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THE TWO THOUSAND by The Editor.

CAPE TOWN: 26th March. On Friday, 25th March, I played some part in the PAN-Africanists' Anti-pass campaign here.

The day before about 100 workers from Langa threw away their passes and then surrendered themselves at the central CT police station at Caledon Square. In accordance with the pass laws, they were locked up in cells.

Most of the Langa workers reported for work, but Nyanga has had a stay-at-home strike since Monday. On Friday most from Langa stayed away and decided to surrender themselves at Caledon Square.

At about 9.30 I received a call from Philip Kgosana telling me that several thousand men had set out for CT, and asking me to come. The people had wisely decided to filter through to the police station in small groups. Soon a large crowd had collected outside the headquarters and the alarm siren was blown.

Mr. Kgosana and another leader Mr. Ndhlovu, gave themselves up. They were put in cells under a warrant for arrest, but not charged.

I chatted to Africanist leaders. The man in charge was Mlamli Makwetu, a casual labourer from the docks. Runners conveyed his instructions to the crowd, which, like himself, was good-humoured and relaxed. The runners (task force) kept the crowd from blocking the pavements and traffic.

Mr. van der Westhuizen, head of CT Security Branch, asked why I was there. Shortly afterwards Colonel Terblanche, CT police chief, asked me if I had organised this demonstration. I said I had not. He was agitated about it and said that a dangerous situation was building up and said he intended asking the crowd to disperse. He said he did not want to hurt anyone but would use force if necessary. I asked him to discuss the whole thing away from eavesdroppers and we went into his office.

I told him ~~we~~ I had no connection with the demonstration and had been asked to come by Mr. Kgosana; it was a purely African initiative and that I did not want a Sharpeville in CT and wanted the affair to go off peacefully. I said: "So are the leaders out there. They and their followers have come in a peaceful spirit. If you want this crowd to disperse there is only one way to do it, and that is to talk it out with the leaders who have complete control of this crowd. Find out what they want and try to meet their requests."

This was done and in a few minutes Mr. Makwetu and four others were in the office, but not before leaving a second echelon in charge. There was a total absence of suspicion on the part of the Africanists.

Colonel Terblanche spoke to them: "Why have you done this to me? Why not take your grievances to the government through the proper channels?"

I suggested that it was not the time to argue the merits of the case. Would it not be better to hear what the leaders of the crowd wanted? He agreed and asked them.

Mr. Makwetu, speaking English, said: "We have decided to put away our passes. Since we know that to do this is against the law, we have come to give ourselves up to you so that you can carry out the law."

Col. Terblanche: I have nowhere to put your people. I have no intention of arresting any of you for passes."

Mr. Makwetu then pointed out that the people had sworn never to carry passes again.

Then Col. Terblanche made the astonishing statement: "Until things return to normal I will see to it that in this area no one is asked to show his pass."

(This concession was made general and applied to the whole country by the Union Police Chief, Gen. Rademeyer and Minister of Justice, Erasmus.)

Col. Terblanche then asked Makwetu if he would ask the people to go away quietly. Mr. Makwetu then said: "There is something else. The people want to know where their two leaders (Kgosana and Ndhlovu) are. They came with them and do not want to leave without them."

Col. Terblanche quickly said that he would let them out on bail. But the Africanists said: "Our campaign does not allow us to pay bail. Our slogan is 'No bail; no defence, no fine'."

Makwetu said that if it were necessary for the two to appear in court he could guarantee their appearance. Some junior officers said they would never find them again, but I said that by negotiating with Makwetu they were committed to accepting his bona fides. Col. Terblanche sent for them and agreed to let them out on their own recognizances.

Mr. Makwetu then agreed to ask the crowd to go home.

Col. Terblanche asked him to tell them not to form a large procession and we went out to the excited crowd.

The crowd did not obey the instruction about forming a procession. Kgosana was hoisted to the shoulders of two young men and carried off to the road to Langa, seven miles home.

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