



WORLD YOUTH AFFAIRS

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Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, P.O. Box 7223, Johannesburg

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UNITY OF YOUTH

This bulletin which we hope to publish regularly will give our readers some information on the work and activities of the Youth of other countries. In this way we intend to serve in contributing to the understanding of the Youth abroad and to bring about goodwill and friendship between the Youth of South Africa and the Youth of other countries. It is our sincere hope that the work we have undertaken will further strengthen and cement the solidarity of Youth.

The need for such a solidarity was never so great as it is today. The warmongers, led by the American Imperialists, are preparing to plunge the world into another war. In Korea and the Colonial Countries like Malaya, Viet-Nam and Burma, the preparations have taken an aggressive form. It is vitally important for the young men and women to be aware of the motives of these warmongers. Through the understanding and goodwill of the youth not only must we create the solidarity, but unflinchingly pledge ourselves to utilise the strength of our Unity in a concerted manner to offset the warmongers from carrying out the mass extermination of humanity. As responsible Youth it is our bounden duty to create a better world based on the principles of peaceful relationship with our fellow beings. It would be a cowardly betrayal of humanity if we forsake these noble principles and allow the avaricious magnates and blood-thirsty warlords to unleash another deadly catastrophe in pursuance of wealth at the expense of the lives and miseries of man, women and children.

Out of the long war against Fascism, in which the Youth played a leading role, were born the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, two formidable organisations which are a significant expression of World Youth Unity for securing peace and a better future.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) was formed only four years ago at a conference held in London on November 7th, 1945, by 445 representatives from 64 different countries. The preamble of the WFDY states: "This World Federation.....is an organisation of Youth united in their determination to work for peace, liberty, democracy, independence and equality all over the World," and further adds that the work of that Federation would be to "insure the protection of the rights and interests of Youth as well as the happiness and well-being of the future generations." Among the aims set out for the Federation by its Constitution are, in particular - "To struggle to establish a close International understanding and co-operation among Youth - to contribute as much as possible to eliminate Fascism in all its forms - to contribute to the education of the young generation in a spirit of democracy and to improve its living conditions." In the four years of its existence WFDY has grown in strength. Today it represents 75 countries with over 70 Million Youth.

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The International Union of Students (IUS) which was formed at about the same time, is the only representative International Students' organisation uniting five million students in 62 countries. The purpose of this body is "to defend the rights and interests of students, to promote improvements of their welfare and standard of education, and to prepare them for their tasks as democratic citizens."

It is an impossible task to give a full picture of the many facts and broad scope of the work of both these World organisations. We are confident, however, with future publications of this bulletin, our readers will obtain a true understanding of these organisations.

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FEBRUARY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH YOUTH FIGHTING AGAINST COLONIALISM

The World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students have declared February 21st, as the day of solidarity with the Youth and Students fighting colonialism. This particular day is chosen to commemorate the Indian sailors' mutiny against colonial oppression which broke out on February 21st 1946, and which received the support of the entire Indian population. On this day in 1947, the Egyptian people organised a demonstration demanding the withdrawal of the British Colonialists from Egypt. This day also commemorates the magnificent conference of the Youth of South East Asia which took place in Calcutta on February 21st, 1948, convened by the IUS and WFDY, and which marked the undeniable intensification of Youths' struggle against colonialism.

Imperialism has oppressed and continues to oppress hundreds of millions of people by whose labour a small group of magnates manage to secure fabulous wealth and riches. For the Youth and Students of the colonial and dependent countries, colonialism means the suppression of their natural culture, the restriction of educational opportunities, the suppression of their democratic rights and considerable material hardship.

As in all countries, so in the colonial countries, the anti-Fascist war saw a tremendous strengthening of the national liberatory movements especially in those countries where the people rose in armed resistance to fight Fascism.

In Asia, for the first time, a free republic was born - the Democratic republic of Viet-Nam. Popular governments were established in Malaya, Indonesia and Burma. The people had been assured in such declarations as the Atlantic Charter that the anti-Fascists forces would guarantee national independence to all subject peoples, and they hope on the United Nations for assistance in this regard. However not only have they been denied their national independence and freedom, but since the war, they have become subject to even greater exploitation from foreign imperialism.

Alarmed at the tremendous upsurge of the subject peoples and unable to rule in the old way, the imperialist powers resorted to new forms of domination. British troops immediately occupied Malaya and Burma by force. With the assistance of British troops Dutch imperialists waged a colonial war against the people of

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Indonesia, while the young republic of Viet-Nam was attacked by French imperialists. In countries like India, Ceylon, Iran and Iraq, imperialism in alliance with the native reactionaries, started a brutal offensive against the national liberatory movements, leading to increased exploitation of the colonial people.

THIS IS COLONIALISM!

In the colonial and dependent countries students and youth live under the poorest conditions, typified by ruthless exploitation, starvation, child labour and mass unemployment.

ILLITERACY.

Over 80% of the people of Asia, the Middle East and Africa are illiterate. The following table will give some indication of the position regarding illiteracy and access to Universities:-

<u>COUNTRY.</u>	<u>Illiteracy Rate.</u>	<u>Number of Universities.</u>	<u>Population Millions.</u>	<u>Number of Students.</u>
BURMA	60%	2	17	3,500
EGYPT	84%	2	18	
INDIA	87%	20	400	250,000
INDONESIA *	94%	3 Faculties.	70	591
IRAN	80%	1	15	3,405
NORTH AFRICA	90%	4	50	6,000
NIGERIA	90-95%	1 College	25	108
VIET-NAM **	85%	1	20	1,000

NOTE: * 1938 figures under Dutch Rule.

** 1942 figures under French Rule.

-- Viet-Nam illiteracy reduced below 20%.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN COLONIAL COUNTRIES.

In Algeria the infant mortality is 60%, and there are only 128 doctors for an area as big as France; in Tunisia 50% of the young people suffer from trachoma, and 30% from TB, in Iran, there is one hospital bed for every 4,000 of the population. Malaya has one doctor for each 10,000 of the population, and Nigeria one per 135,000, whilst British West Africa has one Medical College for thirty students for thirty million people.

WORKING CONDITIONS.

West African workers in the tin mines earn 3-4 shillings a week, whereas the Amalgamated Tin Mines in 1947 paid a dividend of £1,300,000.

Report of the WFDY Commission in South East Asia states that they saw children of five and six years working in cigarette factories without any kind of ventilation, and other children of seven and eight years working in mines and sewers. "One of imperialism's greatest crimes is the inclusion of children in their inhuman exploitation system", the Commission reports.

LANGUAGE.

There is a complete suppression of national culture. One of the ways in which this is done is through the suppression of the

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national language of the people. In practically all colonial and dependent countries the language of the ruling masters is the medium of instruction in the schools and universities and all important subjects are taught to the student in a foreign language.

COLONIAL CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is not bound to any colonial powers in the way the imperialists have a hold on the colonial countries. A very strong influence is traced in the foreign policy of the government, indicating that the government is compelled to "tow the line" with the Anglo-American bloc in the manner in which the Marshallised Countries are forced to do. This is inevitable, especially when large loans are granted by America, and the Imperialists of both America and Britain have a big financial interest in the country. Under pressure from Washington Dr Malan is even compelled to send a token force to Korea. Though loud boasts may be made of the integrity and independence of South Africa, in every respect the government falls in line with the orders of American imperialists.

To allow the overseas imperialists huge dividends for their investments, and further, to give the small minority of the Europeans a high economic status, all successive governments have always maintained their oppressive measures against the bulk of the people. Under the pretext of the colour bar and the slogan of "white supremacy", the vast majority of the people are denied the elementary human rights and maintain in a position to provide cheap labour for the mines, farmers and industrialists. The conditions in which the bulk of the people live in South Africa are in very many cases similar to those we find in the colonial countries.

The following facts provide irrefutable evidence of the way in which colonialism operates in the Union of South Africa:-

a) FRANCHISE:

Over 80% of the people have no voice in the affairs of the country of their birth. They are denied the right to vote, which is enjoyed only by the 2½ Million whites. The meagre Coloured Vote in the Cape Province is now threatened by Parliament. This denial of the basic human right is based on the pernicious Hitlerite doctrine of racial supremacy and colour.

b) LAND:

The ownership and occupation of land is shamelessly restricted. 80% of the population is confined to 13% of the land comprising chiefly of the eroded and unproductive Reserves. 20% of the Whites own and occupy the rest of the land.

c) FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

The non-European people are subjected to various pass laws, and other legislative measures restricting their movement.

d) HEALTH:

The infant mortality rate for coloured children is almost four times as high as that for Europeans. As a result of the very high infant mortality rate for Africans no records are kept. TB rates are as follows:-

Europeans:	32.5 deaths per 100,000
Coloureds:	250.0 deaths per 100,000
Asiatics:	500.0 deaths per 100,000
Africans:	over 800.0 deaths per 100,000

For the 2½ Million Whites 32,889 beds are available in hospitals but for the 9 Million non-Europeans only 23,593 beds are available.

e) SOCIAL WELFARE:

Family allowances - "the most important social security measure introduced by the government in the post war era" - are not paid to Africans and Indians, and coloured families receive only one half of the amount paid to European families.

COLONIALISM - A DANGER TO PEACE

In the present year, the important anniversary of the World Youth and Student movements occur at a time when peace is gravely threatened. The Anglo-American Imperialists and their accomplices are feverishly preparing a new World War, by resorting to direct acts of aggression in Korea, by continuing the colonial war in Viet-Nam, by establishing military bases in the colonial countries, and by bolstering their puppet regimes to ensure the subjugation of the peoples of Africa and Asia to the tyranny of ruthless oppression. The most heinous of the crimes of the warmongers is the regimentation of the youth who are to be utilised as cannon fodder in a future mass slaughter. Their monstrous motives to retain and enhance their hold on colonial countries, the madness and the fury which characterise their loud threats to use the Atom Bomb against the people of Korea and China, are a serious danger to world peace. All these are serious facts which allow us to measure the danger, to show the necessity to do more and more, to correct all weaknesses in our actions for peace, for our life and for our future.

The dark and malignant forces of imperialist aggression, fanatically bent on the perpetually enslavement of the colonial countries, are being heroically challenged by the momentous world peace movement. Democratic people the world over have constituted themselves into an unassailable and indestructible bastion of peace. Following the lead given by the Paris World Peace Congress held in 1949, the Youth of the various countries worked untiringly in mobilising the people in the camp of the Partisans of Peace. The World Youth Festival which took place in Budapest, where 10,000 young people gathered was the most important international manifestation of Peace.

Since the first Congress held in Paris, two years ago, the forces of Peace have doubled and trebled, as it was evident at the Second World Peace Congress held at Warsaw this year. Together with the five hundred million thinking human beings who signed the Stockholm Appeal calling for the abolishing of the Atomic Weapons, and general disarmaments, the World Congress representing these people from 75 countries, pledged to fight for peace. "The second World Congress of the Defenders of Peace is a graphic demonstration of the fact that we have on the one hand succeeded in exposing the warmongers and in overcoming inertness and indifference on which they relied with a view of lulling international opinion, and on the other hand, thanks to our propaganda, every man and woman know they must make their contribution in erecting an edifice of Peace. Thereby we have most positively and concertedly become the sixth great power in the World which we place at the service of Peace, which in itself is a hope for the human race."

(declaration of Second World Peace Congress.)

In its address to the United Nations Organisation, the Second World Peace Congress declared; "we consider the violent methods utilised to maintain the peoples in a state of dependency and colonial oppression as a threat to the cause of Peace; we proclaim the rights of these peoples to freedom and independence."

The struggle against colonialism is an integral part of the struggle for Peace. The Peoples of the colonial and dependent countries, by intensifying their struggle for national independence and freedom, are contributing to the struggle for Peace. Similarly, we in South Africa by our fight for the removal of all the disabilities that the majority of our people suffer, are contributing to the World Peace Movement.

PEACE cannot be established so long as colonial exploitation, subjugation, and racial discrimination exists in any part of the world.

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DEMAND ON COLONIAL DAY

On February 21st the Youth in South Africa in common with the democratic youth the world over must make the following demands:

----- We demand the cessation of the war of intervention in Korea, the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the seeking of a peaceful solution with the participation of the representatives of the Korean people.

----- We demand the cessation of American intervention in the Chinese island of Taiwan (Formosa) and the cessation of hostilities against the Viet-Namense Republic.

----- We demand the cessation of the military repression and terror directed against the peoples of colonial countries, particularly Malaya, Burma and Indonesia.

----- We strongly demand the end of the shameful exploitation which plunges into misery and leads to their death, millions and millions of young people who are suffering under the barbarous colonialist regime,

While demanding the cessation of foreign intervention in Korea, while protesting against all attacks against independence and freedom of the peoples who the victims of colonialism, let us unite millions of youth in the struggle for Peace and national independence for the peoples.

SOUTH AFRICA YOUTH CELEBRATE

A Mass rally to celebrate Colonial Youth Day, has been organised at the Trades Hall, 30, Kerk Street, JOHANNESBURG, at 7.30 p.m., by the African National Congress Youth League, Students Liberal Association (Witwatersrand University) and the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress.

MESSAGE TO SPONCERS OF RALLY.

"On occasion 21 February greetings South African Youth struggle for peace democracy national liberation against imperialist racist tyranny. Stop hope celebration stimulate further united action all sections youth for liberty equality STOP Invite cordially all South African Peace loving youth support and participate large number Berlin Festival."

WFDY Secretariat.

Attend:

COLONIAL YOUTH DAY
RALLY

— Trades Hall —

— FEB, 21st —

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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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