

COLOURED FIRST VICTIMS OF POPULATION REGISTER

Many Re-classified as Africans

From RUTH FIRST

JOHANNESBURG.—The grand inquisition to operate the population register has now started and first victims are the Coloured people, according to information obtained by 'New Age' last week.

FOR SOME TIME ISOLATED REPORTS HAVE BEEN REACHING US OF INDIVIDUAL COLOURED MEN TOLD BY POLICE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT THEY SHOULD SURRENDER THEIR COLOURED CERTIFICATES (A VOLUNTARY DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING THAT THE HOLDER IS COLOURED), AND TAKE OUT PASS REFERENCE BOOKS.

Then last week police stopped 29 workers of a batch reporting for shift duty at the Johannesburg Hospital Laundries, a Provincial Council establishment employing Coloured, but no African workers, and all 29 were called upon to supply their birth certificates, answer questions on their origin and establish that they really were Coloureds.

These workers lost two days' pay as a result of the investigation and when complaints were made, it was promised that in future investigating officers would come to the laundry to question the remainder of the workers.

This probe was due to begin at the end of last week, but was postponed for some days because the officials were busy investigating Coloured employees on the staff of the railways.

NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPT.

This investigation, 'New Age' discovered, is being conducted by officials of the Bureau of Census and Statistics, assisted by Native Affairs Department officials and the use of N.A.D. premises.

An N.A.D. official admitted to us that the inquiry is a preliminary to the establishment of the population register and the issue of identity documents to all South Africans, and that the inquiry is being conducted in terms of Section 5(1) of Act No. 30 of 1950, the Population

Registration Act. This clause requires that every person included in the Register shall be classified as White, Coloured, Native, and so on.

Coloureds questioned by government officials have to answer a series of questions about their parents, where they live, the schools they attended, the jobs they have done. They have to produce their birth and baptismal certificates.

The official then decides whether, in his opinion, the individual is a Coloured, or should be re-classified under some other group.

HIT AND MISS

By all accounts, the classification is a hit-and-miss job, depending upon the discretion and interpretation of the official.

I asked an N.A.D. official if the man's group depended upon the "race" of his father or mother.

"The race of the father," he replied.

"And if the father is a European and the mother Coloured?"

"Then he's a Coloured," he replied. "His mother is Coloured!"

There is provision in the Population Registration Act for an appeal against the decision of the official.

In this investigation, in which Coloureds are being bullied into revealing all sorts of information

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BANNED FOR ASSOCIATING WITH LISTED PERSONS

Swart Creates New Crimes

CAPE TOWN.

AN African National Congress leader, Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana, and two trade union secretaries, Miss Becky Lan and Mr. Oscar Mpetha, have this week in interviews with New Age revealed the "reasons" given by the Minister of Justice for banning them from attending gatherings. Mr. Ngotyana has been banned from meetings for five years; the others for two.

None of them have been listed by the Liquidator as Communists. BUT THE REASONS GIVEN BOIL DOWN TO THIS: THAT THEY HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH LISTED PERSONS. THEREFORE THEY MUST BE BANNED.

The Minister also claims that they have attended or addressed meetings which furthered the aims of Communism, but does not say how.

LENGTHS

The very first example given in the case of Mr. Ngotyana reveals the lengths to which the Government is going in order to gag the people. Wrote the Secretary for Jus-

speeches are quoted, but for the main part the letter merely records that Mr. Ngotyana attended a certain meeting "in the company of a listed person."

RIDICULOUS

Perhaps the most ridiculous charge is that on 28th March, 1953, Mr. Ngotyana "attended the congress of the South African Trades and Labour Council in Port Elizabeth in the company of listed persons." A.N.C. meetings are also mentioned, as are meetings of the Africa Club and a number of unspecified meetings at which Mr. Ngotyana acted as interpreter.

Among the reasons given for banning Miss Lan is the allegation that on June 3, 1954, she attended a meeting in the company of listed persons to protest against the Indus-



Miss Lan.

trial Conciliation Bill and that in September of that year she "gave a lecture, which was also attended by listed persons, at Cape Town, on the trade union movement."

Miss Lan, Mr. Ngotyana and Mr. Mpetha are all "accused" of supporting Miss Ray Alexander (who is throughout referred to by the Minister's secretary as Mrs. Alexander) in her election campaign as African representative for Cape Western.

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Mr. Ngotyana.

tice to Mr. Ngotyana's lawyer:

"On the 30th October, 1951, your client addressed a meeting to protest against the contemplated ban on The Guardian at Cape Town in the company of listed persons, where he said, inter alia:

"The terms of the Communism Act are very wide. The Guardian is an independent newspaper. We call on Mr. Swart to keep his hands off The Guardian. You must all stand together, and protest against the activities of the Government!"

If this is a valid reason for banning a person, does it mean that Mr. Alex Hepple, M.P., Professor B. Beinart and Professor T. W. Price of the University of Cape Town can also be summarily banned? Because they also addressed a Freedom of the Press Conference to protest against the threat to The Guardian in January, 1952.

Altogether the Minister made 28 other equally fantastic "charges" against Mr. Ngotyana. In some cases extracts from Mr. Ngotyana's

World Soccer Federation Excludes S.A. Football Association

Rejects Colour-Bar in Sport

From Jacqueline Arenstein

DURBAN.—The Emergency Committee of the World Soccer Federation (F.I.F.A.) has decided that the European South African Football Association is not a real national body capable of developing football according to the Statutes of F.I.F.A.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS DECISION WHICH MEANS, IN EFFECT, THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS NOT THE RIGHT TO AFFILIATION TO F.I.F.A. SINCE IT EXCLUDES THE MAJORITY OF PLAYERS, THE NON-EUROPEANS.

The Emergency Committee has, however, suggested a compromise solution, as a temporary measure, whereby the South African Football Association and the Non-European South African Soccer Federation form a governing body to be affiliated to F.I.F.A., each organisation retaining its independence, but neither being allowed to participate in international matches as teams representing South Africa.

This suggestion has been made by the Emergency Committee because its members were of the opinion that the merging of the European and Non-European organisations was at present unattainable.

The South African Soccer Federation has replied to the Emergency Committee reiterating its demand for the disaffiliation of the South African Football Association and the ratification of its own application for affiliation to F.I.F.A.

CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

But, as a temporary solution and without prejudice to its rights of

affiliation, the Federation has notified the Emergency Committee that it is prepared to accept the Committee's suggestion for the formation of a governing body on condition that the Non-European members enjoy equal representational and voting rights with the Europeans.

The decision of the Emergency Committee is the result of protests by the South African Soccer Federation against the affiliation of the South African Football Association.

A memorandum sent to F.I.F.A. by the Federation and sub-

sequent investigations carried out by the Emergency Committee proved conclusively that the South African Football Association had no right to recognition as a national body because of its colour bar policy.

OPEN TO ALL

The Federation succeeded in establishing the fact that, in terms of the Statutes of F.I.F.A., it was entitled to recognition as the national body of South Africa: its membership is open to all racial groups and it represents the majority of clubs and players. Furthermore, the Federation's case was strengthened by its efforts to persuade the South African Football Association, in the interests of the game, to accept proposals, similar to those now suggested by the Emergency Committee, for the institution of a governing body, which were rejected by the Association.

As a final decision will most likely be taken at the F.I.F.A. Congress next year, and a number of countries including India, Pakistan and Bulgaria, have written assuring their support for the Federation, the Non-European people must ensure that its soccer representatives in no way harm the struggle against racialism in South African sport by accepting a compromise that will not be favourable to the Non-Europeans.

APPEASEMENT RUMOUR

For it is rumoured in sports circles here that a certain element in the South African Soccer Federation might press for the withdrawal of the Federation's application for affiliation in favour of a governing body in which the Non-Europeans will receive limited rights.

As far as the Non-Europeans are concerned, the consensus of opinion is that such a compromise must be vigorously resisted and that the Federation's right to affiliation must not be relinquished.



PLANE OVER BULGARIA

It was not, of course, surprising that those who want war should have seized at the opportunity of making the most of the tragic air incident over Bulgaria. What IS a little surprising is that it should have been Liberal Party members like Mr. Hjul and Mr. Pogrud who chose to write (Letterbox, last week) questioning the desire of the People's Democracies for peace.

It is interesting that of all the tragic incidents of the cold war this should have been the only one to move them into public protest.

The action of the Bulgarians was a mistake, for which their Government has expressed regret. But what about the action of the Chiang Kai-shek and United States agents who planted a bomb in the Indian aircraft carrying pressmen to the Bandung conference, resulting in the death of 11 people? The Hong Kong Commissioner of Police called this a wanton act of "mass murder" but Messrs. Hjul and Pogrud had nothing to say about it. I never saw their letters in 'New Age' or anywhere else. Are they only concerned about "atrocities" when the other side is the guilty party?

Is it possible that Messrs. Hjul and Pogrud were only trying to make political capital out of an unfortunate incident? Instead of trying to improve relations between peoples, they went out of their way to try and inflame hostility. If this is typical of the attitude of their Liberal Party to international politics, then I say we don't need the Liberal Party in this country; the Nationalists and the U.P. can do the job better than they can.

GENUINE LIBERAL.
Cape Town.

Black and White Keys

The late Dr. Aggrey likened partnership of black and white to the black and white keys of the piano which must be played together for harmony.

This music of racial harmony is in the African blood. Even Smuts conceded it, when at Cambridge, he said:

"Perhaps, as a direct result of this temperament, the African is the only happy human I have come across. No other race is so good tempered.

"If this had not been the case it could scarcely have survived the intolerable evils which have weighed on it like a nightmare through the ages.

"A race which preserves its interests, simplicity and sweetness of disposition must have some very fine moral qualities."

General Smuts could recognise these splendid qualities, admitted to the burden of evil and was satisfied to do nothing!

But there are—perhaps not many—white South Africans who are determined to do much. The task demands patience, courage and faith in the highest degree.

For this reason I, South African born of Dutch and British descent, earnestly beg my African fellow-citizens not to let their struggle for right and justice, rob them of their vigorous sense of humour, their zest for living, the music of their souls—qualities most urgently needed in a weary and disillusioned world.

SUZANNE STEPHEN,
Discovery, Transvaal.

Colour Bar in Sport

In South Africa today there are so many prominent Non-European sportsmen and women, I am sure that many of them are at least equal to those playing in the Springbok Sports League.

It is really heartbreaking to think that the Springboks consist of Europeans ONLY.

I feel that if we are given a chance we could prove our worth. Not once have I heard of a Non-European sports team given publicity or an opportunity to compete with European teams overseas.

If we have less racialism in our country as well as in our sports organisations, and have the Springboks consisting of the various race groups, then I can assure you that we in South Africa would be classed as top-rate sportsmen and women, not only in our own country, but throughout the world.

E. D. GOSS.
Johannesburg.

Liberty in Our Lifetime

White people are better provided for; they have cinemas to enjoy themselves. They have canteens to pass time. They have museums, theatres, botanical gardens and parks to which notice boards are attached "Europeans Only." I do not want to know these people's secrets but my contention is there should be entertainments provided for Non-European people as well.

In the trains certain carriages are provided for European passengers. You find few carriages for Non-Europeans although they are in the majority. Europeans sit comfortably reading their newspapers while Non-Europeans are packed like sardines, standing for long stretches.

There should be liberty in our lifetime, equality, brotherhood before the law. People should be allowed to travel where they like. Pass laws should be abolished. People should not be required to carry permits from one town to another as if they are dumb animals. There should be freedom of conscience. No person should be arbitrarily arrested.

B. S. DANWA.
Hermanus.

THE FORT HARE FANTASY

The public was hoodwinked with a story that the College was closed because of "the existence of a secret authority within the student body."

A seed of distrust was sown between parent and student because we flatly denied at our homes the existence of a caucus. Even now no student seems to know this caucus.

The "secret caucus" exists only in the imagination of the authorities, but 13 students (four women, five from Wesley, four from Iona) have been sacrificed. As far as we know there has never been any intimate association between these victims as a group. Actually they have often differed with each other publicly. To say that they issued instructions or threats as a caucus to students is fantastic.

Moreover, the questionnaires

Coloureds First Victims

(Continued from page 1)

about their families, hundreds, no one knows how many, are being told bluntly that they are not Coloured, must surrender their Coloured Certificates, take out pass books—pay poll tax.

"MADAM, HUNDREDS"

I asked the N.A.D. official whether he knew if many Coloureds were being re-classified as Africans. "Madam," he said. "Hundreds."

The Coloured Certificates had been issued "very easily some time ago." Now they are being withdrawn in very many cases.

Those Coloureds re-classified as Africans have to start paying poll tax but only from the date of their enumeration as Africans, and they do not have to pay poll tax for the "arrear" years. "We are being fair," 'New Age' was told.

Banned From Associating With Listed Persons

(Continued from page 1)

One of Mr. Mpetha's "crimes" is that in September, 1953, he attended a meeting of the Food and Canning Workers' Union at Wolseley where he exhorted the workers to stand together, not to be frightened of the police and to go on strike for their demands. Although Mr. Mpetha is secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, other "charges" against him are that he attended union meetings "in the company of listed persons."

Mr. Mpetha also committed a "crime," apparently when, "in the company of two listed persons, he met Greenwood Ngotyana at the Wingfield Aerodrome on his return from a tour of Russia and other countries."

Nor was it the proper thing (in the eyes of the Nationalist Government) for Mr. Mpetha to tell a meeting of the New Brighton Textile Workers' Union that "the capitalists are fighting against the Africans' wages."

NO COURT TEST

These, then, are the reasons given by the Minister for banning people from attending gatherings and for casting them out of everyday life. But while the Minister is apparently satisfied with his "reasons," none of this so-called evidence can be tested in court.

And the very fact that no charge under the Suppression of Communism Act has been preferred against any of them (except the charge of illegally attending a gathering, which has been preferred against Miss Lan and Mr. Mpetha), shows that the Minister fully realises how slender his case is.

BEDAN.

Alice, Cape.

EDITORIAL

GO GET THE SIGNATURES!

THE National Executives of the four Congresses have decided on the next stage in the Congress of the People campaign: The collection of one million signatures to the Freedom Charter by June 26th next year.

Enoch Tau, Betty Smith, Ismael Ahmed, Stephen Kumalo, Marie Arendse—and a thousand times a thousand other names. Names of ordinary working people doing a daily grind, of poor farmers in the reserves, of professional people, of priests, of housewives, students and chiefs. Names scrawled painfully with pencil, names flowing easily from fountain pens, the clumsy crosses of those who cannot write and the proud neatness of those who are learning to write—one million signatures.

One million signatures for freedom—one million signatures to make the Freedom Charter not only the finest document (which it is already) but also the most powerful document South Africa has ever produced.

Never before has the attempt been made in South Africa to win a million signatures for an idea. Only a leadership which truly represents the great mass of our people, a leadership with a deep confidence in all the people, could conceive of a plan on so grand a scale.

One million signatures—all to be won within the next ten months. That means 3,000 signatures every single day until June 22nd if the target is to be reached.

That means 3,000 signatures beginning tomorrow, if we are to be sure of success.

There is no time to be lost. The task will overwhelm us if we delay now and then try to get all the signatures in the last few months.

But it is a task which, if we set about it quickly and with determination, is well within the powers of the progressive movement.

Is there a sincere person anywhere who can refuse to sign the Charter? Is there anyone of good will who does not agree:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people?

Can it be doubted that 3,000 people will be found in the whole of South Africa each day to sign their belief that:

- The people shall govern;
- All national groups shall have equal rights;
- The people shall share in the country's wealth;
- The land shall be shared among those who work it;
- All shall be equal before the law;
- All shall enjoy equal human rights;
- There shall be work and security;
- The doors of learning and culture shall be opened;
- There shall be houses, security and comfort;
- There shall be peace and friendship.

No, there can be no doubt at all. So let's sharpen our pencils, fill our ink-pots, put on comfortable shoes—AND GO GET THE SIGNATURES.

SINGAPORE, MALAYA, VOTE FOR FREEDOM

Britain's Colonial Crisis Worsens

LONDON.—The British government is failing hopelessly in its attempt to hide the reality of colonial exploitation in the Far East behind a bluff of fake democracy. In Singapore and Malaya, where elections have been held recently, the only result has been to strengthen the people's demand for democratic rights and independence.

The British agreed to stage these elections in the two territories for one reason only—and that was the failure of their bloodthirsty seven-year war to destroy the Malayan People's Liberation Army. Since it was clear the army by itself could not crush the Malayan peoples, the British decided to try and side-track them by holding "elections," and pretending that these would open the road to eventual self-government.

The British thought that since the Communist Party, the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions and other militant organisations of the people were outlawed, the only candidates able to contest the elections would betray their people once they were in office and drawing their official salaries. To make doubly sure, they only permitted people who could speak English or Malay to vote, excluding sixty per cent of the population—those who speak Chinese and Indian.

LABOUR FRONT WINS

The election results, however, have shown the British badly miscalculated. In Singapore, where elections were held in April, the Labour Front (consisting of the Labour and Socialist Parties and some trade unions) became the biggest single group in the Legislative Assembly, and its leader, Mr. Marshall, a Malayan of Iraqi descent, became "Chief Minister."

The British-supporting puppet-parties were heavily defeated.

Marshall's election platform included a vague call for "eventual independence within the Commonwealth," the repeal of the emergency regulations, the restoration of full democratic rights to the trade unions and "multi-lingualism" (the right to use the Chinese, Malay and Indian languages in addition to English) in the Assembly and Councils.

Marshall, "moderate" though he is, soon found himself at loggerheads with the Governor of Singapore, Sir Robert Black, who retained full reserve powers under the new constitution, and immediately tried to make it clear to Marshall that he was just a figurehead, and need not think of himself as a real Prime Minister.

NKRUMAH AIDS TORIES

A dispute developed over Marshall's right to appoint four assistant Ministers, and Marshall threatened to resign. One of the factors which has so far prevented him may well have been a cable from Gold Coast Premier Nkrumah, counselling him to give "most sober consideration before your constitutional crisis is hardened by your Government's resignation."

Another factor which held Marshall back was that the British Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, promised to be in Singapore during August to discuss the situation.

The Singapore people have been roused by the whole dispute. Workers paraded in the streets carrying placards supporting the demand for an end to colonialism, and trade union leaders threatened to come out on strike.

NO OFFICE!

Mr. Marshall, speaking in the Assembly, disclosed that when he was elected prime minister, there was not even an office for him to use, nor staff, nor even a scrap of notepaper to write on. At official functions he found that a host of

Government officials took precedence over him.

In a letter to the Governor, Marshall said: "I cannot take orders either from your Excellency or from the Colonial Office. Singapore must be governed from Singapore and by Singapore. . . . There can be no dual control. Either you govern or we do."

Marshall's own limitations, and his unwillingness truly to represent the feelings of the people, were shown up by his refusal to accept a proposal by one of the opposition parties, asking that a new constitution, providing for independence, should be granted immediately.

Marshall moved that the word "independence" be replaced by "self-government" because, in his opinion, the colony was "not yet ready" for independence.

NEVER AGAIN

This motion was passed by 28 votes to one—the sole dissident being the nominated European member, Mr. G. A. Sutherland, who said the people of Singapore must learn to crawl before they walk. To which Marshall replied: "Neither he nor the Tanglin Club (a social club for Europeans) will ever get us to crawl again."

The Governor replied that he would need time to discuss the motion, and could not give his answer before August 18. On receipt of this message the Legislative Assembly adjourned, ignoring an appeal by Marshall himself that they should remain in session to deal with urgent business.

Complete Independence

FOLLOWING on the shocks in Singapore came the elections in the rest of Malaya last week. Fifty-one out of the 52 contested seats in a legislative assembly of 98 (the remainder are nominated) were won by the alliance of the United Malay National Organisation and the Malayan Chinese Association. This, although a rather wishy-washy alliance, was the most representative of the parties permitted by the authorities to stand for election. All left-wing parties are, of course, banned.

This alliance won the support of the voters behind the demand for complete independence from Britain by 1959—a demand which the British can hardly enthuse over.

SAME AGAIN

Ten of the leaders of the alliance—six Malays, three Chinese and one Indian—have been invited by the High Commissioner, Sir Donald MacGillivray, to join the country's first elected Cabinet, where they will no doubt soon experience the same difficulties as those which confronted Mr. Marshall in Singapore.

There is no doubt that by their constitutional manoeuvres, follow-

ing on their military failures, the British have now set their feet on a road which can only end with their ultimate expulsion from the whole of Malaya—naval base of Singapore and all, and that the day is not far off when the people of these countries will have won their freedom and independence.

GEORGIA (UNITED STATES)

Board of Education recently adopted a resolution providing for automatic cancellation of the licence and salary of any teacher who "supports, encourages, condones, offers to teach or teaches" classes of mixed races in the State.

BRITISH 'PROSPERITY' MYTH EXPLODED

LONDON.

THE bubble of British "prosperity" under the Tory Government was pricked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, when he announced a new series of economic restrictions recently.

As share prices crashed on the stock exchange and speculators panicked, Mr. Butler told the House of Commons he was compelled to introduce drastic restrictions on credit. Britain's balance of payments was unsatisfactory, he said, and rumours weakening the pound had "led to sales of sterling that will adversely affect our reserves."

Mr. Butler announced that:

1. Local authorities are being asked to hold back schemes for capital expenditure and the Government will adopt a stricter attitude towards proposals of local authorities for "all but the most essential purposes." This will slow up local housing projects.

2. Hire purchase will be made more difficult. The deposit will be increased from 15 per cent. to 33 per cent. of the total price. This will include motor vehicles, radio sets, gramophones and domestic appliances, but not furniture.

3. Banks are being asked to re-

duce the total of outstanding credits; business firms are asked to slow down investment.

4. Nationalised industries will be made to reduce capital requirements, although Mr. Butler said coal production and the atomic energy programme would not be affected.

The Minister said the aim of the restrictions was to reduce home purchasing power and home demand and to expand exports. He admitted that the increases in the bank rate earlier this year had been slow to take effect.

The Minister also blamed the recent strikes, and particularly the dock strike, for setting back the export trade. The trade gap, which was £247.7 million for the first six months of 1954, increased to £453.6 million for the corresponding period this year.

There were whistles and catcalls from Labour members when Mr. Butler made his announcements in the Commons.

Indian Youth Protest to Adenauer

JOHANNESBURG.

The Transvaal Indian Youth Congress has joined in the world-wide protest movement against the German Federal Republic for its undemocratic and illegal imprisonment of two leaders of the Free German Youth of Western Germany.

In a letter of protest to President Adenauer, the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress says: "We consider the arrest and imprisonment of these young people for periods of five and four years solitary confinement respectively on completely false and baseless accusations, as a blatant misuse of justice."

"On behalf of the Indian youth of the Transvaal we vigorously protest against this unjust and illegal sentence and demand its immediate repeal."

BROLLY FOLLY

NEW YORK.

When President Eisenhower returned to the United States after the Geneva conference, he was greeted by a throng that included Vice-President Nixon, Senator Knowland and other members of Congress and the diplomatic corps.

As he stepped out of his plane, the band struck up the Star-Spangled Banner and Eisenhower stood at attention, his hat held over his breast, as the rain poured down on him. Ignoring the rain, the President spoke into a battery of microphones and told the nation "new contacts have been established and there is evidence of a new friendliness in the world."

By the time he was finished, he was pretty wet. Why, spectators wondered, didn't someone open an umbrella over him? Last week "Time" magazine gave the answer:

"Vice-President Richard Nixon banned umbrellas because he felt they would have recalled the pre-World War 2 appeasement policies of Great Britain's umbrella-carrying Prime Minister, Sir Neville Chamberlain."

So Ike got wet.

PEACE SABOTAGED IN VIET-NAM

India, Poland and Canada Join in Protest

LONDON.—The Indian, Polish and Canadian governments have joined in protesting at outrages committed when mobs of hooligans attacked and looted Saigon buildings in a government-inspired "riot" against the representatives of these countries who were appointed by the Geneva conference as a Truce Commission.

The hooliganism, which came as a climax to the campaign of sabotage against the Geneva Peace agreement conducted by South Viet Nam Premier Ngo Dinh Diem (notorious as a U.S. puppet), took place on July 20—the very day representatives of the North and South were supposed to get together to discuss arrangements for next year's elections.

The damage done is estimated at £150,000. The Hotel Majestic, where the principal members of the Truce Commission were staying, was ransacked, and Mr. Desai, the Indian chairman of the Commission, was assaulted. The Hotel Gallieni, where other members of the Commission were staying, was also raided and the rioters started to throw furniture out into the streets.

The members of the Commission protested that the riot meant they could no longer carry on their job, since they could not rely on protection from the Government in South Viet Nam. The Saigon correspondent of the French newspaper "Le Monde" said the police waited a full hour after the disturbances began before they put in an appearance and cleared the demonstrators

away by firing in the air and throwing tear gas grenades.

INDIA'S STATEMENT

An Indian Government spokesman in New Delhi said the riots seemed to be "deliberately organised." He emphasised that Diem's police "looked on while a hysterical mob systematically destroyed everything the Commission personnel had in their rooms."

It was also pointed out that intensive preparations had been made beforehand for turning July 20 into a demonstration against the Geneva Agreement. Vehicles with loudspeakers had been touring the streets blaring anti-Communist slogans, and the phrase "The International Control Commission must go" was scrawled on walls in various parts of Saigon.

Formal protests against the out-

rage were filed by the Indian, Polish and Canadian Governments, whose representatives make up the Truce Commission; and by the diplomatic representatives of countries, including America and Britain, whose nationals were injured or robbed during the riots.

From Geneva, the British, French, United States and Soviet delegates to the Big Four conference sent a joint note to Diem urging him to preserve order in his country, to ensure that the Truce Commission was able to function, and to take the necessary steps to hold elections in terms of the Geneva Agreement. The British Foreign Office issued a statement saying the Government "deplore and condemn this senseless outrage."

In China, the Peking People's Daily warned that if the Geneva Agreement were undermined at this stage "the U.S. will be responsible for the grave consequences arising from its sabotage activities."

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