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ORGANISATIONAL & FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Secretary presented this report.

Mr.Turok asked for an explanation of "selective canvass" and asked what comparative response we had had from different income groups.

The Chairman stated that in his area they had a list of 32 people whom they canvassed, but only about 12 joined S.A.C.O.D. Constant contact should be maintained with the other 20 people. During the Western Areas campaign, many new contacts were made and these are the sort of people that we should concentrate on, rather than attempting house to house canvassing. Generally we find that young people are more ready to join us.

X N.Levy stated that Bellevue is the best functioning branch in Johannesburg. Most of the members had been recruited through discussion clubs. He said that both in the Chairman's and the Secretary's reports mention had been made of the fact that membership has not exhausted itself. He felt that with the worsening of economic conditions and with Europeans being driven away from the United and Liberal Parties, COD offered the only home to those who believed in rights for all sections. We should drive to become a mass organisation.

The Chairman stated since the Defiance Campaign the non whites have made clear their demand for equal rights. This had resulted in the formation of the Liberal Party and in the Labour Party becoming more liberal in their attitude, but neither of these parties were prepared to go all the way.

R.Press said that we must not assume that because people are not with us, that they are against us. We must at least neutralise those people who are afraid to join us.

The Secretary stated our influence is considerable. In reply to Mr.Turok's question she said that our greatest support came from middle-class people and that worsening economic conditions would not necessarily drive people to join us.

The Chairman said that we must make every effort to influence the white workers

X R.Wolfe stated that generally speaking people are intimidated and afraid to join

B.Turok stated that their experience has been that people living in luxury flats were not interested in us. They would like more details of branch activities. They would also like permission to retain portion of money from literature sales.

The Chairman stated that all regions are given pamphlets at half price.

The Secretary stated that Youth, Bellevue and Hillbrow branches do regular area work. The other branches met once every two or three weeks, held discussions and organised fund raising functions.

R.Press stated that the Youth Branch have recruited members at University and much of their activity centred around the University. Hillbrow and Bellevue distributed leaflets and sold literature in their area. Hillbrow members were, many of them, active in other organisations. Greenpark have held some very successful functions, particularly jumble sales.

N.Levy stated that the Bellevue Branch has shown initiative in issuing their own leaflets - e.g. Locations in the Sky, Congress of the People and Anti-Klipin Campaign.

The Secretary's Report was then adopted.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman ~~and Secretary~~ were elected and the following members to the NEC.:

N.Levy, H.Jospeh, J.Anderson, E.Barsel, R.Press, V.Weinberg, W.Hepner M.Kagan, J.Baker, M.Susser.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Resolutions with amendments were adopted as attached.

DISCUSSION:

E.Barsel appealed to members of COD to assist with work of S.A.Peace Council. The NEC should issue statements and branches should make full use of Peace Council speakers.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

SACOD: Cape 3 Johannesburg 16.

Cape Branches: Seapoint and Claremont.

Johannesburg Branches: Youth, Bellevue, Hillbrow, Northern & Greenpark

FRATERNAL DELEGATES: ANC - 18; SACPO - 2; SAIC - 2.

THE PRESS: The London Observer and New Age.

POPULATION REGISTRATION:

The Chairman stated that in Johannesburg we had run a petition and distributed leaflets, but Capetown had not done so. Legal Opinion in this connection was read.

B.Turok stated that their legal advise was to the effect that it was an offence not to register and in order to register it is essential to have photographs taken. They felt it would be wrong to tell people not to have

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their photographs taken and afterwards they would have to register.

I. Heyman stated that the Government may have overlooked the matter of a penalty for not having photos and we should take advantage of it. With proper ~~pnx~~ propaganda we could have made this law unworkable. In doing this work amongst Europeans we must link it with other problems.

E.Barsel said that they found tremendous oppostion to the Act.

The Chairman stated that the Government depends on the co-operation of the people to implement this act and we must not give that co-operation willingly.

AFFILIATION FEDERATION OF S.A.WOMEN:

This body has been established on a Federal basis and request was read asking our organisation to affiliate. N.Levy moved and S.Shall seconded that we affiliate. AGREED.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The financial statement was read and adopted.

It was pointed out that the Johannesburg Region had carried the whole burden and it was hoped that other regions would assist in the coming period.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS TO BE HELD AT JOHANNESBURG ON THE 24TH JUNE, 1955.

The S.A. Congress of Democrats came into being in September, 1953, to fulfil certain basic political needs; political needs which arose out of the fact that the Non-European peoples of South Africa had, through the Defiance Campaign, unequivocably staked their claim for equal and full democratic rights, thereby creating a situation which made it imperative for democratically-minded Europeans to mobilise themselves in support of a people's movement for freedom and equality.

It is the view of your National Executive Committee that the S. A. Congress of Democrats has largely fulfilled this requirements.

Co-operation with the Liberatory Movement.

To this end close liaison has been established with the liberatory movement. It can safely be said that in the minds of the people the S.A. Congress of Democrats is today completely identified with the Congress or Liberatory Movement.

Over the last twenty months the S.A.C.O.D. has taken its place as an equal partner with the A.N.C., S.A.I.C., and S.A.C.P.O. in the people's struggle for freedom. We have joined on all levels with these Organisations in campaigns to mobilise the people of S.A. against the tyrannical and oppressive measures of the present Government, and in their struggle for a democratic S.A.

Personnel :

During our short existence we have suffered more from banning notices in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act, in relation to our numbers than any other organisation. We have in this way lost the invaluable services of people like Jack and Rica Hodgson, Rusty Bernstein, Ruth and Joe Slovo, Louis Baker, Molly Fischer, Athol Thorne, Mary Butcher, Leo Lee-Warden, and many

/others

others. All these people were banned because they were in the forefront of the fight for freedom. The best way in which we can show our appreciation for the work done by them is to carry on with that work, and so prove to the Government that you cannot destroy a people's movement for freedom by discriminatory action against its leaders. The fight for freedom depends on the desire and will of the people to be free and not on individuals.

The Resist Apartheid Campaign.

In June 1954, a Resist Apartheid Committee was set up to campaign against apartheid legislation on which the S.A.C.O.D. had equal representation with the A.N.C., S.A.I.C. and S.A.C.P.O. This Committee's activities were mainly directed against the Western Areas Removal Scheme.

It was mainly as the result of the work of the C.O.D. that the Western Areas Protest Committees were formed which brought a large number of the European population of Johannesburg into the fight against this scheme. It was also as a result of the work done by the C.O.D. that Europeans throughout S.A. were aroused in protest against the Scheme.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE C.O.P.

The C.O.D. joined with the other Congresses on an equal basis in the sponsoring of the Congress of the People. C.O.D. personnel in all the main centres of S.A. have performed a gigantic task in relation to our numbers in the preparation for this conference. The Progressive Movement in S.A. has for a long time needed a manifesto in which its aims and objects are clearly and unequivocably stated. The Freedom Charter will give us such a document. It will rest with the Congress Movement to mobilise the people of S.A. in their demands for the realisation of its aims and objectives.

Elections for Native Representatives:

After extensive consultation between ourselves and the A.N.C. the National Council decided to abandon the original intention of nominating candidates for the election of Native Representatives for the constituencies of the Transkei and the Eastern Cape. This was done mainly as a result of

/ the strong ....

the strong opposition amongst the A.N.C in those areas against the system of separate representation. C.O.D. however, nominated a candidate in Cape Western, where Mr. L. Lee-Warden was elected. The N.E.C. expresses its appreciation to him for the excellent work done during his short term of office.

Propaganda:

Realising the importance of political propaganda and the important role that the C.O.D. can play under the circumstances in this field, the N.E.C. has endeavoured to print as many pamphlets as possible during the last twenty months. The following pamphlets were published during this period: "The Threatened People", "Where the Devil Drives", "Educating for Ignorance" (2 editions). All these pamphlets were very well received, which proved the fertile field for this type of activity. Lack of funds prevented publication of more pamphlets.

The Propaganda Committee are to be congratulated on the comprehensive Speaker Notes which were prepared for discussion by regions and branches on the following issues :-

Congress of Democrats

Indians in South Africa

Race and Intelligence

National Liberation Struggles in Asia

History of the Non-European Franchise.

Western Areas Scheme.

Suppression of Communism Act

Segregation in South Africa

Attack on Civil Liberties

Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill.

Counter Attack, the organising bulletin, due to various difficulties, has not appeared regularly. It is however hoped to overcome this difficulty in future. Regions and branches should be urged to supply the editors regularly with branch news so that it can be a truly organising bulletin.

....

/ A memorandum ....

A memorandum on the proposed increases of rents in sub-economic housing schemes was prepared and presented to the City Council of Johannesburg.

Organisation:

During its short existence the C.O.D. has built up and maintained a solid nucleus of politically conscious and hard-working membership, and although the membership figures are not spectacular, it is regarded as satisfactory in the present political situation. This is especially true of Johannesburg and Cape Town. It is, however, felt that more could have been done by our Durban and Port Elizabeth branches. We have also failed to establish contact with progressive-minded people in centres other than the four mentioned.

THE TASK AHEAD.

Refusal by the masses of Non-European people and the small minority of progressive Europeans to acquiesce has so far been the only stumbling block which prevented the Government from turning S.A. into a Fascist Police State in the full sense of the word. The C.O.D. has played an important part in this struggle. We will have to continue doing so without fear and with increased determination and vigour in the knowledge that we have the people on our side.

The future of S.A. must inevitably be decided in a struggle between the Nationalist Party with its policy of Baaskap on the one hand, and the liberatory movement with its policy of full and equal democratic rights on the other hand. The middle of the road groups are fast disintegrating, and this disintegrating process will gain momentum as the conflict sharpens. The oppressive apartheid measures of the Government can only have one result, and that is to increase the desire of the people to rid themselves of the yoke, and will lead to an intensification of the struggle on their part. This in turn must lead to increased police state measures. In such a situation the middle of the road groups will be forced to take sides. The proportion of this group which comes over to the side of progress will to a large extent

/ depend ....

depend on the work done by ourselves. It is to meet such a situation that we must gear our forces and Organisation.

Organisation:

It is unrealistic to expect a spectacular increase in our membership within the near future. The Organisation must, however, immediately make an all-out effort to mobilise its potential into active and working branches. These branches should constantly carry out a canvas for prospective members on a selective basis. The selective method of canvas and recruiting is preferred to a general and overall canvass of the European population, which is beyond our resources, and from which the result will be negligible in proportion to the work required.

Political Education.

There are large numbers of Europeans throughout S.A. who, although not ready for active membership of the C.O.D. are nevertheless prepared to support our organisation on specific political issues, while others are sufficiently politically conscious to listen to and debate our point of view. C.O.D. branches and members must establish and maintain constant contact with such people. This can be done through discussion groups and by drawing such people into political campaigns on specific issues. The large number of Europeans in Johannesburg who were mobilised in protest against the Western Areas Removal Scheme is a good example of what can be achieved in this way.

Liaison with other Organisations:

We must continue to join with the other Congresses and S.A.C.P.O. in all struggles affecting the masses of the people. The people can only be mobilised for freedom and democracy through struggle, and no issue must be regarded as too small or insignificant for our Organisation to give and maintain a clear and unequivocal lead.

The Working class must of necessity be in the vanguard of the people's struggle. Our organisation has in the past paid too little attention to this aspect. All our branches should detail personnel whose

/ task ....

task it should be to assist the Trade Unions and especially the African Trade Unions in their work. We should also offer and give assistance to the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions to organise and educate the masses of unorganised workers.

Peace:

The progress of the world depends on whether the people can enforce their will for peace. C.O.D. must play its part in assisting the S.A. Peace Council in its work to mobilise the people of S.A. as an effective force against war.

Finance:

The ability to raise enough money to conduct the affairs of a political organisation is closely linked with its state of organisation and the degree to which it inspires its members with determination to achieve its objectives. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for organisations, such as ours, to raise money outside the ranks of its own membership.

A high level of political understanding and activity on branch level and the linking of all such activities with the raising of finance must, therefore, be our main source of raising the money required for carrying on our work.

The fight for freedom and democracy in S.A. demands fearless and determined struggle in which there is no room for despondency and despair. Neither is there any real real reason for despair. It is true that the Government is riding on the crest of the wave, but let us remember that their utmost potential comprises less than one-fifth of the people of S.A. It is also true that inherently there is no difference between the fascism of Strijdom and that of Hitler or Mussolini. They, however, had the support and acquiescence of the people of their country, something which Strijdom will never get from the masses of the people in S.A. World opinion and political development all over the world is against them and is on our side. The days of Colonialism and its accompanying oppression of peoples are waning fast: a development which cannot leave S.A. unaffected. Theirs is a creed of oppression and wrong. Ours is one of freedom and right. Who can doubt which will be victorious?

(2) 4 10607 (E) 12

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

Cape Western Region.

Draft Report.

Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by.....
Deur.....
Te.....
Datum.....
Verwysings No.....

1. Internal Activity.

A. Organisation:

Since September 1954, when a number of our leading members were banned from C.O.D., the number of functioning branches has been reduced from three to one. This functioning branch, Claremont, has now been reorganised as the Cape Town Branch and its new branch committee will act as the liasion with Johannesburg and with the CWCC in Cape Town. The old regional Executive has been abolished, as it was a top heavy form of organisation for one branch. The chief reason for the decline in the number of branches has been the failure of leading members to take over the responsibilities of secretaryship, especially in Cape Town Central and Sea Point, where there could be functioning branches.

Now that meetings are held centrally there should be an improvement in attendance. Attendance at Claremont during the past year varied from 6 to 10. This should now increase to about 15, providing adequate transport is arranged.

Meetings are held fortnightly on the basis of alternating discussion evenings and activists' evenings.

The book membership has remained at the original 80, with a number of gains and losses due to people leaving the Cape or coming to live here. Of these 80, 15 can be called upon to do regular active work of one sort or another. The remaindor will attend functions and most will give money but not attend meetings or do active work in C.O.D.

B. Finance:

Far more money could have been raised through donations, but our treasurers have failed to do their collecting work. A new one has just been appointed and we are still awaiting results.

C. Education:

"The World We Live In" was started but not completed. Otherwise, we have had instructional talks on the A.N.C. Conference, SACTU, Housing etc.

D. Literature:

4 Members have done door to door work among Europeans, and 5 among Non-Europeans, selling New Age and our various pamphlets. Another attempt is now being made to persuade our members of the vital need to sell among Europeans if we wish to influence them and win new members.

2. External Activity.

A. Co-operation with Congress Movement:

This has been good, and healthy relations have been established with the A.N.C. and S.A.C.P.O. Our members serve on the Cape Western Consultative Committee and have been instrumental in seeing that the recent Freedom Charter campaign has been pushed along. Of this plan about 50% was carried out. The failures were due to bad organisation and lack of enthusiasm for the task. To date only one school has been held and others are due. Our signature collection for the Freedom Charter has been at meetings organised by the CWCC. With regard to the National Consultative Committee, we feel that their propaganda has been

poor and insufficient. Apparently it is now impossible to obtain English Charters in Cape Town. We suggest a brochure similar to that produced by Durban, giving a pictorial record of what happened at C.O.P. for sale by the Congresses.

B. Study Classes:

This has been the best aspect of our work. Members are now acting as tutors to a number of A.N.C. and other groups. Through this medium too, we have established close relations with the A.N.C. branches.

C. Speakers at Public Meetings:

We have provided speakers at joint public meetings on the Parade, at Freedom Charter meetings, at SACTU meetings etc. Generally members have filled the gaps left by the bannings of Turok and Bunting.

D. Work with other Congresses :

We have assisted the Congresses with leaflet distribution, arranging of meetings of protest, trade Union secretarial work for S.A.C.T.U., painting of posters etc. Members have shown that they appreciate the need to build strong relations with the Congress groups.

E. Peace:

Some of our members are on the Peace Council although the level of activity has not been high, as it is mainly a European Organisation.

3. INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY.

A. Door to door Work.

This is by far the poorest part of our work and accounts largely for the failure to recruit new members. So long as there is resistance to this primary form of activity, so long will we remain small and isolated. Steps are being taken to improve.

B. Leaflets:

Since June 1955, Claremont branch produced them on Tembeni, Police Raids, Deportations of African Women, Black Sash, 10,000 in each case plus those that went to Johannesburg. We have also handed out those sent down from Head Office from time to time.

C. U.P. Senate Act Meeting.

This was taken over by two of our members and public interest was high. A similar attempt later, failed due to inability to obtain loudspeaker equipment.

D. Statements to Press.

These have been issued from time to time, but only the one on the police raids was printed by the Cape Times.

E. Social Functions:

A number have been held during the year. The most successful having been an invitation affair to welcome home delegates to the A.N.C. National Conference. 100 people attended and films on C.O.P. and Youth Festivals, were shown. Proceeds went to New Age.

F. Co-operation with other Organisations:

This has been nil in Cape Town, both because the Liberals here are more cautious than those in Johannesburg, and because of the sectarian attitude of our members. But there seems to be a changing atmosphere judging from two small private meetings recently.

The election campaign also engendered hot and unnecessary polemics between C.O.D. and the Liberals. We feel that the National Executive should bring home the need to all branches of C.O.D. to get together with other organisations on the basis of mutual respect for each others' differences and to the right of organisations to a separate membership and existence. We feel that past statements by the N.E.C., the local Executive and New Age have not made co-operation easier. Peter Meyer's New Age articles last session were particularly naive and have been siezed upon by local liberals as a reason for non-cooperation.

G. Alwyn Food Parcels:

These are sent off regularly to the Alwyn family at Worcester together with any donations that come in.

H. Students: Nil.

SACOD

(2) 6.356

OUR COMMON TASK: Message by A.J. Lutuli, President-General of the A.N.C. to the Annual Meeting of the South African Congress of Democrats.

I am happy to respond to your invitation to send you a message on the occasion of your Annual Conference to be held in Johannesburg on June 24th 1955.

I feel highly honoured by this invitation. My message will centre round the theme " OUR COMMON TASK".

TO STRENGTHEN OUR CO-OPERATION.

We in the African National Congress welcome and cherish most heartily the friendly co-operation that exists between your Congress and ours.

I am pleased to recall that our association with you was born of our common struggle in the days of our 1952 non-violent defiance campaign aginst unjust laws, and with such a noble ancestry, it will always remain linked up indissolubly with the beginnings of our Liberatory Movement in the Union of South Africa. This link will guarantee you a place of honour in the history of our struggle and make you recipients of the gratitude and admiration not only of non-whites in our land, but of all freedom-loving people everywhere, and above all, the approbation of posterity.

We look forward to the continuation and strengthening of our association and co-operation, even after the attainment of our common goal of making our country a true democracy, and not a mockery of democracy as at present when the minority whites arrogate to themselves the right to be the sole rulers over the minority non-whites, to whom they deny unfettered opportunities of developing their capabilities abd personalities to the fullest degree.

TO UNCEASINGLY AND TIRELESSLY REVEAL THE ENEMIES OF OUR COMMON LAND, THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Many false claims and allegations are made by white South Africa under the leadership of the Nationalist Party government. We must unerringly show the true implications of their tyrannical policies which are so full of evils and surprising contradictions such as these; if apartheid is such a benevolent policy as they claimit to be, why then should it be implemented with such ruthless domination? Attempts are often made to justify baaskap policy on the grounds of protecting Western Civilisation and this, ridiculously enough, at the expense of making that civilisation appear an instrument of oppression, and, therefore, a curse instead of a blessing. Who would blame the oppressed non-whites for feeling so when its maintenance is secured at such a heavy cost to human happiness and progress?

We must show the world that non-whites have long showed a great learning and capacity to embrace Western civilisation. White South Africa must be made to see that the only true and sure way of upholding civilisation or any ideology is to propagate it and not to hoard it as they are trying to hoard Western civilsation by attempting to make it a civilisation of "Europeans only" and so they advise the non-whites to develop along their own lines. This policy is more likely to bring ruin to South Afrisa, particularly as the leadership of the Nationalist Party Government is leading the country back, to the Voortrekker and Paul Kruger days that were characterised by a deplorable slave mentality and a deadening stagnation.

We must show the world and white South Africa that it is possible to build a truly united South Africa ,that will be based on a progressive South Africanism that will be a synthesis of the best in the cultures of the people who make up her multi-racial nation and so help her make our beloved land, on the basis of Western civilisation at its best, capable of making a distinctive contribution to civilisation which from time immemorial has been growing by receiving from different cultures; hence, the so-called Western civilisation is a hybrid civilisation, indebted to many sources, both ancient and modern.

Sometimes, to our great surprise, because of the unusual honesty, domination of whites over non-whites is justified on the grounds of the need for the selfpreservation of the white race in South Africa, by any means, fair or foul. This is an unmitigated exhibition of the jungle law by a people who boast of centuries of civilisation.

White South Africa sometimes shows a callous disregard of moral considerations in its efforts to preserve itself. She forgets the truth in the words of the writer who said:
" The man who defies morality defies mankind, and in that struggle with mankind, not even the greatest genius can save him".

QUALITIES NEEDED BY FIGHTERS FOR LIBERTY.

If we are to be worthy fighters and defenders of Freedom, we must acquaint ourselves with the distinguished achievements in the cause of freedom of the noble galaxy of the heroes of freedom in all ages and climes from the dawn of history to the present day.

We must show unmistakable signs of being possessed of a clear vision of our goal and a keen awareness of the inevitable suffering we must go through before victory is won for our cause. We must know that success can only be ours if we show a sturdy determination accompanied by a keen sense of duty and an unswerving loyalty to the cause. We must count no cost too great for the attainment of this noble cause " Freedom " about which the late General Smuts in his rectorial address delivered at St. Andrew's

University, Scotland in 1934, inter alia, said:

" Freedom is the most ineradicable craving of human nature. Without it, Peace , Contentment and Happiness, even manhood, itself, are not possible".

Finally, let me refer to what I regard as the most paramount requisite for the successful achievement of our noble task. We must be satdrated with a spirit of selfless sacrifice and service in the interest of our cause, since it is only by such service that we can turn South Africa from the path of destructive disunity found in the Apartheid policy of white South Africa. It is well to note thathis is not the policy of the Nationalist Party only, but is basically the traditional polisy of white South Africa in its relations and dealings with non-whites, even before Union.

As some one has neatly put it " We must ~~rise~~ SERVE to serve" (save) and our courage in serving our land must rise in proportion to the danger we face. Our prayer in this regard must be, in the words of a Christian hymn, " Let courage rise with danger".

I wish your conference all success. May your ensuing year be your best in your fight for Freedom.

AFRIKA! AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE! MAYIBUYE!

INKULULEKO NGESIKATHI SETHU!

Yours in the cause of freedom,

President- General, African National Congress.

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

March 31st. - April 1st.

AGENDA.

1. Opening of Conference.
2. Messages and fraternal greetings.
3. Election of Credentials Committee.
4. Election of Resolutions Committee.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Discussion thereupon.
7. Financial Statement.
8. Discussion thereon

Second Session.

9. N.E.C.'s Report to Conference.
10. Discussion.
11. Report from Resolutions Committee
12. Resolutions.
13. Election of N.E.C.
14. Final Report from Resolutions Committee.
15. Report of Credentials Committee.
16. Closure of Conference.

There will be two breaks ~~for tea~~ and one for lunch on Sunday.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO CONFERENCE FROM CHIEF LUTULI.

What is your task in South Africa?

In sending you fraternal greetings and wishing your Annual Conference all success, I would like to centre my brief remarks on the question, " What is your task in South Africa?"

An annual conference is always an occasion for stock-taking where both the backward look and the forward look are made. I would ask you in making an appraisal of your activities in the past year and laying out your plans for the coming year to ask yourselves what your task is in our present situation in South Africa when we find ourselves faced with the most savage and fanatical government that shows no signs of being willing to share democratic rights with all people in the country regardless of their race or colour. The government of the Nationalist Party despite adverse world opinion seems bont on ,aking democracy a possession of " Europeans Only".

Each session of Parliament sees the statute book of the Union loaded with new oppressive discriminatory legislative and administrative enactments which press hard on non-whites and on all who champion the cause of an oppressed people. The task before us is most urgent and exacting, faced as we are with fanatical rulers who would bring the country to ruin politically, economically and otherwise, than do all the right things towards all sections of our multi-racial nation, especially the non-whites who at present are the hardest-hit victims of the apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government. The situation challenges all lovers of freedom for all to fight on until the forces of oppression are defeated,

Your task as an all-white political party that is in full followshipwith the premier political organisations amongst non-whites is not an easy one at all.

You have a special mission to convert white South Africans to your view-point of regarding all people regardless of their race or colour as equals and therefore deserving of being accorded all democratic rights to enable each individual to develop himself to his fullest capacity. A wide acceptance of this viqwpoint would result in the categorical rejection of the policy of apartheid which is inflicting on non-whites, solely on grounds of race and colour, indignities and atrocities so derogatory to human dignity that no human being should be made to bear them.

Unfortunately at present, white South Africa in its treatment of non-whites ignores, to her harm, fundamental spiritual values such as:

> Righteousness and not injustice uplifteth a nation;
> Magnanimity and not selfishness and pettiness bring honour and greatness to a people;
> Brotherliness and not racial arrogance brings about harmony and cooperation in a nation, especially a multi-racial nation.

It will not pay white South Africa to live by the jungle law of "might is right". The lesson of history is that those who rule by an iron hand eventually suffer an ignominious end. Your task- our task - is to save white South Africa from bringing about its own destruction. Apartheid will prove a terrible Frankenstein one day.

Finally your task is not an easy one because as lovers of freedom for all, you will be persecuted and abused by white South Africa with the oppressed whose cause you champion. But even worse than this you may find yourselves suspected of ulterior motives by some of the people you are trying to liberate. All this should not daunt you and divert you from the struggle for freedom for all in our country.

Remain true to the end, to the Cause of Freedom! Better the abuse and mistrust of your contemporaries than the condemnation and curse of posterity. Better to suffer for a noble cause - freedom - than to compromise with evil: apartheid is an evil thing which true democrats should reject categorically with the contempt it deserves.

In closing, let me re-assure you of the warm spirit of friendship which the African National Congress, which I have the honour to lead, has for you, and how deeply it appreciates your association with it in the Liberatory Movemnnt in South Africa. Its desire is to march with you hand in hand through thick and thin until victory is won by the forces of Freedom.

Mayibuye ! Afrika

Afrika! Mayibuye

INKULULEKO NGESIKATHI SETHU !

Bewysstuk No. .....
Gekry by J. Hoogendijk
Dat. Plaats van Hoofdstuk
T/C Kantoor, Vrystaat 27 Julie
1/4/56.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

(1)

6 376 American since as 63

PHONE 33-0975

HEAD OFFICE:
5, SOMERSET HOUSE,
110, FOX STREET,
P.O. BOX 4088,
JOHANNESBURG.

17th August, 1955.

The Hon. J.G.N. Strauss, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
Cape Town.

Sir,

I have been directed by my National Executive Committee to send the enclose copy of resolutions adopted at our National Annual Conference

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS HELD 24TH JUNE, 1955.

1. POLITICAL - RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES.

Conference is opposed to all forms of inequality and racial dicrimination; all laws and practices which are undemocratic and discriminate against the majority of the people of South Africa; laws which debar people because of their colour from participating on an equal basis in the life of our country. This conference is opposed to all these laws and pledges itself to work unceasingly for the defeat of such Fascist laws and ideologies and those quarters responsible for their perpetration.
We draw particular attention to the laws enacted in the of Parliament.

(i) APPELLATE DIVISION QUORUM ACT.

Conference condemns the Appellate Division Quorum Act as an attempt to pack the Bench with Nationalist supporters and further undermine the integrity and authority of the Courts. It sees in the passing of this Act a further attempt to deprive the coloured people of their already limited vote and an attempt to make further inroads on the Entrenched Clauses of the South Africa Act with the eventual aim of setting up a Broederbond Republic.

(ii) CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE ACT.

Conference views with grave concern the passing of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Act and condemns the wide powers given to the police as undemocratic and a threat to the privacy and civil liberties of all South Africans.

(iii) GROUP AREAS AMENDMENT ACT.

Conference vigorously opposes the Group Areas Act and resolves to assist actively those organisations at present engaged in opposing this Act. Conference further condemns subsequent legislation to deprive the people of their rights before the Land Tenure Board.

(iv) SENATE ACT.

Conference condemns the latest attempt to rig the Parliamentary system so as to create a twotthirds majority of the Nationalist Party and thereby undermine the provisions of the South Africa Act and introduce naked fascism into the Union. Conference therefore condemns the Act to reconstitute the senate and reaffirms its views that the only effective safeguard against fascism is a fully democratic government based on the universal adult franchise of all South Africans regardless of race, colour, or sex.

(v) NATIVE RESETTLEMENT ACT.

Conference condemns the Native Resettlement Act and takes strong exception to the Government's action in forcibly removing thousands of people from their homes in the Western Areas of Johannesburg, and the wholesale removal of African women in the Western Cape. We support the people in their opposition to the implementation of this Act. Together with the Group Areas Amendment Act Conference sees in the actions of the Government an attempt to drive the people into ghettos and so lay the basis for a racially divided police state.

(vi) DEPARTURE FROM THE UNION REGULATIONS ACT.

Conference condemns the recent action of the Government in imposing further restrictions on the freedom of movement of the South African people and in particular condemns legislation which for the first time in South Africa, imposes restrictions on persons wishing to depart from the Union and makes it a punishable offence for such persons to leave the Union without a permit or passport issued by the Minister of the Interior.

(vii) NATIVE (URBAN AREAS) AMENDMENT ACT.

Conference condemns the Natives (Urban Areas) Act which imposes severe restrictions on African domestic servants employed in flats and European residential areas. Conference deplores the wide pwers given to Native Commissioners under the Act, particularly those powers which enable them to order Africans to "work institutions" without a proper trial or hearing.

(viii) Population Registration Act.

Conference condemns the extension of the inquitous pass to other groups in South Africa and therefore sees in the Population Registration Act a threatened curtailment of th freedom of the South African people.

Conference calls for the repeal of these and other acts which place fascist and undemocratic restrictions on the people.

(ix) The Suppression Acts.

Conference calls for the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Act, the Criminal Laws Amendment Act, the Riotious Assemblies Act, and other Acts which have the effect of curtailing the freedom of the press, the freedom of speech, and the right of assembly of democratic South Africans. It condemns the bannings, unjust sentences and brutal deportations of persons convicted under the Suppression Acts.

Conference further condemns the clandestine efforts of the Government to introduce concentration camps for their political opponents.

2. EDUCATION.

a) Bantu Education

Conference condemns the forcing upon the African children of the vicious poison of Bantu Education, which is designed for the purpose of indoctrinating African children to accept a position of permanent inferiority, and supports the active opposition of the African parents in the withdrawal of children from schools. Conference resolves to givd the fullest active support to whatever measures are taken by the African National Congress to provide alternative education for African children.

b) Fort Hare.

Conference condmens the fascist action of the authorities of Fort Hare in closing the College and dispersing the students to their homes, for in this drastic mass punishment carried out with police assistance, Conference sees a further attempt to break the increasing resistance of

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the African people by attacks on the youth receiving higher education, and by selection of entrants to the university on a basis of political screening, and resolves that all students should be re-admitted and thereafter an impartial Commission of Inquiry into the grievances of the students should be appointed on which the students must be represented.

c) University Apartheid.

Conference totally rejects the principle of segregated education and supports the struggle of the student body against the introduction of university apartheid, and the combined attempts of the Government to exclude non-European students from the non-segregated universities. Conference deplores the threat of the Government to ignore the Report of the Holloway Commission which, despite the arbitrary limitation of the terms of reference, recommended that university segregation was not a practical possibility.

d) Language Ordinance.

Conference condemns the Language Ordinance which deprives parents of their fundamental right to decide in what language their children shall be educated and further condemns the arbitrary decisions which have been taken by the Transvaal Education Department relating to the home language of the children. Conference is of the opinion that this language ordinance is politically motivated and therefore resolves to take every opportunity of making the European population conscious of this aspect and to organise opposition as far as may be possible.

B. Legislation Affecting the Trade Unions.

Conference condemns the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill and Natives (Labour) Settlement of Disputes Act as a means of forcing apartheid on the trade union movement and thereby splitting and dividing the working class into factional racial groups. Conference pledges support to those organisations engaged in opposing these apartheid measures.

4. PEACE AND THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

Barely ten years have elapsed since the end of the most devastating war the world has ever known. Mankind has only just recovered from the last holocaust and already military groupings are being set up in Europe.

The arms drive and the establishment of bases on foreign territories, closely linked with the policy of colonialism is increasing international tension. The dangerous revival of German militarism has now become a reality.

Today the threat of atomic warfare is the shadow that darkens the lives of men and women throughout the world. An example of this is the decision of the Nato Ministers to organise for atomic war.

We in South Africa are not remote from the war of danger. We are in fact, potentially close to the threatened world war, since our production of uranium for atomic bombs turns our towns into targets. The Government of South Africa is today part of the war camp and the system of military alliances. It is an ally of those wishing to crush liberation and independence in all countries and to prepare for war. The struggle for peace in South Africa is closely bound up with the struggle for democracy, racial co-operation and human rights.

Yet the overwhelming majority of the people of the world over want to live in peace and friendship. We as democrats, as believers in peace and progress, as people who have a firm faith in the future of mankind therefore resolve:

(i) To support to the utmost of our ability and in all practical ways, the campaign of the Peace Council for the immediate outlawing of all weapons of mass destruction, for the reduction of all armed forces and for the prohibition of war propaganda.

(ii) To support the policy of peaceful co-existence, security independence and ~~independence~~ of all states; the replacement of military alliances by peace pacts and the settlement of international disputes by negotiation.

(iii) To condemn the rearming of Western Germany as a serious threat to world peace.

(iv) To work for the inclusion of the People's Republic of China in UNO and for its recognition as a major world power.

(v) To work for the ending of the wars in Kenya and Malaya.

(vi) To support the peoples of Africa and Asia in their liberatory struggle by demanding a round table Conference with leaders of the Resistance Movement and the withdrawal of foreign troops.