

AFRICA FOR PEACE

A.B. 18.

A. THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE:

1. A great hope has been born. People everywhere in the world have come to realise that agreement between the Powers is possible. War can be prevented and the cold war ended. Without recourse to negotiation between the Powers there is no future for humanity. **EVERY MOVE - FROM WHATSOEVER GOVERNMENT IT MAY COME - TO SOLVE DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS - MUST BE SUPPORTED.** It is for the common man, whose happy future is dependent on peace, to frustrate the efforts of those who would delay or prevent agreement. People have come to realise that international issues need not be left in the hands of the politicians, the statesmen and the armaments manufacturers --- that public pressure and the will of the common people for peace can be made the deciding factor. The pressure of the people has become the most important factor for peace.

2. The work of the World Peace Movement has brought results:
 The mighty campaigns of the World Peace Movement for the outlawing of the Atom Bomb, for negotiation between the Powers to settle all outstanding international disagreements and for the conclusion of a Big Five Pact to guarantee the peace, have won tremendous support in all countries.
 The Peace Movement is not an assembly of professors who determine abstract forms of peace, nor an assembly of diplomats who work out the contents of treaties and the forms negotiations are to take. It is a living movement which adopts only those ideas which are simple and reasonable, which are common to all peaceful humanity. It shows that these ideas are by no means fantastic. It calls on public opinion and on peoples to make their governments implement them. It avoids all slavery to formulas. It takes into account any and every new move for peace no matter what the source, sphere or government from which it comes.

3. The Vienna Congress The preparations for the Congress of Peoples for Peace, held in December 1952 at a time when international tension was at its worst, assumed an exceptional breadth. The Congress raised new hopes and new energies among the people. It gave an answer to most of the questions which were worrying public opinion. It was the Congress which drew the attention of the world to the necessity and possibility of negotiations; which recommended limited agreements on Germany, on Korea and on Indo-China; which outlined the compromise that made possible the resumption of armistice negotiations in Korea; and which, finally, defined the ultimate objective - a Pact of Peace between the Five Great Powers which must enable a return to harmonious international co-operation, and open the way to disarmament.
 Then followed two important events. The new world atmosphere created by the Congress and peace pressure in all countries, led to the re-opening of discussions in Korea, then to agreement and finally to the armistice.
 And an exchange of views on the possibilities of peaceful settlements in the world took place. The Soviet Government stated: "All questions can be peacefully resolved, particularly with the United States". The United States replied in a speech by its President who condemned war, its disasters, its inhuman cost.
 In June, at the Budapest meeting of the World Council of Peace, M. d'Astier, leader of the Independent Catholic Party in France and an Executive member of the Peace Council, stated in his opening speech: "Let us point out that these two events, the resumed negotiation and the exchange of views were possible because they had been preceded by the great assembly of the forces of Peace at Vienna, whose labours had found such a great response among the peoples of the world".

4. Peace Moves Peace moves followed these events with heartening rapidity. Sir Winston Churchill proposed a meeting of the great powers on the highest level. Mr. Attlee demanded the entry of China into the United Nations. The Scandinavian

Prime Ministers, supported Churchill's proposals. The meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers proposed: A Four Power Conference; that no conditions be attached to the invitation of the Soviet Union; that a decision on the German problem be reached within the framework of a Soviet-Western guarantee; and that China be admitted to the United Nations.

Within a few months the spokesmen of all the Big Powers had publicly urged Big Power negotiation:-

"I must make it plain that in spite of all the uncertainties and confusion in which world affairs are plunged I believe a conference on the highest level should take place between the leading powers without long delay".

Sir Winston Churchill
in the House of Commons, May 11th 1953.

"At the present time there is not a single controversial or unsettled question which could not be solved by peaceful means on the basis of mutual agreement of the interested countries. This goes for our relations with all states, including also our relations with the United States of America".

Mr. Malenkov
at the Fourth Session of the Supreme Soviet,
March 15th, 1953.

"We seek, throughout Asia as throughout the world, a peace that is true and total. Out of this can grow a still wider task - the achieving of just political settlements for the other serious and specific issues between the free world and the Soviet Union. None of these issues, great or small, is insoluble - given only the will to respect the rights of all nations".

Speech by President Eisenhower,
April 16th, 1953.

"The Government of the Peoples' Republic of China in pursuance of its consistently maintained policy of peace and its position of consistently working for the speedy realisation of an armistice in Korea and a peaceful settlement of the Korean question, and thus preserving and consolidating world peace, is prepared to take steps to eliminate the differences on this question so as to bring about an armistice in Korea".

Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister
Peoples' Republic of China.
March 30th, 1953.

5. However, forces still powerful - directly or indirectly - oppose negotiation and attempt to frustrate all efforts to reach agreement.

Thus in June, the Budapest meeting of the World Council of Peace, issued a call to all the peoples to launch a campaign for the negotiated settlement of all outstanding problems. This campaign rallied tremendous support throughout the world. Today, in spite of many obstacles and in spite of the powerful forces striving for war, new facts are bringing even greater hopes. As M. d'Astier put it: "It seems that aroused public opinion, guided by the forces for peace, by our movement, are leading the shyest governments into the path of negotiation, of compromise and of partial agreement."

This month (January) a Four Power Conference will take place in Berlin and the first tentative talks on atomic energy will be planned. Henceforward the governments can no longer openly disregard the peaceful will of the peoples. That is one of the essential characteristics of the present situation. It is one of the consequences of our efforts. It is one of the reasons for our hopes.

6. New Peace Congress in 1954 In this situation the people are given the opportunity to fully and frankly express their overwhelming desire for a solution to these problems. THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE IS THUS SUMMONING A GREAT NEW MEETING OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD FOR PEACE. At this meeting there will be a free exchange of all viewpoints, and an examination of all possible solutions. All sections of the people must be drawn into support for this meeting which in itself will be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension.

B. AFRICA AND WORLD PEACE

1. In the past when South Africans thought of war it was always war in Europe - war in Asia - war in Korea; Napalm and high explosive falling on people of other countries.

BUT WAR HAS BEEN MOVING TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

2. Africa figures largely in the calculations of the war mongers. Military authorities in Britain and America have publicly stated that in the event of a new global war Central and Southern Africa would be called on to supply raw materials and food, to protect vital sea communications and even to supply fighting manpower.

Field Marshal Lord Wilson said in June 1953: "The continent of Africa by its geographical situation must play a most important role in the defence of our communications. The role of Central and Southern Africa can be summarised in the following: to protect and develop sea communications; to be ready to send forces overseas; to develop its industry to maximum capacity for war needs; to supply raw materials for food required internally and overseas; to organise its transportation, both sea going and inland".

2. Africa's great wealth has long attracted foreign investment and control by overseas powers. (Africa produces 98.4% of the world's diamonds; 50% of its gold; 69% of its palm oil, 68% of its cocoa; apart from substantial quantities of copper and recently uranium.) For these reasons Africa was not neglected by Marshall Aid planners. In 1950 President Truman's advisers reported that: "Despite the fact that Africa's known resources are only partially developed, it is the source of substantial - and for some commodities a major part of our supplies of certain strategic and critical materials."

TO KEEP AFRICA SAFE AS A STRATEGIC CENTRE FOR FUTURE WARS AND TO EXPLOIT ITS MATERIALS, MAJOR POWERS HAVE INVESTED TREMENDOUS SUMS OF MONEY IN AFRICA, HAVE ESTABLISHED WAR BASES ON THE CONTINENT, STATIONED TROOPS IN VARIOUS TERRITORIES AND HAVE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DETERMINED THE POLICIES OF MANY OF THE TERRITORIES.

3. War Bases and Materials

MOROCCO

In an article in 'Life' called 'Air Bases are U.S. Stake' it is stated: "In both military and monetary terms the U.S. stake in French Morocco - little more than two years in the making - is vast. Facing defeat in Korea in December 1950 and expecting flash fires of Communist aggression to break out everywhere and anywhere the U.S. negotiated a hurried agreement with France permitting construction of five mammoth air bases in the protectorate. They were built with 'crash' urgency, with an eye only to speed. Two of the five bases.. have in the past few months been put into operation for big B-50 bombers. A third will be ready this summer. The last two are still in the land survey and procurement stage".

KENYA

A plan drafted by Kenya officials and Shell Oil representatives and first announced some months before the outbreak of hostilities in Kenya, was for the establishment of a large scale oil refinery

near Mombassa at an estimated cost of 200 million dollars. This project was described as a "vital factor in the Commonwealth Defence system, safeguarding petroleum production in the event of wartime severance of supplies from the Middle East oil fields." The prime factor in organising any important bases, it was said, was that it should be safe from internal threat.

TUNISIA

The United States have planned to build fourteen airfields in Tunisia and a number of these are already in operation. The port of El Kantara has been adapted as an anchorage for U.S. warships. The naval base of Bizerte has virtually passed under U.S. control. Tunisia is of "vital importance to Western strategic concepts", wrote the New York Times in connection with the developments of that country.

The U.S.'s investments in Kenya's resources are: 1.5 million dollars for geographical and topographical surveys in Kenya and adjacent British colonies; 72 thousand dollars for pushing Kenya's production of Kyanite (an aluminium silicate for high-temperature furnace linings); 130 thousand dollars for road development work in the colony. U.S. imports from Kenya in 1951 were valued at 7.5 million dollars.

AIR BASES

In 1950 there were already British Military bases in: Egypt (Canal Zone); Somaliland; and the Sudan. There are air bases in: East Africa; Somaliland; Southern Rhodesia; Northern Rhodesia; and the Sudan.

By 1952 the United States had established Land, sea and air bases in: Morocco; Libya; Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

In 1946 already the Daily Mail wrote, following a visit by Field Marshall Montgomery: "The British decision to quit Palestine, Burma's secession from the Commonwealth, the weakening of the ties with India and the uncertainty of Britain's tenure in Egypt, have hastened the adoption of plans for a new Commonwealth defence system.... Kenya is the new centre of Commonwealth Defence and South Africa its arsenal".

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a major producer of uranium. Mr. Joeste, the Union's Ambassador to the U.S., stated last month: "It has been suggested on authoritative grounds that South Africa is on the way to becoming perhaps the world's largest uranium producer". He went on: "Among your (U.S.) imports from South Africa are manganese, chrome, asbestos, copper, beryllium as well as, more latterly, uranium oxide. It is a matter of some importance for our allies to know that these resources are in friendly hands."

Thus far from being still a "Dark Continent", Africa now occupies a most important strategic position from the point of view both of materials, manpower and war bases.

4. Colonial Wars a Threat To Peace. In his speech to the Budapest meeting of the World Council of Peace, Dr. James Endicott stated: "The so-called Western Block in the world today contains several colony owning powers. These powers are now engaged in several wars against their subject and exploited peoples. These wars are also a threat to world peace. There is an immediate danger that there will be more of these wars and that they will increase in size and intensity".

WHAT HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS REVOLTS, UPRISINGS AND OUTBREAKS OF TERRORISM ARE NOT, HOWEVER, SIMPLY INTERNAL POLICE ACTIONS BUT ACTUAL WARS - HIDDEN WARS PERHAPS, WARS WAGED WITHOUT BEING DECLARED - WAGED WITH MACHINE GUNS, REGULAR TROOPS, BOMBS AND ALL THE ACCOUTREMENTS OF MODERN WARFARE. AS IVOR MONTAGU PUTS IT IN HIS SPEECH AT THE BUDAPEST COUNCIL: "ARE WARS NOT WARS BECAUSE BOTH PARTIES ARE NOT SOVEREIGN STATES, SLAUGHTER NOT SLAUGHTER BECAUSE BOTH SLAYERS AND SLAIN ALIKE ARE SUBJECTS OF THE QUEEN?"

The Colonial system is fraught with danger for world peace. Again a quoting from Montagu's speech: "I stand here as one definitely not a partisan of the colonial system.... But this is by the way. Our movement is not a social movement, and no-one is compelled to accept my ideas on this subject as a qualification to work for peace. What is not by the way, what is an inescapable heart and task of our movement, which every honest person must face in his conscience, is that **WHATEVER THE MERITS OR DEMERITS OF THIS SYSTEM (THAT IS THE COLONIAL SYSTEM) WE CANNOT ACCEPT ITS MAINTENANCE BY WAR.**

5. Total War in Kenya. In Kenya over 1,000 have been killed in what is called "attempting to escape". Tens of thousands have been arrested or driven to the bus, their houses destroyed, their cattle confiscated - now they are being bombed from the air. Missionaries have testified that prisoners have been beaten to death. English soldiers themselves have written home of captives that "after persuasion they usually confess something", and that the few released for weakness of evidence are usually found dead next morning.

On Friday 11th December "The Star" reported: "British bombers dropped nearly ten tons of high explosives yesterday on **SUSPECTED** Mau Mau terrorists reported to be massing near an RAF base ten miles north west of Nyeri, in Kenya. Two Lincolns, nine Harvards and every available Kenya Police Reserve spotter plane swept over the area, bombing and strafing". Note that these were only suspected of being Mau Mau.

In the trial of Captain Griffiths who was acquitted, it was revealed that killing competitions took place between various units of the armed forces, that money prizes were awarded for each "terrorist" killed. The Rand Daily Mail reported on January 21st, 1954 that: "two Kenya police reserve officers appeared before a magistrate in Nakuru today on a charge of burning and beating an aged African Mau Mau suspect over a fire when he refused to answer questions."

SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS TO KENYA?

These are a few examples of the atrocities being committed in the war in Kenya. It is in this cruel and bloody war against defenceless people that it is now suggested that South African troops should participate. General Brink, one time Deputy Chief of the General Staff, U.D.F., commenting on the suggestion by Kenya settlers that South African reinforcements be sent to Kenya, stated in the Rand Daily Mail on January 21st: "A fire has been started in Kenya and the flames may soon be licking at the Union's own borders. South Africa has the most vital interest in what is happening in Kenya which, strategically, is part of the Union."

SUCH A SUGGESTION MUST BE REJECTED AND VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED. The war in Kenya must be stopped, not intensified, and South Africans must certainly not contribute to the horror and atrocities already being perpetrated.

The revolt in Kenya, as in the rest of Africa, is not criminal, nor is it a communist plot, it is a natural human revolt against misery and poverty and especially against having such iniquities imposed by foreign domination. The great threat to world peace imposed by such wars can be removed. The problems must be settled peacefully, having due regard to the rights of the people and not by force.

6. New Wars? There is a danger of the outbreak of new colonial wars in Africa. The action of the British Government in divesting the Kabaka of his authority in Buganda, the insistence of the British Government on maintaining control of the Suez, the difficulties in Nigeria, in the French Colonies, and the threat of the South African Government to incorporate the British Protectorates whatever the wishes of the people concerned are, all constitute threats to peace in Africa and world peace.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT DOES NOT CONDEMN IMPERIALISM OR SUPPORT IMPERIALISM AS SUCH; NOR DOES IT CONDEMN OR SUPPORT CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM. THIS IS NOT OUR JOB. B U T: WHILE WE SAY WE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY ONE SYSTEM, WE DO SAY THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW THE MAINTENANCE OF ANY SYSTEM BY FORCE OR BY WAR.

When foreign powers invade territories of Africa and try to enforce colonialism, that is the concern of the peace movement. We are opposed to the imposition or maintenance of colonial rule by force and to the annexation of territories by force, because such actions constitute a threat to the peace.

7. Racialism and War. Racialism as preached and practised in South Africa contains all the seeds of war. The herrenvolk theories of the Nazi regime were used directly as a method of creating the atmosphere in which war could be waged. The Nazis used racialism directly as an excuse to occupy other countries in order to "save" Germans living in those countries. In the same way General Brink suggests interference in Kenya and Malan threatens incorporation of the Protectorates in order to save the white races in Africa and to preserve "White Civilisation".

But racialism has another important aspect. Peace does not depend only upon diplomats and governments. The actions of the peoples remains the determining factor. It is upon them that depends the ability to bring about meetings, to hasten the course of negotiations, to prevent acts of sabotage and to clear away obstacles. The peoples and their forces for peace, to succeed, cannot act separately. They must get together, decide on their common aims and methods and make these prevail with public opinion and with the governments. All propaganda which attempts to divide the people along racial and national lines, which attempts to set people against one another, which teaches people to hate and despise people of another colour, all such propaganda acts against the cause of peace. The peace movement encourages mutual respect and friendliness between the peoples. It fights all efforts to prejudice people and to create an atmosphere of hostility. Therefore the peace movement encourages people to meet one another in order to break through the distortions of officials and the press, it encourages cultural exchanges, trade, sports meetings and all similar activities.

- C. CONCLUSION: Our peace movement must thus work on two fronts:-
(i) on the world-front by allying ourselves with the ordinary people of every country in the world who want peace;
and(ii) on the home front by rallying all the people out of their apathy to oppose those policies and actions in our own country that endanger international peace.

On the World Front: We must join the world wide demand for the Big Powers to come together to settle their differences peacefully; we must support the demand for negotiations and for a settlement in particular of the German problem, the question of atomic weapons and the admission of China into UNO and to the Big Power Conferences.

We must campaign for full scale South African participation in the 1954 World Peace Congress.

This is a message from the World Council of Peace to all organisations and personalities who desire a relaxation of international tension:-

"The armistice concluded in Korea gave an uneasy world the hope at last of seeing a decrease in tension between the Great Powers. Negotiations which were opened, however, came up against renewed obstacles.

"Agreement is proving difficult on other questions vitally important for the peace of the world.

"Nevertheless, the peoples long for a relaxation of international tension. The economic shackles and political pressures accompanying this tension are becoming increasingly difficult to bear.

"We believe it is possible to rescue the world from this condition.

"Today, a wide range of political and social forces in all countries are working for an improvement of international relations.

"New voices among eminent scientific, religious and political authorities are condemning the use of weapons of mass extermination. Public opinion is becoming alarmed at the growing accumulation of armaments of all types.

"All people of good sense realise that it is not possible to settle problems of world importance or guarantee fulfilment of any agreement made, without the participation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

"Responsible representatives of all political groups in most West European countries have made a public stand against the rebirth of German militarism in any form.

"In these conditions, we think an opportunity should be given for all organisations or personalities who are striving for the relaxation of international tension, to concentrate their efforts on this question. The resolution, passed in Vienna by the World Council of Peace on November 28th, 1953 is an expression of our point of view on this matter.

"The joint preparation for a meeting allowing the free exchange of all viewpoints and the examination of possible solutions is now necessary.

"A meeting of this nature, to be held as soon as possible, would in itself be an important factor in the relaxation of international tension".

(World Council of Peace.
(Vienna Session, 23rd - 28th November 1953)

On the Home Front: We must oppose all warlike actions in Africa; the forceful maintenance and imposition of colonial rule; we must demand an end to the war in Kenya; we must oppose the threat to incorporate the protectorates; we must oppose the conversion of Africa into a great war base; finally, we must counteract propaganda which divides people against each other and we must work for peace, friendship and co-operation between the peoples.

The South African Peace Council therefore calls on all peace workers to rally the people of South Africa for peace around these policies:

1. For negotiation.
2. For a Pact of Peace between the Five Great Powers
3. For a peaceful settlement of the German problem
4. For the admission of China to the U.N.
5. For the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction
6. For the production of uranium for atomic power for peaceful purposes
7. For friendship between the peoples
8. For an end to colonial wars and the forceful occupation of territories against the wishes of the people
9. Against the threat to incorporate the Protectorates

AFRICA FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.