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NOTES FROM THE FORT
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ANC CONFERENCE SINGS BY FREEDOM CHARTER

300 DELEGATES DEMAND RELEASE OF ARRESTED LEADERS

From Govan Mbeki

QUEENSTOWN.

"THIS conference notes with deep concern the events of December 5 when a number of progressive South Africans were arrested on charges of high treason. Conference calls upon all provinces, regions and branches to trim their organisational machinery to keep the people in readiness for any action that might be decided upon by the National Executive Committee to meet the emergency situation," declares a resolution unanimously adopted by the annual conference of the African National Congress in a tense atmosphere last week-end.

"The presence of 300 delegates and people here is proof that nothing will prevent the people from attaining the noble goal of freedom," said Elizabeth Mottingo.

With arms raised in the Africa salute, the packed hall rose and with a feelingly sang "Our leaders are in jail, we demand their release."

PROVOCATION

When the conference started, Special Branch men armed with a warrant of search invaded the hall and seized a copy of the N.E.C. report. As Captain Heiberg who was in charge, removed delegates from the seats they occupied in front to make room for his policemen, the speaker appealed to the delegates to remain calm and not allow themselves to be provoked. Meanwhile armed, uniformed police remained at the ready outside the hall.

At a prayer meeting held in the evening where the Rev. Gawe had been pastor until his arrest for high treason, the Special Branch checked on all entering, while uniformed police stood outside the fence.

The conference, which had assumed a mass character and was attended by large numbers of delegates from the four provinces, carried out its deliberations under emergency conditions. Discussions were led on trade unionism, passages of the Group Areas Act. After Oscar Mpetha had explained the implications of the Industrial Conciliation Act and the Native Settlement of Disputes Act, conference showed keen interest in the organisation of the workers into trade unions.

RESOLUTIONS

After a discussion of the N.E.C. report, conference adopted the

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WORLDWIDE

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DEPRIVED OF BOTH THEIR PARENTS



This picture, taken about 2 years ago is of Diane, Nigel and Rosalind, the three children of Dorothy and Errol Shanley, who were both arrested on an allegation of treason on December 5.

WORLD-WIDE SUPPORT FOR TREASON PRISONERS

CAPE TOWN.
The reaction to the treason arrests and raids continues to be the exact opposite of what the Government expected. Not only the mass of the people, but some of the most prominent personalities in South Africa, have shown they are not prepared to be intimidated by the arrests.

● Meetings addressed by Congress and Liberal Party speakers and others have been held in various centres to protest against the arrests.

● A national defence fund sponsored by among others, the Archbishop of Cape Town and two ex-judges, has been set up to assist the accused in their legal defence, to provide bail and to assist the dependants of those in jail.

● The arrests have aroused widespread comment and criticism in the overseas press. In England, the Times, the Manchester Guardian, the News Chronicle and Reynolds News were among those papers taking a critical attitude. Their most trenchant remarks cannot be reproduced in the South African press as they would amount to contempt of court.

● In London Christian Action sent £100 for the immediate relief of dependants in special need, and in co-operation with the movement for Colonial Freedom is setting up a special fund to help with the dependants of the accused.

● Dr. Guy Routh, the South African economist, has announced that a fund has also been launched by South Africans living in England for the assistance of the accused.

● The International Lawyers' Association plans to send representatives to the Treason Trials, according to information which has reached an attorney in Johannesburg.

This Association also sent observers to the "Reichstag Fire Trial" in Berlin during the early period of the Hitler regime.

● In a telegram received in Johannesburg this week, Canon John Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral,

London, expresses his support for the arrested men and women.

"KINDLY CONVEY TO PRISONERS PARTICULARLY LUTHULI, SISIULU, KOTANE, MANDELA, TAMBO, NAICKER, NOKWE, MATTHEWS MY PERSONAL AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS—JOHN COLLINS, ST. PAUL'S, LONDON."

NEW AGE FORCED DOWN TO 4 PAGES

SINCE last week, two further members of the New Age staff have been arrested—Ruth First, our Johannesburg editor, and M. P. Naicker, our Durban branch manager. That brings to 8 the total of New Age staff members who are in jail on an

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More Treason Arrests

JOHANNESBURG.

THE preparatory examination into the allegation of treason involving over 150 people was due to begin in the Drill Hall here on Wednesday of this week.

Applications for bail were due to be made soon after the opening of the preparatory examination.

Further "treason" arrests took place during the past week.

In Johannesburg, Advocate J. Sivo and his wife, Ruth First (New Age reporter), were picked up at 5 last Thursday morning. So were Mr. Moses Kotane, Mr. Walter Sibusu (banned secretary-general of the ANC), Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. L. Bernstein, Mr. H. Barsel, Mr. A. M. Kathrada, Mr. Paul Joseph, Adv. Duma Nokwe, Mr. Robert Tuziwe, Mr. A. M. Naicker, Mr. J. J. M. M. Naicker and W. Z. Conco (deputy president of the ANC) were arrested after they had voluntarily surrendered themselves to the police.

Acting on telegraphed instructions, members of the Special Branch arrested Dr. H. M. Moosa at the Woodstock Town Hall on Sunday morning, whilst he was helping with the preparations for his six-year-old's wedding.

Dr. Moosa, a former secretary of the S.A. Indian Congress, had come to Cape Town from Johannesburg to attend the wedding.

MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE TO DEFENCE FUND

JOHANNESBURG.

A LARGE number of notable persons throughout Africa have come to the assistance of the arrested Congress and democratic leaders by sponsoring the International Treason Trials Defence Fund.

The Fund is to be administered by a Board of Trustees, comprising the Hon. Frank Lucas (an ex-Judge), Dr. A. Reeves, the Bishop of Johannesburg, Mr. Alan Paton and Dr. Ellen Hellman.

In a statement launching the fund the sponsors state: "A large number of people have been arrested on allegations of treason. The majority are prominent

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New Age wishes all readers the compliments of the season —And don't forget the Christmas Eve Dance, Monday night, December 24, in Cape Town.

NEW AGE FORGOTTEN CONFERENCE

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THE hope that the Chiang Kai-shek Government will eventually be re-united with the Government of China has been expressed by Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister at present on a tour of Asia.

At a press conference in India he said, in reply to a request to add something to his offer to Chiang Kai-shek to co-operate with the People's Government: "Chiang Kai-shek and his group are Chinese and we as Chinese do not like to see a permanent split among the Chinese people. That is why we think they should and eventually will come back to their fatherland. That is why we are making every effort to bring about the peaceful liberation of Taiwan (Formosa)."

Asked to comment on United States policy regarding Egypt he answered: "I wonder if the United States wants to take the place of Britain and France in the Middle East. Secondly, I wonder if the United States will continue to give its support to the British and French plans of control of the Canal which will interfere with the Egyptian sovereignty—the so-called plan of international control of the Canal."

Peace Council Statement

DESPITE wide differences of opinion in the World Peace Council and the national peace movements of various countries, the question of Hungary, a conference of members of the bureau of the Peace Council which has just held in Moscow has issued a statement agreed to by all delegates, including the Russians.

The statement reads: "Despite differences, we are unanimous in hoping that, on the one hand, the cold war, with its years of hatred and distrust and the policy of blocs and on the other hand the faults of the former Hungarian administration as well as the exploitation of these faults by foreign imperialists, have been at the root of the events in Hungary."

"We are unanimous in regretting the tragic bloodshed of October and November and in expressing our fraternal sympathy to the Hungarian people in their tribulation."

"Finally we express our desire for (1) the withdrawal of Soviet troops in accordance with the terms of an agreement between Hungary and the Soviet Union, (2) the full exercise of Hungarian sovereignty."

Czech Charge Against Tito

THE charge that President Tito was setting up a new international platform in the Communist movement different from the platform of Leninism was made here by Mr. Antonin Lovotvny, first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

He said that statements made by Tito contradicted Yugoslav Communist pledges of support for the affairs of other Communist parties. He added that he appreciated the agreement made between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia but "our own relations with the Soviet Union are much stronger and stand on a much higher level."

Togliatti's Statement

IMPORTANT proposals regarding the relations between the Communist parties in the world have been made by Palmiro Togliatti, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party. He suggested:

● Bilateral relations and "friendly criticism" between parties.

● A form of economic internationalism for the Socialist countries, which, without infringing the sovereignty of individual countries, would "arrange a sort of international division of work, reduction of costs, increase of productivity, and thus, an increase in the well-being of each country."

● No return "to any form whatsoever of centralised organisation." On the question of "freedom, de-

pendence, the duties of international solidarity."

Polish Agreement

THE agreement which has just been entered into on the future relations between Church and State in Poland has been welcomed throughout the country, reports the London Times. Broadly speaking, their correspondent writes, the State undertakes to remove the obstacles to full freedom of religious life which existed in the past. In return the Church promises the full understanding of the hierarchy and clergy for the changes that have taken place in public life since Gomułka's election, changes "which aim at firmly establishing the rule of law, justice and peaceful co-existence, improving social morality, and remedying wrongs."

Youth Festival

PLANS are well under way for the "best-ever" Youth Festival to be held in Moscow next year from July 21. Every theatre, music hall and cinema in Moscow, besides innumerable open-air stages will hold cultural programmes, national concerts and performances, national and international song and dance festivals, drama, ballet, etc. There will be 63 daily film shows, the best films of the world, The Part of the Soviet Union will perform with a special scenario at the newly-built Leningrad stadium. The Fair in the Kremlin, and a Grand Carnival will be held at the Central Park of Rest and Culture.

"A youth sports tournament will be held, and special displays of air sports, model aviation, music, rink and a regatta will take place. On the initiative of the USSR Olympic Committee, the third International Friendly Youth Sports Games will take place at the same time as the Festival in Moscow."

WORLD STAGE by Spectator

democracy, parliamentarism and socialism," he said the Italian Communists were democrats because they acted within the framework of the Italian constitution, but they wanted to "be applied to everybody. The present political circumstances in Italy permitted us to see the future of democratic and constitutional life not an obstacle but a help toward a Socialist construction achieved with a minimum of ruptures and sacrifices for the working classes themselves and for the country."

Relations between Socialist countries must be organised "in a new way. He stressed the "place that the Soviet Union occupies in the Socialist world. This place is a reality historically determined which cannot be destroyed," but he added, "there is no guide State nor guide Party."

"The only guides are our principles, the working class and the Soviet Union, the permanent defence of peace and national

MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE

(Continued from page 1)

members of non-white political organisations.

"It is not within our province to express an opinion on the guilt or innocence of the persons charged with committing these grave crimes. We believe, however, in view of the unique significance of the impending trials, that all the accused should be able to secure the best legal representation available."

HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING

"We also believe that during the course of what probably will be lengthy proceedings, the families and dependants of the accused should be protected from hardship and suffering."

"We have decided, therefore, to sponsor a Defence Fund for the purpose of raising money to pay the legal costs of defence, to offer bail, and to support those dependants of the accused who may be in need."

"We believe that there are many people of good conscience who knowing that every man is presumed innocent until proved guilty in a court of law, will respond to an appeal for this worthy cause."

SPONSORS

The Sponsors of the Fund include:

The Most Rev. G. Clayton (Archbishop of Cape Town), The Hon. Richard Fontaine (Member of the Appeal), The Hon. Frank Lucas, The Very Rev. T. J. Savage (Dean of Cape Town), The Rev. Ambrose Reeves (Bishop of Johannesburg), The Rev. C. K. Storey, The Rev. Dr. J. B. Webb, Father Gard-

ANC CONFERENCE

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following resolutions: Firstly, this conference condemns the aggression of the British and French imperialist forces. In this action the imperialists are used first as a spear-head to re-establish themselves as masters of the Suez Canal in order to threaten the millions of mankind in Africa and the Middle East under colonial domination.

We of the ANC support the struggle of our freedom-loving brothers and sisters in Egypt against the British and French foreign domination and pledge ourselves to fight colonialism wherever it shows its head.

Secondly, this conference calls upon all its branches to intensify the organisation of African workers into trade unions and directs that regular reports of progress indicating the extent of organisation in various industries be submitted.

PASS LAWS

Thirdly, this conference notes with appreciation the struggle which has been bravely carried on, particularly by the women members of the movement, against the extension of the enslaving pass laws to African women. Conference resolves to re-double its efforts to fight for the abolition of the pass system.

Fourthly, conference reaffirms its decision of April in adopting the Freedom Charter as its basic policy and programme of action. While the Government regards this document as a dangerous one, the 12 million peoples of this country welcome and see through it the attainment of racial harmony and the establishment of a true democratic South Africa.

Finally, conference condemns the legalised plunder of people's property under the Group Areas Act.

DUNCAN ARRESTED

Patrick Duncan, who had come to convey the greetings of the African Party to the conference, was arrested on the first day of the conference. A statement made by the platform deplored his arrest and expressed the hope that the people of South Africa would realise the evils of racialism which gave birth to the pass laws under which Mr. Duncan was arrested.

Mr. Duncan was arrested for entering the location without a permit. On Sunday the conference arranged for his bail pending its appearance before the Magistrate on Tuesday. The charge official stated Mr. Duncan had been "unco-operative" and declined to make a statement to the police. The ANC representatives who were told they would be allowed to bail him out on Monday, declined to do so.

The impressive conference was presided over by Mr. Alfred Rakau—General Secretary to the platform of leaders with him. The platform was bedecked with placards reading "We stand by our leaders."

NEW AGE FORCED DOWN TO 4 PAGES

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allegation of treason. In addition the Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elizabeth offices of New Age have been raided. Attempts have been made to question and intimidate some of the remaining members of our staff.

We doubt if any other paper in South Africa could have continued to appear under these circumstances. New Age is only able to survive because it is the voice of the liberation movement, because it is loved and respected by its readers, who are doing everything in their power to keep it going.

We call on all those who love liberty to fight for the right of New Age to continue to appear freely without interference by the Government. New Age speaks for the masses of the South African population, and has a greater right to exist than any incited rag of reactionaries and fanatics which pleads the cause of a tiny privileged handful of whites.

But because of all the crippling burdens which have been piled upon us, we are unable to serve the progressive movement as we would like. Please help us by contributing ONE CANT AFFORD TO RELAX TODAY. WHEN OUR LEADERS ARE IN JAIL ON THE SERIOUS CHARGE OF TREASON.

BRING NEW AGE BACK TO 8 PAGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY HELPING TO "THE NECESSARY FUNDS."

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In memory of H. Martyn Green		10	0	
		£226	3	8

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