

CALL FOR ALL-IN CONGRESS CONFERENCE

"People's Struggles Must Be United"

A SUGGESTION made in the secretarial report submitted to the Eleventh Provincial Conference of the Natal Indian Congress held recently, that delegates from the organisations represented in the Congress Alliance should meet, both on a provincial and national level, so that local and provincial leaders of each organisation can get to know each other and discuss common problems, has evoked considerable interest amongst Congress leaders here.

CHIEF LUTULI

Chief Albert J. Lutuli, asked to comment on this suggestion, told New Age that he would welcome such conferences. There are many matters, both organisational and political, that should be discussed at all levels of Congress, he said.

Referring to his speech to the

delegates attending the recent conference of the N.I.C., Chief Lutuli added: "The struggle being waged by the Natal Indian Congress against the implementation of Group Areas proposals should be linked with the various struggles that are being waged on a wide front by their sister organisations."

"There is always need for such consultation, more so today, because of the struggles of the people against such measures as the Pass Laws, Bantu Authorities, Job Reservation, and also such questions as the increasing burden of the high cost of living and low wages, which are related to our 41-a-day Campaign. These struggles, taken together with the struggle against the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act which is being implemented on a large scale amongst the White population, are matters which must receive urgent consideration by the Congress movement."

"The basic question that must receive our immediate attention is the co-ordination of these struggles, so as to fit them in with our main

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Pan-African Conference Must Show The Way

—Dr. Banda

JOHANNESBURG.

CLOSE co-operation between all African peoples and organisations and some form of permanent co-ordinating machinery should come out of the Accra Pan-African conference, said Dr. Hastings Banda, Nyasaland's Congress leader, in an interview here last week.

Speaking of his own country, Nyasaland, he said its order of demands was for:

- An African majority on the Legislative Council where there are now only five Africans out of 23 members. The Congress expected Britain's reply to this set of constitutional demands by (Continued on page 3)



SACPO President Mr. Jimmy la Guma addresses the City Hall meeting last week. With him on the platform are, from the left, Adv. D. Molteno, ex-Chief Justice Centlivres, Mr. Barney Desai and Mr. Reg. September.

"We Will Organise Mass Opposition"

Says Committee on Coloured Vote

CAPE TOWN.

A MEETING of various organisations and individuals sponsored by the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation was held in the Library, City Hall, last Wednesday to form a committee to fight the removal of Coloured voters from the municipal roll.

"The proposal to abolish the Coloured municipal franchise and create advisory boards in the Coloured areas strikes at the root of good and democratic government," said Mr. Barney Desai, vice-president of SACPO, leading the discussion at the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE CAMPAIGN SACPO would like to see as broad and representative a campaign as possible to defend the municipal franchise and the city's right to decide its own future, a campaign in which all sections of the citizens could co-operate, Mr. Desai said.

Among those present at the meeting were the former Chief Justice Centlivres, Councillors H. E. Parker and Mrs. Z. Gool, and Adv. D. Molteno.

An interim committee consisting of representatives of SACPO, the Civil Rights League, Group Areas Co-ordinating Committee, Black Sash and other organisations was formed.

"My presence here indicates that I am heart and soul with you in this fight," said Mr. Centlivres at the meeting. "Coloured organisations must come together on this issue. There is no room for differences."

The Interim Committee afterwards issued a statement stating that if the Administrator and the Provincial Council gave no consideration to the just protest of the citizens of our city, then this committee, representative of white and non-white opinion, has no alternative but to organise mass protest and opposition to this unwarranted interference in our local affairs."

Last Thursday the Cape Town City Council by a vote of 30-0 decided to protest to the Administrator of the Cape Province against the threatened removal of Coloured voters from the common roll.

A memorandum to be sent to the Administrator, stated that the proposal to remove them from the roll would deprive Coloured people of rights they have always enjoyed, deprive the Council of direct liaison with an important part of its population, and extend the principle of taxation without full, direct representation.

"The consequences cannot be other than deleterious to race relations and municipal government in the Cape Province, and more particularly to Cape Town."

NEW AGE

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Dr. Hastings Banda, leader of the Nyasaland African National Congress, met several Congress leaders during his one-day stop in Johannesburg en route for Ghana. Here he is with Mr. James Hadebe, secretary of the Transvaal ANC, and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo.

Are Women Resisters Being Brought in Jail?

JOHANNESBURG.
WOMEN coming out of the Johannesburg jail, the Fort, are reporting nasty assaults on women prisoners there.

In reply to general reports of assaults, the jail authorities said: "Report the cases to us and we will see that the regulations are enforced."

Last week one case was produced on the very day of the assault. Yet some days after, when New Age spoke to the Fort Superintendent, Col. le Roux, he said: "I know nothing about it."

Immediately an attorney here received a message that one of the 400-odd women from Alexandra sentenced for their anti-pass protest had been beaten up, he went to the Fort himself. When the woman was produced, ugly, raw wounds were visible on her neck, left arm and leg.

The assault was alleged to have been carried out by a European wardress with a

(Continued on page 3)

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Away With Africanist Press Platforms

Certain herrenvolk newspapers which have consistently criticised the African leaders in the past, naming them "self-styled leaders," have now seized upon the explosion and breaking away of Messrs Madzunya, Lelobalo and their group to whip up a campaign of hostility against Chief Lutuli and the Congress alliance.

The "World" and its satellite "Imvo" have stuck out their necks too far in defence of Lelobalo and the Africanists. In my opinion it is a piece of impudence and arrogance of the "Bantu" newspapers, a group controlled by imperialist proprietors. The Black editors and reporters have allowed themselves to be misled by White imperialists against the true interests of their own people who demand freedom.

Marcus Garvey was right when he said the Black man is the Black man's greatest enemy. For when a White man has a dirty job to be done he finds a Black man to do it for him. Away with the Africanists and their press platforms.

KEKE E. TOLLIE

Kweri Location, Worcester.

Peace Council Message To Geneva

JOHANNESBURG.

The South African Peace Council has sent a message to the Geneva conference for the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapon Tests urging the delegates to reach agreement on the permanent banning of all nuclear weapon testing. The future wealth and happiness of mankind depend on the success of the Geneva proceedings, says the Council.

What are the Clergy Doing?

Our Christian leaders refuse to participate to give a correct leadership to the Christian masses. As spiritual leaders one would expect them to play even a bigger role than the ANC in the struggle for human co-existence, for the preservation of human values.

A ray of hope, however, a very thin ray, has been cast by the idea of multi-racialism which culminated in the Bloemfontein conference in which our clergy expressed the desire to work but did not actually work. While they indulged in endless resolutions in high sounding words the lion devours the congregations whom they have an obligation to protect.

If there is any time when our clergy should display qualities of real leadership, then it has already come. They must come down from the clouds and join hands with the masses in their struggle against the common enemy. They cannot and must not just preach righteousness in the pulpits while the pitiful people denounce them towards their maintenance, and tell the people that they should submit to the torments of vicious legislation outside the church.

It behoves our esteemed leaders therefore to be more practical than the theoretician. We should feel their presence in the struggle, in courts, jails, strikes, meetings, campaigns and in any other freedom-dominating undertakings by the masses whom they claim to lead.

HOWARD TSHIZANA

Worcester.

Bloemfontein Women Deceived About Reference Books

I would like you to know that the Bloemfontein women are flocking for Reference Books. It is something shocking to see, but the poor women are not to blame. The real trouble is that the Advisory Board members have taken it upon themselves to advise the women to take Reference Books. They even decided at the last Board meeting that they will get women to take the books according to their wants. Now they have given the women a fright by telling them that if they don't take the books by December 12 they will be arrested. I want you please to put in your paper my appeal to the Bloemfontein women, which is that they are not yet compelled by law to take the Reference Books. Nothing will happen to them if they don't take the pass books by December 12.

It is shocking to have Advisory Board members who so mislead the people. Through the indirect hand placed on the ANC by the prohibition of meetings on Sundays it is difficult to answer these people in public, but soon we shall see what to do.

J. B. MAFORA

Bloemfontein.

Wages or Suicide

One day last month I was informing my mother Thenjive of a trip I was to make to Graaff-Reinet when I saw blood running from her gums. She thought the cause was the excessive heat of the sun, so I gave her a shilling to go for treatment at the Health Centre.

I was surprised to learn that on my return from Graaff-Reinet she was in hospital bleeding profusely from the gums and tongue. When I contacted one of the nurses, she said it was due to excessive use of starchy food instead of vegetables.

The Nationalist Government of South Africa is increasing annual taxation of men to £1 15s, and there is likelihood that African women may also pay annual tax of £1 year. Why not increase the wages of the people to counteract this suicide? Our mothers and fathers hardly set time to rest, for their sons and daughters are kept out of employment for the political stand in the field of oppression.

I wish to extend my thanks to those people best known to me who rushed Thenjive to hospital in my absence.

PHAMBELE EDARNINI
E. L. VARA (Son)

Craddock.

Segregation in Basutoland

It is interesting to notice how speedily segregation begets its disastrous consequences in Basutoland. It is right to say that segregation started with the coming of the British agents in Basutoland. Right from their arrival the Government allowed these trading companies to have their lodgings isolated from the Basotho. District Commissioners, Resident Commissioners etc. have the distance away from Basotho caves. It is disgraceful to find a Mosotho living in a cave in his own country, but a White man lives in such a house.

Another source of segregation in Basutoland comes from the trading companies who from the beginning monopolised the Basutoland trading business, but do not employ a single Mosotho to manage it. About 90% of the trade in three or four only recently, the poor Africans who are employed to do the most work in the shops are paid £3 a month, and are called boys and girls.

M. MOKOROAINE

MaFeteng, Basutoland.

EDITORIAL THE GOVERNMENT IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE

THOUSANDS of African women have gone to jail to show their opposition to the issue of reference books; but the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development has decided to "hasten the compulsory carrying of reference books by African women."

In other words, he is going to fix a date after which it will become an offence not to carry a pass book. Up till now it has not been compulsory to take out a pass book.

According to the Secretary of the Department of Native Affairs, "in ordinary circumstances this (the fixing of a date) would have happened towards the end of 1960, but in order to remove any doubt about the firm intention of the Government, an earlier date will now be considered in respect of certain areas."

The Minister's announcement has presumably been made in reply to the cowardly statement of the United Party calling for "clarification" of the Government's intentions following the anti-pass demonstrations in Johannesburg. The United Party hadn't the guts to condemn passes for women, so took refuge in a mealy-mouthed criticism of the Government for having caused the present "confusion" by failing to make its position plain.

Now the United Party has its answer, and presumably we will hear no more from them about passes for women.

But to the African women themselves the Government's answer is completely unacceptable. There has been no "confusion" as far as they are concerned. They don't want passes now, or in 1960, or at any time.

By forcing pass books on the women, the Government is condemning the country to an intensification of race hatred and conflict between the people and the police. No doubt Police Chief Rademeyer will blame the Communists and the agitators as usual; but the country and the whole world will know that it is the Government which is to blame, because it has once again ignored the plainly expressed wish of the people and resorted to force to implement its unpopular, uncalculated and unnecessary policy.

ZHIVAGO - A BAD BOOK WITH A BAD PHILOSOPHY

The Soviet Union has not "suppressed" Doctor Zhivago, and your review was wrong in presenting this question for discussion by your readers in such a misleading way. Pasternak submitted his manuscript not to "the Soviet Union" but to a publishing organisation. In rejecting it, the publishers furnished the author with their reasons at a length and in such detail as could hardly be paralleled by any publishing concerns anywhere. Such a process cannot be described as "suppression." Every publisher or editor must select, whether under capitalism or socialism—a proposition so obvious as hardly to merit debate.

The question is not whether Soviet publishers should have a discretion to accept or reject works submitted, but whether they exercised this discretion correctly in rejecting Doctor Zhivago. This will depend on an assessment of the merits and suitability of the book itself. Clearly, anyone who has not read it is not qualified to express an opinion on the matter.

I have read it, and I think the publishers were quite right to turn it down. They subjected it to a scrutiny of their letter of rejection only confirmed this opinion. I found the theme and the outlook of the writer—stirring contemptuous of the ordinary people and their achievements, completely alien to the humanistic trend of Soviet and also of classical Russian literature—extremely offensive. And I am sure that it would be a good deal more offensive to the Soviet people than £3 a month, and are called boys and girls.

Unfortunately, the circumstance of the book's appearance abroad after its rejection in Russia, has removed the whole matter from the realm of literary criticism to the stormy areas of international politics. It has provided the "cold warriors" (among whom, one fears, one must include the Nobel Prize jury) with just the sort of ammunition they want for their mud-slinging campaign against the Soviet Union. And they have made full use of it.

Maybe, as Dr. Simons has suggested, there should be a more general discussion of problems of individual freedom under socialism. But the case of Doctor Zhivago is a very bad starting point for any such discussion.

MICHAEL HARMEL

Johannesburg.

Congress Sympathy With Chicago Fire Victims

JOHANNESBURG.

The ANC and Transvaal Indian Congress have sent a joint cable to President Eisenhower expressing sympathy with the American people over the fire which destroyed a school, resulting in the death of nearly 100 children.

The cable read: "Grossly shocked and appalled by the Chicago fire tragedy. Accept heartfelt sympathy African and Indian people of South Africa."

The children and three nuns were burnt to death when a fire swept through a Roman Catholic elementary school in Chicago on Monday December 1.

WHY DID GOVT. REFUSE PASSPORTS TO NEW AGE?

If ever people doubted the important role that New Age plays in the lives of the people of this country and indeed in the whole of Africa they should take note of the fact that not only were we invited to the great African conference now taking place in Accra but we were also asked to supply information on the whole set-up in our country.

The fact that our Government granted permission to others to participate but refused passports to our representatives is not of course going to dimish our influence. On the contrary, it will become obvious to all throughout the world and particularly at Accra, that New Age is the strongest opponent of apartheid in the Union—in fact the Government has no amount of reputation (if that was all necessary) with the people who are making history on this continent of ours.

As the scene unfolds, as it is doing so rapidly in Africa, it will become more and more obvious to all that in spite of the lack of progressive newspapers in the vernacular in our own country, a newspaper published in the English language which is common to all sections throughout Africa, is not only useful but will become increasingly more important as we are drawn closer together in our common fight against

imperialism and colonialism. New Age is the one paper in South Africa which voices the opinion of the vast majority in this great continent taking place so extensively before our very eyes.

So with this sense of urgency and the significance of Accra for all of us to see, is it not only natural that we ask you over and over again to support and sustain New Age in its fight to bring about this freedom for which all are striving today?

Donate to New Age now and you are investing in the future happiness of all in South Africa.
Last Week's Donations:
Cape Town: 3/12 10s., "S" 10s., "W" 5s., S.K. £5, H.B. £5, T.S. £10, H.B. £5, B. £5, J. £5, N.M. £5, H.S. £2, Engel £1, J.S. £2, Robot £1, Popsy £1, Anonymous £6, Louisa (U.S.A.) £5, Brian and Sonia £5, Matfield and Elkes River £177.6, R and B £5, "K" £5, E.B. £2, Kris £1, Allie Sisters £1, Harry £1, M. £10, Jack and Ray £5, Anonymous £1.

Johannesburg: Mrs. F. A. Petrus Birdyard Gift 10s., B.H. £10, Juditha Paarl £5, Parkview £1, Overtime £34.6, N. £10, M. £1, M. £5, Shirley £2, Vic £5, J. £15, Mary L.H. £17.12, L. Bentley and Mary £10.
TOTAL—£169 6s. 1d.

WORKERS MUST PRESS FOR HIGHER WAGES

PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE MUST SHOW THE WAY

Many Bosses Have Already Agreed

JOHANNESBURG.—1959 could be WAGE INCREASE YEAR—if workers keep up the pressure on employers for the winds have rarely blown so favourably for all-round rises in pay.

The Chamber of Industries is working on a national plan for wage increases on a scale which would affect very large numbers of workers.

The Chamber of Commerce is

FEWER WOMEN TAKE PASSES

JOHANNESBURG.

WOMEN as well as men fall into line for the registration and issue of reference books at the Johannesburg Native Commissioner's Pass Office. This is because of the decreased number of women who have come for reference books in Market Street since the beginning of the year and the heavy arrests of women last month.

Many of these women are brought there by car by their employers. One of the women, who is from Basutoland, told New Age that she was threatened with deportation home or arrest for failing to produce a permit if she refused to go to the pass office with her madam.

Although my employer is not in favour of my having a reference book if I do not want it, my boss insisted on my having one or else he would hand me to the police," she said.

While the women are issued with passes inside the office, their employers wait patiently in their cars parked in Bezuidenhout Street.

Interviewed by New Age some women said that many of their friends, mostly those who live in the townships, had been fined by their employers for having defied them when they were told to go and take reference books.

The women at present being issued with reference books in Market Street are mostly domestic servants.

Meanwhile pass books are still being issued fairly rapidly from police stations in the suburbs.

Women Resisters

(Continued from page 1)

cane. After the probe, this woman was admitted to the jail hospital.

Mrs. Selina Molefe, another anti-pass protester who was released recently, reported that she and other members of her batch had been beaten by a senior member of the Port staff.

A very old Shanganu woman, not in the anti-pass batch of prisoners, who demurred about stripping asked in public for showers as in the past, but contrary to tribal customs, was savagely beaten.

When tackled about assaults, the jail authorities usually fall back on the stock excuse that the inspection system invites prisoners to report assaults on them—and of course to invite even more savage reprisal attacks.

If they wish to avoid a repetition of the riot of prisoners in the women's jail of a few weeks ago, the authorities must act to stop these assaults of which so many alarming reports have recently filtered out of the jail.

pushing for a review of Government-fixed wages, and stressing that there are different living costs in different centres in the country and minimum wage levels must be totally revised.

GIVING A LEAD

Plans are one thing and action quite another.

But even here the Chamber of Commerce has given a strong lead before and since its Margate conference. A circular sent out before the conference urged all Chamber of Commerce members to pay out an allowance weekly increase to African workers of five shillings. Since the conference the campaign to get employers to carry out the Margate resolution for higher wages has been kept.

A special Committee for Higher Wages and Productivity which was set up after the boycott has got leading commercial firms, some of the largest in Johannesburg, to pay out increases.

Among those that have are the O.K. Bazaars, the Central News Agency, Stuttafords, John Dickenson, Ellis and Co. and John Orrs.

THEIR OWN INTERESTS

The fact is industry and commerce have come to realise it is in their own interests for wages to go up, but the Government will do what it can to back peddle on this issue, and the Wage Board (see article below) is only one of its instruments for keeping wages down.

Knowing that the workers' patience won't last forever, employers are trying to short-circuit the Government and have taken the first concrete steps themselves.

However, the increases already paid out and those planned are still far from enough. A circular to Johannesburg African family £22 a month to live, a weekly increase of some shillings does not stretch very far.

One businessman admitted that the gap between wages and living

costs was "crazy."

"This is no time for sitting back and waiting for increases in wages to come our way," said an official of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions.

"Workers' action now and in the first months of 1959 can make all the difference between small increases and the winning of a living wage."

Zeerust Refugees Want to Go Home

JOHANNESBURG.

BAFURUTSI refugees scattered to the wind by brutal assaults and intimidation by Chiefs in the Zeerust Reserve have appealed to the Native Affairs Department to restore order in their villages so that they can return to their homes and lands.

The ploughing season has begun, and the people are anxious to return to cultivate their fields, especially as they were unable to plough last year. They fear that if they return they will be ill treated, fined and victimised by Chiefs "who seem to have lost their heads."

Since the disturbances in the Zeerust reserve caused by the imposition of passes for women in 1957 there has been no peace there, the refugees say. Peaceful and proper administration has broken down. People have been beaten and property and heavy fines extorted from them. Men and women have fled to save their lives and as a result families have been torn apart.

An appeal has been made to the Chief Native Commissioner of the Western Transvaal not to allow this present state of lawlessness to continue. It would be a tragedy for the tribe were the Bafurutsi to be scattered, says the appeal.

(Continued from page 1) this December. This led to the full and equal franchise "One man, One vote."

● An independent Nyanaland out of the Central African Federation.

● An independent Federation of Nyanaland with Tanganyika and possibly Northern Rhodesia.

HERE AS A BOY

Dr. Banda was last in South Africa thirty or more years ago as a young boy. He learnt his political ABC on the Witwatersrand, he said, and saw his clear memories of the Rand Revolt put down by Smuts in the early twenties.

During one crowded day in Johannesburg, Dr. Banda "held court" in Dr. Xuma's home in Sophiatown where he received and spoke freely to all comers, from pressmen of the English dailies, the Non-White press and the Nationalist party organs, Congress leaders, Mr. Maduzanya, fellow Nyasans from his home country and an official of the Nyanaland Government.

Valuable and outspoken in faultless English, this dapper little man ranged over one topic after another, waving his spectacles in one or his hands as he spoke out on Nyasa demands for self-government, the Accra conference, relations between Africans and Indians in Nyanaland, his year spent in South Africa and his Congress contacts with African national movements in other parts of East and Central Africa.

SPECIAL BRANCH

The Special Branch tailed and watched him every moment of the 24 hours he was in the country but that didn't seem to worry him. "They said a very polite good morning to me," he said.

On Congress in Nyanaland.—"If the last annual conference had not called me home I would have been practising at Kamezi on the Gold Coast. But I was brought back to lead Congress and we are determined to get out of Federation and to have an independent Nyanaland."

On Africans and Indians in Nyanaland.—"There was much closer political co-operation between Africans and Indians in South Africa than in this country. Greater privileges enjoyed by Indians in Nyanaland

land had resulted in them tending to go, in some cases, with the White ruling groups. He was not indifferent and reports to that effect were disturbing his attitude. But he had said that "the Asians must choose to be our friends or our enemies."

Dr. Banda said he would welcome calls from the South African Indian Congress addressed to the Indian people of Nyanaland on the need for them to work with the African Congress and support African political demands.

On the East African Regional Pan-African Conference.—"The political movements of Nyanaland, Kenya, Zanzibar, Northern Rhodesia and Uganda had already held an East and Central African Regional Pan-African Conference. This had taken place at Mwanza in Tanganyika in August and had set up a regional headquarters for the movement at Dar-es-Salaam.

On Premier Welton.—"Liberal, indeed! For Welensky to talk of partnership or a multi-racial society is impudence. To arrange the voting so that one European is equal to so many Africans is superiority of race and nothing else."

Congress Conference

(Continued from page 1) slogan "Freedom in our Lifetime!" he concluded.

BILLY NAIR

Treason traitor and leading Durban trade unionist Mr. Billy Nair said that it was a most important suggestion and merited urgent consideration.

"For some time, many leading Congressmen have felt the need for such discussions. Struggles are being carried on by various peoples over a wide area and a link-up of these struggles is the cornerstone of the policy of the Congress Alliance.

"Such Conferences as suggested by the Natal Indian Congress will not only assist in such a link-up, but will also strengthen the bonds of friendship and co-operation that were so effectively built during the Defence Campaign and the Congress of the People."

MOSES MABHIDA

"I welcome this suggestion wholeheartedly," said Mr. Moses Mabhida, Chairman of the South African Congress of Trade Unions and Acting Chairman of the Natal A.N.C. whenever Chief Lutuli is away from Durban.

"Such conferences as suggested are long overdue. The people are being attacked on all fronts and numerous struggles are being carried out in far and distant areas. We must discuss our organisation in keeping with the times."

Stating that the Verwoerdian regime will press forward its policy of racial segregation and apartheid with increasing vigour, Mr. Mabhida added: "We must be able to meet this challenge unitedly and, in doing so, we must not forget that we are not in isolation, that we can, effectively defeat the Government. We must be able to join the various campaigns into one mighty wave of resistance and opposition and build a true democratic South Africa free from all race prejudices and one in which all sections of our people can live in peace and harmony."

MICHAEL HAWTHORN

Dr. Michael Hawthorn, Chairman of the Natal C.O.D., said that he would explore the possibility of Democrats would fully support such Conferences.

"Why stop at Provincial and National conferences? We should also explore the possibility of organising local conferences in smaller areas so that the local inhabitants could discuss their own problems and devise ways and means of rallying the people to the cause of the Congress," he said.

SCRAP THE WAGE BOARD!

From our Industrial Correspondent

NO juggling with figures or with technical terms can hide the truth about the Wage Board. This top heavy, slow moving machine is the biggest obstacle in the way of higher wages and must be fought tooth and nail. It costs the state thousands of pounds a year to maintain and is fast becoming a major factor in destroying what is left of good Non-White labour relations in this country.

The Wage Board caused the Milling strike in January this year by dragging out the publication of an award and has antagonised the Canning workers by passing their conditions back by 14 years.

No one has any confidence in this costly board, not even all the employers. When the Minister of Labour boasted about investigating wages through the wage board, the South African Congress of Trade Unions warned the workers not to be bluffed and pointed out that if the workers depended on the wage board as it operates at present it would take 30 years to raise wages.

To stop criticism of this kind and cover up inefficiency, Mr. de Klerk "re-organised" the Wage Board. He split it into three divisions "that would work three times faster." (Previously only nine men ran the board and investigated one industry at a time, which took almost a year

to complete.) But the results have been no better.

WAGE CUTS

Last week when the Canning unions exposed to the press that the workers' wages had been drastically cut, the Board hastily declared that the union was "mistaken" and that in fact wages had been increased. But the workers know that when their agreement expires early next year, their bosses will have the legal right to pay them the wages laid down by the wage board and that will mean a cut.

What the Wage Board has done is this: It studied the wages laid down in 1944 (which were then far below the breadline) and awarded slight increases. But the workers have long since won by strike action and other struggles, wages higher than those laid down in 1944. The new award means for workers in Grabouw a cut of £1.6 per week and for those in Worcester a cut of 12/9 per week.

In 1957 after a lapse of 14 years the Wage Board got round to investigating the Canning industry. It called public sittings in all the large centres, conducted inspections in 1000 at Canning factories and heard evidence from hundreds of workers, who pulled no punches in telling of their terrible battle to make ends meet, 15,000 workers were 12 months for the result, only to find

that they needn't have gone to the trouble of assisting the Board at all.

TO KEEP WORKERS ON THE FARMS

The Wage Board was created in 1924, soon after Smuts' Government was rocked by the Rand Revolt and strike action throughout South Africa. The White, Coloured and Indian workers were asked to legalise their trade unions and fix wages, and the African workers got the Wage Act, which established the Wage Board. The workers were told that this would help to raise their wages and improve their conditions, but in actual fact the Wage Board became a tool of the White Supremacists and its major job was to stop Africans from leaving the farms for the towns by making wages as unattractive as possible. This is still the policy of the Wage Board under Dr. Verwoerd and it ignores every workers' protest laid at its door.

As long as this position is allowed to continue, employers will be slow to concede higher wages for workers. They will use the excuse that they have to depend on the wage board and cannot act independently of it.

It is time for all over South Africa keep up the fight for a national minimum wage of £1 a day and increases for those receiving more, the Wage Board will have to be scrapped.

Know Your Continent

THIS week we begin a series of articles on Africa, her peoples and problems, her political movements and struggles towards freedom and independence.

"The darkest thing about Africa has always been our ignorance of it." —George H. T. Kimble.

The continent of Africa is today part free, part slave. There are eight independent countries run by Africans: Liberia, Libya, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Ghana, Tunisia, Morocco and Guinea.

Nigeria is soon to get her independence (in 1960), and Somalia, once an Italian colony but now supervised by the United Nations is also due to become independent, in 1959.

Guinea, by voting "NO" in the de Gaulle Referendum, broke from the French Union and has now joined Ghana, with the

next few years likely to see other West African states joining this nucleus of a powerful West African federation.

Vast areas are still colonies, the possessions of Britain, France, Belgium, Spain and Portugal. Yet in these countries too, from north to south and east to west, across this vast continent, struggles for independence are rapidly mounting.

This series of articles, timed to begin with the opening of the All-African Peoples' Conference, in Accra, Ghana, in December 1958, aims to give the outlines of this story of Africa's independence struggles, country by country.



THE NIGERIAN HISTORIAN, DR. ONWUKWE DIKE, HAS WRITTEN OF THE CONTINENT KNOWN FOR SO LONG AS "THE DARK CONTINENT": "THE POINT IS NOT THAT AFRICANS HAVE NO HISTORY, BUT THAT THERE IS A PROFOUND IGNORANCE CONCERNING IT, AND AN ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL UNWILLINGNESS TO BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE OF IT WHEN PRESENTED."

Basil Davidson says the denial that Africa has much history worth talking about before the coming of the White settler, trader and missionary has a political purpose: it is an attempt to justify the inferiority of the Black man.

If all was savage chaos before the coming of the Whites, the argument runs, and the reason for the backwardness was not Africa's geographical inaccessibility and her isolation from trade routes and world cultural streams, but the inherent backwardness of her people, then Africans can be said to be by nature an inferior people—and their exploitation by foreign powers is justified.

Yet recent research into African history before the coming of the White coloniser (known as pre-European history) shows that there were African civilisations long before European discovery and settlement.

Egypt, of course, has had an uninterrupted civilisation for more than 6,000 years.

It is by the intermingling of cultures that civilisations develop and where suitable conditions existed in West Africa great empires grew. There was the empire of Ghana (300 to 1270), Mali (1285 to 1468) and, along the Niger, Songay (1355 to 1591). In the Congo basin there were the states of Bushongo, the Balandu Empire and the Kingdom of the Congo. In Central-East Africa (now Uganda and Tanganyika) the ruling dynasties of the Buganda and others have an unbroken history of 500 years and sides of recently found capitals go back 1,000 years.

The rich copper deposits of

Central Africa, now mined by British, American and Belgian corporations, were originally owned and worked by Africans. One Gaspar Velloso in 1514 sent a letter to the King of Portugal telling of African extraction of copper in what is now the Northern Rhodesia. In Nigeria excavations have found traces of cultures some 2,000 years ago.

SLAVERY

European colonisation started with trading posts and small settlements at points round Africa's coastline. The Dutch East

posts and the staking of territorial claims. The imperialist race for Africa began in the 1870's and was completed in the main by 1898.

SCRAMBLE

1885 saw the Berlin Conference of the European powers scrambling for Africa and the gentleman's agreement for its partition. Britain acquired Gambia, the whole of the Gold Coast and Nigeria, part of Somaliland, Uganda, Kenya, Nyasaland, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. The Sudan was conquered by Kitch-

er. The Berlin Conference granted the rich Congo to King Leopold of Belgium, as his private domain. By the turn of the century Africa had thus been partitioned out among the Great Powers; large tracts of land had been swindled out of African Kings in exchange for beads and trinkets and worthless pieces of paper, the so-called "treaties", and the colonial system was in full swing on the continent.

Bans and passport restrictions have prevented C.O.D. from sending delegates to Accra but "our hearts and thoughts are with you."

"It is not easy to be a white South African and yet claim brotherhood with those in every part of Africa who seek liberty, independence and self-government. Through the white-supremacist policies of successive governments, white South Africans have come to be regarded throughout the world as the stubborn, last-ditch upholders of racial discrimination."

"Yet there is a minority, more far-seeing, less steeped in the racial prejudices of white South Africa, which understands that it must strike together with the Non-Whites to remake South Africa on a democratic basis. This is the Congress of Democrats."

De Blank Stands by Defence Fund

CAPE TOWN. The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev. Joost De Blank, said here that he was proud to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, the late Dr. Clayton, as an official of the Treason Trial Defence Fund.

He was opening an exhibition of Duter prints held in aid of the Fund at Saturday.

Rev. De Blank was replying in an attack made upon him by a Nationalist M.P. for "identifying himself with the suspects."

"I regard this as a shocking statement," said the Archbishop, "an proud to follow in the footsteps of the late Dr. Clayton and to be the vital principle that a man is innocent till proved guilty."

Several prints were purchased by visitors to the exhibition and a considerable sum of money was raised.

"Our Hearts Are With You" —COD

JOHANNESBURG.

The Congress of Democrats, in a memorandum sent to the Conference this week, says it looks to the Accra Conference for a new spirit of unity binding together the different peoples of Africa.

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THE FRENCH ELECTION FRAUD WILL BOOMERANG

AFTER their first flush of jubilation at the French results, the right-wing is beginning to have second thoughts.

Paradoxically, the right-wing for this is that the results were too good. "Is the bride too beautiful?" asked the right-wing Le Monde.

French political commentators are saying the election appears to have driven home the truth of a Communist contention that the right-wing socialists always deny—that the capitalists allow a free electoral system only as long as it suits them.

As soon as there is a fear that the voters may elect a government which will seriously challenge the power of the right—the French developments seem to indicate—the free electoral system is done away with.

ELECTION FRAUD

How fraudulent was the election? Well, look at this one fact: FOR EVERY 388,000 COMMUNIST VOTES CAST, ONE COMMUNIST WAS ELECTED. BUT 19,000 VOTES WERE SUFFICIENT TO ELECT A GAULLIST.

The Gaullists, with 4,769,052 votes, got 188 seats. The Communists, with 3,741,384 votes, got ten seats. And the "Socialists," with a million and a quarter votes fewer than the Communists, got four times as many seats as they did.

NEW SYSTEMS

How did it happen? The first general election of the Fifth Republic France switched from the older system of voting for party lists by counties to single-member constituencies drawn up to hamper the Communists.

At first view the new system looks something like the South African one. There was, however, a very great difference.

Under the French system there are two ballots—a first round in which only candidates with an overall majority get in, and a runoff when a relative majority is sufficient and the candidate comes up in the 1956 election.

This second round gives opportunities for what are called the national parties—U.N.R. (Gaullists), Independents, Socialists, Radicals, Catholic Republicans—to gang up against the Communists.

HOW IT WORKED

It is a delicate operation by which the "national" candidates coming lower on the lists withdraw and call upon the people who have supported them to give their votes to the candidates best placed to beat the Communists.

Here is how it worked in the 39th Paris constituency.

The first ballot was: Fajon, Communist — 22,837; Privat, Socialist — 7,218; Parenty, Independent — 6,336; Rousseau, U.N.R. — 5,716; Pourcelet, Radical — 3,983; Zenit, non-party — 3,608; Venetier, Poujadist — 788.

In between the ballots the five lower-placed candidates withdrew or were eliminated for polling less than five per cent. of the votes and on the second round their votes went to the Socialists with the final result: Privat, Socialist — 24,932 (elected); Fajon, Communist — 24,451.

"ROBBERD" Putting it bluntly, the London News Chronicle (Dec. 2) declared: "3,105,000 Frenchmen and women

voted for the Communists and these people have been robbed!"

The ten Communist deputies include Maurice Thorez, re-elected by his Ivory, Paris, constituency; Waldeck-Rochus, also re-elected in Paris, who was deputy leader of the Communist deputies in the last Assembly; and Francois Billoux, elected with another Communist in Marseilles.

Some 1,500 candidates who took part in the first ballot on November 23 stood down for the second round to leave wherever possible only one combined candidate against the Communist.

Jacques Duclos, leader of the Communist group in the old Assembly, topped the poll in the first round with 21,049 votes against 18,218 for a U.N.R. candidate and 4,416 for a Socialist.

For the second round the Socialist stood down in favour of Dr. Profichet, the U.N.R. candidate—

WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

who won the seat from Jacques Duclos by 29,662 votes against 21,252.

That story was duplicated in constituency after constituency, where the anti-Communist alliance ranged from the Mollet Socialists to the U.N.R.

SOCIALIST BETRAYAL FAILS

One of the facts which the French working-class cannot have failed to learn from the election results is that the Mollet "Socialist" policy of anti-Communism and co-termining with the right-wing was not paid Mollet any dividends.

The Socialist Party, whose leader M. Guy Mollet was one of the people chiefly responsible for the success of De Gaulle's takeover in the summer, lost seats and votes compared with the last election.

M. Mollet, who himself was returned to the Assembly largely thanks to U.N.R. support in his constituency, now has merely 40 deputies with him, compared to 97 in the last Assembly.

The Socialist vote in the second round was 2,484,417 compared with 3,187,890 in the 1956 elections.

"The slaughter among the familiar figures of the Fourth Republic has been fearful, nowhere so much as among the Socialist leaders," the Times noted.

Right to the very end the Communists were trying to win the "free list" leaders to break with fascism before it was too late. They offered to stand down on the second ballot for left-wing candidates chosen in co-operation with the Socialist Party. But Mollet refused and called on his supporters to vote on the second ballot for the anti-Communist candidate of whatever party who got the highest vote on the first ballot.

UNFORESEEN RESULT

One effect of this was that the Communists, forced to fight alone in 268 constituencies on the second ballot, were able to test the support they could win from the Socialist voters in a fight against right-wing candidates backed by the Socialist Party.

The result was one which the Communist Party had probably not foreseen. "The Communists got 426,800

more votes on the second ballot than they did on the first. In other words, a vast number of non-Communist voters was prepared to back the Communists rather than the right-wing united front candidate.

ALGERIAN FARCE

Not content to leave it to the election system in France to return a reactionary parliament, the Gaullists have made assurance doubly sure and reaction doubly reactionary by packing the French parliament with the seven fascists and semi-fascists elected by the whites in Algeria.

James Dugan, commented the Manchester Guardian, "The French nation has elected an Assembly that is probably fatter to the right than any since 1871."

In France the election was a fraud. In Algeria it was a tragic farce.

Although practically the entire Algerian population supports the demand for Algerian independence—so much so that an army of half-a-million is required to retain French power—yet only 15 per cent of the 71 candidates "elected" to parliament was an avowed opponent of Algerian independence.

This is how William Mitchell, correspondent of the right-wing London Observer (Oct. 30) reported the atmosphere in Algeria on the eve of the "free election."

ARMY'S "ELECTION"

He spoke to Algerians and "they told us that the army is in danger of arrest by the Army. Many of the men in the village, they said, had already been taken away for questioning."

With eight children, had been missing for 18 months, and it was impossible to find out what had happened to them.

The soldiers came in the evening and loaded them on lorries, without giving any reason. "We never know when we shall be taken away," it is uncertain, like death.

"I discovered later that in a number of villages in the region which I had just visited, the soldiers, because of the weather, troops were at that moment busy rounding up 'suspects'."

"ACT OF BETRAYAL"

"A Muslim intellectual I met in another village assured me that he knew of at least one case of a Muslim who had been arrested and who had lost his job for neglecting to vote in the referendum."

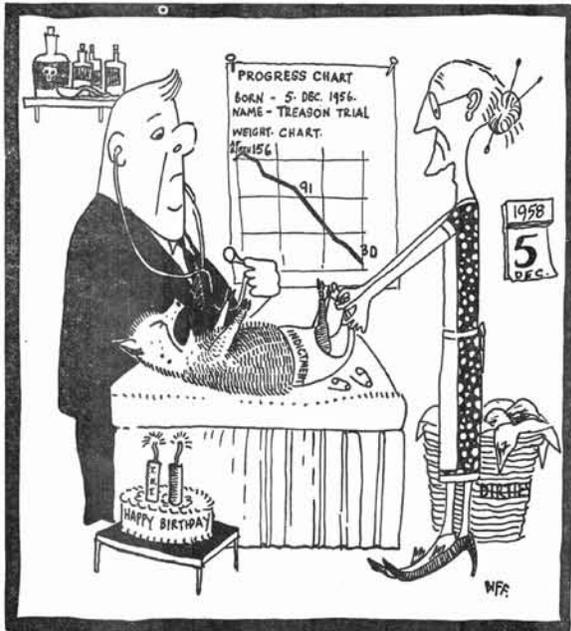
The soldiers were patrolling the streets of Algiers today warned the population that not to vote would be an act of betrayal.

The meaning of such a phrase in a country under complete military control is clear."

So sickening is the Algerian farce that even "Times" which can usually stomach anything as long as it is anti-Communist, let loose this blast to describe the Algerian deputies (Dec. 8):

"An unimpressive collection of nonentities handicapped by the French army for their ignorance, docility and 'loyalty to France'."

"These are the men who, because of the betrayal by the French 'Socialists' and liberals, will attempt to decide the destiny of France in the coming years. Can there be any doubt that the French working-class will soon rise up in wrath against De Gaulle, for in the words of the London Evening Standard: 'The only effective opposition to De Gaulle now is that of the Communists and this because of the electoral system, will remain largely outside Parliament.'"



SWART: "He loses weight all the time, doctor, and he needs changing so often."

ANC UNITED FOR CRUCIAL CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG. 1959 is likely to be anti-pass year if the draft resolution on stepping up the struggles of African men and women against the pass-laws is carried at the annual conference of the ANC to be held at Durban this week-end.

It is understood that conference will also discuss using the economic boycott weapon more vigorously next year.

ANC officials have been displaying great confidence during the week before conference, which must be reflected in the main report. Clearly the ANC has emerged from a difficult year more powerful than before.

Any internal differences that existed at one time in the Transvaal and Cape organisations have been wiped out and disputes in these provinces are a thing of the past.

AFRICANISTS The departure of the Africanists from the ranks of the ANC has been welcomed. Their policy to

weck Congress is now clear to all and there is no longer any place for them within the organisation. But they are regarded as no danger at all outside either.

Without exception the ANC branches have turned their backs on the departing Africanists and have knuckled down to their pressing jobs, the work of defending, hailing out, giving of aid to the women fighting passes; preparing to collect monies and to muster strong delegations to the national conference, as well as discussing plans for renewed campaigns.

The Africanists are hardly likely to be discussed at any real length at conference, but many real issues will be.

Conference will be asked to approve the ANC memorandum to the Accra conference which, significantly, will be announcing its findings for closer African co-operation on our continent, and the struggle towards total freedom from foreign domination, just as the largest political movement south of the Sahara

goes into session to plan its next stages of that campaign.

With all this as the background delegates are likely to be in a high spirit of optimism.

MASS TRIALS This law year could be characterised as one of the Nationalist Government's mass trials of the popular movement. Every demonstration of any size or importance has had its sequel in the law courts where scores of treason accused, hundreds of country people in Zanzibar, Sekukhuleland, several thousand women, one batch of congressmen after another, have been brought to trial for their anti-Government actions.

The policy of the Nationalists seems to be where possible to exploit the resources of the Congress movement for defence, bail and fines.

This has brought Congress serious problems which must be faced and are likely to be aired at conference. Should the policy be one of "no bail, no more fines, pack the jails"

It such a policy practical for every Congress or are there exceptions? Will any single formula be devised? This is one thorny issue which has faced Congress in the women's anti-pass struggle.

NEW METHODS Finding new methods of struggle is a further obvious topic for conference debate and the weapon of economic boycott is likely to figure largely.

Congress head office announced recently that the phase of active boycott of schools in the Bantua Education campaign is now formally over and there is likely to be some discussion among delegates of this item.

Other obvious topics for conference are rural issues, the 51 a Day Campaign, contact with other African political movements, cementing the Congress alliance and tightening up organisation so that, in the words of one prominent ANC official, "Congress must build to survive any attacks on it."

IS BRITAIN BEHIND GHANA-GUINEA MERGER?

We Have Been Robbed—French Complain

BEHIND the union of Ghana and Guinea lies the story of yet another serious rebuff for French imperialism in Africa. When de Gaulle withdrew all French capital from the newly independent state of Guinea he thought he was giving it the choice between starving outside jail or obtaining a subsistence diet. Evidently he thought that Guinea would be forced to plead to be allowed to return into the French empire.

To the anger and astonishment of France aid has come from a most unexpected source. But Ghana, herself extremely poor, would not be able alone to aid the Guinea economy sufficiently to keep that country from starvation.

BRITAIN INTERESTED

There are strong indications that Ghana is not acting entirely alone in uniting with Guinea. In spite of the loud protestations from Britain that she had no advance knowledge of the federation decision, the New Statesman disclosed last week: "Contrary to widespread reports here, Dr. Nkrumah did not spring his agreement with French Guinea on the British government at the very last moment."

In fact, said the New Statesman, the proposal had been discussed by

the British Cabinet during the week before the announcement was made.

The French imperialists, not surprisingly, are furious at what they consider to be a British plot to seize Guinea from them.

Britain's pretence at being surprised at the news has only served to increase this anger. It is pointed out that the £10,000,000 loan from Ghana to Guinea would be quite impossible without British aid and that the visit to London of Mr. Diallo Telli, the special ambassador from Guinea, and his reception by the British Foreign Secretary is convincing evidence of British complicity.



Can't sign. I have my hands full.

SOVIET PLAN TO EASE GERMAN TENSION

AN eight-point plan for the peaceful ending of the military occupation of Berlin and the conversion of West Berlin into a "free city" has been put forward by the Soviet government.

To ensure that the change-over takes place without friction, the Soviet Union undertakes not to introduce any change for six months into the present system of military transport to and from West Berlin employed by the U.S., Britain and France.

The plan provides for:

1. Ending the foreign occupation of Berlin;
2. Freedom for the people of West Berlin to decide what political and economic system they desire;
3. If they choose to remain capitalist the Soviet Union will respect that choice;
4. Conversion of West Berlin into an independent political unit—a free city, with no State (including both existing German States) interfering in its life;
5. Demilitarisation of the free city and the granting to it of its own Government;
6. A joint guarantee by the four occupying Powers and both German States to respect the status of West Berlin as a free city, with the United Nations participating in the guarantee;

7. Agreement on a guarantee by the East German Government of freedom of communications for West Berlin with West and East Germany, including freedom of access of goods and persons;

8. An undertaking by West Berlin not to allow on its territory hostile, subversive activities directed against the German Democratic Republic or any other State.

The South African daily newspapers have been hysterical in their condemnation of these proposals. They describe them as a "threat" to Western Berlin and talk of the "crisis" which may result.

NO THREAT

What in fact were the new proposals, and whom do they threaten?

The Soviet Government pointed out in its notes, dispatched on November 27, that two independent and sovereign German states had grown up in the course of the 13 years which have followed the end of World War Two.

This fact, it said, makes the continuation of any form of occupation anachronistic, and in fact occupation has really ceased, with the exception of Berlin.

British, American and French troops came to Berlin at the end of the war under inter-allied agreements which foresaw that they would stay in Berlin for a limited period while Germany was demilitarised and democrati-

fied, and while a new united German state was born.

Western policy frustrated the Potsdam policy of demilitarisation and demobilisation, and there is therefore no justification for the Western troops to remain any longer in West Berlin, the Russians say.

EASIEST WAY

The Soviet notes suggested that the easiest way of solving the Berlin problem would be for West Berlin to be incorporated in the German Democratic Republic, of which the whole city really forms an integral part, but admitted that under present conditions this would be very difficult since political and economic developments in West Berlin had been very different from those in the German Democratic Republic.

The Soviet Union therefore made the proposal that West Berlin should receive a very special status: it should become a demilitarised free city. This West Berlin Free City would be completely independent of the two existing German States, and of all foreign states, and its independence could be guaranteed by the Four Powers and by the United Nations.

The advantages of this step would be that the occupation regime would be ended, West Berlin would cease to be a centre for espionage against the German Democratic Republic, and one of the most dangerous centres of international tension would be removed.

The Soviet proposal for the solution of the Berlin problem may not be ideal: it is up to the Western powers to propose a better solution if they know one.

But thinking people all over the world are asking the press and the sabre-rattling politicians a question: WHERE IS THE THREAT?

"West Berlin would be left as an isolated capitalist island in a socialist sea" say the Western newspapers. But that is exactly its position today.

NO DIFFERENCE

"If the Western troops were withdrawn, West Berlin could be overrun in an hour or two by troops from the surrounding German Democratic Republic" say the Western papers. But that too is exactly the position today. All military experts in all parts of the world are agreed that the few thousand Western troops in West Berlin would make no difference at all if the Soviet Union wished to launch a war, which it most certainly does not.

In fact, the integrity of West Berlin from a military point of view would be improved if the

Soviet plan were carried out, since the West Berlin Free State would be guaranteed not only by the Big Four, but also by the full force of the United Nations Organisation.

But of course the Berlin question is only one small part of the question of Germany as a whole. If all foreign troops leave Berlin, will this not provide a good example for all foreign troops to leave the whole of Germany?

GOOD EXAMPLE
If West Berlin can be turned successfully into a demilitarised, neutral state, trading and co-existing with East and West, will this not provide a good example which could lead to the establishment of a neutralised German Confederation?

The Soviet Union has proposed a six-month period of consideration during which the Berlin problem can be settled.

If these six months are used properly by all people of goodwill, they may take us a long step along the road to a final solution of the German problem, and a long step towards a real relaxation of tension in Europe.

Catholics Turn Against Salazar

PORTUGAL'S dictator Salazar, shaken by the overwhelming opposition to his policies revealed in this year's faked presidential elections, has decided to postpone the municipal election, which were due to be held this month.

But so critical is Salazar's position that he is being deserted even by his closest supporters. Lino Neto, a leading member of the Catholic Information Centre which has consistently backed Salazar, has written a leaflet calling on the church to dissociate itself from "this anti-Christian, totalitarian regime."

The government has banned a number of Catholic congresses following the statement at one of them by the Bishop of Oporto, in July, that he could no longer bear "the sight of bare-footed and ragged beggars and under-fed pallid children." He described the government as an "economic despotism which is nothing more than a trick for depriving the workers of their right of free association."

He added "in Minho, the Catholic heart of Portugal, the people once joined the priests in the polling booths, but at the last election they walked away from the churches in an almost disrespectful manner as soon as the priests mentioned the election."

Relies on Aswan Dam Site to be Saved

CAIRO.

The United Arab Republic with the help of archaeologists and experts from the Soviet Union, Poland, Germany and Italy is making great efforts to preserve the records of the antiquities on the site of the Aswan high dam from being submerged by water after construction of the dam.

Instructions have been given by the Egyptian Antiquities Department to take pictures of all antiquities there including temples and monuments and to copy all inscriptions on the monuments and temple walls before they are submerged.

There are 19 temples in the area which is called Lower Nubia. Most important of them are two temples of Ramses the Second, famous Egyptian King who reigned from 1279 to 1213 B.C. The great temple of Ramses the Second with four colossal statues of the king carved from rocks on the mountain and his war records carved on the walls inside the temple are considered one of the greatest works of ancient art.

GHANA is being visited by a Czech trade mission which is investigating the possibility of setting up small-scale industries there.



Wall Street Journal

"Their culture is very primitive—no divorce, no employment, no juvenile delinquency."



Minneapolis Star

Rock 'n' Roll



Peace dove—U.S. model

CAPE CONFERENCE AGAINST JOB RESERVATION

CAPE TOWN.

A MASS conference to discuss a united stand against Job Reservation will be held this Monday, December 15.

The conference is being convened by Mr. G. Fletcher, chairman of the Furniture Workers' Union, and will be held at the Rose Crawford Hall, 350 Victoria Road, Salt River.

"There can be no doubt about the serious threat of job reservation to the non-white workers," states a circular issued to individuals and organisations by the convenor. "You need only to be reminded of the brutal action taken in the matter of the Non-European Traffic Police, and also of the pegging of Coloured workers employed in the road transport service."

INVESTIGATING CAPE INDUSTRIES

The Industrial Tribunal has been instructed to investigate every industry in the Cape, and this would lead to the reservation of still more of the better paid jobs for whites in industries including the trades and occupations which have been followed by non-whites for generations.

"The Government gazettes published over the past 20 months, wherein the Tribunal is instructed by the Minister of Labour that it appeared to him to be desirable that measures should be taken to safeguard the economic welfare of white people employed in that particular industry, are conclusive proof that it is only the white worker that is to be protected," said Mr. Fletcher.

UNITED STAND

The conference will be held to consider ways and means to bring about a united stand to protect the fundamental rights of workers as

laid down in the United Nations Charter—the right of all people to qualify and engage in all trades, crafts, occupations and professions irrespective of colour.

Racing at Kenilworth

These are Damon's selections for this Saturday:

Juvenile Maiden Plate, 5 furlongs: GRABBO, Danger, Sybils Renown.

Maiden Plate, 8 furlongs: MUCH BINDING, Danger, Hay-Hair.

Round Course Handicap, 14 furlongs: TRUMPETER, Danger, Luge.

Kenilworth Stakes, 6 furlongs: ROYAL MET, Danger, Operation.

Wynton Stakes, 7 furlongs: HYACINTH, Danger, Golden Hoop.

Kenilworth Open, 6 furlongs: ZIEGFRIED, Danger, Bul-Bul.

Kenilworth Handicap, 6 furlongs: BATTLE SONG, Danzer, Kani.

Wynton Handicap (B), 8 furlongs: STAN, Danger, Burwood.

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THE CAPE DEBATING SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURE

LIBERALISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

Speaker: MR. E. MARNEY

on Sunday, 14th December, 1958 in the
Mowbray Minor Hall at 3 p.m. Sharp

The lecturer will deal with:

1. The policies of the Liberal Party
2. The views of the Western Province Press Association (The Citizen).
3. The relation of the above groups to consistent democracy.
4. The tasks facing the liberatory movement.

ALL WELCOME

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Retractions

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Mr. T.
C.R.
New
Roc
ave

Should West Indies be "Non-Europeans Only"?

THE daily papers throughout the country are viewing with alarm the present trend of the sports situation as it affects discrimination between Whites and Non-Whites on the grounds of colour. Overseas criticism has reached a high level and world figures have openly condemned the official attitude of 'white' South Africa in the sporting sphere. It is obvious that this set-up will not be tolerated by the other sporting nations for very long.

The Non-Europeans themselves are showing a united front and forging ahead by leaps and bounds towards their ultimate goal of gaining world recognition, not in one branch of sports only but in all. The formation of the S.A. Sports Association is the first major step whereby they have united such national sports as tennis, soccer, cricket, table-tennis, weight-lifting, athletics, cycling, baseball, softball, boxing and netball all under one banner.

But no selfish attitude is being adopted in this unification, for the Whites have also been invited to attend the Conference to be held in Durban on January 10, which it is understood that the delegates will formally decide to seek recognition from the International Olympic Committee, and the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Federation.

The world is now convinced that the colour bar in sports, as in other spheres in life, is repugnant and against the principles of the Olympic and Empire Games, where South Africa is the only entity that is represented by one section of its multi-racial population. By the time the 1960 Olympic Games take place in Rome, pressure must be brought on South Africa so that its multi-racial expansion will bring home to many Whites the detestation with which apartheid in sports is regarded.

Paton's View

This letter point was advocated by Mr. Alan Paton, the Liberal Party's national President, at the annual conference of the Natal Indian Congress, together with an emphatic statement that any country which sends a Non-White sports team to South Africa to play Non-Whites is simply condoning the colour bar and lengthening its disreputable life.

At the recent Empire Games, he said, South Africa was permitted to enter a colour-bar team which fraternised freely and was popular with both White and Black participants, but the fact still remains that no Non-White South African is given the chance to compete in such world events, irrespective of whether he can produce records time or not.

Mr. Paton's remarks drive home the fact that, by taking no action to stop or oppose discrimination in sport, we are supporting and condoning it, and the Empire Games Federation by accepting White South Africa as being a bar to Non-White sportsmen from taking part in an event which embraces all members of the Commonwealth, Black or White.

It was the churches of New Zealand which protested against the deliberate omission of the Maoris from their national side, by replacing the All Blacks-Springbok rugby series in jeopardy. It may be that, unless S.A. drops the colour bar, the series may be approaching its end.

The M.C.C. could be placed in the same category when they tour South Africa. World renowned players such as the great Ranji, Duleepsinhji and the Nawab of Pataudi, never made the England side when they toured this country, while, talking of the present, Raman Subba Row, who is with the M.C.C. team in Australia, could sooner wish for the moon than tour South

Africa in a few years time when England is due here.

In boxing a similar state of affairs exists, in fact worse, for world-renowned Non-White boxers cannot even meet their dark-skinned counterparts. Efforts to bring Hogan Bassey and other leading fighters to this country were balked by the immigration authorities. Here again the colour of the skin determined the issue.

It is really because of this frustration in being denied further opportunities for our talented sportsmen that a major organisation such as the S.A. Sports Association has come into being.

Simultaneously the Non-White cricket administrators are forging ahead and after the recent success-

BY "DULEEP"

ful tour of South Africa, they have negotiated a tour of South Africa by a West Indies team, under the captaincy of Frank Worrell, who has promised a star-studded side.

Simultaneously the Non-White names as Weekes, Ramadhin, Sobers, Hunte, etc.

"Dawie", political correspondent of the Cape Town Nationalist daily paper, the "Burger", expressed concern over this West Indies tour, stating that it is "full of dynamite" and "could be exploited for political ends."

"Dawie" and all others of his kind can be assured that the Non-White cricketers and their administrators are purely and simply sportsmen and never mix their politics with sport. Politically, what have the Non-Europeans to gain? They have lost everything by denying them the opportunity of meeting their darker brothers of another land on the sports field! If, as "Dawie" imagines, it is dynamite, then he knows it, and is likely to ignore it himself for ulterior motives.

What audacity "Dawie" has to state that Non-White cricketers could not be beaten by a W.P. club side and

that the matches against the West Indies would be one-sided. On matting, the S.A. Non-Europeans will hold their own against any country in the world, for B. D'Oliveira, the South African captain, who played against strong opposition in East Africa, has also faced many White stars of W.P., including a few Springboks, with success, and beaten them on very many occasions. High praise was showered by these White cricketers themselves on the remarkable talent of the Non-Whites.

Incidentally, it would be wrong to imagine that White sportsmen of this country favour racial discrimination. They accept the position as it is, but their conscience always makes them sympathetic towards us, and a typical example is Jack Cheatham, ex S.A. cricket captain, who at all times has been cooperative to Non-Europeans. The fault probably lies with the administrators, or is it the laws of the country?

What is the Answer?

The question that is worrying all South Africa (I mean Black South Africa) is: "Should the West Indies, with its hot-blooded temperament, tour South Africa?" Sportsmen other than cricketers feel they should not, expressing the view that they are sacrificing a principle by complying with governmental requirements that only Non-Whites be allowed to play against Non-Whites. Pavadasi and Varsachi, they feel, are dancing to the tune of the Government, and Worrell, in his press statement, has confirmed this clearly.

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Are the cricketers going by inviting the West Indies team, falling prey to what the Whites want us to do? Readers are requested to forward their views, for publication, on this burning problem.

GO ON TO BLAME FOR LOCATION FIGHTS

—Says ANC

IT is the nature of a dog to look for scraps of food where it is accustomed to get them. But those who do not want dogs to hang around them do not throw bones," says a leaflet issued by the ANC (New Brighton).

The leaflet analyses the causes of the pre-Xmas violent outbreaks that have come to be regarded as characteristic features of life in an urban location. According to the leaflet the location police have been organising groups of "toughs" about the location under the pretext that they are protecting the public against what they call the "unruly youth." The leaflet accuses those in authority of authorising its headmen to use violence which inevitably will give rise to a violent reaction by the people.

The leaflet states further that the headmen have been set the task of smashing Congress. But they are failing to do so and those in authority are worried by the growing unity of the people and their in-

creasing confidence in Congress' unwavering leadership.

By starting a fight amongst the people by a ruling class, they hope to divert the minds of the people from their principal enemy—the Nationalist Government and its racial laws.

The leaflet refers to the violent outbreak which occurred at East London early in the week as an example of the unscrupulous methods which the Nationalist Government and those who administer its evil laws are prepared to use to create dissunity among the people, while the police stand and watch on the fringes waiting to crush both sides which they are locked in battle.

The leaflet says the people not to fall for the boned words of those in authority who seek to conceal false pretensions of protecting the "law-abiding native."

The leaflets have been prepared on such a big scale that it is expected that they will be one delivered at every door.

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