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MEETING : COLONIAL YOUTH DAY RALLY : CORNER OF MORRIS- AND VICTORIA STREET, SOPHIATOWN, JOHANNESBURG ON SUNDAY, THE 20TH MARCH, 1955.

(Meeting commenced at 11.15 a.m. Singing of two Songs, 'Join the Congress, Volunteers, and 'We Won't move from Sophiatown, by choir.)

SPEAKER : "Can everybody hear me ? Why can't you hear me ? I think it is alright. Let somebody else try". (Testing of loud-speaker system). Africa ! Africa ! Freedom in our lifetime !"

CHAIRMAN : (Robert Resha) : "Now, friends, we are now going to start by singing our National Anthem".

(Audience sang Kosi Sikelele Afrika).

Friends, we meet here this morning on the occasion of Colonial Youth Day. On the 21st. February of every year the youth of the world come together to celebrate this day. We in South Africa meet on the 20th of March, a month after this day has been celebrated in the world. We do this not because the youth of South Africa is not anxious to celebrate this day, not because we do not recognise the significance of this day, but because difficulties over which the youth have no control, made it so. When we were supposed to celebrate this day, the Government of this country decided to ban all meetings in Johannesburg and Roodepoort, so that the celebrations were postponed to this day.

We are very pleased however, that we are able to meet here on this day - even if it is a month after. This indicates that even if we do lose some of the battles, victory will be ours. Other speakers will speak to you on the significance of this day. My duty this morning is merely to preside, but I cannot help to say that it is significant that this day is celebrated in Sophiatown - of all the places in South Africa. Sophiatown is going to be very important in the history of South Africa, for it is here that the Nationalist Government of South Africa has decided to practise its legalised robbery of the homes of the people of South Africa. It is here in Sophiatown that the vileness and the inhumanity of apartheid are being exposed. It is here that the forces of democracy on the one hand, and the forces of fascism on the other hand, meet.

As we are meeting here four hundred people who have

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have spent most of their lives in Sophiatown, are removed to some place chosen for them by the government. Some of them are here this morning, Meadowlands which the government has chosen for them, has become a very unhappy place for them because it is there that the government, this racist government is trying to strangle our people. Those people who here in Sophiatown had to pay £1.10.0 for a house are now being called upon to pay £3.17.6, and the people who had to pay £2.10.0 here, now have to pay £4.10.0.

This is done in the interest of the Africans according to Dr. Verwoerd. Thus, Africans are exploited in the land of their birth. In Meadowlands, a man with two sons who are working, has to pay seven shillings and sixpence for each son to stay with him. This is called a lodgers permit - in other words, you stay with your father and your mother and pay for the food you eat, and at the end of the month you have got to go and pay the government for this also.

My friends, at this meeting here this morning we are showing the government of this country that we do not believe in apartheid. We meet here this morning, not only Xosas, Zulus and Mbutus, but also Afrikaners, Indians, Jews and English meet here. The Government says it believes in apartheid, but it is represented here in this mixed gathering by its agents, so that apartheid is a bluff. In any case we are going to show this government that we are going to live side by side with the Europeans.

Anybody who does not believe in democracy, in mixing with the Non-Europeans, his place is somewhere else.. We do not believe that the Indians are foreigners in this country ; if there is a foreigner, it is Dr. Verwoerd. We believe that the Jews have the same right in this country as what we Africans have ; but those rights we still want to enjoy during our lifetimes, and in due course we shall go forward and show those people who believe in apartheid that they are digging their own graves.

The Police this morning have been busy taking pictures, and I want to ask them to keep those pictures because it will be in the museum one day, and I also want to ask the Police to record what is going to take place here today because we are going to create history. The picture which the people of South Africa would like to look at is that of Strijdom and not that of the people on the platform here. This picture-taking will only keep away those people who in any case are afraid to come here.

They are only trying to intimidate us, but the day we decide to take their pictures they will know why we do it. We shall do it for the purpose to revenge them for their hard work. They can smile today but their turn will come.

Today friends, as I have told you, we are gathered here to celebrate Colonial Youth Day. You meet here today to show to the youth of the world that you wish to be friends with them, to, and this is important, to show your solidarity with the youth of the world. We meet here today to send messages of goodwill..... we meet here today as the youth of South Africa to pledge and re-dedicate ourselves anew to the struggle for freedom in our own lifetime. We meet also in Sophiatown to show that we are still determined that Sophiatown that not move.

This Government may succeed - Hitler also succeeded from 1939 to 1944 - but where is he today? Our theme this morning is Bantu Education, what it is and what it intends to do. We want to show that if the people of South Africa allow Bantu Education now, next year there will be Jewish education, English Education, Broederbond Education exists already - and that will be the end of democracy in this country. Five years ago the government started Afrikaans education and you know what the mentality of the Afrikaner is. You can just look at Dr. Verwoerd. Indeed, if you want to know what an Afrikaner is like, you must look at Dr. Verwoerd. He is nothing else but an Afrikaner - the Afrikaner in South Africa thinks that he can only be happy if everybody else is oppressed.

Already the people in South Africa and the world have rejected Bantu Education. I am now going to call upon my first speaker to address you. He is Mr. Issie Heyman. Mr. Heyman is a representative of the Peace Council. He will address you because the people of South Africa believe in peace. I call upon him to be the first speaker because we believe in peace - our struggle against oppression is a struggle for peace. We are prepared to give all that is dear to us to maintain peace. We are prepared to sacrifice our very lives to maintain peace.

I now call upon Mr. Issie Heyman to address you".

ISSIE HEYMAN : "Mr. Chairman and Friends, I want to speak to you today on the place of the Peace Movement in the world. I think this is a very appropriate occasion to talk about the Peace Movement - this place and this day.

When we look at the history of the world, we find that oppression and war always result when the imperialist powers want to take away the land of the people who cannot defend themselves against the mighty imperialist powers of Europe. When you find the people struggling to be independent, when you find a country struggling to be independent, then you must know that that is what had happened, the imperialists have taken away their country from them.

Here in this country we already had a good example of this. When gold was discovered in the Transvaal, the English wanted to take the country away from the people of the country, and the Anglo-Boer War was the result - a war which was condemned in the whole of Europe. If those women and children who died in the concentration camps were alive today, they would know what I am talking about.

The Peace Movement speaks to all people, no matter whether they are black or white. When we watch the development of those people who fought for their independence, what do we see? We see that their liberty was a victory for peace and not for war.

We see the Americans and the British trying to provoke a war and when they have gone so far that they cannot turn back, what do we find? They turn to India to help them out of the mess. And that is the country where not so long ago the people were illiterate, but today they are an immense force for peace in the world. Nobody underestimate the value of India today in the fight for peace, and that is why the Peace Movement congratulate all those in the colonial countries fighting for peace.

Wherever the Peace Movement is oppressed, wherever the Liberatory Movement is destroyed, it means victory for the forces of darkness, but where the people is free, there is peace and content, freedom and life. That is the reason why I think it is so appropriate to address this meeting here because you are the people fighting for peace, liberation and freedom.

The opponents of the Liberatory Movement, those that ban the leaders of the people - that mean a victory for darkness. The people who preach apartheid today, who want to impose laws not for the good of the country, they have forgotten the lesson of the Anglo Boer War. They have forgotten the sacrifices of the Afrikaans people during the last war. They have forgotten their sons who died in Italy and Egypt.

The civilian African people also made sacrifices in the last war, more than any other people in South Africa. Not only did they work overtime in the mines and in the factories, they had to pay very dearly for.....they made sacrifices, and I am quite satisfied that if called upon, they will be ready to make sacrifices again in any war. (Applause).

These questions are asked : Will there be war again ? When will there be war? I say that the war is not far off. It is on ! People are already fighting for liberation all over the world, and blood is being shed in Kenya, blood is being shed in Malaya, blood is being shed in Asia. And the shedding of this blood is not justified nor is it necessary. Those people are fighting for liberty and freedom from colonial oppression. Those people who are shedding the blood of these colonial peoples want to turn the clock back, they want us to return to the dark ages, they want us to reach a savage civilization.

That is why I want to congratulate you people, I want to congratulate the organisers of Colonial Youth Day. I want to say to you : 'Carry on the struggle, don't give up, liberty is around the corner. Remember that liberty depends on you. You must stand up for your rights. The fight against Bantu Education, the fight against being removed to Meadowlands, it is a fight for peace, and in this fight the world is with you".

CHAIRMAN : (R. Resha.) "On your behalf I want to thank Mr. Issie Heyman. I don't want to comment on what he has said but will leave it to you-as-feed-for-thought. I am now going to call my next speaker. He is Dr. Press. Dr. Press is the Regional Chairman of the Congress of Democrats in Johannesburg. Dr. Press is going to talk to you on the significance of the Colonial Youth Day.

Perhaps some of you may not know what the Congress of Democrats is. It is an organisation of Europeans who believe that the struggle of the Non-Europeans for liberty, is a just and sacred one. It is an organisation of people prepared to fight and die with us for democracy, freedom and peace. It is an organization of Europeans - Europeans who defy apartheid. I now have pleasure in calling upon Dr. Press".

DR. R. PRESS : "Friends, today we are celebrating Colonial Youth Day. We, the youth of South Africa, are part of the Colonial Youth of the world.

We too are oppressed by apartheid, we are oppressed by the Bantu Education, we are oppressed by those vile Fascists in Parliament, but we are part of a world struggle. We are the youth who will lead South Africa forward. We are not the only youth in the world, there are youth all over the world.

There are youth in South Africa, Kenya, Malaya, there are youth in America, in Britain, in France, in China, in the Soviet Union. Some of these youth are oppressed like us, some cannot go to school, some of them are also send to slave labour camps. But some are free, some go to the best universities in the world, some of them are properly looked after since birth, get the best food. The youth of the Soviet Union are free. They are free to live the best life possible for any human being. The youth of China are marching forward in a great army. But the youth in America, the youth in Guiana, the youth in all these oppressed places, oppressed countries, they are taught to work in the mines, they are not allowed to go to school, they are not taught to work like those in the Soviet Union. They are not taught that the youth of the world can work together.

But they cannot stop the progress of the youth. The youth of the whole world can live together in peace and freedom, and this day teaches us.....all over the world. They may try to divide us, imprison us, like with Cheddi Jagan of Guiana, but we know that although they try to divide us, the youth of the world will not be divided. Freedom is indivisible. If one man is a slave, his master also is not free. And this Colonial Youth Day is here to unite all the youth of the oppressed people. Its main aim is to bound the youth of the world together in universal freedom, but of course the people who oppress this youth also try to band together. Why does Swart go to the Government of Britain? Why does Eisenhower shake hands with Winston Churchill? They want to oppress the world.

Funnily enough their own system keeps them apart. You have just read in the newspapers that Eisenhower(have) has disclosed some secrets which Britain does not like - Chiang Kai-Shek does not like what Dulles say. As I said, freedom is indivisible, but the Fascists are divided amongst themselves, and thus we find in the world a great division, a division between imperialists, between capitalists who have, and who want more money, and the youth of the world for freedom.

The day will come when the youth of the world, when the youth of the Soviet Union and China, when the youth...../1

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youth of South Africa, and the youth of British Guiana, when the youth of all the colonial countries, when all the oppressed peoples all over the world will rise up in one mighty army, will rise up like a river in flood and..... against the Fascists together. The dam they have built will crack under the pressure, will decay and crack. Some of the cracks are already very apparent. The crack between America and Britain is very blatant. America and Japan (are driving) are driving apart. The whole structure of this mighty dam they wanted to build, will collapse under the might of the freedom-loving peoples of the world, because they have built their dam on a shaky foundation and even its (lies)(lease) cannot bound it together anymore. And all the pictures which they have taken of us, all these things with which they try to keep this river back with, cannot patch this shaky edifice. Our river will break it down and its shambles will be buried in the stream of water. Then the world will become fertile, freedom will blossom forth, the whole world, all the peoples, Americans, Asians and Africans will live together in peace, in harmony. Mayebuye ! "

CHAIRMAN : (R. Resha.) "Friends, the significance of what Dr. Press has been telling us, is that eventually the dam opposing us will burst, it will fall down, that is the significance..... The choir will now sing".

(Choir sang several songs.)

"I am now going to call upon my next speaker. He is Mr. Moosa Moola. Mr. Moosa Moola is an official of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, a great fighter for peace, and one of those people behind the wheels of the Congress of the People. He is a fighter in the campaign for the Congress of the People, and he is going to speak to you on the Congress of the People.

I have pleasure to call upon him to address you".

MOOSA MOOLA : "I salute you, fellow fighters for a better life, a life in which men will be men and not vile beasts. Fellow Fighters, I am honoured to speak to you today on Colonial Youth Day.

If you look back at the history of the dark ages you will notice that the people have always progressed from a lower to a higher stage. It was the case with the people of the Soviet Union where not so long ago the imperialists ruled ; China where women and children were slaves today is a mighty nation, although the imperialists don't allow her her legitimate place in the

the United Nations Organisation. As I have said, life, being continuous motion, nothing is static, everything goes from a lower to a higher stage. I have pointed out examples to you, the Soviet Union and China, and in Indo-China where you find that after long years of struggle against the French oppressors, the people are building a life of peace and happiness.

We find in India a new life, and we find that in Korea, after the slaughter of three million people, peace reigns again.. If we, the people of the world will make it our duty to defend peace, it will last. I am not going to speak to you about the youth all over the world, other speakers have and will do that, but I would like to mention to you the heroic people of Kenya. Under the guise of suppressing Mau-Mau, the British imperialists are slaughtering women and children. They do it to get more profits. But the people of Kenya are not alone, their fight is our fight, and their victories are our victories. As the oppression was ended in one part of the world, so it is going to be ended in the other parts of the world also.

Hitler, after slaughtering millions and millions of people, is gone, but the working people of the German nation remains, and so will the Imperialists go but the peoples of the world will remain. Looking at the world with all its useless fights, fights for more money and more power, we see an upsurge of countries..... countries throughout the world, like we in South Africa do. The struggle is difficult, yes, we shall encounter many difficulties, and we in South Africa are now going to embark on a campaign which is going to help the people of South Africa. The Congress of the People will be a mighty assembly which will take place in a few months time for the purpose of drafting a freedom charter.

(Speech interrupted by Chairman Robert Resha : "Order, please, Order, please ! Those of you who have come to this meeting to assist the Police, must assist the Police. Those of you who have come to this meeting for that purpose must leave. I am sorry to disturb you Mr. Moola. We have no time for spies. Leave those small boys, we are equal to them, we are equal to Swarts. I am the chairman here and I will stand no tomfoolery".)

I was speaking on the Congress of the People, and the Freedom Charter which is going to be drawn up. Now, you may ask, what is the Freedom Charter ? What is going to happen at this assembly ? How is it going to help us in our fight to achieve our

our freedom? The Freedom Charter will be the future constitution of our people. The Freedom Charter will embody all the aims and the aspirations of all the individuals in our country. It will record the aims of the ordinary working people of South Africa. The Freedom Charter will contain the demands of the workers in the mines and the labourers on the farms, it will include the demands of all the people, and whilst we are at it, I must remind you to send in your demands. Your demands must be for whatever you want - end of police intimidation - better working conditions. No matter how small or trivial your demands are, send them in.

Here in this Freedom Charter, as I said before, will be contained the aims and aspirations of all the people of South Africa, black, white and yellow. To this great assembly of our people, elected representatives of the people will come. Representatives from the Cape, from the farms of the Orange Free State, people from the Transkei, people from Sophiatown here, people from all over South Africa will come to this great assembly and say what they want and the Freedom Charter will be drawn up. The people from Sophiatown will say 'We shall not move', 'We want better homes', 'Better working conditions'. The people from Bethal will say 'We don't want any harsh labour'. So, all the demands of the people will be collected, and joined together in the Freedom Charter, and this Freedom Charter will be the future constitution of South Africa.

But freedom will not be won after this Freedom Charter has been adopted, and I must state here that it will only begin then and that the struggle will still lie ahead. After the great assembly the elected representatives of the people will go back, each to his particular area, to the farms, to the cities, and they will tell the people of the Charter that has been adopted by the people of our country.

We must fight for it. We must fight for it with zeal and determination, so that one day South Africa may become a free and happy country. I just want to go back a century or so and tell you what the great French writer Victor Hugo said. He said these famous words: 'There is no force as strong as an idea which has come to the people'. The idea of freedom has come to our people and it will sweep aside the forces of reaction. It will sweep aside everything that is bad in this country and it will build life anew in this country so that the youth of this country can bloom forth in all its splendour.

that that day is not far off, it is not far away if we make it our duty to fight for freedom. There is no power on earth that is going to stop us. Afrika ! Afrika !".

CHAIRMAN : "Afrika ! Afrika ! Thanking Mr. Moola for his brilliant speech, I want to say that I am very sorry that some of the people were not attentive. He says that there is no power on earth - not even the Nationalists - who can stop the people from marching to freedom. Whilst he was speaking, Mr. Leon Ruff, a foundation member of the Congress of the People, was taken away by the Police. My people, I want you to know this : We have no exemption from arrest, we can be arrested, but when we come to a meeting, we must listen to the speakers, not pay attention to the Police. My duty today is to speak to you about freedom, and I want to encourage you to fight as never before. The duty of the Police is not to speak to you about freedom, but to arrest you. We were born and are living in a country where arrests take place every minute, and I fail to understand why you are interested in an arrest at all. Your strength in this country lies in your unity.

If the Police decide to arrest me now you must not play into their hands, you must continue as if nothing has happened. The duty of the Police begins when they arrest you, and the next day in the cells - after that it is the duty of your organisation and the duty of the Police ends then, the next day in court it is the duty of the magistrate. The duty of the Police, the only thing they can do is to arrest you, and beat you, for they are cowards.

The man who is arrested, Mr. Leon Ruff, he is in safe hands, inside an hour the Police will have to explain to advocates why they have arrested him. We in the Liberatory Movement in this country are too smart for Swart and his Security Police. We have no respect for men whose only duty is to arrest other people. I hope if the Police come again, you will not run amuck - you know that your liberty is in safe hands. The Police ought to arrest all the speakers here on this platform because they are fighting for freedombecause it is important that our leaders go through the same channels that Swart went through. (Inaudible - Speaker alleged that Mr. Swart was also arrested once upon a time for a political offence and that today he was the Minister of Justice). If the only way to get to the Parliament of this country is through the gaols, then I say let us all go to gaol.

We will carry on with our programme as if nothing has happened, as if a fly has fallen in a cup of tea, you just push it. /11

push that cup aside and take another one. The next speaker is Mr. Patrick Malosa, the Treasurer of the African National Congress Youth League (Tvl). He is going to speak to you about the role of the youth in the fight for freedom in this country. He is going to speak on something which is very, very important. Whilst he is speaking I would like the choir from Alexandra Township to come to the platform".

MEMBER OF THE CHOIR : "We are already here".

(The choir sang several songs).

PATRICK MOLAQA : "Afrika ! Mr. Chairman, I thank you. The youth of South Africa salute you. I am called upon here today to speak to you on the role of the youth in the Liberatory Movement.

The backbone of every nation lies in the youth of that particular nation. If you look at all the progressive nations you will notice that they are progressive because of their youth. Here in South Africa we are not so vigilant as we are supposed to be. Yes, the struggle here in South Africa is more difficult than the struggle in many other countries. We have many forces against us. First and foremost we have the Nationalists against us and then.....we also have to fight against the spies in our midst, the people, our own people who are in the enemy's ranks and who work for small gifts. Another difficulty is of course that there is no self-respect, agreement amongst ourselves.

Look at Fascist Germany under Hitler. With the youth of Germany he shook the whole world. He instilled discipline into them, and if Hitler had not taken up a Fascist stand, Germany would have been the talk of the world today. The Malan Broederbond which was formed a few years ago today rules this country, but because of its Fascism it will not exist for a long time.

I am to speak to you on the role the youth must play. A most dangerous weapon is going to be used against us - Bantu Education. The youth in every country must see to it that the demands of the people of that country are catered for. Today, here in South Africa, the little liberties left to the African people, are also to be taken away. Now, what can we do ? Our first task should be a forceful demonstration against these laws imposed on us against our will. In connection with this Bantu Education, I am appealing to you to see to it that parents abstain

abstain from taking any part whatsoever in the functioning of the school boards which are going to be set up under this act. Why must you allow Verwoerd to make the parents the tools to kill their own children with ?

Yes indeed, this subject of Bantu Education is a very important subject indeed, which we have to discuss, because education is the most vital weapon of every nation. Some people will come to you and say there is nothing wrong with Bantu Education. Why is the penalty for private schools so high ? Sons and daughters of Africa, here we meet today, one word - forward to unity ! Today you will find that the most satanic legislation is imposed on the youth. That is to show you how important the youth is in the growth of any progressive nation. That is why today Verwoerd is trying to make the south subservient, so that they will work against their own people. Yes, the issue is very important, especially to the youth of Sophiatown. It is true, our support has dwindled by the removal of Sophiatown, but sons and daughters of Africa, the removal of Sophiatown is just one small molecule of the whole struggle. It is like a battle somewhere in a war - one battle does not determine the war itself.

Today, sons and daughters of Africa, there is one appeal I wish to make to you. We want men - men of determination, determination against the Bantu Education Act. We want volunteers, determined volunteers. We want volunteers, not only from the teachers, but from all the youth in every walk of life. Yes ! there is much more needed from the youth. The youth of South Africa has not yet shown what type of youth they are.

We need youth that will cater for the cultural activities, youth in the high schools should cater for the youth in the primary schools, we need the youth to work in all spheres of the battle.. Indeed, today we also commemorate the struggle started in 1946 in India when the students joined the struggle for independence there, and the struggle then went ahead with renewed vigour.

The greatest factor today in any country is economy, but without discipline, cater as you like, nothing will come alright. The chairman, when he spoke he pointed out that there is going to be different education - Broederbond education exists already, but now they are going to start with Bantu Education, and English Education, Indian Education and Jewish Education will follow soon.

They do this because in their own minds they are the

fit to rule South Africa, in their Fascist

Fascist manner of course. Sons and daughters of Africa, we need a demonstration against this Fascist legislation. Today the sole aim of the youth is to build up the leadership of tomorrow, so sons and daughters of South Africa, roll up in your thousands to demonstrate your opposition to this Bantu Education Act.

Mayebuye ! ~~Greeting you for freedom in our lifetime~~".

CHAIRMAN : (R. Resha) : "On your behalf I wish to thank Mr. Malaca. I don't think it is necessary for me to comment on what he has said. The next speaker is the government's greatest enemy in this country. He is their enemy No. 1. I am referring of course to Father Huddleston. Of course, it is not of his person that the government is afraid, it is of the truth that is in him that the government is afraid.. But I am happy to say that the majority of the people in South Africa loves Father Huddleston. The day before yesterday Mr. Strijdom spoke and he referred to Father Huddleston as an agitator. Forget it.....the truth will come out and when Father Huddleston speaks ~~even~~ the government's agents listen. I now have pleasure to call upon Father Huddleston."

TREVOR HUDDLESTON : "Mr. Chairman and friends, I welcome this opportunity to speak in Sophiatown again. This is the first public opportunity I have of speaking in Sophiatown since the first removals took place. I am particularly glad to be ~~here~~ this morning to give an answer to what has been said in ~~var~~tain sources against me. What has been said in connection with the Removal Scheme about me. This is the first public meeting I have had since the first removals and the first opportunity to deny the reports in the press, presents itself today.

I do not know where the reports originated. In fact, I am told that it originated with the Police. I was said that on the evening of the first removal I applied to the Police to protect me against the African people. I would like to say to those members of the Police Force who are present here that I will far more readily apply to those people whom they accuse of being gangsters in this area, to protect me than apply to them".

(Break in loudspeaker system and the taking of further notes from this person's speech became impossible).

CHAIRMAN : "Friends, on your behalf I wish to thank Father Huddleston. I realise now that the Police were disappointed because Father Huddleston did not go to them for protection. It is

It is a pity Father Huddleston was not here when they protected Mr. Leon Ruff. That is how they protect a person. The only protection they can give you in South Africa is to lock you in a cell. We, the people of Sophiatown, people of South Africa are free in the land of our birth, and Father, if you don't believe us you can search us, search our pockets, we have no revolvers.

Everything that is inhuman in this Bantu Education has been exposed already, and by men who are highly educated. Father Huddleston explained to us what this education will do to our children. He and his church are against it. You must realise, this my friends, what is wrong in principle can never be right in practice. Therefore you must decide not to send your children to these schools. The African National Congress has taken the decision to withdraw all the children from schools as from the 1st of April and the children will be kept from the schools until this Bantu Education is withdrawn.

I have another speaker, Father Sidebotham, who is in charge of the Anglican school, St. Cyprians, here in Sophiatown. St. Cyprians is one of those schools which will be closed. Father Sidebotham will tell you what is going to happen.

I also want to thank the committee responsible for the arrangements for this meeting. They had a lot of expences and their consolation was that we, when we have this meeting, will help them to defray their expences. So, give your pounds, half-a-crowns, two shillings and last but not least your pennies. The choir will sing and I hope that will help you to empty your pockets.

(Collection).

We will now carry on with the business of the meeting. The next speaker is going to be Father Sidebotham. He is going to speak to you on what is going to happen to his school. I now call upon Father Sidebotham".

FATHER SIDEBOTHAM : "Mr. Chairman and Friends, I thank you for this opportunity to speak to you on this question of the Bantu Education and to tell you what we are going to try to do. We have said here before - and if you have listened carefully to Father Huddleston you will know that if the church wants to be true to its calling it must speak the truth, and we are being governed by men who do not like the truth, they have been telling lies,...../15

lies, in fact, spreading falsehoods, and sometimes people believe these lies, or get confused by it.

One important member of the government said the other day. He said 'I know of no other country in the world which has more freedom than South Africa'. But perhaps he may be forgiven for I understand that he only went out of South Africa last year for a short visit overseas for the first time in his life.

More about their lies. Their lies in connection with this Removal Scheme for instance. They tell (overseas countries) that it is a slum clearance scheme. They don't try to tell that to you because they know that you know better, but all the same, they will have something else to tell you.

One member of the Government said in Parliament that only one percent of the churches in South Africa was objecting to the Bantu Education Act. He was referring to the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg, of course. If he wanted to speak the truth he should have said that all the churches in South Africa, with the exception of the Dutch Reformed Church, have condemned the Bantu Education Act.

There is a lesson for us to learn in this. They don't take any notice of what people say. We have got to do something, then they may take notice of what we do. They don't mind us passing resolutions, but they get very angry when we shut our schools, and so I am glad that we here have decided to shut our schools because it is the only way to make these fellows listen.

But it is all very well for us to say 'Oh ! we will shut our schools'. If there is a man drowning there it is easy to push someone else in to go and save him. So it is easy for us to say that we will shut our schools, but what will happen to the children ? There are two turns for us, if we take one way there will be no schools for the children and if we take the other way...
.....speak and can't do anything. We are trying the way to show that we disapprove of the Bantu Education Act, but yet at the same time do something for your children. We are going to run a private school. We are going to shut at the end of this month, and then we are starting with the private schools, and not one penny will we receive from the government. We had a meeting of parents of our children the other day and they cheered when I suggested that we should start a private school. Some of our best teachers have volunteered to teach in this school. I tried to discourage them but they insisted. We are not quite sure.../16

sure what is round the corner and that is why I tried to dissuade them. We know that there are going to be difficulties, not the least of which is that the parents will have to pay 10/- per month towards the running expences of the school. I suppose it could be done for less....., and they tell me that some people can teach the children in their spare time, but we are going to try to run a good private school.

Now, some people are a but confused as regards this Bantu Education. Some people think that in one school the children are going to be taught education and in the other school Bantu Education. There is no such a thing as Bantu Education. This is a matter of syllabusses. It is a matter of freedom. We don't want to be controlled by the government, a government who only understands apartheid, and not the difference between right and wrong.

I want you to know about this school we are going to start and I hope it will show the way to the other churches. I hope some of the other churches will do the same, but you know, the government has(got)the African people in a grip. It is with us like with the African people in Bube for instance. You know those of you staying there that you can own the bricks, the mortar and so on, but you cannot own the land. Now, the African schools are built on land belonging to the municipalities, and the Minister of Native Affairs has a say about what the municipalities do with the land - he sometimes say : 'You cannot have the land', and what is the good of bricks and mortar, of a building on land not belonging to you ? The Minister of Native Affairs is going to do his best to stop us. He need this land to build his own schools on for his Bantu Education system.

Still, we have a programme. We must do what is right at the moment. Let us not be worried about the difficulties of the future. Let us do right in the eyes of God and he will defeat those that oppose us. We are going to pioneer the way, we are going to be the Voortrekkers, and St. Cyprians will be a better Voortrekker monument than the one at Pretoria, because we have come to spread light and truth, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and if we do that, then God will help us. Do what is right and God will help us".

CHAIRMAN : (R. Resha.) "The youth of all races are gathered here this afternoon, the Anglican Church is not alone. Not only the parents whose children are in your schools, but all the African parents support you. We realise that the road we are taking is

is a thorny one, but yet it is the only one.

Friends, we are now reaching towards the close of our meeting. We have here with us this afternoon, Mr. Daniels, chairman of the South African Coloured People's Organisation (Tvl). He is going to read to you the pledge of the youth of South Africa. Mr Daniels is a blind man but the road to freedom is in his heart -- so that truth will prevail. We who can see must consider ourselves lucky today, (must I) but I must say that Mr. Daniels seem to be able to see better than Dr. Verwoerd.

As a form of introduction to this pledge I call upon the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress to come to the platform. This I do to the annoyance of the Police. They think that the Africans are against the Indians. They say that it is the Indians who are exploiting us here in South Africa. Verwoerd believes that the Indians must be sent back to India, but I want to tell him that he will be in Germany long before that. I now call upon the Indian choir to sing".

(Four Indian Youths sang a song about Chief Luthuli).

"Friends, every day we see the people of South Africa coming together. No man in South Africa has the following which Chief Luthuli has. Before I call upon Mr. Daniels, I want to make the following announcement. We have collected.....
At 2.30 this afternoon there is a meeting in the Trades Hall, a meeting of the Women's International. On Thursday at 7.30 p.m. there will be a meeting of the members of the African National Congress Youth League here at this same place. That meeting is open to all people, in fact, the Police are welcome. There will be a womens' prayer meeting on this square next Saturday. All men not going to the Beer Hall are welcome, but the women are no longer prepared to wait for those men going to the Beer Halls. I now call upon Mr. Daniels".

DANIELS : "Mayebuye ! The following is the Colonial Youth Day Pledge. I will now read it to you, it runs :-

We, the young people of South Africa, of all races, of various religious creeds, and from different walks of life, gathered together once again on the occasion of World Youth Day, 1955, meeting as we do on soil which was robbed away from us, so that today many of us have become foreigners on the very piece of land

that gave birth to us and on which we grew up ; it is therefore natural that our thoughts should turn to our country, our place, our plight and our future : Our South Africa which we love so much is today a vast prison camp for its inhabitants - less and less have become our joys and our pleasures, less the laughter of our children and the food in their stomachs, less and less have become our rights, our South Africa is today a Police State, we, without the privacy of our homes and our families, without security or tenure, without the little respect we once held for law and justice ; and looking beyond the borders of our homeland, we see a world in fear, a world in turmoil, more and more are some countries becoming slaves of bombs, machine guns and tanks, men no longer speak to you except in terms of war, no longer in terms of the ancient culture. We fear Formosa and the ever-hanging threat that the American Imperialists might in their madness use the H - bomb against the Chinese people. We speak of Kenya, Malaya and Cyprus and no longer do we speak of the rich minerals in their soils, but the blood being shed. Our minds dwell on mass concentration camps, on (genocide), on bulldozers, on bombs, on murder and on poison.

We think of colonial oppression, of racialism and of man's inhumanity to man. Gathered together therefore on the occasion of Colonial Youth Day 1955, we, the young people of South Africa, stretch out the hand of friendship to our fellow oppressed people throughout the length and breadth of our country. We warmly clasp the hands of our fellow colonial brothers everywhere, and pledge to them our sincerest support, our wishes for friendship, our fraternal greetings.

To all peoples in every nook and corner of the world, we the young people of South Africa, oppressed, dominated and insulted, pledge to march forward determinedly, courageously and unflinchingly, to restore right in our dark continent, to establish respect between man and man, and win freedom, peace and liberty, and the brotherhood of all peoples regardless of race, colour or creed. That, fellow young people, is the Colonial Youth Day Pledge. Mayebuyé Afrika ! "

ROBERT RESHA : "Friends, Mr. Daniels has read to you the pledge. I want you to repeat this after me - three times ; this we pledge, this we pledge, this we pledge !

I must congratulate you for coming to this meeting here today, for standing in the sun the whole day.

It shows your determination. Many of you had business to perform, but you sacrificed that to come and stand in the sun and listen to the speakers. Many did not come because they say they don't believe in talking but in action. Then I want to tell - no army can go into action unless it is properly trained, organised. By coming here my people you are showing that the aims and the objects of all oppressed people throughout the world are indivisible. By meeting here in Sophiatown, you show that as regards the removal of the people from Sophiatown, the fight is not over.

The Government has taken upon itself the arduous task of keeping down ten million people. This Government has pledged that, but they have taken their pledge not as people who believe that it is right, no, they are hiding behind machine guns, behind the police. Friends, less we forget, I just want to make it clear that long after the Police will be finished, Strijdom will be finished, the people of Sophiatown will be on this square. Strijdom has to follow those people whom he succeeded, but where is Botha, Hertzog, Malan, Smuts ? Dr. Malan said he will remove the people from Sophiatown, but the people of Sophiatown has removed him from his throne. My people I want to assure you that long before you leave Sophiatown, Strijdom will be removed, not by us, but by his own people. The lies of Verwoerd will be exposed not later than next month when all the African Children will be withdrawn from the schools. Freedom is in your own hands and it is your duty to step forward and get your own freedom. No amount of Police, army, machine guns will intimidate us, we are determined to be free in our own lifetime".

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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