



SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM CALL

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Issued by West Coast Division, South Africa Defense Fund
157 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco 18, California - - Mary-Louise Hooper, Editor

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

(To be sung to the tune of "Good King Wencelas.")

Citizens who dwell at ease
In this prosperous city,
With true Christian patience, please,
Hear this little ditty;
Now that Christmas joys are due,
Watching happy faces,
Do you think of peopple who
Live in humbler places?

Let me come to you and stay
While you hear me telling
Of those people far away
From this stately dwelling;
Sir, they live some miles from here,
Housed in tin and sacking,
Turkey, Christmas pudding, cheer,
Isn't all they're lacking.

Eat your food and drink your wine,
Pull your Christmas crackers
While I watch you as you dine,
Sure there are no slackers;

When you've finished every bite,
Let us go together
Through the city's summer night
And the Christmas weather.

Sir, the night seems darker here,
See what lies before you;
Fails your heart and do you fear
Or do such things bore you?
Sty for pigs, sir, did you say?
No, a black man's dwelling,
People here must live this way,
How there is no telling.

What, you ask me, do they eat?
Mealie pap and bread, sir,
No, they have no Christmas treat,
This is how they're fed, sir,
Christian folk on Christmas day,
Find such things depressing;
Do forgive me, sir, I pray,
As my Christmas blessing.

MFOWETHU, Johannesburg.
(Reprinted from CONTACT)

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF TREASON TRIAL

December 5th marks the third anniversary of the marathon political persecution known as the Treason Trial in South Africa.

On December 5, 1956, 156 leaders of the 5 allied organizations popularly called the "Freedom Movement", were arrested and charged with High Treason.

Today, three years later, 30 people are still on trial; 65 were dismissed at the end of the year-long Preliminary Examination, and a further 61 had the charges against them quashed by the court on April 20. However, there is a strong possibility of the re-indictment of the freed 61 if the 30 now on trial should be convicted.

The trial of "the 30" began on August 3, 1959. The present accusation is of a "country-wide conspiracy to overthrow the state by violence, and to substitute for it another form of state."

The first stage of the trial lasted 10 weeks and saw the repetitious presentation of approximately 10,000 docu-

Julius Nyerere, Tanganyika: "This continent is tired of being governed by other peoples. ...The freedom to govern ourselves is our right."

ments, among them speeches of Father Trevor Huddleston, addresses by Chief A. J. Lutuli, President-General of the African National Congress, and an editorial on "Treason" in a South African liberal journal: "To speak of freedom is treasonable in Strydom's South Africa. We owe loyalty to freedom and justice, to peace, progress and prosperity, and above all to equality for all, irrespective of race, sex, creed or colour."

The resistance against apartheid which Chief Lutuli urges is not, however, the "violence" which the Prosecution alleges. The non-violent character of the Freedom Movement has been confirmed, in the trial, by prosecution witnesses themselves. Detective Sergeant T. E. Moeller, during cross-examination, stated on October 14, 1959 that he had often heard African Congress speakers say: the Congress had chosen non-violence as its policy.

The second stage of the trial, which ended in November, has comprised 5 weeks of "expert" testimony on communism by one witness. He cited as "seriously suspect" words: imperialism, exploitation, oppression, -even democracy. He saw them usable in both "communist" & "non-communist"

sense. But he invariably adjudged that in the trial documents they had been used in the "communist" sense.

What is the outlook for this long drawn-out trial? No termination before the end of 1960 is anticipated by informed observers. If a conviction of the 30 should result, the ensuing appeal would be both lengthy and hard-fought, necessitating continuing legal expense.

Many of the 61 who were freed last spring have not yet found jobs. They and their families are still a "welfare"

FT. HARE TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

Fort Hare University College (for non-Whites) has been taken over by the government, and Asian and Colored students prohibited to attend, beginning January, 1960.

Seven white members of the university staff have been dismissed; African professors may remain: "as long as they do not participate in politics or attempt to sabotage the government's apartheid plans."

Prof. Z. K. Matthews, on the Fort Hare staff for 22 years, was faced with a formidable personal dilemma. Only two years to retirement: should he resign, and lose a pension worth \$20,000? Or should he remain, lending his prestige to apartheid, and lose thereby his "senior statesman's place" in the Freedom Movement, and the esteem of liberals all over the world?"

For a man of 60 it was not an easy choice, but the issue was never really in doubt. Z. K. disdained to accept "apartheid" - and lost the pension.

A telegram from the South African Indian Congress recently said: "The Indian people recognize the noble sacrifice by a great educationist and leader of the freedom loving peoples of South Africa."

THE U.N. AND SOUTHWEST AFRICA

Seven petitioners, including Michael Scott and three Americans this year represented Africans of South-West Africa before the Fourth Committee. The Americans brought tape-recordings of pleas for help from African leaders refused exit visas.

Two significant resolutions were adopted by the Committee. The first requested South Africa to negotiate with the U.N. to place South-West Africa under trusteeship, and to prepare a blueprint for administration of the territory as a mandate.

The second resolution mentioned the possibility of referral of the mandate question to the International Court by former members of the defunct League of Nations, which originally gave South Africa the disputed mandate.

charge on the Treason Trial Fund. Anglican Bishop Reeves of Johannesburg, in October, wrote: "as the months go by the financial resources of those on trial become drastically reduced, and there is the continuing expense of providing as able a team of defence of lawyers as is possible. All this means that the demands on the Fund are bound to be as high in the coming months as they have been during the past years. At the least it is estimated that this will require \$112,000 over and above that which has already been subscribed."

CHRISTIAN NATIONAL EDUCATION

A recent statement by Prime Minister Verwoerd of the necessity for a national education policy to which the provinces of South Africa would have to conform, has the parents of white children worried in Johannesburg.

The Minister of Education has laid down three fundamental principles for such Union-wide education, and use of the mother-tongue of the child.

The fear of English-speaking parents is that the projected system of state-controlled education would equate 'Christian' with narrow Calvinism and 'national' with Afrikaner Nationalism. They quote from an earlier Afrikaner pamphlet on education:

"We want no mixing of languages, no mixing of cultures, no mixing of religions, and no mixing of races."

NEW UN APPROACH TO APARTHEID

Ghana's Representative at the U.N. made a new approach to the South African apartheid question this year. He offered several suggestions to the South African Government for a gradual end to apartheid: concessions which would not satisfy Africans but which, if adopted, would be at least a modest beginning of a better life.

The recommendations were: the vote for educated Africans, their acceptance as Parliamentary candidates, equal educational opportunities for all, and removal of inter-racial social barriers.

The South Africans, as before, boycotted the debate, since they regard the matter as purely domestic.

A mild resolution condemning apartheid was subsequently passed by the General Assembly, by the largest majority ever: 62 to 3, the only "noes" being Britain, France and Portugal. Seven countries abstained; the United States as last year, voted for the resolution to censure South Africa.

Human Rights Day, December 10, was the anniversary of adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document in Article 9, says:

"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

How does the Union of South Africa observe this article? In the last 10 years that government has banished more than 80 persons, in accordance with its policy of dealing with political opposition. So far exiles include leaders of the African National Congress, some sentenced 7 years ago, and chiefs, such as Chief Matlala, 9 years ago. Banished people are guilty of no crime and have not been convicted in any court of law. They were considered "detrimental to peace, order and good government" because they opposed pass laws for women, the establishment of Bantu Authorities, etc.

The latest in these banishments is Mrs. Elizabeth Mafekeng, mother of 11 children, aged 21 years to 2½ months. She was ordered to Vryburg, 700 miles north of her home in Paarl, where she has lived for 32 years, because her continued presence there would be "injurious to peace, order and good administration of Africans." Mrs. Mafekeng is president of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union and a vice-president of the African National Congress Women's League.

The South African government, without trial or hearing, found her guilty of the "crime" of opposing the issuing of "passes" to women and helping win higher wages for canning workers. "Passes" issued by the South African government to African men and recently to women, limit and control movement of Africans, in violation of Article 13 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state."

Groups and individuals all over South Africa protested the order against Mrs. Mafekeng. Efforts were made by officials of the Congress of Trade Unions and the Congress of Democrats to confer with the Minister of Bantu Affairs Department, whose office issued the order. However, a secretary told them that the banishment order was definite and final: the Minister would not see them. In the midst of frantic efforts to get the order changed, serious rioting broke out in streets near her home in protest against the banishment. During the disturbance Mrs. Mafekeng was reported missing. A farewell message left behind said in part: "I appeal to every woman today in South Africa, White and Non-White, not to think of me but to think of my children. For a mother to disappear from her children without committing a crime - the crime lies with the Nationalist Government."

"The struggle must go on. The people must not be discouraged because I have been taken away by the government. There must be more Elizabeths to carry the struggle along. Even in the desert there will be no place left, because we

will never stop saying: 'Africa must come back!'"

A week later, it was reported that Elizabeth Mafekeng and her baby had reached Basutoland, a tiny 'island' of British protection in the midst of South Africa, where she requested asylum. No provision is ever made by the government for the families of the banished, although at times the victims themselves receive as little as \$5.00 a month on which to exist.

AFL-CIO SUPPORTS AFRICAN LABOR

At the second annual convention of the AFL-CIO in San Francisco during September, 1959, the following resolution presented by C. L. Dellums of Oakland, International Vice President of Sleeping Car Porters, was adopted:

"Whereas, The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has made on-the-spot survey of the conditions of workers in South Africa and the brutality with which the apartheid program is enforced; and

Whereas, The ICFTU Survey Team found that Africans who are alleged to have violated the rules of segregation have been rounded up, and without trial, released only to work for white farmers for nine (9) pence a day; and

Whereas, This kind of treatment of human beings is not only cruel, inhuman and undemocratic, but also gives aid and support to the Communist campaign against the Free World; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the second convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, urge continued support by the AFL-CIO of the ICFTU and its campaign on behalf of the African workers; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the AFL-CIO to give careful, serious and sympathetic consideration to the proposal now being discussed within the ICFTU for a boycott of all South African goods."

 * "Passive Resistance tries to *
 * evoke the impression of *
 * Divinity in the hearts of our *
 * rulers." *
 * Dr. G. M. Naicker *
 * (leading Gandhi-ite) *
 * *****

News Note:

In an interview with an Afrikaans language newspaper which had asked about reports South Africa next year would be the only country without television, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs flatly said the government did not intend to introduce TV because it cannot be policed effectively.

THE CHIEF

By Alfred Hutchinson
(By permission)

Outside the Native Commissioner's office, Chief Rakale heaved a sigh of relief. He mopped his face with a khaki handkerchief. The knot of severity dissolved from his eyes as he thought of Kgotsong. He wished he were there, among the bustle of the women preparing the evening meal; among the shouts of herdboys kraaling the calves, and above all, to be playing with his youngest son.

He descended the steps wearily - a big man, still strong although in his sixties. DeBeer returned to his mind like the bitterness of an aloe. He had been suffocated by DeBeer's slyness, threats, coaxings. Over the past few years chieftainship had become a severe strain, what with the constant conflict between the wishes of the authorities and those of the people. The government wanted the women to carry passes. The women refused. The women of Kgotsong, like those the country over, were up in arms against the passes. It had been one struggle after the other and he knew that he stood low in the government's favour...

A smile lit the preoccupied eyes. A "pass team" had come to Kgotsong a month ago. The scene sprang into his mind: the bustling clerks with drawn fountain pens; the photographer waiting for the word; DeBeer in his favourite role as father of Kgotsong... And the women sitting like brooding storm clouds. DeBeer was extolling the virtues of the pass: a photograph for identification in case of an accident; ready employment; the difficulty for another woman to steal a husband.

The storm had broken when Masatho, the Chief's wife, rose to condemn the passes. The team was sent packing by the women's anger. Then the entire police force of Vervoeetstad appeared on the scene brandishing sten guns, revolvers, batons, knobkerries, assegais. Not a stone was thrown, not a shot was fired..

* * *

The Chief was surprised when two White policemen joined him, one on each side. He stopped. He glanced back. Two African constables were following, their eyes on the ground.

"Anything the matter?"

"You're wanted at the police station."

It must be a mistake, the Chief thought, as he walked on. Only they mustn't waste his time. The bus to Kgotsong would be leaving shortly. Brand would be surprised to see him. They hadn't met since the time he reported him for assaulting prisoners. But that was exactly what happened every day, thought the Chief with a flare of anger. And that would happen to the women once they car-

ried passes.

Sergeant Brand's pig-eyes did not show surprise. They twinkled maliciously, as he handed the Chief a typewritten sheet with the familiar coat-of-arms. The Chief looked at it for a long time and turned it over.

"I don't understand Afrikans," he told Brand.

"Piet," said Brand turning to the constables rolling behind the counter, "You understand English... Come and translate here." The mockery was naked.

One of the constables tittered. The other spat out of the window. The Chief was smarting under the humiliation.

"Sorry," said Piet, "I don't know English... I'm not learned."

"Then what have you called me for?" The Chief placed the sheet on the counter and turned to go. The two constables barred the way. "What's this?" said the Chief swinging around and facing Brand.

Had they gone mad? The memory of Brand as a small boy with his father at Kgotsong flashed through his mind.

"Here's your ticket; your seat is booked." Brand licked his lips. "We've been watching you - you and your wife.. The train leaves at seven...."

The madness began to make sense. He was being disnapped. DeBeer had summoned him for this. The cowards! They couldn't come to Kgotsong for him. They had to sneak like hyenas. He saw Kgotsong again.

Brand anticipated his thoughts. "You leave immediately... An order is an order..."

Kgotsong in the valley gripped his heart. He clenched the stick tightly. Kgotsong... the fires caressing the evening like a lover's fingers... Desperation gripped him. Damn them. He would go home. He pushed past the two policemen. A short scuffle... A lion at bay..

* * *

The deserted railway station. The police at the Non-European entrance. A boy and a girl. Three shillings and five-pence. The train whistling round the bend. The shiver like the tremor of parting. The dark hills and the starry skies. The boy and the girl: go but come back. An African policeman at his side. The warning blast, then the longer tremulous farewell. Farewell, Kgotsong in the valley... On the downgrade the engine let out steam like a huge pent-up sigh...

Gazing at the familiar star-lit landscape slipping past, the Chief pondered the question which he has carried with him all the year: Had he served

the people? And everything he had done and tried to do spread before him like a child's unfinished game...

"How far are you going, father?"

The Chief had not noticed the young man sitting opposite him. The question came with a shock. Where was he going? To the unknown...

"Do you know Afrikaans, my son?" he said with tears in his voice. "Read it and tell me where I'm to go."

He looked out of the window again. And all that he had done shrank into the measure of the lit compartment in the vastness of the night. He had tried to be just... But he may have failed. What was the tractor the tribe had bought? What was the school they had built? What was the Kgotsong Scholarship that was bringing its first crop of teachers that year? The dam was nearly finished; the manure was being put into the fields and no longer being sold... What was all that...

"It's a banishment order, father," said the young man, with pain in his eyes.

"What does it say?"

"It says you must leave Kgotsong..."

Ah, Kgotsong in the valley. The long years that I have loved you until your life pulsed through me like the seasons... The land that I tilled with love and my small herd whose lowing was my delight...

"Because your presence there is not good for peace, order, and the ruling of the people. You are therefore ordered to leave the place..."

Leave it because all these years I have been blind to my failings. Had he

really failed the people? Had he failed them because he, too, did not want the women to carry passes? Had he failed them because he spoke against the new law of the chiefs at the indaba and against Bantu Education? Had his friends agreed with him only to flatter him, leading him further and further from the true course?

"Where does it say I'm to go to?"

"To Chief Lungile Kepe in the Bantu Bahle District. The Native Commissioner will show you where to stay. You must not return to Kgotsong or go to any other place without the permission of the Native Affairs..."

"Thank you, my son."

The Chief closed his eyes. Soon the first rains would be falling. His soul still clung to Kgotsong like the transient greenness of an uprooted tree. For a while he forgot his plight and lived the life of Kgotsong. That braggart Rakgetsi must not race the tractor just to catch the girls' eyes; Tau must stop beer-drinking while the weeds smothered the mealies...

"It will all end... You'll return to your people," said the young man. "And where you are going, are your people, too."

Kgotsong would go on without him. There would be sowings and reapings; children would be born and others would die. Moretsele would go on speaking of the new Africa to come. A consolation fell on his heart like balm on a wound. He would return...

The train tore through the night.

TAXATION AND AFRICAN POVERTY

The African general tax is being raised 75% - from \$2.80 to \$5.25 - on January 1, 1960. Also beginning in 1960 a new schedule of taxes will go into effect, forcing Africans to pay higher taxes than any other part of the population. Women will, for the first time, become liable to the general tax, further impoverishing Africans.

The average African receives a monthly wage of \$30 while the minimum living standard is calculated to be \$66. In the larger urban centers, 60 to 80% of the African population receives less than a living wage. In Durban, 95% are below the living wage level. For the past 10 years, the gap between the African's wages and his living costs had steadily increased. Today he is worse off than a decade ago.

To quote a liberal South African newspaper, "Starvation is commonplace in Cato Manor - an African ghetto of Durban. In the first 6 months of 1958, 1147 African children were admitted to a Durban hospital, suffering from malnutrition; of those, 75% had the malignant form caused by lack of protein in their diets. A pediatrician, showing a reporter around the children's wards, where babies with distended bellies, withered limbs, and

scaling bodies, lay two to a cot, said: 'One pint of milk would save them.'"

Also reducing African income is the increased cost of transportation. Africans are being forced into living areas ever further from metropolitan centers, while whites take over their city property. As a result, Africans must travel longer and pay more to get to their work.

To add to their distress, only Africans can be imprisoned for debt. In 1957, 178,000 Africans were hauled before courts on motions to imprison for debt.

Of white political groups, only the Liberal Party, in which Alan Paton plays a leading role, comes to grips with South Africa's basic problem: "Our society cannot be stable until the majority of our people stand to benefit from keeping it so." Until South Africa is able to solve the problem of the economic degradation of the African people, it will live on the edge of a volcano.

For Christmas - Send a Gift to the

SOUTH AFRICA
DEFENSE FUND

157 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco 18
California

GROUP AREAS INJUSTICES STIR PROTESTS

The Group Areas Act is one of the means by which the South African government carries out its policy of Apartheid

Its declared purpose is to establish separate racial areas in and around each South African city. A community where Africans, Indians, or Coloreds reside or do business is "proclaimed White", and all Non-White occupants are given a deadline for moving out.

Recent proclamations and proposals in two cities have brought vigorous protests from thousands of individuals, as well as from community groups.

DURBAN: Over 300,000 Non-Whites will be displaced and their properties and businesses amounting to an estimated \$84,000,000 will be lost to them if recent Group Areas proclamations are implemented. Even the Durban City Council has condemned these proposals by the National Committee of the Group Areas Board, but without effect.

CAPETOWN: Long-settled communities of Colored people in three Capetown suburbs have been ordered out of the homes where some families have lived for over 100 years. They must leave and find shelter elsewhere although 12,000 other Colored families have long been waiting for houses in Capetown. A mother of 9 children asked, "Where to go? Where?...I take in washing from the white flats nearby. How will I support my family if we must move out to the bush?" An Indian, for 50 years a shop-keeper, said only: "We will be ruined," on hearing of the removal.

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS:

- AFRICA WEEKLY \$6 yearly
P.O. Box 75, Murray Hill, Sta., New York
- AFRICA TODAY 6 issues: \$2
801 Second Avenue, New York
- TOWARD FREEDOM \$3 yearly
Rm. 1119, 343 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill.
- AFRICA SOUTH \$3 yearly
320 West 87 St., New York
- AFRICA DIGEST 6 issues \$3.55
65 Denison Hse., Vauxhall Bridge Rd.
London SW 1, England

WEST COAST DEFENSE FUND NOTES

The West Coast Representative reports a total of \$2,297.02 raised for the Treason Trial in the last 5 months of 1959. The largest single gift, of just over \$1,000, resulted from the donation of a benefit performance of "Lost in the Stars" by the Festival Theatre Players. Our heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Berryhill, Jock McRae and all the management, cast, crew and backers of the Festival Theatre.

17 lectures were made during these 5 months by the West Coast Representative. An ad hoc committee headed by Mrs. Karl Hanson, Chairman, presented Mr. Joshua Nkomo, President of the banned Southern Rhodesia National Congress, in a public meeting November 20th in San Francisco. A net sum of \$150 was sent to aid Rhodesian leaders indefinitely "detained" in prison, and part given to Mr. Nkomo who is himself a political exile.

BOYCOTTING SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS

Last year, in December, the All-African Peoples Conference in Accra adopted a resolution calling for a general boycott of Union Africa goods. A little later the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference at Cairo acted similarly. Since then the African National Congress of South Africa has attempted to spread the boycott in South Africa and elsewhere.

Even the still undeveloped boycott movement has begun to hurt South African business. The Afrikanse Handelsinstituut (similar to Chamber of Commerce) advised the government: "The disclosure that goods are made in South Africa is, in many instances, found to be a disadvantage on overseas markets, especially in certain parts of Africa." Government ministers have also shown increasing concern at the growing effectiveness of the boycott, which includes various governments (Jamaica was the first), nationalist independence movements in Africa, and numerous Coop and trade union groups in Great Britain.

The many Americans who have looked on in horror at the oppression of the African people can also play a part. Among the products of the Union of South Africa that are shipped to this country are canned lobster tails and ready-made clothing.
BOYCOTT ALL SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS!