# The People Must Organise For Victory TWO

TUNE 26 IS A HISTORIC DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND IT HAS NOW BECOME THE NATIONAL DAY FOR THE NON-EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, A DAY ON WHICH THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ORGANISATIONS EXAMINE THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE SETBACKS SUFFERED DURING THE YEAR, AND ON WHICH THEY REVIEW THE STATE OF PREPAREDNESS OF THEIR FORCES, AND REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, NATIONAL HARMONY, PEACE AND HAPPINESS.

and comfort; and

What has happened since?

The political year June 26, 1955,

to 1956 has been a year of stark

reaction. Iniquitous laws have been

and made more vicious; there have

been many acts of suppression,

victimisation and interference with

the rights and liberties of the peo-

The very Congress of the People

which drafted and adopted the Free-

dom Charter was raided by a force

of armed police; a few months

later the police carried out nation-

Congresses, their leaders, and of

More and more workers of the

Congresses have been banned and

passed and existing ones tightened

that the African National Con- rights. gress, the South African Indian Congress, the Communist Party of South Africa and the African People's Organisation jointly called for a national stoppage of work as a political ship. protest and demonstration against the Suppression of of unjust laws was also launched on June 26—in the year 1952.

IN 1954 the President-Gene- pledge. ral of the African National made a national call to Non-Whites and all who are concerned to remember and honour June 26, to light dedication fires and to tell the story of this day to their children and families.

#### THE C.O.P.

That great and memorable as- | ple. semblage of three thousand accredited delegates of South Africa's rightless and voiceless millions, their supporters and well-wishers, the Congress of the People, was held on June 25 and 26, 1955.

wide raids of the premises of the On that occasion the representatives of the people came from all people banned and ordered out of the Congresses as far back as 1952. parts of the country, from far and

New Age will print the first of a series of anniversary articles explaining the significance of the FREE-DOM CHARTER.

raised and dealt with at the Contimised. gress. They were sent to the Congress by organisations and people who are opposed to the policy of African women. Meetings are proapartheid, ethnic grouping, racial hibited almost everywhere in South

mically and socially. So, on June cans in urban and rural areas have 26, 1955 they adopted that historic been unending, extraordinarily reckand epoch-making declaration—the less and vicious. Freedom Charter. A simple, The cost of living has steadily straight-forward statement of principles and demands, and yet a highly inspiring and rousing politihighly inspiring and rousing politi-cal document, the Charter admir-ably expresses the demands and aspirations of the overwhelming aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa. In the Charter the common people of our country announced people of our country announced open fields under the "site and declared to the whole world open fields under the "site and what they believe in and desire. service" schemes. They want a South Africa in which:

The people shall govern.

equal rights.

country's wealth.

those who work it.

It was on JUNE 26, 1950 All shall enjoy equal human Amendment Act which revalidates the Separate Representation of Voters' Act and deprives the Coloureds of the right to be elected to The doors of learning and culture the Cape Provincial Council; the Natives (Prohibition of Interdicts) There shall be houses, security Act which prohibits Africans from taking legal action against removal orders served on them; the Natives There shall be peace and friend-(Urban Areas) Amendment Act which gives the local authorities The delegates at the Congress of arbitrary powers to banish from the People pledged themselves to their areas, without trials or in-Communism Bill. The famous "strive together sparing neither quiries, the so-called "native agitanational campaign for defiance strength nor courage, until the de- tors"; the Native Administration mocratic changes set out in the Amendment Bill which extends the Charter have been won." They powers of the Governor-General as called on all who love their people the "supreme chief" of the African and their country to adopt this people to the Cape Province, provides for the punishment, without intervention of the courts, of African chiefs who disobey orders of Congress, Chief A. J. Luthuli, WHAT HAS HAPPENED the Department of Native Affairs, and imposes collective fines on

They said that one year ago. African tribes or communities.

It is quite clear in the case of the Africans that these laws com-

There is also a proposed Cape Pro-

vincial Ordinance which seeks to

deprive Coloured women property-

owners of the municipal vote.



Part of the immense crowd that gathered at Kliptown last year and adopted the Freedom Charter.

prescribed from belonging to their Johannesburg. They came because of the fundamental and vital issues involved, issues which they wanted raised and dealt with at the Contract of the fundamental and vital issues which they wanted involved, issues which they wanted raised and dealt with at the Contract of the fundamental and vital issues which they wanted and demonstrations to the fundamental and vital issues which they wanted and dealt with at the Contract of South them at the mercy of the Native Commissioners and location super-

felt they wanted politically, econo- Act continues; police raids on Afri-

#### THE NEW BILLS

All National Groups shall have And, if these were not bad enough, there have been new tyran-The people shall share in the nical Bills and laws enacted by this session of Parliament: the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act which The land shall be shared among divides the working class and im-All shall be equal before the law. trade unions; the South Africa

eedom organisations. The Natives pletely remove the safeguards revolutionised political thinking. The reactionary racial policies (Urban Areas) Act is being ruthlessly used against leading members of the African National Congress. The Bantu Authorities Act is being forced on an unwilling people and forced on an unwilling people and ment, and relegate them to the vitists and personnel, the Congress tent but also goad Non-Whites, many African leaders and chiefs are banished from their homes for opposing the Act. The Bantu Education of arbitrary leaders and gathered at Kliptown, Ichannesburg They came because

The wheel of the Congress of the People, symbolising the unity of forward march to freedom. atmosphere.

marches and demonstrations to Native Commissioners against passes for African women; several ORGANISE, ORGANISE actions by African workers for

These, then are some of the re-deeming features of the political This can be done through organisasituation. It cannot be said, how- tion and united action. ever, that the scale swings in favour

responsible Ministers and Govern- liberation. ment leaders simply poison the It is imperative and essential that poses baasskap on mixed, registered the Congress movement and its whole political, social and racial each of the organisations of the

higher wages and better conditions The main task and responsibility hatred, humiliation and insults, of Africa. The Population Registration However, there has also been a of work, and against the Native of the national liberation and prostarvation, repression, oppression Act is being used to harass and bright side to this grim and gloomy Labour (Settlement of Disputes) gressive movements, as well as all Ind suppression.

They knew and stated what they

They knew and stated what they knew and stated what they

They knew and stat the fight against the colour bar in sport and the growing spirit all answer to the ruinous policies of over the country against harsh and the Nationalist Government. They must be checked and frustrated.

Organisation is the major problem for the Congress movement, The truth is that great and grave and it is precisely on this question responsibilities rest on the people that all its plans and undertakings of South Africa, Whites and Nonsuccessful. From the propaganda Whites alike. A scourge, the fascist point of view the Freedom Charter and obscurantist Nationalist Gov- is an adequate answer. However, ernment-afflicts our country and the Charter by itself without strong daily undermines its interests and organisational backing will be of no avail. It is a political document threatens its peaceful development. which must be used effectively in Whenever they open their mouths rallying the forces of freedom and

people go into this very important

question and that steps should be

the country.

taken immediately to:

1. Energetically organise the people into well-knit and active units and branches throughout

2. Organisationally and technically overcome the difficulties

Father Trevor Huddleston, honoured as Isitwalandwe by the C.O.P.

is here seen with Dr. Conco, acting President of the A.N.C., giving

the Afrika salute.

While not in any way neglecting or minimising the pressing and important question of organisation, should actively campaign for the policy laid down in the Freedom Charter. the policy of democratis-ing and humanising South Africa.

Government.

## "Refuse To Perform For Europeans Only

sections of the people equally.

Maintaining that it expresses the to make a new choice. viewpoint not only of the Coloured people but of Non-Europeans generally in South Africa, SACPO states in its letter to Equity:

enjoying the cultural contributions and talent which your members would bring to South Africa. All theatres are open to Europeans only, and Non-Europeans complain get the opportunity to see performances by actors from overseas.

EISENHOWER AND ADENAUER:

# 3. Popularise the principles and wonderful ideas of the Freedom Charter. DECIDE TO GET TOUGH

**WORLD STAGE** by Spectator

the liberation movement as a whole PRESIDENT Eisenhower's illness and the possibility that he will be forced to move out of the spotlight on the world stage must be the cause of considerable distress among progressive West German song-writers. They turn out a steady flow of uncomplimentary lyrics about their Chancellor and it may be difficult to find another appropriate word that rhymes so nicely with Adenauer.

The South African Coloured The U.S. President and his West German counter-People's Organisation has requested part who met in Washington last week have more Equity, the trade union organisation than a rhyme in common. Both are the firm choice of British actors, not to allow its of the biggest imperialist monopolies in their members to sign contracts with countries. Both preside over "millionnaire cabinets" South African agencies which up- composed of representatives of the wealthiest of these hold the colour bar, but to insist on monopolies. Both are very sick men who would performances being open to all normally be allowed—or forced—to make way for younger men. Both are propped up to stay on the Equity is due to discuss the job until they're carried off, because their bosses are matter at its forthcoming confer- afraid that the people may elect someone who represents the people instead of the bosses if they have

#### Stubborn And Blind

Above all, both are living in a dream world of "The system of colour discrimina- the past, stubbornly blind to the fact that there have tion covers all walks of life in been some big changes lately. "Eisenhower, Ade-South Africa, thus preventing non- nauer To Get Tough Over Germany's Unity" a white people from appreciating and Cape Argus headline proclaimed bravely last week.

In the rest of the world, both east and west, it was difficult to find a Cabinet Minister at home-he was more likely to be smiling his way through a goodwill visit on the other side of the iron curtain. But there bitterly of the fact that they do not in Ike's sick room two old men were shaking their fists and getting tough

Adenauer is a firm favourite with Dulles and the "Apartheid in South Africa is rest of the millionnaire cabinet. While other counbeing attacked not only here, but in tries are getting restlessly neutralist West Germany other countries as well; in fact by remains "America's most reliable ally in Europe." millions of democratically-minded Adenauer shares this doubtful distinction with

'America's most reliable allies in Asia" Syngman Rhee, Chiang Kai-shek and Ngo Dinh Diem. But unlike these hired thugs who are puppet heads of tottering economies, Adenauer rules over a country which is one of the wealthiest in the capitalist

# Monopolies Grow

Western German monopoly capitalism—the same monopoly capitalism which placed Hitler and the Nazis in power to start the Second World War-threatens to oust Britain from its present place as the third industrial power in the

West Germany's rate of economic expansion is much greater than that of her West European neighbours and in some respects even rivals that of the German Democratic Republic.

Industrial production is now double the figure for 1936. The American-controlled Marshall Aid organisation—the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation—reported at the beginning of this year: 'The economy has achieved, during the first half of 1955, the highest level of production ever reached in (West) Germany and a rate of expansion unsurpassed elsewhere in Europe."

The great German monopolies were split up after the war into a number of independent firms. It was recognised that they had been the basis for Hitler's fascism and that if they were allowed to regain economic power all the conditions would once more be ripe for the creation of a new Nazi regime.

In the Soviet zone, now the German Democratic Republic, the plants owned by the big German monopolies became the property of the people and the rule of the monopolies was ended forever.

#### Same Owners

But in West Germany-where by far the greater proportion of these plants lay-their ownership remained with the very same shareholders. The only 'safeguard" was that the big monopolies were split up into a number of nominally unrelated companies. It did not, of course, take long before the "unrelated" companies began to get related again, and

today for all practical purposes such old and vicious

giants as I. G. Farben and Krupps are more powerful

#### Rich Men

Adenauer himself is the representative of Cologne finance capital which dominates the Rhenish lignite



industry and insurance. Vice-Chancellor BluchWer was in the leadership of two big Essen banks during the Hitler regime. He still is, and has expanded his interests to the Ruhr monopolies. The cabinet roll-call runs on like a stock exchange list, with representatives of Krupps and Farben, steel and collieries, motor-cars and sewing-machines, wholesale and retail

The pickings are good and the big monopolists are in fairly close harmony. But there is a sharp division on the best way of increasing the spoils.

#### The Division

The group around Adenauer who represent that section of German finance capital which is most closely tied up with the U.S. and who benefit directly from increased U.S. profits, favour a tight alliance with the U.S. This is the dominant group today. The capital spent on Marshall Aid was, of course, mainly spent on the development of the trusts in which they have an interest.

But there is a growing group, whose chief representative is the opposition Free Democratic Party leader Dehlers, whose interest lies in direct competition with the U.S. monopolists. They make profits by outselling the Americans. Until now they have lain low and by the utmost sycophancy grabbed as much of the U.S. aid they could get.

## Ready To Expand

The time has come when they are ready to expand and they see the best way of expansion by means of playing off Moscow against Washington. They are attracted by the huge market for their goods in the socialist camp, and they see no reason why the Americans should not be told that if they don't get a good share-out of the swag available in the West they will look East.

Adenauer and Dehlers have already come into sharp conflict—Dehlers' party was forced out of the Adenauer coalition. This is a conflict which is rapidly sharpening, and Dehlers is gaining strength day by day, partly because the forces he represents are able to utilise the mass popular pressure for peaceful and friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

But it is the ordinary people and not the monopolists who will in the long run determine the future

## Unity Proposal

Only a fortnight ago the Parliament of the German Democratic Republic forwarded a proposal to Adenauer's government on

the need for a peacefully reunited Germany, unlinked with any war alliance. It made no hard and fast conditions and simply urged that the representatives of the two sections of divided Germany should at least come together around one table to talk of

Though Adenauer, who pretends that the German Democratic Republic isn't there, refused even to

answer, and ran off instead to Washington to plan the "liberation" of the German Democratic Republic, there was a stirring throughout the country and even the most right-wing Social Democrats were asking: "Why can't we talk it over?" When Adenauer returns to Berlin he is going to have trouble on his hands, and the trouble will grow.

Everywhere in the world there is talk of peace and friendship—only the Syngman Rhees, Chiangs, Ngo Dinh Diems, Strijdoms, Dulleses and Adenauers are still talking hate. In the new world climate there is no reason at all why the problem of German reunification should not be solved by discussion rather



## Are You Busy Writing?

WE WANT TO REMIND YOU ABOUT THE

#### SHORT AGE

which closes on JULY 31, 1956

Stories which do not win a prize may nevertheless be printed if the judges consider them worthy of publication. All stories should be written in English and should be between 2,000 and 3,000 words long, with a South African background.

1st Prize ... £10

2nd Prize .... £7 10s

3rd Prize ... ... £5

# LIFE BEGINS ON FRIDAY

By TENNYSON MAKIWANE

"IFE" begins on Friday. Un-winds slowly at first. Had it not been pay day you would not even bother to go to work—you would just sit at home and wait for the "good times" to begin. After a while the clock at work gathers speed. Then only a few hours stand between you and happiness. Suddenly, things assume an abrupt and qualitative change. By the time you get to the station and the bus rank, nobody will remind you that it is a Friday. You meet with bursting vigour—new life all around.

#### That Journey Home

On Fridays nobody worries so much about the absurdly long queues. You just do not have time to worry about anything. You feel a big relief when you notice somewhere—"Thank God"—that you are on a moving "thing" taking you home, only it does not move fast enough. That is why you will probably take a taxi, but it's rather "expensive." Firstly, you are about ten or twelve inside, squeezed in like sardines. Then at every corner you've got to duck fast, till you hit the floor, because some traffic cop is sure to be standing there.

The driver himself is pumping lots of petrol, it's his busy day and he wants to run back for more passengers. When you are safe at home at last, you are left with just this one consolation that you will have plenty to tell your wife about the heric journey before you part with the pay envelope and give it to her.

#### One Of The Nights

I've just said that they've let us loose and it means we are going to have lots of fun. All over the

Reef from Moroka to Springs, wherever you like it, there is something going on, a "Concert and Dance" or just a "Non-Stop Dance." Well, you know what's on here and there—there's been a "war of circulars" all around town, all pleading "Hey folks! Come and see the greatest show in Africa"

Don't worry, they are all the same; just go there at about 10 when things are getting hot. You've just got in when they are finishing a tango. Only a few partners on the floor—the guys who pay for dance lessons. One or two are quite good but the rest, you feel sure that they are just showing off.

#### The House On Fire

Just then the band starts off with some of the local numbers -Wow! they virtually unleash a state of near riot. The entire hall bursts into life, sweeping aside the fellows of the tuxedo suits. When I say everybody I mean that you need not wait till you have got a partner-men and women soloists jump to it. The whole show becomes a story of "pandemonium." Everybody shouting at the top of his voice—and haranguing his partner—
"Jika rubberneck" (Swing around -you hepcat.) The floor will not fall in though, probably because quite a good number of the dancers are in tennis shoes! But all this is real fun, it takes hold of you and knocks you right off your feet. The bands know full well that they have got to play each tune twice-just for emphasis! You have no idea how good you feel, watching those folk sweating off the whole week's heavy toil, stretching and easing the strained muscles and releasing

# FREEDOM

JOHANNESBURG.—This Sunday, June 24, 1956, has been set aside as Freedom Charter Day, and rallies will take place throughout the Union to mark the first anniversary of the Freedom Charter.

once more lead to Kliptown, when the people will gather at 9.30 a.m. on the same square where the historic Freedom Charter was adopted last year.

"Let all who love their people and their country assemble at Kliptown on June 24, 1956, and say 'The Freedoms in the Freedom Charter, we will fight for, side by side, black and white, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty',' declares the Transvaal Consultative Committee of the ANC, TIC, SACPO, SACTU and SACOD in a leaflet advertising the rally

In Cape Town there will be inter-Congress Freedom Day celebrations under the auspices of SACPO at the Fidelity Hall, Primrose Street, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 24.

Speakers from the Transvaal who will address the rally include Mr.

In Johannesburg, all roads will Stanley Lollan of Transvaal

The Freedom Charter, the application of the Group Areas Act and the recent session of Parliament will be the chief subjects for dis-

An appeal to attend the rally has been issued to all members of the Congress movement — SACPO, ANC, SACTU and COD, as well as to friends and supporters.

Cape Town ANC celebrations will begin at a social in the Burial Hall, Elsies River, on Saturday afternoon, June 23, and culminate in two mass rallies in Langa and Nyanga on the following afternoon.

"Sign the Freedom Charter!"
"Down with all pass laws!" "Equality, Freedom and Justice for all!" "Stop Deportation of African Women!" are the slogans calling Robert Resha of the ANC and Mr. | the people to the rallies.

long-suppressed frustrations—and they do so "violently."

#### Still More "Good Time"

That is what takes place in the halls but we are so many and we could never all fit in there. There are also the parties to supplement—the "nice-time" parties. They are smaller in size but they've got everything, dancing and so on and it still has what you need most: company. Another form of get-togethers are the mutual aid parties which they call "stockfair." This week-end a number of you, five to ten, gather at your friend's house, have a little party, each leaves five pounds. The following week it is somebody else's turn and so it goes round.

There aren't many cinemagoers these days. You only go there when they show the adven-ture pictures—that is "loaded with action and suspense." The more terror there is the better. Tragic pictures attract even a better house. But the most popular show with the combination of both excitement and sorrow is the boxing arena. At the tournament the boys have got to be good, to absorb the punishment and to return it amid the wild yells from the audience. Equally admired is the footballer who really "kicks" that ball out of the ditch across the ball out of the ditch, across the fairway and lets it thread its way amongst the tufts of grass on to the green.

Next week's programme will still be the same, the dance on Friday, the party on Saturday and at the football ground on Sunday. Only if they could have more boxing tournaments . . .

## CHIEF LUTHULI'S CALL

(Continued from page 1)

fire, all should kindle a flame as a symbol of a torch of freedom that the fighters for freedom, united in fellowship, are resolved to carry in the gloomy skies of South Africa, darkened by the oppressive apartheid laws made by Parliament of whites only.

"We should at this ceremony of fellowship recount the noble deeds done in the cause of freedom and sing the songs of freedom. It is at this ceremony that we should rededicate ourselves by repeating: 'Until freedom becomes a possession of all in our dear land of South Africa, I pledge myself to count no cost too great to gain this freedom.'

#### OFFER TO FUND

"At this moment we should tangibly show our rededication by offering to our Freedom Fund.

"I call on all Congress members, supporters and sympathisers to enter into all the activities planned for the week before June 26.

"Africa Mayibuye. Freedom in our Lifetime!"

LAW AND THE LAYMAN

# DIVORGE

A marriage is terminated by the death of one of the spouses, or by divorce. A decree of divorce can only be granted by the Supreme Court where Europeans, Coloured people and Asiatics are concerned. The Native Divorce Court has jurisdiction where both husband and wife are Africans, but not where only one of them is an

The main grounds for divorce is adultery and malicious desertion. If adultery is proved, a decree of divorce is granted straight away. In cases of malicious desertion, the first step is to obtain an order for the restitution of conjugal rights. This is an order calling upon the guilty party to return and to re-sume normal married life. A time limit is set, normally of one month. If the guilty party complies with the order, the matter is at an end and no divorce can be granted. If the guilty party fails to return, a divorce is granted.

The term "malicious desertion" covers quite a number of different circumstances. The simplest kind of case is where the husband or wife has left home and refused to come back. There may, however, be cases in which the one who has left home is the innocent party and the one who has remained behind is guilty of desertion. For instance, if a husband ejects his wife by force from his home, he is guilty of desertion. Conversely, if the wife insists on remaining behind when the husband wishes to move and has made reasonable provision for a new home somewhere else, she is guilty of deser-

#### A HOME

A husband is under a duty to provide a home for his wife and, if he fails to do so, he will be guilty of desertion, unless he can prove that he was prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond his control. A husband who is sent to gaol is not automatically guilty of desertion, since he is acting under compulsion. He may, however, make it clear that he has no intention of returning to his wife after his release, in which case he return the lobola to the husband.

could be sued for divorce. If a husband or wife is declared an habitual criminal and imprisoned for more than five years, this is a ground for divorce, apart from desertion. The only other ground for divorce is incurable insanity which has lasted for seven years or more. "Cruelty" and "incompatibility" are not grounds for divorce in South Africa.

#### **CUSTODY OF CHILDREN**

The Court has power to award custody of the children to either party after a divorce. The innocent party is not automatically entitled to custody; the Court must decide which party is best able to look after the children. The custody of very young children is almost invariably granted to the mother.

A wife may claim maintenance from her husband after divorce where she is the innocent party. This will not be granted automatically, however. The wife must prove that she is unable adequately to support herself.

Where the marriage is in community of property, the property will normally be divided equally upon divorce. The innocent party may, however, claim forfeiture of the benefits of the marriage. This means that the guilty party will be entitled only to the property which he or she brought into the marriage, or has since earned. Where the marriage is out of community, each party will keep his or her own property, subject to the right of the innocent party to claim the return of any donations made at the time of marriage.

#### DAMAGES

When divorce is claimed on the grounds of adultery, the innocent party may also claim damages from the co-respondent — i.e. the person with whom the guilty party has committed adultery.

In the case of African marriages, the divorce court may also deal with the question of lobola. The general rule is that when a divorce is granted on the grounds of the wife's misconduct, her family must

CAPE TOWN.—Six years after the banning of the Communist Party of South Africa, the Government is still terrified of "Communists" in its midst.

"Evidence that Communists still active in the Union," says the headline in an article in the latest Fortnightly Digest of South African Affairs, a publication issued by the State Information Office in Pretoria.

The article states that "evidence that Communists are still operating on a considerable scale in South Africa has come from several quarters recently.'

The State Information Office's "evidence" is, firstly, the Minister of Justice's recent reference in Parliament to the police raids on the houses of people throughout South Africa, and his threat that about 200 people would face charges in Court under the Suppression of Communism Act.

"These raids had been conducted because they were considered necessary in view of the work of agitators among the Non-Whites."

Another piece of "evidence" is an alleged statement by Mr. Patrick Duncan that the African National Congress had come under Communist control.

By far the most priceless bit of evidence, however, is the following: "Then, last month, a survey on world Communism published by the United States Information Department revealed that in March, 1955, there were between 1,000 and 2,000 members of the Communist Party in South Africa."

The State Information Office does not report whether the Minister of Justice is following up this "hot trail" by sending a special envoy to the United States to get the 1,000 to 2,000 names and addresses.

Nor does it explain how such vital information about South Africa has to come all the way from America, while it has its very own State Information and police bloodhounds right on the doorstep.

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