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THE REPORT OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE WESTERN AREAS ANTI-REMOVAL AND RESIST APARTHEID CAMPAIGN.

As a result of the National Executive Committee's decision to raise the Western Areas Anti-Removal Campaign to the National level, and to assume responsibilities for its persecution working through the local committees, plans were submitted by the Working Committee to the National executive committees of the A.N.C., S.A.I.C., S.A.C.O.D. and S.A.C.P.O. in Evaton on the 8th May, 1954.

At this meeting it was decided that the Working committees of these four organisations should implement the plans and carry on a nation-wide campaign, not only against the removal of the Western Areas, but to, extensively campaign against:-

- (a) The National education policy and the Bantu Education Act in particular.
- (b) The Anti-Trade Union Heheeman Measures.
- (c) The Group Areas Act and other repressive laws.

The Working Committees, after working out some details on the Western Areas campaign, fixed the 26/27th June, 1954 as the WESTERN AREAS DAY OF CAMPAIGN AND SOLIDARITY ~~through~~ throughout the country. On these days, meetings and conferences were called and were held in Natal, Transvaal and the Cape Provinces. The President-General, Chief Lutuli made a clarion call to the nation for 50,000 "FREEDOM VOLUNTEERS" both for the Western Areas as well as the "CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE".

The response and the very high spirit of the people shook the Government and made a clear demonstration of the people's solidarity. The significance of the Western Areas Day was marked by the reaction of the entire ruling class press and comments of the leading Cabinet Ministers as well as the great enthusiasm of the broad masses of the people in the areas where meetings were held.

The visit of the President-General to the Western Areas ^{was} was also handled by the Working Committee, the provincial and local committees. All precaution was taken against any form of provocation by the police, and volunteers did a very good work throughout the day.

After these meetings and the visit of the President-General, the Working Committee called a meeting of the A.N.C. Provincial Executives ^{a Provincial} and the national working committees of the Congress Youth League for the purpose of reviewing the work already done and to offer criticism where necessary.

The meeting impressed every one present and it was decided to continue with such meetings.

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

Since the conference on the 8th May, 1954, there have been regular fortnightly National Action Council meetings and regular weekly secretariat meetings. The Secretariat consist of Messrs:- Sisulu, Cachalia, Bernstein and Lolloen.

Since ~~the ban~~ ^{was banned} of Bernstein, he has been substituted by Mr Slove, and Mr Sisulu by Mr Tambo. In terms of the Evaton conference, the council consist of 8 members from each sponsoring organisation, 5 of whom must come from the Transvaal and the additional three from the remaining three provinces.

The African National Congress is represented by the following:-

Chief A.J. Lutuli, who also represents Natal.
Mr Moretsele
Tambo,
Vandla
Mathole
Rasha
the Cap. President, or his deputy
the Free State President or his deputy.

The officials of the Council are as follows:-

Chief Lutuli - President and Volunteer in chief.

Mr Moretsele - Treasurer, -chairmanship by rotation
Secretaries: Beyleveld, Cachalia and Vundla.
Minutes and Administrative Secretary - Feinstein.

160 letters have been sent to the National organisations including the Nationalist Party, United Party, Federal and Liberal Parties. The Liberal Party is the only one who has replied and expressed its interest in the Congress of the People. Discussions are still being carried on.

Mr T.D. Tshunungwa has been appointed national organiser for the Congress of the People and will also organise for the Western Areas and Resist Apartheid Campaign. An office for the Congress of the People has been found at £7.0.0 rent per month in No 110 Fox Street, Johannesburg.

Finance:- It was decided that each sponsoring organisation should pay £25. This amount has already been paid except by the S.A.C.P.C. which is left with £15. It is estimated that the amount required for the venture will be approximately £10,000 5,000 pounds is required immediately for organisational purposes. By the end of July only a little more than a hundred pounds was collected. 4,000 cards had been printed for the collection of funds.

It is proposed to write to the U.N.C. Commission for South Africa asking for financial assistance. This report of the Congress of the People merely touches important points. A more comprehensive report has been prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's meeting.

OTHER WORKING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES?

We did not have ^{many} Working Committee meetings as a result of the many committees in connection with the liberatory movement. The Working Committee decided to have the Annual Conference for this year in Natal. Prof. Z.K. Matthews has been appointed Deputy President)General.

A Committee on the farms and peasants have been appointed, Mr Vundla as its chairman. Mr Tshunungwa has been appointed National organiser for the African National Congress, taking an advantage of his appointment by the National Action Council, which has appointed him with a salary of £15 a month.

The Working decided to appoint a Committee to write a booklet on Congress Policy as a guard. Mr Sisulu Resha and members of this committee will have to co-opt. The work has already begun. The amount of the printing of this pamphlet has not yet been worked out, but at least a cash amount of £200 will be required to start the work.

The following members have been appointed to the Secretariat to carry on the work of the Secretary-General, a system which has already been applied in some of the provinces. Mr Tambo, head of the Secretariat, Messrs, Vundla, Mathole, and Tshunungwa. The following members have been co-opted on the executive, Messrs, Mathole, Resha and Tshunungwa.

The following statements have been issued on the deportation of Gwentshe and Jengise. Malan's international statement, the raising of rents and rates, police accusation of the National organisation, call for Volunteers an additional memorandum has been sent to U.N.C. jointly by the S.A.I.C. and the A.N.C.

The correspondence and reports of the Provinces are still very unsatisfactory, although there has been some reports from the African National Congress, (Transvaal and Natal) The position is shocking in the Free State much has to be done to remedy such a situation.

The decision of the National Working Committee, acting on the recommendation of your working committee has given to the Women's and Youth section of our organisation the question of the Bantu Education Act.

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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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