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Black Peoples Convention
P.O. Box 11

JOHANNESBURG. (S. A.)

16th January, 1973.

REV. DON MORTON,

32 MONTGOMERY PLACE,

BROOKLYN,

NEW YORK, NY 11215, U.S.A.

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SIR/S,

I have no doubt you are acquainted with the fascist and racist regime of the White minority of South Africa.

Black people in this country have endured this oppressive system for over 300 years and have struggled this long to break their chains of bondage and slavery. Until 1960 they did this through their two political organisations, viz. African National Congress and Pan-Africanist Congress. In 1960 both these organisations were banned by the system and their leaders are languishing in gaols or under banishment and banning orders.

The banning of our organisations left a political vacuum and left Black people brow-beaten into temporary submission. However a decade of non-political activity was punctuated by unorganised activities ultimately leading to the launching last year of the BLACK PEOPLES CONVENTION.

Our recent Congress has indicated clearly that Black people are still determined despite all the odds against them to accept responsibility for their own liberation and to take cudgels up to this end. Ample evidence supports their rejection of the fraudulent government-created institutions such as Bantustan "governments", Urban Bantu Councils, Coloured and Indian "Representative" Councils.

The said Convention hopes to liberate all Blacks from psychological oppression and physical oppression, and to promote Black Solidarity under the banner of Black Consciousness. It has set itself a target membership of 1 million Blacks in three years and if the present trend continues the Convention may double this number in that period.

The dedication and sacrifice its members are prepared to make may be seen in the death of the Convention's interim-committee vice-President, in December 1972 who was pushed onto an oncoming train at a station by a white railway worker after having objected to this white worker's ill-treatment of Black women. Plus/minus 2,000 Black people attended this funeral not to mourn his death but to rededicate themselves and to remind themselves of the urgency with which to fight their liberation.

Our major aim is to engage in community development schemes through projects, with a view to conscientising Black people politically. For obvious reasons we deem it fit and wise to create

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semi-independent projects which soon thereafter have to be independent. We however feel that some projects have to be permanently identified with the movement to ensure that the Convention retains its identity and is accorded the necessary recognition by Blacks.

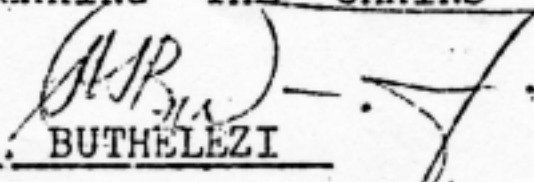
Some of our projects are leadership training with a view to facilitating easy replacement of leaders in all Black activities, workshops and a large scale literacy campaign with other organisations already in this field; seminars on different levels and the organisation of Black trade union movements, sporting bodies and research work in all aspects of the Black mans life and history, with a view to a new society where all will have equal opportunities and all be free.

Obviously a movement with objectives like ours and comprising as its members the most exploited people in the civilised world will not be able to raise FUNDS from among its numbers nor will any White institution fund any of its projects and financial requirements for a maximum period of three years. Of-course the fact that this letter is being sent to you presupposed our belief that you are sympathy with our plight and that you are in position to help us or you have other friends unknown to us who would be keen to do the minimum possible.

I have enclosed herein a copy of our Constitution, our recent congress minutes, our budget and projects for the years 1973-1976. We further assure that we will do all in our power to provide further details where these are required and wherever possible allow personal representation.

SECRETARY GENERAL
BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION
BOX 11427
JOHANNESBURG

" BREAKING THE CHAINS "


H.S. BUTHELEZI

(SECRETARY - GENERAL).