

FSAW

Dupl.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. TRANSVAAL REGION

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
19th August 1955.

Dear Friend,

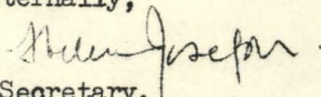
At the Transvaal Congress of Mothers held on Sunday August 7th, the following resolution was passed:

"This meeting of women urges the Federation of South African Women to consult with the Congresses and other organisations with a view to organising a mass deputation of women of all races to Pretoria to protest against the Bantu Education Act and all other oppressive legislation, to protest against the site and service scheme, and to demand proper housing for all people."

To give effect to this resolution, the Executive Committee of the A.N.C. Women's League, and representatives of the S.A.I.C. and S.A.C.P.O. have been invited to attend a special meeting of the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women, which will be held on Saturday afternoon, August 27th, at 11 Mylor House, at 2 p.m.

You are urgently requested to attend this important meeting.

Yours fraternally,



Regional Secretary.

Dupl.

FSAW

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. TRANSVAAL REGION.

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
19th August, 1955.

The Chairlady and Members,
Executive Committee,
A.N.C. Women's League.

Dear Friends,

At the Transvaal Congress of Mothers held on Sunday, 7th August, the following resolution was passed:

"This meeting of women urges the Federation of South African Women to consult with the Congresses and other organisations with a view to organising a mass deputation of women of all races to Pretoria to protest against the Bantu Education Act, and all other oppressive legislation, to protest against the site and service scheme, and to demand proper housing for all people."

In order to give effect to this resolution, your Executive is cordially invited to attend a special meeting of the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women, which will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 27th, at Room 11, Mylor House.

It is earnestly hoped that your full Executive will attend this important meeting, so that a campaign for the deputation to Pretoria may be planned and launched with the least possible delay.

Yours fraternally,

Secretary, Transvaal Region.

FSIAW C1.2

The Federation of South African Women,
Transvaal Region,
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG

23

15th September, 1955.

The Secretary,
A.N.C. Women's League,
Branch.

Dear Friend,

I enclose copies of a leaflet addressed to African Women urging them to join the Mass Deputation of Women of all races to Pretoria on Thursday, October 27th, where women will protest to the Minister of Native Affairs and the Minister of the Interior against the harsh and oppressive laws that **cause** suffering to the people of South Africa.

This Protest has the full and enthusiastic support of the African National Congress and was discussed fully and endorsed at the A.N.C. Women's League Conference on Sunday, September 11th. I am sure we can count on your active assistance in organising many women in your area, not only to attend in person, but to raise funds for their transport to Pretoria.

Would you please assist us by sending to P.O. Box 10876, Johannesburg, the names and addresses of the churches and any other organisations in your area to whom you think we should send leaflets? Wherever possible would you please give the name of the Secretary, so that a personal letter can be sent? This is very urgent and it will help if you can send this information immediately.

We intend that our protest deputation shall consist of at least ONE THOUSAND WOMEN!

Yours fraternally,

REGIONAL SECRETARY.

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

11th October, 1955.

The Hon. J. de Klerk,
Honourable Minister of Labour,
Laboria Building,
c/r. Schoeman & Paul Kruger Streets,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

At a Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg in August, 1955, the many women present passed unanimously a resolution that a mass deputation of women of all races, should be sent to Union Buildings, Pretoria.

The purpose of this deputation is to present a protest to the Ministers concerned against various legislation and living conditions which women feel to be unjust, unreasonable, or detrimental to the people of South Africa.

Included in this legislation, both enacted and proposed, are the Natives (Settlement of Disputes) Act and the Industrial Conciliation Bill.

Many hundreds of women of all races have announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to come to the Union Buildings on Thursday, October 27th, 1955.

It is earnestly hoped that you will provide this deputation with the opportunity of presenting to you their objections to this legislation.

The women request, therefore, that you meet them at the Union Buildings at 12 noon, on Thursday 27th October, and that you consent to receive four representatives who will speak on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal Region).

The Federation of South African Women,
Transvaal Region,
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG

11th October, 1955.

The Secretary,
Women's Defence of the Constitution League,
Leisk Building,
cor. Rissik and Bree Streets,
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Friend,

The Federation of South African Women makes a special appeal to the Women's Defence of the Constitution League to join with women of all races in this mass protest. In honouring the courageous stand made by so many European Women in your opposition to the Senate Act, we want to emphasise that the oppressive legislation against which we ask you to join us in protest, the appalling housing conditions to which so many thousands of families are condemned today, the brutal "reclassification" of the Coloured people, the insidious and steady encroachment upon civil liberties, police raids, the application of the degrading and vicious pass system to African women - all these attacks upon the individual, the family, the state, are the common concern of all women, be they registered voters or not, be they European or non European women.

The response to this call to women of all races has been magnificent. Hundreds of women have already expressed their determination to join this mass deputation and every day more applications are received.

It is as mothers and women that we shall go to Pretoria and we are confident that we shall not call in vain on your members to ally themselves with other women and to accompany us to Pretoria.

We have requested the Ministers of Justice, Labour, the Interior and Native Affairs to receive our deputation at the Union Buildings on Thursday, October 27th at 12 noon.

We hope that your League will co-operate with us in this great deputation and that you will assist us by circulating the enclosed letters amongst your members and requesting those who wish to join us to fill in the form at the end of the letters and to return them to the above address as soon as possible so that we may inform them of the final arrangements for transport, etc.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN JOSEPH

HON. SECRETARY

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

11th October, 1955.

Dr. the Hon. T.E. Donges,
Honourable Minister of the Interior,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

At a Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg in August, 1955, the many women present passed unanimously a resolution that a mass deputation of women of all races, should be sent to Union Buildings, Pretoria.

The purpose of this deputation is to present a protest to the Ministers concerned against various legislation and living conditions which women feel to be unjust, unreasonable, or detrimental to the people of South Africa.

Included in this legislation are the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act, and the Departure from the Union Regulations Act.

Many hundreds of women of all races have announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to come to the Union Buildings on Thursday, October 27th, 1955.

It is earnestly hoped that you will provide this deputation with the opportunity of presenting to you their objections to this legislation.

The women request, therefore, that you meet them at the Union Buildings at 12 noon, on Thursday 27th October, and that you consent to receive four representatives who will speak on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal Region).

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

11th October, 1955.

Adv. the Hon. C.R. Swart,
The Honourable Minister of Justice,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

At a Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg in August, 1955, the many women present passed unanimously a resolution that a mass deputation of women of all races, should be sent to Union Buildings, Pretoria.

The purpose of this deputation is to present a protest to the Ministers concerned against various legislation and living conditions which women feel to be unjust, unreasonable, or detrimental to the people of South Africa.

Included in this legislation is the Criminal Laws Amendment Act, the Riotous Assemblies Act, the Public Safety Act and the Suppression of Communism Act.

Many hundreds of women of all races have announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to come to the Union Buildings on Thursday, October 27th, 1955.

It is earnestly hoped that you will provide this deputation with the opportunity of presenting to you their objections to this legislation.

The women request, therefore, that you meet them at the Union Buildings at 12 noon, on Thursday 27th October, and that you consent to receive four representatives who will speak on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

Federation of South African Women
(Transvaal Region).

FSAW C 2

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

11th October, 1955.

Dr. the Hon. H.F. Verwoerd,
Hounourable Minister of Non-European Dept.,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

At a Congress of Mothers held in Johannesburg in August, 1955, the many women present passed unanimously a resolution that a mass deputation of women of all races, should be sent to Union Buildings, Pretoria.

The purpose of this deputation is to present a protest to the Ministers concerned against various legislation and living conditions which women feel to be unjust, unreasonable, or detrimental to the people of South Africa.

Included in this legislation are the Bantu Education Act and all Acts relating to the Pass Laws. As women we shall protest particularly against the proposed extension of the Pass System to African women, and against the housing conditions in which so many thousands of African families must live.

Many hundreds of women of all races have announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to come to the Union Buildings at 12 noon, on Thursday 27th October.

It is earnestly hoped that you will provide this deputation with the opportunity of presenting to you their objections to this legislation.

The women request, therefore, that you meet them at the Union Buildings, on Thursday 27th October, and that you consent to receive four representatives who will speak on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

Federation of South African Women (Transvaal Region).



FSAW C12

AMN/.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

KANTOOR VAN DIE MINISTER VAN NATURELLESAKE.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No. P.1/2.A.

Room 103 (West Wing),
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

October 13th, 1955.

Dear Madam,

Your unsigned letter dated October 11th, 1955, has been received at this office. Anonymous communications are not considered by the Minister.

For your information, I can however state that before a deputation is received the bona fides of the organisation requesting an interview must be established and it must also be clear that the subjects to be discussed justify an interview. Furthermore sufficient proof must be given that the deputation can speak on behalf of those it purports to represent. Racially mixed deputations from a racially mixed organisation are not received. If truly representative Bantu women were, however, to request an interview on matters concerning them, such a request would certainly be considered.

The matters you mention as subjects for protest indicate that you are not well-informed. The Bantu Education Act receives wide-spread support from the Bantu themselves, whose committees are given by this Act, control of their childrens' education. This was demonstrated inter alia at the recent indaba with all the chiefs of the Zulu nation where unanimous support was announced of their own accord. Protest by European women would by contrast be valueless. The Pass system has been abolished, even for men, but the law of the land provides for a Population Register of all races and both sexes, and this is incorporated for the Bantu in a Reference Book system which serves many useful purposes for the Bantu themselves, and was generally welcomed by them. Protest, if any, should have been made before the Bill became law. It is now useless. Housing conditions for the Bantu are being improved beyond recognition, and the Government has developed many schemes for this and is spending sums on Bantu housing throughout the country on a scale never contemplated before, so that the inherited backlog of bad conditions is being eradicated at the most rapid pace. This therefore seems to be a subject for praise and not protest.

Under such circumstances a request for an interview does not seem justified even if your anonymity disappeared, and you could satisfy the qualifications described in the second paragraph above.

Yours faithfully,

J. De. Barnard

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

The Secretary,
Federation of S.A. Women (Tvl. Region),
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.
16th October, 1955.

The Town Clerk,
City Hall,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

In terms of Section 110 of the Bye-Laws, as amended, the Federation of South African Women wishes to apply herewith for permission to hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 27th, 1955, at 12 noon, in that portion of the lower road (known as the "Old Tram Route") immediately in front of the Union Buildings.

In response to a widely-expressed feeling among women that a mass deputation of women of all races should be sent to Pretoria to present a statement of the opinion of women concerning various legislation, the Federation of South African Women (Transvaal Region) agreed to convene this deputation.

The Federation of South African Women was formed with the specific object of drawing together women's organisations, and also organisations including women as members, so that women of all races may come together in a women's movement which will strive for the attainment of equal rights for all women, for the preservation of the family, for the happiness and wellbeing of all children. It is in the spirit of these aims that the Federation consented to convene the mass deputation of women to Pretoria.

The address of the Federation is given above; its office-bearers are: Chairman, Mrs. Josie Palmer; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Helen Joseph.

Many hundreds of women from Johannesburg, the Reef and Pretoria have announced their intention of joining this deputation, and arrangements have been made for them to come to Union Buildings on 27th October. The purpose of holding a meeting is for the women to gather together prior to sending their deputation to the Ministers concerned, and to receive a report from their representatives after the statement has been presented to the Ministers.

It is not intended to use loudspeakers, bands, or other instruments, as mentioned in section 110 (3).

Further to this application, we would like to ask permission for a procession of women to proceed round Union Buildings and back to the meeting place.

If any further information is required, we will be obliged if you will 'phone Mrs. Joseph at 23-~~XXXX~~ 8321.

We sincerely hope that permission will be granted, to meet the urgent desire of the women, who are coming together at considerable personal financial sacrifice in large numbers, so that they can present their point of view as women and as mothers on questions about which they feel most deeply.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Hon. Secretary,
Federation of S.A. Women (Tv. Region.)

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

The Hon. The Minister of Native Affairs,
Room 103 (West Wing),
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.
16th October 1955.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter of October 13th from your private secretary, I wish to offer my personal apologies for the omission of my signature from the letter of October 11th addressed to you from the Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women. The omission was accidental, and I wish to assure you that there was no intention to withhold my personal identity and to despatch an anonymous communication.

The Federation of South African Women was formed with the specific object of drawing together women's organisations and also organisations including women as members, so that women of all races may come together in a women's movement which will strive for the attainment of equal rights for all women, for the preservation of the family, for the happiness and wellbeing of all children. It is in the spirit of these aims that the Federation consented to convene the mass deputation of women to Pretoria.

The further contents of your letter have been referred to the Regional Executive Committee of the Federation for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Hon. Secretary,
Tvl. Region, Federation of S.A. Women.

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.
17th October, 1955.

District Commandant of Police,
Police Headquarters,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

For your information, I enclose a copy of a letter sent to the Town Clerk Pretoria, in connection with the holding of a public meeting.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Hon. Secretary,
Tvl. Region, Federation of
S.A. Women.

WOMEN'S DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION LEAGUE.

511, Leisk House,
Bree Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

• 18th October, 1955.

The Hon. Secretary,
The Federation of South African Women,
Transvaal Region,
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Madam,

I acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 11th instant, and in reply have to advise that this League cannot associate itself with your Organisation in connection with its deputation to the Ministers at the Union Buildings on the 27th October next.

The League will be pleased, however, to notify its Members in General Meeting of the contents of your letter.

Yours truly,

E. H. Saunderson

E.H. Saunderson,
for Secretary.

Lab. 59.
A. 26/48.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MINISTERIE VAN ARBEID.
MINISTRY OF LABOUR.
LaboriagBuilding, Pretoria.
18th October, 1955.

The Secretary,
Federation of South African Women
(Transvaal Region),
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Madam,

I am directed by the Honourable J. de Klerk, Minister of Labour and of Public Works, to acknowledge receipt of your letter (unsigned) of the 11th October, 1955, and to advise that due to the fact that my Minister will be away on official duty at Bloemfontein on the 27th October, it will not be possible to meet your deputation on that date.

Yours faithfully,

L. L. Looch.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.



CJ/AH.

P.O. BOX
POSBUS 440.TELEPHONE: MUNICIPAL EXCHANGE
TELEFOON: MUNISIPALE SENTRALE

City Council of Pretoria
Stadsraad van Pretoria

REF. NO. 92/3/1

TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
AFDELING VAN DIE STADSKLERK
PRETORIA

20th October, 1955.

The Hon. Secretary,
Federation of S.A. Women (Transvaal
Region),
P.O. Box 10876,
J O H A N N E S B U R G.

Dear Madam,

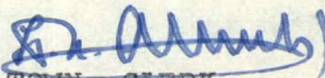
re : Application for Permission to hold a
Public meeting and Procession.

Your letter of the 16th October, 1955, in the
above connection, refers.

In terms of Administrator's Notice No. 413 of
3rd June, 1953, I have to advise that the application of
the Federation of South African Women for permission to
hold a public meeting and procession at the Union Build-
ings at 12 o'clock noon on Thursday, 27th October, 1955,
is hereby refused.

I may state that the decision to refuse your
application was reached after consideration of represen-
tations received from the District Commandant of Police,
Pretoria.

Yours faithfully,


TOWN CLERK.



U.D.J. 540.

By beantwoording meld asb.
In reply please quote

J. 24/6.

UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Ministerie van Justisie,
Ministry of Justice,

Uniegebou,
Union Buildings,

PRETORIA.

20 -10- 1955

The Secretary,
Federation of South African Women
(Transvaal Region),
P. O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Madam,

I am directed by the Honourable
the Minister of Justice to acknowledge receipt
of your letter of the 11th October, 1955, and
to inform you that the Minister regrets that
he will not be able to receive the deputation.

Yours faithfully,

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

C/o P.O. Box 1294,
PORT ELIZABETH.

22nd. October 1955.

Secretary,
Federation of South African Women,
TRANSVAAL.

Dear Friend,

At a Conference held at Port Elizabeth recently a Congress of Mothers Committee was set up. This committee has decided to invite both Mrs. L. Ngoyi and Mrs. G. Smith who have recently returned from overseas, to address a meeting at Port Elizabeth.

The Committee would appreciate it if you could make arrangements with Mrs. Ngoyi and let us know if it is possible for her to pay a visit to Port Elizabeth next month.

Mrs. Smith will be invited at the same time and an early reply will be appreciated so that arrangements for both could be made at the same time.

Yours in the struggle,
CONGRESS OF MOTHERS COMMITTEE,


SECRETARY.

FSAW C1.2

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.
23rd October, 1955.

The Hon. The Minister of Justice,
Union Buildings,
Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 11th October, 1955, I am directed by the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women to express their regret that you will be unable to receive the mass deputation of women on October 27th, 1955, at 12 noon, and to request you to arrange for a deputy to receive the written protest to be submitted by the women.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) H. Joseph,
Hon. Secretary, Tvl. Region, Federation
of South African Women.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.
23rd October 1955

The Hon. Minister of Native Affairs,
Room 103 (West Wing)
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th October, 1955, has been considered by the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women, and I am directed to inform you that the Federation is convening a mass deputation of women of all races, and cannot therefore accept the principle of a deputation from one racial group only.

On October 27th, 1955, the mass deputation of women will present a protest against a number of Acts of Parliament which affect adversely the people of South Africa. The matters mentioned in our letter to you of 11th October are included in this protest and once more, therefore, we request you meet the women and receive their protest.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Hon. Secretary, Tvl. Region,
Federation of S.A. Women.

FSAW C

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
Johannesburg.

23rd October 1955.

The Hon, The Minister of Labour,
Ministry of Labour,
Laboriag Building,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 18th October, 1955, I am directed by the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation of South African Women to express our regret that you will be unable personally to receive the mass deputation of women on October 27th, 1955, at 12 noon, and to request you to arrange for a deputy to receive the written protest to be submitted by the women.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) H. Joseph,
Hon. Secretary, Tvl. Region,
Federation of S.A. Women.

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (TRANSVAAL REGION)

P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.
23/10/55

The Town Clerk,
City Council of Pretoria,
P.O. Box 440,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

Further to your letter of the 20th October, 1955, informing me that permission has been refused for the Federation of South African Women to hold a public meeting and procession at the Union Buildings at 12 noon on Thursday, 27th October, 1955, I am instructed by the Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the Federation to appeal to the General Purposes Committee of the Council in terms of 110 bis. (8) of the Pretoria Municipal Traffic Byelaws.

Clause (4) of this section states the grounds on which the Town Clerk may refuse permission for a public gathering or procession, but no reason is set out in your letter of refusal, other than a statement that the decision was reached after consideration of representations received from the District Commandant of Police, Pretoria. We are not informed of the nature of these representations.

The Federation of South African Women wishes to appeal to the General Purposes Committee for a revision of this decision on the following grounds:

- (1) The hundreds of women who form this mass deputation are proceeding to Pretoria in accordance with what must only be accepted as a fundamental and traditional right - the right to present their case to the representatives of the government of the country.
- (2) The deputation has been convened in order to meet the rising demand among women of all races that their objections to various legislation should be presented and on a scale which will conform to the widespread dissatisfaction among women.
- (3) The mass deputation will consist of women only, and has one purpose only - to present a written protest to the Ministers concerned.
- (4) For this purpose, four representatives of the deputation will present the protest, but it is the firm intention of the hundreds of women to be present personally at the Union Buildings.
- (5) Permission for a public meeting is requested so that hundreds of members of the deputation may come conveniently together in one public place to send forth their representatives with their protest, and to receive from a report after the protest has been presented.
- (6) Permission for a procession around the Union Buildings so that the mass deputation may be provided with an opportunity of demonstrating publicly their solidarity as women, the nature of their protest by means of banners, and may employ the time-honoured procedure of a public march to express public opinion.
- (7) The peaceful nature and orderly and dignified nature of this requested procession and public meeting is undoubtedly indicated by the statement in our original application that no loudspeakers, bands or other instruments would be used.

In conclusion, we wish to remind the General Purposes Committee that on previous occasions permission has been granted for hundreds of European women to march in protest in Pretoria against the Senate Act, to the Union Buildings. Further marches are being planned and publicly advertised in demonstration against the dissolution of the Senate. Yet when women of all races wish to come together in a public meeting and procession to protest against living conditions, injustices and indignities which are held in opprobrium far and wide, within and without the borders of South Africa, permission is refused. It is difficult to escape from the conclusion that this permission is being withheld on racial grounds, for careful study of the reasons for which permission may be refused according to your regulations reveals the following:

(1) A peaceful orderly deputation of women, to present a protest to certain representatives of the government, will not result in a public disturbance or riot, or damage to property.

(2) In the portion of the road known as "The Old Tram Route" immediately in front of the Union Buildings, that a meeting of possibly one thousand women would not cause any obstruction to traffic or interference with the amenities and conveniences of the public generally.

(3) A mass deputation of women of all races cannot provoke a feeling of hostility between different races; on the contrary, such a deputation creates feelings of friendship and harmony arising out of the very composition of the mass deputation.

The Federation of South African Women therefore urges the General Purposes Committee of the Pretoria City Council to review this decision of the Town Clerk and, at the time of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of this great city, to act with justice, consideration and sympathy towards these many women of the Transvaal who are coming together in this mass deputation, and to grant the permission which we seek to hold this public meeting and procession.

The Regional Executive Committee would appreciate the privilege of sending a representative to appear before the General Purposes Committee. For this purpose, in view of the urgency of the matter, you should telephone me at 33-0975, so that this could be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Helen Joseph,
Hon. Secretary, Tvl. Region,
Federation of South African Women.



AMN/.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.-UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No. P.1/2.A.

KANTOOR VAN DIE MINISTER VAN NATURELLESAKE.

Room 103 (West Wing),
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

October 24th, 1955.

Dear Madam,

In accordance with my former letter (dated October 13th, 1955) such a deputation as is mentioned in your letter of the 23rd October 1955, will not be received by the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs. It is also quite clear that it is not intended to make genuine representations but to take part in an agitation which stands self-condemned.

Yours faithfully,

PRIVATE SECRETARY.

The Hon. Secretary,
Tvl. Region, Federation of S.A. Women,
P.O. Box 10876,
JOHANNESBURG.

FSAW

25.10.55

Dear Sir,

The Transvaal Regional Executive Committee of the S.A. Federation of Women requests you to correct certain statements made in your issue of the week ending Saturday 22nd October.

We are not aware from what source you derived your information as officials of the Federation were not at any time approached by representatives of your paper, nor asked for information about the Women's Protest. Your information is certainly not correct, and we would like to inform you of these facts:-

(1) Dr. Verwoerd has not stated that he is willing to meet the women. On this point his letter ~~merely~~ says that he is not prepared to meet racially mixed delegations, and then goes on to set out why the delegation from the Federation of Women is also unacceptable for other reasons.

(2) The Federation represents various women's organisations, and organisations with women among their members. It has no individual membership, nor is it confined only to mothers, as you state.

(3) There is no feeling in the Federation that African Women should meet the Minister even though other sections will be excluded. The Federation represents all ~~sex~~ racial sections, and cannot divide itself into compartments to meet the racial requirements of the Minister of apartheid.

(4) ~~The women's organization~~ The Federation agreed to convene the mass demonstration to Pretoria on the urgent request of many women and of their organisations. At no time has there been any suggestion that the women are going to Pretoria to "plead" with the Ministers (as you state) not to proceed with certain legislation. The demonstration is in the nature of a mass protest. The statement issued by the Federation on behalf of those taking part opens with these words: "We women of South Africa have not come to beg or plead, but to ask for what is our right as women, as mothers, and as citizens of our country."

We trust that you will give full publicity to these points to correct the misleading statements which appeared in your report.

Yours faithfully