DATE FIXED FOR ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE



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To be at Bloemfontein, October 4th to 7th

CAPE TOWN.-THE NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID CON-FERENCE CALLED BY THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL AFRICAN MINISTERS' FEDERATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN BLOEMFONTEIN FROM OCTOBER 4 TO 7 OF THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY OF THE FEDERATION, REVEREND A. L. MNCUBE. HAS INFORMED NEW AGE.

The decision to call this all-in affecting the African people." conference was taken at Idamf's The conference is open to all anxiety for the African people."

"At the June conference it was decided that the findings and recommendations embodied in the Tomlinson Commission Report were of such national importance that only a national conference of African leaders and organisations of all shades of thought would be competent to tackle the issues raised in the report," said the Reverend Mncube.

"In addition, the conference will also discuss recent legislation



annual conference in Brandfort last African people who wish to attend, June, when conference declared and invitations have already been these are "days of grave national] sent to all African organisations and leaders throughout the Union. Those who have not received invita-

tions should write to the Rev. Mncube, P.O. Box 161, Worcester, without delay.

The Idamf executive has decided that delegates to the conference will be as follows:

1. Official delegates representing organisations.

- Invited delegates.
- Chiefs and their deputies.

Individuals who have officially applied to be admitted to the conference.

5. Observers and visitors.

The conference has won great enthusiasm among all sections of African opizie, reports New Age's Johannesburg correspondent.

Most people feel the conference should not have the Tomlinson Report as the main agenda item, but that it should discuss African attitudes to apartheid in general and their policy on specific acts and burning issues confronting the people.

New Age interviewed a number of African leaders on their attitude to the conference, among



Within two weeks of the great women's demonstration against passes at Pretoria, South African women were once again marching through the streets in defence of their families and homes. Here Transvaal Indian women are seen marching through the streets of Johannesburg in protest against the Group Areas proclamation which aims at driving them and their families out of the city. Leading the march, from left to right, Dr. Zainap Asvat, Mrs. Dadoo and Miss Babli Patel. For further news on the group areas fight see page 6.



them Dr. A. Letele, treasurergeneral of the ANC (photo at left), Mr. P. M. Lengene, Mr. P. Q. Vundla, Dr. A. B. Xuma, Mr. Leslie Massina and sportsman Mr. R. D. Twala. For a full report of their views, see page 3. (By a Special Correspondent)

Recently New Age published a report of a meeting held on August 12, between representatives of the Trade Union Council and a few African trade unionists. At this meeting the formation of a "Liaison Committee" was discussed. Many workers are wondering what lies behind this proposal. What is this proposed "Liaison Committee?" What are its aims? What's it all about?

The Daily Press has drawn a veil of silence over the starvation in Here New Age writer, Govan Mbeki, reports that the **Reserves**. ND TRANSKE

PORT ELIZABETH. "TKATI ilel' eziko" (The cat

is lying on the hearth). In this graphic manner Mamthembu, an aged widow, described the famine position in the Transkei. If there is nothing to cook, there is no need to make a fire, and so the cat lies on the hearth.

Wherever people meet the daily sing-song is the famine. "Where am I going to find food

to cook for these children today? asked Nojam.

"A bag of mealies costs £2 at the shop,' observed one woman. 'That is not so bad compared

with £2 10s. we pay at our shop,' said a woman who came from the coastal districts.

Famine is tightening its grip on the 11 million Transkei and Ciskei

women who, single handed, are struggling to keep alive. The whole of Ciskei did not get even green mealies from the lands during the autumn months. In the Transkei the position is no better. The coastal belt has, for the third year in succession, not had any crop. Most areas on the plateau gleaned a few green mealies in April, but were not able to get any crop at all.

The shops seem to be selling nothing other than mealies which are conveyed by diverse methods -women carry sizeable loads on their heads; a bag of mealies in drawn on a sledge by oxen; or is carried on the back of a donkey.

The effect which the famine is having on the health of the people is noticeable by the number of people who crowd at doctors' surgeries. One trader told me that he has had to step up considerably his orders for patent medicines as the demand for them continues to increase.

Death-Rate

Commenting on the position an official of Zenzele (Women's Organisation), said that the deathrate seemed to be more serious amongst adults most of whom suffer from breathlessness. A doctor said this condition may be due to lack of certain vitamins,

In answer to a question she told the meetings: New Age that there was not much infantile mortality.

"How do you explain that?" I asked.

"THERE ARE NO CHILD-REN TO DIE," SHE SAID. "EITHER THE MOTHERS ARE STERILE OR THE HUSBANDS ARE AWAY ON THE MINES AND FARMS."

Having recruited all able-bodied men the Agents are now concentrating on the recruitment of Child Labour. They are enticing boys of 14 to 16 years. They obtain the permission of any adult who claims to be the relative of these boys to give them permission to recruit. The adult is assured that the child will be well looked after and that he will be encouraged to write and to send

(Continued on page 6)

HERE IS THE ANSWER. THE COLOUR-BAR T.U.C. (WITH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT) WANTS THIS PHONEY "LIAI-SON COMMITTEE" SO THAT IT CAN POSE AT THE INTER-NATIONAL LABOUR ORGANI-SATION AND ELSEWHERE AS "THE SPOKESMAN OF THE AFRICAN WORKERS."

Miss Dulcie Hartwell, secretary of the TUC has herself given the game away and revealed this real reason for the new move.

I quote the official minutes of

"At the International Labour Conference, when the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions challenged the credentials of the S.A. workers' delegate, the Government stated that the S.A. Trade Union Council was the most representative body, and was in the course of establishing liaison with a number of African unions."

"ADVISORY BOARD" STATUS It should be perfectly clear that the African unions are not being invited to affiliate to the TUC. The TUC constitution specifically and insultingly excludes African trade unions from affiliation.

To make up for this, and as a sort of sop to the principles of genuine trade unionism and overseas opinion, the TUC constitution provides for a "Liaison" (Contact) Committee between itself and the (Continued on page 8)

NEW AGE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1956



In fairness to myself and at the request of a number of persons who are very interested to discover the object of the criticism levelled at me in regard to my reply to the Prime Minister's London speech, I attach herewith the relevant passages of his remarks and a copy of the letter from myself to the London Times. I ask you please to publish these in their entirity and I leave it to your readers to draw their own conclusions.

Mr. Strijdom, while addressing an English audience just prior to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference said, inter alia:

"The distinctions which are drawn in my country do not proceed from an oppressive intent and have no oppressive effect but are broadly speaking designed to ensure peaceful development towards the racial and cultural identities by differentiation and by separation into different areas and different groups within which each race can develop in its own way and work out its own destiny with a minimum of racial friction.'

THE REPLY

My reply was as follows:

To the Editor of The Times:

Sir,-In fairness to the Africans whom I represent in Parliament, I should like to correct the inaccuracies and misinterpretations in Mr. Strijdom's speech at the South African Club on June 25.

Africans do not agree with the Prime Minister's statement that the Europeans have a "stronger claim" than they to South Africa, or that were it not for European intervention they would have exterminated themselves through tribal wars. There is no historical basis for either assertion.

In any event, Africans insist

Mr. Strijdom. It is the "apartheid' of colour-bars and race discrimination, which denies them access to skilled work, excludes them from administrative posts in the Government, railways, post office, banks and commercial houses; which provides an inferior education for only one-third of their numbers; and which prohibits them from owning land and houses in areas outside the eroded and over-populated Reserves.

Mr. Strijdom, though not admitting to these facts, has tried to defend his policy in terms of the right of the white people to remain in South Africa and preserve their racial identity. The obvious reply is the Non-European people's claim to self-preservation. We acknowledge the right of any racial group, whether white, brown or black, to exist. We fear, however, that the methods adopted by Mr. Strijdom and other white supremists to ensure their continued existence will prove to be the instrument of their own destruction.

His analogy of black immigra-tion into Britain of 150 million persons is not altogether correct. The real question is how would the British people react if, say, 10 million immigrants were to forcibly exercise absolute power and reduce the indigenous inhabitants to the position of voteless labourers?

No South African who, like myself, is in close and constant contact with the African people, can fail to be alarmed at the almost irreparable damage that has been done by the present South African Government to inter-racial harmony and good will. Its repressive legislation has driven deeply into the minds of the non-white people, and the determination of Mr. Strijdom and his colleagues to retain his monopoly of power and and for September privilege is not only incompatible with accepted principles throughout the world, but also makes peaceful co-existence impossible for the people of South Africa.

We Are Not **Clover**! In

LAST week we announced that our national sampaign had come to an end. But this does not mean that our drive for funds is over. We have to collect £1.000 each and every month in order to bring our paper out. In case you think that this is an exaggeration, our national campaign proves it. We collected over £5,000 in six months and have only managed to pay our wages and printers regularly. Other sundry debtors have gone unpaid and our paper supply has also not been paid for.

The position for September is critical. Not only have we to pay for a five-week month at the end of September—this brings our printing account alone up by one-fifth, but we also simply have to find money to pay for our supply of newsprint.

Judging from this week's poor donations everybody must now think NOTHING we are in clover. COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. So, all of you who took round collection lists and tins during the campaign, please don't stop. All of you who helped us collect money during the campaign, please continue. We need more people to help us. Every democrat worthy of the name must come forward and make his contribution towards the maintenance of our paper. This contribution is not only made in the form of a personal donation-it should also be to collect from at least one other person.

To delay will mean the end of NEW AGE. £1,00 each and every month is not a small amount of money. It is a struggle all along the road to collect it. But that must not deter us. It should make us all realise how imperative it is that each and every one of us pull our weight. DO IT NOW.

THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Donation £21; Izzy £1; Violet £3; Anonymous £1; Jumble £13.1.3; Picture £1.17.6; Music 15s.; Latke £1; Bottles 10s.; F.I. £2; Cyprus £1; K.D. £1; Hopeful 10s.; A.F. £1.1; Bowls £2; K.K.M. 2s.; Allie Girls £1; Fiddle £1; B.H. £1; M.W. 10s.; Fellow traveller £5; J.Z. £3.18; Mc-Sweeney £1; Per S. and J. £3.17; D.G. 5s.

Total this week

THIS POLICE STATE

A FEW days ago the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, vigorously

denied the accusation that South Africa was a police state. In a police state, he said, the police were a law unto themselves, and the department which controlled them was not answerable to the public. In South Africa, on the other hand, he claimed, the police were merely carrying out the laws of Parliament, and if they overstepped the mark they were brought before the courts.

The South African people who suffer at the hands of the police will draw no comfort from Mr. Swart's remarks. The police in South Africa may not be above the law, but most victims find it awfully difficult to bring those policemen who have offended against them to book. The man who is beaten up in a police cell seldom has a sympathetic witness at hand to corroborate his story. The dependants of those who are killed in a location clash are unable to establish from whose gun the fatal bullet was fired.

Even so, the number of policemen who are convicted each year of crimes of violence, very often against prisoners in their charge, is staggeringly high. Yet the Minister of Justice has taken no action to purge his police force of such elements. On the contrary, it seems to be the police practice not to penalise such policemen unduly: during the last session of Parliament Mr. Swart even refused to give figures which would establish just how many convicted criminals are kept on in the force.

Ever since he became Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart has regarded it as one of his primary duties to defend the police force against attack from whatever quarter it comes. Back in August 1949 he first announced that "he was taking still stronger measures to combat growing lawlessness and crimes of violence. Among these were altering certain regulations so that the police could quickly bring their revolvers and other weapons into use when danger threatened."

The Chief of Police at the time publicly expressed his relief that he would no longer have to give an explanation for everything that happened. And, inevitably, South Africa was ushered into an era in which the police acquired the habit of shooting first and answering questions afterwards.

Mr. Swart says he wants "agitators, trouble-makers, rioters and the like" to understand that they will be met with the full weight of the law, "and the rifle and the bullet will be used." Indeed, they are being used with sickening regularity. Week after week in one or other of the shanty-towns or locations nowadays there is a clash between Africans and the police in which men and women, sometimes even children, are killed or injured.

And steadfastly Swart refuses to do anything about it. He seems to think the police are always in the right, the Africans always in the wrong. Innocent bystanders who are shot down have only themselves to blame, he says, because they shouldn't be there in the first place. It is significant that although under the Nationalists the record of clashes between Africans and the police is worse than at any other time in our history, Swart has steadfastly refused to appoint a commission of inquiry. Not even during the dreadful events of November 1952 was he interested in bringing the true facts to light by means of an impartial

that the continent of Africa is essentially-and must always bethe home of the black people. They do not as yet resent the presence of European immigrants or their descendants and are generally prepared to concede that the transplanting of western civilization to this continent has brought good as well as evil. They insist; however, that there is a heavy onus resting upon the Europeans to create a "modus vivendi" that will enable the racial groups to live together harmoniously and co-operate in common tasks. This is possible only if Non-Europeans are given equality of opportunity such as is now denied by law, convention and the power of the State.

To one like myself, who has repeatedly heard Mr. Strijdom personally describe his policy as "Baasskap," i.e., racial domina-tion, his denial of "oppressive intent' strikes me as calculated to mislead. I, and those for whom I speak, have no objection to "peaceful and separate development" which Mr. Strijdom describes as the traditional policy of "apartheid."

Indeed, our criticism is that there is too little of separate development, and all progress has been confined to European farm lands, mining areas and towns, where the bulk of the European population resides. It is here that the African peasant, who is forced by poverty and depression in the Native reserves, has to make his living.

The "apartheid" that Africans know is not the one described by I am, Sir, yours, &c., L. B. LEE-WARDEN,

Native Representative, Cape Western. House of Assembly, Cape Town, June 29.

Women Stopped By **Police Daily**

I wish to express my thanks to the women of Africa for the way they have demonstrated against the pass laws throughout the country. No matter what the document is termed it still remains a pass. It is nonsense to say that women are not stopped by the police. It happens every day. Now the evil has gone as far as separating husbands from their wives.

Young girls go for registration and are told a school certificate is required. They produce this, but the schoolmaster's signature is queried. Then they are asked for a letter from a clergyman. Nothing is said about the train fare for the poor girl as she goes up and down on these unnecessary trips. Not even a mother's word that she is the mother of her daughter is accepted, because the officials think a black person can never tell the truth.

"VICTIM"

Retreat.

Advisory Board Elections

£49 7 9

A meeting held on the 8th August by the Dukathole Germiston Location Residents and Lodgers Association to prepare for the election of the Advisory Board members for the year 1956-1957, nominated thus:

Ward 2, Daniel Khumbule op-poses J. W. Makula; Ward 3, Alfred Mallela opposes M. K. Maphanga; Ward 4, Jacob Makue opposes James Monaheng; Wards 1, 5 and 6 unopposed.

This organisation wrote to the City Council and asked how the removal of the present location to Natalspruit came about. In reply the Council stated that it has discussed the matter with some of the present members of the Advisory Board for the last 6 to 7 years. However, the Council did not state the nature of agreement made by the parties.

The Advisory Board members concerned deny these allegations. However, the residents feel these members should be replaced.

> PAULINE MAKUE (Secretary)

AUGUST MKWANAZI (Chairman) Germiston,

investigation.

Why? Speaking on November 29, 1952, Swart asked: "What would be achieved by such a commission? It would only be a platform for agitators to make propaganda oversea and at the United Nations." Which in itself is a startling admission that he doesn't want an inquiry because he fears the police would not come out of it with credit.

The last time such an inquiry was held-into a number of clashes on the West Rand during the last years of the U.P. regime-the commission did, in fact, cite the behaviour particularly of the younger members of the police force as one of the causes of worsening relations between Africans and the police, and thus also of the clashes. Swart doesn't want any more of that sort of official condemnation of "his boys."

So for the eight and a half years of the Nationalist regime, there has been a real iron curtain between the public and the police. Swart refuses to appoint commissions. He refuses to answer questions in Parliament. He dismisses the mass police raids of last September as "just routine." His district commandants describe each location riot, no matter how many have been killed, as "just an incident."

How, then, can Mr. Swart claim that his police department is answerable to the public? In fact it is answerable to nobody except Mr. Swart himself, and since Mr. Swart refuses to ask any questions or allow anybody else to ask any questions, that means that for all practical purposes the police force today is answerable to nobody.

What angers Mr. Swart is that the world can see through his bluff and that his police state is called a police state. But what angers the people of South Africa is something far more fundamental-the fact that it IS a police state.

The overwhelming majority of our people are determined, in the words of the Freedom Charter, to transform South Africa into a land where "The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people."

NEW AGE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1956

WIDE SUPPORT FOR A **APARTHEID CONFERENCE** But It Should Not Centre On Tomlinson Report, Say **People's Leaders**

JOHANNESBURG.—"It is right and fitting that the move to call African leaders and organisations to discuss factors which are precipitating a national crisis in South Africa has been initiated by the Interdenominational African Ministers' Federation," Dr. A. Letele, treasurer-general of the African National Congress, told New Age last week, commenting on the all-in conference to be held in Bloemfontein from October 4th to 7th (see page 1).

"Whether or not the constitution of this organisation allows for participation in politics is beside the point," Dr. Letele went on. "The truth of the matter is that the masses of the Africans whom these ministers lead, are harassed by the most ruthless and tyrannical political measures on record in contemporary history. Can they truly and sincerely keep out of politics? No. Such leadership would be meaningless and unrealistic.

"THE CONFERENCE WILL CERTAINLY ACHIEVE VERY LITTLE RY DISCUSSING IN DETAIL, THE TOMLINSON RE-PORT. THE NATIONALISTS HAVE SHOWN EARLY SIGNS OF DISOWNING THIS 'BABY' OF THEIRS—THE BLUEPRINT OF THEIRS-THE BLUEPRINT bursts of a few "native agitators," OF THEIRS—THE BLUEPRINT OF APARTHEID. NO! LET US DISCUSS THE BURNING ISSUES WHICH ARE LEADING OUR COUNTRY TO THE ROCKS. LET US TELL OUR PEOPLE AND THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT THE NATIVE ADMINI-STRATION ACT AND ALL ITS STRATION ACT AND ALL ITS dom we love so well. We need not

AMENDMENTS; THE NATIVE have identical 'political ideas; what URBAN AREAS ACT; BANTU we do know is that we have one

CANDIDATE

common foe-apartheid, herrenvolkism and all associated ideologies."

Said MR. P. M. LENGENE, chairman of the Johannesburg Joint Boards: "I welcome the call for the conference. But it must discuss the



sion said: "I am in full support of this conference. It is long overdue. I'm confident that if properly handled some good can come out of it.

"Africans should discuss the Tomlinson Report as it embraces all aspects of African life: it is the document issued by the Nats to entrench apartheid. Conference must discuss the general political set-up in the country and what line to adopt to achieve the people's aspirations.

DR. A. B. XUMA said the conference was timely. It had always MR. P. Q. VUNDLA, prominent Western Areas Board member and one of the five-man Board delega-tion to Cape Town during the ses-

people should take this opportunity to express their views.

SPORTSMAN MR. R. D. TWA-LA said the conference call was a welcome step towards a united front that would embrace various sections of the people. "We as sportsmen are prepared to give our blessings to the conference and we hope the politicians will seriously take up practical issues" practical issues.'

MR. LESLIE MASSINA, secre-tary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions said the conference was welcome and would be of benefit to the working people who suffered from the oppressive laws. SACTU hoped the all-in conference would bring about closer relations between all organisations in the struggle for freedom. Items on the





Straight Fight With At U.L. Rosettenville

JOHANNESBURG.-In the Rosettenville municipal by-election, members of the S.A. Congress of Democrats will work for the return of the Labour Party candidate Mrs. Johanna van der Veer.

"This election is a simple contest between the United Party, upholding a policy of white supremacy, not very far removed from the Nationalist policy of apartheid, and the Labour Party," says the Con-gress in a statement to New Age.

It is clear from their record that the Labour Party and its candidate accept—as do all thinking people today-that the central question of all South African politics, municipal no less than national, is the creation of trust, mutual respect and harmony between black and white.

It is the belief of the S.A. Congress of Democrats that such a state of affairs can only be achieved by a policy which makes no concessions to the mystique of apartheid and white supremacy, but which holds out the clear promise of full and equal citizen rights to all sections of the population.

Since the Labour Party-albeit with some reservations-stands very close to the acceptance of such a policy, the S.A. Congress of Democrats is firmly convinced that Mrs. van der Veer's victory over the United Party candidate is in the best interests of all Johannesburg citizens.

Must Have Pass-Even in Lavatory

JOHANNESBURG. "All Africans must carry their passes on their persons wherever they go-even to the latrines." That may not yet have appeared in the Government Gazette, but one never knows.

David Dhlamini who lives at Site and Service went to the latrine just opposite his house. On his way back he was accosted by police and asked for his pass.

He had taken his jacket off, he said, to go to the latrine but he would fetch his jacket and produce the pass.

He was placed under arrest. His mother witnessed the incident from the house and ran after the little party brandishing the pass. The police refused to look at it. Dhlamini had failed to produce it on demand, they said.

Dhlamini found himself in a pick-up van with a number of others, and at the Moroka police station he paid £1 admission of guilt fine.

PORT ELIZABETH.--Ignoring an order by the local Group Areas Board forbidding him to occupy a shop which he has built here after the approval of the plans by the City Council, Mr. P. R. Vandayar, an Indian trader, has moved in.

He has notified both the public prosecutor and the inspector of the Group Areas Board of his action.

Mr. Vandayar says that he has been forced to do this as the result of the interminable delays on the part of the Group Areas Board in issuing him with the necessary permission.

A number of other Indian property-owners are in the same predicament as he is.

But if the group areas proposals which have been announced for the city and which will be heard at a public enquiry later in the year are allowed to go through they will dwarf the suffering and hardship which local Indians are undergoing.

BARREN VELD

The proposals baldly provide that all the Indian, Malay and Chinese citizens of Port Elizabeth be thrown out into the barren veld about eight miles out of town towards Bethelsdorp.

Meetings designed to plan defensive measures against this racially inspired onslaught are taking place amongst the members of these groups.

In the meanwhile the Europeans

on the value of their properties. Let the Asiatics be shifted to a place called Drift Sands they cry. to the "White Group" to unite and nalists omnipotent God-Race "Protect the future Generations" myth,

as otherwise "All the money that has been sunk into our land and buildings will be swept away." And so the racial hysteria goes on and thousands of Non-Whites who are faced with economic ruin are to be Hysterical appeals are being made sacrificed at the altar of the Natio-



Members of People's Committee to Face Trial

JOHANNESBURG.—Police arrests over a number of days have culminated in murder and public violence charges against fifteen leaders and supporters of the Evaton bus boycott.

group for murder on the night of Lombard Mbata. July 29th; and a third case arises out of public violence on the night of July 29.

Among those facing trial, the in the enjoining small townships majority of whom are members of effect they allege this will have ing trial are Mohamed S. Asmal, and 21.

There are three sets of charges: Abdul Asmal, Victor Ntechane, one group faces trial for a murder John Nhlapo, Paulus Nylapo, Moon the night of June 24; another fili Ngutho, Dennis Matipi, and

> The July 29 murder allegations are said to arise from the deaths of seven Evaton Africans on that night.

An urgent application for bil Linton Grange and Westering are the Evaton People's Transport Com- to the Supreme Court on behalf of raising a hue and cry against the mittee, are the boycott movement six of the men under arrest was encroachment of Asiatics on their chairman Visumzi Make, and its postponed till this week. The trials townships, and the depressing secretary Joseph Molife. Also fac- are due to open on September 12

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