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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BY

ALBERT J. LUTULI

PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT - AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS (NTL)

PRESENT TO THE

1956 ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,
NATAL:

HELD AT

COMMISSION HALL, EDENDALE, NATAL.

" THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON "

To be with you again is an occasion I would not miss for anything. It makes one feel so good. It gives one inspiration one needs so much after a long period of enforced isolation. The only saving grace in the period of isolation lay in the fact that the spiritual aspect of man is not subject to limitations placed on his bodily movement by any other human being and so the Union Minister of Justice could not prevent me from being with you in spirit.

I always thought of you and lived with you in my thoughts especially on occasions when you assembled in Conferences and meetings like the one you are assembled at today.

I suppose some of you may be expecting some striking fresh message from your President after such long forced separation. Let me disabuse you of any such anticipation.

My message will be one that Congress people should have become accustomed to by now. What makes it merit repetition is its relevancy to this time when a good number of Congress men and women have been rendered immobile through Government action against our Liberatory movement.

Therefore, whatever else I may say in my address my special message to this Conference is: "THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON, NO MATTER HOW HARD THE STRUGGLE MIGHT BE".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN WHO IN
THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN OUR COUNTRY
HAVE SUFFERED OR DIED.

It is appropriate at this stage in thinking about our subject: "THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON" and to pay tribute to those men and women who try to carry on the struggle, have suffered or died for freedom in our country.

Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by: A. G. G.
Deur:
Te: Hallingwood, Natal
Datum: 1/2/56
Verwysings No.

THINK of the men and women of all ranks who in our struggle for freedom have lost their lives;

THINK of their dependents who survived them;

THINK of our banished people;

THINK of our banned;

THINK of our imprisoned people;

THINK of all those who have been debarred by law to take part in the struggle for freedom;

THINK of the families and dependents of these brave fighters who have suffered greatly for freedom.

They NOT HAVE SUFFERED OR DIED IN VAIN ! If all these lovers of freedom are not to have died or suffered in vain it behoves those of us who still, in some way, can act to play our part faithfully. If we are truly pledged to the cause of FREEDOM and so to "play our part faithfully" we should say with determination here and now: " THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON". Even if some desert the cause " the faithful few" must carry on the struggle.

Let me re-enforce my call, by calling to my aid my colleague Dr. Letele, Treasurer-General, of the African National Congress when, on the occasion of opening the recent Conference of the Natal Indian Congress he said so effectively: " I exhort you to fight on ! to fight bravely ! to fight against oppression, racialism and discrimination wherever you meet it: be it in industry, in churches, in education and the profession, in sport in society, fight it everywhere!"

Why are we in such earnest that the struggle must go on? It must go on because it would be most tragic if it did not. There is so much at stake. It must go on because we would have betrayed the men and women who have died or suffered for freedom.

It must go on because our cause is a just cause.

It must go on because failing the struggle is failing the Creator of man who offered freedom as his most precious gift to mankind. It must go on because freedom is the noblest human attainment which man throughout the ages has willingly paid the supreme sacrifice for.

Man in his best moments yearns for it.

The Atlantic Charter shows this!

The United Nations' Charter shows this !

The Bandung declarations show this !

The Kliptown Freedom Charter - Our Charter - shows this !

It must go on because otherwise we would be so untrue - so disloyal to our dear Africa for far too long despised and called a dark continent: a continent of wild beast, of deadly diseases, of human savages - you. To this day some white citizens including some Ministers of the Crown still openly tell the world that Africans are primitive and savage; many despise you and call your grown ups "boys", make your men do domestic work and make them wear real boys' kitchen suits.

It seems the whole underlying purpose in all this is to emasculate the men and make them lose their dignity and personality. They think of us as being so docile that the late General Smuts speaking at one time in the United States of America said that we were "as patient as an ass".

The strange thing is that these so called barbaric people live in peaceful contact with the whites. In a population of 8 million Africans about a third live and work peacefully with and for them in urban centres; another third live and work with and for them in their farms and even the rest who live in rural reserves have some contact with civilising influences: Christian missions and schools. It is conceded that mainly on account of the economic conditions under which we live the bulk of our people are poor and therefore; are illiterate and consequently backward.

But are we savage; No! We must convince the world of our worth! Nothing could convince the world than our willingness to suffer and die for freedom.

Finally - the struggle must go on because we would be untrue to our contemporaries in other parts of the world who are sympathetic to our cause and give it moral support. Of the many sympathisers I wish to especially cite the Bandung Conference that unequivocally declared against discrimination, racialism, exploitation, and colonialism generally and the nations there assembled pledged to fight these evils anywhere where they are found in the world.

As for individuals let us thank God for the uncompromising champions of our cause: the Nehrus, the Cannon Collins, the Father Huddelstons, the Rev. Michael Scotts and others. We are not unmindful and unthankful for many effective but sleeping partners in our struggle. We thank them too.

LONG LIVE THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM !

GOOD GROUND FOR OPTIMISM.

It is no idle talk to say that the Union of South Africa is passing through dark days in the hands of the Nationalist Government with its strong leaning towards fascism, especially in its dealing with non-whites. Every session of Parliament sees some oppressive law put into the Statute Book. In so far as Africans are concerned the last session was among the darkest on record.

Three laws which put Africans outside the orbit of the rule of law were passed: The Natives Prohibition of Interdicts Act; an amendment to the Native Administration Act of 1927 and an amendment to the Native Urban Areas Act. In all these laws Africans refused the right to seek the protection of the Courts.

In the administrative field existing apartheid laws are being implemented with much haste and harshness. The air is full of "removals" and banishments resulting in indescribable suffering to the victims of these apartheid laws.

But for all this it is no wishful thinking to say that there is some room for optimism. When a people come to a realisation of their plight and begin to fight back unitedly there is surely room for jubilation and optimism.

We are glad to note that there is a growing number of people who are becoming politically conscious and are awakening to an appreciation of the realities of our situation as non-whites in this land: that we are voiceless and practically landless; that we are voiceless and underpaid; and generally exploited; that we are voiceless and are being deprived of whatever meagre rights we had. Yes! all this and more because we are voiceless since we have no vote.

SPORTSMEN FIGHT BACK !

It is encouraging to see some non-white sport organisations in the Union joining issue against Apartheid in sport and appealing to the appropriate International body that controls the sport concerned. The fight has been won by the non Colour bar Table Tennis Association. It is raging furiously in the case of the South African Soccer Federation - a non colour bar body versus "A Whites Only" South African Football Association. We congratulate our non-white sportsmen for becoming manly and standing for their dignity and upholding the stand of progressive non-whites in the Union; the stand that racialism, discrimination colour-bar and the like should be outlawed in our country if the races are ever to live in peace and friendship.

The stand of the non-white sportman for his dignity and rights is not the only piece of joyful news. Our optimism was heightened a few days ago by the most welcome news in years. I refer to the announcement in the press that the Interdenominational African Ministers' Association is calling an All-In-Conference to discuss the Apartheid policy of white South Africa.

AFRICAN MINISTERS' CALL FOR ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE !

The African National Congress which has always been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and has refused to compromise with this evil thing, Apartheid, assures the Interdenominational African Ministers' Association of its full support for this bold but timely move and sincerely congratulates our African spiritual fathers for this.

We are living in a period of crisis. As a people we are being emasculated and destroyed by this destructive policy of apartheid. We should never abdicate our human rights to our oppressors, nor should we trade these rights for a mess of pottage as some of our people and some white friends often advise us to do. We cannot be content with "ambulance services" when we should be seeking means and ways of removing the root cause of our suffering and as some one put it - I think it was Mr. Alan Paton - "we can waste our time and energy looking for stray values in a garbage can" or words to that effect. Beggars may do that. It is not fair to get the African people to spend their energy and time trying to get or extract some good - which they may never get - from the garbage can of Bantu Education, of Bantu Authorities, of Native Labour (Settlement of Dispute) Act, of Native Building Workers Act and other apartheid laws.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE BEGGARS IN THE LAND OF OUR BIRTH.

Africans of all shades of political opinion should answer this call of an Association representing the organised responsible opinion of our African spiritual Fathers. Attending this Conference will give us a rare opportunity of thinking together, planning together and I hope - indeed sincerely hope of ACTING TOGETHER.

RALLY OF AFRICAN WOMEN AGAINST CARRYING PASSES.

Our womenfolk too have given us cause for jubilation. The magnificent and brave stand they are making against the attempt of the Government to make them carry passes is indeed most noteworthy. We wish the women all success. I call upon our women in Natal to rally in full forces in defence of their most meagre freedoms; they must rally to their cause whatever some of our conservative men may say.

THE HOLDING OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

Our reasons for optimism would be incomplete if we should omit mentioning the most successful and largest political Assembly ever seen in the Union - the Congress of the People.

If evidence of the political awakening of the non-whites is needed this Assembly provides one. The assembly was unique for the large number of people who attended it and for the unique document it produced - THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

WORLD OPINION IN OUR FAVOUR.

One reason for hope and optimism is that world opinion, generally speaking, is in our favour as oppressed people.

Colonialism is in flight everywhere or is fighting a losing battle. We welcome the recent draft statement made by the British Labour Party setting out its Colonial policy and attitude towards what it called territories with a "Plural Society". Africans ! Take courage and say:

THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON ! THE CAUSE IS WORTH STRIVING FOR.

Bandung nations are for us. Even in countries indifferent or even hostile to our cause there are strong minority elements in those countries who champion our cause. With so many for us why should we be despondent. Those who are should take courage in view of so many in the world being on our side.

OUR TASK IN THE WORLD SITUATION.

The African National Congress is pledged to stand for Peace and Friendship in personal relationships and in international relationships.

It accepts and endeavours to uphold such noble principles as the brotherhood of man; respect for human dignity and the supreme worth of an individual. We strive in our work in Congress to respect in practice these noble concepts. That is why the African National Congress wages a relentless war against racialism, rabid nationalism, dictatorship, discrimination and the like.

It stands for the outlawing of war and violence as an instrument of settling disputes. That is why in our situation in the Union, whilst regretting and condemning in the strongest terms possible the mass police raids and the arrogance of some police, all of which combine to provoke our people to anger and confusion, we strongly urge our people not to resort to violence even in the face of extreme provocation. We shall win the esteem of the world if we do so.

The day of Africa is yet to be. No true son and daughter of Africa would like to see this glorious future of Mother Africa plighted by war and especially the hideous most destructive war of the so called civilised modern man. That is why we are so apprehensive of the white powers controlling Africa making her an arsenal for use by Western Nations in any globular war.

With all other people in the world who sincerely love peace we are happy to see the threat of a major war receding. We pray that wiser counsels may prevail in the Middle East which at present is the most explosive spot in the world.

Humanity longs for the time when the great powers of the world will become great at heart and curb their ambitions and thus pave the way for the settling of their differences in a statesman-like manner and so remove the threat of war.

May I here congratulate the Gold Coast and Nigeria for the progress they are making towards independence. Their success in this venture will always be a source of inspiration and encouragement to us, for we know that it was not without much struggle and suffering that they reached the stage they are in. We are thankful to the British authorities which, though belatedly, allowed wise statesmanship in the end to prevail. May it be soon in our own Union of South Africa, which has still yet to be true to its motto: "EX UNITATE VIRES", all its people will be free and equal.

IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion let us come back to where we started and say again: "The struggle must go on".

I charge you to go back to your locality and translate your pledge and resolve: "That the struggle must go on!" into action by seeing to it that you mobilise your area to the cause of our liberatory movement. Attend to the local needs of your people. Preach faithfully and correctly the Congress message in your area which means that you must see to it that the Congress programme and directives are implemented in your area to the best of the ability of your people. I repeat: TRANSLATE CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS INTO ACTION ! REMEMBER: We must, in our lifetime be able to change our Freedom Charter to say:-

1. The People are Governing !
2. All National Groups have equal Rights !
3. The People are sharing in the Country's Wealth !
4. The Land is Shared among those who use it !
5. All are equal before the Law !
6. All are enjoying Equal Rights !
7. There is work and Security !
8. The Doors of Learning and of Culture are open to All !
9. There are houses !
There is Security !
There is comfort for all !

10. There is Peace and Friendship !

and say Afrika ! ISIBUYILE !

You and I shall have to fight faithfully side by side
with all freedom lovers, saying as we fight: "THE STRUGGLE MUST
GO ON UNTIL LIBERTY IS WON !

AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE ! BEFORE SINGING NATIONAL ANTHEMS
I call on you to sing - UMZIMA LOMTHWALO.

(Sgd) A. J. LUTULI
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (NTL)

JULY 26, 1956.
P. O. GROUTVILLE MISSION.
NORTH COAST - NATAL.

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THE REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, NATAL
PROVINCE, FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING
OCTOBER, 1, 1955 to JUNE 30, 1956.

I. INTRODUCTION:

In order to facilitate an early submission of Annual Reports to the National Headquarters by Provincial Conferences to enable the National Headquarters in turn to prepare timely the Annual National Report of the National Executive due for submission to the Annual National Conference, the last Annual National Conference, directed that Provincial Conferences be held in the last half of the year, hence we are holding this year our Annual Provincial Conference in July instead of in October.

This year has seen the continued growth of the co-operation of the Allied organisations in our Liberatory movement. This co-operation has resulted in the formation of permanent Consultative Committees at both National and Provincial levels.

The duty of these Consultative Committees is to recommend means and ways of co-ordinating our activities so that the forces in the Liberatory Movement could more effectively prosecute the struggle for liberation when they fight as a single front.

We have not lost any opportunity to co-operate with other friendly bodies such as the Liberal Party with whom we have agreed to be on friendly relations and, for the present to co-operate on specific issues.

We note with satisfaction that inspite of the bans imposed on some of our Provincial leaders by the Government the routine work of Congress has been carried on in the Province. Special thanks are due to officials at the Provincial headquarters who have had to carry on this heavy work when a good number of their colleagues are incapacitated by bans imposed on them.

Our Provincial headquarters has faithfully sent on to branches directives and propaganda material from the National headquarters; but we regret to report that the response from our branches has been poor and disappointing.

The holding of the Congress of the People on June 25 - 26 last year provided a most effective rallying call for our Congresses and became an effective stimulant to the political awakening of the people and so also has been the efforts of the African women who are engaged in a gigantic struggle against the Government's threat to extend the Pass laws to them.

We now proceed to a wider survey of the work of Congress in our Province.

II. A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE POLITICAL SCENE
IN THE UNION AS AFFECTING NON-EUROPEANS,
ESPECIALLY AFRICANS:

1. IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD:

We draw the attention of members to some of the most vicious apartheid laws passed in the last session of Parliament.

(1) The amendment to the Native Administration Act of 1927. This amendment extends to Africans in the Cape Province the provisions of the Code of Native law in Natal which hitherto applied only to the Northern provinces.

Under this law the Governor-General is now the Supreme Chief of all African tribes in the Union of South Africa. This is a most autocratic law which, inter alia, forces Africans into the stagnant tribal mould which in many ways is incompatible with the concept of life in a modern civilised Society.

This law empowers the Governor-General (in effect the Minister for Native Affairs) to imprison an African for three months without a trial. There is no right of appeal. The Governor-General may now, without the prior approval of Parliament, order the removal of a whole tribe.

(2) The Natives Prohibition of Interdict Act:

This law deprives an African the right to seek the protection of the law when he thinks he is being unlawfully removed from his place of residence.

(3) An Amendment to the Natives Urban Areas Act:

This amendment to the Urban Areas Act empowers the local Authority to banish an African from his area of jurisdiction. In effect it subjects Africans in Urban Areas to the uncertain mercy, not only of the location Superintendent, but of any of his petty officers. With no right of appeal this law will render homeless many Africans in Urban Areas; it will increase the number of vagrant Africans.

(4) The Industrial Conciliation Act, Amended:

Early this year Parliament passed an amended Industrial Conciliation Act. In the industrial sphere this is a most sinister apartheid Act. It introduces racialism into industry and Trade Unionism. To this end it requires that work categories be classified and allocated on racial lines with the African, at most, doing a most limited number of semi-skilled jobs. For all practical purposes it resigns Africans to unskilled work in industry. It further provides for the formation or division of Trade Unions on racial lines. In so far as the position of Africans in Industry is concerned this Act should be studied in conjunction with other industrial laws applying to Africans such as the Natives Labour (Settlement of Dispute) Act 1953 and the Native Building Workers Act, 1951.

In all spheres of life in the Union of South Africa apartheid is being introduced and legally enforced. Some of the new areas that are threatened are the Nursing profession and the Universities. In all this classification and separation non-whites must never forget that on the principle of "separate but unequal" already having legal recognition in the Union what services and institutions are given them on an apartheid basis will be inferior. The figures we quote below from Hansard No.16, the Senate of the Union of South Africa, page 3926, are most illuminating. The Hon.Senator Van Aarde went to much trouble and great pain to show by these figures that his party, the Nationalist Party, were not Kaffer-boeties as accused in a speech by Mr. Strauss, the leader of the United Party, the official opposition.

The Union of South Africa is, indeed, in some ways, a strange country. Where on earth would you get supposedly civilised and religious people, such as the white people in the Union claim to be, seeking applause and support for doing less for the most needy section of the community and lavishly spending on the better off? The Hon.Senator Van Aarde gave these comparative figures to show that the Government was spending respectively on whites and non-whites on some public services:

<u>S E R V I C E:</u>	<u>Whites:</u>	<u>Non-Whites:</u>
Housing:	£64,500,000	£30,000,000.
Food subsidies:	85,000,000	41,000,000.
Education:	150,000,000	37,000,000.
Pensions:	81,000,000	35,000,000.
Children's Allowances:	9,000,000	5,000,000.

2. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD:

(1) The vicious apartheid laws such as the Bantu Education Act, 1953, the Bantu Authorities Act, 1951, Native Labour (Settlement of Dispute) Act 1953, the Native Building Workers Act, 1951, and others, are being speedily implemented. This, according to circumstances, is done in true fascist ruthlessness when presenting the law with an air of sweet reasonableness seems to fail.

It is a matter of great concern to us that some of our people, for various reasons: fear, undue consideration of self-interest, ignorance of issues at stake, etc. are succumbing to this government propaganda of intimidation and appearance of sweet reasonableness. This is a challenge to Congress to redouble its efforts to politicise the people.

In this matter of the implementation of the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Party let us pin-point plans and efforts made by the Government to effect removals in Natal.

(2) Removals: The African has become the first victim of the reshuffling and displacement contemplated in the Nationalist Government policy of apartheid. The position of the African in this regard is most vulnerable and perilous in that his removal can be brought about through

a number of laws: the Native Administration Act, 1927, the Native Urban Areas Act, 1923, the Group Areas Act, 1950, the Resettlement Act of 1954 and may be some other Acts.

Further, in general, in both rural areas and Urban areas, he is the least secure of all the people in the Union in that the land laws of the country make him atenant in rural reserves (State lands) and in municipal locations. Only a small number of Africans had acquired landed property before laws such as the Native Land Act, 1913 and the Native Urban Areas Act, 1923 for Urban Areas were passed. These laws made it difficult for Africans to buy or hold under lease land in the Union.

As we pointed out in our last year's Annual report the Northern districts of Natal are the first victims in Natal. Removals are being planned for the Urban Areas of Charlestown and Newcastle and in some rural areas in the Northern districts in the so called "blackspots" such as Kumaloville near Besters, Kingsley, Waschbank and some African syndicate farms situated in the valuable coal-belt of Natal.

In our report last year we pointed out that all peri-urban African Settlements were in mortal danger: to say nothing about African settlements or properties within Municipal boundaries. We have already been told that Sobantu Village in Maritzburg must go. How can people living in Newscotland, Ockerts' Kraal, and Slangspruit feel safe? How can people in these areas be so apathetic about removals?

The Provincial working Committee, African National Congress, Natal, sent to the Town Clerk, Pietermaritzburg Corporation, its protest against this threat to Sobantu Village by the Government Native Affairs Department. This protest appeared in the Natal Witness of July 11, 1956.

The building of Duffs Road African Township, some twenty miles from Durban, spells the doom of African property holders in and about Durban. Africans in most Municipal locations: Chesterville, Baumannville, Cato Manor, will all soon be crowded at Duff's Road.

3. BANTU AUTHORITIES:

The Government is using all its skill and prestige to get African chiefs to accept Bantu Authorities. The Minister for Native Affairs attended in person "Indabas" convened by his Department to meet in some important African Areas in different parts of the Union.

One such gathering was held at Vuma, Nongoma, Zululand, towards the end of last year. In all these gatherings Bantu Authorities and Bantu Education were the chief topics. The Zulu people diplomatically refused to have anything to do with Bantu Authorities.

Since that meeting the tactics of the Government, was to approach chiefs separately and individually, no doubt, using the local Native Commissioner to soften each chief by sugar-coated explanations and by veiled or may be even open intimidation.

It has come to our knowledge that some government officials - Native Commissioners and Information officers - present Bantu Authorities as an obligatory law and keep silent about its permissive nature.

The African National Congress has no intention of halting its uncompromising opposition to this and other apartheid laws.

(4) Police Raid: One most distressing thing in the Administrative field is the making of mass police raids into African homes and to meetings of the Liberatory movement. To make matters worse some members of the raiding police party carry on the raid with the show of much power and harshness with no respect for the human dignity of their victims. All this tends to provoke reciprocal harshness or violence on the part of the African civilians to whom the attack is directed.

We would urge our people even under such provocation circumstances to respect the Congress stand of non-violence. We must prosecute our struggle at all times on the peaceful dignified way of non-violence.

We publicly express our condolence to the relatives of those who became victims of police violence.

We condemn most strongly these mass police raids and the brutality, more often than not, shown by the police in carrying out these mass raids.

III. A BRIEF SURVEY OF CONGRESS PLANS AND ACTIVITIES IN NATAL CARRIED ON UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL-CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

(1) Ban on Congress Leaders:

The government has relentlessly continued its war against the Congress leadership. During the year under review our banned leaders in Natal are Albert J. Lutuli, Provincial President, Wilson Z. Conco, Deputy Provincial President, Masabalala B. Yengwa, Provincial Secretary, Harry T. Gwala and Philemon Tsele.

The ban on P.H. Simelane, Provincial Treasurer, expired in September of last year. Whenever a ban became known a press statement protesting against the ban was often issued and, further, protests were voiced at important Congress meetings.

The National Conference called upon Congress members to contribute to a fund from which some financial assistance could be given to all banished Congress people. The Natal contribution to this fund was only a small sum of £3,18.0. last year. We expect Natal to do much better this year.

(2) The National Conference decided to embark on the establishment of a Freedom Fund. When sufficiently subscribed to this fund would be used to carry on the struggle for Freedom.

This fund should not be confused with such specific interim Congress funds such as the banished People's Fund, already touched upon above, and the Defence fund to which we shall refer later. Nor should this fund (Freedom fund) be confused with ISIKWAMA SESIZWE with which also we will deal later.

This year's Provincial Conference will be asked to lay the foundation for this fund by asking Congress people and members of the public attending the Conference to make a voluntary subscription to this fund, the Freedom Fund.

(3) Defence Fund: The recent announcement in Parliament by the Minister of Justice that about 200 Congress people were due to be arrested and charged for treason or sedition and for the violation of the Suppression of Communism Act has caused the National Working Committee, on behalf of the National Executive, to direct Provinces to establish its own Defence Fund to meet the legal defence expenses which will follow from the contemplated arrests.

Conference will be asked to make plans to have this fund subscribed to immediately. Further, Conference will be asked to approve any defence plans submitted by the Provincial Executive.

The Executive makes no apology for making many calls demanding a generous support for the Congress funds indicated above.

Contributing to them or not is a measure of the serious concern, or lack of it, we have for the cause of freedom we are so vocal about; let it not be said that our actions belie our expressed intensions about freedom.

We cannot be reminded too often that Freedom is the most precious and valuable gift given to man by God and that to get it we must be prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice and so Congress calls upon all Africans to give full support to the cause of Freedom.

(4) Provincial Representation at National Conference:

We are glad to report that the Province was represented at all National Conferences held since our last Annual Provincial Conference (September 1955).

At the 1955 Annual National Conference held at Bloemfontein in December, Natal sent fourteen delegates.

At the National Special Conference held in Johannesburg on March 30, April 1, 1956, Natal sent twenty delegates.

It has not been easy for branches and the Province to meet the heavy cost of sending delegates to these long distance Conferences.

We owe some money in connection with travel and subsistence expenses connected with these Conferences.

During the year the Provincial Executive issued a directive to branches asking them to pay money to meet our indebtedness in this regard. Branches were asked to contribute on the basis of One Pound (£1) for every twenty members.

We thank the branches and officials who have strained their resources to attend these Conferences. We cannot over stress the importance of attending these Congress conventions; they are the Parliament of Congress where all binding decisions are made. It is a duty and not just a privilege for a branch to be represented at these conferences, and that is the only way in which branch members can influence and help determine Congress policies and activities.

Travel and Subsistence Fund: We suggest that from the beginning of the year every branch, even the smallest, should start laying aside money in a local Travel and Subsistence Fund to be used to send delegates to Provincial and National Conferences.

(5) Ratification of the Freedom Charter:

Natal shared in the ratification that was made at a special conference of the African National Congress held in Johannesburg on March 30, April 1, 1956. Some people are spreading a false propaganda that Natal was opposed to the Freedom Charter. We quote the Natal resolution in this matter to show that this propaganda is false and unfair to Natal. Here is the Natal resolution:

"That this Conference expresses its concurrence with the principles enunciated in the Freedom Charter formulated and adopted at Kliptown, Johannesburg, on June 25th and 26th, 1954. But, further, that while this Annual Provincial Conference is not adverse to the principles of Nationalisation (vide clause 3 of the Charter) and the general socialistic basis of the State envisaged, nevertheless, in the interest of National unity, it strongly urges that these fundamental principles implied in the Charter be discussed fully before the final ratification of the Charter". And, further, "that this Conference respectfully observes that the Freedom Charter is padded in some cases with unnecessary variable details in an all-time document, thus running the risk of provoking detracting controversy on the Charter".

Natal comments on some details in the Charter and concluded thus:

"Having made our honest comments on it in a somewhat critical way.. we, nevertheless, say that the Congress of the People produced an admirable document under the circumstances, and that this document should be a great inspiration to progressive forces striving for freedom for all in our land during our life time. Space would not allow us to reproduce the Freedom Charter in our report. We reproduce, as one of the annexures to this report the principle clauses of the Charter.

(6) Women's Passes: Natal joined in the Union-wide protest against the implementation by the Government of its decision to have African women carry passes.

Several protest meetings have taken place in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Newcastle. In Durban five mass deputations have gone to see authorities in Durban - two to the Native Commissioner and three to the town authorities.

Under the leadership of the African National Congress in Natal opposition to African women carrying passes has grown in intensity despite the confusion caused by two women Congress leaders - Miss B.Mkize and Miss G.Kuzwayo who sabotaged Congress in that whilst ostensibly carrying on the opposition to African women's passes under Congress colours were at the same time working for an organisation known as the Durban Women's Association and crediting it with Congress work. We have recently had a report from our Durban Branch that these two women have been expelled by the branch for their anti-Congress activities.

It is our aim to intensify this fight against African Women's passes and to spread the campaign to other areas including rural areas.

(7) Removals: Complying with the Conference resolution efforts were made to contact the South African Institute of Race Relations in an attempt to make a factual study of the situation in threatened areas. The Director of the Institute replied favourably to the President on this matter. The Director apparently referred this matter to his Durban office. The Durban office informed the President of this. Nothing concrete has been done yet on the account of the shortage of personnel on our part. The Liberal Party in Natal has made overtures to the Provincial Executive of the African National Congress, Natal, offering to co-operate with Congress in investigating and opposing removals. The Executive heartily welcomed this gesture but again nothing concrete has been done.

Congress should not only be vigilant regarding the situation here but should strengthen its hold in the threatened areas.

(8) Participation in the "All-In-Group Areas Conference" Convened by the Natal Indian Congress:

The African National Congress, Natal Province, participated in the Conference on Group Areas Act convened by the Natal Indian Congress on May 5th and 6th, 1956. We note with satisfaction the part played by our officers, especially Messrs P.H.Simelane and A.Gumede who represented us at this Conference. We, further, note with appreciation the highly informative paper entitled: "Some aspects of the Apartheid Union Land laws and policy affecting Africans" presented by our Provincial-President, Chief A.J.Luthuli.

As a result of our participation in this Conference we shall be represented in the Vigilant Committees which it was agreed should be formed in all threatened areas. We are happy to report that in addition to our usual allies the South African Indian Congress, The S.A.Coloured People's Organisation and the South African Congress of Democrats, the Liberal Party in Natal is co-operating in this. It was effectively represented at this Conference. In the African National Congress we welcome

this co-operation of the Liberal Party because one of our objects is to create as long and as deep a freedom front as we can in our liberatory movement.

(9) IsiKhwama Sesizwe (Natal National Fund)

The supposed officers of this fund convened a meeting of subscribers and interested people on May 5 and 6, 1956. Congress has always maintained that it was Congress that started the ISIKHWAMA SESIZWE and that Congress was the natural and legal trustee of the fund. When the supposed officers convened the meeting Congress prepared her case challenging the right of the convenors of the meeting to hold office in the Fund when they are no longer officers of Congress.

We would like to thank members who put the Congress case at the meeting, especially Mr. P. H. Simelane. Conference will be asked to give direction and authority to the incoming Executive to prosecute this matter by seeking advice of Counsel and acting in the best way possible. We encourage Congress members to support the ISIKHWAMA. Subscription to the Fund should be sent via our Provincial Treasurer.

We thank our men who contributed articles to the "Illanga Lase Natal" about this Fund. We thank the "Illanga" itself for the fair publicity it gave to all shades of opinion regarding this Fund.

(10) Political Education: The Provincial Headquarters has continued its efforts of carrying out political education in various ways such as these:-

(1) The holding of discussion groups; this has been done in Durban. Efforts should be made next year to hold similar discussion groups in Maritzburg.

(11) Issuing and distribution of pamphlets such as on Bantu Authorities, Bantu Education, Suggestions on how to organise Congress, and other Congress branches and members are urged to make use of all Congress publications. The battle against apartheid and, in particular, against Bantu Education and Bantu Authorities, must be continued as these laws appear to be the corner-stones of the government policy of apartheid. The capitulation of the Transkei and Ciskien Bhungas and some misguided chief in Natal is a challenge to Congress to concern itself more seriously with establishing Congress branches and making Congress influence felt even in rural areas. Rural work and City work are complementary to each other and neglect of one adversely affect the other. We advise in this regard that Congress members in towns, whenever they take an extended holiday to their rural homes in reserves or farms, should contact the nearest local Congress office (Provincial headquarters, branch chairman or Secretary) so as to be briefed as to how they could establish Congress in their areas.

Material on Bantu Education and Bantu Authorities is still available in the Provincial head office as well as copies of all previous issues of the Congress Bulletin.

(11) Publication of a Natal Congress Bulletin: The first issue of this Bulletin came out just before Conference last year and has since been carried on. Branches are asked to give it their fullest support by acting as distributing agents and by supplying it with news and articles. The aim is to make it a Congress bulletin in Natal by being a forum for all Congress people.

(11) Congress Functional Committees:

We reiterate our urge made last year that Congress in Natal should establish strong connections between it and the Trade Union movement.

There is a sub-committee of the Provincial Executive charged with the task of establishing this connection.

The last National Annual Conference by resolution decided on the establishment of functional Committees at National level with their counterparts at Provincial level. The idea is to encourage the formation of subsidiary bodies under Congress; each of these Functional Committees would take charge of organising some activity or interest among the people such as:

1. Trade Unions.
2. Peasant Farming.
3. Women's Work.
4. Youth Work.
5. Education.
6. Cultural Activities and any other activities or interests.

NB: The reports of the Functional Committees already established in Natal are attached to this report as annexures.

(12) Raids:

Our Congress offices and homes and offices of Congress members, especially those of our leaders, did not escape the nation-wide raids made by the political staff of the criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) in October of last year. Much Congress material was taken from Congress offices and from homes of members raided.

Out Come of These Raids:

Since the carrying out of these raids the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, has announced in Parliament that as a sequel to these raids over 200 people will be charged and prosecuted for the contravention of the Suppression of Communism Act, Treason and Sedition. This leads us to urge upon Conference without delay to call upon Congress members and sympathisers to contribute generously to the Provincial Defence Fund.

(13) The Provincial Consultative Committee:

The Provincial Executive duly appointed our representative to the Provincial Consultative Committee and instructed our officials at the Provincial Headquarters to contact our allies, the Natal Indian Congress, and the Congress of Democrats with the view of getting this Committee formed.

The report of the Consultative Committee (if any) will be attached as an annexure to this report.

(14) Rent Issue in Urban Locations:

The Provincial Executives had been given a directive by the last Provincial Annual Conference to make a strong protest, to the point of taking legal action, if necessary, against the raising of rents in municipal Housing Schemes and Locations. The Executive was directed to seek the co-operation of Urban Locations Advisory Boards in this matter. The Executive reports that on account of the shortage of personnel it defaulted also in this matter and recommends that the incoming Executive be directed to undertake this task if circumstances still warrant such an action.

(15) The Zulu Gathering at Nodwengu, Mahlabatini District:

Congress, mainly on account of lack of money, was not able to send delegates to this gathering; but we trust that some Congress members attended in private capacity. The Deputy Provincial President, Dr. Conco, was asked on behalf of the Province to send to the paramount Chief of the Zulus the Congress message on the occasion of this gathering. The Provincial President sent a personal message of best wishes to the paramount chief.

(16) Report of the Socio-Economic Commission on Conditions in African Rural Reserves: Briefly known as the Tomlinson Report:

Congress in Natal has not had time to consider this important report on apartheid. It is most important that Africans should be made acquainted with its main provision. To this end the Provincial Executive recommends that a special Conference to study the report be convened in September or early in October 1956 to meet in Durban. This Conference would be an "An-In-Apartheid Conference". Efforts would be made to invite widely.

IV. IN THE REST OF AFRICA OUTSIDE THE UNION.

In carrying out our struggle in our country it is well for us to occasionally take note of events in others parts of Africa and through out the world.

The countries of the world in these modern times are increasingly becoming interdependent as also sections of the people in any country. This fact makes nonsense of the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Party and makes foolish those who decry our growing co-operation in our Liberatory movement with other sections of our multi-racial nation - Indians, Europeans and Coloureds.

What we said last year about the awakening evident in some countries in Africa outside the Union still holds true and with greater force - even now. The forces of freedom are, indeed, growing in strength and momentum in Africa and in the world in general. We shall mention briefly some instances of this awakening.

(1) Sudan: Since our last Annual Conference the Sudan has become an independent country. We congratulate the people of Sudan for gaining their freedom. We wish them all success and prosperity.

(2) British Territories in West Africa: Some British territories in West Africa, notably the Gold Coast and Nigeria, continue to make progress towards fuller independence. We thank the British Government for showing willingness to give our people in these territories their freedom.

Our advice to our people in these and other African territories in Africa is that Africans should not allow sectionalism and tribalism to wreck the formation of truly independent democratic states in countries of Africa.

(3) Northern Africa: France is facing a revolt in some of its territories in North Africa such as in Algeria. We regret that both sides have resorted to bloodshed. Our advice to the French authorities is that the only fair and true answer to the awakening of the people is to give them the freedom they are not only asking for, but are entitled to. The present generation of Frenchmen should not forget that it was their forebearers who gave the world the noble conception that human relationships should be based on "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

(4) The Struggle in Northern Rhodesia: Africans in Northern Rhodesia are making a fairly successful struggle under the leadership of their African National Congress and their Trade Union Movement. On the Trade union front not only are they succeeding to secure better wages but are gaining an appreciable advance towards entering skilled categories in industry.

(5) Congress Movement in British Territories: We note with satisfaction the existence and growth of Congress movements in most, if not all, British Territories in Central and East Africa.

We would remind ourselves and our sister Congresses in other territories that the task we have voluntarily taken on of liberating Africans in the land of their birth is a heavy one, especially faced as we are, not only by the might of the white rulers moved to terrific action against us by the selfishness of colonists or white voters, but faced also on the home front with the ignorance and apathy of our people.

We regret in this regard the attitude of the would-be-middle class in our community who seem contented with the status quo because of a few crumbs they might be getting in slavery. We would remind even our African chiefs that they are slaves looking after other slaves.

(6) Quiet in Some African Fronts:

Belgium and Portuguese Territories: We have no doubt that the Africans of these territories feel an inner longing for freedom though outwardly they appear contented. The fascist rule obtaining in Portuguese territories would crush at birth any struggle of the people. We do not welcome the Assimilado policy of the Portuguese when nothing is done to uplift the masses but on the contrary enslaving and oppressing them. Nor are we willing to be content with Belgium's paternalism which seeks to lull the people to false security by anticipating any likely discontent of the people by giving them economic opportunities but strictly denying them any share in the political control of the country. We might here point out a situation in our country which, in essence, is a parallel to this. The Nationalist Government, in its apartheid policy, is winning or silencing some of our people by offering the African people in the Union far less economic opportunities than denying them political rights. The Nationalist Party promises economic opportunities- doubtful ones, at that- only in African reserves and are allowing themselves hundred years or more in which to get the Reserve fully developed to give Africans the full benefit of their Apartheid promises.

AFRICANS AWAKE ! AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE !

V.

THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

The African National Congress stands for Peace and Friendship. We regard as enemies of mankind those who in any way promote hostility among nations and people. It is with joy and relief that we note that the danger of a world war that seemed imminent two year or so ago has receded considerably.

We welcome most heartily the apparent lessening of world tensions. We hope that the wisdom of the leaders of nations will get a way of outlawing war so that man's wisdom and energy could be harnessed to constructive pursuits than to be used to produce instruments of his own utter annihilation.

It is a matter of great pleasure to us to find leading younger nations like India and the Republic of China bending their influence and energy on the side of Peace and Friendship among nations.

We who are victims of racial discrimination and colonialism must constantly call the attention of the world to our plight. We are aware that there are other parts of the world where these evils exist. We note with deep appreciation the growing hostility of world opinion against these evils. We must thank those men and women and groups that have championed our cause: we think of great men like the Prime Minister of India Mr. Nehru; men like Cannon Collins, Father Huddelston and many others. May their number grow !

We are grateful for the growing co-operation among the nations of Asia and Africa. Bandung was the beginning of a great venture in Peace and Friendship by the young nations of Asia and Africa. For ourselves we are glad that there has been created this new peaceful force in the world which is opposed to things that oppress mankind and we, non-whites, in the Union of South Africa are among the worse oppressed people

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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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