

NEW AGE

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COLOURED PEOPLE REJECT GROUP AREAS Organize To Defend Their Homes

THE firm decision of the Coloured, Malay and Indian people to defend their homes and to resist any form of Group Areas zoning was expressed by a crowded, enthusiastic and militant meeting in the Mowbray Town Hall last week.

An Executive member of the South African Coloured People's Organisation, Dr. R. E. van der Ross, presided over the meeting, which was called by the Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution rejecting apartheid, the Group Areas Act and the zoning proposals for the Cape Peninsula.

Agreeing with the chairman that if the people ignored the Land Tenure Board and refused to give evidence before it, the Board would conclude that the people approved of its racial demarcation of the Cape Peninsula, the meeting resolved to make representations to the Board, but emphasised that it would at no stage propose zones for any race at all.

This means that the representations made would, in every case, object to the Board's proposals and reject them in toto.

For the Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee meeting the Mowbray Town Hall was packed to the doors, many people standing at the back or sitting on the platform. It was clear that the response to the proposals outlined by the chair, that by the end of the meeting the Co-ordinating Committee had been urged to include representatives from every area affected by the Land Tenure Board's proposals.

Scores of people came forward offering their services, homes and the use of halls in the furtherance of the campaign, which aims at making the Coloured, Malay and

Indian people of Cape Town speak with one voice before the Land Tenure Board. Representations to the Board must be in before March 31. The Board's present proposals deal mainly with the Southern Peninsula, from Observatory downwards.

It proposes that areas like Observatory, Claremont, Crawford, Kenilworth, Welton, Newlands, Plumstead, Day River, Ottery, Constantia Valley, Hout Bay and Maitland be reserved exclusively for Europeans.

In every one of these areas there is a large residential and commercial Non-European population—and in many of these areas Coloured people can tell you that it is they who pioneered the place and who set up homes there first.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS

Nine areas, including parts of Wynberg, Athlone, Heathfield, Cook's Bush, Grassy Park, are set aside by the Board for either Europeans or Coloureds. Like the areas quoted above, they are also at present thoroughly "mixed"—as indeed is practically every part of the Cape Peninsula where people of all races and colours have lived together harmoniously for hundreds of years.

The Board has reserved only two areas exclusively for the Coloured people—the Grassy Park-Beet area and part of the Battoswood Estate, Wynberg. The rest of this estate is further cut up into an area for either Coloureds or Malays—the only portion set aside for Malays.

Does the Board then want the Coloured and Malay peoples to fight each other over this lean scrap? And the Coloureds to fight the Europeans and vice versa over every square foot of the Peninsula? It certainly seems so.

But the people have not fallen into the trap.

(Continued on next column)

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Act. The position is similar in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown (see Letter Box). The Chief Information Officer of the N.A.D., Mr. C. E. Prinsloo, recently had interviews in the Bantu press in which he called for the creation of thousands of school committees in the shortest possible time.

Thirty-nine posts of sub-inspectors of Bantu Education have also just been created. The African inspectors are to be under-studies to the European inspectors. The N.A.D. is urging the national action council to accept inspectors by offering them big pay—£80 a month is the figure mentioned. But, everywhere like people are snubbing these committees.

TRANSVAL A.N.C. DECISION

JOHANNESBURG.

The Transval A.N.C. met in conference last weekend and passed a resolution recommending that the national action council of the Congress of the People intensify the campaign so that the Congress of the People can hold the last weekend in June.

This conference also passed a resolution that it was in favour of the school boycott starting from April 1, regardless of the A.N.C. executive decision the previous weekend.

When Mr. George Golding, chairman of the Coloured People's National Union, put forward an appeasement policy at a meeting a few evenings after Co-ordinating Committee's meeting, he clearly did not have the backing of the people. Even from his much smaller and largely selected audience there came objections to his view that it did not matter if the Government divided the Non-European people into Christian Coloureds, Malays and Indians so long as an area like District VI, for example, was retained for the Coloured people.

A map showing the areas allocated to the Coloured people will be printed in New Age next week.

For all the news on the campaign to fight the Group Areas be sure to order New Age.

In spite of appeasers and compromisers like the Government, the people are preparing to resist, as last week's Co-ordinating Committee meeting showed.

When one speaker from the floor at the Co-ordinating Committee meeting proposed that the people be given a little longer to decide their action on the matter, he was immediately answered by another who said, amidst applause: "It is later than we think."

The Government is stampeding its apartheid legislation, and it is up to us to put our foot down and see that the Group Areas Act does not go any further."

During the course of the evening, Dr. van der Ross warned the meeting that he was attempting to split and split the Christian Coloureds and the Moslems. "We must be careful that this does not happen," he said. "When we reach the stage that we are to fight for the rights of the Coloureds, that Moslems talk for the rights of the Coloureds, and that whites demand that the Coloureds have their rights and vice versa, then we will defeat the Act."

Speaking from the platform, the Reverend Thomas of Parow urged the people to make a "strong start" and give a lead to the people of the Northern Suburbs. "We must everywhere speak with one voice to protect our homes," he said.

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

Pledging support from the Congress of Democrats, Mr. B. Turck said that only by mass action would the Group Areas Act be defeated. His suggestion that the Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee hold meetings in every area where the people are affected and that representatives from the African National Congress and from the C.O.D. be invited to speak at these meetings, was greeted with applause.

Amongst the scores of people who got up from the floor to offer their services in the campaign was a representative of the Wynberg Dutch Reformed Church, and Dr. van der Ross later told the meeting that the Rev. Dr. C. de Waal had assured him that they would work in co-operation with his Committee against the zoning.

The meeting then after a very successful on-the-spot fund collection, and after the chairman had promised that the Committee would send a large number of demonstrators and meeting to the next meeting of Cape Town a chance to show their opposition to this "terrible thing" that the Government was planning to do.

Becky Lan Sentenced To Imprisonment



Miss Becky Lan.

CAPE TOWN. Miss R. (Becky) Lan, 21-year-old acting general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, was last week sentenced in the Vredenburg Magistrate's Court to three months' compulsory labour for attending a meeting in contravention of the Suppression of Communism Act.

Two months of the sentence were suspended for three years on condition she is not convicted in that period of any other offence under the Suppression of Communism Act.

Notice of appeal has been given. In his argument in the final stages of the case the prosecutor said that whether Miss Lan could hear or not did not affect the question that she was attending the gathering, because the car in which she was sitting was in the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Sam Kahn, for the accused, said Miss Lan had had prior discussions with others about the gathering and had arranged for others to address it, she was motivated by her attending it. She had planned not to attend the gathering, said Mr. Kahn.

Giving judgment, the magistrate said that Miss Lan's act in sitting at the table with a number of people around her, prior to the commencement of the meeting, constituted attendance at a gathering. The fact of her sitting in the motor car subsequently was not vital but contributory.

EMERGENCY CONFERENCE ON BANTU EDUCATION CALLED

Schools Boycotted Postponed

JOHANNESBURG.—This April an Easter Emergency Conference against Bantu Education will be called on the initiative of the African National Congress to build the widest possible unity of action in the struggle against Bantu Education.

This was one of the decisions of the African National Congress national executive which met in Durban earlier this month. This meeting decided to defer the plan to withdraw African children from primary schools, a stay-away action which previously had been timed to start on April 1.

The resolution of the Executive committee lists the reasons for the postponement of the school boycott. Among these are appeals from supporters of the Congress decision for more time for preparations for "this momentous campaign"; the wish of the Congress President, Chief Lutuli, that the "commencement of the campaign be deferred to make possible further consultations with parents, organisations, church bodies and other associations opposed to the aims and principles of the Bantu Education Act"; and the April conference will discuss the best methods of defeating Bantu education and the best method of achieving the ultimate withdrawal of the children from Bantu education schools. Mr. O. R. Tambo, acting general secretary of the A.N.C., told New Age.

ALL INVITED

Invitations to the Conference are going out to the churches, the advisory boards, the Inter-denominational Ministers' Association, teachers' bodies, trade unions, student organisations, the Labour Party, the Liberal Party, the South African Indian Congress, the Congress of Democrats, the All-African Convention, and all bodies opposed to Bantu education.

The venue of the conference has not yet been fixed. Professor Z. K.

Mathews will open the conference, and items on the agenda will include discussion of the Bantu education syllabus and the control of Bantu education schools.

The resolution of the A.N.C. executive meeting in Durban also provides for the setting up of a National Education Committee, to draw up plans for alternative educational and cultural activities for African children "to be set in motion as and when the withdrawal from the schools is effected."

In the meantime the A.N.C. calls upon the African people not to participate in the election of parents of children at the school committees, and school boards now being established by the Bantu Education Division of the Native Affairs Department.

"DON'T COLLABORATE"

Mr. Tambo said the Congress issued a call to the African people not to collaborate in the administration of the Bantu Education Act.

A large number of communities in different parts of the country have already, on their own initiative, refused to set up school committees. At a meeting called of parents of children at a kindergarten school where parents were called on to elect a committee they refused pointblank. One woman said that if she voted for this committee she was the same as strangling her own child. Instead of electing a committee, the meeting adopted a resolution opposing the Bantu Education.

(Continued on next column)

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NEW AGE LETTER BOX

TRADE UNION UNITY

AN article in Saamtrek of 25th February, 1955, written by Mr. Bob Bennett, vice-chairman, S.A. Trade Union Council, under the heading "Trade Union Unity is Growing Stronger—Figures Show," is misleading and not in accordance with facts.

Had it been true that trade union unity is growing, the Government's attack on the trade union movement and on democratic liberties in general would not only have been stopped, but the possibility would have been brought into existence of reversing the Government's policy.

The cardinal error of the article is that it completely ignores the existence of the African workers and their trade union organisations as if these workers do not exist and are of no consequence. Yet in Mr. Bennett's own industry (the baking industry)—he is the secretary of the Witwatersrand Baking Employees' Association—the majority of workers employed are African workers, and they are coming into the industry, as indeed they are in almost every other industry, in increasing numbers.

WHAT ARE FACTS?

What are the facts about the trade union movement in South Africa? It is regrettable that the organised workers of South Africa are split into a number of co-ordinating bodies. This has weakened the fight against the flinging away of hard-won trade union rights and liberties. There is the Ko-ordineerde Raad situated in Pretoria, which openly supports the Government, especially in furthering apartheid in the trade unions.

There is the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions, led by such men as Mr. G. McCormick and others, who cannot run fast enough to declare themselves in favour of Government policy—with a few minor reservations. This body consists largely of White unions in the mining industry.

Then there is Mr. Bennett's own newly-formed co-ordinating body, the S.A. Trade Union Council, which was formed with the demise of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, and which consists of the majority of the unions of the now defunct S.A. Trades and Labour

Council, plus some of the unions of the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions and the unions of the Western Province Federation of Trade Unions. Numbers of this is the largest body of trade unions in South Africa, but whether it is the most important in spirit to resist or to fight the Government's policy one can only answer with a big question mark and a couple of exclamation marks.

This conclusion is reached when one knows the records of the leaders of this newly formed body, who have in many cases acquiesced to the Government interfering in an unwarranted manner in the affairs of trade unions by means of the Suppression of Communism Act, and thus disrupting and weakening the whole trade union movement. They do not have much of a fighting record to give one confidence that they will usher in a new era of resistance to the Government's anti-trade union policy, about to be placed on the Statute Book when the new amendments to the Industrial Conciliation Act are to come before Parliament.

They ignore, almost in its entirety, the fact that the African workers, who are the majority of the working class of South Africa, are important allies and need trade union organisation for their upliftment from the economic morass in which most of them live as a result of their poverty due to low wages.

As long as they close their eyes to this situation, so long will the policy, about to be put into the rough-shod over all trade union rights, knowing that the Government is inclined to do away with all democratic rights as we know them to-day.

RAY OF HOPE

The situation has one ray of hope, and that is the birth of the new trade union co-ordinating body, the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, which saw the light of day in Johannesburg on March 6, 1955, basing itself on the alliance of all trade unions, irrespective of their race, colour or political outlook.

If this body will do a job of work in organising the unorganised workers, especially the African workers, not only to resist attacks on the trade union movement but to fight for trade union rights to be extended to African workers, and for higher wages and better conditions, then it has a bright future in South Africa.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions is potentially the most powerful co-ordinating body in the country, and it should be the duty of Mr. Bennett and other trade union leaders to seek support from this body and all other trade unions who are prepared to use Mr. Bennett's own words—"To resist the attack on the trade union movement in South Africa."

B. SOODYALL.

General Secretary
National Bank Building
Industrial Union,
Johannesburg.

Point

Civilisation descended the Nile from Egypt. There was intellectual activity in Darkest Africa while the Europeans' ancestors were worshipping before stone altars.

SHADRACH MTSHEMLA.
Duncan Village, East London.

April Schools Boycott

I appeal to the leaders of the African National Congress not to rescind their decision to boycott the schools on April 1. There is no other solution except the withdrawal of children.

The decision has been accepted by the oppressed people.
W. MABANDLA.
New Brighton, P.E.

Weaknesses of Our Poets

I agree with your criticism of Walter S. B. Nhlapo's poem, "Afrika" (Letter Box, February 3). It shows a pathetic picture of a man drowning in a gigantic sea of self-pity.

Like many other Africans who write poetry, Mr. Nhlapo loves Africa, but why do they weep in "land of rejection"? Why do they substitute for determination heart-aches and ever-swelling pains? They are born under the fairy skies of Africa, where Truth, Beauty and Godness are worth the search and labour.

The freedom of the African people will not be thrust upon them by mystic powers. They themselves will have to manufacture freedom, and freedom cannot be manufactured by tears. Without action and the will to attain freedom they will stand still and dream till freedom is a distant star. There is one thing the people need—determination.

When things go wrong let us not think that all things are vain—let us smile and try again. Our failure might show the door that will lead us to happiness.

We may be weakened in the fight but not defeated. It is no use wasting precious time in tears and vain regret. Let us stand up and face the world and our greatest hopes and dreams will come true.
J. R. MABE.
Galeshewe, Kimberley.

"We Stand for Justice"

[Last week in Letter Box we printed a letter which was titled "Told the Grahamstown Magistrate," reporting on how the people rejected the Government's attempt to implement the Education Act in Grahamstown. This letter tells what has happened since.]

The leaders of the campaign against the Act were interviewed by the C.I.D. Special Branch, together with the mayor and the District Commandant. The major read to them clause 9 of the Native Administration Act of 1927, which provides for the deportation of anyone who is "causing a disturbance."

Their answer was this—"We stand for justice, peace and truth. We cannot deviate from these on account of intimidation and threats. Deportations will not bar our way."

They said that what they wanted was free and compulsory education with no limitations.

We will continue to oppose these slave education committees.
STANLEY KABA,
Grahamstown.

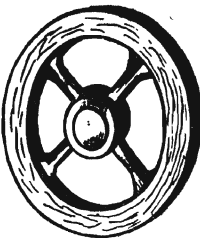
Ban Atomic Weapons

Only very strong public opinion can stop the warheads, Churchill and Eisenhower. The first step to make the people of the countries where the bases for atomic attack are situated realize that annihilation is hanging over their heads and can come at any moment unless the production of atomic weapons is banned.

The fact must be brought home that if the U.S.A. starts a war with China the Soviet Union is bound to come to the aid of China, and could not afford not to use the atom bomb against countries where U.S. atomic bases are situated.
PEACE LOVER,
Port Elizabeth.

EDITORIAL

CALL THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE



THE time has come when it has become urgent for the sponsoring organisations to announce the date and proceed to convene the Congress of the People.

The fifteen months that have passed since the African National Congress first decided on this inspiring conception have by no means been wasted. Firm bonds of unity have been established with its sister organisations of the Indian, Coloured and European people in a great common task. Hundreds of thousands of people of all races have been roused to enthusiasm by the idea of gathering together representatives of the real South Africa to express their common aims and aspirations. Demands for inclusion in the Freedom Charter have come flooding in from all over the Union.

It remains for the conveners to announce the date and venue of the Congress of the People and to call upon the people everywhere to send their representatives there. There can be no doubt that this action in itself would tremendously accelerate the tempo of the preparations and rally the volunteers and supporters of the C.O.P. movement throughout the country to heroic efforts.

DELAY IS HARMFUL . . .

On the other hand, it is a rule of political life, often illustrated in this country, that indefinite delays and procrastinations have the most harmful effects upon the people's movements, leading to loss of enthusiasm and confidence in the movement and its leaders.

The people of our country are filled with enthusiasm and courage. They are bitterly dissatisfied with their conditions. They look with tremendous hope and keenness to the Congress of the People, not in itself to solve their difficulties, but to set common aims and goals towards which every freedom-loving South African will in future work in unity and co-operation.

. . . AND UNNECESSARY

What possible reasons are there, then, for delaying the convening? It is said that the preparations have been inadequate. No doubt more could have been done, but enough has been done to make the idea of the C.O.P. come alive all over the country. Any long delay now would merely undo much of the good work that has already been done. It is said that other important matters require the attention of the national movements, but, seen in its true light, the campaign for the C.O.P. is the thread that binds together all other campaigns, complementing them and giving them a deeper meaning.

It is no doubt true that some of the more grandiose schemes of the C.O.P. planners have proved incapable of fulfilment in the very difficult conditions of South Africa to-day. State bannings of meetings and personnel, shortage of funds, the timidity of the Liberal and Labour Parties, and other difficulties have inevitably restricted the possibilities. But the fact remains that, called within the next month or two on the basis of a mass appeal to the people, the Congress of the People will still be the greatest and most representative assembly ever held in this country, capable of profoundly modifying the course of history and transforming the people's struggle for democracy to a higher level than ever before.

RANK AND FILE VOICE MUST BE HEARD

In these conditions, to advocate further delay now is—consciously or unconsciously—to sabotage the Congress of the People—and perhaps to destroy it.

This is a matter which affects every man and woman in South Africa.

The leaders who have to take the decision must be made aware that the people everywhere are looking anxiously to them for action. Let the rank and file make its voice heard! Forward, without further delay, to the calling of the Congress of the People!

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A Modern-Day Fable

The Elephant and the Man

By

Jomo Kenyatta

Former President of the Kenya African Union, now serving seven years in prison.



ONCE upon a time an Elephant made friends with a Man. One day a violent thunderstorm started. The Elephant went to his friend, who owned a small hut at the fringe of a wood, and said to him: "My dear, good Man, please allow me to put my trunk into your hut, and to get it from this violent downpour."

When the Man saw the Elephant's situation he said: "My dear Mr. Elephant, my hut is small, but there is space in it for me and your trunk too. But please put your trunk in very carefully!"

The Elephant thanked his friend and said: "You have done me good, and some day I will return this goodness."

Then he turned to the Man and said: "You did well in making friendship with my people, especially with the Elephant, who is one of my ministers of state. Don't scold any more, because this hut is not lost to you. Wait for the meeting of the Commission of my kingdom, and you will have the chance to state your case. I am sure you will be satisfied with the decision of the Commission."

The Man was only too happy about the gracious words of the king of the jungle and waited for the inquiry, in the belief that his hut would be returned to him.

The Elephant obeyed his master and together with the other ministers formed a Commission.

The following people were appointed to sit on the Commission: Mr. Rhinoceros, Mr. Buffalo, Mr. Alligator, his honour Mr. Fox as Chairman and Mr. Leopard as secretary.

When the man saw the list of persons he protested and asked whether it was not necessary to accept in this Commission some members from his side.

He was told that this was impossible because there was nobody from his side educated enough to understand the complicated laws of the jungle. Besides, there was no one to be afraid of, because the members of the Commission were all very well-known for their impartiality and justice.

Because they were masters, ordered by God to take care of the interests of the races who are less well equipped with teeth and claws, he could be sure that they would examine the affair carefully and impartially.

The Elephant was called first. He approached with a haughty face. He had cleaned his tusks on a small tree given to him by Mr. Elephant, and he said in a confident voice:

"Gentlemen of the jungle, don't see any necessity to waste your time in telling you a story which, I think, is well known to all of you. I considered it always

my duty to take care of the interests of my friends, and that obviously brought about my misunderstanding between me and my friend here.

"He asked me to protect his hut from being carried away by the storm. As the storm had entered the hut because of an unoccupied room there, I considered it in the interest of my friend to turn this disused room to economic use, by occupying it myself, a duty which each of you under the same circumstances would have gladly fulfilled."

After the Commission had heard Mr. Elephant's final report, Mr. Hyena and other influential people were called and all of them confirmed what Mr. Elephant had said. Then they called the Man, who now started to give his account of the quarrel.

But the Commission interrupted abruptly and said: "Dear Man, limit yourself to the essential points. We have heard the state of affairs already from several impartial sources. All we want to hear from you is whether the disused room in your hut had been occupied by somebody before the Elephant occupied it?"

The Man started: "No, but"—then the Commission declared it had heard enough statements from both sides and retired for consultation.

After an excellent meal at the expense of Mr. Elephant, they declared sentence, called the Man and explained to him the following:

"According to our opinion, this quarrel arose from a regrettable misunderstanding, the origin of which can be found in the backwardness of your ideas."

"We believe that Mr. Elephant fulfilled a holy duty by taking care of your interests. It is clear that it is only for your own good that the disused room can be used as economically as possible."

"As you yourself do not yet reach the necessary circumference to fill it, we consider a compromise necessary to satisfy both sides."

"Mr. Elephant will occupy your hut, but we shall give you a permit to select a place where you can build a new hut for yourself, a hut more adequate to your needs, and we shall give you protection."

Mass Meeting in Cape Town Supports C.O.P.

CAPE TOWN. — The banner of the Congress of the People on the Cape Town Grand Parade last Sunday with 2,000 people of all races attending.

Demands for inclusion into the Freedom Charter were discussed, as also the other burning issues in the Cape today—the application of the Group Areas Act and the removal of African women from the urban areas.

"Oppression is indivisible," stated one resolution adopted. "This is shown by the application of the Group Areas Act. We do not want ghettos."

A second resolution protested against the Urban Areas Act and particularly the removal of African women and the consequent breaking up of family life. "This Act makes the Africans a wandering and homeless people," said the resolution.

"We protest against the arbitrary powers given to police to enter our homes without a warrant," said another resolution. "This is a further infringement against democracy."

A final resolution protested against the Population Registration Act which means "pases for everybody."

Many Refuse To Answer

Johannesburg. Staff of the C.I.D. have been busy again. For the last few weeks they have been visiting individuals and trying to interrogate them. They have refused in all cases to state under what authority they are acting.

These members of the Special Staff are armed with a set of 23 questions. Here are some of them:

- "The date and place of birth of your father?"
 - "Your nationality at time of birth?"
 - "When did you enter the Union?"
 - "Was the entry lawful?"
 - "Was the entry for purposes of permanent residence?"
 - "Date and place of marriage?"
 - "Are you in possession of a valid South African passport?"
- NOT OBLIGED TO ANSWER**
- A large number of the individuals questioned have refused to answer, pointing out that they were not obliged to do so, and that a person is always entitled to consult his lawyer to discuss with him what information, if any, must be given.

Pick-Up Van Overtaken

JOHANNESBURG. — Nine Africans are appearing at a preliminary examination of an allegation of public violence at Vanderbijlpark after a pick-up van was overtaken and set on fire in the location.

The disturbance took place after a number of location residents were arrested because they were in arrears with their rents.

Three of those on trial are youngsters under the age of 19 and four of the nine are women.

Evidence of how Africans in arrears with their rents were arrested on the night of February 22 and taken in a pick-up van at about 11 p.m. was given by an inspector in the Non-European Affairs Department.

The hearing is proceeding.

International Women's Day

CAPE TOWN. — A very interested audience celebrated International Women's Day in the Mitra Hall here last week, listening to speakers put forward the demands of women in this country and tell of the achievements of women in other parts of the world.

The meeting adopted a declaration which stated that the women did not want war and called upon the people of South Africa to demonstrate for peace.

"Let us ask for peace with one voice and loudly so that the Government of South Africa and other governments will be made to listen and carry out our wishes," said the declaration.

"Let the nations of the world sign treaties to make war unlawful."

"We demand peace because we want peace."

Women Win Their Strike

WOMEN WORKERS at the H. Jones gaming factory in Johannesburg staged a protest against alleged bad treatment recently, and against the employment of seasonal workers on the casual instead of the permanent staff.

The employers met the union as a result of the protest and agreed that in future union members would be given first preference when staff were taken on. Now workers seeking employment will be given preference to show their union cards.

African women workers at Speedy Products last week demanded a wage increase and the re-instatement of two women workers who had been dismissed. They won both their demands. The men were re-instated and they won a 5% increase on their weekly wage of 29s.

Africans Reject Nyasaland Proposals

LONDON. — The proposed constitutional changes for Nyasaland, announced recently by the Governor, Sir Geoffrey Colby, have been rejected by the African people. The proposals offer the Africans five seats on the Legislative Council instead of the present three, but do not provide them with a proportional representation. It is proposed that Europeans and Asians should have six seats between them.

A meeting of African leaders in Blantyre has confirmed the demand put forward by the Nyasaland African Congress for equal representation on the Council between Africans and "immigrant races." The Congress also demands 10 seats for Africans, representation also on the Executive Council, and universal adult suffrage for Africans.

The meeting adopted a resolution stating it was convinced the inadequacy of the Governor's proposals was due to the influence of the Federal Government, and reiterating the opposition of the African people to the federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland.

In the Federal Assembly at Salisbury the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dendy Young, also criticized the proposed constitutional changes—because they were too liberal.

"The European influence is on the wane," he said, "and a 'Gold Coast state' within the Federation appears to be emerging."

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Ordered To Move

JOHANNESBURG. — A community of Africans living in the Middleburg area are threatened with removal from the land they have farmed since 1905 because their farm is to become a "White area." These people bought the farm Doornkop at the beginning of the century, and since then they have cultivated its fertile soil and tended their flourishing orchards.

Now, for the third time in recent months, they have been ordered to leave the Middleburg area for Pokela, where they told they will be settled on an area set aside for them.

The people are refusing to move. Doornkop is their home, they say. They have lived there all their lives, have built two schools on the farm for their children, and see no reason why they should arbitrarily be moved off.

CALL TO WOMEN

JOHANNESBURG. — The National Women's League Working Committee of the African race has issued a call to women in all walks of life to take up their stand in defence of democratic rights and liberties against the Nationalist fascist tyranny.

"Mothers and daughters are called upon to join the ranks of the liberation movements in the area where they live," says the statement signed by Secretary, Mrs. G. G. Mngomo. "The secret of building a strong militant organisation is by taking up local issues that affect the people in the areas where they live."

Condemning the forced removals from Sophiatown, the statement maintains: "Hand in hand with this master plan of creating a vagabond nation out of the African people first, and then other Non-European communities, is the plan to educate our children for 'ignorance, embodiment in the Bantu Education Act."

"Let us fight as one man unit freedom and democracy is realised during our lifetime," the call concludes.

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TWO IMPORTANT ASIAN CONFERENCES

Against Colonialism, For Peace

NEW DELHI.—Two conferences of great importance to world peace and co-operation between nations are due to take place in Asia in April.

The first is the great African-Asian conference, scheduled to meet in Bandung, Indonesia, on April 18. The preliminary agenda for the conference is now being worked on by the Joint Secretariat of the conference in Jakarta, and will be submitted to the participating countries for further consideration.

One important item will be the question of the fight against imperialism in Asia and Africa and the winning of freedom by the people of those continents.

As host and one of the sponsoring countries, the Indonesian Government is making big preparations for the conference. It is estimated that more than 1,000 delegation members, staff and correspondents will attend, and a government committee co-ordinating the work of several departments has been set up to deal with the preparations.

Two large buildings have been chosen as the venue for the various conference sessions, and more than 40 hotels with a total of 1,200 beds have been earmarked by the Housing Committee to accommodate the delegates and others. Special postal and telegraphic facilities will be provided to handle the additional traffic, as well as a simultaneous translation system for the conference itself.

The All-Indonesian Central Organisation of Trade Unions branch in West Java has issued a statement appealing to all labouring people and other sections of the population in West Java to give unreserved support to make the conference a success.

ASIAN COUNTRIES CONFERENCE

The second conference is the Asian Countries Conference due to take place in New Delhi in April. The Secretariat of the Conference has issued a communique explaining the aim and agenda of the conference, which will be attended by the major Asian powers, including China and the Soviet Union.

Representatives of Burma, Ceylon, India, Japan, Korea and Syria, who participated in the preparatory committee meeting, agreed that there was an urgent need for closer political, economic, scientific and cultural co-operation among the Asian countries. Through a greater flow of trade and exchange of technical knowledge, economic and industrial development of Asia could be stimulated and the living standards of vast millions of the Asian people could be raised.

PEACE PLAN

The representatives also expressed their great concern as the ominous

threat of weapons of mass destruction and emphasised the need for exchange of scientific knowledge among Asian countries and their cultural intercourse.

The agenda of the agenda would be a discussion of the five principles of peaceful co-existence laid down by the agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and China last year. The conference would plan concrete steps to secure intelligent understanding and appreciation of these principles among the peoples of Asia and the world, so that they might

form a solid foundation for peace and security.

Among the questions to be considered by the conference will be the prohibition and control of weapons of mass destruction, colonialism and foreign interference in the affairs of Asian countries; dangers to Asia from military alliances and pacts which divide Asian countries; and from military bases of foreign countries in Asia; admission of the Chinese Peoples' Republic to U.N.C.D.; peaceful reunification of Korea; and the abolition of racial discrimination.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR TANGANYIKA?

NO! SAY U.S. AND BRITAIN

NEW YORK.—The United States delegate to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations has announced that he has been instructed to reverse his stand favouring a time-table for the attainment of self-government by the British trust territory of Tanganyika.

The delegate, Mr. Sears, was a member of a U.N. commission which visited Tanganyika last year. Three of the four members of the commission, including Mr. Sears, signed a report that the people of Tanganyika could achieve self-government within the present generation, and certainly in much less than 20 years.

The New York Post reported that Secretary of State Dulles took exception to the report and told Mr. Sears "to temper his personal dispute with the colonial powers." The newspaper added that Dulles did not like the report "because it irritated the United States' allies and its interest on America's relations with self-territories in the Pacific. It described Mr. Sears as an "out-spoken anti-colonialist."

REVERSAL

Mr. Sears, in a formal Press statement, said the New York Post report was substantially correct, and announced that as a result he had urged on the Trusteeship Council he would in future not support the time-table principle for Tanganyika independence.

In the House of Commons last week the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, said the U.N. mission's proposal for establishing self-government in Tanganyika was "wholly unacceptable" to the British Government.

Kuts and Zatopek Invited to Benoni Sports

JOHANNESBURG.

VLADIMIR KUTS, the Soviet holder of the world three miles and 5,000 metres track records, may take part in the Benoni Athletic Club's golden jubilee meeting in January or February next year.

The Club has written to numerous world-famous athletes through their national associations among them also the Czech world record-holder, Emil Zatopek.

The Light Athletics Association of the U.S.S.R. has written thanking the Club for the invitation, and says "The Light Athletics Branch will go into the matter when they make their arrangements for 1956 and will inform you about the decision in good time." The letter asks further which month the meeting will be held, which countries

will take part, and the conditions and rules of participation.

An official of the S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union said that the Benoni Athletic Club was to be warmly congratulated on its initiative in suggesting that the Soviet runner Kuts and the famous Czech Zatopek should be invited to take part in their Golden Jubilee meeting next year. "There is no doubt that sport lovers in this country would welcome these well-known sportsmen to our shores," he said.

SWART WANTS A NEW TYPE OF POLICEMAN

By PETER MEYER

THE recent debate in the Assembly on the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Bill makes one realise that the Nationalists are clever propagandists. At least they know how to handle their own supporters. There is a much bigger gap between the United Party and its followers than there is between the Nationalist leaders and the people who vote for them.

Knowing their people as they do, therefore, the Nationalist leaders can play on their emotions with extraordinary skill. Often what looks like a meaningless and even stupid move is really an astute piece of trickery, directed exclusively at the Afrikaner section and unintelligible to most English-speaking South Africans. The U.P. usually dismisses this kind of propaganda as "crises" when in fact it is achieving precisely what the Nationalists want it to achieve.

Take, say, the question of Army uniforms. Apart from a few yelps from wounded British patriots, the Opposition has not taken the thing very seriously. It has made jokes about Mr. Erasmus's coloring but he has explored the results that the Nationalists have toered at military tradition, but they have seen no deep-seated motives in Mr. Erasmus's dress-designing activities. Yet Mr. Erasmus goes ahead, making his apparently senseless changes and throwing in coarse insults with marked regularity.

WHAT'S HE UP TO?

What is Mr. Erasmus up to? Is he just being rude for the sake of giving the Englishman one for luck? Possibly, he gets some personal satisfaction out of it and draws chuckles from revengeful Afrikaners, but there is more to it than that.

Mr. Erasmus is busy conditioning the minds of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who will wear the new uniforms. He is breaking down tradition, deliberately and methodically so that he can mould the young men more easily. Just as the British Army knows the value of maintaining tradition, so Mr. Erasmus realises the advantages of destroying it. When a young man enters an institution—whether it is the Army or something else—he usually submits automatically to what is popularly known as its "heritage." Take, then, the case of the United Defence Force today: the traditions are being swept away and the young recruit (and even the old-timer) unless he actively resists it becomes the prey of the new ideas that are arising.

And this is where the Nationalist Party steps in. The example it holds up is the "kradagde" man—the tough guy, the strong-arm guy, the guy who knows how to put people in their place. Mr. Erasmus is doing away with the traditions (fauty though they may be) that in an uncertain moment may make the servant of the state soften the blow of the striking arm at the last moment. The "struts men" become "Strijdion men," ready to vote the right way—and act the right way.

But Mr. Swart is even better at this sort of thing. Unless he change that he has brought about in the minds of policemen is incalculable. He has given them a new confi-

dence, a new arrogance, a new violence. He has told them they are boss. He has told them not to be slow to shoot. He has told them that he will back them. He talks about them as "my boys."

HARDENING THE POLICE MENTALITY

This is partly vote-catching, of course. But when examined in all its aspects it is much more serious. Mr. Swart is handing his policemen to be tried differently. They will be obedient naturally, but most important, they will know how to handle people, what to do on the spur of the moment. They will simply be tough. They are also getting new uniforms, and then they will really be Mr. Swart's "boys." And Mr. Swart is impressing upon them that he is not a person to be trifled with, and that he does not want people to trifle with his "boys" either.

With the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Bill Mr. Swart takes this psychology a stage further. He is doing some more mind-conditioning. The powers that he is exploring are going to serve a very practical purpose without doubt, but at the same time certain provisions—like the clause that gives policemen and anyone else the right to shoot a thief (?)—are intended to create a shooting range mentality.

It is a grim situation. It is so grim, in fact, that even Mr. Struys has remarked that "White Civilisation" in South Africa is being maintained by force and that it must be a pretty miserable kind of civilisation if it has to rely on force for its survival. This is plain speaking for Mr. Struys—I don't think he could have realised what he was saying. Mr. Hankey put it even better, though. He said that Mr. Swart wants everyone to "come out shooting."

That is exactly what Mr. Swart does want people to do—but only the right people must—about the guns.

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Juvenile Handicap (F)—DAME QUICKLY. Danger. Laughter.

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Progress Five—FUNAMBULIST. Danger. Xmas Cracker.

Three-Year-Old Stakes—APPLE AMBER. Danger. Sky Respect.

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