

PEOPLE'S FIGHT IS MAIN BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM

NEW AGE

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A.N.C. Report Discusses Objectives of Liberation Movement

JOHANNESBURG.—"THE ONLY REAL BULWARK, THE ONLY FIRM DEFENCE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP AND FASCISM IS THE WILL OF THE NON-WHITE PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRACY." STATES THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BLOEMFONTEIN THIS WEEK-END.

Surveying the various opposition movements which have developed among the Europeans during the last year as a result of Nationalist policy, the report says that so long as this central fact is not recognised, "all opposition politics of White voters alone will continue to be shadow play, unreal and ineffective.

"More votes, yes, that is the issue. Not winning Nationalist votes to the side of the United Party, but extending the vote to all the people."

FREEDOM CHARTER

The report stresses that the only way to defeat the police state is to achieve the aims of the Freedom Charter.

"This is the pattern of the new South Africa which must make a complete break with the present unjust system.

"The Freedom Charter has opened up a new chapter in the struggle of our people. Hitherto we have struggled sometimes together, sometimes separately against pass laws, and Group Areas, against law and removal schemes. With the adoption of the Charter all struggles become part of one: the struggle for the aims of the Charter."

Discussing the million signature campaign, the report says "the charter can and must be the inspiration of the people in their freedom fight; it must be their organiser.

"Every signature won to the Charter is an additional cause and a fighter for the Congress movement. Every local battle fought around some local grievance but related to the overall demands of the Charter is another battle won in the people's understanding of how political campaigns will win the new South Africa and help to bring final victory against the Nationalists nearer."

PASS LAWS

The report describes the pass laws as "one of the most burning grievances of the people. The Africans know the passes as the badge of their slavery . . .

"We who know the suffering the pass laws have brought to us over the decades will not tolerate the extension of this hated system to our workmen. We warn the governments making the laws. The Africans will be like ramping on the tail of a puff adder.

"The pass laws humiliate and terrorise us at every turn. Indulgent control keeps man and wife apart, endorsement out of the urban areas breaks up our families and makes our children orphans. Our young boys grow up in terror of the sight of the roving pick-up van and the shouts for passes. The labour bureaux force us to accept work on the farms; our youth are denied a future.

"Must our women also be herded

into the police cells, detained in a lock-up because they have forgotten a piece of paper while their children are motherless at home? Must our wives too work out 14 and 21 days of hard labour because some detail has not been entered in their identification books?

"This is what the pass laws will bring to our women. We must fight the extension of these laws to African women with every breath in our bodies."

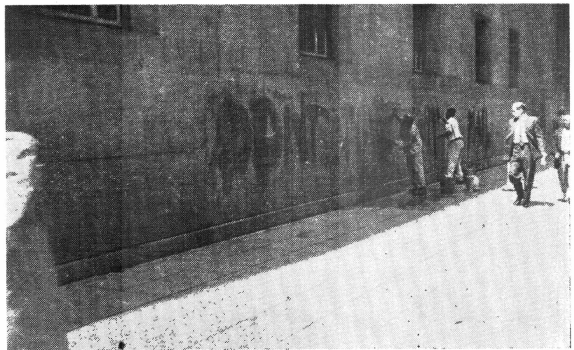
The executive suggests that a campaign be launched to mobilise all sections of the people against the Population Registration Act and the Abolition of Passes and Co-ordination of Documents Act.

BANTU EDUCATION

The report analyses in detail the achievements and weaknesses of the campaign against the Bantu Education Act.

"We must learn that it is one thing to wish to see a complete national withdrawal of all children from Bantu Education schools. It is another thing to achieve this; organisational preparedness does not happen overnight. It is the result of steady, even slow, patient, persistent work and we must face it."

(Continued on page 4)



A new rash of Freedom Charter slogans has burst out on buildings all over Johannesburg. This picture shows City Council cleaners trying to erase the slogan "Don't Tamper With Mail" painted on the wall of the Jeppe Street Post Office last week. It took them three hours. "All shall be equal before the law" appeared on walls in Yeoville and Saxonwold. A slogan in Parktown said: "Nationalism equals Fascism, Charter equals Freedom." In Hillbrow a slogan painted on a newly constructed block of flats said: "Houses, security for all." Another slogan attacked the Population Registration Act, by demanding "No passes for people."

"SIGNATURE WEEK" AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

4,000 SIGN FREEDOM CHARTER

JOHANNESBURG.—"SIGNATURE WEEK-END PROVED AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN THE TRANSVAAL IN THE COURSE OF TWO DAYS, NEARLY 4,000 PEOPLE SIGNED THE FREEDOM CHARTER AT TABLES ORGANISED BY THE FOUR CONGRESSES IN VARIOUS AREAS.

Despite police interference, the Congress of Democrats raised their previous total to 700—only 300 short of their quota. Over 1,100 signatures were collected in Benoni, where 10 tables were in operation.

"We will not win support for the Freedom Charter by peddling it like backache powders. We will only win support for the Charter by entering into the daily agitation, education and campaigning which are the life-blood of the Congresses," says the National Consultative Committee's report on the Freedom Charter signature campaign.

The report was adopted at the recent meeting of the national executives of the four Congresses.

Support for the Charter must be won in the same way as each Congress wins support for its aims and objects, states the report.

"We know that we can only win mass support for our aims and objects if we are active—agitating, leading, guiding and advising the people on every issue that troubles them. . . . We know that the people are drawn closer to us by our active entry into the things that are happening."

In this way, the people come to understand that the objects of the Congress movement provide a solution to their troubles, says the report.

AGREED AIMS

Among these objects is the realisation of the Freedom Charter which was fathered by the Congress movement, and is "a statement of the agreed and accepted aims of the liberatory movement." Signatures for the Charter should therefore be collected in the course of daily struggles.

"PEOPLE WILL CHALLENGE BUS APARTHEID"

CAPE TOWN.—"We are not prepared to let apartheid on the buses go unchallenged," Mr. Alec La Guma, president of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation, told an enthusiastic meeting on the Cape Town Grand Parade last Sunday afternoon.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Cape Western Consultative Committee of the A.N.C., S.A.C.P.O. and C.O.D.

Describing the hardships bus apartheid would mean to the Non-European people, Mr. La Guma went on: "We must be prepared to withhold our support from the companies which are introducing apartheid. We must refuse to ride in the buses."

The meeting adopted a resolution calling on the people of the Cape Peninsula to "organise for the mass boycott of bus apartheid as a means of smashing this move on the part of the Government to further apply their oppressive policy."

Speaking for the A.N.C., Mr. D. Mgunyeko said the Freedom Charter campaign would not end

until there was peace and freedom in South Africa for everybody—Africans, Europeans, Indians, Coloureds.

Guest-speaker from S.A.C.T.U., Mr. Joe Ngulube, drew attention to the evils of the Industrial Conciliation Bill, and a resolution was adopted calling on all workers to oppose the Bill with all the means at their disposal.

Mr. B. Gosschalk, from the Congress of Democrats, spoke on the Government's removal schemes for the Western Cape and pointed out that while Africans were being forced into Nyanga today, it was the Government's plan eventually to house Coloureds in Nyanga, and push Africans out of the Western Cape altogether.

M. T. Mtini presided.

"At all costs we must avoid treating the collecting of signatures as something that can be planned separately by itself, as a different item on the agenda from the items dealing with the issues of the day, bus fares, passes and so on."

Why is it important to collect signatures for the Charter? Answering this question, the report gives the following reasons:

● "Because in the act of collecting we are able to explain our aims and objects more fully than the people can learn for themselves in a single struggle."

● "To test our support among the people, so that we shall know where we are strong and where we are weak."

● "So that people will remember that this is not only our statement of aims and objectives, but theirs as well, whether they are members of Congress or not."

● "As a means to help us find the most advanced and conscious of the people, and to draw them into our ranks."

Huddleston Says "Thank You" and "Goodbye" at Farewell Concert

JOHANNESBURG. Special buses ran from the Townships into Johannesburg one evening last week when hundreds of people, including a large number of Europeans, flocked to the Banna Men's Social Centre for "The Stars Are Weeping"—a concert presented by the cream of African stage talent in honour of Father Huddleston.

The concert, said Mr. G. Tsebe, the compere, was a sign of the "deep affection" for Father Huddleston, which "springs from every corner of the land."

"Our hearts are very full as we present this tribute," he said. "We all hope and pray that the decision to recall Father Huddleston may be changed—that our concert tonight may not be in farewell, but in tribute."

Father Huddleston, who was in the audience, saw some of the foremost African entertainers in action—the Manhattan Brothers, Dolly Rathebe, Lo Six, the Sidney Sisters and the Golden City High Steppers.

A HAPPIER FUTURE

As the evening wore on, many stars who had not been included in the original programme "pitched

Obviously moved by the tribute, Father Huddleston then replied. The two hardest phrases in any language, he said, were "thank you" and "goodbye."

"I shall always remain part of this country, and perhaps will come back to South Africa one day."

He urged the people to look forward—to the breaking of the day when every person in South Africa would be able "to use freely the gifts and talents which God has given them."

"This day was bound to come—and come soon—if people of all races continued to fight for it together in the future as they had in the past."

Mati Gets Suspended Sentence

PORT ELIZABETH. Mr. A. P. Mati was given a suspended sentence of three months imprisonment with hard labour when he was found guilty recently of attending a gathering in contravention of a notice served on him in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act.

Mr. Jankelowitz, for the defence, pleaded in mitigation that Mati had been genuinely under the impression that his ban had expired when he addressed the gathering. He had refrained from addressing or attending meetings for the previous two years, and the difficulty arose because he took his ban to date from the day on which it was signed by the Minister, instead of from the day it was served on him.

A Black Day

Today is not a very happy one for New Age. For the first time since March we can only give you four slender pages. Important news, feature articles and interesting pictures have had to be left out owing to shortage of space. It is small consolation to state that even four pages of New Age speak more truth and contain more truth and essential information than a dozen big dailies.

The fact remains that because of financial difficulties, we are forced to print only half of what we could print. The people who suffer most as a result are ourselves. But we suffer too. Our casual sales always drop considerably when we produce a smaller paper, and our influence shrinks accordingly.

Yet New Age has never been so badly needed as it is today. We are all aware that yet more vicious attacks will be made on the rights of the people when Parliament meets on the 22nd of this month, and that swift mobilisation of the democratic forces will be essential if these attacks are to be beaten back. That mobilisation can only take place if the people are thoroughly aroused to the dangers that threaten them.

The role that New Age plays in this respect is invaluable. We cannot afford to appear as a friend with one hand tied behind our backs.

No effort must be spared to get our paper in fighting trim for the battles that lie ahead. The missing four pages must be put back into circulation as soon as possible. Give us your help, then, and we'll produce the goods.

Let no democrat shirk his responsibility towards New Age! Make YOUR contribution TODAY!

FRED CARNESON.

Remember our addresses: Cape Town: Room 26, Chames Buildings, Barrack Street. Johannesburg: No. 5 Progress Building, 11 Constitution Street. Durban: 6 Pembroke Chambers, 472 West Street. Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, 129 Alderley Street.



Several hundred people of all races welcomed people's leader Moses Kotane on his return home last week from an 11-month visit overseas. Our picture show (above) Moses Kotane, garlanded, giving the Afrika salute and (below) a policeman grimly eyeing the crowd waiting for Mr. Kotane to come out of the immigration office at Jan Smuts airport.



When I was in the Berlin Hospital, the doctor in charge asked me if I wanted to be alone in a ward. I was very surprised and very glad and asked to be alone. My ward was always full of flowers from the women of this hospital and from the German Women's Federation. I also received many presents from them.

CAPE TOWN. The South African public has been greatly shocked by the nomination last week, as one of the 18 Government Senators, of Louis Weichardt, former rabid fascist and South African Jew-baiter-in-chief during the thirties.

In 1933 Weichardt was leader and founder of the Greyshirt movement, the South African counterpart of the Nazis. His appointment should serve as a warning to the Jews of South Africa, particularly official Jewry.

It may suit the Government today to tone down on anti-Semitic speeches and to appear as a friend of the Jews, but the Weichardts, Eric Louws and others still hold high positions in the Nationalist Party and Government.

THE SWASTIKA

When Weichardt founded the Greyshirt movement, Hitler was riding on the crest of the wave. The Greyshirts, too, adopted the Swastika as their emblem. For years, until World War II, Weichardt and his gangs of fascist hoodlums, holding meetings in towns and villages,

Langa Will Fight Rent Increases

CAPE TOWN. "We strongly protest against the Cape Town City Council's decision to increase the rentals at Langa and are determined to fight the increases with all our means," the Langa branch of the African National Congress declared in a statement issued after a special committee meeting on Monday evening.

"African wages are very low, the cost of living is high and even with the present rentals, a large number of families are in arrears. This is proof that any increase will further add to the people's difficulties," says the Langa A.N.C.

A mass meeting of protest will take place shortly.

The City Council last week decided to increase Langa rents by 9s. and 11s. a month for bachelor quarters; and from £2 to £2 10s. for 4-room houses.

Youth Discuss the Freedom Charter

CAPE TOWN. "The doors of learning and culture shall be opened!" This heading of Chapter 8 of the Freedom Charter was the theme of a special conference of youth and cultural organisations held in Cape Town last Sunday morning, under the auspices of the Cape Western Consultative Committee.

Introducing the subject, Mr. K. Parker pointed to the big differences in educational facilities for white and non-white children and spoke of the inferior education provided under the system of Bantu Education.

"The pattern of segregation is repeated throughout South Africa's cultural life—in cinemas, theatre, libraries, on the sports fields," said Mr. Parker. "The result is that the vast bulk of the Non-Europeans are cut off from the cultural treasures of civilisation."

Delegates to the meeting discussed ways and means of implementing Chapter 8 of the Charter, and it was decided to elect a sub-committee to study the conference work in conjunction with the C.W.C.C. in planning the campaign.

First steps in the campaign will be the drawing up of a leaflet explaining how Clause 8 affects the youth, and the organisation of a pageant, telling the people's history of South Africa.

It was also decided that youth should be mobilised for the collection of signatures to the Freedom Charter.

She Made Many Friends in Berlin

When I was in the Berlin Hospital, the doctor in charge asked me if I wanted to be alone in a ward. I was very surprised and very glad and asked to be alone. My ward was always full of flowers from the women of this hospital and from the German Women's Federation. I also received many presents from them.

When I was able to walk about I began to visit the other wards and meet the patients. Before I left the hospital I had made many friends, and these friends are European people. They could not speak English, but we understood each other quite well.

In East Germany there is no war, but no racial discrimination.

DORA TAMANE.

WEICHARDT IN THE SEAT

deated and after Weichardt had spent a few years in an internment camp, Point 6 was changed to read as follows:

"The Party stands for an uncompromising maintenance of European civilisation according to the best traditions of, and ideals of, our race. Accordingly, the Party aims at legislation restricting the activities in our national life by a quota system."

Weichardt's language may have been more moderate, but he was clearly still unrepentant.

PARTY DISSOLVED

In 1950 Weichardt announced the dissolution of the Greyshirt movement and he and his henchmen joined the Nationalist Party, bag, baggage and all.

Nominated as Nationalist candidate in Maitland in the last election, he was soundly defeated by the United Party's Dr. Z. J. de Beer.

Today, Weichardt has plucked the first plum—a seat in the Senate—by nomination of the Government.

What a slap in the face for the South African Jews! And what a clear warning of the road the Jews are treading! South African Jewry should remove the blinkers from its eyes and take action before it is too late!

NAOMI SHAPIRO.

CALL FOR POPULAR FRONT IN FRANCE

WITH the French elections due to take place on January 8, the progressive and working-class movement is working strenuously to bring about the rebirth of the Popular Front, which, led by the Communists and Socialists, beat the right-wing parties and saved France from fascism in the 1936 elections.

The elections were not due to take place for another six months, but France's reactionary Faure government last month made a surprise move for the immediate recess of the Assembly. This was vigorously opposed by many of the Assembliesmen, including the Socialists, who traditionally cling to their seats as long as possible rather than face the uncertainties of elections.

Faure's resolution was carried by a bare majority—and would have been heavily defeated had it not been backed by the 94 Communist members. Explaining the Communist vote, the general secretary

WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

of the French C.P., Maurice Thorez, declared: "We consider that it is always good to let the people have their say."

What was the reason for Faure's decision? His government, in an impossible position as it became clear that the vast majority of the electorate was opposed to the policies to which Faure was committed, Faure's "dirty war" against the people of North Africa has aroused immense hostility. The wave of worker-backed mutinies in the French army as young soldiers are mobilised for the slaughter is continuing and growing.

The lesson of Viet-nam is fresh in the memory of France. Tens of thousands of young Frenchmen—thrown away their lives for French imperialism in the fight against the Vietnamese. But in spite of the bloodshed and suffering, the people of North Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh, won their freedom—and in the South the Americans walked in and effortlessly, contemptuously, ousted the French and took over.

At the same time as real wages continue to fall, the French workers are preparing to intensify strike activity.

FEAR POPULAR FRONT

France knew that the reactionaries could offer no solution to France's difficulties. He understood well that if his government had stayed in office for another six months popular opposition would have grown so great that he would have been wiped out in the elections. More than anything else he feared the emergence of a Popular Front.

But most vigorous of the opponents of early elections was Mendes-France, effective leader of Faure's own party, the Radicals.

Mendes-France had a very clear and definite purpose in wishing to postpone the elections. He thought he had the only effective plan for saving France from the reactionaries and preventing the emergence of a Popular Front.

To achieve this, Mendes-France needed time. Gullible as he might hope that the French voters would be, he could hardly expect them to forget his record by January. There were good reasons why he did not want public debate on his policies too soon. For it was Mendes-France who, when he was Prime Minister, negotiated the Paris agreement with Germany which permitted the remilitarisation of Germany in return for German agreement to the dissolution of the Saar. And the Saar referendum, which put Paris to a European election, is very fresh in memory.

RIGGING THE VOTE

Faure had no intention of going peacefully to the elections for slaughter. He also had a plan—to rig the elections so that the right-wing would be returned to power.

Faure was not the first to have such a plan. The French reactionaries have frequently concerned themselves with finding methods of disfranchising the five million Communist voters.

After the war (when the electoral system was that of proportional representation so that seats in the Assembly were allocated according to the percentages of the vote received by each party, the Communists, with about 25 per cent of the votes had 25 per cent of the seats—160 in all, and were so powerful a force that they had to be included in the coalition cabinet).

In 1951, with the deliberate intention of reducing

Communist representation all the other parties united to change the electoral system. The country was divided into large constituencies, each with several seats, and unless a party was able to poll 50 per cent of the votes in the constituency, it got none of the seats. Parties were permitted to come to agreements to pool their votes, so that it was possible for the reactionaries to prevent the Communists from getting a single seat in a constituency even though they had 49 per cent of the votes in it.

As the Economist commented (Nov. 19): "The system led to some odd results, since a Frenchman who voted for a Socialist might find that he had helped to elect a conservative member." By means of this system, Communist representation in the Assembly was reduced from 183 seats to 94 in the 1951 elections, though the Communist vote remained almost the same.

STILL NOT SATISFIED

The 1951 election system still did not satisfy Faure. True, it takes 50,000 votes to elect a Communist deputy and less than 30,000 to elect a deputy of any of the four governing parties—but there are so many Communist voters that this still allows 94 Communists to be elected.

Faure put forward a new election plan for the redetermination of districts—known in France as "arrondissement" plan—so that two city votes would be equal to one country vote. Communist strength lies principally among the organised working-class of the cities; the reactionary bourgeois vote from the backward rural areas. Enthusiastically backed in this by Mendes-France, Faure hoped to reduce Communist representation to the seats.

Against this proposal the French Communist Party mobilised a huge popular campaign. It put forward a counter-demand for the repeal of the 1951 law and a return to proportional representation—the system which enjoys the greatest popular support.

PLAN MISHIERES

The Mendes-France proposal was too much for the Assembly to stomach and various modifications to it were adopted. But the French Senate, traditionally a hot-bed of reaction, would have no amendments. It wanted the original arrondissement proposal, and sent the amendments back to the Assembly. In doing so it over-reached itself. After the law had been returned three times from the Senate, Faure put it forward as a confidence motion in its original form, and lost.

Mendes-France and the Radicals wanted him to go on trying—but Faure saw that further delay would mean that the elections would be postponed indefinitely. He dissolved the Assembly and was duly kicked out of the party by the plucky Mendes-France. The elections will therefore be based on the 1951 law.

In spite of the intense anti-Communist propaganda since the 1951 elections, the Communist Party has maintained its position in France and even strengthened it. About half the French electorate went to the polls last month to vote for the Social Security Council which administers France's complicated workers' benefit schemes, and the Communist-supported C.G.T., polled 40 per cent of the votes—an increase of about 3 per cent over the last elections in 1951. This is a clear sign that right-wing hopes that the C.P. has lost ground are baseless.

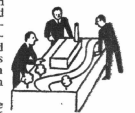
The main plank in the platform of the Communist Party in the present election campaign has been an urgent call to the Socialists and other progressives to join with the Communists in a Popular Front which would turn the tide of the 1950 vote against the reactionaries and ensure a working-class majority in the Assembly.

COULD TURN TABLES

In many urban constituencies the Communists and Socialists together poll more than half the votes. If they came to an agreement to run together, they could turn the tables on the capitalist parties and take all the seats in the constituency. Instead, the Socialists have in the past gone up with the other parties against the C.P. and taken the crumbs dropped for them by the reactionaries.

Repeating the achievements of the 1936 Popular Front—which won higher wages, the 40-hour week, paid holidays and many other gains—the Communists are strongly urging progressives to stand together once more on an agreed minimum programme.

This is not the only response from the ranks and file of the Socialist Party and other parties have been entered into in a number of constituencies. But the official leadership of the Socialist Party has not given any indication of willingness to join a Popular Front, and it is unlikely to do so. Nevertheless, the local agreements between Socialists and Communists will be of very great importance in laying the basis for a Popular Front in the future.





NEW AGE LETTER BOX

Fight the Bantu Authorities Act

The latest happenings in Thaba N'ku reserve are as follows: At a meeting of the Bantu Authorities and Blockmen in recent months it was decided, without consulting the people, that laws should run like this:

(1) When one is employed by a European or African, one must depend on the soil alone. One may not rear domestic animals, own land or any business.

Question: How will the people live? What guarantee have they if they are sacked? Will the employers help them in their hardships? Animals and the soil are our food.

(2) When one cultivates the land, one must depend on the soil alone. One may keep no animals, take no outside job.

Question: What happens when there is a drought? Will the African be freed from paying his numerous taxes? Will he be offered employment? What can he do without cattle. Cattle are the tillers of the soil and the producers of food.

(3) When one keeps cattle, sheep, horses, poultry, one is totally denied the right of having a business or tillage of the land.

Question: How can one make a living with the limited stock of about 2 head of cattle, 1 horse, and 10 sheep?

(4) When one is a business man, one may conduct only one's business affairs, which are limited here.

Question: What a shocking thing to prevent Africans from developing their businesses as they wish?

(5) The hunting of wild animals is strictly prohibited here. African boys hunt in order to get food to chase away starvation.

All these things are signs of the Bantu Authorities Act. Africans must wake up before all their rights and liberties are taken from them.

JOSEPH T. LEBITSA.
Bloemfontein.

Protest At Bantu Education Committee

The Veeplaats branch of the African National Congress strongly protests against the recent unconstitutional election of the Bantu Education Committee here in Veeplaats. The chairman assumed the duties of a dictator and simply nominated the members. We therefore saw the 12 elected men and women, represent their own children not the children of the parents of Veeplaats.

We also protest against the removal of the Rhodesians, Nyasalanders and Portuguese East African people from the Union, where they have lived most of their lives.

J. M. STEPHEN.
Veeplaats.

She Got On The Wrong Train

One morning recently a ten-year-old girl with a frightened look on her face asked me to accompany her to the Sophiatown bus terminus. She told me she stayed at Meadowlands (Verwoerd's constituency) and with tears in her eyes she added that she had boarded the wrong train. She said she preferred Sophiatown where she was born and where the school was nearer to her former home.

Since the introduction of Bantu Education, these little children have to be at school at 8 a.m. and have to leave Meadowlands very early in the mornings.

Why can't the Government, instead of concentrating their forces on liquor and pass raids, have policemen at stations like Meadowlands to announce the destination of each and every train not for the mere love of making a noise, but for the help and guidance of passengers, especially children?

The boarding of wrong trains by children will result in a delinquency because if a child realises that she will be late for school, she may easily linger on the streets till the afternoon, and mingle with undesirable characters.

ALLAN KLAAS.
Sophiatown.

Chiefs Are Tools Of The Government

I have heard of the results of Dr. Verwoerd's Rustenburg indaba with great disappointment. The reason for my disappointment is that the chiefs were promised they would be restored with their own powers which were formerly taken away from them, but since that promise was made our chiefs do not enjoy this privilege. In the reserves it is their duty to carry out the orders of the Native Commissioner.

It is the Native Commissioners in the reserves who exercise greater powers than the chiefs. How then can we believe that the powers are being restored to the chiefs?

The reserves, we are told, are national homes for the Bantu. But the administrative officers are Europeans who are vested with big powers over the inhabitants, and who draw large salaries—the money could have been better placed in the hands of the people themselves.

The inhabitants of the reserves are making prodigious efforts to educate their children, who are not employed in the administrative field. What powers do the chiefs exercise? If they cannot see to it that the people for whom they are chiefs enjoy their full rights, then the people will regard the chiefs and their enemies and ready tools for the Government to exploit them.

JAMES MALINABE.
Ficksburg.

CLASSIFICATION FARCE CONTINUES

He Said: "If You Put Milk in Coffee How Does It Look?"

It Replied: "It Remains Coffee, But It Changes Colour"

JOHANNESBURG.—The miserable farce of appeals which are being heard against the classification of Coloured people as Africans should not be allowed to hide the fact that the classification process is still continuing. Day by day people who have always regarded themselves as Coloured are being brought before Dr. Danges' officials and told that in future they must consider themselves Africans.

One Coloured man, aged 34 years and the father of five children, all of whom have been registered from birth as Coloured, was classified African. He describes his interview and classification as follows:

"When I entered the office, a European man, standing with the two African policemen, and my name, I told him. The conversation was in Afrikaans only. I was then told to have my fingerprints taken and I made no objection. The fingerprinting was done by the African policemen. The fingerprint form was then passed to the European

man who asked the following questions: my name, what race I was (I said 'kierling'), where I was born, to whom I was married, my wife's maiden name, what race my father was, and what race my mother was, where I lived, what was my home language (I said English and Afrikaans). He asked me if I could speak Sechuana. I said 'Yes'. Then he examined me by looking at me and made notes.

Then the document was passed to Mr. Morgan and he said to me: 'You were born in Bechuanaaland?' I said 'Yes.' He said, 'But in Bechu-

anaaland there are no Coloureds.'

He said, 'if you put milk in coffee, how does it look?' I said, 'It remains coffee, but it changes colour.'

He then said: 'You are the same as that chap. Go that side' and gave me form B.V.R. 30. He said nothing more.

It was only when I read the paper outside that I saw I was reclassified as a Coloured.' This man then obtained a letter from a minister and the Dutch Reformed Church that he had known him for many years, since his childhood in Mochudi, that he knew his father and had personally buried him, that he was Coloured or of mixed race, or "a bruin man," and that his father had been a European and his mother an African.

This man, like very many others, is still endeavouring to have his appeal heard. Those classified out of the group they have lived all their lives are in many cases engaged on a frantic search for birth, baptismal and marriage certificates, are collecting letters from magistrates, ministers and other officials who will certify them to be Coloureds, and are generally trying to arm themselves with documentary proof before they again appear before the Race Inquisition.

KENILWORTH RACING

The following are Damon's selections:
Juvenile Stakes, Fillies: 1. ABDI-CATE, Danger, Litigation.
Juvenile Stakes, Colts and Geldings: 1. AEGYPTUS, Danger, Congenial.
Maiden Plate: 1. ONWEER, Danger, Thornbusch.
Kenilworth Stakes: 1. DIJHAD, Danger, Miss Conquest.
Kenilworth 1000 Handicap: 1. RED COPPER, Danger, Riverton.
Welter: Mixed Handicap: 1. TRUNDLE, Danger, Charn Boy.
Moderate Wynberg Handicap: 1. PAN, Danger, Guardsman.
Kenilworth Handicap: 1. SYMPATHETIC, Danger, Acontius.

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MAIN BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM

(Continued from page 1)
The fact that Congress branches everywhere have not and still have not put in this necessary spadework.

"There is no doubt about the long-term aim which is to prevent the functioning of Bantu Education by a boycott. But talk of a permanent boycott in the isolated areas where the people are carrying out this slogan will eventually end in the disillusionment and dropping of morale if the campaign remains isolated and locked.

"We must beware of creating the false impression that by isolated local boycotts the Bantu Education Act can be defeated. The struggle is local one and the people must see this campaign, as all others, as a stage on the road to victory . . .

"The total boycott will not be 'proclaimed' by a general date chosen on the calendar, but it will develop from local actions that spread and join up and grow narrow. At the same time we must not deceive ourselves or the people into believing that in the immediate future we can, with our own resources, substitute a national education system. We have no state budget behind us.

"The average parent who follows our local call in the belief that his child will be given adequate alternative education will become disillusioned with Congress if such education is not provided. He must act therefore out of political conviction, and he must be made aware of the sacrifice this campaign, as well as others for freedom, will entail.

"Whatever difficulties have been revealed in this campaign, however, the people have shown their rejection of Bantu Education, their readiness to fight it and the correctness of the resolution of the last annual conference is beyond challenge. The fight against Bantu Education must go on. We must build steadily, carrying the people with us, exposing the wickedness of the new Bantu Education syllabus and the way in which it is to be indoctrinated, achieving the boycott of the school boards and committees, adapting the forgo of protest to the state of preparedness in the area and the local conditions there."

The report devotes attention also to the Western Areas Removal

Scheme, work among the passants, and of strengthening the African trade unions, the women's and youth sections of Congress and a number of lesser items.

ORGANISATION

Several pages are devoted to the tasks of the various branches, and the executive comments:

"Until we are sufficiently alive to our great task of raising our political propaganda and the organisational level of our members, until we have more than just mere sentiment, we will find it difficult to make headway. The weaknesses continue to exist because the people are practically backward.

"It must be appreciated that political and organisational problems are interwoven and are due to lack of dialectical theory, ideology. We should end this vicious circle by getting our people to discuss these problems from the lowest organs of the organisation to the highest; we must discourage all unprincipled discussions and unpolitical tendencies; we must teach ourselves to practise self-criticism and destroy individualism and conceit; we must tackle all the small issues affecting the people and pay attention to individual grievances of our members. We must study the literature which is now becoming abundant in the library movement.

"The national liberation movement has not yet succeeded in the organisational field in moving out of the domain of mass meetings and this type of public agitation, but so is house-to-house work, the building of small local branches, the close contact with members and supporters, and their continuing education in the aims and policies of the Congress movement."

The report concludes with an appeal to all A.N.C. members, "all our patriots, all democrats, all lovers of freedom to resolve once more that South Africa shall become a free land, free from Nationalist tyranny and become a happy place for all to live in, during our life-time."

* THE EVENT OF THE YEAR *

GO GAY AT THE

Christmas Eve Dance

(SATURDAY, 24th DECEMBER)

At the Home of MR. & MRS. SAM KAHN

"Temba," Cnr. Colenso and Riverside Roads, Newlands

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