



Ghana Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, addresses the Pan-African Conference in Accra. The banner in the background reads: "We Prefer Independence with Danger to Servitude in Tranquility."



Mr. Ezekiel Mphahlele, formerly literary editor of "Drum" magazine, now on the staff of a high school in Nigeria, was one of the representatives of the South African A.N.C. at the Accra conference.

ACCRA CONFERENCE—A MILESTONE IN AFRICAN HISTORY



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Tom Mboya, Kenya African leader, who was chairman of the Accra conference.

THROUGHOUT the progressive world the All-Africa People's Conference which completed its work at Accra last week has been hailed as an event of the greatest importance.

"An important milestone in the forward march of the African people who have suffered terribly from the colonial oppressors", said the Soviet paper *Izvestia*. "A great inspiration to the African people who have been strangled by the imperialists for hundreds of years by the worst oppression and racial discrimination", said Iraq's *Al Bilad*.

Attended by delegates from 62 organisations representing 200 million Africans the conference adopted a series of resolutions aimed at increasing unity and mutual help in the fight to speed the end of imperialist domination in Africa.

Paying special attention to South Africa, the conference called for a boycott of the Union's products and set up a permanent secretariat in Accra to give material aid to the oppressed peoples of South Africa.

NEW AGE, WHICH WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, WAS PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ISSUE PASSPORTS TO OUR TWO REPRESENTATIVES, GOVAN MBEKI AND BRIAN BUNTING.

Nevertheless special arrangements were made for news coverage, and the following is an on the spot account of the conference:

Conference Diary

By Our Special Representative
GHANA'S great community centre, a white painted building within sight of the sea, is
(Continued on page 8)

Police Bid to Stop ANC Delegates Reaching Durban

THE gross interference with delegations going to the A.N.C. National Conference in Durban last week testifies to the alarming growth of immoral and corrupt practices in the civil service and police force in S.A. today. Vast sums of the tax-payers' money are spent to deploy police to be on the alert for delegates going to Congress conferences, to arrest such delegates on flimsy charges, to delay them or prevent their reaching conferences altogether.

The experiences of the delegations from the Easter Cape provide yet another example of arbitrary and corrupt behaviour which must not be regarded as "normal" but should be exposed and fought by the people of South Africa. Arrangements had been made to transport delegates from the Eastern Cape to Durban in lorries, and the impression was given by the local Transportation Board, Port Elizabeth, that permits would be granted. The delegates were required to submit their names and also their tax receipts. These con-

(Continued on page 3)



Chief Lutuli leads the A.N.C. conference in song at the end of one of its sessions in Durban recently. On the platform with Chief are, from the left, Alfred Neo, Diza Putini, A.N.C. Chaplain, Oliver Tambo, G. S. D. Nyembe and Moses Mabhidia.



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

Police Need Better Training

I suggest that a new school be built for training better police who would be instructed on a model of human sympathy and not only be trained in chasing Africans as though they were grey-hounds after an electric hare. It appears that the modern way of training police does not include elementary study in law, judging from their behaviour in the field. However I have realised that in quelling disturbances of any kind any white man in the street can be recruited as long as he is capable of using a baton.

How can we live as neighbours when the other party is pressing vengeance on us in the execution of their duties as police? The police should remember they are protectors of the public and not confiscators of people's property and intimidators.

READER

Sekhukhaneland.

BUILD A NATION

It is apparent that Africans are disinclined. To achieve our national freedom and independence in this country we must come together as brothers and build up a black nation.

When building up this nation we must commit to memory that a nation is not created by law, legal enactment. All that can be said now is that we must build a body of people who will come to possess a very strong sentiment of kinship and unity. Africans truly have a country of their origin and our sentiments will therefore normally be in relation to this specific country.

The task then remains for our leaders to promote unity amongst Africans. We must hold national meetings to discuss the hindrances in our political struggle.

SIPHO XABASHE

Barberton, Tvl.

PREGNANT WOMEN WILL UNDERSTAND

PREGNANT women will sympathise and understand the financial needs of New Age probably better than any other section of our community. It is said that at one stage or other during pregnancy women get an uncontrollable urge for some little tit-bit with which to appease their appetite. The harassed husband searches high and low to procure it so as to satisfy this need of his wife since he is afraid that by failing to do so the proper development of the unborn child may be affected. Quite recently a very good friend of ours in London wrote urgently for half a pound of unsugared mebos to be sent for here to his pregnant wife who was craving for this particular delicacy. We sent her several pounds of the stuff just to be on the safe side, as any other mothers will vouch for the authenticity of such cases. They say that it is an awful feeling—a sort of emptiness which simply must be fulfilled.

They are lucky. Invariably their needs are satisfied and so will New Age recently not so blessed. That horrible empty feeling is never completely gratified in our case. It is a permanent feature of our life. There is always a void in the coffers of our newspaper, in spite of the fact that

Identity Cards and Passes

An identity card as issued to white women is an identity card and that's about all. It is not connected with items like income tax and other red tape regulations which govern African women. In fact an identity card is a very great asset and advantage in any country.

A reference book is something very different. A reference book includes the profession or place of work of the holder, residence, tax and other things. This implies that as soon as every African woman is expected to possess a reference book the women will have to be stopped in the streets and books demanded from them. It would mean arrest for those who cannot produce them, separation from children and also the problem of women being molested by the police.

GEORGE T. DLAMINI

Africanists Wasting Time

In the press of this country statements have been made by Africanists, saying "The great feat of the ANC will close his shop."

The Africanists are just wasting their time by dreaming like this. When today our Congress has got into the higher power they think of putting it down, but they are too late.

We of the Congress do not consider a member by colour or nationality, but accept everybody as long as they are struggling on the same lines as Congress.

The ANC is a great giant. When it roars the opposition run for help.

K.

Natalspruit, Tvl.

Women Injured in Baton Charge

On November 24th, 1958, all African women in Evaton were taken by A.S. police to go to the N.A.D. Pass Office where they would be issued with reference books. The police told them that these reference books would help the aged women to receive their pensions.

This announcement led to the women breaking up into two opposed camps, as the residents of Evaton did during the time of the historical bus boycott. The slogan: "Azikhwelwa" turned into "Awa-phuthwa."

On Wednesday, the following day, many women demonstrated against the issuing of these passes. These were threatened and intimidated by police. Some of them were arrested while some received injuries from baton charges.

Their case was on December 15th, and is still proceeding.

E. KODISANG

Evaton.

Complaint Against Maseru Officials

On December 1, I went to visit Mr. Lebera at the Central Jail, Maseru. Mr. Tepeko was admitted to the jail because he was mentally sick. When I arrived there I was permitted to see him by an African warder. A few minutes later while I was talking to Mr. Lebera, Mr. Dove the superintendent of the jail arrived and asked what I wanted. When I told him I had come to see Mr. Lebera he told me to get out of the place. Before I could do so he ordered the warders to put me out and in a minute I was surrounded by warders and Mr. Dove shouted "You think I don't know you were deported, you damn press reporter." When I was outside I did not want to see you near this place. If I see you again I will put you in jail for six months or £100 fine.

I went to see the District Commissioner and he called Mr. Farquharson, the Director of Prisons, to come and see him about it. He arrived after a while and when I told him of the incident he said I had had no right to visit the jail on weekdays although I also said I had been told by the African warders that I could visit Mr. Lebera at that time. Mr. Farquharson was not keen to discuss the matter further.

I want to know from the British government whether we have no right to see our brothers and sisters in jail, or is it only so in Basutoland?

JACK MOSIANE

Maseru, Basutoland.

Passes Like Dog Tickets

As from the 17th of last month I have been observing for these "dom passes," some from the farms, some from town and even those staying inside the Eratation of the field. They took the passes with no hurt in their minds and hearts. I really felt that they lack organisation.

I am even shocked to find that school-children are paying for these "dom passes." Where does the Government think they get money to buy these passes? Our mothers and grandmothers are brought to be photographed without a cloth or beret on their heads. What is the meaning of that? Does the Government think that we are monkeys? Further they have hung these "dom passes" like dog's tickets around their necks.

Women do not need passes, Verwoerd.

R. MNISI

Ermelo, Tvl.

EDITORIAL

WHO ARE THE INCITERS OF VIOLENCE?

NATIONALIST Cabinet Ministers and clerics indulged in their customary orgies on Dingane's Day, which they call the Day of the Covenant.

They have made it a religious holiday, but the sentiments they expressed can hardly be described as Christian.

Verwoerd himself, and many of his underlings, declared that the Afrikanervolk stood before a second Battle of Blood River.

"We fight for our very existence," said Verwoerd at Blood River. "We stand with our backs to the wall and fight for the life of the folk and our descendants. . . . May the Blood River of the future — and perhaps the Blood River of the world — be a victory without bloodshed."

But the implication is clear — if necessary blood will be shed to preserve White Supremacy. And not only in South Africa but also on a world scale, Verwoerd calls for the White man to be ready for war, if necessary, to prevent his "submergence" by the Non-Whites.

This is indeed a philosophy of violence and despair. With this attitude, the Nationalist Government can never bring peace to South Africa. On the contrary, they guarantee conflict, because they would rather fight and die than share their privileges with the Non-Whites.

The Nationalist Government continually accuses those who oppose its rule of inciting to violence or, in extreme cases, of planning to overthrow the Government by force and violence.

But it is clear that it is the Nationalist Government itself which, by refusing to meet the reasonable wishes of the people, is the main source of all provocation to violence.

All democrats desire peaceful change and progress; but the Nationalist Government prepares for a second Blood River. Clearly, it is the Nationalists who are the warmongers, and they must be exposed and branded as such.

A FAREWELL TO PASTERNAK

Mr. John Cooper's noisy, slightly hysterical and I think, stupid letter does help to throw light on why Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago* has been "banned" in the Soviet. So many of us, about freedom, so much hot angry writing about the "material conditions of freedom"—but Mr. Cooper and his pals will ban any actual freedom of *driving them* at first stirring of freedom to ask what freedom is, or what the "material conditions" of freedom really are, or whether freedom has really happened, they reach for their Commissions to extinguish the opposition.

Now comes the case of Pasternak and again you are on the side of the silencers and the suppressors. Pasternak has his weaknesses, but his genuine integrity, his wisdom and his sense of life (Bunting scarcely quotes him fairly) are unmistakable—one cannot doubt that he is a nobler and profounder man than Mr. Cooper or even Mr. Bunting.

The naive and philosophical literary theories which are put forward when condemning him have strikingly failed in forty years to produce a comparable writer. No wonder the conformist Soviet Writers' Union attacks him with such savagery!

J. E. STEWART.

Roma, Basutoland.

[Dr. Zhivago, an adulterer, a man who abandons his wife and children when they most need his help, who turns his back on suffering humanity when his medical skill and knowledge might have helped them, who has no social conscience but who only to live for himself, can by no stretch of the imagination be described as a noble figure, however much one may pity him or admire the talent of his creator.

As for Soviet writers, were Gorky, Sholokhov, Tolstoy, Mavlaovsky not fit to win a Nobel Prize?—Ed.]

Mr. Cooper urges all who enjoy little or no individual liberty, to hate the exploiters . . . bitterly and utterly.

I feel his outlook is emotion charged and wrong. What is necessary is a hatred of the system, not of the people or even of individuals. As such they are only victims of nature's laws. After all quite often the exploited become the exploiters.

Only a clear concept of dialectics will explain these paradoxes and only a clear concept and understanding of our fellow men can give the individual true dignity, and what is more enable him to gather and utilise all his resources to secure his liberty.

Mr. Cooper, carried away by his emotion, has missed the point made by Mr. Bunting in his article: the amazing fact of a man who has lived all his life in the Soviet Union and has been unable to free himself of ancient outmoded ideas and habits of pre-revolutionary times and now, to the great delight of the capitalists, has built himself a wishy-washy ivory-towered wishful-thinking dreamland in the form of a book.

F. M. JOYNER.

Matatiele.

(This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.)

Pen Pals Wanted

A friend in Sweden has just written to me in connection with young Swedes who would like to get in touch with South African pen-friends who are interested in jazz, politics and world affairs.

Those interested should write to Mr. Karl Gunnar Knutson, 10 Fribergstratan, Stockholm Vallingby, Sweden, and he will distribute all letters.

ENOCH S. MOROKO
Box 1641, Johannesburg.

CONFERENCE MARKS NEW STAGE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Argument with The Special Branch

From Govan Mbeki

THE 46th Annual National Conference of the A.N.C. was probably more significant than any similar one held in recent years. It took place after the organisation had gone through one of the most trying times. At no other time in its history did it ever have to face up to such well-timed and well-prepared plans to wreck it from within as it encountered during this year.

The Nationalist government synchronised its pressure from without with the activities of a fifth column within and attacked on a number of fronts. The intensification of the issue of passes to women, the police terrorist tactics in rural and urban areas, the mass trials, were part of a bigger plan to destroy the A.N.C. On some of these fronts the organisation suffered temporary set-backs, adding to the confused state which suited the activities of disrupters and held out promising signs for the apostles of battlefield to deliver the knock-out blow.

Against this background the Nationalists raised Dr. Verwoerd to the leadership of their party.

RE-ORGANISATION

After the Congress membership had taken firm action to weed out the fifth column it immediately turned its attention not only to the problem of re-organisation but also to rallying the people around its policy which is gaining the support of millions of people in this country and other lands.

The impudent and unwavering manner in which the delegates dealt with any stray elements from the ranks of the disrupters showed that Congress branch troubles at home learnt a lesson from recent events.

The two delegations from the Western Native Township Branch were dealt with firmly. They were ordered to go back and settle their own internal affairs. The Transvaal Provincial Executive was also curtly told to see to it that it smoothed branch troubles at home.

A handful who came from East London were ordered out by the Cape delegation even before conference was aware that they had come. A similar group which called itself New Brighton Central Branch was also ordered out.

SET DETERMINATION

But the organisation's mood and set determination to carry the struggle for freedom a stage further is reflected in the resolutions the conference passed. Three of these which were passed in the closed session, attended by delegates only, call for special attention.

- The Conference established a Planning Council to recommend a comprehensive plan to fight the passes both for men and women.

- The resolution sets a time limit within which the recommendations of the Planning Council should be ready and presented at a Special Conference. The National Executive is given five months within which to convene the special conference.

- A detailed resolution for the mounting of a nation-wide economic boycott of Nationalist products also calls upon the National Executive to ask the liberatory movements in the whole of Africa to boycott Nationalist products. This resolution has fortunately coincided with a similar resolution passed at the Accra Conference.

- The third resolution calls upon Congress branches to fulfil membership targets and also to participate in a special drive to ensure a minimum member-

ship target for the trade unions. The Conference calls upon branches to fulfil these targets within a period of four months.

PLAN REQUIRED

To those who have known Congress Conferences over some years—the stormy sessions, the fiery emotional speeches that were poured forth, the wrangling and the shaking of fists—the greater part of this Conference must have appeared dull. It was against this background that the delegates calmly resolved to refer the most burning issue in the life of the

NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED

The following is a full list of A.N.C. Executive members, excluding ex-officio members and those who have to be appointed by the executive such as Organising Secretary and Speaker.

Chief A. J. Lutuli, President General; O. R. Tambo, Deputy-President-General; Duma Nokwe, Secretary-General; A. E. Letele, Treasurer-General; T. Mqota; D. Nyembe; A. Nzo; L. Masina; T. Tshumbe; C. Mayekiso; R. Resha; W. Z. Conco.

African, the most hated instrument of oppression, Public Enemy No. 1—the pass—into a Planning Council. There was no talk of burning passes but the delegates made it clear that the time had come to take a stand against the rigours of the Pass system.

In anticipation of the plan, the delegates provided a special task for the branches to ensure that when the time comes to carry out such a plan a certain measure of organisational efficiency will have been attained at all levels of the Congress structure. The decision to reach minimum membership targets within a given time is an indication of the importance which

Congress attached to the resolution on passes.

THE BROAD CANVAS—AFRICA

In the resolution re-affirming its decision to conduct the people's struggle under its policy as set out in the Freedom Charter and calling upon the N.E.C. to strengthen fraternal ties in the Congress alliance, conference fortified the incoming N.E.C. with a mandate that should enable them to act swiftly and ruthlessly against remnants of wreckers; elements—the Africanists and also the whole paraphernalia of well-paid renegade commentators of newspapers and agents. And with a mandate of this nature the N.E.C. would never be forgiven if it was not sufficiently vigilant and allowed the disruptors once again to practise their fifth column activities within the organisation.

When the volunteers opened the folding doors after a six-hour unbroken closed session, a flood of humanity poured into the hall. It was the public—Africans, European, Indians. They had stood for hours outside. With every available space occupied with hundreds standing inside and outside, the people greeted the news of the unanimous election of Chief A. J. Lutuli as President-General for the next three years with thunderous applause.

But the most lasting impression one had of the whole conference was that in their calm despatch of conference business the delegates seemed to be sensing the immensity of future events which may unfold in the course of 1959.

It is the beginning of a new era as the forces of liberation in the whole of Africa grapple with those who have oppressed Africa's millions for centuries.



Members of the special branch arguing with the chairman, Mr. G. S. D. Nyembe, at the A.N.C. Conference after being asked to vacate seats in the hall during the public session so that A.N.C. members could be seated. The chairman was not in a position to help them and they remained standing at the back of the hall almost throughout conference.

Police Bid To Sabotage ANC Conference

(Continued from page 1) ditions, although of doubtful legality, were complied with. On the day the delegates were supposed to leave, the Board informed them that they could not issue permits until the Native Commissioner was consulted.

The delegates went to see the Native Commissioner, who informed them that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the issue of permits to transport persons from one area to another. He then phoned the Transportation Board in the presence of the delegates and was informed that the Board had never sent the delegates to him!

Delegates then sought other means of getting to conference. The delegations had to be considerably cut down and private cars were found which were prepared to transport delegates. All along the way police had been deployed to stop and interfere with the movement of delegates. Two or three groups were arrested in Colimvabo in the Transkei on the pretext that they had no permits to enter the area. The fact that delegates were Transkeian-born meant nothing to the police. In fact in one instance the delegate was in his own home when arrested!

They were thrown out of the Transkei and had to get to Durban via Bloemfontein, which added hundreds of miles to the journey. Delegates who had left P.E. on Friday afternoon arrived on Sunday morning.

It was an epic struggle which showed how determined our people are to reach their own parliament.



The people burst into song "Mayihambe Le Vangeli Igylwe Zonke" (Let this Gospel spread throughout the whole country) after the resolution to organise a new campaign against the pass laws was passed.

THE WIND IN THE VALLEY

THE township lay in shadow, the sun having set behind the fires of the brickfield. It looked contented like a dusky cat curled up in the lap of the valley. An occasional motor car and the cries of children accentuated the stillness, the early sleepiness.

who was a bandmaster; from Laurie who had thrown herself to a scamp and fall-bird. . . . Perhaps Lulu was like him, but she was still too young to say. On two occasions the police had come to search the house in connection with the Coloured organisation of which Leslie was the chairman. . . . People said that he would bring grief to the family. . . . But old man Williams stood by his son.

Angry voices rang out of his house—unnecessarily loud as if dispelling a pressing fear. As he entered the door, he caught sight of Brunities and Hendricks, leading figures in the Klurlingsvolkbond. He could not control the urge to void his bitterness on the group of men. His greenish eyes twinkled maliciously. "This is the kind of thing that will happen as long as we tear apart the haystack in search of the pure—the juiver Coloured needle. . . . He shrugged his thin shoulders. "Ex-Coloured today. . . . ex-everthing tomorrow."

A deep sympathy settled in the old man's eyes. He looked at the men, drowning now, clutching blindly for any straw in the swirl and felt sorry as if he were not a part of it all. Then it struck him. It was a wind, a wind of wild unreason and yet terrible logic that was blowing through the land, scattering everything—like a rogue elephant on the rampage.

"There's a wild wind that's blowing over the land. . . . Gentlemen, you'll excuse me a moment. . . . Then he shrugged his shoulders and went into the kitchen.

He found his wife sitting before the stove, white-checked, with a fern lark in her eyes. He took her in his arms and stroked the humped shoulders. "Don't worry, Bökkie, don't be afraid, I'm not going to know what he was saying. . . . The high wind will blow over. . . . But God, after all this. . . ."

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This Story by ALFRED HUTCHINSON won First Prize in the New Age Short Story Competition

"Robbery—naked robbery! That's what it is!" Venter's face, red with anger, poked at the group of men. His finger wagged angrily at the White townships of Albertskroon and Greyton and came to a halt on the West Park Cemetery. "It's them. . . . Even when they are dead. . . ."

A tremor went through the group of men, but they remained glued to the spot. "God, man, God, man," old man Williams muttered, his voice shaking. "Hell, man. They can't do this to us. . . . He cast an anguished look at the valley, the smoke curling to the sky. "Can't do it! My God they've done too much! They've even made killers of us. . . . What more. . . ."

"Africans," said the old man still looking at the houses in the valley. "Africans. . . . Venter shrugged his shoulders carelessly. The old man was looking at the valley, caressing it with his tired greenish fingers, and he mistimed with recollection—the grind, sweat and stint of many years. Long hours over a sewing machine had caused a hump on Venter's shoulders and aged her before her time.

Twenty-five years ago, where now the township stood, had been a brickfield, torn and bleeding, plundered to build houses in the city. It was as if an epidemic of a gargantuan pox had swept over it, pitting and gutting it most abominably. Sophistown, straggling up the crest of the hill as if petrified by the carnage in the valley. A company bought the hurt piece of earth for a song. Europeans did not want it and it was offered to the Coloured people. Starved for place of their own, they bought stands and staked everything. It would be a home after all the years of homelessness; somewhere to return to after the day in the city, somewhere to bring up one's children. . . . home. Williams and his young wife had been among the pioneers. Lorry-loads of garbage and bulldozers filled up and levelled the holes. And the once wretched valley responded to the loving care lavished on it and its winds healed and grouts of green brought forgetfulness of its former torment. Now only a few scars remained betraying the bitter bygone ordeals.

"Damn it all! It was not good enough for them then. . . . Now it's too good for us!" Old man September shook a parched fist at the valley. "That's it," said old man Williams. "Everything's too good for us."

Peace stood in knots in the dusk. The air was charged with panic, with alarm. In the dusk came Leslie Williams and Williet Dunn, breathless, pale as death. "That's it," said old man Williams. "Everything's too good for us."

Venter let the leaflet twirl to the ground without reading it. "What do they know? Do they have property to defend? A

Old man Williams was on the point of defending his youngest son who had turned out different from the others. . . . different from Philip who was teaching in the Cape; different from Joe

out of everything. It was just like him, the old man thought; blaming everybody else; hinting darkly that Africans were responsible for the tragedies of re-classification; hinting, too, that the presence of Africans in the township was connected with the present uprooting. The old man spat with disgust. Venter was making him sick, Venter with his anti-this, anti-that, anti-teachers, anti-father, anti-anti-even-his-African mother whom he pretended was a servant when visitors called at his house. The sparse lights glistening on the tarmac brought up a load of weariness as old man Williams

THE JUDGES' REPORT

AS usual, the New Age story competition attracted a large number of entries, and the judging was a rewarding experience. Reading the stories was like directing a searchlight into the homes and lives of people all over South Africa. Many of the competitors had never written fiction before, but because of the topicality and sincerity of the stories—and the live, potent nature of the raw material—the stories trod bravely with life. The most frequent themes, as one would expect, were against injustice and poverty—yet few of the stories could be called depressing. Humour, optimism, courage, and a kind of sardonic, wry wisdom—the very qualities that sustain the people in their harsh lives—gave the stories a vibrant, vital quality.

The first prize goes to A. Hutchinson for his outstanding *High Wind in the Valley*. The choice was unanimous. This story, sharp as an etching, unforgettably captures the crisis and turmoil of a group of

people torn away from their land and their homes by the Group Areas Act. A tragic story, yet one in which the tragedy is transformed into purposefulness by the courage of a few of the participants. We hope that this award will comfort and encourage Hutchinson in his long, unorthodox safari through Africa.

The second prize goes to Roland Poala for *Jeezehl*. The story reveals an instinctive gift for narrative, the ability (so difficult to achieve) to shape the raw material into a story without destroying its grain and texture. We hear all too often of the smart young car thieves, the smart young set of the urban townships. Here, these characters are presented as real people, and the environment that lures them into the (to them) glamorous life of crime cleverly depicted. Congratulations, Roland Poala. We hope to see your name signed to many stories in the future.

We thought *Come Back Tomorrow* by Martin Russel contained the best writing of all the entries. The reason it did not come higher in the placings was that the story was brilliant fragment, imbued with warmth and sincerity. Here too is a writer of real talent.

T. H. Gwala appears in the prizes again with *The Knock*—the story of the arrest of a man in the middle of the night for the treason trial. Very skillfully handled, the characters neatly drawn, and with that feeling of overtones, and of a life going on around and behind the story which marks all of Gwala's writing.

Fifth place is shared by *The Pot*, again by Gwala, and *The Perfect Present* by Emily Thothela. Quite different in subject and treatment, indicating the great range covered by the entries, both these stories will be enjoyed by New Age readers.

HARRY BLOOM.
R. E. VAN DER ROSS.
UYS KRIGER.

his eye caught Lulu, pot in hand, looking at them with a tender light in her eyes. Leslie had arrived. Old man Williams knew that the men had been waiting for him and he remembered Venter's scornful tone. And yet, old grey men that some of them were, they came to him for advice.

"Where's your Coloured Organisation now?" It was Brunities—the jeering tones biting the air. "Mine? If we stopped wrangling in order to reach the White sun. . . ."

"But Leslie. . . . The Government can't do this to us. . . . That's what we had thought." Leslie, short and stocky and with a very broad forehead, spoke with a slight halt, with the suggestion of a stutter. He looked at the men, slowly sizing up every one. "Our turn has come. . . . We thought we were sheltered in the hollow where the winds would blow. Of course we were mistaken. . . . as you can see. . . ."

"Right, Les," said the old man now standing in the doorway. "The old man was on the point of waving at them when he caught sight of Venter's perennially angry face turned to him. Anxiety tugged at the old man's heart. Would anything go well with the meeting? The bell tinkled, calling for silence. He prepared himself to listen and felt good to see Leslie in the chair.

The meeting had been called by the Coloured Organisation to protest against the township claimant making the township a White area. . . . "Mr. Chairman," rang a voice from the back and all heads turned as if blown by a contrary wind. It was the Coloured Organisation's pure Coloured organisation. . . . "A slow his like water through a newly-buried pipe. . . . I'm shaking, Mr. Chairman, because it's time we Coloured people developed pride in our race. . . . He plunged his headlong, impelled by the blis which had grown into an ominous growl. "Otherwise we'll lose our identity. . . ."

An angry phalanx of fists and voices roared at the sky. A woman's shrill voice broke a course, bespattering the crowd. "Volskoud dog!" The bell tinkled and tinkled forlornly. . . . and slowly Leslie was restored. "Mr. Chairman, my question hasn't been answered. "An angry roar, a tumult, drowned his words. A woman, shouting a spray of spittle into Brunities's face, was pushing his nose with her finger. . . . He had suddenly grown angry, the hood drained out. Old man Williams found himself in front of Brunities, his throat dry, his feet shaking his fist into his face. "Damn it all man! Damn your, pure rubbish! Our homes . . . Then he looked at the platform where Leslie was forlornly tinkling the bell and stopped shouting.

"Today you are angry—only today!" Leslie's voice, throbbing with anger, silenced the crowd. "Is it because your homes and property are threatened? Is it the first time that this sort of thing has happened? Don't you know about Sophistown which will soon be a mud-pit? Don't you know that the Indian people have been staring ruin in the face for so long. . . . His shoulders reared up, then he spoke again. He was no longer laughing at them. His voice was sad, the words drawn blood-hot from his heart. "You know the history

of this township—the jewel of the Coloured people—the model. . . . You built it with your own hands. You filled the holes and built homes on what was once a charred, twisted, wretched piece of earth. . . . Old man Williams looked at his son and blinked his eyes, wondering how Leslie knew these things, knew them with his heart. . . . As if his own hands had nursed the earth back to health; as if he knew that every bribe had been an undertaking. . . . As if the knowledge had come from his loins and with his mother's milk. . . . Old man Williams who had raised his hand without knowing it, felt a slight shock when Leslie said, "Mr. Williams . . ."

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"Mr. Chairman. . . . Through the film of tears old man Williams saw Venter red and angry as ever, preparing to speak. "Mr. Chairman, we have heard speeches about the charred and twisted beginnings of this township; of the giant sacrifices. . . . And we have heard, too, how this is being taken away. . . . He surveyed the meeting. "Mr. Chairman, we must not be swept away by fiery speeches; we must be on guard against quislings and adventurers in our midst. . . . The crowd writhed and twisted. "Come to the point!" "That's the point. . . . We must boycott. . . . Venter looked at the people around him and his face grew meanly. His voice boomed with fury. "We must be prepared to defend our homes with our lives, with our blood and show. . . . Now, our Uncle certain clapping. . . . The crowd kneeled and tightened itself up. A flying squad car sidled to the side of the meeting, its aerial sizzling like a switch. Venter swallowed hard. "Yes, show. . . . show. . . . He dipped his eyes to the ground. "The government can have no idea of the suffering. . . . The government cannot have forgotten that we Coloured people have always been law-abiding; never causing any trouble; hard-working and co-operative. . . . He had burst into a sweat. "Don't be misled by adventurers' talk about . . ."

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black suit saw some five hundred people gathered in the open space. He felt sorry that his wife could not come with him—complication of a headache. The wind threw swirls of reddish brown dust in his face. But treading his way through the crowd, exchanging greetings on every side, he felt light. Most of them were in white shorts and tennis rackets, matrons in black dresses and bonnets of a bygone age. . . . Next-white faces, sharp noses in dark faces, flat noses in brown faces. . . . hair of all kinds of texture. . . . Mrs. Bowers, who, at her daughter's coming-of-age party, had happily begun to "sloan die taal"—to speak Zulu to the dismay of everybody present. . . . Peter, whose hair had been pulled apart by re-classification. . . . The meek Leonards who lived in exile because they were dark. . . . And his eyes swept the valley which had housed them all.

Leslie was sitting on the back of a lorry together with Willie Dunn. The old man was on the point of waving at them when he caught sight of Venter's perennially angry face turned to him. Anxiety tugged at the old man's heart. Would anything go well with the meeting? The bell tinkled, calling for silence. He prepared himself to listen and felt good to see Leslie in the chair.

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The grand old man of the Pan-African movement, Dr. W. E. Burghardt du Bois, distinguished Negro scholar and author, at present on a visit to the Soviet Union, was unable to attend the Accra conference in person, but sent a message which was read by his wife.

Dr. du Bois, now 90 years of age, has been a fighter for the freedom of the American Negroes for more than 60 years and director of Special Research for the National Association for the Advancement of the Coloured People. We reproduce extracts from his message below.

SOCIALISM OR CAPITALISM—AFRICA MUST CHOOSE

Dr. du Bois.

FELLOW Africans, about 1755, my great-great grandfather was kidnapped on the coast of West Africa and taken by the Dutch to the colony of New York in America, where he was sold in slavery. About the same time a French Huguenot, Jacques du Bois, migrated from France to America and his great-grandson, born in West Indies and with Negro blood, married the great-great-granddaughter of my black ancestor. I am the son of this couple, hence my French name and my African loyalty.

I had hopes to deliver this word in person, but this was not possible. I have therefore asked my wife Shirley Graham, to read it to you. It is simple and direct. In this great crisis of the world's history, when standing on the highest peaks of human accomplishment we look forward to Peace and backward to War; when we look up to Heaven and down to Hell, let us mince no words.

We face triumph or tragedy without alternative. Africa, ancient Africa has been called by hand and brain and the ones whose collective destiny is the chief object of all effort.

Gradually every state is coming to this concept of its aim. The great Communist states like the Soviet Union and China have surrendered completely to this idea. The Scandinavian states have yielded partially; Britain has yielded in some respects, France in part and even the United States adopted the New Deal which was largely socialism; though today further American socialism is held at bay by 60 great groups of labor unions who control individual capitalists and the trade union leaders.

As ever, preparing to speak. "Mr. Chairman, we have heard speeches about the charred and twisted beginnings of this township; of the giant sacrifices. . . . And we have heard, too, how this is being taken away. . . . He surveyed the meeting. "Mr. Chairman, we must not be swept away by fiery speeches; we must be on guard against quislings and adventurers in our midst. . . . The crowd writhed and twisted. "Come to the point!" "That's the point. . . . We must boycott. . . . Venter looked at the people around him and his face grew meanly. His voice boomed with fury. "We must be prepared to defend our homes with our lives, with our blood and show. . . . Now, our Uncle certain clapping. . . . The crowd kneeled and tightened itself up. A flying squad car sidled to the side of the meeting, its aerial sizzling like a switch. Venter swallowed hard. "Yes, show. . . . show. . . . He dipped his eyes to the ground. "The government can have no idea of the suffering. . . . The government cannot have forgotten that we Coloured people have always been law-abiding; never causing any trouble; hard-working and co-operative. . . . He had burst into a sweat. "Don't be misled by adventurers' talk about . . ."

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On the other hand, the African tribe, whence all of you sprung, was communistic in its very beginnings. No tribesman was free. All were servants of the tribe. From whom you were the father and voice. There is no trace of private enterprise or individual initiative. It was the tribe which carried on trade and the chief was the mouthpiece of the common will.

Sweated Labour
When now, with a certain suddenness, Africa is whirled by the bitter struggle of dying private capitalism into the last great battle-ground of its death throes, you are being tempted to adopt at least a passing private capitalism as a step to some partial socialism. This would be a grave mistake. For four hundred years Europe and North America have prospered in material and comfort on theft of coloured labour and the land and materials which rightly belong to those colonial peoples. They are still today determined to make most of the world's people work for the comfort of the few: this is today true in London, Paris and New York.

The dominant exploiting nations are willing to yield more to the demands of the mass of men than they were ready to do at their yielding takes the form of sharing the loot — not of stopping the looting. It takes the form of

stopping socialism by force and not of stopping the fatal effects of private capitalism. Either capital belongs to all or power is denied to all.

Call for Sacrifices
As I have said, this is a call for sacrifice. Great Goethe sang, "Thou shalt forego, Shalt do without. If Africa unites, it will be because each part, each nation, each tribe gives up a part of its heritage for the good of the whole. That is what union means; that is what Pan-African means: When the child is born into the tribe the price of his growing up is giving over a part of his freedom to the tribe. This he soon learns or dies. When the tribe becomes a union of tribes, the individual tribe surrenders some part of its freedom to the paramount tribe.

When the nation arises, the constituent tribes and the great groups must yield power and some freedom to the demands of the nation or the nation dies before the world. Your loathing of much-loved languages must yield to the few world tongues which serve the largest number of people and promote understanding and world literature.

Dilemma
This is the great dilemma which faces Africans today; faced one and all: Give up individual rights for the needs of Mother Africa; give up tribal independence for the needs of the nation. Forget nothing, but set everything in its rightful place: the Glory of the six Ashanti Wars against Britain; the wisdom of the Fanti Confederation; the growth of Nigeria; the song of the Songhay and Hausa; the rebellion of the Mahdi and the hands of Ethiopia; the greatness of the Baobab. You are Chaka; the revenge of Mutessi and many other happenings and men; but above all — Africa, Mother of Men.

Your nearest friends and neighbours are the coloured people of China and India, the rest of Asia, the Middle East and the sea isles, once close bound to the heart of Africa and now long alien. Give up the greed of Europe. Your bond is not mere colour of skin but the deeper experience of wage slavery and alien contempt. See the bones with the white world is closest to those who support and defend China and help India and not those who exploit the Middle East and South America.

Wake Up, Africa
Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; reject the weakness of missionaries who teach neither love nor brotherhood, but chiefly the virtues of private profit from capital, stolen from your land and labour. Africa awake, put on the beautiful robes of Pan-African Socialism!

Strive against it with every fibre of your bodies and souls. A body dignified, a mind dignified, even if they are black, can sever free Africa; they will simply sell it into new slavery to old masters overseas.

You are not helpless. You are the buyers, and to continue existence as sellers of capital, these great nations, former owners of the world, must sell or face bankruptcy. You are not compelled to buy all they offer now. You can wait. You can starve a while longer rather than sell your great heritage for a mess of western capitalistic pottage.

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Coloured Workers Unite to Fight I.C. Act

"Right To Work Should Be Free To All"

CAPE TOWN. A CONFERENCE OF Coloured workers and representatives of trade unions embracing 40,000 people employed in the Western Cape held last Monday night to work for the removal of racial discrimination enforced by the Industrial Conciliation Act.

A resolution passed at the conference declared that it would "unite the forces of all Non-European Organisations in South Africa to oppose the suggested amendments to the Act and to continue working for the removal of discriminatory clauses in the Act."

The meeting expressed its resolu-

tion in opposition to the implementation of Section 77 of the I.C. Act giving the Minister of Labour the power to over-ride the Industrial Conciliation Act.

RIGHT TO WORK

Opening the conference the convenor, Mr. G. Fletcher, who is chairman of the Cape Furniture Workers' Union, said: "The right to work and to earn a decent living should be free to all people. But we have found that the Industrial Tribunal, which is supposed to protect all races from unfair competition, has by its past determinations proved to us that it is there only to protect the interests of the white workers at our expense."

"The brutal action taken against our traffic police and the closing

of other jobs to Coloured people must make us realise that the time is overdue when we must make our voices heard in the protection of our human rights."

FEAR

"Fear — the meanest of all human motives — is today master

*New Age Wishes
All Readers the
Compliments of the
Season and All the
Best for 1959*

of us all. Unless we unite to fight for our rights we will have the things we fear most, such as starvation, unemployment, starvation and deprivation of our rights forced upon us."

The I.C. Act was immoral, economically unsound and contrary to all modern industrial development, and above all undemocratic, the conference declared. Large-scale industrial development in South Africa on which this country's prosperity was based had only been possible by drawing into productive activity the large numbers of workers of all races and colour and any curtailment of this trend must have serious effects on South Africa's economic expansion.

AFRICA AWAKENING

Speaking at the conference, Mr. E. A. Deane said that the whole of Africa is awakening and millions of non-white people in Africa and in other parts of the world would no longer be prepared to accept the policies of oppression in the Union. The time had come for the Coloured people to cease their apathy and to protest.

A committee of 12 was elected to work for the unity of non-white trade unions on a national basis in order to oppose the implementation of section 77 and free the trade unions from racial discrimination.

U.S.S.R. Concerned About Apartheid

The Soviet delegate at the United Nations, Mr. Arkady Sobolev, vigorously condemned apartheid in South Africa during the U.N. debate last week on the treatment of Indians in the Union.

"A situation has developed in South Africa where people whose only fault is that they have a non-white skin have lost all assurance of moral treatment," he said, adding that his government was "concerned with the gravity of the situation" in South Africa.

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED in West Germany rose by 353,000 this month to just on half a million, official statistics disclose. The industries which are hardest hit are steel, coal and textile.

Group Areas Puts Cinema Ban on Africans

CAPE TOWN.

THE banning of Africans from a chain of Non-European cinemas in the Peninsula, there has been no objection to the ban, and organisations alike.

The ban, which has been introduced under the Group Areas Act, means that Africans who wish to see a film show now go to Langa.

"It is an unfair and unnecessary thing," said the manager of one of the cinemas. "This is the only cinema in the Peninsula. There has never been any demand to us by our patrons for the exclusion of Africans from our shows. Every body comes to the cinema to enjoy themselves and they have done so, no matter whom they have been sitting next to. We are sorry to lose any of our customers."

NO REASON FOR BAN

The manager of an independent cinema in Athlone said: "This is silly. Nobody has objected to Africans attending this bioscope. As long as people, no matter who they are, pay their fare and behave themselves they are welcome. I can see no reason for the ban. Not very many Africans do attend the cinema and to prevent them from doing so . . ." He just shook his head.

In a statement the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation expressed once more its complete rejection of the Group Areas Act. "The banning of Africans from cinemas is proof of our repeated warning that Group Areas means the division of the population into racial pockets and will lead to racial antagonism. It is another step towards the relegation of the non-

white people to an inferior status. We call upon the Coloured people to stand by the Africans in the common struggle for human rights and justice for all people."

A VICIOUS INSTRUMENT

"The Group Areas Act, and the whole system of racial discrimination and oppression, is a vicious instrument designed to prevent the Non-European people from rising to their rightful place as free people in South Africa," said Mr. Oscar Mpeti, President of the A.N.C. in the Cape Province.

"The A.N.C. strongly condemns the banning of Africans from the cinema and calls upon the victims of this new discriminatory move not to fall into the trap of hatred, but to enter into the struggle for full equality for all people, irrespective of race or colour."

The proclamation prohibiting people of different races from sharing cinemas was made in November, 1957. Cinema owners had until January, 1958, to apply for permits to allow different races to attend the same cinemas. In the case of Africans these permits were refused by the Minister of the Interior about a month ago, and the ban came into force. There are about 20 Non-European cinemas in the Peninsula.

Cinemas which catered for Whites, Indians and Coloured patrons had to apply for permits to allow mixed audiences and these have been granted with the provision that separate entrances, separate seating and cloakrooms must be provided. There are only two such cinemas in Cape Town.

INCITEMENT SENTENCES REDUCED

JOHANNESBURG.— Sentences against eighteen Congressists who were convicted on an incitement charge in the Magistrates Court, were reduced on appeal by the Supreme Court. The charges arose from the April stay-at-home campaign.

There were twenty appellants altogether but two of them, Messrs. A. Jassat and Jacob Mogorana, were successful on appeal.

Stephen Segale, Transvaal President of the Youth League, and Isaac Bokala, ex-treasurer of the league, were both sentenced to twelve months imprisonment by

the magistrate. Their sentences have now been reduced to six months.

Sentences of three others — Hubert Mekuto, Christina Matthews and J. Majola — were reduced from six, five and three months to three, two and one month respectively.

The remaining thirteen were all given suspended sentences. They are Messrs. A. Selby, M. Bhana, I. Bhana, D. Uka, G. Yawda, F. Matthews, J. Alexander, J. Thebe, F. Mamamela, F. Mahudi and two women, Mrs. M. Gazo and Miss M. Lollan.

HUNDREDS FINED IN SURPRISE TAX SWOOP

CAPE TOWN. Police in the country areas of Paarl and Saldanha Bay have been descending upon hundreds of people there delivering summonses demanding that they appear in court for not paying the minimum personal tax of £1 for 1958.

To avoid appearing in court most of the victims of this surprise move by the revenue department and the police, have been compelled to pay sums of between £1 and £2 as admission of guilt fines, in addition to the tax.

Copies of the summonses together with piles of admission of guilt receipts shown to New Age by the Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, many of whose members have been af-

fected, stated that they were to appear at the different courts for contravention of Ordinance 31 of 1932 which covers the payment of personal taxes.

Mrs. Liz Abrahams, Secretary of the Union, said that none of the people involved had received requests from the Receiver of Revenue to supply information about their incomes, as is the usual practice. The people of these areas were taken completely by surprise when the demands to pay the taxes were accompanied by summonses to court. The union is investigating the matter.

The minimum tax of £1 on people who earn less than £150 per year was introduced last year.

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MR. & MRS. J. A. LA GUMA wish all comrades, friends and relatives the compliments of the season and a very successful New Year.

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Also Set of Dictionaries, cost £25 0s. Od., set for £15 0s. Od. Phone: 69-3291

UP M M ALEX

IT'S so hot nowadays that people are thinking of following the example of that D.R.C. practitioner and get themselves transfusions of gorilla blood. It's guaranteed to make you beat your breast and roar with energy. However, one man's blood is another man's poison, as those who plug the apartheid-transfusions line have said; so we are waiting for them to stock up supplies of gorilla blood for the use of D.R.C. boys before delivering future Blood River speeches.

BUT in spite of all the bloody speeches it appears that the younger "volk" still prefer the curves of Marilyn Monroe to the curves of gorilla faces of revised battle suits.

AND the bird who said that Communist literature resulted in the disruption of family life must have taken a lesson from Marx with the Urban Areas Act.

WE as a Christian nation have knowledge of the Bantu nation and are trying to do what is right and good and Christian. And Herr Herero in a bloody speech at Blood River.

After having proclaimed himself a devil on one occasion, nobody's going to be impressed by his plety.

AND even the fish wouldn't bite.

In a truly democratic country there would be no fuss made over a black boy being taken

into a white family, or a white marrying a non-white, but the Press reports of a farmer raising African children on his own, made one get the impression that said farmer had raised some rare species of cattle.

I suppose it's such an unusual thing for South Africa like raising a rose that has a different

★
By ALEX
LA GUMA
★



colour every day, that we can expect some race-conscious people to be startled.

★
IT was perhaps a good idea to give farm hands higher wages, said the Director of the KWV. It must have hit him like a jolt of home-made brandy.

★
WELL, it's here. Xmas, I mean, so allow me to wish all readers and others a vewwy newwy one and a proseyous Yaw Near and confound the Nats.

★
Thanks, too, to all who didn't forget this Alex when you sent your Xmas cards. See you in '59.

PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI RECEIVES ALGERIAN DELEGATES



Left to Right: Vice-premier Chen Yi, interpreter; Premier Chou En-lai; Yousef Ben Khedda; Mahmoud Sherif; Saad Dahlab.

CHINA AND ALGERIA HOLD TOP-LEVEL TALKS

Aid Promised For African Freedom Fight

DRAMATIC evidence of China's growing interest in Africa and her willingness to aid the struggle for independence of the people of this continent was the state visit — unreported in our press — to China last week of a top-level Algerian government delegation to hold discussions with the Chinese government.

The delegation of the Algerian government — whose existence is not even recognized by the Western powers — is headed by three cabinet ministers:—

Mahmoud Cherif, the Minister of Armaments and Supplies, Ben Yousef Ben Khedda, the Minister of Social Affairs, and Saad Dahlab, Head of the Ministry of Information.

The delegates have shown special interest in studying the experience of the Chinese army in guerrilla warfare, spending a full day with one of China's most experienced infantry divisions. They also showed great interest in Chinese-produced armaments.

BULWARK OF PEACE

Addressing the officers and men Mahmoud Cherif said: "The Algerian fighters hold in high esteem the Chinese People's Liberation Army, because it is the bulwark of peace in China and the world. "Your army, equipped with modern weapons, is youthful and vigorous. With this army and equipment, you can defeat any aggressors and safeguard your motherland."

"This army is and will remain to be the bulwark of peace and a strong barricade against imperialism," he said.

He declared that the fraternal relations between Algeria and China would see a new growth in the future.

At a state banquet to the guests, China's vice-premier Chen Yi told them: "The Chinese people have always cherished sympathy and concern for the Algerian people in their just struggle for independence and freedom.

"In the days to come, the Algerian people can always count on the resolute support of the 650 million Chinese people!" Chen Yi said.

"The Chinese people are deeply convinced that, no matter how difficult may be the road of the struggle, the Algerian people who have raised the banner of national liberation will surely triumph."

IRRESISTIBLE

Speaking of the consistent support given by the socialist countries for all oppressed nations in their struggle for independence and freedom, Chen Yi said: "With the support of the mighty socialist bloc, the national independence movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America have become an irresistible historical trend. The day when imperialism will breathe its last all over the world is drawing nearer and nearer."

"The socialist countries have stepped forward at every crucial point of struggle to support the independent Asian and African states, and have established friendly relations of peaceful coexistence with them."

Speaking in reply, Ben Yousef Ben Khedda reaffirmed the resolution of the Algerian people to fight the imperialists and to attain national independence and sovereignty. "The Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria, resolved to carry on the struggle till victory, remains a partisan of peace — but a peace with honour, dignity, freedom and national independence!" he said.

"GIGANTIC EFFORTS"

"Our visit has enabled us to see that the Chinese people, whose struggle for freedom and national independence marked an important date in the history of mankind, are making gigantic efforts for the construction of their country and have achieved enormous progress in all fields. The great results which they obtained in agriculture, industry and the sciences show that China is making a true leap forward," he said.

"This is a source of encouragement for our people who have been carrying on a heroic struggle for more than four years. The Algerian people are fighting an army of 600,000 men armed with the most modern equipment of war. The loss in human life and material wealth has been considerable. "In this war of colonial recon-

BASUTOLAND TAKES A STEP FORWARD

New Constitution Is Announced

AGREEMENT has been reached between the British government and the Basutoland Council on the main features of Basutoland's new constitution which, according to Lord Home, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, has "the object of placing more power and greater responsibility in the hands of the Basutho nation."

In terms of the constitution a Legislative Council, to be called the Basutoland National Council, will be established, but it will not have full power—"certain legislative and reserve powers will remain with the British High Commissioner."

The extent of these limitations is not yet known, and until they are available it is not possible to make any estimate of the extent of the new freedom gained by the Basutho people. With regard to the sphere left in the hands of the British, the Basutoland Council will have only the right "to discuss those matters with the High Commissioner."

The Council will consist of 80 members of whom half will be elected by the district councils. There will be an executive of whom four members will be elected and four will be British officials, one of them being the Resident Commissioner, who will preside.

FRANCHISE

The original proposal of the Basutoland Council that the franchise be restricted to Basutho only, has been adhered to. Non-Basutho British subjects in the territory will have the vote on the same roll as the Basutho, but this does not affect the existing laws disqualifying them from owning land, and prohibiting the entry of

Non-Basutho other than a limited number of missionaries and traders.

To qualify for the vote a person must be a Basutho or a Non-Basutho British subject or protected person, 21 years old, who paid tax and had been present in an electoral area for six months.

The position of the Paramount Chief will remain unaltered.

The discussions began on November 15th and finished last Thursday. The Basutoland delegation consisted of the chiefs George Bereng, Kelebone Nkuebe, Mopeli Jonathan, Leabua Jonathan and S. S. Matee, with Professor D. V. Cowen of the Cape Town University, who drafted the constitution proposed by the Basutho.

The delegation has announced that it is "deeply satisfied" with the results of the talks.



Jomo Kenyatta.

MBOYA DEMANDS ENQUIRY INTO KENYATTA TRIAL

Crown Witness Admits He Told Lies

THE demand is growing, in Britain and throughout Africa, for an official enquiry into the frame-up trial and conviction of Kenya's liberatory leader, Jomo Kenyatta, who has been held in prison since 1952.

At a press conference in London earlier this month, Mr. Tom Mboya, leader of the African elected members in the Kenya legislature, made public a sensational affidavit by one of the crown's key witnesses, telling how at the request of the prosecution he had lied in court in order to get Kenyatta convicted, and declaring that the other witnesses also lied.

This witness, Rawson Mboya Mwacharia, had testified that he had been present at an alleged "Mau Mau initiation ceremony" at which Kenyatta was supposed to have administered blood oaths.

"MY EVIDENCE WAS FALSE"

Now he says in his affidavit: "I admit that my evidence was false, and so false to my know-

ledge, insofar as it tended to implicate any of the accused persons in the commission of the offence, with which they were charged and particularly with regard to an alleged initiation ceremony on the night of 1950, at a place called Kianwaga in the Kiambu District implicating the first accused Jomo Kenyatta.

"I state unequivocally that there was no such meeting or ceremony at such time or at all nor was the said accused Jomo Kenyatta either a participant in or present defendant at any time or any place to my knowledge.

"I further state that a number of other Prosecution witnesses were to my knowledge similarly procured and suborned to give false evidence for the Prosecution in the said trial and to the best of my knowledge and belief gave such evidence therein."

FROM ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Together with the affidavit, Mwacharia has revealed the contents of a letter marked Secret and allegedly written from the Attor-

ney-General's chambers at Nairobi on 19th November, 1952. It confirmed the alleged offer to him of (a) an air passage to the United Kingdom at £278; (b) two years' course in Local Government at a University at £1,000; (c) subsistence for his family for two years at £250.

It also stated: "At the end of the two years' course in Local Government the above named will be offered a post by the Kenya Government."

In his statement, made in Kenya on November 22 this year, Mwacharia adds that he was duly flown to London on January 1, 1953, within a fortnight of giving evidence at the trial. He took the two years' course mentioned in the letter, at Government expense.

"In view of the serious nature of these allegations," said Mr. Mboya, "I call on the Secretary of State and the Kenya Government to constitute at once an impartial, judicial, and public inquiry, so that the truth or falsehood of these allegations can be ascertained."

ACCIDENT CONFERENCE PORTLIGHT



by

"DULEEP"

(Continued from page 1)
decorated with flags, hunting and slogans. Over the entrance is written "Forward to Independence Now," and inside, "Hands Off Africa—Africa Must Be Free". The drive from the main road is lined with white flagpoles flying the flags of the nine independent African states.

Here in this hall, last Monday morning, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah speaking as life chairman of the Convention Peoples' Party, gave his message to the two hundred delegates who have gathered in Accra this week for the All African Peoples' Conference. "Seek ye first the political kingdom", he said "and all else will be added unto you".

Whatever the result of the conference, whatever it does or does not achieve, this is a historic moment. For never before in the history of Africa, has a conference of this size and complexity been held on African soil. For some like George Padmore, the West Indian expert on African Affairs, this is the realization of a dream dreamed long ago by a group of African students in England, among them the young Kwame Nkrumah and the young Jomo Kenyatta. For others like Tom Mboya, the Kenya leader, and chairman of the conference, this marks a new era in African history, when the freedom struggles co-ordinated throughout the continent will grow in power and intensity.

But for all it is a challenge, a challenge to create unity out of diversity in order to free Africa in the shortest possible time.

LUXURY HOTEL
More than two hundred delegates are here in Accra, representing 62 organisations in 25 countries. This is a non-governmental conference. The delegates come without government authority—many without government approval. Observers, fraternal delegates and pressmen are here from all over the world. Ghana's luxury hotel, the Ambassador, seethes with colour and life.

The delegates fall into three groups: those from countries already independent, those from countries on the edge of independence and those from countries where the struggle is still going on. Those from the first group come to help and encourage in the belief that no country in Africa can rest until the whole of Africa is free. Conspicuous is the delegation from the United Arab Republic, led by Doctor Fouad Galal, a short, squat

Egyptian with a confident manner and a fingertip knowledge of African problems.

The second group consists mainly of those West African territories for whom independence is a question of time, circumstances and diplomacy. They make no secret of the fact that their primary interest is in the question of a West African Union. Here the Nigerian delegations impress Chief Rotimi Williams, Chief Anthony Enahoro from the Action Group, F. S. McEwan from the National Council for Nigeria and the Cameroons, have taken much of the organisational side into their hands. If the conference is a success it will be largely due to them. It is a clear indication of the part that Nigeria—independent in 1960—will play in a Pan-African Movement.

But it is the third group which is both the largest and the most significant. The delegates from Algeria, from Kenya, from South Africa, from Angola are out to exert pressure.

"WE WANT WEAPONS"

On the first day of the conference, Mr. Tom Mboya said: "We do not want pious resolutions from the independent countries. We want weapons to make our fight." Algeria asked for an international force which should not be disbanded until all Africa was free. South Africa asked for a continent-wide boycott of South African products.

Here again there are impressive figures. Dr. Omar Foundou, from Algeria, a thin, drawn man with the face of a fanatic, Ezekiel Mphahlele from the South African National Congress, thick-set, determined, uncompromising. And from Angola a small, dapper, frightened man who apparently walked over the Nigerian border three months ago and had his speech read because he feared that reprisals would be taken against his family.

On Monday the conference was officially opened by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. By eight o'clock the hall was full. Two thousand Ghanaians lined the route, carrying slogans, placards and banners—"Down With Apartheid," "Break Your Chains," "African Solidarity".

Dr. Nkrumah spoke for forty minutes. It was a calm, low-keyed, deliberate speech. "This is a conference in African history and our struggle to wipe out imperialism and colonialism from the continent and erect in their place a union

of free, independent African States. "Nationalist ferment in Africa is growing in momentum; therefore the conference must make a new appraisal of the position which exists in Africa today. We must here work out the new strategy and tactics of our people for the attainment of our objectives, namely the freedom and independence of Africa."

He stressed the need for unity and the need to resist the imperialist attempt to divide Africa by setting tribe against tribe, country against country. He pledged himself and his country to support every form of non-violent action by which fellow Africans were struggling for their freedom.

And then Dr. Nkrumah made a remark which has perhaps occasioned more comment than any other in the conference. "Do not," he said, "let us also forget that colonialism and imperialism may yet come to us in a different guise, not necessarily from Europe. We must alert ourselves to be able to recognise it when it rears its head and prepare ourselves to fight against it."

"What does Dr. Nkrumah fear?" asked one of the African delegates. "America? He has refused to elucidate."

If Nkrumah struck a level, unemotional note, Tom Mboya, the chairman, was eloquent and determined. "The question," he said, "which we have to decide is not whether Africa shall be free just when and how it may be. His speech particularly to the independent states and asked that they should do all in their power to implement the resolutions which he made at the April conference. "It is only," he said, "when the whole of Africa is free that individual independence has any meaning."

Africans, he went on, were only asking for elementary human rights. Rights which the imperialist powers were denying them when they signed the United Nations Charter. And yet African leaders were called irresponsible agitators, were victimised and put in prison. He stressed that in the world scene Africa should remain neutral "if the great powers," he said, "wish to fight each other, that is their own business. It is not to do it in Africa." Like Nkrumah, he made reference to new and hidden dangers. "Africa must become a playground for queer and interesting games."

He ended his speech with a reference to the South African treason trial. "This is the Treason Trial," he said, "which the courage to say that they wished to be free. If they are guilty, then all of us here in Accra are guilty too."

Much of the commotion is over; the business is now to begin. In the morning the heads of delegations are speaking in the afternoon five committees get down to business in private session. The committees are to discuss in detail colonialism and imperialism, racial discrimination, tribalism and religious separatism, frontier and boundary questions, and the possibility of setting up a permanent organisation to co-ordinate the freedom movements in all parts of Africa. On Friday they will report on the conference and the resolutions will be debated.

The trends of the conference are not yet clear. Most of the controversy centres round the use of violence in the freedom struggle and the attitude of the countries of Africa to the Communist bloc.

When asked to elucidate the attitude of the conference towards the use of violence, Mr. Tom Mboya said that no Africans wished to use violence, but they were not pacifists. "If they are struck they would strike back. The response of the colonial powers to the reasonable demands of the African people conditioned the methods which the Africans used."

BLACK AFFILIATION TO WHITE BODY

DO you know that there is a Non-White body in sports besides the United F.A. affiliated to a national White organisation? Yes it is the Bantu Athletic and Cycling Union, a mine-sport organisation which caters only for Bantus, and has a Mr. Botha, a white employee of the mines, as its secretary. It is affiliated to the European S.A. Athletic and Cycling Union. After approaches by the non-racial S.A. Athletic and Cycling Board of Control for this Bantu Union to become a sub-unit, Mr. Botha replied that the working arrangement of his Union and that of the White Union was most satisfactory and cordial, and they did not wish to depart from this set-up.

We wonder if this is the decision of the Union itself, or that of Mr. Botha or the mining interests he represents? Your guess is as good as mine.

WEST INDIES TOUR—OFFICIAL SILENCE

Is the West Indies' tour taking place or not? This is the jackpot question on everyone's lips, but provincial administrators throughout the Union are not in the position to answer this or any other question appertaining to the tour, for to date they have received no information, officially written. I don't think the national bodies affiliated to the Board of Control have been informed either. Surely the Board of Control would be informed of the tour (if it is to take place)? For no one in South Africa knows anything at all, except the Board officials themselves. The public only know what has leaked out through the Press. Beyond that everyone is in the dark, and provincial unions have less than 11 months to prepare for the tour.

If there is some need for secrecy, then by all means let it be maintained, but surely the affiliation can be taken into confidence for it is they who are going to face the brunt of the financial levies, and they do require time to raise the necessary. So please, Messrs. Fawcett and Varachia, keep your national and provincial unions informed, for already there is much dissatisfaction at the lack of information. You are doing excellent work, no doubt, and the whole country is appreciative of this, but a timely call issued from time to time as to what progress is being made, will create more goodwill and co-operation between ourselves and the respective administrators of each province. Already much has been said, by various schools of thought, that the West Indies' tour should be cancelled, and some of the cricket officers who had wholeheartedly in favour of the tour at present may become disillusioned and change their views on account of this lack of information.

DROPPING OF RACIAL TAG

The South African Bantu cricket tournament, commencing in Johannesburg this week, has created great interest. But little glamour has been lost by the non-partici-

pation of Western Province, who are apparently going through a changing period. It was felt that they would have given Eastern Province the holders a good N.R.C. Cup, the hardest fight, although Transvaal are also strong contenders.

Outwardly it may seem that there is some domestic trouble in the Western Province, but this is far from the fact, for the whole organisation is being rejuvenated, and even the name has been changed to the Langa Cricket Union, with the complete removal of the racial tag. This is indeed progress. On the other hand they have lost two star players to other Unions. Ben Malamba, a great friend of Cecil Abraham, one of the stars of the Eastern Province, is joining the Central League, while J. Nyamazi, kanti, opening bowler for the Bantus, has joined "Tiney" Abod's team, Roslyn, where he is bowling better than he has ever done before.

It is regrettable though that able and well-known administrators like A. Mashumela and H. H. Mvinje are not in office. But, as we all know, as well as I do, I am sure they will be back "in the saddle" before long.

Instead of W.P. being considered a trouble-spot, as at present it is, in office a more progressive set, worthy of emulation, and more will be heard of them in the future.

WE HEAR IT SAID . . .

- That the Government may force the S.A. Soccer Federation (Non-White) to affiliate to F.A.S.A. (Whites), failing which Non-White sportsmen will not be given passport facilities to force or enter the country.
- That Archie Moore, world light-heavyweight champion, has been named "Fighter of the Year" by the U.S. Boxing Writer's Association. As a South African, we are dubbed, is estimated to be 45 years old, an age when boxers are considered to be "washed-up".
- That if the Maoris are not included in the rugby team to tour South Africa, they have taken a more progressive stand, which would indicate that they were second-class citizens. "If they were first-class citizens, pride would forbid New Zealand from being dictated to by an outside country", is the view of the Union Theological Seminary in New York. This was conveyed to the National Council of Churches in New Zealand.
- That the W.P. Coloured cricket team selected to participate in the Sir David Harris tournament has not been favourably received. It is a good team, for this province is blessed with much talent. The contention is that selectors have shown Union sentiment, instead of Provincial sentiment.
- That Enoch "Fighting Schoolboy" Nhlapo has at last fulfilled his early promise, in convincingly beating Joas "Kangaroo" Maoto, the S. I. light fly champion, last week at Durban.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLOURED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION wishes all its members and supporters the compliments of the season and trusts that 1959 will see all freedom-loving people in the land, to their common goal.

Come to the

"NEW AGE"

ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS EVE

DANCE

Music! Eats!

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(To be continued)

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