SOUTH AFRICAN
CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS
THE FACTS
Few organisations have incurred the wrath of the Nationlists as have the Congress of Democrats. But few organisations have made such an important contribution to South African political life in such a short time.

WHAT SORT OF AN ORGANISATION IS THE CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS?

WHAT IS THE COD?

An organisation pledged to uphold democratic ideals and to extend them to all fields of South African life, so that all people, black and white, can live as human beings in their homeland.

The cornerstones of COD policy are:

- The Freedom Charter — a detailed application of the UNO Declaration to South Africa, drawn up in 1956.

Both are enshrined in its constitution.

WHEN WAS IT FOUNDED?

During the 1952 Defiance Campaign, African and Indian leaders repeatedly urged Europeans to break through the iron curtain of silent approval of Nationalist race policies. A European organisation, they said, which rejected white supremacy would prove that not all whites were solidly organised for the oppression of non-whites — and so counter the growing anti-white feeling among the country's 9,000,000 non-whites.

Since then, the COD has —

- joined in a multi-racial alliance — with the African National Congress, S.A. Indian Congress, S.A. Coloured Peoples Organisation and the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions;
- co-operated with them as an equal partner in campaigns against apartheid and race discrimination;
- been the only real link between white and non-white democrats — and a living proof that all races can work together for the common good.

WHY WAS IT FOUNDED?

To provide a home for all Europeans — regardless of political affiliation — who believe in a multi-racial South African democracy based on equal rights and opportunities.

The COD is not, however a political party. It does not compete with any of the existing political parties — or ask voters to entrust the future of the country to it. But its members are free — and encouraged — to participate actively in the political party of their choice.

WHO CAN JOIN IT?

All people who oppose the present S.A. policies of race and colour discrimination are welcome to COD, regardless of the beliefs they hold or the parties they belong to.

The COD likes its members to take an active part in all its public campaigns — but does not make this a condition of membership.

"Impartiality is either a delusion of the simple minded, a banner for the opportunist, or a boast of the dishonest." — Prof. Salvemini.

The issues on which the COD crosses swords with the Nationalists are matters of life and death for all who live in South Africa.

The building of real bridges of trust between the white and non-white peoples and the preparation for a multi-racial democracy based on equal rights and opportunities — are vital insurance for the future of all who call this country 'home'.

At a time when the wildest fanatics of apartheid are driving us towards fearful racial strife, there can be no room for impartiality.

EACH OF US MUST MAKE OUR STAND, AND WE MUST DO IT NOW. TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
The Congress of Democrats

publishes statements of its policy from time to time.

The following publications are available:

**AFRICAN POLL TAX**
A critique of the new tax laws for Africans which come into effect in 1959.

**CHIEF LUTHULI SPEAKS**
A public address by the President General of the A.N.C.

**THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY**
A pamphlet explaining how democracy can be won in South Africa.

**THE FREEDOM CHARTER**

**COUNTER ATTACK**
A monthly bulletin giving news and views of C.O.D. and its branches.

**FIGHTING TALK**
An independent monthly journal for democrats is also obtainable from our office.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT C.O.D.
FILL IN THE FORM BELOW

To S.A.C.O.D.,
P.O. Box 4088,
Johannesburg.

Please send me copies of...........................................................................................................

Name & Address ............................................................................................................................

Issued by: S.A.C.O.D., 8 Somerset House, 110 Fox Street, Johannesburg.