Mr. F. Ebrahim, an old stalwart were elected Joint Treasurers .

Sessions closed with recorded songs rendered by Congressmen from Pietermaritzburg singing the praises of the Congress Movement.

South African Indian Congress.

37, West Street,

JOHANNESBURG,

21st October, 1956.

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PRESS STATEMENT.

(Issued by the South African Indian Congress)

The following is the text of cable sent by the South African Indian Congress to Mao Tse-Tung, the President of the Peoples' Republic of China on the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the establishment of the new regime.

"On behalf of the South African Indian Congress we greet the heroic people of your great country on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the Peoples' Republic of China X We sincerely wish your country still greater achievements in the cause of peace and progress of mankind.

Yusuf Cachalia & D.V.Mistry
Joint Hon. Secretaries. "

for the South African Indian Congress,

~~Message No.~~
Gekry by *S. S. S. S. S.*
Deur *L. S. S. S. S.*
Te. *L. S. S. S. S.*
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Yusuf Cachalia & D.V.Mistry
Joint Hon. Secretaries.

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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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