

83/115
**WHO SET
FIRE TO
NEW AGE
OFFICES?**

NEW AGE MUST BE SAVED!

Dear Readers,

The time has come to make you take us seriously. NEW AGE IS IN A DESPERATE FINANCIAL POSITION. UNLESS YOU COME TO OUR AID, THERE WILL BE ONLY A FOUR-PAGE NEW AGE FOR THE REST OF THIS MONTH, AND AFTER THAT NOTHING.

For the first time since the paper started, we were unable to pay our printer's bill at the end of last month. Also for the first time since the paper started, we were unable to pay the salaries of our staff members.

In the third week of March we are expecting a shipment of newsprint from overseas, for

which we will need a minimum of £800 in cash.

Never has the need for New Age been so great as today. Week by week, New Age has been completely sold out. The people are clamouring for the only newspaper which they regard as THEIR paper, the people's paper. The only paper which has consistently fought the people's battles.

In spite of all our appeals, last week you sent us only £43 in donations, and this week not much more. Yet it costs us £400 a week to bring out New Age. Advertisers refuse to support us. If you too refuse to support us, we must close down, for we have nowhere else to turn.

Remember, 8 members of New Age staff are involved in the treason trial. Their own salaries have been cut by half; and the salaries of the remainder of the staff, low though they are already, may also have to be drastically reduced. On top of everything, last week our Cape Town offices were wrecked by fire.

The few who are left to carry the burden of New Age just cannot do the job alone.

We can survive Swart's attacks; we can survive a fire started by vandals, and any other tuggery anyone may bring against us. But we cannot survive your apathy.

Every freedom fighter has a responsibility to see that New

Age is kept going. New Age staff is doing what it can, working under pressure against terrific odds. Many voluntary workers have been doing a magnificent job to help out, not only in recent weeks, but over a period of years.

If New Age goes under, the blame will rest with you, each and every reader, who has read these words and done nothing about it. Are you prepared to have that on your conscience?

If your answer is "No," please get cracking. There is no time to waste. New Age needs your help not tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, but today! RIGHT NOW!

CAPE TOWN.

THREE of the four offices occupied by New Age in Cape Town were gutted by fires which broke out in Chames Buildings, Barrack Street, on Tuesday night last week.

Separate fires were started in each of the New Age offices and also in the storeroom of a dress shop on the same floor of the building. The fires were first reported by a policeman on patrol in Plein Street, who called the fire brigade at about 2 a.m.

The fires were eventually put out, but not before extensive damage had been caused, both to the New Age offices and the storeroom of the dress shop. It is believed that had the fire been allowed to burn unimpeded for another 10 minutes, the whole building would have been destroyed.

Only one of the four New Age offices was inhabitable after the fire—the editorial office, where the fire did not get going. The other three offices were a shambles, with furniture reduced to ashes, and the contents of cupboards and one steel filing cabinet strewn among the debris. Even window frames were burnt out and the glass shattered by the heat.

New Age records have been extensively damaged, and all files of back copies reduced to cinders. Chairs, typewriters, adding machine, duplicator, desks—all have been damaged, in some cases beyond repair.

NO ARREST

The fires were quite clearly started deliberately. The police are investigating, but so far have made no arrests.

Meanwhile New Age carries on. The old offices have been boarded up, but the administrative staff are making do with temporary equipment in temporary offices, at the same address.

You, gentle reader, are already reading the next issue.

(See pictures on page 4)

BOYCOTTERS' "NO" TO

COMMERCE

OFFER

THIN END OF THE 5d. WEDGE

From Michael Harnel

JOHANNESBURG.

UNDER the threat of the immediate withdrawal of PUTCO bus services and Schoeman's draft new law to deprive them permanently of transport thereafter, the people of Alexandra, Sophiatown, Moroka and other bus boycott areas met last Friday to consider the dramatic last-minute "end-the-boycott" offer of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce.

They turned it down flat.

Unlike the previous unacceptable proposition (an appeal to employers to pay a voluntary transport allowance of a shilling a week) the Chamber's new proposal was arrived at after prolonged discus-

sion with boycott leaders, lasting long into Thursday night.

Essentially, the offer amounted to the following (taking Alexandra as an example, and modifying the amounts on other routes where

(Continued on page 8)

NEW AGE

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P.E. Dock Workers Appeal to Cape Town

"Don't Scab On Us. Our Fight Is Your Fight"

PORT ELIZABETH.

THE refusal of the stevedores to work over week-ends until their demands for higher wages have been met has caused serious dislocation in the docks here.

Last week-end not a single stevedore went to work. The crews of most ships worked and were helped by white-collar employees of the shipping agents.

But still ships occupied every berth at the docks while others for lack of space had to anchor outside the harbour as was the case at the height of the Suez Canal crisis.

The Stirling Castle brought a number of scabs from Cape Town, so did the Cape Town Castle from East London. Their ships were heavily guarded by armed police and no people were allowed to come near.

The whole harbour area was seething with armed uniformed police and detectives.

A TRADE UNION OFFICIAL TOLD NEW AGE ON MONDAY THAT THE DOCK WORKERS HERE APPEAL TO THEIR FELLOW WORKERS AT EAST LONDON AND CAPE TOWN NOT TO SCAB AS THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE IN WHICH THEY ARE ENGAGED WOULD ALSO AFFECT WORKERS IN THOSE AREAS.

(For further news, see page 5)



THE BOYCOTT GOES ON: Sunday meetings in many townships endorsed the rejection of the Chamber of Commerce plan to end the boycott. At the same time Alexandra Township was invaded by the greatest concentration of heavily-armed police following mass raids on Saturday when over 150 people were arrested. The PUTCO buses have gone, but the war of nerves against the people continues. Our picture shows boycotters passing a police check point.

NEW AGE LETTER BOX

AFRICANS ARE LEARNING FROM THE BUS BOYCOTT

When the boycott was started in Port Elizabeth on Monday, February 11, the Daily Mail said: "The sympathy boycott in Port Elizabeth is most ill-advised." It regards the decision as peremptory and dictatorial.

I think the "Mail" is wrong in trying to make the people think the ANC is dictatorial. What the people of Port Elizabeth decided through the ANC was solidarity and support for their brothers who are squeezed to take out the last penny they are trying to save for their children.

Port Elizabeth is as right to stand by the Keef people as Mr. Schoeman is to stand by PUTCO. Nobody is wishing politics into the boycott but when the Government sends police to intimidate people and interfere in the meetings, the politics must come in—Julius P. Busa, Western Native Township, Johannesburg.

I appeal to the Nationalists and their supporters to ask their Government to change its attitude and let this bus fare dispute immediately, I am appealing to you because you as voters were responsible for the election of the present Government.

Should this appeal go unheeded, then Non-Europeans will have to take more drastic steps in retaliation against the enforced bus fare increases. We will organise the African people everywhere to boycott any business, undertaking or product that has anything to do with the Nationalists. Your businessmen will suffer £200 each day they open their shops.

Remember how your shopkeepers suffered in Ficksburg when the Africans were not allowed to come into the town. If

we decided to boycott your businesses throughout the Union we would get mass support from the people—Mottlasi Mathe, Durban.

I would like to stress that this new plan of boycotting Nationalist products is wrong and unwise. All those products listed do not touch the Nationalist Government. The main Nationalist product is the pass or reference books in the pockets of the African men.—T. F. Blind, Grahamstown.

The Nats want to rule with an iron hand. Mr. Schoeman is not prepared to negotiate with the boycotters and blames everything on the ANC. He says it is testing its strength. He forgets that the ANC tested its strength very fruitfully during the defiance campaign in 1952. Then it obtained support even amongst Mr. Schoeman's white people, who decided to form the Congress of Democrats, which works in harmony with the ANC.—M. Mamosa, Basutoland.

We are looking with pride and emotion at all those who are walking long distances rather than pay the increased fare. I know what the bus boycott means to the African people, who are going to face danger, hardship and sacrifice—perhaps death itself.

But through it all we will gather experience of boycott and strike, that is more valuable than money and good home furniture. After these boycotts we will be a better and a stronger race. We will have that proud confidence that we have done our duty to our country.—F. H. Mbi, Alice.

Protest At Police Interference

In connection with the meeting held on February 3, the following protest letter was sent to the superintendent:

"We strongly protest against your instructions to your police to interfere in our meeting. We call on you and your police to keep your hands off our meetings, because of the provocation they make at peaceful meetings. We believe in the Freedom Charter—"The People Shall Govern!"

CHARMAN Natalspruit Branch, ANC.

Bad Treatment From African Police

Africans, I think it is time the black bosses should go and live in the S.A. Police Locations, not with us. I was given a blow by an African policeman when arrested for a special pass. The only way they treat arrested people is to hit them. Even a dog is better off. If you hit it with your car you stop and pull it out of the road if it is dead. If it is hurt you look to it—but not these African police!

Africans! It is time we should make a stand!
A. LUNISI
Alex. Township.

Basutos May Appeal To U.N.O.

I wish to announce a meeting open to all individuals and organisations to be sponsored by the Commoners' organisation of Basutoland known as Lercholla Ia Bafu. This meeting will be held at Moshoeshoe's, called Thaba Bosiu, the night mountain. The main topic of discussion will be whether or not the Basutos should send a delegate to put the problems of our people before the United Nations Organisation.

The British only need us in time of war and disasters. After these are over, they sit at their white superiority tables and discuss the Native Problem and ways and means of suppressing the Basutos, e.g. the reduction of stock and indirect ploughing, so as to compel the Basutos to go to the mines. They come back from the mines with T.B. and are sent home to die with a compensation with which one can hardly educate one child to complete J.C.

We shall ask two men already at U.N.O.—Russia to take Basutoland Congress by the right hand, and India by the left hand, to put us before the world so that a proper inquiry can be made into the protection of our people under the agreements between King Moshoeshoe and Queen Victoria.

J. J. M. MATHIBELA
Basutoland.

Protest Against The Beerhalls

We protest against the beerhalls that destroy the families of the Africans. Our husbands come home every Friday night without their wages, which have been spent in the beerhalls. As they drink, the Government police are waiting for them outside to arrest them for drunkenness. If you give a man a drink, you expect him to be drunk, not sober.

These people are taken to the magistrat court and fined so that they should be left with nothing in their pockets. The mothers of the family have to take trains to go to court for their husbands who have been trapped in the beerhalls. By going on the trains they spend their last pennies which they should have for their children to eat.

The beerhalls are only a source of trouble to us. The time has come for the people to protest against them.

THE MOTHERS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Hankey's Fight With Advisory Board

The Native Advisory Board of Hankey location tried to prevent the free travelling of people from the location to the city without a written authority from the magistrate. This they tried to do through the Port Elizabeth Divisional Council.

The ANC branch of the location successfully opposed this measure and interviewed the local magistrate who denied any knowledge of such a procedure. As before, the residents are now freely going to the City without permits.

The ANC has another fight against the Advisory Board on its hands. The Board refused permission to ANC members to rebuild their fallen houses, advising them instead to apply to the Divisional Council for permission.

But Mr. William Makhepe who sent an application to the Council, was refused permission, without any reasons being given.

It is clear that the Advisory Board only camouflages some of the wickedness of the Native Affairs Department.

Join the ANC, the only representative body of non-whites!

SECRETARY,
ANC Hankey Branch.

"Satan Is Made Black"

Apartheid is not new. It was formed by the White missionaries when they came to this country. The laws followed later.

Some of our people were sent to school to learn so that they might teach others and frighten them by telling them that they would not go to Heaven if they did not become "civilized".

Few White men ever tried to learn Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, or other African languages, why not?

The answer is very simple because they wanted the Africans to be under the Whites, as it is today.

There is not a single African minister of religion who can preach in the White churches, but the White minister can preach in the African churches. When it comes to drawing a picture of "God", they make God White and Satan is made Black.

E. B. MKABILE
Springs.

EDITORIAL

THE BOYCOTT—ROUND 2

ROUND One in the Rand transport battle is over. The great struggle of the African workers to secure cheap, adequate transport to and from their homes enters a new phase. The first phase ends with the withdrawal by PUTCO of its services to Alexandra, Sophiatown, Moroka-Jabavu and other boycotted routes, and Schoeman's nasty new Bill. But there can be no doubt that victory so far has gone decisively to the African people.

They have defeated every attempt by the Government to break the boycott, using the police as stormtroopers. They have maintained their unity in the face of every attempt to divide them. They are more conscious than ever before of the deeper issues involved in the transport question—miserably low wages, segregation, lack of Non-European representation etc.

More than any other factor, it is Schoeman's heavy-handed intervention in the dispute over bus fares which has brought these issues to the fore, and made the boycotters of the Rand and Pretoria see themselves as front-line fighters for their people's rights. Continually harried by police-raids and cordons, the boycotters have come to regard the maintenance of the boycott, the maintenance of unity, as something in itself, transcending the simple fare issue upon which it started. The slogan "Azikwela!" has become a battle cry in the struggle for people's rights.

It is against this background that the people's decisive "No" to the last-minute offer of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce must be considered.

With the withdrawal of the PUTCO services, the need for a general all-round increase of the wretchedly low wages can be clearly seen as the fundamental issue behind the boycott. This has been recognised not only by African leaders but by such bodies as the Chamber of Commerce and such people as the Mayor of Johannesburg, who made promises of investigations into wages provided the boycott was ended.

But why should the people end the boycott before the main cause has been removed? The boycott showed that wages were far too low—but the wages remain low, whether or not the people are riding in the buses. The people displayed sound common sense in refusing to consider such offers as inducements to end the boycott.

Just as the people realised that their only answer to the increased fares was unity in mass action, so they must realise that the only answer to their urgent need for higher wages is unity in mass action.

The way to victory in Round Two, therefore, lies through the organisation of tens of thousands of African workers behind the demand for a minimum wage of £1 a day.

It is welcome news that the South African Congress of Trade Unions is seeking the co-operation of the boycott committees, the Congresses and other democrats in the biggest recruiting drive in South African trade union history.

The time could not have been better chosen.

WORCESTER FAMILIES TURNED OUT INTO THE RAIN

People's houses were opened and their belongings hurled into the streets in rain and wind on February 20. The location department ordered the evictions to be made claiming arrears in rent. Summonses were first issued on February 13 asking for full settlement. Those who were unable to pay were ejected.

People had nowhere to go and sat with their belongings in the open. Children were soaked, and old people were seen sitting helplessly and desolated.

Many in Worcester earn less than £2.10 a week. Rent is 14/6d per week, so little is left for food and clothing. The buildings are carelessly built. It is impossible to light a candle in them on a windy day, as the wind enters below the corrugated iron roofs and in the corners. There is only a slight difference between lying in the open cold or in the houses.

Four hundred people attended a meeting called by the "Stand By Our Leaders" campaign, which is

rapidly gaining momentum in Worcester. People expressed deep concern at the arrest of the leaders, oppressive legislation, and the deterioration in race relations.

Speakers again and again made the point that they stood for mutual respect between human beings, irrespective of colour, race or sex. Those present joined in prayers with feeling and enthusiasm.

There was a minor disturbance when an African "Insecurity" Branch member refused to take his hat off while the prayers were said. This educated CID chap refused to be obedient to God, and preferred to defy him. No doubt he is a wise man and wisdom will find him!

The meeting dispersed with people determined to fight for freedom the right way.
H. M. TSHIZANA
Worcester.



Three members of Randfontein's anti-permit deputation to the Native Commissioner: from the left, Mrs. Elizabeth Matshe, Mrs. Martha Matlou and Miss Miriam Serefe.

RANDFONTEIN WOMEN IGNORE REGISTRATION ORDER

Huge Demonstration Against Permit System

From Ruth First and Tennyson Makwane

RANDFONTEIN

THE ultimatum to African women of Randfontein that they must register at the Labour Bureau where they can take on jobs is being flatly ignored by the women of the three locations.

A huge demonstration of women to the Native Commissioner was followed by a decision that the women would not register for permits or at the Labour Bureau, and by the end of last week none of them had.

Ten African women were arrested and charged with incitement following the anti-pass and anti-permit demonstrations. All are out on £15 bail and their case will come up in court on March 6.

The local chairman of the African National Congress branch has also been arrested on a charge of incitement.

NOTICE

The official notice from Randfontein's Department of Native Administration warns that "it is an offence to give work to any Bantu women without first getting permission from the registering officer."

"All Bantu women not in employment who wish to get work must report to the registering officer (of the Native Labour Bureau). No Bantu women will be allowed to take up work in the urban area of Randfontein if they have not first registered with the Registration Office. Bantu women must in future NOT go and look for work in Randfontein before they have registered themselves..."

European employers are similarly warned that they must not give work to African women without applying to the Registration Bureau.

BUT the Randfontein municipality is stretching the law much further than it actually goes, and authorities there more or less admit that the Labour Bureau registration regulations do NOT yet apply to African women. It is NOT compulsory for all African women to apply to the municipality for work and register officially as work seekers.

And the clauses in the Urban Areas Act quoted by the official circular apply not to employment registration but to the entry of women into urban areas.

Only those women who have not the qualifications under section 10 to be in the towns (ten years' residence or the long term of continuous employment and so on) must by law take out permits and get permission to enter the area and work there.

But women born in Randfontein or living there legally are not compelled to register for employment.

The Randfontein manager of the NAD told New Age that the registration was never intended to be compulsory for all, and the women of Randfontein cannot be compelled to register at the Labour Bureau. But, he added, the registration would be "in their interests" and "for their protection."

DEMONSTRATION

Two days before the day fixed for registration streams of women from the locations and nearby farms came together to demonstrate against the carrying of documents, both the permits issued in terms of the Urban Areas Act and the work registration permits.

Outside the office of the Native Commissioner ten women volunteered to convey the women's objections to the new system to the Commissioner.

Inside the offices officials produced their identity cards and told the deputation that their wives were also carrying them. The Native Commissioner said "during the time of Jesus Christ both men and women were required to register."

The deputation reported on the interview to the crowd. Then the police gave the women five minutes to disperse.

The women decided they were not prepared to register.

The Raids Continue

JOHANNESBURG.

A total of 462, Newclare Africans were arrested in a dawn raid in what the police describe as a "routine operation" recently. Congress members declare the raid the continuation of the vindictive war of revenge against Newclare reported in New Age two weeks ago.

GAVE LIFTS TO BOYCOTTERS—SACKED FROM UNIVERSITY

PRETORIA.

A TECHNICAL assistant on the staff of the Pretoria University who was prosecuted for refusing to give his name and address to the police when giving lifts to Lady Selborne boycotters, has been dismissed from his post.

On the staff of the Physics Department of the University, Mr. B. T. Verhaagen received a curt notice of dismissal just after the case. In his evidence Mr. Verhaagen said he and his mother were on their way to Lady Selborne on January 31 to give lifts to Africans who were not using the buses and were walking to the township.

The constable then told the African women to get into the van. Verhaagen said he told the women and the constable that the police had no legal right to take them into custody. The constable then told him to accompany him to the police station, but he refused saying that he wanted to know the charge against him. Later a sergeant asked for his name and address. He refused to give it. He was then arrested.

Treason Trial Resumes

JOHANNESBURG.

The treason hearing reopened on Monday morning at the Drill Hall after a week's adjournment with more evidence by detectives about meetings held over three years ago.

The defence has already objected vigorously to this type of evidence as irrelevant to the charge.

The accused looked well and cheerful after a much-needed week's break which many from distant centres were able to spend with their families for the first time this year.

It was pleasant to see Lincoln Ngoyi well and cheerful after her recent illness.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP NEW AGE?

Japan's Budget

LONDON.

Total expenditure in Japan's draft budget for 1957 amounts to 1,133,000 million yen, according to a Kyodo report. This is some 10 per cent more than for 1956.

Observers estimate that the budget will send commodity prices up and make life more difficult for people with low incomes.

Even though the Ishibashi government has announced a reduction of 100,000 million yen in taxation, taxes will still be much higher than before the war.

And Now—CRADOCK AFRICANS BOYCOTT THEIR BEERHALL

From our own correspondent

CRADOCK

A BOYCOTT of the local beerhall which was started here by the African National Congress on February 22 has so far proved a 100 per cent success.

Circulars bearing the words "Aku-nge-wa, akhenge-wa, akhuse-wa" (We boycott, we don't buy, we won't drink from the beerhall) were distributed among the people a day before the boycott was due to start. From the beginning the people stayed away, and instead of the £25 takings on a normal day, only three sixpences could be obtained for liquor.

On the Saturday morning, February 23, European detectives were busy preaching to the people in the location trying to break their strength by telling them that the beerhall had been built in the location for their own benefit, so the ANC was only spoiling their chances by its boycott.

They even offered money to some

of the people so that they could go and buy beer from the beerhall, but the crowd answered "We boycott for the benefit of Africa," with their thumbs up.

REASONS

Reasons for the boycott of the beerhall of Cradock by the ANC are as follows:

1. The beerhall is supported by the African supposedly for the welfare of the Africans, but the dirt of the location streets is ignored by the Cradock Council.

2. The beerhall is situated in the midst of educational centres, so the education of the children is paid to the drunk people from the beerhall rather than to the teachers.

Standstill At Wool Washeries — 80 Arrested

PRODUCTION at a wool washeries in Port Elizabeth came to a complete standstill last week when almost the entire labour force was arrested.

For some time the workers have been demanding that the management should allow shop stewards to carry on their duties and that he should agree to negotiate with their trade union officials. When the workers called on the management to obtain a reply to these demands, it is alleged that three were set upon and kicked about by one of the foremen who they got stewards the workers had drawn the attention of the manager to this.

The foreman then fired the three workers, whereupon the rest of them downed tools immediately. They remained on the premises demanding their weekly wages as it was a Friday, but they got no money for their pay nor were they discharged.

The next morning they returned to the factory as usual. While their shop stewards were still discussing the situation at the union offices, 80 workers were arrested and taken to the charge office, where they were charged for trespassing.

Last Week's Donations To New Age

Cape Town:

Muthane Peter 2.6d.; On behalf of Elsie River freedom fighters (tin) £1.16.4; Mrs. Johannes Moosa 2s.; Mrs. Annie Molele 2.6d.; Mrs. Agnes Badroang 2.6d.; Mrs. Fatima Parker 4s.; Sundries £86.17.

Port Elizabeth:

Fritz £1; Babbie 10s. Johannesburh: Readers' collection tin £4.16; Ben Shek, editor of "Champion" (Canadian) value paper) £16; Johannesburg sundries £30.4. Total—£147.16s. 10d.

3. The Council has banned all meetings for the people and has increased the rents without calling a meeting to explain the reasons to the people.
4. The beerhall is built close to the local playing field. In this field there used to be a water tap used by the players, but to attract the players to buy from the beerhall the Cradock Council removed the tap.

5. Last, but not least, recently the Council invited foreign police to persecute the Non-Europeans of Cradock and these police have sucked money out of the people in many ways, leaving behind damages and casualties.

Some Coloureds suggested that not only the beerhall must be boycotted but all alcohol centres, such as wine and spirit stores in town, because they as Coloureds are allowed to obtain wine from these stores and when they get drunk in town they are arrested. This suggestion is still pending.

INDIAN FAMILY BEATEN UP BY POLICE — "ALL A MISTAKE"

JOHANNESBURG.

POLICE assaults in the Western Areas of this city do not stop at Africans. An Indian family attacked in their Sophiatown home one night last week were later told "It is all a mistake," but to this day they do not know why the police invaded their house.

One of those attacked, 52-year-old Mr. Shumngnahan Naidoo, is still in hospital with a fractured arm.

Mrs. Mummy Govender of Gold Street, Sophiatown, said that on the Saturday evening her father was in bed and she and her sister Miss Gladys Naidoo were in the kitchen when two European constables in uniform and a number of African policemen burst into the house.

Mr. Naidoo asked them what they were doing in the house but they pulled him out of bed and one constable said: "We are looking for liquor."

"My father asked him where his search warrant was and he said 'I have the warrant,'" said Mrs. Govender.

"The police then started beating my father. I came in and asked them to take my father away decently if they had a charge against him. Then one of the African constables beat me about the head and all over my body with his baton.

"They were like madmen. The African policeman went into my grandmother's bedroom. She was sitting on her bed. The police grabbed her and dragged her off the bed and pushed her about the room."

"When they took my father outside he was in his pyjamas. We asked them to allow him to put his clothes on, but they just laughed at us."

Mr. Naidoo's arm was broken in the melee, and he had to be taken to the Coronation Non-European Hospital.

No charge was laid against him. After he and his daughter, Mrs. Govender, arrived at the police station at Newlands, they were told that it was "all a mistake. We are sorry, and you may go now."

WHAT THE BOYCOTT HAS TAUGHT US

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

A ZIKHWELEWA rang out ghostly voices in the dark on the evening of February 9 as in less than 48 hours the people of the Eastern Cape responded to the ANC call to boycott buses in sympathy with the Reef-Pretoria people. From Uitenhage, New Brighton, Veeplaats, Despatch, Kleinkool, Missionvale, Korsten, Schauder Township, Walmer, Salisbury Park and Fairview, large masses of men and women of all ages poured out daily.

WORKERS ON THE MARCH
There were thousands of workers on the March; on the march to fulfil their daily task—to produce the commodities to satisfy the needs of mankind, and more significant, on the march to their destined goal—their own liberation. They had decided to walk in sympathy with the people on the Reef and Pretoria.

What could have illustrated better the glaring injustice of the situation in South Africa. Those who sought to produce the needs of the country do not enjoy the fruits of their labour; those who strain the muscle to build luxury houses are turned out on to the bleak, treeless, long distance away from their places of work. When they complain they cannot afford the extra 1d., the last straw that threatens to break the back of the African child, Ben Schoeman orders them to get on the buses. If they obey, Schoeman's orders it is death for them—a slow death from starvation.

The people choose life, but to boycott it they must go through the mill, they must defeat Schoeman. They chose the battlefield on which to meet him; they chose the hard road where they train themselves in long daily marches to

withstand the sufferings which the Nationalists are determined to inflict on them.

SHARP CONTRASTS

What a sharp contrast as trudging, suffering thousands walk along while sleek, smooth-sailing luxury glides past. To be heeded the marchers follow one another along the narrow pavements, while bumper to bumper the privileged classes drive slowly past in luxury which has been created by those who trudge. The marchers look ahead as though they were not aware of this contrast, and the drivers and their passengers drive indifferently past as though those whom they passed were but trees.

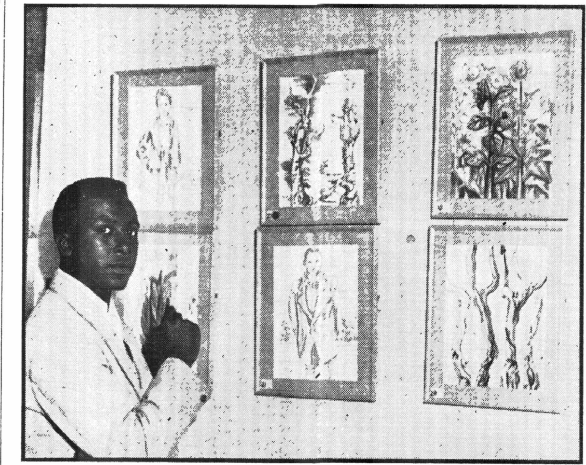
MARCHERS' ENEMIES

Many are the enemies for marchers. There is the stifling heat; there is the gale; then a rainstorm—these sudden changes of the weather are a trial. Then there are the police at the check points—that gruff voice: "Hey, want is you book?" The grab and a fling into the Sterry (Pick-up van) or Nylon (riot truck) because a reference book was left at home in the hurry to get to work on time.

The harsher the police the more steeled are the people in their determination to carry on the boycott.

It must be hurting the Nationalists, otherwise they would not use so many police to try to break a bus boycott which does not involve them in any financial loss; say the marchers as they go through the screening points.

One man is slapped on the face; a group of nurses from duty are



Mr. Peter Clarke seen with some of the paintings at his exhibition.

ART MUST HELP SOLVE LIFE'S PROBLEMS, SAYS COLOURED ARTIST

From Mervyn Bannum

PETER Clarke, the Coloured artist whose first exhibition of paintings has been on view at Oranje House, Cape Town, is a

shy, simply-dressed, soft-spoken young man of 27 with decided views about the role of the artist in society.

Born in Simonstown, he started painting and drawing from the age of four.

"At that time," he said, "my family were not very interested in that sort of thing. I had no paper, so I used fly-leaves of books."

He chuckled. "I didn't ask for permission, so I was in trouble quite a lot. I used to sketch when I should have been doing other things, too. Often, when I was sent on an errand, I would run away and draw."

He has three brothers and two sisters, none of whom gave his efforts a sympathetic reception at the time. I asked him how they felt about it now. He smiled again. "Now they are very interested indeed!"

SCHOOLING

He went to school till Standard 7, at the Livingstone High School, in Claremont. His parents could not afford to keep him at school any longer, so at the age of 15 he left and went to work in the Dockyard in Simonstown as a ship's painter. "Even though the job had a lot to do with brushes," Peter Clarke said, "I did not like it." He worked in the Dockyard stores till recently, when he left to devote his full time to his painting.

Peter Clarke has had no formal training as a painter. In 1947 he was a member of the St. Phillip's Group in District 6, under the leadership of John Copelands. The Group used to meet for discussion and criticism on cultural topics. In 1948 the Group moved to the Technical College, and he left. Apart from what he learned from the Group and hints picked up from books, he has been entirely self-taught.

DISREGARD LIFE

Peter Clarke feels that today too many artists disregard life itself. There are too many "nice" pictures—two getting down to the realities of the world about one."

His own exhibition does not contain many pictures which could be described as profound social studies, but: "From now on there will be a change," he said firmly.

"If one can help solve these problems through one's art, one should do so. The idea should be not only

to SELL pictures, but to DO something through them too."

The Coloured people were formerly not interested in art, he said. Before, he could be sitting doing a drawing in District 6, and would be ignored. Nowadays, people would come up and speak to him, make comments and ask questions.

I asked what he thought this was due to. He thought a moment. "To the events in the country," he said. "People are becoming politically conscious. They are forced to take sides. As their political consciousness grows, so their cultural outlook advances."

"Before, I was just another Coloured man. Our people took it for granted that only the Whites could do such things. Now, people are becoming aware of the fact that they can do these things too; that they are also human beings."

Asked about his future plans, Mr. Clarke said he hoped to exhibit again soon. "I would like to go overseas for a while, to study. But not to leave permanently. That would be running away. Many Coloured people would like to do that, and some have done it. But it is no answer."

Mr. Clarke feels there is a great future for art in this country.

"People are busy now with other problems. That will change in time, and then our art will really flourish," he said.

Boycotters Arrested For Traffic Offence

JOHANNESBURG.

Bus boycotters from Alexandra Township arrested and prosecuted for crossing against a robot in Louis Botha Avenue were kept in the cells for one and two nights before the crown finally agreed to withdraw the charges against them.

Bail had been fixed at £1 each and caught a springing of the 76 men arrested, managed to pay that amount. The rest were held in custody.

An application for the release of the men on their own recognisances was turned down.

Dr. G. Lowen, Q.C., said in open court that the crossing of the robot was a "piffing" and trifling offence and "his cannot be anything but trying to bring these people back to the buses. That is not the function of the traffic laws at all."

It Happened Before And It's Happening Again

U.S. MONEY BUILDING UP WEST GERMAN INDUSTRY

LONDON. THE tie-up between American and West German industrial giants is rapidly expanding—both within the Federal Republic and farther afield in South America, India, Canada and the Middle East. American capital is flowing into Western Germany, and the Ruhr barons are busy forming joint companies with their U.S. counterparts. First steps were recently taken for a gigantic West German-American project to replace Britain and France in exploiting the Middle East countries.

U.S. VISIT

At the beginning of the year, a group of American members of the Public Council of the Joint Security Programme, visited West Germany.

Leading the group was the former president of the U.S. Steel Corporation, Benjamin Fairless, and the chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of America in New York. It was agreed that West German firms, helped by American capital, should make an even more determined drive to oust Britain and France from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries.

The Americans argued that West Germany would provide a suitable cover for joint exploitation of these lands, since it has no recent colonial history. In short, American capital will be provided for the West Germans to do the dirty work.

Details were worked out with representatives of Krupp, Klockner, Thyssen, Phoenix-Rheinrohr and other Ruhr mammoth concerns. Joint companies are to be formed, and a West German-American firm is to be formed as a technical institute, for exchange of information on the Middle East countries. Where American firms openly carry out contracts, the German machinery will be used in part.

OTHER SPHERES

Co-operation between West German and American Big Business interests, however, is not confined to the Middle East. The chiefs of U.S. steel trusts and Ruhr heavy industry are busy getting together, often linking up with their Canadian counterparts.

In the middle of last year, the huge Krupp concern signed an agreement with the American Ball-Knox Steel Company for the joint exploitation of the phosphor-bearing countries. The Thyssen steel concern is linked with the American ARMO Steel Corporation and Mannesmann with other American firms.

Currently, negotiations are being conducted between the Dusseldorf-based giant Phoenix-Rheinrohr and the American Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

The idea is that Bethlehem buy a 50 per cent interest in the Phoenix-Rheinrohr's newly formed New York company.

Ostensibly, it is for the purpose of the American company supplying scrap metal and for the West German company's furnaces. Behind it, however, lies the plan for Bethlehem to supply the capital to enable Phoenix-Rheinrohr to carry out contracts in Venezuela and Brazil.

INVESTMENTS

The traffic is not one-way: huge amounts of American capital have been invested in Western Germany since the end of the war.

The U.S. concerns of Ford and General Motors control 30 per cent of the West German motor-car in-

dustry, according to the American periodical Fortune.



Nazi General Hans Speidel, formerly of Hitler's army, has been given a top job in NATO, where he will give orders to British and other troops. In the second world war, Speidel was in charge of troops who butchered thousands of French citizens.

AND NOW THEY DRINK BEER IN CHINA

PEKING.

BEER has suddenly become the most popular drink in Peking. One year ago, a confirmed tossie like myself had to walk quite a way between drinks but now a rash of pubs has sprung out all over the city.

You can have your mug of beer in the co-op and drink it sitting down or while you wander round doing the week-end shopping.

Beer drinking became so universal during the recent spell of sweltering weather that for several days the situation was as bad as in wartime Britain. Trainloads of light ale had to be sent from Mukden to Peking.

All this may not seem very surprising—after all it's only beer—but it is surprising to me because the Chinese never used to drink it. I recall the time when I first came into Peking with the Chinese People's Army in 1949, how a friend and myself lovingly drank what we believed to be the best American small-beer in the city.

But now beer is all the thing and when my supply was interrupted a week or so ago, I went hot and hotfoot to see Ling Wang-sing, public relations officer of the National Wine Bureau and Li Ching-seng, head of the state-owned Peking Brewery—both men who like a pint or more.

They told me not to worry, the situation was firmly under control. We set about sampling their products as we talked, especially a new brew called "Temple of Heaven Beer" put up in half-pint bottles instead of the usual pint and selling at about 12 cents.

In conversation with these two socialist beer-barons I found out that Peking's two breweries—the other one being a smaller one jointly run by the state and private capital—exceeded all previous

Standard Oil, together with the British Shell and Anglo-Iranian oil companies, are expected to control between 70 and 80 per cent of the West German fuel market.

Fortune calculates that at present about 40 per cent of West Germany's iron and steel industry, and about a quarter of its coal industry, are in the hands of foreigners.

There has been a meteoric rise in exports of West German capital, which increased nearly twenty-fold between 1952 and 1955 alone.

Throughout the Middle East, in South America, in Africa and Asia, the West German monopolists, the thinly camouflaged successors to I.G. Farben and similar firms which helped Hitler to power, are extending their influence.

It is estimated that in the Arab League countries alone West German firms are undertaking long-term projects to the value of 1,000 million marks (about \$35 million).

SAME PICTURE

In West Europe the picture is the same. The industrial barons of the Ruhr have their hands in projects in Spain, Holland and France and they have ambitious plans for extending their influence.

West German Big Business, the merchants of death, are on the march again, this time helped by their American "big brothers."

AFRICAN ROUND-UP

UGANDA AND ITS DEPENDENCE

LONDON.

AFRICAN leaders of the Buganda people in Uganda are continuing to press for independence for their country. Members of the Buganda Lukiki (Council) unanimously decided recently to send a petition to the Queen asking for discussions between representatives of the Crown and of the Lukiki in the near future. To discuss and make a definite policy which will lead to self-government in a fixed time within the Commonwealth.

The petition recalls that Buganda accepted British protection in 1893 in an agreement signed by the then Kabaka, Mwanga, and continues by saying that there has subsequently been a departure from the spirit of that agreement. Three instances of such departure are quoted—the deportation of the Kabaka in 1953, recent moves by the Uganda Protectorate Government to acquire compulsorily land over which the new Western Uganda railway runs, and the return of East African military troops to local administration.

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The petition is to be handed to the British Secretary of State for forwarding to the Queen.

MORE BANNINGS IN TANGANYIKA

THE Tanganyika Government is clamping down on the activities of the Tanganyika African National Union, whose president, Mr. Nyerere, spoke recently to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations Organisation in New York.

Two meetings which Mr. Nyerere planned to hold at Tanga and the neighbourhood were banned. A Government official wrote to the provincial organising secretary of the T.A.N.U. at Tanga: "Owing to the inflammatory nature of speeches made recently by the president of the T.A.N.U., there are grounds for believing that any further such speeches might lead to a breach of the peace. Permission to hold the meetings is accordingly refused."

MULTI-RACIAL UNIONS

IN S. RHODESIA

THE new Southern Rhodesian Trade Union Bill has been received with mixed feelings by African trade unionists in the territory. On the one hand they welcome in provision made in the Bill for the recognition of Africans as "employees" and hence as entitled to trade union rights. At the same time it is felt that the Bill has too many provisions aimed at restricting the power of the unions.

Speaking at a meeting of the African Commercial Workers' Union in Salisbury recently, Mr. Maluleka, Mashonaland organising secretary of the T.U.C., said that the T.U.C. welcomed the provision of the Bill which dealt away with the Native Labour Boards which the African

workers had always fought against.

Yet "too much power is being given to the Governor," he said, "who will be bound to exercise his powers to interfere with free trade unionism."

"We feel that domestic workers and farm labourers should also be allowed to organise themselves into trade unions, because they also have very legitimate grievances."

In terms of the Bill the unions will not be able to give financial or any other help to a political party. Mr. Maluleka said this was not in keeping with other principles of free trade unions.

He also criticised the proposed Works Joint Committees which are to be presided over by the works manager. These committees had failed in America, Mr. Maluleka pointed out, "and are destined to do the same here."

The most significant feature of the Bill is that it provides for the setting up of multi-racial trade unions. The old Industrial Conciliation Act which denied registration to African unions has been repealed.

LAND-ROBBERY IN

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

THE plight of the Africans in South West Africa was revealed in a recent UNO debate on the status of the territory by Rev. Michael Scott and Mburumba Uya Kerina, a student from S.W.A. studying in the United States.

Kerina, who got a passport by changing his name to conceal his Herero nationality, told the General Assembly that he had seen only 15 per cent of the land in S.W.A. Even this miserable amount was being reduced to make room for White families from Kenya and Angola who were being encouraged by the South African Government to settle in the territory, he said.

Nasser's Plan For Egypt

CAIRO.

President Nasser has declared that Egypt will devote its major efforts to consolidating its national economy on a purely national basis not vulnerable to imperialism.

Nasser said this in a talk with the Governor of Ikeria Province according to the latest issue of Sasara magazine. The Egyptian President added that this was necessary "in order to make up for the waste during hundreds of years when imperialism sentenced us to rigidity and backwardness."

A free national economy meant the destruction of imperialism, he declared. This was why imperialism had fought and would continue to fight by all means at its disposal, he said.

He called on the Egyptian people to work for this aim and added: "The wheel of history will not turn back. Eventually all imperialist conspiracies and attempts will break upon the solidarity of our unity, faith in our rights and power."

PEOPLE'S COMMERCE OFFER

(Continued from page 1)

there have been increases).—

1. The people would board the buses and pay 5d.
2. The Chamber of Commerce would erect booths at which the passengers would queue up after alighting and receive a penny for use on production of their tickets.

The scheme was to last for three months. The Chamber promised £25,000 to cover the scheme. Meanwhile it undertook to press for upward revision of the wages of African workers.

PEOPLE'S REACTION

The boycott leaders, consisting of members of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria Joint Transport Co-ordinating Council and the Alexandra Transport Action Committee, agreed to place the proposal before the people at public meetings on Friday afternoon, on the eve of the expiry of the PUTO's offer. It was decided to withdraw its services. They carried out that undertaking.

AND AT EVERY MEETING THE PEOPLE REJECTED THE PLAN BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITIES.

At the meeting of Alexandra Township's "Number Three Square", the chairman was barely able to make himself heard above repeated cries of "Azikhwelwa" from the crowd. He was trying to read out the terms of the Chamber's offer from a sheet of paper he held in his hand. But people already knew all about it, for somehow the Star had obtained and published the "secret" proposals beforehand. And they had made up their minds to reject it.

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They hadn't been boycotting for eight weeks to start paying five-pence, they said. Who knew how long the pennies would last? And meanwhile buying five-pence was the thin end of the wedge.

MORE QUEUES

It meant, too, another queue.

One of the compensations of the boycott has been no more long tire-some queues at the Townships in the morning and again the endless queuing in Noor Street and Ridgeway Street after the days' work. And with the new scheme there would be still more queuing—lining up at the Chamber's kiosks for pennies. And with three or four buses arriving at the same time, it could mean a long wait for that penny!

As it is, people have been getting into bus queues at four in the morning in order to get to work at 7.30 or 8 o'clock.

And knocking off at 5 or 5.30, it is a nine o'clock before many workers arrive home.

The withdrawal of PUTO was thought by the Government to be a killing blow; a spiteful revenge for their utter failure to break the people's spirit. It is true that the people have not given up their demand for good, cheap transport. And many PUTO employees have lost their jobs.

But to the majority of the people the departure of PUTO is not something to be mourned. They have become hardened through the long weeks of walking, and the road to town does not hold any terrors for them now. And at least those killing queues have come to an end!

One woman said heatedly at the Alexandra meeting "I work in Yeoville—where am I to get my penny?"

At Moroka people were bitter about "promises" made by the authorities. They were promised that their municipal shay-town (still known as Moroka Emergency Camp) would soon be replaced by proper houses. Moroka is still not last for more than five years at the outside. That was in 1946—and not only is Moroka still there, but new "houses" are still being added.

PROCESSION

A great procession formed at Newmarket, following a public meeting which had rejected the Chamber's proposal, and shouting "Azikhwelwa", marched right through Western Native Township to join forces with a huge meeting in Sophiatown, which had just taken a similar decision. Scenes of extraordinary enthusiasm were witnessed, the women in particular playing a prominent part, as many of them urged the people to tackle woe and the mass system as the next steps forward.

To the people, the boycott and the withdrawal of PUTO too are not seen as a defeat, but a victory.

GOVT. TO BLAME

The fact is that the people have come to identify the bus company with the Government in the police, and with all the bitter persecution they have suffered over the past two months. And in this they are not so far wrong. The company has received large subsidies from the Government, has had representatives of State departments on its Board of Directors for the past two years. At one time Dr. Eiselen, appointed by the Native Affairs Department, sat on the PUTO Board. At present one of four PUTO Directors is a nominee of Schoeman's Department of Transport.

It is not difficult to surmise that the attitude of Ben Schoeman's intransigent attitude, and the present decision to withdraw services, are all part of a joint PUTO-Co. plan against the people.

BEATEN BY THE BOYCOTT

STRIDDOM'S Government is up to something. You can smell it a mile off. Its defeat in the boycott is getting ready for a trial

Usually, it is Mr. Swart, the Minister of Justice, who tells tales of poisoned weed and "cheese-cakes" armies. But in the debate last week Mr. Schoeman surpassed him.

IN A TANGLE

Mr. Schoeman wove the threads into a fantastic tangle; he turned the bus boycott—a simple struggle for economic rights—into a gigantic conspiracy, emanating from the treason hearing and aiming at driving all the Whites out of Southern Africa. He embellished the story with "evidence" of violence and intimidation.

He said that the African National Congress wanted to expel the White man and set up a "Native State". He declared that it was planning "drastic action in the future."

What is the explanation for this nonsense? What is Mr. Schoeman after?

THE ANSWER IS THAT THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT, HAVING FAILED TO BREAK THE BOYCOTT, IS OUT NOW TO BREAK THE AFRICAN PEOPLE. SCHOEMAN COULD NOT ACHIEVE THE LESSER TASK; SO HE GETS READY TO TACKLE ONE A TITUSAND TIMES MORE DIFFICULT.

For criminal bravado, for suicidal stupidity, the Nationalist Government's new plans are unique. Some people say that the Nationalists never read history; I believe that they must have culled every history book written to condense so much into a few sentences. No mortal mind is capable of making so many mistakes unaided.

SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

You ask: How do I know the Nationalist Government has not learnt its lesson? How do I know that they are going to unleash a reign of terror? I claim no special knowledge of their plans. I say simply: Read their speeches!

Mr. Schoeman traced the outline, provided the connecting links between boycott and treason, "exposed" the "conspiracy." Mr. Blaar Coetzee said that a victory for the boycotters would have meant a victory for "the African National Congress, the agitators and the Communists." And Mr. M. Viljoen demanded that the Government should ban the ANC.

Boycott, treason, Communism, ANC, violence, murder, drive the White man into the sea! It's one and the same thing. The Nationalists tell the country: They stare into their crystal ball and see plots, shadowy shapes, sinister movements arising out of Darkest Africa.

The technical terms used among Nationalist propagandists to describe this particular aspect of their trickery is: Scare the hell out of the Whites.

But this time, I fear, it is serious, terrifyingly serious. All restraints are being tossed to the wind.

FIRST TARGET

There seems to be little doubt that the African National Congress was the Government's first target. Mr. Schoeman described the ANC as a "subversive organisation." Mr. Viljoen has called for it to be banned. And according to a newspaper report, the Government in fact is considering banning the ANC.

But the attack will not be confined to the ANC. It is being chosen because it represents the African people, their aims and desires. The attack, therefore, is against the African people. As Mr.

GOVT. WANTS REVENGE

Hepple said, the Government wants to break the spirit of the African people.

It is to the credit of the Parliamentary Opposition that every section of it—even the United Party—warned the Government in last week's debate against the folly of its methods.

LOOKING AT PARLIAMENT

Graaff dodged the boycott issue for several weeks, but at least when he spoke last week it was to admit that the Africans were in an "economic plight," and to declare that the Government tried to suppress the boycott by force alone, it would merely be dealing with symptoms that might easily show their head again.

Mr. Hepple was more outspoken. He said that the only satisfactory answer to the boycott was to pay wages, "decent wages." The Minister of Transport, he said, had turned a serious economic problem into a racial one and had embarked upon a vendetta against the African National Congress—"The Minister appears to be determined to have

a showdown."

ARROGANT

No pleading by the Opposition had the slightest effect on Mr. Schoeman. He remained arrogant and adamant throughout the debate, even throwing in interjections like the following:

Mr. P. Poecock (U.P.): Will the Minister explain in what way the boycott bill will help to solve the boycott?

Mr. Schoeman: There will not be a boycott. There will be no buses to boycott.

Mr. Poecock: Are the buses going to be withdrawn for all time?

Mr. Schoeman: Yes, permanently. Mr. Poecock: The Minister is talking nonsense. This cannot be done.

Mr. Schoeman's intentions need no further clarification. He has made up his mind to teach the African people a lesson. He is going to show them who is Master and who is Servant. It is not only the boycott he has in mind, he intends the lesson to be a permanent one, and last for all time, settling once and for all the question of White baseness.

The old-fashioned term is "putting the kafir in his place." But now Mr. Schoeman wants to do it on a grandiose scale. He wants to put ALL the "kafirs" in their place—all 9,000,000 of them.

Africans Angry At Langa Meeting Ban

CAPE TOWN.

AFRICAN National Congress officials are angry at the banning of their meeting planned for last Sunday at Langa. The meeting was banned by the chief magistrate following an application by the location superintendent, Mr. Rogers, who said he feared there would

Mr. Rogers based his application on the fact that there had been a clash between police and Africans at Langa the previous week. Since this was also an ANC meeting, there might again be trouble.

Eye-witnesses of the disturbances at Langa the previous Sunday, however, are unanimous in blaming the police for the fact that violence took place.

NO INCIDENT

Mr. T. Ngenyawa, who was a speaker at the meeting, in a letter to New Age denies that the audience was ever incited to "swank" the Government to open direct negotiations with the bus boycotters in Johannesburg and other parts of the country and also asked Golden Arrow Bus Company to employ Africans as crews on its buses on the same basis as other crews of other races.

"I regret indeed that the events that took place last Sunday at Langa and I believe every sensible person would agree to. I submit it is not the ANC which is inciting a black agitation, but the Government who are denying the existence of black men in South Africa, and talk about two sections, the English and

Afrikaner, as the only people constituting the South African nation."

Two statements issued by the Congress of Democrats last week also disputed the account of the events at Langa given to the press by Captain J. Rheeder, of the Athlone police.

"It seems to be quite clear," says the COD, "that the police broke up a perfectly legal and orderly meeting of the African National Congress and arrested nine of the leading members of the organisation. Eye-witnesses tell of defenceless and unresisting Africans being hit about the head and face by policemen armed with batons, of police chasing and batoning both men and women who were at all times quiet and orderly, of police actually stoning Africans they could not reach with their batons.

"The whole picture seems to have been one of ruthless and wild police attacks utterly unprovoked."

The COD demanded that those guilty be punished and that the Commissioner of Police instruct his men to cease their attacks upon African men and women.

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