

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS BY THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, NATAL, SUBMITTED AT THE PROVINCIAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, NATAL HELD AT EDENDALE, PIETERMARITZBURG.

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On the 28th - 29th July, 1956.

1. That this conference records its deepest appreciation of the manner in which both the Annual Provincial Executive Report of the African National Congress Natal, and the Presidential address by the Provincial President, African National Congress, Natal, bring out and deal comprehensively and effectively with major political trends and happenings in the political sphere in the Union of South Africa and in the world in general since the last Annual Natal Provincial Conference of the African National Congress early in October, 1955.

Further, that this conference wholeheartedly commends to the public, especially the African people, for serious consideration this Annual Provincial Executive Report, African National Congress, Natal, and the Presidential Address.

2. That this Conference gives general support to the views and observations expressed in the Annual Provincial Report, African National Congress, Natal, and the Presidential Address by the Provincial President, Natal.
3. That this Conference views with serious concern the grave situation facing the Non-Europeans in the Union of South Africa, especially since the Nationalist Party came into power and began implementing its Apartheid policy in a manner that shows callous disregard for moral principles and for the true interests of the country.
4. That anent the implementation of the Group Areas Act and other kindred acts:-
  - a) this Conference views with grave apprehension, horror and indignation the speed with which the Nationalist Party is implementing its Apartheid policy regardless of its inhumanity in respect of the removal of people from their long established homes and thus threatening the very existence of the Non-European people affected and the establishment and maintenance of amicable human relations between the whites and Non-whites,
  - b) this conference condemns with all the force at its disposal all ruthless acts that displace and rob people, especially Non-Europeans, of their properties acquired at great sacrifice through hard savings made from their meagre earnings;
  - c) this conference specifically invites the sympathetic and active attention of the people of Natal to:-
    - 1) the contemplated removals that will affect hundreds of Africans in the Northern Districts of Natal where Africans from the earliest days of British Colonial rule purchased freehold lands extensively fully believing that by so doing they were providing inviolable security for themselves and their descendants as they were made to believe that in a true democracy one's house is one's castle;

ii) the callous/.....

ii) the callous uprooting of Africans that is being continued in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, and the threat of removal hanging over Lady Selbourne, Pretoria, and other African Settlements and homes in urban areas where Africans have acquired freehold title to land, the sole object in all such removals being to deprive Africans of freehold rights in urban centres and not to clear slums as alleged by the Nationalist Party Government;

iii) -the implementation of the Group Areas Act in Johannesburg displacing over 100,000 non-whites, mostly Indians, who are being removed to Lenasia about 20 miles from Johannesburg, and calls upon the people of Natal under the leadership of Congress to give active and tangible support to the victims of this horrible - this destructive - this humiliating displacement of non-whites calculated to bring about their utter ruination as a people in order to ensure the permanent subjugation of non-whites as serfs to white South Africa.

d) this conference with all sympathy to the people affected by removals nevertheless calls upon them not to submit voluntarily to these removals.

5) This conference protests most strongly at the brutality towards non-Europeans shown by some members of the Police Force in the execution of their duty as, apart from the inhumanity of such behaviour, such conduct breeds among the non-whites a spirit of hostility towards and disrespect for the police force and the law generally;

Further, this conference condemns mass raids by the police as such raids tend to provoke violent reaction in the people against the police with tragic results to all concerned.

6) That this conference viewing with alarm and regret strongly condemns the bloody violence which has taken place in some African communities, both urban and rural, as a result of faction fights and calls upon the people at all times, notwithstanding the most frustrating conditions under which they live, to act soberly and with restraint under the most provocative situation from whatever source the provocation may come.

7) That regarding education among Africans, conference sees no development under the Bantu Education Act to justify Congress in any way slackening its opposition to the Bantu Education Act but that rather on the contrary, both what has been done and what is being contemplated calls for an intensification of the opposition of this enslaving education which, in addition to its many evils, is about to produce in the name of education such monstrous creatures as Bantu Junior Certificate, Bantu Matriculation, Bantu Ethnic Universities, and goodness knows what else.

8. That, against the contention of the Nationalist Party Government that Africans have a limited claim on the Consolidated Revenue of the country and so must be given inferior or limited public service and facilities and for any such services be taxed to meet any rise in expenditure above any fixed limit such as 6½ million pounds set as a limit for State expenditure on African Education, this conference:-

i) refuses to accept this undemocratic contention of the Nationalist Party Government, particularly when it is directed against the poorest section of the community, the African, which in all fairness should receive greater state aid;

ii) most vehemently condemns and protest against the contemplated imposing of additional direct taxation on Africans to meet the rising cost of their education budget and on the raising of rents in Government and Municipal Housing Schemes;

iii) calls upon the/.....

iii) calls upon the African people, through the African National Congress and other active organisations amongst them, to oppose unitedly such disastrous discrimination against them;

iv) asks statutory bodies such as the Advisory Boards, School Boards, Bantu Authorities, to make representations to the Government against such humiliating and disastrous discrimination by the Government against Africans and in protest refuse to function if the Government should give no heed to their representation.

9) That, regarding convict labour, Conference:-

i) condemns most strongly the action of the Government in hiring out convict labour to private employers, especially farmers, and at that, at rates of pay, much lower than those obtaining with free civilian labour and thus creating conditions inimical to the best interest of free civilian labour;

ii) protests strongly against the use of female prisoners in hard work generally assigned to male prisoners but now invariably assigned to female prisoners as a result of the hiring out male prisoners to private employers;

iii) strongly condemns and protests against the establishment of private farm prisons as they provide a disgraceful channel for the exploitation of cheap labour and are open to abuse in the treatment of the prisoners in custody in them.

10) That, regarding victims of Government action directed against those who actively oppose the policy of Apartheid and all the evil and hardship it stands for, this conference:-

i) expresses its heartfelt condolence with friends and relatives of those who have lost their lives in the struggle for freedom and proposes that the names of such deceased be placed in a Congress National Roll of Honour for these died that we and coming generations might live;

ii) expresses its deepest sympathy with fighters for freedom in the Union of South Africa who in some way or another have become victims of cruel Government action against those who have been bold enough to challenge openly and actively the oppressive policies and laws of the Nationalist Party Government whose avowed aim is to uphold basakap, which conversely means the permanent subjugation of non-whites: a position no self-respecting people could even by the slightest implication acquiesce in;

iii) puts on special record its special word of respect for and admiration of those who under the most trying conditions such as obtain at Frenchdale in Bechuanaland, a concentration camp in embryo, have shown exemplary courage and loyalty to Congress and the Cause of Freedom.

11) That this conference with a feeling of indignation and protest puts on record for all Africans in Natal to know that the last session of the Union Parliament distinguished itself as one of the darkest on record when under the leadership of the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. H.F. Verwoerd, it put into the Union Statute Book three undemocratic oppressive laws which in some way or another put Africans outside the orbit of the rule of law, a right guaranteed to citizens in all civilised democratic countries save fascist states, and subject the African people to state dictatorship of the worse kind and exposing them to the tyranny of even petty local officials.

12) that this/....

12) That this conference puts on record its profound admiration of the African women for the bold and most courageous opposition they have made to the efforts of the Nationalist Party Government to make them carry passes and so further subject them to a state of inferiority from which, with the support of progressive men, are determined to emancipate themselves.

13) That this conference notes with appreciation that despite intensive Government propaganda and intimidation there is a growing awareness among the people that Apartheid is a sure road to permanent serfdom and that from quarters, including non-political groups such as sportsmen, Ministers etc., is coming a refreshing and couraging growing opposition to this policy of the Nationalist Party.

Further, that this conference puts on record its deepest appreciation of the moral support democratic progressive people and groups in the world are giving to our efforts to emancipate ourselves in the Union from a position of inferiority we have been subjected to since the advent of the whiteman to our land.

14) The African National Congress, Natal Province, associates itself fully with the present policies and programme of the African National Congress and pledges itself to propagate these policies and programme to the best of its ability in the Province of Natal.

15) That this conference reiterates its uncompromising opposition to the Bantu Authorities Act which in the light of modern democracy is most retrograde as it is designed to keep the African people off the democratic road that leads to the attainment of franchise rights, the only effective guarantee of freedom.

16) That this conference expresses its admiration and deep appreciation of the manner in which the Authorities of Adams College, Incorporated, have made strenuous efforts to remain as private Institution in terms of the Bantu Education Act in order that the college might be better able to continue to maintain and carry out the objects the missionary Founders of Adams College hoped to inculcate into the students that passed through the college.

This conference expresses its profound concern and regret that the Minister for Native Affairs summarily rejected the application of Adams College to be a private Institution under the Bantu Education Act.

This conference challenges most seriously the attitude of the Minister of Native Affairs who speaking elsewhere said that in "Bantu Life there is no room for schools like Bishop, a European School."

This conference does not accept the assumption of the Minister for Native Affairs that he is the sole arbiter in all matters affecting the destiny of Africans to justify him to say that in Bantu Life there is no place for Schools like Bishop.

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THE REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, NATAL  
PROVINCE, FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING  
OCTOBER, 1, 1955 to JUNE 30, 1956.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

In order to facilitate an early submission of Annual Reports to the National Headquarters by Provincial Conferences to enable the National Headquarters in turn to prepare timely the Annual National Report of the National Executive due for submission to the Annual National Conference, the last Annual National Conference, directed that Provincial Conferences be held in the last half of the year, hence we are holding this year our Annual Provincial Conference in July instead of in October.

This year has seen the continued growth of the co-operation of the Allied organisations in our Liberatory movement. This co-operation has resulted in the formation of permanent Consultative Committees at both National and Provincial levels.

The duty of these Consultative Committees is to recommend means and ways of co-ordinating our activities so that the forces in the Liberatory Movement could more effectively prosecute the struggle for liberation when they fight as a single front.

We have not lost any opportunity to co-operate with other friendly bodies such as the Liberal Party with whom we have agreed to be on friendly relations and, for the present to co-operate on specific issues.

We note with satisfaction that inspite of the bans imposed on some of our Provincial leaders by the Government the routine work of Congress has been carried on in the Province. Special thanks are due to officials at the Provincial headquarters who have had to carry on this heavy work when a good number of their colleagues are incapacitated by bans imposed on them.

Our Provincial headquarters has faithfully sent on to branches directives and propaganda material from the National headquarters; but we regret to report that the response from our branches has been poor and disappointing.

The holding of the Congress of the People on June 25 - 26 last year provided a most effective rallying call for our Congresses and became an effective stimulant to the political awakening of the people and so also has been the efforts of the African women who are engaged in a gigantic struggle against the Government's threat to extend the Pass Laws to them.

We now proceed to a wider survey of the work of Congress in our Province.

II. A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE POLITICAL SCENE  
IN THE UNION AS AFFECTING NON-EUROPEANS,  
ESPECIALLY AFRICANS:

1. IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD:

We draw the attention of members to some of the most vicious apartheid laws passed in the last session of Parliament.

(1) The amendment to the Native Administration Act of 1927. This amendment extends to Africans in the Cape Province the provisions of the Code of Native law in Natal which hitherto applied only to the Northern provinces.

Under this law the Governor-General is now the Supreme Chief of all African tribes in the Union of South Africa. This is a most autocratic law which, inter alia, forces Africans into the stagnant tribal mould which in many ways is incompatible with the concept of life in a modern civilised Society.

This law empowers the Governor-General (in effect the Minister for Native Affairs) to imprison an African for three months without a trial. There is no right of appeal. The Governor-General may now, without the prior approval of Parliament, order the removal of a whole tribe.

(2) The Natives Prohibition of Interdict Act:

This law deprives an African the right to seek the protection of the law when he thinks he is being unlawfully removed from his place of residence.

(3) An Amendment to the Natives Urban Areas Act:

This amendment to the Urban Areas Act empowers the local Authority to banish an African from his area of jurisdiction. In effect it subjects Africans in Urban Areas to the uncertain mercy, not only of the location Superintendent, but of any of his petty officers. With no right of appeal this law will render homeless many Africans in Urban Areas; it will increase the number of vagrant Africans.

(4) The Industrial Conciliation Act, Amended:

Early this year Parliament passed an amended Industrial Conciliation Act. In the industrial sphere this is a most sinister apartheid Act. It introduces racialism into industry and Trade Unionism. To this end it requires that work categories be classified and allocated on racial lines with the African, at most, doing a most limited number of semi-skilled jobs. For all practical purposes it resigns Africans to unskilled work in industry. It further provides for the formation or division of Trade Unions on racial lines. In so far as the position of Africans in Industry is concerned this Act should be studied in conjunction with other industrial laws applying to Africans such as the Natives Labour (Settlement of Dispute) Act 1953 and the Native Building Workers Act, 1951.

In all spheres of life in the Union of South Africa apartheid is being introduced and legally enforced. Some of the new areas that are threatened are the Nursing profession and the Universities. In all this classification and separation non-whites must never forget that on the principle of "separate but unequal" already having legal recognition in the Union what services and institutions are given them on an apartheid basis will be inferior. The figures we quote below from Hansard No.16, the Senate of the Union of South Africa, page 3926, are most illuminating. The Hon.Senator Van Aarde went to much trouble and great pain to show by these figures that his party, the Nationalist Party, were not Kaffer-boeties as accused in a speech by Mr. Strauss, the leader of the United Party, the official opposition.

The Union of South Africa is, indeed, in some ways, a strange country. Where on earth would you get supposedly civilised and religious people, such as the white people in the Union claim to be, seeking applause and support for doing less for the most needy section of the community and lavishly spending on the better off? The Hon.Senator Van Aarde gave these comparative figures to show that the Government was spending respectively on whites and non-whites on some public services:

<u>S E R V I C E:</u>	<u>E X P E N D I T U R E:</u>	
	<u>Whites:</u>	<u>Non-Whites:</u>
Housing:	£64,500,000	£30,000,000.
Food subsidies:	85,000,000	41,000,000.
Education:	150,000,000	37,000,000.
Pensions:	81,000,000	35,000,000.
Children's Allowances:	9,000,000	5,000,000.

2. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD:

(1) The vicious apartheid laws such as the Bantu Education Act, 1953, the Bantu Authorities Act, 1951, Native Labour (Settlement of Dispute) Act 1953, the Native Building Workers Act, 1951, and others, are being speedily implemented. This, according to circumstances, is done in true fascist ruthlessness when presenting the law with an air of sweet reasonableness seems to fail.

It is a matter of great concern to us that some of our people, for various reasons: fear, undue consideration of self-interest, ignorance of issues at stake, etc. are succumbing to this government propaganda of intimidation and appearance of sweet reasonableness. This is a challenge to Congress to redouble its efforts to politicise the people.

In this matter of the implementation of the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Party let us pin-point plans and efforts made by the Government to effect removals in Natal.

(2) Removals: The African has become the first victim of the reshuffling and displacement contemplated in the Nationalist Government policy of apartheid. The position of the African in this regard is most vulnerable and perilous in that his removal can be brought about through

a number of laws: the Native Administration Act, 1927, the Native Urban Areas Act, 1923, the Group Areas Act, 1950, the Resettlement Act of 1954 and may be some other Acts.

Further, in general, in both rural areas and Urban areas, he is the least secure of all the people in the Union in that the land laws of the country make him a tenant in rural reserves (State lands) and in municipal locations. Only a small number of Africans had acquired landed property before laws such as the Native Land Act, 1913 and the Native Urban Areas Act, 1923 for Urban Areas were passed. These laws made it difficult for Africans to buy or hold under lease land in the Union.

As we pointed out in our last year's Annual report the Northern districts of Natal are the first victims in Natal. Removals are being planned for the Urban Areas of Charlestown and Newcastle and in some rural areas in the Northern districts in the so called "blackspots" such as Kumaloville near Besters, Kingsley, Waschbank and some African syndicate farms situated in the valuable coal-belt of Natal.

In our report last year we pointed out that all peri-urban African Settlements were in mortal danger: to say nothing about African settlements or properties within Municipal boundaries. We have already been told that Sobantu Village in Maritzburg must go. How can people living in Newscootland, Ockerts' Kraal, and Slangspruit feel safe? How can people in these areas be so apathetic about removals?

The Provincial working Committee, African National Congress, Natal, sent to the Town Clerk, Pietermaritzburg Corporation, its protest against this threat to Sobantu Village by the Government Native Affairs Department. This protest appeared in the Natal Witness of July 11, 1956.

The building of Duff's Road African Township, some twenty miles from Durban, spells the doom of African property holders in and about Durban. Africans in most Municipal locations: Chesterville, Baumannville, Cato Manor, will all soon be crowded at Duff's Road.

### 3. BANTU AUTHORITIES:

The Government is using all its skill and prestige to get African chiefs to accept Bantu Authorities. The Minister for Native Affairs attended in person "Indabas" convened by his Department to meet in some important African Areas in different parts of the Union.

One such gathering was held at Vuma, Nongoma, Zululand, towards the end of last year. In all these gatherings Bantu Authorities and Bantu Education were the chief topics. The Zulu people diplomatically refused to have anything to do with Bantu Authorities.

Since that meeting the tactics of the Government, was to approach chiefs separately, and individually, no doubt, using the local Native Commissioner to soften each chief by sugar-coated explanations and by veiled or may be even open intimidation.



It has come to our knowledge that some government officials - Native Commissioners and Information officers - present Bantu Authorities as an obligatory law and keep silent about its permissive nature.

The African National Congress has no intention of halting its uncompromising opposition to this and other apartheid laws.

(4) Police Raid: One most distressing thing in the Administrative field is the making of mass police raids into African homes and to meetings of the Liberatory movement. To make matters worse some members of the raiding police party carry on the raid with the show of much power and harshness with no respect for the human dignity of their victims. All this tends to provoke reciprocal harshness or violence on the part of the African civilians to whom the attack is directed.

We would urge our people even under such provocation circumstances to respect the Congress stand of non-violence. We must prosecute our struggle at all times on the peaceful dignified way of non-violence.

We publicly express our condolence to the relatives of those who became victims of police violence.

We condemn most strongly these mass police raids and the brutality, more often than not, shown by the police in carrying out these mass raids.

III. A BRIEF SURVEY OF CONGRESS PLANS AND ACTIVITIES IN NATAL CARRIED ON UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

(1) Ban on Congress Leaders:

The government has relentlessly continued its war against the Congress leadership. During the year under review our banned leaders in Natal are Albert J. Lutuli, Provincial President, Wilson Z. Conco, Deputy Provincial President, Masabalala B. Yengwa, Provincial Secretary, Harry T. Gwala and Philemon Tsele.

The ban on P. H. Simelane, Provincial Treasurer, expired in September of last year. Whenever a ban became known a press statement protesting against the ban was often issued and, further, protests were voiced at important Congress meetings.

The National Conference called upon Congress members to contribute to a fund from which some financial assistance could be given to all banished Congress people. The Natal contribution to this fund was only a small sum of £3.18.0. last year. We expect Natal to do much better this year.

(2) The National Conference decided to embark on the establishment of a Freedom Fund. When sufficiently subscribed to this fund would be used to carry on the struggle for Freedom.

This fund should not be confused with such specific interim Congress funds such as the banished People's Fund, already touched upon above, and the Defence fund to which we shall refer later. Nor should this fund (Freedom fund) be confused with ISIKWAMA SESIZWE with which also we will deal later.

This year's Provincial Conference will be asked to lay the foundation for this fund by asking Congress people and members of the public attending the Conference to make a voluntary subscription to this fund, the Freedom Fund.

(3) Defence Fund: The recent announcement in Parliament by the Minister of Justice that about 200 Congress people were due to be arrested and charged for treason or sedition and for the violation of the Suppression of Communism Act has caused the National Working Committee, on behalf of the National Executive, to direct Provinces to establish its own Defence Fund to meet the legal defence expenses which will follow from the contemplated arrests.

Conference will be asked to make plans to have this fund subscribed to immediately. Further, Conference will be asked to approve any defence plans submitted by the Provincial Executive.

The Executive makes no apology for making many calls demanding a generous support for the Congress funds indicated above.

Contributing to them or not is a measure of the serious concern, or lack of it, we have for the cause of freedom we are so vocal about; let it not be said that our actions belie our expressed intentions about freedom.

We cannot be reminded too often that Freedom is the most precious and valuable gift given to man by God and that to get it we must be prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice and so Congress calls upon all Africans to give full support to the cause of Freedom.

(4) Provincial Representation at National Conference:

We are glad to report that the Province was represented at all National Conferences held since our last Annual Provincial Conference (September 1955).

At the 1955 Annual National Conference held at Bloemfontein in December, Natal sent fourteen delegates.

At the National Special Conference held in Johannesburg on March 30, April 1, 1956, Natal sent twenty delegates.

It has not been easy for branches and the Province to meet the heavy cost of sending delegates to these long distance Conferences.

We owe some money in connection with travel and subsistence expenses connected with these Conferences.

During the year the Provincial Executive issued a directive to branches asking them to pay money to meet our indebtedness in this regard. Branches were asked to contribute on the basis of One Pound (£1) for every twenty members.

We thank the branches and officials who have strained their resources to attend these Conferences. We cannot over stress the importance of attending these Congress conventions; they are the Parliament of Congress where all binding decisions are made. It is a duty and not just a privilege for a branch to be represented at these conferences, and that is the only way in which branch members can influence and help determine Congress policies and activities.

Travel and Subsistence Fund: We suggest that from the beginning of the year every branch, even the smallest, should start laying aside money in a local Travel and Subsistence Fund to be used to send delegates to Provincial and National Conferences.

(5) Ratification of the Freedom Charter:

Natal shared in the ratification that was made at a special conference of the African National Congress held in Johannesburg on March 30, April 1, 1956. Some people are spreading a false propaganda that Natal was opposed to the Freedom Charter. We quote the Natal resolution in this matter to show that this propaganda is false and unfair to Natal. Here is the Natal resolution:

"That this Conference expresses its concurrence with the principles enunciated in the Freedom Charter formulated and adopted at Kliptown, Johannesburg, on June 25th and 26th, 1954. But, further, that while this Annual Provincial Conference is not adverse to the principles of Nationalisation (vide clause 3 of the Charter) and the general socialistic basis of the State envisaged, nevertheless, in the interest of National unity, it strongly urges that these fundamental principles implied in the Charter be discussed fully before the final ratification of the Charter". And, further, "that this Conference respectfully observes that the Freedom Charter is padded in some cases with unnecessary variable details in an all-time document, thus running the risk of provoking detracting controversy on the Charter".

Natal comments on some details in the Charter and concluded thus:

"Having made our honest comments on it in a somewhat critical way.. we, nevertheless, say that the Congress of the People produced an admirable document under the circumstances, and that this document should be a great inspiration to progressive forces striving for freedom for all in our land during our life time. Space would not allow us to reproduce the Freedom Charter in our report. We reproduce, as one of the annexures to this report the principle clauses of the Charter.

(6) Women's Passes: Natal joined in the Union-wide protest against the implementation by the Government of its decision to have African women carry passes.

Several protest meetings have taken place in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Newcastle. In Durban five mass deputations have gone to see authorities in Durban - two to the Native Commissioner and three to the town authorities.

Under the leadership of the African National Congress in Natal opposition to African women carrying passes has grown in intensity despite the confusion caused by two women Congress leaders - Miss B.Mkize and Miss G.Kuzwayo who sabotaged Congress in that whilst ostensibly carrying on the opposition to African women's passes under Congress colours were at the same time working for an organisation known as the Durban Women's Association and crediting it with Congress work. We have recently had a report from our Durban Branch that these two women have been expelled by the branch for their anti-Congress activities.

It is our aim to intensify this fight against African Women's passes and to spread the campaign to other areas including rural areas.

(7) Removals: Complying with the Conference resolution efforts were made to contact the South African Institute of Race Relations in an attempt to make a factual study of the situation in threatened areas. The Director of the Institute replied favourably to the President on this matter. The Director apparently referred this matter to his Durban office. The Durban office informed the President of this. Nothing concrete has been done yet on the account of the shortage of personnel on our part. The Liberal Party in Natal has made overtures to the Provincial Executive of the African National Congress, Natal, offering to co-operate with Congress in investigating and opposing removals. The Executive heartily welcomed this gesture but again nothing concrete has been done.

Congress should not only be vigilant regarding the situation here but should strengthen its hold in the threatened areas.

(8) Participation in the "All-In-Group Areas Conference" Convened by the Natal Indian Congress:

The African National Congress, Natal Province, participated in the Conference on Group Areas Act convened by the Natal Indian Congress on May 5th and 6th, 1956. We note with satisfaction the part played by our officers, especially Messrs P.H.Simelane and A.Gumede who represented us at this Conference. We, further, note with appreciation the highly informative paper entitled: "Some aspects of the Apartheid Union Land laws and policy affecting Africans" presented by our Provincial-President, Chief A.J.Luthuli.

As a result of our participation in this Conference we shall be represented in the Vigilant Committee, which it was agreed should be formed in all threatened areas. We are happy to report that in addition to our usual allies the South African Indian Congress, The S.A.Coloured People's Organisation and the South African Congress of Democrats, the Liberal Party in Natal is co-operating in this. It was effectively represented at this Conference. In the African National Congress we welcome

this co-operation of the Liberal Party because one of our objects is to create as long and as deep a freedom front as we can in our liberatory movement.

(9) IsiKhwama Sesizwe (Natal National Fund)

The supposed officers of this fund convened a meeting of subscribers and interested people on May 5 and 6, 1956. Congress has always maintained that it was Congress that started the ISIKHWAMA SESIZWE and that Congress was the natural and legal trustee of the fund. When the supposed officers convened the meeting Congress prepared her case challenging the right of the convenors of the meeting to hold office in the Fund when they are no longer officers of Congress.

We would like to thank members who put the Congress case at the meeting, especially Mr. P. H. Simelane. Conference will be asked to give direction and authority to the incoming Executive to prosecute this matter by seeking advice of Counsel and acting in the best way possible. We encourage Congress members to support the ISIKHWAMA. Subscription to the Fund should be sent via our Provincial Treasurer.

We thank our men who contributed articles to the "Illanga Lase Natal" about this Fund. We thank the "Illanga" itself for the fair publicity it gave to all shades of opinion regarding this Fund.

(10) Political Education: The Provincial Headquarters has continued its efforts of carrying out political education in various ways such as these:-

- (i) The holding of discussion groups; this has been done in Durban. Efforts should be made next year to hold similar discussion groups in Maritzburg.
- (ii) Issuing and distribution of pamphlets such as on Bantu Authorities, Bantu Education, Suggestions on how to organise Congress, and other Congress branches and members are urged to make use of all Congress publications. The battle against apartheid and, in particular, against Bantu Education and Bantu Authorities, must be continued as these laws appear to be the corner-stones of the government policy of apartheid. The capitulation of the Transkei and Ciskien Bhungas and some misguided chief in Natal is a challenge to Congress to concern itself more seriously with establishing Congress branches and making Congress influence felt even in rural areas. Rural work and City work are complementary to each other and neglect of one adversely affect the other. We advise in this regard that Congress members in towns, whenever they take an extended holiday to their rural homes in reserves or farms, should contact the nearest local Congress office (Provincial headquarters, branch chairman or Secretary) so as to be briefed as to how they could establish Congress in their areas.

Material on Bantu Education and Bantu Authorities is still available in the Provincial head office as well as copies of all previous issues of the Congress Bulletin.

(111) Publication of a Natal Congress Bulletin: The first issue of this Bulletin came out just before Conference last year and has since been carried on. Branches are asked to give it their fullest support by acting as distributing agents and by supplying it with news and articles. The aim is to make it a Congress bulletin in Natal by being a forum for all Congress people.

(11) Congress Functional Committees:

We reiterate our urge made last year that Congress in Natal should establish strong connections between it and the Trade Union movement.

There is a sub-committee of the Provincial Executive charged with the task of establishing this connection.

The last National Annual Conference by resolution decided on the establishment of functional Committees at National level with their counterparts at Provincial level. The idea is to encourage the formation of subsidiary bodies under Congress; each of these Functional Committees would take charge of organising some activity or interest among the people such as:

1. Trade Unions.
2. Peasant Farming.
3. Women's Work.
4. Youth Work.
5. Education.
6. Cultural Activities and any other activities or interests.

NB: The reports of the Functional Committees already established in Natal are attached to this report as annexures.

(12) Raids:

Our Congress offices and homes and offices of Congress members, especially those of our leaders, did not escape the nation-wide raids made by the political staff of the criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) in October of last year. Much Congress material was taken from Congress offices and from homes of members raided.

Out Come of These Raids:

Since the carrying out of these raids the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, has announced in Parliament that as a sequel to these raids over 200 people will be charged and prosecuted for the contravention of the Suppression of Communism Act, Treason and Sedition. This leads us to urge upon Conference without delay to call upon Congress members and sympathisers to contribute generously to the Provincial Defence Fund.

(13) The Provincial Consultative Committee:

The Provincial Executive duly appointed our representative to the Provincial Consultative Committee and instructed our officials at the Provincial Headquarters to contact our allies, the Natal Indian Congress, and the Congress of Democrats with the view of getting this Committee formed.

The report of the Consultative Committee (if any) will be attached as an annexure to this report.

(14) Rent Issue in Urban Locations:

The Provincial Executives had been given a directive by the last Provincial Annual Conference to make a strong protest, to the point of taking legal action, if necessary, against the raising of rents in municipal Housing Schemes and Locations. The Executive was directed to seek the co-operation of Urban Locations Advisory Boards in this matter. The Executive reports that on account of the shortage of personnel it defaulted also in this matter and recommends that the incoming Executive be directed to undertake this task if circumstances still warrant such an action.

(15) The Zulu Gathering at Nodwengu, Mahlabatini District:

Congress, mainly on account of lack of money, was not able to send delegates to this gathering; but we trust that some Congress members attended in private capacity. The Deputy Provincial President, Dr. Conco, was asked on behalf of the Province to send to the paramount Chief of the Zulus the Congress message on the occasion of this gathering. The Provincial President sent a personal message of best wishes to the paramount chief.

(16) Report of the Socio-Economic Commission on  
Conditions in African Rural Reserves: Briefly  
known as the Tomlinson Report:

Congress in Natal has not had time to consider this important report on apartheid. It is most important that Africans should be made acquainted with its main provision. To this end the Provincial Executive recommends that a special Conference to study the report be convened in September or early in October 1956 to meet in Durban. This Conference would be an "An-In-Apartheid Conference". Efforts would be made to invite widely.

IV. IN THE REST OF AFRICA OUTSIDE  
THE UNION.

In carrying out our struggle in our country it is well for us to occasionally take note of events in others parts of Africa and through out the world.

The countries of the world in these modern times are increasingly becoming interdependent as also sections of the people in any country. This fact makes nonsense of the Apartheid policy of the Nationalist Party and makes foolish those who decry our growing co-operation in our Liberatory movement with other sections of our multi-racial nation - Indians, Europeans and Coloureds.

What we said last year about the awakening evident in some countries in Africa outside the Union still holds true and with greater force - even now. The forces of freedom are, indeed, growing in strength and momentum in Africa and in the world in general. We shall mention briefly some instances of this awakening.

(1) Sudan: Since our last Annual Conference the Sudan has become an independent country. We congratulate the people of Sudan for gaining their freedom. We wish them all success and prosperity.

(2) British Territories in West Africa: Some British territories in West Africa, notably the Gold Coast and Nigeria, continue to make progress towards fuller independence. We thank the British Government for showing willingness to give our people in these territories their freedom.

Our advice to our people in these and other African territories in Africa is that Africans should not allow sectionalism and tribalism to wreck the formation of truly independent democratic states in countries of Africa.

(3) Northern Africa: France is facing a revolt in some of its territories in North Africa such as in Algeria. We regret that both sides have resorted to bloodshed. Our advice to the French authorities is that the only fair and true answer to the awakening of the people is to give them the freedom they are not only asking for, but are entitled to. The present generation of Frenchmen should not forget that it was their forebearers who gave the world the noble conception that human relationships should be based on "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity."

(4) The Struggle in Northern Rhodesia: Africans in Northern Rhodesia are making a fairly successful struggle under the leadership of their African National Congress and their Trade Union Movement. On the Trade union front not only are they succeeding to secure better wages but are gaining an appreciable advance towards entering skilled categories in industry.

(5) Congress Movement in British Territories: We note with satisfaction the existence and growth of Congress movements in most, if not all, British Territories in Central and East Africa.

We would remind ourselves and our sister Congresses in other territories that the task we have voluntarily taken on of liberating Africans in the land of their birth is a heavy one, especially faced as we are, not only by the might of the white rulers moved to terrific action against us by the selfishness of colonists or white voters, but faced also on the home front with the ignorance and apathy of our people.

We regret in this regard the attitude of the would-be-middle class in our community who seem contented with the status quo because of a few crumbs they might be getting in slavery. We would remind even our African chiefs that they are slaves looking after other slaves.



(6) Quiet in Some African Fronts:

Belgium and Portuguese Territories: We have no doubt that the Africans of these territories feel an inner longing for freedom though outwardly they appear contented. The fascist rule obtaining in Portuguese territories would crush at birth any struggle of the people. We do not welcome the Assimilado policy of the Portuguese when nothing is done to uplift the masses but on the contrary enslaving and oppressing them. Nor are we willing to be content with Belgium's paternalism which seeks to lull the people to false security by anticipating any likely discontent of the people by giving them economic opportunities but strictly denying them any share in the political control of the country. We might here point out a situation in our country which, in essence, is a parallel to this. The Nationalist Government, in its apartheid policy, is winning or silencing some of our people by offering the African people in the Union far less economic opportunities than denying them political rights. The Nationalist Party promises economic opportunities- doubtful ones, at that- only in African reserves and are allowing themselves hundred years or more in which to get the Reserve, fully developed to give Africans the full benefit of their Apartheid promises.

AFRICANS AWAKE ! AFRIKA ! MAYIBUYE !

V. THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

The African National Congress stands for Peace and Friendship. We regard as enemies of mankind those who in any way promote hostility among nations and people. It is with joy and relief that we note that the danger of a world war that seemed imminent two year or so ago has receded considerably.

We welcome most heartily the apparent lessening of world tensions. We hope that the wisdom of the leaders of nations will get a way of outlawing war so that man's wisdom and energy could be harnessed to constructive pursuits than to be used to produce instruments of his own utter annihilation.

It is a matter of great pleasure to us to find leading younger nations like India and the Republic of China bending their influence and energy on the side of Peace and Friendship among nations.

We who are victims of racial discrimination and colonialism must constantly call the attention of the world to our plight. We are aware that there are other parts of the world where these evils exist. We note with deep appreciation the growing hostility of world opinion against these evils. We must thank those men and women and groups that have championed our cause: we think of great men like the Prime Minister of India Mr. Nehru; men like Cannon Collins, Father Huddelston and many others. May their number grow !

We are grateful for the growing co-operation among the nations of Asia and Africa. Bandung was the beginning of a great venture in Peace and Friendship by the young nations of Asia and Africa. For ourselves we are glad that there has been created this new peaceful force in the world which is opposed to things that oppress mankind and we, non-whites, in the Union of South Africa are among the worse oppressed people



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LET US STAND UP TOO!

We quote the examples of other territories in Africa in order to illustrate to the people of South Africa what necessary steps they should take towards their national liberation. If the Africans in other territories are progressing with such a rapid pace the Nationalist government is deserted. This fear within the government is manifested by the surprises expressed by the ex-Prime Minister Dr. Malan and the Prime Minister at present Dr. Strijdom.

Their attitude towards the political emancipation of Africa is despicable and inviting criticism. This is depicted by their appeal to every white man in Africa to unite and fight against the thousand millions of blacks in the continent. Their call is, however, poisoning their cause. The only way they could decide is the political independence of the various races in the various territories. We cannot accept the policy of the Union Government together with the white Trade Union leaders who are propagating the principles of Apartheid in other African countries. The leader of the African National Congress will not forget to influence the authorities of the other countries of Africa to detest and reject the policy of Apartheid in Africa.

Translated by Solomon Dunga  
from Zulu on 24/10/56.

## GENERAL WARNING.

We appeal to the Chief and headmen in the whole Africa not to be deceived by the propaganda from their neighbouring states which advocates that there should be no independent states in the country. Smaller countries should become only federal states to the bigger states. This was the spirit which prevailed when the African National Congress was founded in 1912 to unite the African people in South Africa and in Africa to become an African State. We shall not be able to achieve anything in our liberatory struggle if we shall continue as small individual states, which can do nothing.

## NORTHERN AFRICA.

One of the main characteristics of the waking up of Africa is the liberatory struggle which goes on in other countries in Africa which were dominated by other European powers other than Britain. That is why these days we hear of the French in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, meeting serious opposition and fighting over the rights of the inhabitants of these countries. We pity the people of these territories for their resort to bloody measures in their liberatory movement, although we do not endorse the methods used by the French government in resorting to wasteful measures in their attempt to subdue these people. The only way to avoid such a situation was to give the people of these territories the rights for which they are demanding as the original inhabitants of the land.

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Section B.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN AFRICA OUTSIDE THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

The forces of the liberatory movement in Africa and in the whole world in general are marching vigorously forward. We would like to touch a few of such movements connected with certain events in Africa.

(i) We notice with great pleasure that there is a group of Africans in the Central African Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland who are strengthening the ties of partnership government for which these countries were federated in spite of the warbling speeches of Lord Malvern, the Prime Minister, who sometimes is inclined to be inimical to that spirit of partnership irrespective of colour. We regret the contents of some of his speeches when he emphasises the infancy in political circles of the Africans in the Federation. This means that he is possessed of a certain spirit that an African is an inferior to a white racially. One day, speaking on economic conditions, he subtly declared that the time had not yet come when the Africans would be able to get wages equal to those of the Whites even if they did the same work.

(ii) The news of the struggle by Northern Rhodesian Africans in the Copper-belt for better wages is very encouraging. The Copper-belt of Northern Rhodesia is a copper-mining area. We wish their example could be copied by the factory workers in the Union of South Africa. When we put this matter before our friends in this country we are trying

to show them that nothing will be achieved without being physically struggled for. We should also say that the leaders of a struggle usually die before they reap the fruits of their struggles. Their endeavours open the way for the future generations to march through. This however, should not discourage those who are in the struggle because the truth is that everyone strives to make the conditions better for those who come after him.

(iii) In East Africa, because of the struggle of some of the inhabitants, although we might not be in favour of the methods employed in their movement, the English government has tried to better the political and economic conditions of the people.

Our warning to the British government is that the time is now past when the people of Africa were loyal subjects for their own national exploitation. What is necessary now is the political, social and economic betterment of the conditions under which the African people are sweating and this to be done as expeditiously as possible.

(iv) In West Africa we note with satisfaction the vigorous attempt by Dr. Ubaumah the African Premier, for the complete independence of his bold board. We wish this great African hero and his followers the best of luck and Godspeed in his struggle. Nigeria is not quiet either. The people here under the leadership of the patriotic Dr. Azikiwe are struggling for the national independence during 1956. We also wish them the best of luck.

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

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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