

combat

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE TRANSVAAL INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

A WARNING TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE DO NOT BE STABBED IN THE BACK

Last month the Indian people stood as one man behind the call for Hartal by the Indian Congress. We do not wish to go over the ground already adequately covered by other newspapers as to the success of the stay-at-home generally. There is no doubt that despite tremendous police and army intimidation and disruptive activities of certain individuals and organisations, the strike was a tremendous and heartening success. The question that remains to be answered is what now? But before this question can be answered we have to consider the results of the Hartal and the status of our community.

There is no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the Indian people follow the lead of the Congress and accept its policy, and in any future campaign we can rely on their whole-hearted support.

One factor that stood out clearly and unmistakably from the strike is that while the vast majority of the Indian people closed their shops and refrained from work and school, certain people in our community were stabbing the Indian people in the back. Fortunately these individuals are few and far between to split the community but their danger cannot be under-estimated, particularly now that the government is desperately looking for stool-pigeons, informers and 'good-boys' to carry out its policy. Let us be warned of these dangers and take effective steps to deal with them.

HERITAGE OF STRUGGLE.

The Indian people have a heritage of struggle. Ever since the first Indian landed on the shores of South Africa he had been unwanted and until discrimination and oppression is wiped out we will remain unwanted by the All-White government. The government is desperately looking for 'good-boys' to carry out its policy of Apartheid and any man who co-operates in that is the enemy of our people. The future of the Indian people lies with the African and Coloured people in the struggle for full-freedom and democracy. Any talk of compromise is a stab in the back for the Indian people.

HARTAL HONOURS

The Transvaal Indian Youth Congress expresses its sincere thanks to the Indian community who responded so courageously to the Hartal call inspite of such great government pressure.

We also thank those who sacrificed so much of their time and energy and risked such great dangers to make the Stay-at-Home a success.

We honour those who were arrested in the course of the campaign for the Stay-At-Home.

We are proud of our members arrested last month while doing political work.

We express our solidarity with Messrs Farid Adams, A.M. Kathrada, Essop Pahad, Yehia Cachalia, Peter Joseph, Saied Cachalia, M.A. Moosajee Anver Gani and Hashim Rawat.

We do not wish to carry on a witch-hunt for these individuals. We do not dispute the right of people to disagree with the policies of the Congress but we do expect them to side with the majority of the people when they embark on a struggle. We have reached the position in South Africa when no man can afford to sit on the fence. You are either with the oppressed masses and on their side or you are with our oppressors - Dr. Verwoerd and his government.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

While our people were effectively demonstrating their opposition to the apartheid policies of the Government by closing their shops, staying away from work and school and focussing the attention of the world to our plight some of our people were relishing with our oppressors in Pretoria at the Presidential Inauguration. Some of these people went to the extent of making clowns of themselves. These individuals must be mentioned by name because we are certain that the government had a motive behind the invitations sent out. They are Messrs. H.M. Joosub (H.S. Ebrahim of Pretoria) J.G. Vandeyar, Essop Norsaka (Bank) and A.I. Kajee of Durban.

(Cont. next page)

STAB IN THE BACK cont.

It is very likely that these individuals will be asked to serve on the proposed Asiatic Affairs Department through which it is hoped to carry out the Apartheid policy of the government effectively against the Indian people. We warn these individuals that the Indian people have rejected the policies of the Nationalist government and any person who keeps company with those who oppress us is no friend of the people.

OPENED SHOPS.

A few shopkeepers defied the will of the majority of the people and kept their shops open. When asked to close by pickets they responded with abuse and insults. Let these individuals remember that they deal with the oppressed people and if they have no sympathy with the struggle of the people from when they make their living then the people then the people will have no sympathy for them. We are informed that certain shops are being boycotted because they opened when others were closed. We ask the people to take effective measures to counteract strike breakers. At this crucial time we cannot afford disunity in our ranks.

STOCK-PIDGEOONS AND INFORMERS.

Another group that we like to warn against are those individuals who are selling their soul by spying and informing the Special Branch on the activities of the Indian people. The case of Messrs Mia and Laher is well-known and is dealt with elsewhere in this bulletin. There are others like them, we know of an incident in Vereeniging where a certain businessman went to the local school and asked for a list of the pupils who stayed away from the Republican celebrations. This list was eventually handed over to the Special Branch.

The so-called Unity Movement guised in the cloak of the "Anti-Asiatic Affairs Department" seem to have formed an unholy alliance with such shady characters as the Mias and the Lahers in opposing and distorting the activities of the Congress. They opposed the strike - fortunately, like always, they managed only to boycott themselves from the masses of the people.

We also know of certain individuals, whose names will be divulged when the need arises, who are carrying on secret negotiations with the authorities for a compromise on Group Areas and for positions on the Asiatic Affairs Department. These individuals are selling the community for their personal gains. Let us be warned of their danger.

NO NEED FOR DESPAIR.

The struggles carried on by the oppressed people over the years have come to a head, and the government finds itself in difficulties trying to carry out its hated policies. The Nationalists are desperately looking for stock-pigeons and 'goodboys' who will co-operate with them in carrying out their policies. There can be no co-operation for our own destruction.

The time is now not to despair but to carry forward the noble struggle hand in hand and side by side with the African, Coloured and Democratic European people to achieve freedom which is within our grasp.

JUNE 26 MANDELA SPEAKS

NEW PLANS REVEALED

The magnificent response to the call of the National Action Council for a three-day strike and the wonderful work done by our organisers and field-workers throughout the country proves once again that no power on earth can stop an oppressed people determined to win their freedom.

In the face of unprecedented intimidation by the Government and employers and of blatant falsehoods and distortions by the press immediately before and during the strike, the freedom-loving people of South Africa gave massive and solid support to the historic and challenging resolution of the Maritzburg Conference. Factory and office workers, businessmen in town and country, students in university colleges, in primary and secondary schools, inspired by genuine patriotism and threatened with loss of employment, cancellation of business licences and the ruin of school careers, rose to the occasion and recorded in emphatic tones their opposition to a white Republic forcibly imposed on us by a minority. In the light of the formidable array of hostile forces that stood against us and the difficult and dangerous conditions under which we worked, the results were most inspiring. I am confident that if we work harder and more systematically, the Nationalist Government will not survive for long.

This is the full text of a statement issued by Nelson Mandela to the press on FREEDOM DAY.

POWERFUL ORGANISATION.

Few organisations in the world could have withstood and survived the full-scale and massive bombardment directed against us by the Government during the last months. In the history of our country, no political campaign has ever merited the serious attention and respect which the Nationalist Government gave us. When a Government seeks to suppress a peaceful demonstration of an unarmed people by mobilising the entire resources of the state, military and otherwise, it concedes the powerful mass support for such demonstration. Could there be any other evidence to prove that we have become a power to be reckoned with and the strongest opposition to the Government? Who can deny the plain fact that, ever since the Maritzburg Conference until the end of last month, the issue that dominated South African politics was not the Republican celebrations but our plans for a general strike

NEW PLANS.

Today is JUNE 26 - a day known throughout the length and breadth of our country as FREEDOM DAY. On this memorable day nine years ago 8,500 of our dedicated freedom-fighters struck a mighty blow against the repressive colour policies of the Government. Their matchless courage won them the praise and affection of millions of people here and abroad. Since then we have had many stirring campaigns on this date and it has been observed by hundreds of thousands of our people as a day of dedication. It is fitting and proper that on this historic day I should speak to you and announce fresh plans for the opening of the second phase in the fight against the Verwoerd Republic and for a National Convention.

You will remember that the Maritzburg resolution warned that if the Government did not call the National Convention before the end of May 1961, Africans, Coloureds, Indians and European democrats would be asked not to collaborate with the Republic or any Government based on force. On several occasions since then the National Action Council explained that the last strike marked the beginning of a relentless mass struggle for the defeat of the Nationalist Government and for a sovereign multi-racial constitution. We stressed that the strike would be followed by other forms of mass pressure to force the race maniacs who govern our beloved country to make way for a democratic government of the people, by the people and for the people.

A full scale and countrywide campaign of non-co-operation with the government will be launched immediately. The precise form of the contemplated action, its scope and duration, will be announced to you at the appropriate time. At the present moment it is sufficient to say that we plan to make government impossible. Those who are voteless cannot be expected to continue paying taxes to a Government which is not responsible to them. People who live in poverty and starvation cannot be expected to pay exorbitant house rents to the Government and local authorities. We furnish the sinews of agriculture and industry. We produce the wealth of the gold, diamond and coal mines, of the farms and industry in return for miserable wages. Why should we continue enriching those who steal the products of our sweat and blood, those who exploit us and refuse us the right to organise trade unions, those who side with the Government when we stage peaceful demonstrations to assert our claims and aspirations. How can Africans serve on school boards and committees which are part of Bantu Education - a sinister scheme of the Nationalist Government to deprive the African people of real education in return for tribal education? Can Africans be expected to be content with serving on advisory boards and Bantu Authorities when the demand all over the continent of Africa is for National independence and self-government? Is it not an affront to the African people that the Government should now seek to extend Bantu Authorities to the cities when people in the rural areas have refused to accept this same system and fought against it tooth and nail? Which African does not burn with indignation when thousands of our people are sent away to jail every month under the cruel pass laws? Why should we continue carrying these badges of slavery?

NON-COLLABORATION IS THE DYNAMIC WEAPON WE MUST USE TO SEND THIS GOVERNMENT TO THE GRAVE. IT MUST BE USED VIGOROUSLY AND WITHOUT DELAY. THE ENTIRE RESOURCES OF THE BLACK PEOPLE MUST BE MOBILISED TO WITHDRAW ALL CO-OPERATION WITH THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT.

VARIOUS FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTION WILL BE EMPLOYED TO UNDERMINE THE ALREADY TOTTERING ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

WE WILL CALL UPON ALL INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA AND UPON NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO SEVER ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY.

TO CONTINUE UNDERGROUND.

I understand that a warrant for my arrest has been issued and that the police are looking for me. The National Action Council has given full and serious consideration to this question and has sought the advice of many trusted friends and bodies and they have advised me not to surrender myself. I have accepted this advice and will not give myself up to a Government I do not recognise. Any serious politician will realise that under present day conditions in this country to seek for cheap martyrdom by handing myself to the police is naive and criminal. We have an important programme before us and it is important to carry it out vigorously and without delay. I have chosen this latter course which is more difficult and which entails more risk and hardship than sitting in jail. I have had to separate myself from my dear wife and children, from my mother and sisters, to live as an outlaw in my own land of birth. I have had to close my business, to abandon my profession and live in poverty and misery as many of my people are doing. I will continue to act as the spokesman of the National Action Council during the phase that is now unfolding and in the tough struggles that

lie ahead. I shall fight the Government side by side with you, inch by inch and mile by mile until victory is won. What are you going to do? Will you come along with us or are you going to co-operate with the Government in its efforts to suppress the claims and aspirations of your people? Or are you going to remain silent and neutral on a matter of life and death to our people? For my own part, I have made my choice. I will not leave South Africa not will I surrender. Only through hardship, sacrifice and militant action can freedom be won. The struggle is my life and I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days.

TRAITORS ROUTED

At a lively meeting held in the Nana Memorial Hall on Sunday 11th June, 500 parents and scholars of the Central Indian High School passed a vote of censure against Mr. M.S. Laher and Mr. A.R.A. Maa of Fordsburg for their dishonesty and failure to co-operate in handing all matters concerning the school to the Interim Committee.

Mr. Laher's objection was met with hostility by the audience. Just before the vote was taken I heard him say: "It is a foregone conclusion." Mr. Maa did not even attend the meeting.

The meeting was orderly at the beginning but as the discussions proceeded on the behaviour of these individuals the audience repeatedly showed their resentment to the activities of these individuals.

Among the numerous recommendations was the question of the reinstatement of the principal, Mr. Thandray, who was demoted immediately after being released from jail after the State of Emergency last year.

When Mr. Ebrahim, (a teacher who runs N.E.U.M. classes in school) stood up to defend Messrs Laher & Co, the audience shouted him down with cries of "Throw him Out!" and "We do not want Unity Movement in our school". "Robots!", the pupils shouted when asked by an ex-student what they thought of the new principal, Mr. Essop and Mr. Ebrahim.

After a tremendous amount of opposition Mr. Ebrahim continued to speak only to be interrupted with loud boos and calls of "Traitors" and "Call the Special Branch". These speakers tried some mud-slinging against the Congress leaders but were not successful. They even distributed leaflets condemning the recent "Stay-At-Home" and the past struggles of the people.

If there was anything that the people present showed was their utter disgust and strong condemnation of these arm-chair politicians for having attempted to undermine our leaders, who have at the most critical period in our struggle proven their sincerity and courage in the struggle against the Nationalist Government.

WHAT IS COMMUNISM?

Referring to the definition of Communism in the South African Suppression of Communism Act (1951) the report of the International Commission of Jurists in its Report on the "Rule of Law in South Africa" has this to say :

"The definition of a 'communist' in the Suppression of Communism Amendment Act of 1951 is the following :

"'Communist' means a person who professes or has at any time before or after the commencement of this Act professed to be a or who, after having been given a reasonable opportunity of making such representation as he may consider necessary, is deemed by the Governor-General or, in the case of an inhabitant of the territory of South West Africa, by the Administrator of the said territory, to be a Communist on the ground that he is advocating, advising, defending, or encouraging or has at any time before or after the commencement of this Act whether within or outside the Union, advocated, advised, defended or encouraged the achievement or any act or omission which is calculated to further the achievement of any such object or that he has at any time before or after the commencement of this Act been a member or active supporter of any organisation outside the Union which professed, by its name or otherwise, to be an organisation for propagating the principles or promoting the spread of communism, or whose purpose or one of whose purposes was to spread communism, or whose or one of whose purposes was to propagate the principles or promote the spread of Communism, or which engaged in activities which were calculated to further the achievement of any of the objects of communism."

"To this, Mr. Gardiner has rightly remarked: 'So if you were a Communist forty years ago, you are a Communist today. And, whether you are a Communist or not, you are a Communist if the Governor-General says that you are.'"

"The legal pitfalls and the dangers to fundamental human rights of such loose definitions were illustrated dramatically in the proceedings of the so-called South African Treason Trial which started by a mass arrest of 140 persons on December 5, 1956. While the last of the 156 accused was released from detention after almost four years on August 31, 1960, the trial is going on, and though but indirectly related to the issue of apartheid, presents a strong case against an administration of justice motivated by intolerance of criticism of its racial policies."

This bulletin is issued by the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, P.O. Box 10120, Johannesburg. The subject matter does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Youth Congress.