

Person)

ABX-420918a

18/9/42

Pass Petros Mkwebane,

with 18 oxen
5 cows
4 horses

looking for a place.

I have sold my farm and can recommend him as a very
respectable native.

(Sgd)

Guinsberg.

Lyndore, Ascent.

~~XXXXXX.~~ ~~(XXXXXX)~~

15/9/42.

To proceed to Johannesburg
seeking employment.

(Sgd.) Native Commissioner,

Vrede, O.F.S.

18/9/42.

This will serve also as Official pass.

A.N.C.
Cape

18th September,

2.

R. Mambisa Esq.,
c/o of Mr. Malangabi,
5, Albertus Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pender, Oliphant, Newana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives' Act.

For the present, I am taking control of the affairs of the province until further notice.

In the meantime, I expect you, and call upon you and every man who has the interest and the building of Congress at heart, to cooperate with me.

The people have trust us to lead them aright. We should, therefore, not fail them; but do our work and serve their cause - our common cause - to the interest of all and not our own interest.

Let us organise our people - rank and file - under Congress so that we have a force behind us when we speak before Governments on their behalf.

I call upon you to give your service wholeheartedly for the good of our masses. Forget your personal interest.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

A. N. C.
Cape

18th September, 1942.

P.J.D. Nikiwe Esq.,
 "Dulce Domum"
 160-161, New Brighton,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Ncwana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives' Act.

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Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

A. H. C.
Cape.

18th September, 2.

Mr. Sam Sesedi,
716, Makenna Street,
Off Barkley Road,
KIMBERLEY.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Nwana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives' Act.

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Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

A.N.C.
Cape

18th September, 2.

B. E. Xiniwe Esq.,
KINGWILLIAMSTOWN, C.P.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Newana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives' Act.

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Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL/

ABX/pd.

A.N.C.
Cape

18th September, 2.

P. Nyambo Esq.,
 C/o of Mr. Malangabi,
 5, Albertus Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Penda, Oliphant, Newana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives' Act.

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I call upon you to give your service wholeheartedly for the good of our masses. Forget your personal interest

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX. 420918g

H. M. BASNER

ATTORNEY

HYMAN MEYER BASNER

TRANSVAAL AND CAPE PROVINCIAL
DIVISION ALSO SWAZILAND AND
BASUTOLAND HIGH COURT

P.O. Box 3210
TELEPHONE 33-4129

When replying please ask for

SUITE 8-8a SOMERSET HOUSE
(First Floor)

110 FOX STREET

JOHANNESBURG

Transvaal

18th. September, 1942.

Nation Reps

Dr. A.B. Xuma,
104, End Street,
Doornfontein,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

I have seen in the Umteteli an article by Dr. Seme withdrawing on behalf of the Executive of the African National Congress the recommendation that the Chiefs should support Mr. Rheinallt Jones. I must thank you in your capacity as President of the African National Congress for this decision. His latest move now is to publish a circular stating that Chief Sabhuza has asked him to advise all the Swazi nation to vote for Mr. Rheinallt Jones. I am, of course, not worried about Dr. Seme's personal activities as I consider that he has no influence at all, even in the Eastern Transvaal. I am, however, sending Chief Sabhuza a copy of this article because I cannot believe that this was done with the Chief's sanction.

You have probably received by now Mr. Jones' circular attacking me for not having done the things which he did. I think you will find a hysterical note in it which comes from his great disappointment at the nomination results. I am convinced that he will have cause for hysteria after the election figures are published. You must understand that I still claim that the final figure will be a majority in my favour of at least 200,000 votes. I was misled by the fact that Mr. Rheinallt Jones announced at first that his wife would stand and I did not, therefore, arrange my office matters in such a way as to give me the opportunity of travelling around the country. When I started travelling around I could only visit a few districts. Mr. Rheinallt Jones' chief support came from the Eastern Transvaal and the Free State. The very people ~~who~~ wrote me letters asking me to come and visit them, but I was not able to do so.

/ I

Dr. A.B. Xuma.

18th. September, 1942.

I am enclosing herewith my reply to Mr. Rheinallt Jones' attack, which I hope you will enjoy reading as much as I enjoyed writing, I could never before say these things because I did not want to start a personal attack in a political campaign. I feel, however, now that his hold and the hold of the social workers on the African people will definitely be broken. If I do nothing else as long as I live I think that I have made a good job of this and have served the African people well because as soon as the influence of the Race Relation Institute goes the door will be open for African leaders and African organisations.

You must believe me that I have no desire to set up as a political leader of the African people. I only want to help to build up African organisations so that Africans can take it over. I shall always acknowledge the African National Organisation as the only real representative body authorised to speak for the African people and I will not interfere in its internal affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Harold

Encls:

ABX-420919a

A.N.C.

Cape

19th September,

2.

The Editor,
"Bantu World",
14, Perth Road,
WESTDENE, Local.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for
the publication of this important and urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX - 420919 b

A.N.C.
Cope

19th September,

2.

The Editor,
"Imvo Za Bantu"
14, Perth Road,
Westdene, CITY.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for the
publication of this important and urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX - 420919c

B. N. C.

Cape

19th SEPTEMBER, 2.

The Editor,
"Umteteli Wa Bantu",
Perth Road,
Westdene, CITY.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for
the publication of this important and urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

A. N. C.

Cape

ABX - 420919 d

19th September, 2.

The Editor,
"Ilanga lase Natal",
128, Umgeni Road,
DURBAN.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for the
publication of this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX - 420919 e

A. N. C.

Cape

19th September, 2.

The Editor,
"Inkundla ya Bantu",
Corner Garden and Oakfor Roads,
Verulam, Natal.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for
the publication of this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX-420919f

A. M. C.

Cape

19th September, 2.

Rev. Mvambo,
"Umthunywa",
P.O. Box 26,
UMTATA, C.P.

Dear Sir,

Please find space in your valuable paper for the publication of this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

20/9/42

SUSPENSION OF CAPE AFRICAN CONGRESS

OFFICIALS.

In the course of my Presidential Address which I delivered at the Annual Conference of the African National Congress at Bloemfontein on Monday, December the 15th., 1941, I dealt with the policy and programme of action of the African National Congress. Among the many subjects of policy laid down was that in reference to Nominations under the Representation of Natives Act in the following terms.

"Nominations Under Representation of Natives Act."

"I take up now a question that interests all of us but which is, nevertheless, not essential. I refer to the nomination of candidates under the Representation of Natives Act. Sometime ago the Provinces received a letter from the Secretary General asking for nominations under this Act. I have since, however, studied the question and its implications in relation to our organisation and have come to the conclusion that, for the present, Congress must not sponsor any candidates either nationally or provincially. Any nominations, therefore, made in any Province will be made by qualified voters in that Province and not by the Provincial Congresses. This, however, does not preclude any voters, as such, exercising their choice; but such nominee or nominees are not endorsed by Congress, either nationally or provincially. To Congress we must be loyal and true. For Congress, we must forget any personal or sectional interests or gain. We must put the cause and the interest of the people before any expediency."

"My ruling is in the interests of the Congress and all genuine supporters and well-wishes of this organisation will abide by it. To be true leaders, we must put the interests and welfare of our people above our own."

The Presidential address outlining the policy of the African National Congress including the above quoted ruling was adopted by the Annual Conference thus satisfying Section 25 of the Constitution of the African National Congress.

As a result of this Annual Conference decision, the Provincial Congresses, Districts, and branches which are under our Constitution "branches of the Association" were bound by it. Any candidates nominated in the name of Provincial Congresses, Districts or Branches and established Congress Campaign Committees are, therefore, unconstitutional and are contrary to the decision of the last Annual Conference of the National Congress and, therefore, no member or members of Congress are under any obligation to either recognise, or to support, them.

Mr. A. Frank Pendla as President of the Cape African Congress with Messrs. S.M. Bennett Ncwana, Stephen Oliphant and Rev. J. Tladi as Vice President, Speaker and Secretary of the Cape African Congress respectively, who attended the last Annual Conference of the African National Congress have tried to flout the decision of the National Conference by allowing the nomination of candidates under the Representation of Natives Act as "Cape African Congress candidates" in their Congress Conference and the establishment of a "Cape Congress Campaign Committee" and in the furtherance of their candidature.

For so flouting the authority and decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress, in the interest of the good name of our organisation and to safeguard innocent candidates who might have been misled, I was compelled to suspend Messrs. Pendla, Ncwana, Oliphant, and Tladi as officers of the Cape African Congress as from the 16th September, 1942, in the following terms including a copy of the resolution of the Executive quoted below.

"16th September, 1942."

"Dear Sir,"

"Acting in terms of clause 113 of the Constitution of the African National Congress and under the authority of a resolution passed by the Executive of the African National Congress at a meeting held at Bloemfontein on the 30th., August, 1942, I hereby suspend you until further notice from your office as Secretary of the Cape African Congress. A copy of the resolution is enclosed herewith."

"Kindly take notice therefore that as from to-day all your powers as an officer in the Cape African Congress cease and that all books and documents in your possession must immediately be sent to me."

"Yours faithfully "

(Sgd.) A.B.Xuma.

"PRESIDENT-GENERAL"

"ABX/pd."

At an Executive Committee meeting of the African National Congress held at Bloemfontein on Sunday, 30th August, 1942, the following resolution was passed:-

"That this Executive Committee feels that the accusation against the President-General of alleged interference with the domestic affairs of the Cape Province is unjustified, that the action of the Cape African Congress and the Western Province African National Congress in taking part in the elections is a deliberate violation of the National Conference decision; therefore, this Executive Committee instructs the President-General to deal with this matter to take whatever steps and disciplinary measures which he may deem fit."

(Sgd.) James A. Calata.

SECRETARY-GENERAL
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

A.B.Xuma.

PRESIDENT-GENERAL
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

*present, until further notice, I must take with all commu-
things must be sent to me.*
These men are no longer officials of Congress. In the
I call upon you one and all members and non-members of Congress
to close ranks and set up strong Congress branches in every magisterial
district. Come in. Congress needs reorganisation; needs cleaning up;
needs the best brains. The cause of our people demand that Congress
must be strong and militant. Do not be an arm chair critic, Come in
and build.

Congress is every African's opportunity and his only hope of
Salvation.

(sgd.) A.B.Xuma.

PRESIDENT-GENERAL, A.N.C.

4, Wake St.,
Cape Town.
20/8/42.

Dear Doctor,

There are two matters I wish to write to you about. The first concerns your letter to the Executive of the Institute of Race Relations. I regret that I was unable to be present when your letter was discussed. For years I have been urging the Institute itself to declare a clear policy on issues such as you letter raised or to refrain from dealing with political matters altogether and to confine itself to social and research work. Unfortunately my advice (in which Mr. Buchanan has always supported me) has not been taken. As to where I personally stand on these matters, I think you know. Mr. Buchanan's letter to you expresses my views as well as his. Moreover, on the specific issue of the pass laws, you will recollect that at the Congress delegation to the Minister of Native Affairs last session, on being called upon, in my view, I urged the ~~the~~ Minister to abolish the pass laws altogether - not merely to relax them. For your information I may

v

add that I promised this step on the
Prime Minister later in the session. He
promised to consider it but "relaxation"
was all we got!

In other matters I feel I must put
before you concerns the conduct of certain
large Congress officials - Oliphant, Treadwell
~~et~~ etc. - in the current election campaign.

Despite your ruling in Bloomington on the
subject of late elections, which was formally
published in the press, these gentlemen are
persisting in using the name of Congress as
a means to attack me and are claiming official
Congress support for their candidate. Indeed
I happen to know as a fact that they
induced the latter to stand by telling him
that Congress controls thousands of votes in
the large, that these went to me at the
last election and that they will be wrong
of course to him in ^{this!} these.

Actually I have little doubt as
to the result of the campaign, but, if that
result proves to be anything like what I
anticipate, it will be bound to be interpreted
by the masses as a defeat for Congress, what-
-ever I say ^{or} do. Actually there is nothing?

can do except repeat your Montaignian ruling and this, the ~~best~~ Dignant oblige content was ultra vires. I have no authority whatever to contradict the latter contention because, as a European, I of course cannot speak officially to the Congress - and the national leaders can do that.

In these circumstances, I have written to the Rev. J. A. Calata asking him ~~as~~, in his capacity as Secretary-General, whether the Congress Constitution provides any machinery for disciplinary action against members or officials who ~~deliberately~~ deliberately flout the decisions of the President-General and the National Conference, and, if so, whether that machinery will be used in this instance?

Naturally I would not presume to ask questions about internal matters of Congress were it not for the fact that after 5 years and in which I have done my best, according to my lights for the African cause, the name of Congress is being used as a weapon of attacking me.

I enclose a specimen of the sort of propaganda that is being circulated. The document is, of course, idiotic but the

point is made, in the paragraph I have
 marked in the English version, that Mr.
 Lautenheimer is the official vice president
 nominee. I hear that Penella will be
 here this week, also, apparently, with
 the intention of furthering propaganda of
 this character, both in furtherance of Mr.
 Lautenheimer's candidature and of his own
 of against Mr. Godd.

My apologies for the length of
 this letter.

With kind regards to Mrs. Xerxes
 and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Donald H. [Signature]

A.M.C.
Cape

21st September, 2.

Mr. A.Z. Tshiwula,
Organiser for Trade Unions,
Cape African Congress,
P.O. Box 3127,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla Oliphant, Ncwana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives Act.

For the present, I am taking control of the affairs of the province until further notice.

In the meantime, I expect you, and call upon you and every man who has the interest and the building of Congress at heart, to cooperate with me.

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Let us organise our people - rank and file - under Congress so that we have a force behind us when we speak before Governments on their behalf.

I call upon you to give your service wholeheartedly for the good of our masses. Forget your personal interest.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

A. N. C.
Cape

21st, September, 2.

Mr. L.H. Msila,
Organiser for Trade Unions,
Cape African Congress,
C/o Mr. Malangabi,
5, Albertus Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Newana and Tladi as officials of the ~~Cape~~ African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference ~~of the~~ African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives Act.

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Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

ABX - 420921 c

National

A. N. C
Cape

21st September, 2.

Mrs. E. D. Ndollo,
Women's Organiser,
Cape African Congress,
C/o Mr. Malaganbi,
5, Albertus Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Madam,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Ncwana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives Act.

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Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.

National

A. N. C.

Cape

21st September, 2.

Mrs. F.S.K. Thaele,
Organising Secretary,
Cape African Congress,
C/o of Mr. Malangabi,
5, Albertus Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Madam,

This is to inform you that it has been my painful duty to use my Executive power in suspending Messrs. Pendla, Oliphant, Ncwana and Tladi as officials of the Cape African Congress for flouting the decision of the Annual Conference of the African National Congress which met at Bloemfontein in December, 1941, concerning the present elections under the Representation of Natives Act.

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I call upon you to give your service wholehearted for the good of our masses. Forget your personal inte

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL.

ABX/pd.



Fort Hare,
Alice.

21st September, 1942.

The Secretary,
Students' Representative Council,
FORT HARE.

Dear Sir,

The Senate acknowledges the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant.

In reply thereto, the Senate desires, at the outset, to assure the student body that no statement directed by them in the spirit reflected in their letter is regarded as an ultimatum or a threat. All communications addressed to the Senate which show a genuine desire to promote the welfare of the College will continue to receive, as they have received in the past, the earnest consideration of the Senate.

As the decision of the Senate in the matter of certain Beda Hall students appears to have been misunderstood by the student body, it seems necessary for us to make the following observations to clarify the position:-

1. The Senate is primarily responsible for the maintenance of order and discipline in the College, inside as well as outside the Hostels. Within each Hostel the responsibility of the Senate in this regard is delegated to a Warden who is nominated to that position by his Church, but is appointed Warden by the Governing Council of the College. The Warden is, therefore, answerable to the Senate for the maintenance of discipline in the Hostel.
2. No Hostel in this College is an autonomous, self-determining body, but every Hostel functions as a part of the College. While each Hostel is, within limits, permitted to develop a character of its own, this must be done with due regard to the general welfare of the College and its approval, expressed or implied.
3. In the matter under review two issues clearly presented themselves. The first was the fundamental one as to whether or not the Warden possesses the right to refuse to grant a request made by the students in his Hostel. For us that issue admits of no debate. The Warden does possess that right. The second issue which is no less fundamental is whether or not the students in any Hostel, either individually or collectively, possess the right, when any of their requests have been refused, to resort to conduct calculated to undermine the discipline in the Hostel in order to enforce their demand. This also clearly admits of no debate — the students do not possess that right.

These propositions mean in effect that the Senate cannot have in residence in the College -

- (i) any student who is not prepared to recognise the right of the Warden to grant or refuse requests made;
- (ii) any student who claims the right to resort to acts of defiance or persecution, or to undermine the smooth running of a Hostel or of the College in order to enforce his demands, however legitimate they may appear to him.

The implication of (i) is not that the student must agree with the decision made by his Warden, but that until that decision is duly altered, the student is in duty bound to accept it. The implication of (ii) is not that the student need make no further representations on the point at issue, but that such representations must be made constitutionally to the proper authorities.

Unless these propositions are accepted and borne in mind by students during their stay in the College we shall have no end of incidents calculated to ruin the promising careers of students as well as to upset the work of the College as a whole.

In this present case, the students of Beda Hall asked their Warden to allow them to play tennis on the Hostel court on Sundays. The making of this request is no breach of any law, and the students were free to make it. The Warden decided that permission could not be granted. This is no breach of any

law either. The Warden has that right. But many students at Beda Hall refused to recognise that right, and they took action which they calculated would compel the Warden to grant their request. They adopted deliberately an attitude of non-co-operation in the forms of religious worship laid down by their Church, and accepted and followed by them throughout their previous stay at Beda Hall; knowing their Warden's keen interest in their sports, they chose this as another means of persecution, and the captains of the Beda Hall teams informed their Warden that Beda students would withdraw from participation in College sports and inter-Hostel competitions; the students also informed him that they would not continue to carry out the normal censorship duties of the Hostel. These were the methods chosen by the students themselves to compel the Warden to do what they wanted.

At the meeting of the Discipline Committee there was no question of hearing evidence as to whether the students were justified or not in flouting the authority of the Warden. They cannot be so justified. Prior to entering into the merits of the dispute, the simple fact had to be ascertained as to whether or not the students of Beda Hall were willing to discontinue their acts of non-co-operation, in other words, to resume customary discipline and usage in the Hostel. This they were required to do as individuals for the simple reason that they had, as individuals, expressly or by implication undertaken to do this when they were admitted to the College, and had by their action broken their pledge. A declaration, of which a copy is attached, was accordingly framed mentioning specifically the very matters which the students had chosen as means for the enforcement of their demand, and certain students were called upon by their Warden to sign it, after the implications of the declaration had been explained to them. This they refused to do. They were accordingly brought before the Discipline Committee. Here again they declared in unmistakable terms that they were not prepared to sign the declaration. It was made clear to each that nothing was implied in the signing of the declaration beyond a return to the normal conditions which had existed in Beda Hall during the whole time each student had been in residence there, and the Discipline Committee had no alternative but to inform them that unless they accepted the declaration they would be suspended from the College. They decided to accept suspension. It might be pointed out that each of the students concerned was permitted both by the Warden and by the Discipline Committee to state his reasons for refusing to sign the declaration, but not to discuss matters irrelevant to the main issue.

The question has been asked why the members of the Beda Hall Committee were called first to reaffirm their acceptance of authority. As the most fully informed about the matter, they were called first, but as individuals. There was no intention of limiting the action of the Discipline Committee to these students. Every student who had shared in this attempt to force the Warden to do the students' will was to be required to sign the same document.

Before the rest of the Beda students who had taken part in this incident were given the opportunity to sign the declaration they addressed a letter to the Acting Principal, signed by fifty-four students, indicating, among other things, that they were not prepared to do so. (The letter is appended.) In their case also the Discipline Committee had no option but to intimate to them, as it did through the Acting Principal, that unless they withdrew their refusal to sign the declaration, they would be suspended from the College. The majority chose suspension.

No student was in fact expelled. It was and still is the intention of the Senate to consider on its merits any application for re-admission by any student who is prepared to accept the fundamental principles we have enunciated above and is willing to sign a declaration to that effect.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. T. Murdock

ACTING PRINCIPAL

A STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF BEDA HALL, FORT HARE

(Sent by them to the Press)

Students of Beda Hall, Fort Hare, refused freedom of worship. Hostel Committee suspended indefinitely. Petition for reinstatement of Committee results in suspension of fifty students out of an enrolment of 64.

The Warden of Beda Hall, has, so far as students can remember, refused to understand the students point of view on any matters affecting the smooth running of the Hostel. The Warden has shown a positive unwillingness to understand the complaints of the students. He as much as denied the students had opinions at all that he could consider in connection with the smooth running of the Hostel.

This attitude of the Warden, his refusal to co-operate, culminated in his refusal to allow the Anglican students to play tennis on Sundays, a thing to which the Church of the Province does not object. The reason given for this refusal was that Sunday tennis at the Beda Anglican Hostel would have the effect of making other hostels, whose religions are against Sunday sport want to play too. The Warden failed to convince the students how members of other denominations would forego their religious beliefs just because their neighbours believed in something else. The students felt that this was an encroachment upon their religious liberty in so far as their opinion was not sought on this question.

The students felt that they could no longer co-operate with a Warden who was not willing to co-operate with them. They, therefore, withdrew from those activities which they had hitherto undertaken of their own free will, and which reflected a harmonious community life in the Hostel,

The Warden then presented the Hostel Committee with a document which he asked the Committee to sign. The document, among other things, pledged the signatories to take part in Hostel sport and to worship in the accustomed manner. The Committee did not sign the document.

The members of the Committee were then called upon to appear before the College Discipline Committee individually. They were asked to sign the document. The Discipline Committee did not interest itself in what the Hostel Committee had to say about the matter. They had either to sign or leave the College. They were given one minute to decide. They did not sign and they were there and then suspended indefinitely on September the 17th, and told to take the next train home.

Resulting from the suspension of their Committee, the rest of the students of Beda Hall signed a petition to the Senate asking for the reinstatement of their Committee. The Beda students protested against the victimisation of their Committee without even being given a chance to state their case. The signatories to the petition were then asked in turn to sign the said document. They refused and were also suspended indefinitely. They were then compelled to leave the College.

The rest of the student body of the College questioned the high-handed action of the Senatus in suspending a whole hostel for a matter which did not involve a contravention of College regulations. A mass meeting of all students was held on Friday, 18th of September to protest against the action of the Senate and to demand that the suspended students be reinstated. Further developments are pending a reply from the Senate.

(Letter signed by 54 Beda Hall
Students.)

Beda Hall,
Fort Hare.
17th September, 1942.

The Chairman,
The Senatus,
S. A. N. College,
FORT HARE.

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned wish to voice our disapproval and dissatisfaction of the action that the Discipline Committee has taken in expelling four of our hostel members.

We herewith declare that we are not prepared to accept a declaration which has been given already to five of our members or to attach our signatures thereto.

We submit that if there are any contracts which the authorities regard as being so vital that the signing of them means membership of the college or otherwise, such contracts must be entered into between the authorities and the students at the beginning of the academic year. The principle in itself is wrong, religious worship is an individual matter, no specific form of worship ought to be enforced by the signing of documents. As for sports any man may participate or refrain from doing so without binding himself by a contractual obligation.

These men although forced to appear individually before the Warden and the Discipline Committee were acting in the official capacity of representing Beda Hall students. Therefore their expulsion automatically and necessarily means our expulsion.

We beg to submit our profoundest convictions that the four students that have been victimised have contravened none of the known regulations of the College. We feel that it is a departure from traditional practice and an offence against all equitable principles if people are going to be penalised without any such contravention.

We therefore request the Discipline Committee to reconsider and withdraw the decision taken. If these men are not reinstated we will deduce from that, that we have also automatically been expelled and we shall expect receipt of our letters of expulsion.

We remain,

the undersigned

A.T.O.

Declaration the Warden required Beda
Students to sign

We the undersigned promise that from now onwards we will respect the authority of the Warden of this Hostel and that we will honourably carry out the rules and customs of this Hostel.

These include:-

1. The carrying out of the duties as Censors.
2. Unless excused by the Warden, the regular attendance at the Hostel Chapel and taking part in the services in the accustomed manner. If excused from attendance, we will sign the Register in the Library at the time of morning service on Sunday.
3. The taking part in Inter-Hostel sport.
4. Any other duties ordinarily performed by the students at the beginning of this term in the life of this Hostel.

-----oOo-----

This Declaration each Student is required to sign on
Admission to the College

I, Student of the South African Native College, Fort Hare, do give my sincere and sacred promise, and wish this my signature to testify thereto for ever, that I will be dutiful and industrious in my studies; and by this promise I acknowledge that in all matters relating to the teaching and discipline of the College I have willingly placed myself under the jurisdiction of the Senate, and I recognise that if, in the opinion of the Senate, my studies or my conduct are unsatisfactory, it has authority to forbid my continuance upon courses qualifying for a degree; and I engage that as a deserving alumnus of my College I will pay my debt of gratitude and goodwill on every occasion to the best of my powers, so long as I live.

-----oOo-----

P.T.O.

ABX-420922 a

Cape African Congress.

"NKOSI SIKELEL' I--AFRIKA"

PRESIDENT:

A. FRANK PENDLA ESQ.,
P.O. NEW BRIGHTON,
PORT ELIZABETH.

GENERAL SECRETARY:

REV. S. J. N. TLADI,
A.M.E. PARSONAGE,
LANGA, CAPE TOWN.

ORGANISING SECRETARY:

MRS. F. K. THAELE,
17 JONES STREET,
NORTH END, PORT ELIZABETH

HON. TREASURER:

P. J. D. NIKIWE ESQ.,
P.O. NEW BRIGHTON,
PORT ELIZABETH.



Office of the

General Secretary,

LANGA, Cape.

Sept. 22nd 1942.

A.H.C.
Cape

Dr A.B.Xuma,
104 End Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Sir,

Greetings! Last night at an election Campaign Meeting held at Athlone, Cape, Mr Jayiya read a letter to the gathering, from you, written to Mr Tabata, to the effect that you have expelled me from the Congress. Hence, I find that this morning, I am the talk of Cape Town.

I do not know how much truth there is in this matter, but I am taking a very serious view of it, because of my personal prestige and work. Certainly, if I have committed any breach of discipline in Congress as such in the Cape, I admit that I have to be dealt with; but I presume that you on the other hand will also admit that I, as the person concerned, should be the very first to be informed of such disciplinary action, also the day, time and place where I am expected to answer to such charges preferred against me. I would therefore like you to ~~pl~~ explain yourself in this matter, Doctor, as the originator of this scandal. I am not going to permit you or anybody to use me as a tool to further your interests in this election. My interest in a movement like Congress is for no personal aggrandisement, but just because I happen to be satisfied that, if properly managed, it may be the ultimate salvation of my people. Yet, if so called responsible people like you, are going to be so small, and are going to lead it by riding rough-shot over other men like you, may I assure you that you will never be able to even make a start ~~ix~~ with building it up, even in another thousand years.

Please will you be good enough and communicate with these your friends, to stop this stuff of theirs, lest it lead to more unpleasant circumstances. Remember that a man's name is his personal and private property.

I shall be awaiting to hear from you, the facts.

Yours truly,

S. J. N. Tladi
S. J. N. Tladi,

Gen.-Secretary: C.A.C. (Inc. W.P.)

ABX-420922 b

P. J. D. NIKIWE.

A.N.C.
Cape

Dulce Domum,

160-161 New Brighton,

Port Elizabeth,

SOUTH AFRICA.

22nd. September, 1942

Dr A.B.Xuma

President General (A.N.C)

I94 End Street

J O H A N N E S B U R G

My dear doctor:- I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th, inst and in reply thereto beg to state that the action you have taken is justified in that not long before now issues untoward being perpetrated by these gentlemen to wreck the strength of the congress were noticeable- As you will note in the article enclosed which I forwarded to the 'Umteteli' and the said paper refused to publish it because it was a reply to an erroneous report by the 'Inkkel', a Cape Town paper. As you will notice they contend that I should have referred to any contradictory statement to that paper. I did not then take any step: but have had the pleasure of showing the same to your General Secretary and to Mr Akena.

Regarding your action I am convinced that though painful it is, you could not have done otherwise under the circumstances. My presumptions are that these men have no other interest in the congress but to make money through it as they have already done when we were in Cape Town last Easter. Without any body knowing, they introduced Mr Raubenheimer to the joint congress with an object of nominating him in place of Ad Molteno. He being a fool was soap-soaped and agreed to stand against Molteno. Cape Town people did not know the man and it was a new venture brought to them by Oliphant & Co

I concur with your conclusions that at present you are taking the offices over and would in the meantime be particularly responsible. One thing I should ask of you would be to have us the return of the Membership cards that were in my possession during my term of office as Treasurer and now that I have been created a Regional Vice President, they were taken from me and dispatched to the secretary, Rev J. Tladi of Cape Town. He has got them if not disposed of. Should you then see that Mr James Ntshinga who is our chairman has them, we shall be very much gratified for we cannot freely organise without receipts.

Should you find time, call on us and to authorise your secretary to help by frequent visits to this branch as things will not be very easy after this down-fall-I mean Rev Calata.

After your publication of your action I think it would be then I should be out and doing. I have quite a number of friends who will help to move the wheel of progress as you have pleaded on us to do all and forget our personal interests and to give our service whole-heartedly for good of our masses.

Dulce Domum,

160-161 New Brighton,

Port Elizabeth,

SOUTH AFRICA.

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I have quite a crowd of young men who are willing to help but many would not have my friend Mr Pendla as President as he was elected at ~~Grad~~ Cradock a year ago. Grahamstown, Queenstown, East London and many places that form the Cape would not pay allegiance to the Congress. I am sure that all will soon be well as soon as these places know that he is suspended, the same at Cape Town with the two gentlemen.

Mr Godlo was here and he gave me to understand that East London have lost interest in the Congress as Pendla is created President. This I knew for I kept corresponding with these places during my treasury-ship.

It would be a blessing should you come over again. I know that you are very busy and cannot just live your work without supervision. Mr Calata is always about these places and can do you a good turn by being your proxy.

My wife sends her best wishes to you and to Mrs Xuma. We hope your next visit will be spent with us as perhaps you have no close relations about here. Port Elizabeth has no hotels as other big towns as Johannesburg.

I shall be in Johannesburg this coming month-say about the 18th-our Conference meets then in Johannesburg. I shall make it a point to visit you at your home. Mr Godlo will also be present as he is also a conference nominee. I may be able to give you any information that might creep after the news are known. I hope you have furnished them with your findings in order to submit to you all the properties of the congress.

I am Sir
Yours Truly

P. J. D. Nikiwe

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XUMA, A.B., Papers

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