

ONE MILLION FOR THE FREEDOM CHARTER!

Next Stage in Congress of the People Campaign

JOHANNESBURG.

THE next stage in the Congress of the People campaign has now been decided upon: this is to be the collection of individual signatures to the Freedom Charter.

THE TARGET OF SIGNATURES IS TO BE ONE MILLION TO BE ACHIEVED BY JUNE 26 NEXT YEAR.

THIS DECISION TO WIN INDIVIDUAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHARTER WAS ARRIVED AT BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES OF THE FOUR CONGRESSES, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS, THE S.A. COLOURED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION AND THE S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS, WHO MET IN SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN DURBAN UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF LUTHULL.

Each province has been allocated quotas for the target as follows:

Transvaal	450,000	signatures
Cape	350,000	"
Natal	150,000	"
O.F.S.	50,000	"

In addition to the winning of individual signatures to the Charter the campaign will attempt to win endorsement for the Freedom Charter by organisations throughout the land.

The obtaining of signatures will not be regarded as just a routine and technical task: through the campaign the Freedom Charter will be taken to homes and factories everywhere and its aims related to the everyday needs of the people.

The campaign must reach not only the people in the main urban centres but also those in the countryside, decided the Congresses.

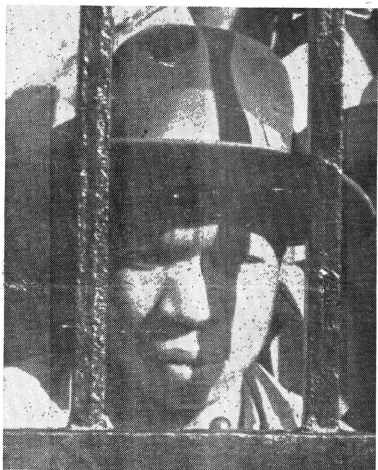
OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The Durban meeting reviewed the Kliptown Congress of the People and greeted it as an "outstanding success". Not only did it create a new spirit but it provided the Freedom Charter, a document which has laid the basis for important advances in the future.

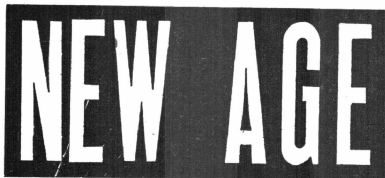
POLICE SWOOP ON AFRICANS

JOHANNESBURG.

IN a giant swoop by police and pass office officials last Friday in Johannesburg, hundreds of Africans on their way to work in the early hours of the morning were searched and arrested in a tax raid just outside the main station.



One of the arrested Africans looks through the barred gates of the central pass office after the mass raid for taxes in Johannesburg last week.



SOUTHERN EDITION Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper
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Hundreds Arrested in Four-Hour Operation

THE RAID FOR TAX RECEIPTS STARTED AT 4 A.M. AND WENT ON FOR FOUR HOURS UNTIL JUST BEFORE 8 A.M. No African coming in by train from the outlying suburbs or locations could leave the station without being intercepted and producing his tax receipts.

The main search was conducted at the Hook Street exit and as the incoming trains disgorged their passengers, the narrow corridor from the suburban lines was choked and congested as hundreds were held up waiting their turn to be intercepted.

Plain-Clothes

Most of the police and officials conducting the search were in plain clothes, though uniformed European and African constables stood by throughout.

Men who could not produce up-to-date tax receipts were pushed to one side, against a wall, and then pick-up vans, closed and meshed in troop carriers and large white trucks were driven up Hook Street in a steady stream to take away the hundreds who were arrested in the raid.

Simultaneously with the raid at the central station, a search for tax receipts was also being conducted at the Faraday station and at the Sophiatown bus ranks.

Packed Tight

Those arrested were finally removed to the Government Pass Office in Market Street, and by 9 a.m. the large yard there was packed tight with arrested men. The barred gates at the one entrance were locked, and those pushed up against the bars struggled for a turn while others from vendors who pushed their wares through the gate.

Utter chaos seemed to reign in the yard where officials and police were trying to sort out the huge crowd of arrested men.

Those coming to the pass office on "normal business" could not get through the yard.

Average European Saw Nothing

The raid at the station stopped at 8 a.m. approached and the streets of the city began to fill with office workers so that by the time the shoppers crowded the pavements and the increases tax revenue up again, the average European in the station area saw nothing very different about Johannesburg.

At the pass office, hundreds of men already hours late for work waited impatiently to hear their fate, and officials worked to top up the increases tax revenue brought in by the morning's raid. At least £5007 650? Possibly. But also one more of those mass raids against the African people with which Johannesburg is becoming all too familiar: AND ALSO A RAID IN WHICH HUNDREDS WERE ARRESTED. BUT WHICH STAYED COMPLETELY UNNOTICED BY THE ENTIRE PRESS OF THIS CITY.

ONE REPLY TO BANTU EDUCATION—

Photo-Feature on Centre Page

P.E. BOYCOTT SUCCESS LEADS TO DEPORTATIONS THREAT

A STRONG protest against the proposal by the New Brighton Advisory Board that the Port Elizabeth City Council deport the leaders in the schools boycott campaign, has been issued by the executive of the New Brighton African National Congress.

The New Brighton Advisory Board, at its meeting last week, stated that if "one or two men" could be removed from Port Elizabeth, the "problem" (of the boycott) could be solved.

This is the first public indication that the boycott has been worrying the authorities and is having effect. Previously the daily press and the government had written the Port Elizabeth boycott off as a flop.

The A.N.C. statement declares that the executive is aware that deportation of opponents of the present apartheid regime in South Africa is being resorted to more and more "in the vain hope of halting the inexorable march of the common people in this country to freedom and a better life for all."

NOT SURPRISING

Nor is it surprising, says the A.N.C., that this "viciously undemocratic and reactionary resolution should emanate from an organ of

local government which has been utterly discredited among all politically conscious and enlightened people in South Africa.

"Indeed the New Brighton Advisory Board is responsible to nobody and is a non-elected and virtually self-appointed group incapable of representing the true interests of the African people, in any matter whatsoever."

Reaffirming the A.N.C. national conference decision to fight Bantu Education, the New Brighton executive states:

"The A.N.C. and indeed the whole Congress movement in South Africa is under no illusions regarding the difficulties of the path that it has undertaken nor the sacrifices entailed in genuine opposition to the

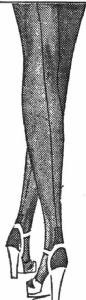
schemes of the Nationalist Government. But we are not prepared to sell the soul of the nation for a mess of apartheid pottage.

"We are confident that time, history and justice are on the side of the African people in this and other matters. The A.N.C. knows that long after Native Advisory Boards and apartheid educational systems have disappeared, the Movement, its leaders and the progressive ideas they represent will occupy an honoured place in a free, democratic, united, multinational community in which oppression of man by man will have been entirely eliminated."

The New Brighton A.N.C. has also recently issued a circular letter to teachers, outlining the A.N.C. stand on Bantu Education, and calling on the teachers to play their part in the defeat of Verwoerd's slave education policy.

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NEW AGE LETTER BOX

FREEDOM CHARTER INSPIRED HIM IN WARSAW

HERE in this historic and noble city of Warsaw, where the people are building their socialist State, on this their day of celebration of the moment eleven years ago, when they were liberated from the destructive savagery of Nazism, here I have read your issue of June 30, reporting to the world the epoch-making "Congress of the People." And I must write immediately to congratulate you and your staff for the excellent job of reportage and lay-out.

I want, as well, to congratulate the men and women of the Congress Movement for their vision, courage, organisational competence and labour, which made the Congress of the People a reality. Finally, may I express my admiration of the thousands of delegates and observers who by their participation gave living breath to our Freedom Charter. I am convinced that the inspiration of the Charter will heighten our people's determination, will bring new fighters into the veld, will frighten the hervoekvolks to their very souls—and will bring within grasping distance a South African society based on freedom, equality and peace.

From the tribune of the World Peace Assembly at Helsinki last month, I had the honour of delivering the message from South Africa, a message which told the 2,000 delegates from 68 countries that world peace will remain in peril as long as there exists in the world any vestige of racial discrimination. Our message was received with rare warmth and emotion. The prolonged applause without doubt signified from all those people a return message to the people of South Africa: "We deeply sympathise with you in your hard conditions of life; we admire the courage of your fight for freedom and equality and peace; we assure you that your struggle is no less ours; we will not fail you."

When I see the magnificent democratic will of the people at home expressed in the adoption of the Freedom Charter and when I see the boundless sympathy and readiness to help all the people abroad, then I am convinced that, however black the clouds over our land at present, the sun is ready to burst through at any moment. Let us unite our fight to hasten the inevitable dawn.

CECH WILLIAMS.
Warsaw, Poland.

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Coloured Mother in Europe

I have been greatly impressed by the World Congress of Mothers, here in Switzerland. I am deeply moved. To see the women here of 60 different countries and to hear some of them speak and say what they do, feel I can come back and shake our people.

As an ordinary working Coloured Mother it feels like heaven to be in a place where people don't push you in a bus and glare at you because of your skin. My sister, Lilian Ngoyi, made a marvellous impression at the Conference and delegates crowded around us to get news from South Africa.

I could not shop here as things are most expensive. A real Capitalist country. They cater for the tourist. Every hotel has tables outside in the street. The shops are lovely. The pastry is lovely. I can't afford it. I am steeped in champagne and ice cream (fancy) and a glass of beer costs 10/6 English money.

I have had many meetings with other Coloured mothers from other countries. We tell each other how we live and what we do. We all agree that if we stand together we shall make things better for our children. The big people talk on your side. The little people on the other and the little people are going to win.

GLADYS SMITH.
Lausanne, Switzerland.

Plane Over Bulgaria

How do you justify the wanton attack last week on an unarmed civil airliner which was slightly off course over Bulgaria?

We are told that these "People's Democracies" want only peace. While the Western nations plan for war, these "Democracies" exist only for peace. They organise peace conferences; they draw up petitions. And yet "peaceful" Bulgaria greets a straying airliner, unmistakable as such, with anti-aircraft shells. No doubt the gunners made a mistake and will be punished for it. But can a nation plead for peace, the brotherhood of man, and friendship to all with its borders bristling with alerted guns?

Let us face it, Mr. Editor. It is fatuous to cry for peace with a ready arsenal in your backyard. And a sincere man does not expect a friendly hand when he clutches a loaded pistol in the other.

PETER HJUL.
Long St., Cape Town.

(A similar letter has been received from B. Pogrand, Cape Town.)

Situation at Fort Hare

I read with interest a letter (Letterbox, July 21), in which it is rather broadly suggested that Tumeleng Mathews and a certain "woman informer" were amongst those who informed against student strikers in connection with recent events at the college.

Apparently your correspondent is a confidant of the "higher-ups" in the college and one can only suppose he gets his information from one or more ill-informed members of the Fort Hare staff.

It is amazing how Mathews, who is not even resident at the college is presumed able to inform on activities of students without being present. How can he possibly know what took place at Hostel meetings or who spoke in them? Most of the activities of the students he could not know anything about. Is he now to be blamed for having being born the son of Professor Mathews—an event over which he could not possibly have exercised any control? Or is this part of the useless campaign to cast doubt on the unimpeachable career and character of the father by slurs directed against his children?

If your correspondent is one of the students who have not been allowed back, let him make an analysis of the situation based on objective facts and try and play his part in creating a South Africa where such things as the closing down of colleges will become impossible.

These smear-tactics seem to be patterned after the by now notorious case of the late Dr. M. J. Unity Movement and other movements of the same ilk.

"ANOTHER FORT HARE STUDENT."

Alice, Cape.

(The letter to which this is a reply stated that Mr. Tumeleng Mathews had received the first of the three types of circular letters sent by the Fort Hare authorities to the students. It stated that he would be re-admitted without the need to apply. Recipients of the other two circulars were required to apply and get certain information before re-admission was considered.)

No imputation—and certainly none by 'New Age'—that Mr. Mathews had informed, was intended—Editor.)

Hunger the Trouble

It is always the case with our African workers, that we shall always have disputes with our employers. I mean hunger always makes disagreements with the Capitalists. Recently the workers of Paard Dry Cleaners told their employer that they wanted an increase in wages and a better management of the firm. The employers ignored this until there was a strike and stoppage of 14 hours, after which the employers agreed. I appeal to all employers that they must acknowledge that equal work equal money. Unity is strength.

N. P. MOGANO.
Wynburg, Johannesburg.

Nyasaland Congress

Nyasaland African Congress (Johannesburg Branch) has sent a delegate to the big conference at Zilongwe, Nyasaland.

The British Government rightly says the Union Government when it asks for the transfer of the protectorates "We must first ask the Africans if they agree to come to the Union Government but why did the British Government itself force federation against the wishes of sons of Nyasaland?"

Yours in struggle,
C. K. KAUNDA.
Sec., Nyasaland African Congress.
Johannesburg.

EDITORIAL

Aeroplane over Bulgaria

THERE can be no doubt that the Geneva conference of the Big Four has resulted in a widespread relaxation of international tension. All four heads of Governments have stressed that the talks have opened up the prospect of an enduring peace, given goodwill and honesty on all sides. Now day by day come further instalments of the new era of peaceful coexistence—the planned Bulganin-Kruschov visit to London, the meeting in Geneva this week of the ambassadors of People's China and the United States, the rumour of a meeting between Mr. Dulles and Mr. Chou En-lai to discuss the outstanding issues between the two countries.

A few months ago such exchanges between the big powers on either side of the so-called Iron Curtain were almost unthinkable. Now, however, in the age of the hydrogen bomb, the realisation has been forced on the warmongers that there are no positions of strength, that the potential "enemy" is capable of giving as good as he gets, if not better. Aggression has been temporarily curbed, tempers calmed, and the doctrine that it is better to negotiate for a year rather than fight for a single day has been given a new lease of life.

It is all the more tragic that the shooting down of an Israeli aeroplane flying over Bulgarian territory, and the resultant loss of 58 lives, should have occurred at this juncture. For both the disaster and the hysterical treatment it has received in many sections of the Western press, are a reminder that, though peace beckons, the cold war is not yet over.

WHERE DOES THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY LIE? DOES IT LIE WITH THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, WHOM THE DAILY PRESS AND THE ISRAELI CABINET WANT TO CHARGE WITH AN ACT OF "MASS MURDER?" THE SLIGHTEST PAUSE FOR UNBIASED REFLECTION IS SUFFICIENT TO SHOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

For years United States generals, air marshals and politicians have been boasting of their readiness and ability to send aeroplanes from U.S. bases which encircle the socialist countries to "pulverise" with atomic and hydrogen bombs the cities of the Soviet Union and her allies. Twice last year—once over Viet Nam and once over Quemoy—the United States was within an ace of launching the world into atomic war.

It is only a few months since the U.S. Admiral Carnev said that in his opinion action should be taken to "bloody China's nose" on a local basis to stop her "aggression" against her own territory of Formosa. It is only a few weeks since General Mark Clark in a report on U.S. intelligence work called for "greater concentration on the collection of intelligence information from our primary target—Russia and her satellites and Communist China . . . Proper directional emphasis, aggressive leadership, boldness and persistence are essential to achieve the desired results."

The socialist countries have made no similar threats against the United States. But they have certainly not sat back resigned to being pulverised. Nor have they been prepared to open their borders to the legions of spies and saboteurs, U.S. financed and trained, who have been turned against them in the post-war period—many of them, be it remembered, dropped by aeroplane.

THEY HAVE ERECTED COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFICIENT DEFENCES TO ENSURE THAT NO UNAUTHORISED FOREIGN PLANES SHOULD FLY OVER THEIR CITIES TO DROP EITHER ATOM BOMBS OR ESPIONAGE AGENTS TO DESTROY THE FRUITS OF THEIR PEACEFUL LABOUR.

It was in such a situation that the Israeli plane strayed off course and was shot down. But it should be borne in mind that the Bulgarian Government is no less concerned over the whole incident than the Israeli Government (or the South African Government, for that matter), and has expressed its regret and offered to pay compensation. That in itself should be enough to answer the charge that the shooting was a deliberate act of "mass murder."

It is because ordinary people everywhere—including those of Bulgaria—are horrified by such cold war tragedies as this, that all welcome the easing of world tension which was brought about at Geneva. A world in which war threats have been removed will be a happy world in which guns are no longer held at the ready, either for attack or defence, and in which such tragedies will not happen.

The conclusion which most people will draw is that every effort must be made to consolidate the present great possibilities for ending the cold war, to press ahead with the building of peaceful, friendly relations between all nations, to ensure that the era of peaceful coexistence is built on firm foundations.

U.S. PUPPET NGO AGREES TO BREAK VIET-NAM PEACE PLEDGE

But Ho Holds all the Trumps

LONDON.

THE Premier of South Viet Nam, Ngo Dinh Diem, has indicated his intention of sabotaging the Geneva Agreement of last year providing for the peaceful unification of North and South Viet Nam.

The Geneva Agreement provided that elections would be held throughout North and South Viet Nam in June, 1956, for the purpose of setting up a single government for the country. July 20, 1955, was set down as the date on which representatives of North and South Viet Nam were to get together to start making arrangements for the elections.

In the first week of July, Mr. Pham Van Dong, Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, led by Ho Chi Minh, told a press conference in Hanoi that his government would be ready to start negotiations for the elections on the date, July 20.

"The Viet Nam nation is one," he said. "No force can divide them."

ON U.S. INSTRUCTIONS

But it was already clear that Premier Ngo Dinh Diem of South Viet Nam, on the instructions of his American advisers, had determined to do everything in his power to prevent the elections ever taking place. Observers of all shades of opinion have agreed that the result of the elections would be an overwhelming victory for the supporters of the Ho Chi Minh regime.

Under the circumstances, Diem, and the Americans have decided that as far as they are concerned they are not prepared to submit themselves to the judgment of the electorate.

The "justification" which Diem advances for his attitude is that neither he nor the Americans were signatories to the Geneva Agreement, and are therefore not bound by its provisions. However, the other parties to the Agreement, which include Britain, the Soviet Union and People's China, are in no mood to accept this evasion.

HO IS DETERMINED

While Diem maintained silence following the Hanoi declaration, President Ho Chi Minh, on a visit to People's China, issued a statement together with Premier Chou En-lai declaring that they were determined to see that elections took place as laid down at Geneva.

The statement said the three Powers entrusted with administering the armistice agreement, India, Poland and Canada, had done a good job, and hoped they would continue in the same manner.

But, the two leaders went on, both China and Viet Nam were aware that the United States was "actively opposing consultations for general elections in Viet Nam so as to prevent the unification of the country."

The statement agreed with the Soviet Union and India that the governments concerned with this issue must discharge their obligations.

CHINA HELPS VIET NAM

The two leaders also announced that China had agreed to provide assistance to Viet Nam without compensation of about £110 million for building communications, factories, etc., and will also help Viet Nam design and construct these facilities.

A similar declaration was issued by President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Bulganin in Moscow shortly afterwards, and it was announced that the Soviet Union, too, would provide financial and technical assistance for the economic development of Viet Nam.

During the course of July the British Government also informed the Government of South Viet Nam of its point of view. "The British Government," reported the diplomatic correspondent of the London Times, "has always been anxious that preparation for the elections should, if possible, be begun on time and it is understood that this view was emphasised by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Macmillan, when he saw M. Nguyen Huu Chau, the South Viet Nam Minister without Portfolio, in London earlier this month."

Finding some explanation imperative, Diem eventually, in a broadcast 3 days before the deadline of July 20, said his Government was ready to accept the principle of general elections in all Viet Nam, but only on condition that the elections in the North really were "free."

IMPLICIT REFUSAL

In a statement which, according to the correspondent of the London Times, "seems to amount implicitly to a refusal to meet and discuss with Viet Nam representatives the details of all-Viet Nam elections," Diem said:

"We do not reject the principle of elections as a peaceful and democratic means of achieving the unity of the country . . . However, if elections constitute one of the bases of a true democracy, they can only have a raison d'être if they are absolutely free."

In view of the "regime of oppression" practised in the North, "there can be no question of considering any proposition whatsoever of the Viet-minh if we do not have at the same time the proof that the (Viet-minh) Government is putting the higher interests of the national community above those of Communism."

The Viet-minh, went on the insistent tyrant of Saigon, whose jails are full of political prisoners and who has been conducting civil war against his own people, must renounce terrorist and totalitarian methods and cease to violate the Geneva Agreement by preventing Vietnamese from the North from emigrating to the South!

What Diem understood by "free elections" was made clear in a newspaper founded by him during July. The conditions are:

1. That voters must be able to prove that they are of the third generation born in Viet Nam.
2. That they must be domiciled in the same district for a fixed period.
3. That they must possess property such as houses, land, rice-fields, showing they have a stake in the country.
4. That they must not belong to military or semi-military organisations.

Clearly under this scheme, only the upper-class minority would be able to vote, and all soldiers (who are of course drawn from the working-class and peasants) would be voteless! The Geneva Agreement, on the other hand, calls for universal suffrage.

ASIA INFURIATED

Diem's astonishing declaration has infuriated not only the people of Viet Nam, longing for peace and unity under a democratic regime, but also the leaders of other Asian countries.

Prompt in his denunciation of Diem's tactics was Indian Premier Nehru, who told a press conference in New Delhi that India condemned the refusal of South Viet Nam to attend the election talks. Nehru declared that the Diem Government, as successors to the French, were in duty bound to carry out the elections. Diem's excuse that he had not been a party to the Geneva Agreement, was declared Nehru, just a legal quibble.

The Indian President of the armistice commission, Mr. M. J. Dutt, after discussions with Nehru, flew from New Delhi to Saigon to press the issue with the South Viet Nam Premier.

WON'T SUCCEED

The stalling tactics adopted by Diem under American pressure are unlikely, however, to be effective. If it should come to a showdown, Diem has no effective force to oppose to the organised strength of the Vietnamese people desiring unity.

Despite the terror in the South, massive demonstrations in favour of the holding of elections have been held in Saigon and elsewhere, while "in Tonkin" reports Denis Bloodworth to the London Observer: "I found an insistent and mounting clamour for the election conference to open."

Bloodworth came to the conclusion that Diem would eventually agree to meet the representatives of North Viet Nam in the belief that nothing would come of the talks because "the Viet-minh will not adopt the principle of competitive political campaigning in free and secret elections in their zone."

"The Viet-minh point out, however, that the shoe is on the other foot. They are politically strong enough to afford a straight, open fight, while neither Diem nor any combination of Nationalists in the divided and disorganised South could hope to win a fair election. There is little doubt, therefore, that if Diem tries to spike the consultative conference by posing conditions he thinks unacceptable, Viet-minh will reply by securing a mandate to leave him no use for breaking off the discussions."



A happy picture of the Premier of the U.S.S.R., Marshal Bulganin, with Young Pioneers during a visit to East Germany after the Geneva conference.

World Jewish Conference Against German Re-armament

LONDON.

DESPITE the ratification of the Paris Agreements by the Western Powers, the fight against German rearmament continues unabated. One example of this was the World Jewish Conference against German rearmament which was held in Paris recently under the auspices of the French Jewish Committee of Action against German Rearmament, headed by Maitre Andre Blumel, the President of the Zionist Federation of France.

Over 100 delegates attended, representing Jews in France, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Canada, Israel, Italy, Poland, Rumania and the United States of America.

SOVIET CHIEF RABBI

Messages supporting the aims of the conference came from the Chief Rabbis of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia; the President of the Jewish Community of Austria; from Jewish communities in West Germany; from "Inul," a Jewish-American cultural organisation; and from the Jewish Workers' Circle of London. Two prominent Israeli personalities, Itzhak Grunbaum, a well-known Zionist, and General Dornel, also sent messages of support.

Among British representatives were a delegate from Mappam, and Dr. Litvin, editor of the periodical "Gates of Zion."

From the U.S.A. came a member of the staff of the "Morning Freiheit" and a member of the Emma Lazarus Club; from Canadian representatives of Jewish Fraternal Orders; from Israel representatives of Mappam, Achudut Avoda and the Communist Party; from the Rumanian People's Republic came Bereu Feldman, Member of Parliament; Professor D. Popper; and H. Maxi, Director of the Rumanian Art Museum and of the State Art Academy. Poland was represented by H. Smoler, president of the Central Cultural Committee of the Jews in London and editor of the Warsaw Yiddish daily "Folkstimme"; Madame Ida Kaminska, the famous Jewish actress, and others; and from Bulgaria came the head of the Jewish community, I. M. France.

GAULIST LEADER

A Gaulist leader, Senator Henri Torres, from France, was one of

the most prominent speakers at the conference.

All the speakers, irrespective of their political or religious views, expressed abhorrence at the proposed rearming of Germany and the reconstitution of the German army, which had murdered millions of innocent people during the last war, including 6 million Jews. They called on all Jewish communities to develop the largest possible mass movement against German rearmament, and to unite with all others who had similar aims.

The conference also decided to approach leading national and international Jewish organisations and prominent personalities to associate themselves with the campaign against German rearmament.

Many speakers criticised Mappam, the Israel Labour Party and the largest party in the Israeli Government, and the world Zionist movement for standing aside from the struggle against German rearmament.

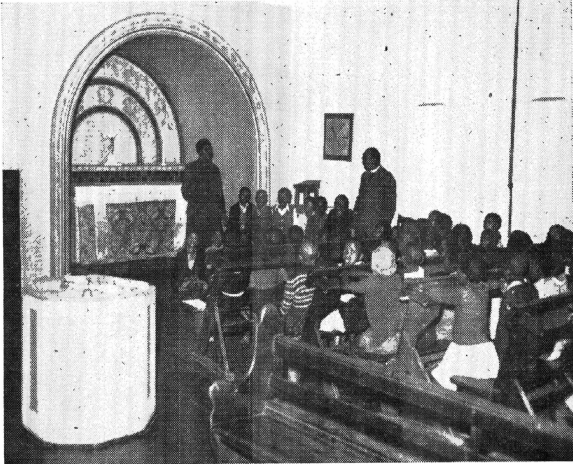
U.S. Spies in Syria

LONDON.

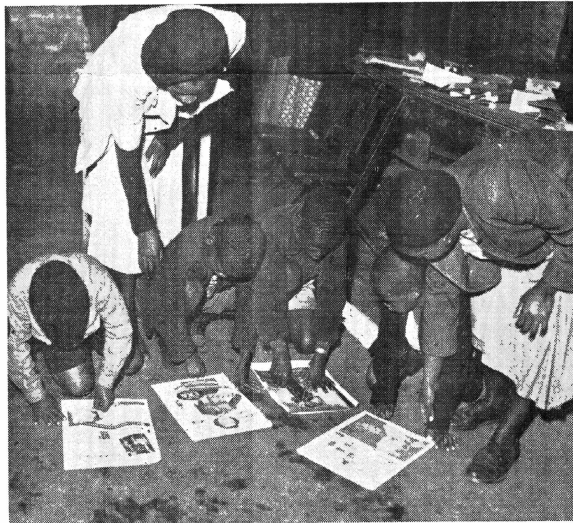
Syria's military investigator has demanded the death sentence for 26 members of the fascist Syrian Social Nationalist Party, charged with spying for the United States. Hard labour sentences were demanded for nine others. They are accused of having instigated the death of Syria's Deputy Staff of Staff, Colonel Makhl, in Damascus last April.

The military investigator charged that a prominent member of the party, Hisham Sharabi, conducted preliminary negotiations with officials in Washington for a coup aimed at getting Syria to join the Turkey-Iraq pact.

CULTURAL CLUBS — ONE REPLY TO BANTU EDUCATION



"Let There Be Light" say the words on the altar cloth in the Benoni Anglican Church where a family centre brings together youngsters excluded from the schools.



No scissors, but fingernails and pins will have to do to cut out pictures for a scrapbook from an old magazine.

JOHANNESBURG.
BENONI, the town on the East Rand which fired the first shots in the boycott struggle against Bantu Education Schools, is also among the first to launch cultural clubs for the children expelled from school by Dr. Verwoerd's vicious reprisal action.

When the schools opened last week after the mid-year holidays, several cultural clubs initiated by the African Education Movement started their first activities.

The Government is watching like a lynx for signs of blackboards, children's slates, reading books and arithmetic manuals. The first prosecution, in Germiston, for running an illegal school failed, but there is no doubt that the provisions of the Bantu Education Act will be carried out to the letter, and any who dare organise children for formal education in any group or class not registered by the Bantu Education Act will be hauled before the courts and criminally prosecuted.

NOT SCHOOLS

The cultural clubs are NOT schools. The children receive no formal instruction but are led in groups for games, singing and handicrafts by voluntary club leaders who have come forward to start activities to keep the children denied schooling occupied and off the streets. The majority of the club leaders are parents and many are taking groups which include their own children expelled from the schools for their part in the boycott campaign.

Benoni's club caters already for over two hundred children. The older group is crowded into a one-time bicycle shop.

The younger children are in a disused cinema in the location. This dusty, drab hall with a concrete floor has no windows and the only light comes in through two holes torn in the brickwork of the east wall. The morning the New Age reporter visited the club it was not yet a week old, and new children were still being enrolled. Club leaders were getting their first experience in taking groups of children. For the great majority there was no equipment.

Kneeling on the patch of floor best lit by the sun filtering in through the hole in the wall were a group of small boys making scrapbooks from old magazines. They had no scissors with which to cut out, but that did not seem to worry them, and they were making do with the sharp ends of safety pins or their own thumb-nails.

The hall came to life when the children stood up to sing, and their voices, in perfect harmony, reached out of the greyness in the sombre hall and into the location street.

Diagonally across the road is the Anglican Church where a family centre has been conducted since April and where children from the former Anglican school, now taken over by the Bantu Education Division, come for morning group activities.

C.I.D. COMES

The presence of newspaper correspondents in the Benoni location to see the first cultural clubs brought the location police and a C.I.D. plain-clothes man on the scene.

The detective and a police sergeant were driven to the cinema hall in a car with a Pretoria licence plate, and four African constables on bicycles cycled after them, and then circled about.

The detective spoke to one of the club organisers.

"What's going on here, hey?"

"It's a club, a cultural club."

"A club? What club? You mean a school, don't you!"

The detective walked into the cinema hall where the children were sitting quietly in their groups.

"What's going on? What are you doing here?" he directed his question at some children.

"Afrika!" was their reply.

TEXTILE WORKERS WANT WAGE RISE

CAPE TOWN.

The Conciliation Board which has been appointed to settle the dispute in the worsted section of the textile industry adjourned after its nesting in Cape Town last Thursday, to allow the union representatives to meet employers for informal discussions in Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Worcester and Johannesburg.

The Textile Workers' Industrial Union is demanding a general wage increase of about £1 a week. About 1,500 workers are affected throughout South Africa.

"The worsted workers are determined to get an increase in wages," Mr. P. Beylveid, the union's general secretary, told New Age last week.

"They feel that they have worked at low wages for long enough to enable the industry, which is a comparatively new one, to establish itself.

"The workers feel the industry has had sufficient time to be able to give them something in return for the sacrifices they have made over the past eight years."

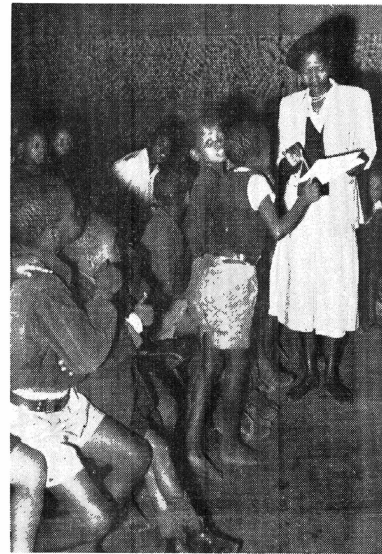
SITE AND SERVICE RENTS TO BE REDUCED?

JOHANNESBURG.

Following on the widespread criticism of the high rentals on Johannesburg's site and service theme, Cllr. H. Miller, chairman of the Non-European Affairs Housing Committee, said an effort would be made to reduce the rents.

Johannesburg's rentals are higher than those charged on other sites and service scheme already started in the country.

USE THIS DOUBLE PAGE AS A WALL-NEWSPAPER. PIN IT UP FOR OTHERS TO SEE.



One of the activity groups.

ALWYN APPEAL

The appeal of Miss Assa Dawood and Mr. John Alwyn, Worcester leaders, against their conviction on a charge of incitement to public violence, will be heard in the Cape Town Supreme Court today, Thursday August 4.

Miss Dawood was given a nine-months' sentence, suspended for three years. Mr. Alwyn, who was sentenced to nine months' hard labour, is at present serving an 18 months' terms of imprisonment for offences under the Suppression of Communism Act.

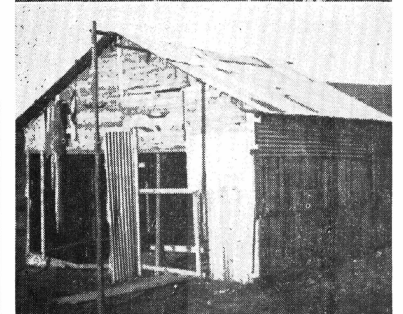
Their conviction in the Worcester Magistrate's Court on the charge of incitement to public violence arose out of a meeting in July, 1954, when they were alleged to have said (translated from Afrikaans):

"In Kenya I saw how the whites are leaving Kenya. The Mau Mau has become like a cancer. You will also grow like cancer. Our leaders will sit behind bars, the Non-Europeans are with me."

And: "The freedom of the Mau Mau means the freedom of Africa and India. Africa began on top. Now it is coming to the South. You perhaps do not know of it, but it will come."

PORT ELIZABETH TОО

With the help of the African National Congress branch, the people of Despatch Village near Port Elizabeth are making arrangements to use the building they have erected (bottom right) as a centre for cultural activities for the Pioneers—the children who are refusing to accept Verwoerd's slave education. A group of the Pioneers are seen in the picture above, carrying the A.N.C. flag and demonstrating against Bantu Education.



SOPHIATOWN FORCIBLE REMOVAL

JOHANNESBURG.

THE removal of batches of families from the Western Areas to Meadowlands has been proceeding slowly but steadily for the last four months, but last week, for the first time, the Native Resettlement Board gave notice that it would apply for court orders for the forcible removal of residents who up to now have stood firm and refused to go to Meadowlands.

Several Sophiatown Africans were served with summons to appear in the Magistrate's Court on August 3 for a removal order in terms of the 1954 Natives Resettlement Act.

The summons reads: "Whereas you have, notwithstanding notice in terms of section 25 of Act 19 of 1954, failed to vacate the premises in which you reside, and failed to avail yourself of transport offered by the Board to convey you to alternative accommodation offered, please take note that application be made on behalf of the Natives Resettlement Board for an order in terms of section 26(1) (a) and (b) of Act 19 of 1954."

The notice has been served in English and Afrikaans, Zulu and Sesuto.

FREEDOM CHARTER CONFERENCE

CAPE TOWN.

The Cape Joint Congress Committee is organising a Freedom Charter Conference on Sunday, September 25, in the Banqueting Hall, Cape Town, to which representatives of organisations and individuals throughout the Western Cape will be invited.

The conference will discuss ways and means of making the Freedom Charter known to each and every person in the Western Cape. Conference will also elect a new Joint Congress Committee.

Report-back meetings of the Congress of the People are at present being held throughout the Western Cape.

C.O.P. Delegates Report Back

FICKSBURG.

The African National Congress held a successful meeting in Ficksburg, O.F.S. last week, when delegates to the Congress of the People, the Reverend J. S. Ntholi and Mrs. P. Baleng, reported on the great Kiptown rally and presented the Freedom Charter to the people of Ficksburg.

The C.I.D. were also present and took notes.



"Bantu education + N.A.D. x Verwoerd equals slavery" says the slogan held up by this group of children from the club.

REPORT TO OUR READERS

FROM time to time a reader will come into our office, hand in a donation, and then quietly depart, without even making his or her name known. There are others, known to us by name, who come in just after the end of the month on the same mission—to give us money. But whether we know them or not such welcome visitors are more than just readers of our paper; they are good friends of 'New Age' and democracy.

Good friends, because they realise that our paper cannot exist without money. . . . If we had more such good friends we would not have to worry ourselves sick with anxiety when the time comes to pay the bills. We would have a regular, steady income enabling us to budget properly each month. The ever-present risk of 'New Age' ceasing to exist through lack of funds would vanish. Our good friends are much

too few at the moment for safety's sake. We need many more readers who will bring in their contribution each month, or send it in, or ask someone to call on them regularly. With more money we could give you more interesting photo features, such as the one on these pages. But blocks cost money, and we have to think twice before giving you what we know you want. A ridiculous state of affairs, isn't it?

SONG THE SEEDS OF PEACE

THIS ARTICLE CONSISTS OF EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN TO A FRIEND IN S. AFRICA BY

CECIL WILLIAMS

WHO ATTENDED THE WORLD PEACE ASSEMBLY IN HELSINKI LAST JUNE.

time in India, he had just finished covering Nehru in the U.S.S.R.

What a lovely evening, with dancing in between and some solo and wine.

"The seeds of the dandelion are ripe, the wind scatters them and they fall into the ground. Soon they will flower and cover the earth with gold."

Kuo Mo-jo, Chinese Vice-President, a lovely, little, smiling man, said the above in his closing address. He was referring naturally to the seeds of peace. Beautiful?

I stopped writing yesterday in the Hall as they got into the final business—the appeal, which we had two hours to study and vote on. There was not a single vote against the resolution (quite a few were away, having left for home already—about 10 per cent.)

Well, the reaction of the 2,000 people was remarkable. What a demonstration. Great clapping, then everybody stood up, then somebody started to wave a peace scarf. Soon the place was alliter. Shouting and cheering, which resolved itself into a jumble of languages as the delegation obviously shouted something like "Long Live Peace." Then remarkably it took coherence with everyone chanting "Vive la Paix"—even the

Japanese understood, and the clapping followed that rhythm. I was on the top row of the platform and could see everything.

From the long press gallery came down showers of flower-petals. The flowers in the little vases set the front of each member of the presiding committee were thrown at the chairman—Kuo Mo-jo; delegates now standing on their desks; the group from French West Africa shouting and stamping some African song; hands linked across each tier on the platform. It must have gone on for 18 minutes at least. I was biting my nether lip every now and again as the released emotion knocked harder at me. And what did it mean? I haven't had time to analyse before. Some thoughts...

The unanimity meant the Peace Movement was monolithic: strength, power, because we represented the majority of the people of the world. It meant, too, that the debate, concessions, compromises, conciliations on points of view had been worthwhile. It meant that the prospects for peace were brighter, because our delegates, thoroughly enlightened after all they had heard, would be out in the world, fighting better than ever.

It is of necessity a cliché these days, when so many people have been to world conferences, but "it is wonderful beyond words" still remains true. I couldn't have been more enthralled! The atmosphere of such deep joy and interest in each other is wonderful—and I'm taking of this vast variety of people! I suppose it is just a sample of the human friendship which you and I want to see everywhere, first in South Africa.

I can't go into detail, but the organisation of this terrific undertaking has been well-nigh perfect, the plenary sessions inspiring and the debates in the commissions and sub-committees most illuminating. I was in the sub-commission on colonialism. One knows the word, but one has to hear all the stories from Madagascar, Senegal, Camerouns, Algiers, Indonesia, etc., to get a picture of the depravity of those who maintain it and the courage of those who resist it.

The speech in full assembly which stirred me most was Ehrenreich. I don't know how to analyse the quality which makes his speech superior. I suppose, ultimately, it comes down to the old saying, "Style est l'homme meme"—if I remember it rightly.

I am on the Presiding Committee, about 120, and we sit on tiers of desks on the platform. This morning d'Arbousier is on my right, and a Japanese doctor on my left. I see D. N. Pritt, Monica Felton, Rev. Endicott, Kornichuk, the Cuban poet Ponsati, Jean Paul Sartre and others, including a lady from Iceland in her national costume.

Mr. I tell you, in all vanity, that after I had spoken, I received what I think must be technically called an "ovation." I left the speaker's tribune, as I walked up the steps to reach the back row, where I sit, first one African and then another came out from seats and shook my hand. I sat down as the applause still went on. By that time another African reached me from the other side; applause doubled and then they all stood up and continued clapping for a long five minutes. They have stood up only five or six times in 100 speeches. You will have guessed that I talked on racial discrimination, with illustrations from South Africa, and since peace was always in jeopardy so long as race discrimination lasts. These people all know what happens in South Africa, obviously. Whatever the Government does, the truth is abroad in the world. The applause was real, deep sympathy for our people.

One of the thrills, of course, has been seeing and meeting in such friendly, informal conditions some of the great artists, writers, and so on. Let me tell you of an absolutely charming evening. The Saturday, The Society of Finnish Writers invited all artists to a reception, which was held at a luxurious restaurant on an island outside Helsinki. The restaurant's great windows gave an outlook on to the waters of the lake. These Finnish nights which have a light that is almost eerily magical. The sky, as the evening went on, seemed to become opaque and pale, except for an arc of the horizon which reflected sunset and then, half an hour later, reflected the stars.

The hosts and hostesses were sweet. After we had sat at our tables, we were served a cocktail. Then in Finnish, English, Russian, French and German they told us they had no money for anything else and would we pay from them on!

was at a table with a young American girl, an aspirant actor, a quiet German in the corner who looked like a moultering Tweedledum, and the rest were Indians. I was next to Muk Raj Anand, who I had previously met—a quick speaker, with a little splutter around his front teeth, high pitch and laughter, yellow pullover. There was a most beautiful looking Indian painter. Bristly white and black hair—not grey—a thin long beard and deep-set eyes. A tall slow-smiling beautiful face. A journalist, a short story writer, then Mr. Banda and his wife, she a writer, he a singer and actor.

Later on he sang. I expected my usual reaction to Indian singing, which I find unappealing. But this man! It was a love story, sensual. Muk said, Mr. Banda sang with such artistry—by artistry I mean wonderful feeling and imagination, coupled with superb technique. Muk sighed and glanced in esta-

sy. It was amazingly moving.

A Chinese girl sang—what a voice, and what lovely melody. Today in China there is often a fusion of oriental and occidental musical modes, resulting in something familiar, yet something different.

In the course of the evening I spent a few minutes with the most amiable, laughing, yet somewhere some sadness. Obvious, the Soviet puppeteer who charmed Britain last Christmas; and big, false-toothed, frolic, smiling Alexander, the Soviet film director. He was stationed 20 years ago playing small parts under Eisenstein in "Battleship Potemkin." In the room were Sartre and his wife Simone de Beauvoir, also a writer; Kabalevsky, the Soviet composer and others. (No English artists? Or is it that they eschew peace?) Later Ralph Parker, Daily Worker correspondent in Moscow, joined us. After some

CAPE TOWN.

In another attempt to justify the South African Government's fascist policy, the Nationalist-inspired South African Bureau of Cultural Affairs, which has its headquarters in the Stellenbosch University, has recently issued a booklet devoting a large amount of whitewash to "Bantu Education."

Entitled "Bantu Education—Oppression or Opportunity?" the booklet consists of 48 pages, not counting the photographs. These glossy pictures are perhaps the most blatantly misleading features of the whole publication. There is one picture of a really good brick building, with a pleasant exterior and African children in the foreground. The caption declares: "Classes are finished at a small Bantu school set in the peaceful countryside. Rural education for the Bantu lags behind that in the cities, but the State is now working to rectify this position."

TOO CUNNING

By this cunning caption SABRA no doubt expects the reader to jump to the conclusion that there are hundreds of bigger and better schools for Africans in the urban areas. But what about the recent State directive to urban Bantu schools not to admit rural "Bantu" pupils and threatening the rural African children with prosecution if they dare go to the town school? Schools in the urban areas, says the State, are "usually overcrowded," and they therefore cannot allow the country children in. SABRA cannot have it both ways. (There is one picture of a big urban school—but this is a Coloured school. Rather shabby SABRA trick, that!)

Other pictures talk of the "vast number of creches and nursery schools provided for many of the children of working Bantu mothers." How vast the number is, is not stated. But elsewhere in the booklet, if you look hard enough, you will see that in 1954 there were eight nursery schools for African children in South Africa—and all of them in Natal!

Everywhere there is emphasis on the "white man's money" that made training of graduates, lecturers, professors and in fact all schooling, possible; and the old, old lie

BY NAOMI SHAPIRO

that it is the whites who may for the blacks (SABRA even talks of the "white man's burden") is repeated ad nauseam. Without an "unstinted flow" of money from the pockets of the white man, says SABRA, Bantu education would still be confined to a few mission schools.

But SABRA does not mention that without an "unstinted flow" of cheap labour, the rich in South Africa would not be nearly so rich, nor would the State receive nearly so much in super-tax—apart from the millions contributed directly by the Africans themselves. Nor does SABRA anywhere mention that under the new education system, African children who cannot afford school books are turned away.

SABRA claims that South Africa has reached a "modus vivendi" which, however, inadequate, still enables a country of 13 million people—nearly three million white and ten million black and other races—to live in comparative contentment and enjoy a measure of prosperity higher than in almost any other part of Africa.

Said Dr. M. W. Sasser of the Alexandra Township Health Centre the other day: 34,000 of the 80,000 Africans in and around a quarter square mile area of Alexandra Township live in absolute poverty, below even the "sub-human" level of the poverty datum line. Young men born in Alexandra are forbidden under the Urban Areas Act to seek work in Johannesburg, a few miles away. . . . Obviously a modus vivendi of which only SABRA and the Nationalists dare be proud!

SABRA makes other extravagant claims: "The new system aims at training the Bantu to occupy ultimately every position in the service of his own people, thus replacing over a period of years, the whites who now occupy such positions, in view of their higher level of education and development."

Are the "Bantu" who, SABRA and the Nationalists keep assuring us, are so backward then expected to be able to reach the European level (so that they can ultimately replace them) on three hours a week in the primary classes, much of the time taken up in cleaning duties?

Again: "The new syllabus will also enable the Bantu children to pass through the lower classes more quickly than before, thus aiding them to achieve a higher level of education in their years at school. . . ." But will this education equip them for the work for University and other higher studies? This question the Nationalists have never answered.

STATISTICS

Although there is a chapter headed "that Speaks," SABRA's statistics have been carefully chosen to reveal as little as possible. Thus SABRA compares the position of Africans here with that of Africans in the rest of the exploited colonies of Africa and also with India (thrown in for good measure to tell our Indians here how lucky they are!). But nowhere is the position of the African in South Africa compared to that of the European here.

SABRA tells us that the South African Government spends 15/9 per year per head of population on Bantu education, which is £24.25. 4d. per pupil.

SABRA does not tell you that the figure for the white pupil is about ten times as much, that in 1951, for example (the latest figure available) in the Year Book of a total of £32,421,636 spent on primary and secondary education only £5,701,584 was spent on the African school child, with close on

£22 million on the European (who comprise about one-fifth of the population). For the half million white pupils, there were 20,000 teachers; for the one million non-white pupils, there were 27,000 teachers.

But even SABRA's figures are a give-away. If you study them closely, you will see, for example, that while there were 363,938 pupils in the sub-standards in 1954, there were only 508 Africans in Standard IX in the whole of South Africa. "Bantu Education" does not even try to remedy this state of affairs.

In conformity with its "holier than thou" attitude, which permeates the booklet, SABRA gives us another gem: "The Bantu Education Act itself gives no indication of the new education system. In actual fact, therefore, criticism as to the type of education to be supplied under the Act had, if it were to be founded on the facts, to await publication of the syllabuses."

LET VERVOERD SPEAK

Really! As if Dr. Vervoerd, the "father" of "Bantu Education," did not give enough indication of the new education system when he said: "There is no place for him (the Bantu) in the European community above the level of certain forms of labour. . . ."

No wonder SABRA quietly omits to quote Vervoerd!

Complaining loudly, SABRA declares that the position "that from educational indoctrination the Bantu may be brought to an acceptance of a status of permanent inferiority and subjection does not merit serious discussion." Why? In supplying the answer, SABRA, unwittingly perhaps, hits the nail on the head: "There is no prospect that through education people may come to accept willingly what it fundamentally knows amounts to a complete negation of its very existence and goals."

Precisely. That is why the African people are determined never to accept "Bantu Education."

Great and friendly laughter! I

Sports Review

By JACKIE DORASAMY

THE fighting Frenchman, fiery, aggressive little Robert Cohen, the only world bantam-weight champion to have fought a South African Non-European, Jake Tuli, was given a cheer usually reserved for Indian Maharajas, when he was introduced from the stage to a Non-European audience at a variety show in the Witwatersrand University Great Hall.

HOW WOULD MOKONE SHAPE AGAINST COHEN?

The bouncing little Frenchman who was bursting with pep and confidence said there was no questioning of his losing to Willy Towel. I believe him. Robert is a ferocious little bull in the ring and even with a sandy footwork and quick punching won't save him from a knockout in September.

A More Suitable Opponent

While not wishing to take away any credit from Willie Towel, I honestly think that a more worthy opponent for Robert Cohen would have been our dual champion, Elijah Mokone. Of course, such a fight could only take place at the feather-weight limit. I'm sentimental, but I feel that Elijah has all the attributes and qualities to give Cohen a boxing lesson.

Mokone is not an ordinary fighter. On his present form many think he could one day win a world title. He is not demonstrative, showy or even aggressive. Not so he has a sledner's brain of a mathematician, the footwork of a ballerina and the accuracy of William Tell. Without exaggeration this humble black fighter who carries a pass is one of the great fighters in the world today.

Belgian Visitors

With the arrival in Johannesburg late in August, of the Belgian Football Club from the Belgian Congo, some lively soccer is expected. This is a reciprocal tour. Katanga who acted as hosts to a J.B.F.A. team in Elizabethville in 1949 were hardly kind to the tourists. They gave them a handsome licking of 8-1. It is likely that the tourists will not have things their own way, because they will meet a vastly improved combination of both J.B.F.A. and J.A.F.A. It is hoped, however, that other centres will also be privileged to see these outstanding visitors.

Good Going!

Mahomed Chummy Mayet, acting treasurer of the Johannesburg Indian Sports Ground Association, has deputised worthily for hardworking Checkers' assistant who is presently on pilgrimage in Mecca. On his own initiative Mayet, who has already collected funds for improvements to the Natalpruit Sportsground, has organised a film show with Al Debono on the stage in the middle of August. The money realised from this show will enrich the strain-

Racing at Ascot

Invitation Free Handicap—BAHAMAS. Danger, Explosion.
Milnerton Handicap Tops—CHOP-CHUCK. Danger, Explosion.
Milnerton Handicap Bottoms—PHEEDRA. Danger, Freemason.
Ascot Handicap Tops—NAK-TONGE. Danger, Bar Nose.
Ascot Handicap Bottoms—REBUKE or JERSEY. Danger, Nottingham.
Progress Eight—LORD GRAHAM. Danger, Liberal Maid.
Progress Five—FUNAMBULIST. Danger, Coalescence.
Three-year-old Stakes—BONWIN. Danger, Poisoned Dart.

ing coffers of the J.I.S.G.A. This new regime under the chairmanship of Bob Pavada and with W. Warnasurya as secretary, has been doing a grand job of work in erecting a pavilion and stands around the grounds.

"Terrible Tuli"

Boxing fans will be happy to know that "Terrible Tuli", the life story of Jake N'tuli has just been published. The book contains a vivid account of Tuli's sensational rise to fame and his sudden, inexplicable decline, and contains a number of photographs of his local fights. The author, G. D. Govender, seems optimistic about Tuli's future and believes that he may go on to win the world title. The other section of the book deals with many well-known past and present-day fighters. Famous names among them are Elijah Mokone, Enoch Ntshale, Black Hawk, Fondi Mavuso, Kid Sathamony, Slumber David, Young Hassan and Lingum Pillay.

Sympathy

This Columnist extends his sympathy to an old Indian friend, P. G. Brown Naidoo on the tragic death of his late son Narasoo Naidoo.

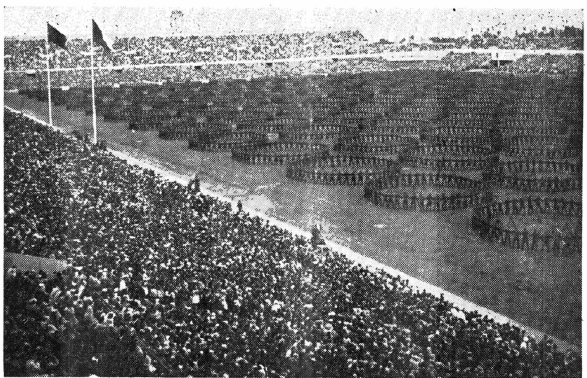
Gorky in Woodstock

The Peninsula Dramatic Society, which presented Maxim Gorky's play "Lower Depths" at the Woodstock Town Hall Monday night, are to be congratulated at least on their courage. When so much of Cape Town's theatre these days is devoted to box office successes and sensational sexuality, it was refreshing to be given the opportunity of hearing Gorky's savage indictment of Tsarist Russian society, whose most brutalised victims—thieves, prostitutes, pimps and drunken outcasts—he brings to life on the stage with an understanding and sympathy which reveal his fundamental humanity.

Unfortunately, the technique of the players did not match their undoubted enthusiasm. With the exception of Ivan Agherdine, who gave a dignified and restrained performance as Luka the pilgrim, most of the cast overacted their parts. They ranted too much, too loudly and at the same time too indistinctly, and were at least partly responsible for a portion of the audience mistaking their intentions and treating the tragedy as farce. There was also too much evidence of under-rehearsal, and the voice of the prompter was heard far too insistently in the course of the evening, though I understand last minute changes of cast may have made this inevitable.

One feels confident that with more coaching, more study and more experience, these blemishes only be removed. In view of the undoubted talent of many of the players, one can only urge that this indispensable spadework be undertaken as soon as possible so that the presentations of the Society may reach the standard and receive the popular encouragement they deserve.

B.P.B.



Symbolising the universal desire of the Czechoslovak people, together with the people of the whole world, for peace, these soldiers sack their rifles and join in folk dances at a great Prague gymnastics rally.

EVATON USES "POOR MAN'S WEAPON"

Fight Against Fare Increases

JOHANNESBURG.

THE people of Evaton are boycotting their bus service as a protest against fare increases recently pushed through despite their opposition, and they say, the boycott will continue until their demands are met.

The police have been standing by since the boycott started over a week ago, yet the buses remain virtually empty and Evaton residents are standing solid. They are walking several miles to the nearest station to catch trains in to town.

When a fare increase was first mooted by the bus company the people appealed against an increase to the Local Road Transportation Board. Their case was rejected. They made representations to the National Transportation Board, only to be turned away once again.

"Then we had no choice but to use the poor man's weapon—the boycott," Mr. J. S. P. Molefi, secretary of the Evaton People's Transport Council told 'New Age'.

ONE-FIFTH OF INCOMES

The monthly season ticket from Evaton to Johannesburg has been increased by 10s. from £2 5s. to £2 15s. The weekly ticket has been increased from 15s. to 18s. and the daily fare has been increased by 6d. from 2s. to 2s. 6d.

The great majority of Evaton residents are therefore paying as much as one-fifth of their incomes, or more in some cases, on transport alone.

"The people are protesting against the steep rise in fares, but also against the irregular service and the rudeness and discourtesy shown to passengers by the company's employees, especially the European inspectors.

"Mr. Molefi told 'New Age' that the people wanted African inspectors appointed, to give employment opportunities to the African people.

Virtually the only users of the buses during last week were visitors to Evaton who had not heard of the boycott, and the Evaton People's Transport Council has issued an appeal to people from other areas who travel to Evaton to use the trains and to join in the boycott of the bus service.

POLICE CALLED IN

The police called in during the boycott have not only stood along the bus route but have also boarded the buses on their runs.

On the second day of the boycott four African women and two men were arrested on charges of violence and creating a public disturbance, and all allege they were assaulted by the police. Bruise marks on their arms and backs are clearly visible.

Daniel Lempe, a metal worker, alleges he was beaten in the police van with knobkerries. A doctor who examined him shortly afterwards states in his certificate that he suffered concussion.

All six were later released on payment of £1 each.

One special branch detective told Mrs. Iris Moore, one of the leaders of the boycott: "We now have the right to use firearms and we will shoot you."

He is replied: "We are prepared to be shot for our rights." The police have stood by passively while members of the staff of the bus company brandished revolvers in their presence and assaulted women boycotters. Last Wednesday a group of bus company staff rushed two women carrying a banner. Using filthy language, they knocked the women about and tore the banner from them. The police did not interfere.

But when pickets peacefully approached prospective passengers to talk to them, police knobkerries immediately came into play.

Inspectors of the Road Transportation Board have also tried intimidation. One called on a prominent member of the boycott committee at one a.m. and threatened him with deportation.

Despite the terror and intimidation, the boycott is continuing firmly. Mr. Zimmerman, the supervisor of the bus company, admits the takings have dropped by 50 per cent.

One has the impression the company would be willing to enter into negotiations with the boycotters but are prevented by the special branch. It is understood a rival European bus company is willing to organise a service at the old fares and may make an application to the Road Transportation Board to do so.

The Evaton people believe they can win their fight for lower fares and are determined to carry on.

"The boycott will go on until the people win," Mr. Molefi told 'New Age'. "The people are quite prepared to carry on for another full month, for as long as necessary."

FOUND

One small vase. Enquire at 'New Age' Office.

MILNERTON TURF CLUB

RACING AT ASCOT

SATURDAY, 6th AUGUST

First Race starts at 1.10 p.m.

8 EVENTS 8

2 £1 DOUBLE TOTALISATORS

Bus service to Ascot Racecourse leave from Dock Road at the Corner of Alderley Street and from Lower Buitenkant Street (near the Castle entrance).

Oceans House, R. C. LOUW, Secretary.
20 Lower Burg Street

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