

IS FREEDOM CHARTER TREASON?

To All Our Readers—
**PEACE AND
FREEDOM IN
THE NEW YEAR**

Crown Refuses To Answer Defence Query

JOHANNESBURG.

WHAT EXACTLY CONSTITUTES THE CHARGE OF TREASON AGAINST THE 154 ACCUSED WHO APPEARED AT THE PREPARATORY EXAMINATION AT THE DRILL HALL LAST WEEK?

THE CROWN IS NOT YET PREPARED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

In reply to questions by defence counsel at the end of the proceedings last week, Mr. J. C. van Niekerk, for the Crown, said he was not in a position at this stage to say what allegations were going to be made at the end of the preparatory examination.

Mr. V. C. Berrange, for the defence, asked whether the Crown maintained that the Freedom Charter was treasonable or not.

Mr. van Niekerk: That is a question that could be decided after all the evidence has been led.

Mr. Berrange: My only object in raising this matter is that the Freedom Charter has been circulated in tens of thousands all over the country since 1954, and if it was treasonable one would have expected action to be taken before now.

The outline of the Crown case was given by Mr. van Niekerk, who read slowly and haltingly from a document of 53 typed pages. Reporters who asked for copies of the address were told it was badly typed, and he had not read everything in it.

The gist of the Crown case, said Mr. van Niekerk, was that at meetings held all over the Union and in documents the accused advocated, propagated and preached a Marxist-Leninist account of society and the State, a Marxist-Leninist interpretation of history and contemporary politics, and called for the establishment of a people's democratic state based on the principles of the system in the Soviet Union, the people's democracies of Eastern Europe and China.

They preached that imperialism and colonialism should be destroyed and advocated the drawing up of a Freedom Charter as the basis of a people's democracy in South Africa. The Crown would allege that the accused relied on the aid of outside

countries to establish this people's democracy.

LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Mr. van Niekerk said that all the original reasons named in the indictment constituted a national liberation movement, and it would be alleged that the steps set out in the Freedom Charter were steps in the direction of a Communist state and, if necessary, a prelude to revolution.

The evidence would be that the liberation movement relied on extra-parliamentary action to achieve its object because it did not see an alternative under the existing constitution.

The Communist Party manifesto was quoted in support of the Crown allegation that Communists stood for violent revolution and the destruction of capitalist oppressors. Mr. van Niekerk then quoted from speeches and documents to show:

(a) That some of the accused taught that the South African state

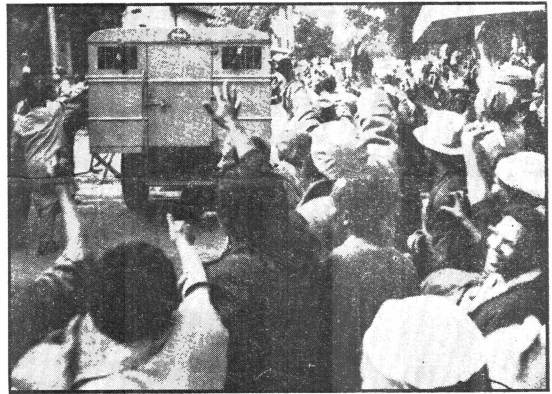
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NEW AGE

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"AFRIKA!"—A section of the crowd waves farewell to the Black Maria after the first day's "treason" hearing. Notice the raised thumb through the bars of the van.

Brutal Police Attacks At Drill Hall

JOHANNESBURG.

BOTH the second and third days of the "treason" hearings at the Drill Hall were marked by ugly scenes of police violence against the thousands of South Africans of all races who had come to stand by their leaders.

The crowd ringed the hall in queues seven deep and then spilled over the pavements, completely blocking Twist and Quartz Streets, while heavily armed police stood by.

Forewarned by leaders of the People's Defence Committee against provocation (a leaflet distributed outside the Court on the first day urged people to give the police no excuse for violence) the crowd was orderly and disciplined.

But that did not deter the police from ruthless action against them.

SHOOTING

Proceedings during the second day of the mass treason trial in the Drill Hall were dramatically interrupted when the sound of shooting was heard outside. Those in the hall immediately realised that police had opened fire on the vast crowd outside, which had throughout the first day resisted all attempts at provocation, and cries of anger and indignation echoed through the Court, so that the Magistrate, Mr. Wessels had to adjourn.

The trouble began when the police under Col. Grobler began trying to push the thousands of people who were unable to gain admission to the hall, away from the entrance on the ground that they were mak-

(Continued on page 4)



"WE STAND BY OUR LEADERS"—A section of the vast throng outside the Johannesburg Drill Hall.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TREASON TRIAL

International Solidarity

IMPRESSIVE demonstrations of international solidarity with the treason prisoners were given on the day the hearings commenced in Johannesburg last week.

In London a delegation of Labour members of Parliament and a group of South African students presented petitions of protest at South Africa House. In New York White and Negro Americans picketed the South African consulate in protest. Officers of the African Commission of the Churches on International Affairs in New York expressed "shock" at the treason arrests.

An eminent Queen's Counsel from Britain, Mr. Gerald Gardiner, flew from London to attend the hearings on behalf of the Bar Council, Christian Action, the Inns of Court, Conservative and Unionist Society, the Association of Liberal Lawyers and the Society of Labour Lawyers.

Pressmen Shocked by

Police Brutality

THERE is a big battery of pressmen and photographers covering the trial.

EDITORIAL

Swart Must Go!

THE hearts of the people of South Africa go out to this time to the 154 South African men and women who are accused of treason. We may not comment on the substance of the charges. That is before the court. But we can and must express our shock and horror at the way in which the entire matter has been handled.

It is eighteen months since the Congress of the People was surrounded by an army of policemen, the delegates interrogated and their papers seized—in the midst of which they continued, undeterred, to adopt the Freedom Charter. It is over a year since the mass raids of September, 1955. It is over six months since Minister Swart told Parliament that mass arrests were about to take place for treason and other political offences.

Why, then, the spectacular dawn arrests of December 5, the flying of the political prisoners to Johannesburg in military aircraft, their incarceration in the Johannesburg Fort, the refusal, for two weeks, to allow them bail?

Was the whole affair not stage-managed, on the police side, with a view to making the maximum political capital? The impression is strengthened by the Dingaan's Day speeches of Mr. Swart and other Cabinet Ministers, which in our view amount to blatant contempt of Court.

Then there was the brutal conduct by the police in shooting and baton-charging peaceful crowds of people outside the Drill Hall on Wednesday and Thursday. Eye-witness reports make it clear that the police opened fire without orders, and that their behaviour was barbaric in the extreme. The whole incident cries out for a full-scale judicial enquiry, as demanded by Mr. Hepple.

Yet Mr. Swart refuses even to consider the possibility of an enquiry into the conduct of his police. He has not a word to say enquiry into the conduct of his police. He has not a word to say about unauthorised shooting, or the kicking of a pregnant woman as she lay on the ground. Instead he issues an outrageous statement about putting down "demonstrations" with "die volle kraag van die wet," and reiterates his confidence in the police.

The responsibility for these and other acts of unbridled police violence must be laid upon Swart's previous justifications for police shooting, coupled with the whole hateful and contemptuous attitude of the Nationalist Party to the people of the country. They live and think as if they were an army of occupation in a foreign country. Their answer to every problem is force. The result of this outlook is to make the police force and those sections of the White population who are under Nationalist influence as jittery and unbalanced as they are.

There can be neither peace nor stability as long as Swart remains Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister. The sooner he and those like him are removed from office the better for South Africa.

tative of the Johannesburg People's Defence Committee, decided to constitute itself into the "Stand By Our Leaders Committee." The new Committee will conduct a vigorous campaign in the Cape, in solidarity with the 154 arrested leaders.

Rhodesian Support

THE Southern Rhodesian African Transport Workers' Union called a meeting at Harari, Salisbury on Sunday morning at which it was decided to establish a "South Africa Defence Fund" to aid the 154 leaders accused of treason in Johannesburg. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Southern Rhodesian Africans' Association, the National Youth

He tried to take a cine film of the disturbances outside the Drill Hall and was "shooting" a scene of policemen hitting an African with his baton when he himself was struck over the head with a baton, seized and hustled off to a room in the Drill Hall buildings. He was pushed inside and locked in.

He was rescued by a police official who knew him, but was nevertheless forced to destroy his film camera, which he released.

"I have fought Communists in Malaya and the Mau Mau in Kenya," he told the Argus correspondent, but it "was never like this."

Cape Committee Formed

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting held in Cape Town on Sunday night, attended by a represen-

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League, the Trade Union Council, the African Chamber of Commerce and other African organisations.

The Bishop Was Pushed

Around

THE Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, was pushed around by a policeman outside the Drill Hall when he protested against the ban arbitrarily imposed on Non-European press photographers.

Some time after the Court adjourned, the Bishop and Mr. Alec Hepple M.P. were walking towards the Drill Hall when they noticed the police manhandling a number of Africans and Indians who were attempting to use their cameras. The Bishop intervened and informed one of the policemen that Col. Grobler had granted permission for all photographers to carry out their work unless they were arrested. He was roughly pushed aside by the constable with the injunction, "Go and talk to my sergeant."

Thereupon the Bishop approached the sergeant of police who declared that as far as he (the sergeant) was concerned anybody could take photographs. The pressmen were then allowed to proceed.

Aid from Cricket

Crowds

CROWDS at the second test match between the Kenya Asians and the non-white South Africa XI were beset by young women with collection tins in aid of the Treason Trial Defence Fund. Over £100 was collected.

Further Arrests

FURTHER arrests took place last week, bringing to 154 the total number of persons appearing at the preparatory examination into allegations of high treason.

In Johannesburg, Mr. Motsonmai K. Mphah, an active ANC member and contributor to New Age, was arrested while standing amongst the crowd which had assembled outside the Drill Hall waiting for the treason examination to begin.

Mr. John Nkadiening, a prominent trade unionist and Transvaal A.F.C. Executive member, surrendered himself to the police the day before the examination was due to begin. A warrant for his arrest had been out since December 5.

In Durban Mr. A. B. Ngoboo, former president of the S.R.C. (N.E.) of Natal University, was arrested.

Leaders Caged

AT the resumption of the treason hearings on the second day the 152 leaders were enclosed in a six feet high wire cage in the centre of the Court. Advocate Frans O.C. on behalf of the defence, lashed out at this "unprecedented scene." He indignantly declared:

"It is a shame that the accused should have this degradation imposed on them. The cage in which the prisoners have now been placed makes them appear before this court like wild animals or beasts."

He said that if the cage was not removed, the defence counsel would withdraw from the hearing.

The court adjourned and agreement was finally reached between the defence counsel and the Prosecutor that the front portion would be lowered and the grill covering removed. The sides of the cage would also be lowered.

When the prisoners first walked into the dock, one of the accused leaders put up a sign on the grill reading: "Do not Feed—By Order."

Appalling Conditions At

The Fort

CONDITIONS under which visits could be made to prisoners at the Johannesburg Fort were described as "appalling" by the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Bishop of Johannesburg, after a visit by himself and Mr. Alec Hepple M.P., leader of the Labour Party, to the prison last week.

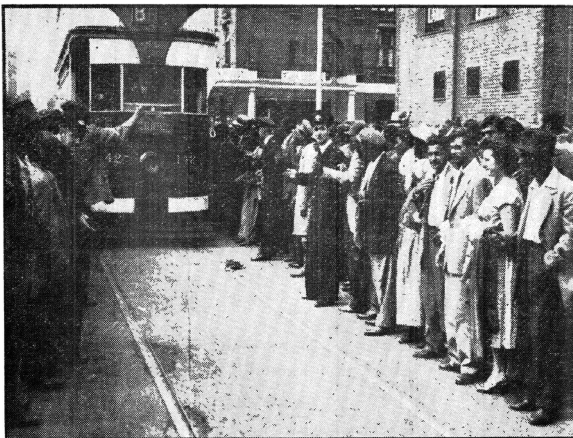
The Bishop and Mr. Hepple, who asked to see Chief Luthuli, Mr. Oliver Tambo and Professor Mathebe, found that they had to stand behind a wire grille which was separated by a large space from the iron bars behind which the prisoners stood. Both the prisoners and their visitors had to shout to be heard. The result was pandemonium.

In the European section, the Bishop stated, it was also impossible to conduct any sort of conversation with the prisoners.

The Bishop described how the wife of one of the European prisoners (Mrs. Hilda Bernstein) arrived at the Fort direct from the nursing home with her week-old child, to see her husband who was arrested two days after their son's birth. "She was given no special consideration, but made to see her husband separated by the grille and bars together with other visitors."

Mrs. Bernstein stated that she had come "from one confinement to another."

Mr. Hepple is taking up the Fort conditions immediately with the Director of Prisons and will raise the matter in Parliament next session.



MAKE WAY FOR THE TRAM — Crowds attempting to attend the "treason" hearings at the Drill Hall flowed right across Twist Street. Traffic officers clear a way for the tram to go through.

"I was not aware that such scandalous conditions existed in our gaols," he said.

Empty Chairs at Durban

MORE than a thousand people assembled in the Gandhi Hall at a Civil Liberty meeting to welcome back the people's leaders from Johannesburg. Empty chairs bearing the names of the leaders who could not be present were on the platform. The speakers included J. N. Singh, Vera-Ponca, V. Lawrence, R. Mohale and J. M. Dicoor.

ALL ACCUSED OUT ON BAIL

JOHANNESBURG. WHILE the 152 treason trial prisoners waited patiently to be released last Thursday evening, defence lawyers worked feverishly to prepare the necessary documents which would enable the accused to be set free on bail.

Also waiting were the many sureties who had undertaken to stand bail for the accused to the extent of many thousands of pounds. Earlier the same afternoon the Supreme Court had granted bail to all the accused. European prisoners were granted £250 bail, Indian and Coloured prisoners £100 each, and Africans £50 each. These amounts were substantially less than had been asked for by the Crown.

Prisoners, sureties, and about 20 magistrates stood by as the Chief Magistrate, Mr. F. C. Silk, explained the conditions on which the accused were to be released.

These conditions, which amount to a "banning order" for each of the accused are: None of them are allowed to attend any gathering other than those of a social, religious, educational at a recognised educational institution, sporting or recreational nature; they shall not address any gathering of any kind.

The ban on gatherings is not to affect Mr. Lee-Warden M.P. from attending or addressing Parliament. The Rev. D. C. Thompson may only preach a sermon after the police have "vetted" it. Legal practitioners are not in any way to be prevented from carrying on their practice before the courts.

All accused have to report every Thursday before 10 a.m. to a named police station. Five accused in possession of passports had to surrender these to the magistrates.

After their patient wait, the prisoners and sureties were gradually brought before the magistrate on duty and were issued with warrants of liberation. Accommodation at private homes and Church hostels was rapidly arranged for the accused not resident in Johannesburg.

Tired, but jubilant the prisoners walked out into the fresh night air after their 16 days in jail.

Offices of the Fund to which collection lists are obtainable are: JOHANNESBURG: 5, Trades Hall, 30 Kerk St. P.O. Box 2864. CAPE TOWN: 2, Vlam Gebou, Church Square, P.O. Box 1039. All other centres should send collections direct to Head Office, P.O. Box 2864, Johannesburg.

HELP SELL NEW AGE!

HOW ANC CONFERENCE FACED THE CRISIS

PORT ELIZABETH.

A WEEK after the spectacular dawn arrests and raids the 44th annual conference of the ANC was due to commence at Queenstown.

From all parts of the Union, under difficult travel conditions, the delegates flocked into Queenstown. From the Transvaal, Natal, and the Eastern Cape they came on lorries with hastily rigged tent covers.

From many other parts of the country they travelled by train to come to a conference which was to give the answer to the Nationalist unbridled reign of terror. People's leaders had been arrested, but the people's movement thrust up new leaders.

It was in this atmosphere of grim determination that the conference opened about midday on December 13, 1956. Mr. Alfred Rakausane took the chair as Speaker. With him on the platform was an array of young men and women on whom lay the responsibility to conduct the conference. They were a representative team drawn from the four Provinces. An emergency situation requires emergency measures.

SPECIAL BRANCH

Also present at the conference was a large number of Special Branch drawn from all parts of the Union. When conference told them that their presence was undesirable, Captain P. J. Heiberg in charge of the contingent came into the hall armed with a warrant authorising him not only to search for documents but also to search for documents in the hall with his men throughout the proceedings. He was accompanied by armed police in uniform and men dressed in plain clothes with revolvers slung over their shoulders.

While the Special Branch sought for documents on the platform and provocatively removed delegates from their seats the armed uniformed police besieged Mall Hall. Meanwhile the tricolour Congress flag flew outside the Hall. The atmosphere was tense, and the Speaker, realising the position, appealed for calm, and also asked the Chief of the Special Branch to consult the chair in order to ensure order.

GREAT SUCCESS

The conference was a mighty success both from the point of view of attendance and the standard of discussion. The Speaker had adopted a businesslike attitude and wanted as much time as possible devoted to the discussion of the NEC Report. At long intervals the hall, which was packed with more than 700 people, sang the song which had superseded the popular Freedom Songs:

"The Leaders are arrested. We demand their release!"

Whenever it was sung the Special Branch rose to their feet and nervously looked around as if they felt the weight of the people's indignation.

The decision to get three people to lead the discussion on Passes, the Group Areas Act, and the I.C. Act and the Natives Settlement of Disposal Act was wise one. Mrs. Elizabeth Mottingoe, Mr. Z. T. Manuabe and Mr. Oscar Mpeta, who respectively led the discussion on the Passes, set the pace for a fruitful discussion that arose from the floor. Also, this guided conference so that almost every aspect of the NEC report was discussed.

Some of the speakers commented on the international situation, and condemned the Government's donation of £25,000 to Hungary at a time when thousands of people were dying in this country as a result of starvation conditions.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Seventy-four-year-old Joel Ndumu, who had grown up on the farms,

SAVED A VIVO DESCRIPTION

of working conditions there. "I have spent my life working for 10/- per month and a paraffin tin of meals while my wife worked for 5/- per month in the kitchen."

To get meat, he graphically told the conference, he followed the buzzard and helped himself to a carcass of some dead animal, no matter what the cause of death had been.

"Yet to this day I have nowhere to stay, and in addition to these wrongs the Government arrests our leaders." He sobbed and tears fell from his eyes.

The Pass System came under the severest attack and speakers emphasised that the campaign was not only confined to women but affected the men as well.

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

"Trade unions are the roots through which the great tree which is the ANC receives its nourishment," declared Mr. Oscar Mpeta. "That the conference realised the important role of organised workers to the liberatory movement was indicated by the resolution which called upon all the branches to submit a report at regular intervals on the extent of organisation in various industries in their area."

The realisation of this fact is probably the most significant milestone that Congress has reached in its 44 years of existence, and if it applied itself diligently to this task it may well be that a new chapter has opened in the history of our people's struggle for freedom.

ORGANISATION

In spite of the calm, determined and unemotional manner in which



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CHEN-EN-LAI CALLS FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.S.

CALCUTTA.

CHINA had done her best since the Bandung conference to improve relations with the United States but had not had a favourable response from the U.S. Government, Premier Chou En-lai told a press conference here during his recent tour of India.

"If the United States Government wants to satisfy the desire of the American people for friendship with the peoples of the world, including the Chinese people, they should do something to improve Sino-U.S. relations," he said.

Answering a question on the situation in Hungary, Premier Chou replied: "The most important point is that certain groups within the Western countries tried to exploit a people's movement and dissatisfaction in order to engage in subversive activities in Hungary. For a time such activities had the upper hand and people were massacred."

"The Hungarian people, in order to save their socialist achievements, could not tolerate this. The socialist countries also, in order to safeguard their solidarity and to protect the interests of the socialist countries, could not allow their solidarity to be disrupted."

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

"The governments of some countries are making baseless allegations all the time that others were carrying on subversive activities in their countries. But in fact they themselves are engaging in subversive activities against the socialist countries. Of course one cannot tolerate this situation."

Asked about differences between Premier Nehru and the Chinese Government on Hungary, Premier Chou said: "It is just as before said — it is friendly disagreement."

WORLD PEACE

Referring to Premier Nehru's visit to the USA one correspondent enquired if he had asked Nehru to convey any suggestion or message to the American Government. Premier Chou said: "Prime Minister Nehru is an envoy of peace. Premier Nehru is an envoy of whom the people here have heard about questions which have a bearing on world peace. If Nehru and Eisenhower talk about relations between China and the USA, we believe that Nehru will certainly put forward such views which he thinks will be useful for the improvement of relations between China and the USA."

"We know that Nehru has more understanding of the world situation than we do. Therefore any suggestion we could make could not be more than what he has in mind. Particularly Nehru has a better understanding and more knowledge of the internal situation of the USA than I do."

The BBC correspondent asked whether, after his present tour of India, the Premier thought the British had done more evil than good to India and if so, how.

COLONIALISM

The Premier smiled and said: "This question should be answered by our Indian friends. But I can tell you about the evils of colonialism left behind in China."

"In the colonies or semi-colonies," the Premier said, "colonialism always tries to impoverish the people and prevent them from making economic and social progress. That is why all the countries in Asia and Africa, decades behind the Western countries," he said, "They have been turned into sources of supply of raw materials and markets for exploitation. That is why they do not have an independent industrial system. At least of all complete industrial systems."

"Without an independent economy and a complete industrial system

they cannot become modern countries and cannot improve the life of their people. It is because of this that to us Eastern people, colonialism is a horrible scourge. This is precisely why we want to drive out colonialism. This was the unanimous demand of the Asian and African countries in the Bandung Conference."

"What we are against is colonialism and not against the people of the Western countries. Furthermore we Eastern people know that the people in the Western countries are knowledgeable in scientific knowledge and in other fields, because they have better opportunities. We

should learn from them what is useful to us."

CHANG KAI-SHEK

Answering a question put by a Daily News correspondent, Premier Chou reiterated what he said in Pkinom Penh, that "the Chinese Government is making all efforts for the peaceful liberation of Taiwan as well as efforts to win Chiang Kai-shek over. If Taiwan is restored to China then Chiang Kai-shek would have made a contribution and he could stay in any part of his fatherland according to his wish. "You have mentioned an offer of a government position to Chiang Kai-shek. What actually happened was that one correspondent asked if Chiang Kai-shek would be offered a minister's post. I said a minister's post is too low."

"APARTHEID IS DOOMED" SAYS BANNED RABBI

Exclusive Interview With New Age

PORIT ELIZABETH.

"YOU are hereby ordered to desist from the publication of this article no later than January 15, 1957," said the deportation letter written by Rabbi Dr. Andre Ungar recently.

Dr. Ungar, who is a Rabbi of a Jewish community here, was deported from South Africa in 1955. He was born and grew up in Hungary where he witnessed the gross persecutions which were heaped into ghettos by the Nazis.

When the Group Areas Committee announced the dates when it would sit at P.E. to consider proposals for the grouping of races under the Government deportation order, Dr. Ungar said he would oppose a public platform with others who were opposed to the Group Areas Act.

When New Age interviewed him as to the reaction of his community to the Government deportation order and his personal impressions of the racial situation in South Africa, Dr. Ungar said he was misleading to claim that his community as a whole either supports or opposes the principles he professed, but, he said:

"I do hold that if my community were fully aware of the ethical implications of the religious tradition they profess to uphold they would present a solid and unmistakable opposition to racialist theories and practices in all forms."

Commenting on his impressions of the racial situation in South Africa and on the apartheid policy he said:

"It seems to me obvious that segregation of inter-racial and inter-dependent sections of the community is utterly impracticable. Also I think that it is ludicrous to hope that a small minority can keep either by force or persuasion a large minority in permanent subjection. "From this angle," he continued, "I see the racial situation in this country as a situation of interdependence with seeds of tragedy to all concerned."

"From a moral angle I find it quite unreasonable to try and justify the continuation of an oppressive and discriminatory system. The white community, by its acce-

ptance in its own privileged position allows its own ethical and cul-



RABBI UNGAR

tural heritage to be poisoned," concluded Dr. Ungar. "Mrs. Ungar and her three-year-old daughter will leave on Sunday by air, while Dr. Ungar is due to leave the country on January 15, 1957. He is going to London where he has been invited to serve as a Rabbi."

SAIC Backs Call For Multi-racial Conference

The South African Indian Congress has issued a statement wholeheartedly and unequivocally acclaiming the bold and courageous decisions taken by the leaders and organisations of the African people at the Bloemfontein Conference which was convened by the International Africanist's Federation. The total and unambiguous rejection of Apartheid presses the genuine feeling of all democratic South Africa irrespective of race, colour and creed.

BRUTAL POLICE ATTACKS AT DRILL HALL

(Continued from page 1)

ing a noise and interfering with the proceedings.

Mr. Alex Hepple, M.P., leader of the Labour Party, appealed to Col Grobler not to order a baton charge. He said that the noise made by the crowd was hardly audible inside the Court and was not interfering with the proceedings. He offered to address the crowd and appeal for it to withdraw.

This offer was refused and the police continued allowed to push people away. "I saw one elderly African woman who was tried to avoid being knocked over having the umbrella she carried wrenched out of her hands by a burly policeman. He offered to address the crowd and appeal for it to withdraw."

DREW BATONS
"The moment the police reached Plain Street they drew batons and violently charged the crowd. They swung into the helpless crowd and began hitting everyone within their reach. In retaliation some of the crowd began to throw stones. Just then two constable hats were hurled, one constable hat opened fire.

"It was about ten feet away from the main police detachment and were ordered to fall into a line and then let off a volley of shots into the crowd. The scattered widely in every direction. Reuben Maluphe (20) of Orlando was hit in the leg by a flying bullet. Four Whites and about ten Non-Whites were admitted to the General Hospital. Two White police constables were among the injured.

"It was a terrible sight to see young policemen continuously beating up women and elderly men who could not run fast enough to escape them."

PREGNANT WOMAN KICKED

The people scattered, pursued by some of the more zealous police officers, who continued to write the Cape Times correspondent, "shooting" at the remaining crowd.

"Among these," he writes, "was a pregnant African woman who, stumbling on the rubble of the empty stand, fell on her hands and knees. The policeman caught up with her, stopped and kicked her three times in the side."

Commenting on Minister Swart's statement, issued after the shooting, that "demonstrations" would be prohibited "with the full force and might of the law," Mr. Hepple demanded a judicial enquiry into the conduct of the police. "The Minister consider that the act of waiting in a queue for admission to a public court is a 'demonstration'?" he asked.

On the third day five hundred armed policemen cordoned off the Drill Hall and its environs. The White police were armed with guns and batons, the Africans with knives and assegais. No attempt was made by the crowds, who had again been seeking admission to the court, to pass behind the police barrier. Yet there were again baton charges against the people innocently standing outside the court.

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don. Twenty-seven people were injured, five Africans were admitted to the General Hospital. Johannesburg is seething at the behaviour of the police, which most eye-witnesses considered completely uncalled for.

IS FREEDOM CHARTER TREASON?

(Continued from page 1)

had reached the stage where capitalist imperialism was developing into fascism and was a police state. It was understood that the workers were not represented in Parliament and that the country was governed by financial magnates, oppressors of the people. Parliament as it existed would have to be abolished.

(b) That some of the accused made speeches inciting to revolutionary violence and bloodshed as a means to achieve this aim.

PEOPLE'S SUPPORT

After the adjournment of the court, Chief Lutuli briefly thanked the people of Johannesburg for their magnificent support. The Rev. Thompson, as a member of the World Peace Council, wished everybody a Merry Christmas and peace in the world.

Owing to pressure on space the Letterbox has been held over until next week. Sorry! — Editor.

Mass Protest At Langa

CAPE TOWN. A mass prayer meeting for the people's leaders arrested on treason charges, held in Langa on Sunday afternoon, was attended by about 5,000 people.

In a resolution adopted the people pledged to stand behind their leaders.

Another resolution protested against the proposed beer hall at Langa.

Nineteen churches and 25 organisations were represented at the meeting.

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