

BULLETIN 15

AMERICANS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN RESISTANCE

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Staff time for organizational work of AFSAR contributed by Fellowship of Reconciliation. AFSAR has a group of prominent individual sponsors.

November 6, 1953

Thanks to U.S. Supporters "I cannot close this letter without thanking you and through you Americans for South African Resistance for all you did and are doing for our cause. I can assure you that the assistance which you gave when it was still legally possible for you to do so was highly appreciated. We still need that assistance, but you know what the situation is today. Perhaps some way will be found to overcome our present difficulties."

So concludes a recent letter to George M. Houser of AFSAR from Z. K. Matthews of the African National Congress, who was in the U.S. last year as visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. At present Professor Matthews is back teaching at the University College of Fort Hare in Cape Province but his tenure is uncertain. The Malan government wants the College authorities to crack down on him because of his activities while in the U.S., as evidenced by newspaper clippings. Furthermore the Minister of Justice has been issuing an increasing number of orders prohibiting individuals from attending meetings and ordering them to resign from various organizations.

Matthews Resumes Work With ANC "I have of course resumed my work in the African National Congress and have been addressing meetings in my capacity as President of the ANC in the Cape," Professor Matthews writes. "One such meeting which I addressed in the Port Elizabeth area in September was attended by thousands of Africans. The meeting was held in the open air, not only because we could not find a hall to accommodate an audience of that size, but also because the urban authorities who have been empowered to regulate such meetings are reluctant to let us meet in municipal halls located in the cities.

"The government is doing its best to cripple our movement by banning our leaders and making it difficult for us to meet. But we have reorganized in such a way that meetings are still possible and political education of the people is being carried on. We do have our share of setbacks such as the clash in Durban between Africans and Indians. I have been to Natal twice since my return and I am satisfied that relations between Africans and Indians are, on the whole, sound. The Durban incident would have caused similar trouble in any part of the country. Some time ago a similar incident which occurred in Johannesburg and in which a European was involved, led to trouble between whites and Africans. It received far less publicity.

In the Durban case, Indians were involved and it occurred just as the United Nations was about to take up the question of the treatment of Indians

in South Africa. It also facilitated passage of the law forbidding any further immigration of Indians."

Laws Against Freedom of Assembly A government order has been issued making it an offense for any person to hold, preside at or address a meeting at which more than 10 Africans are present, without the approval of the Native commissioner or the magistrate of the Native area in which the meeting is held. Further, a person is guilty of an offense if a meeting of more than 10 Africans is held in his house or on his land. The penalty for violation is up to a 300 pound fine or up to 3 years in jail. Certain types of gatherings are exempt--such as "bonafide" religious services, funerals, sports gatherings, concerts, weddings etc. The order is obviously aimed at banning political meetings sponsored by organizations such as the African National Congress.

A proposed law which is causing much concern among people interested in African education is the Bantu Education Bill. Under this law, African education would be brought under direct control of the Malan government, which contends that Africans are not getting the right kind of education from the Christian missions. In any other country the state's assuming control of education would be viewed differently. But in a country with a government such as Malan's--a correspondent informs us--the Africans fear what government-controlled education may mean. They fear that the education system may become a vehicle of government propaganda.

Crackdown on Unions A number of white union leaders have been ordered by the government to resign from their unions and to refrain from attending meetings. As a result many of the unions are losing their best negotiators. The unions and the African National Congress which represent labor in South Africa are being subjected to what has been described by one of our correspondents as "mental and social concentration camps" and "the South African form of McCarthyism." Van L. Walker, former Secretary of Labor, on October 31 reiterated his charge that the Malan government plans to destroy the unions.

Gandhi's Son Released Manilal Gandhi was released from Pretoria Prison October 24 after serving 38 days of a 50-day sentence imposed for defying the Malan segregation laws. He had been convicted in February along with Patrick Duncan, son of a former governor general and other members of an interracial group which entered a Negro section of Germiston without passes, to hold a meeting last December.

Gandhi's son and daughter and officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress welcomed him at the prison gates. He announced that he would issue a statement soon regarding the treatment of non-whites in jail. Copies of this statement will be obtained if possible by Americans for South African Resistance. (Story on Patrick Duncan's imprisonment is on page 4 of this bulletin.)

UN Committee Urges South Africa to End Segregation By a vote of 38 to 2, with 19 abstaining, the United Nations general assembly's special political committee adopted a resolution on October 28 calling on South Africa to set aside its policy of racial segregation. Sponsored by 17 nations, the resolution was prompted by charges that the treatment of Indians in South Africa constitutes a violation of human rights and of the UN charter.

The resolution will go next to the plenary session of the general assembly. Since the committee and the assembly have the same membership, resolutions adopted in the committee almost always are approved in plenary session.

Passage of the resolution came a day after the UN commission for the study of racial conditions in the Union of South Africa issued a 372-page report describing Prime Minister Malan's policy of white supremacy as a grave threat to the peace of Africa.

The report asserted that there is "no doubt that the situation in the Union of South Africa is, to use the terms of Article 14 of the Charter 'likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations.'" It goes on to say that the policy of racial segregation, which is directed against 79% of the population "can only produce immediate and great effect on the development of the hostile attitude toward whites, which is growing under the stimulus of nationalist movements whose power cannot be ignored."

The report cites a 1950 report by the UN educational scientific & cultural organization in which a group of anthropologists and genetecists stated that there is no such thing as the superiority of a race or even such a thing as a pure race.

Civil Disobedience Campaign Spreads "Defiance of the color bar...has spread from the Union of South Africa to the British-held territory of Northern Rhodesia," said a June 11 dispatch to the New York Times. "Yesterday, Negroes demanded service in shops, a bank and the post office at Lusaka, the capital of Northern Rhodesia at counters reserved for Europeans only. The Lusaka branch of the Northern Rhodesia African Congress said that more such 'orderly demonstrations' would be staged during the next few days."

Regarding Nyasaland, a September 19 dispatch to the New York Times states: "Natives under the guidance of the Nyasaland African Congress and the Chiefs Union with which it is associated have embarked on noncollaboration with the government."

An October 3 dispatch to the New York Times says: "Southern Rhodesia, the dominant partner in the new British Central African Federation, is falling into line with Kenya, the Union of South Africa and Nyasaland in enacting stringent laws to curb native African unrest."

Main factor behind these protests is the dissatisfaction of the Africans with the newly formed Central African Federation. As the September 19 dispatch, mentioned above, aptly puts it: "Negroes fear that the federation of Southern and Northern Rhodesia with Nyasaland not only will deny them the hoped-for opportunity of self-government on the Gold Coast model but will subject them to race discrimination as practiced in South Africa."

The program of the Confederate party in the federation's first elections to be held in December is described in an October 15 New York Times dispatch as "A Rhodesian version of Prime Minister Malan's South African doctrine of Apartheid." The extent of the Confederate party's strength remains to be shown in the election.

Pan African Conference In an attempt to combat infringements of Africans rights arising from the newly formed federation, a regional conference of African Congresses will be held December 10-12 at Lusaka, capital of Northern Rhodesia.

Chief objective, according to the conference call, is "to unite our forces

and prepare our own defense against human injustices, against such policies as are now being prepared by the Confederate and Federal parties--of undisguised oppression."

The call goes on to state: "The policy of most of our leaders in Central Africa is the same, namely, non-cooperation without violence. This policy if pursued honestly is capable of achieving greater success than most of us have the power to foresee."

To be studied at the conference will be a 7-point program drafted by Rev. Michael Scott for improvement of Africans conditions. The idea for the regional conference was approved at the August meeting of the Northern Rhodesia African Congress. The conference has particular significance in that it will mark the first time that such a meeting has been held under African auspices with representatives coming from all British Africa--east, central and south.

Duncan, Two Others Jailed On October 31, a week after Manilal Gandhi's release from prison, Patrick Duncan, son of a former governor general started serving a 100-day sentence for entering a Negro section of Germiston last December without a pass. Jailed along with Duncan were Freda Troup, author of a book about Rev. Michael Scott and Betty du Toit, former trade union secretary. Sentences for the two women were 25 days. Like Gandhi, all three participated in the act of civil disobedience last December at Germiston.

In a joint statement issued on the day of their imprisonment they said: "Our participation in the defiance campaign was prompted by our deep and serious concern about the apartheid measures of the Union Government. Since our conviction there has been no abatement in the Government's efforts to widen the gulf between white and non-white, but, on the contrary, they have been pushing through their apartheid policy with increasing ruthlessness."

NOTICE

Readers of this bulletin will be interested in several publications discussing colonial and African affairs. Two of these are British, the third American.

1. The African & Colonial World This is a new periodical sympathetic to the nonviolent protest movements arising in Africa. Issued monthly. Subscription 14 shillings or about \$2 yearly. Address: 159 Victoria St., London S.W. 1.
2. Information Digest This is the bulletin of the Africa Bureau, 69 Great Peter St., London S.W. 1. It is issued semi-monthly. Rev. Michael Scott is prominently associated with this group.
3. Toward Freedom This is a newsletter on colonial affairs started by a group in Chicago--Room 503, 343 S. Dearborn St. No definite subscription rate.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LIST OF LITERATURE ON AFRICA

LITERATURE

Scott of South Africa	by Winifred F. Courtney	free
Reprint from FOUR LIGHTS		
A Petition to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2 Made by Chiefs and Citizens of Nyasaland	by A. Creech Jones	.15
The Africa Bureau (British)		
Candid Thoughts on Non-Violence	by Arthur W. Blaxall	.10
Reprint from THE NEW REPUBLIC		
Why Mau Mau?	by Fenner Brockway, M.P.	.15
Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism (British)		
South Africa Sows the Wind	by Constance Muste Hamilton	.05
Reprint from FELLOWSHIP		
Nonviolent Revolution in South Africa	by George M. Houser	.25
Fellowship Publications		
South Africa—Fellowship or Fear?	by Gladys M. Jeffery	.15
British Fellowship of Reconciliation		
Britain's Colour Bar in Africa	by Julius Haxthorn	.20
Union of Democratic Control (British)		
The Crisis in South Africa	by Z. K. Matthews	.10
Reprint from CHRISTIANITY AND CRISIS		
Africa: Which Way Now?	by Patrick O'Donovan	.20
The Africa Bureau (British)		
South Africa Today	by Alan Paton	.25
Public Affairs Pamphlets		
Shadow over Africa	by Michael Scott	.20
Union of Democratic Control (British)		
America and the Challenge of Africa		.20
Special issue of SATURDAY REVIEW, May 2, 1953		
Back issues of Americans for South African Resistance Bulletins.		.05
Numbers 11, 12, 13 and 14		

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I enclose for which please send me the items checked above.

Name _____ Address _____

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