

# NEW AGE

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The Bantu Education School built by Dr. Verwoerd at the time he closed the Christ the King school in Sophiatown was mysteriously burnt down by fire last week. Several Congressmen were rounded up by the police and questioned about the incident.

## CONGRESS LEADERS BACK NEW AGE

JOHANNESBURG.

APPEALS for continued and intensified support for New Age, which has been compelled to increase its price to 6d. as from May 2, have been issued by a number of the people's leaders here.

**CHIEF A. J. LUTHULI, President-General of the African National Congress:**

In the liberatory movement NEW AGE is one of the few newspapers we have giving us full support. It is the only organ where leaders and supporters of the liberatory movement can express their views freely without misinterpretation or distortion, and without undue limitation (subject only to space consideration).

Its role is ever more important today when the Government's aggressive attacks against the Congress movement are reaching new heights of viciousness. Other newspapers fear to publish Congress policy and the views of the leaders, and when they do, they slant Congress policy very unfairly.

We wish there were more papers like NEW AGE, but it is not easy to establish newspapers and the liberatory movement must give all support to NEW AGE and other existing publications that support it. For something we value, 3d. a week was not too much to pay. Now NEW AGE is compelled by financial crises to raise its price to 6d.

I urge all people interested in the liberatory movement to regard the extra 3d. as a means of subsidising

NEW AGE to keep it running, and I earnestly appeal to the people to do that in the confidence that they will not only continue to support NEW AGE but will do so in increasing numbers at this time.

**DR. G. M. NAICKER, President of the South African Indian Congress:**

NEW AGE is one of the most powerful weapons for democracy and freedom in South Africa and therefore I cannot overemphasise the importance of our continued support for this paper, which has had to increase its price from 3d. to 6d.

We must not only see to it that its circulation is maintained on the present level, but it must be increased so that the message of freedom reaches more and more people in these critical days facing our country.

**MR. LESLIE MASSINA, Secretary of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions:**

We will stand by NEW AGE. On

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# PEOPLE FIGHT VERWOERD'S PLANS

## Why The Chiefs Were Deposed

JOHANNESBURG.

DR. Verwoerd's iron grip is closing over the Transvaal countryside. Either the chiefs accept Government policy or they will be deposed and deported.

In the first two weeks of this month the Government has:

1. Banished to Natal Chief Arthur Sekhukhuni, third in succession to the Paramount Chieftainship, whose tribe has steadfastly refused to accept the Bantu Authorities Act.

2. Deposed Chief Abram R. Moilola, of the Bahurutshe of Lino-kana—the biggest tribe in the Zeerust district—because he would not instruct the women of the tribe to accept passes.

The ultimatum to Chief Moilola expired on Sunday. It is reported that the news of his deposition was followed by angry demonstrations when the people clashed with the police.

Chief Arthur Sekhukhuni was exiled to Natal together with his uncle Godfrey Sekhukhuni. The banishment orders declare that the presence of these tribal leaders is "contrary to the peace, order and good government of the Natives living in the Lydenburg district."

The banishment order was in Afrikaans, which neither of the two men can understand, and was served without any prior warning. Godfrey Sekhukhuni was stopped on his way to the Jane Furse hospital, where he works, was searched, and removed to the police station. Arthur Sekhukhuni was taken from the office of the Native Commissioner, where he was being invited to attend a Pietersburg meeting addressed by a high official of the N.A.D., to the police station where he was served with the deportation order.

### NO CHANCE

Neither of the two men was given a chance to say goodbye to his family, relatives or tribesmen. They were not allowed to pack their clothes or any personal possessions and were put on board the train with 3s. 6d. and 5s. respectively in their pockets.

Since 1953 the Government has been trying to force Sekhukhuni-land to accept the Bantu Authorities Act. But throughout the reply of the Paramount Chief Morwamotshe Sekhukhuni has been "Kgosi ke kgosi ka batho" (a Chief is a chief because of his people), which conveyed the opposition of his people to Bantu Authorities.

On March 30 a large contingent of police armed with sten guns and knobkerries arrived in the kraal of the Paramount Chief but, meeting the hostility of the tribesmen, later withdrew.

It then became clear that though in Sekhukhuni-land only one solitary chief, Frank Maseremule of the Bakone tribe, has accepted the Bantu Authorities Act, the Government would stop at nothing to force the Act upon the other tribes.

### PASSES

Chief Moilola of the Zeerust district was given an ultimatum by the Native Commissioner: "Tell your women to get passes or else you will be chief no longer." The chief made it clear that he would not co-operate with the authorities in the issuing of passes to women of his tribe.

A Native Affairs Department "pass team" visited the Zeerust district last month and the Native Commissioner told Chief Moilola to summon the villagers to be issued with reference books. The women turned up but the chief's wife acted as spokesman for them, say-

ing that the women would have nothing to do with passes.

Only eight women took out passes and it is said that those eight are being guarded by the police.

Women under Chief Lekotwabe in the Zeerust area have also refused to carry passes.

## 20,000 REPRESENTED AT SACTU CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG.

THE campaign to recruit 20,000 unorganised workers into the trade unions to further the demands for a national minimum wage of £1 a day and an all-round increase in wages was given a big fillip by the second annual conference of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions held at the Johannesburg Trades Hall last week-end.

Delegates from 19 trade unions representing 20,000 workers attended the conference. Nine newly formed unions which had affiliated too late for constitutional representation also sent representatives.

Fraternal greetings were received from a number of organisations, including the African National Congress, which expressed "unshaken faith and confidence in the leadership of SACTU" and pledged fullest support in its wage campaign; the Liberal Party, the Labour Party, the All Union Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union and trade unions in various other countries, C.O.D., S.A.I.C., S.A.C.P.O. and other bodies.

The conference resolved to intensify the "Asinamali" (We have no money) campaign, protested against the banning of SACTU leaders Leslie Massina and Leon Levy, pledged its support for the Treason Trial Defence Fund, promised to give whole-hearted co-operation to IDAMF's all-in inter-racial conference, and opposed the poll-tax increase and the Native Laws Amendment Bill.

After a prolonged debate, a contentious resolution on the Industrial Conciliation Act was referred to the executive for redrafting.

### SACTU—TUC UNITY

Referring in his report to the TUC's "war" against SACTU, in which the Trade Union Council is attempting to get Africans to leave SACTU in order to form a "liaison committee" with itself (African unions are not allowed to affiliate to the TUC), Mr. Massina reported that the Garment Workers' Union of African Women had actually disaffiliated from SACTU as a result.

Mr. Levy also referred to the TUC, and appealed for trade union unity.

"We declare that our fight is not with the S.A. Trade Union Council and other trade union co-ordinating bodies but with the Government and those who are responsible for the exploitation of the workers."

Banned treason trialists Leon Levy and Leslie Massina were re-

lected president and general secretary respectively; A. Mphahlele and P. Seretsane were elected vice-presidents; and Don Mateman was elected treasurer.

## The Boycott Is Over

JOHANNESBURG.

The Rand bus boycott ended last week-end when mass meetings in Moroka and Sophiatown resolved to return to the buses on the understanding that their leaders will use the breathing-space to negotiate a long-term settlement and enable the Pretoria passengers to ride at pre-boycott fares.

Speakers at the meetings stressed that their great victory had resulted from the unity of the people.

The next stage, declared speakers at Moroka, is to win higher wages. "If we show the same determination and unity, nothing can stop us from winning £1 a day. Every worker a trade union member is our guarantee of victory."

The leaders warned the people against being lulled into a false sense of security. Unless a permanent settlement was reached "we shall boycott again. We are not afraid of walking. We have done it before and we will do it again if we have to."

## Attack On New Age Staff

Three members of New Age staff have been attacked by the Government during the last week.

Mr. Michael Harmel, Johannesburg correspondent, has been banned by the Minister of Justice from attending gatherings for a period of 5 years.

Mr. Govan Mbeki, manager of the Port Elizabeth office, has been charged under the Urban Areas Act. Details of the charge are not yet available.

Mr. John Motlohefoa, chief sales agent in Cape Town, has been charged with being an illegal immigrant into South Africa. The Crown is alleging that he was born in Basutoland.



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