

Report on the Mission to the Netherlands

We wish to report that our mission to the Netherlands on behalf of the World Campaign between the 10th and 13th April 1964, was worthwhile and fruitful.

We found during our stay that informed public opinion was emphatically opposed to and condemned strongly, the Apartheid policies of the South African Government; that the leaders and officials of the different political parties, the trade union movement and the church body with whom we have had the privilege of discussing the purpose of our mission, welcomed and supported the programme of the World Campaign and expressed their satisfaction with its activities. Their reactions to some of the proposals we placed before them for consideration are appended here-under.

Your delegation was met at the airport by Mr. H.J. Holtslag, the secretary of Comite Zuid-Afrika and by Mr. Amin Bhabha, a South African student studying in Holland. We were put up at the Quaker Centre where we were warmly received by Miss V. Kaemmerer in charge of the Centre and other Quaker friends.

The programme of appointments very kindly arranged for us beforehand by Mr. Holtslag was fully and satisfactorily carried out with the able assistance and whole-time voluntary services of Amin Bhabha.

The following is a bried summary of the various interviews:

1. The Dutch Labour Party
Address: Tesselschadestraat, Amsterdam.

We were received at the Party headquarters by the President, Mr. J. Suurhoff. He undertook to attend to the following:

- a) The Labour Party to call upon the South African Government to implement the U.N. resolution on the Rivonia Trial and the release of political prisoners.
- b) The Parliamentary group of the Party to get the matter raised in the Kamer with the object of moving the Government to act on the U.N. resolution.
- c) The Party to consider the question of suitable public protest demonstrations in collaboration with the trade union movement and other organisations immediately the judgement in the Rivonia trial is pronounced.

Mr. Suurhoff also expressed a desire to meet members of the World Campaign if possible during his trip to London. We accordingly sent off a telegram the same day to our headquarters asking that someone should contact him through Mr. David Ennels.

2. Dutch Reformed Church
Address: Dr. Emmen, President of the Synod,
Prof. Gerbrandweg 131, Scheveningen, Netherlands.

We were cordially received by Dr. Emmen at his residence. He expressed the deep concern of his Church at the attitude of the Dutch

Reformed Churches in South Africa in supporting the "unchristian" apartheid policies of the Verwoerd Government.

Dr. Emmen assured the delegation that he will :

- a) place our proposals before the Executive for suitable action;
- b) implore the Netherlands Government to take suitable but effective steps in terms of the U.N. resolution to save the lives of the people concerned in the Rivonia Trial;
- c) refer our proposals to the World Council of Churches of which he is a member, for its consideration.

3. Pacifistisch Socialistische Partij

Address: Mr. A.J. Bruggeman,
Member 2nd Chamber, Parliament House, the Hague, Netherlands.

We were received by Mr. A.G. v.d. Spek, member of the Senate and Mr. A.J. Bruggeman, a member of the Lower House. The Party, represented by five members in Parliament, completely identifies itself with the programme and activities of the World Campaign.

The members undertook to carry out all our proposals. The basis on which the matter should be raised in Parliament as well as the plan for public protest demonstrations and activities in conjunction with the Comité Zuid-Afrika and other organisations, were worked out in some detail during our discussions.

4. Dutch Trade Unions Organisation (Socialist)

Address: Mr. W.F. van Tilburg,
Nederlands Verbond van Vakverenigingen (NVV)
Irisstraat 4, Bussum, Holland.

Mr. van Tilburg assured us that the whole of the trade union movement in Holland condemns most strongly the Apartheid policies of the South African Government and that as far as his organisation is concerned it strives to carry out the recommendations of the I.C.F.T.U.

On our proposals for immediate action he stated that:

- a) With regard to Parliamentary action he will consult with the Labour Party.
- b) With regard to the question of public demonstrations and some form of industrial action by the workers the matter will have to be discussed and decided upon by the consultative committee of the three trade union centres in Holland.

5. Katholieke Volkspartij (KVP)

Address: Mauritskade 25, The Hague.

We met Mr. Klesterlee and Adv. Gielen of the International Department of the Party. We were assured by them that as a major partner of the coalition Government, the Catholic Party is committed to the policy of arms embargo against South Africa. It is also examining the juridical and ethical aspects of economic sanctions.

They assured the delegation that the question of South Africa was on the agenda of the Party caucus in Parliament and that their department will recommend some suitable measures of protest against the South African Government in furtherance of the U.N. resolution. They will also consider with the Party Executive the nature of the declaration to be issued as soon as the sentences in the Rivenia Trial are pronounced.

6. Christian Trade Union: Christelijk Nationaal Vakverbond (CNV)
Address: Maliebaan 8, Utrecht, Holland.

The meeting took place at the trade union headquarters with Dr. Albeda, Mr. Den Hartog, Mr. Berstlap and other members.

They declared the full support of their trade union centre for all measures recommended by the I.C.F.T.U. as a protest against the Rivenia Trial.

Conclusions:

There is no doubt that provided the organisations we have visited are kept constantly and regularly informed of the activities of the World Campaign, we can expect satisfactory response to our appeal from the people of the Netherlands.

We suggest that the following should be done as a follow-up to our visit:

- i) A letter of thanks be sent to each of the organisations for receiving our delegation and its expression of support.
- ii) A letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Heltslag, Miss Manerrer of the Quaker Centre and to Amin Bhabha.
- iii) All material and documents of the World Campaign be sent to them regularly.
- iv) All their activities in response to the World Campaign appeal be fully reported in our publications as well as be released to the World Press.

For the Delegation:

London.

W. Ngakane

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