

AFRICANIST MOVEMENT LAUNCHED ON RAND

SONGS AND PRAYERS AND CRIES OF 'AFRICA'

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

UNDER THE BANNER "Africa for the Africans—from Cape to Cairo—from Morocco to Madagascar", the extremist "Africanist" rebels of the African National Congress launched themselves as an independent group in Johannesburg yesterday. About 250 Natives, among them delegates from the Cape and Natal, met in Orlando for a three-day inaugural conference. Telegrams of good wishes were received from the president of the republic of Guinea and from Dr Nkrumah of Ghana—who referred to "non-violence and a constitutional struggle".

Songs, prayers and cries of "Afrika" marked the official inauguration of the Africanist movement, which stands for no co-operation with Europeans or other races in the fight for equality.

Other banners around the hall read "towards a United States of Africa", "Imperialists, Quit Africa" and "Free Banda, Kaunda, Kenyatta".

Special branch men were stationed outside the hall.

The Rev. W. Dimba said in an opening prayer "Jesus Christ and his mother came to Africa to be saved here. We saved him from those hooligans in Europe who wanted to kill him."

The gathering was asked to rise in honour of "The martyrs killed in Nyasaland and the Belgian Congo."

Cheers greeted the arrival on the platform of Mr Josias Madzunya, who is among those expected to lead the new organisation.

PAINTED SLOGANS

The delegates sat amidst large painted slogans like "Free Banda, Kuanda, Kenyatta," and "Forward to the United States of Africa."

Mr Robert Sobukwe, a lecturer in Bantu languages at the Witwatersrand University, said that both Russia and America were trying to win the friendship of the African States.

"Some Africans are flirting with the Soviet camp and others with the American camp," he said.

"In some cases the courtship has reached the stage where the two parties are going out together and they probably hold hands in the dark.

"But nowhere can the parties kiss in public without blushing." This came at a time when a new Africa was being born, said Mr Sobukwe.

After an attack on the Union for "fascist tyranny", he said that the Africanist movement would support neither the Western nor the Eastern blocs.

"Africans reject totalitarianism in any form or shape," he said. "We shali take the best from the East and the best from the West, and retain our distinctive African personality," said Mr Sobukwe.

On South Africa, he said: "True democracy in South Africa can be established only when the African oppressed majority has come into its own . . . when White supremacy has been destroyed and liquidated . . . the freedom of the Africans means the freedom of everybody." — Sapa.

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