NON-WHITES STATE THEIR CASE TO DAG

Forceful Demonstrations in Main Centres

As we go to press, the big issue in South Africa is: "Will Dag Hammarskjold meet the real leaders of the non-white people to learn at first hand what is happening in the union?"

The African leaders' conference steering committee met urgently last week-end to discuss the Hammarskjold visit. It was reported that cables had been sent to Dag while he was still in the Congo, and representations had been made to Union Government. External Affairs officials urging that Dag meet the African leaders, but no reply had yet been received.

An External Affairs Department official had said: "Mr. Hammarskjold is not a prisoner" and that the African leaders would have a chance to meet him.

By the time of going to press however, no appointment had yet been fixed, and all attempts to see Dag had been side-stepped.

Is Dag deliberately avoiding the people's leaders? Is he being prevented from seeing them by the government? Or will arrangements be made?

(Northern Edition Thursday, January 12, 1961)

First Eye-witness Reports From Pondoland

Hundreds Detained After Midnight Round-ups

DURBAN.

The first eye-witness accounts of police and army raids on the people of Pondoland since the imposition of a state of emergency in this area have now come to hand.

One of the hundreds who were detained and later released gave the following graphic account of how the raids are being conducted in Bizana.

A large contingent of armed police and soldiers swept off an area, usually soon after midnight. Each hut is raided by two armed men who take away everything that remotely resembles a weapon. In some cases even axes are confiscated.

"The kraal head is then taken to the police station," the witness said. "You are then questioned for many hours, and if you are suspected of anything, you are taken to Bizana police station for questioning in Bizana where you are detained in an area fenced off with barbed wire. The detainees are questioned in two offices by members of the Special Branch.

"Some of the questions that are put to the detainees are:

"Do you know the Kongo (Hill Committee)?"

"Who is your chief?"

"Do you know anyone who was involved in the killing of Chief Stanford or any other chief?"

"If you were in Pondoland during the disturbances, you are detained in huge tents which have been provided. Later you are taken away in a troop carrier to some unknown destination.

TAKEN AWAY

"Those who are set free are often re-arrested by a different raiding party.

"Stating that the people are being taxed heavily, the New Age informant alleged that in the past those who failed to pay their taxes were issued with summons and that the messenger's fee was £2.6d.

"Now a person is arrested summarily and he is forced to pay his tax plus a messenger's fee of £1," he said.

BIZANA BOYCOTT

On the boycott of Bizana, he said that the town was still being boycotted by the people. Stories circulating that business in the area had increased were due not to the people supporting the town but to the large concentration of police and members of the armed forces.

A letter received from Lusikisi said: (Continued on page 6)
Where Does Liberal Party Stand?

I am glad you told the truth about Mr. Duncan. It’s about time. When will we ever learn what is what has the Liberal Party got to do with Duncan? Do they agree with his policies?

In the Congo, where the whole African continent supports Lumumba, Duncan backs Mobutu and the Apartheid White Party policy?

In the United Nations elections last year, Duncan backed the reactionary National Party against the Baftoo Congress. This is to say that today he is even more the enemy of the African Communist. Is that also Liberal policy?

Last September in Contact Duncan could openly support a republic aimed at driving to defeat Verwoerd in the referendum. This time he went too far and was repudiated by his chairman, Mr. Peter Brown, and other prominent Liberals.

But today no one knows what position the Liberal Party stands. Contact is all the time attacking the African National Congress, the whole Congress movement, specially C.O.D., said Now. Surely this is not Liberal policy, because leading Liberal papers have an open war with Congress speakers in many centres.

It is good to compare Duncan can have two. Both positions they can have to save their country from the menace of Communism. Duncan is an organiser and as the only representative of the UN which has been making a hash of things in South Africa. But McCarthy brought in the U.N. and the directors of U.N. policy see the treachery of the U.S. and the treacherous intrigues of the imperialists, it stands. But, in practice the opposition and guardian of weaker nations always tries to entrench these plans. Col. Nasser had nationalized the Suez Canal and this threatened the interests of the Middle East. U.N.O. was the only ally where the Yanks could get to strike at this incident and they did. U.N. troops were brought into Nasser’s country. Britain and France’s troops were disarmament. Thus the incident happened to the Israeli Army, which in first is to execute the delegated authority of the Middle East. Now, in the Congo we can see the same thing is repeated of the U.N. and the western pseudo-democrats. The U.N. has been a paper which brings the whole Congolese is evidence.

The U.N.O. in its Charter of the United Nations has been exposed to support the enemies of the U.S. It is in fact to do the work of the U.S. and a stooge of Yank-British capitalism and a representative of the UN which has been making a hash of things in the Congo. As we have already pointed out (New Age Dec. 8, 1960), it is under UN auspices that the legal, elected government of the Congo has been deposed, a military dictatorship has been established to look after the interests of the imperialists, and the rightful premier Lumumba has been most shamefully imprisoned and humiliated.

The UN is a tool of the imperialists, it must make it clear to Dag that they are as much interested in the freedom of their brothers in Africa as they are in their own freedom: in fact, the two are indivisible. The UN cannot be a weapon in the hands of the imperialists. It must stay true to its charter and represent the will of the majority of the peoples of the world.

So we call upon Dag to urge the UN to:

• Act now to end apartheid in South Africa!
• Free Lumumba and re-establish the power of the lawfully elected government of the Congo!
• End South African military in South West Africa and place the territory under UN trusteeship as a first step towards the establishment of complete independence!

These are the demands of the South African people. These demands Dag must convey to UN!
"VANDAG IS NIE DIE DAG VIR SLAAN NIE''

(Continued from page 1)

still be made for a meeting to take place?
The events of this week will provide the answer.
Meanwhile, although the Nats have been trying hard to block Congress demonstrations from the view of the UN general secretary, the cry from the Non-White people “Meet our Leaders” has clearly got across.

CONGRESS MEMO

Within an hour of his arrival, the UN secretary-general had managed to in him in a garland of flowers the Congress memorandum that urged him to inform the Security Council of UNO “That the majority of the South African people are looking to that body for substantial assistance in their struggles for true democracy in South Africa.”

Posters, placards, slogans, shouts from demonstrators and the memorandum from the South African Indian Congress, the Congress of Trade Unions, the S.A. Coloured People’s Congress and the Congress of Democrats all put the Congress viewpoint over strongly.

The Hammarskjöld visit will be a farce, say the Congress, if he does not:

- go to Pondoland to see so-called “self-government” at work when he could have gained a far greater insight into the situation which he brought in the police, army and navy to enforce government rule;
- meet Chief Lutuli and the African leaders who have no access to the African summit talks, so as to get a balanced picture of African opinion;
- recognise that South Africa is a violation of an international agreement and that South African tension and potential violence are thus a threat to world peace.

PRETORIA DEMONSTRATIONS

The police had a ticklish job on their hands from the moment Mr. Hammarskjöld arrived at Waterkloof. His touchdown on South African soil was switched from Jan Smuts airport to Waterkloof at the eleventh hour in order to kill the people’s demonstrations, but the Congresses outwitted the authorities.

Forty minutes after Dag’s arrival he walked right into a large, well-organised and lively demonstration outside his hotel.

One moment the hotel seemed to have been turned into a large crowd of curious sightseers, but the next, as soon as the official car drew near, the sightseers became transformed into Congress alliance and Liberal Party supporters from Johannesburg, Pretoria and Benoni waving a sea of slogans.

The police were dumbfounded as folded banners and placards were produced from under jackets and skirts and out of pockets.

This was exactly what the Nats had tried to prevent but the police were powerless to act in full view of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

POLICE DILEMMA

A police officer summed up the official dilemma neatly, if ominously.

“To a constable excitedly fiddling his baton this officer was heard to say: “Nee, vandag is nie die dag vir slaan nie.” (No, today is not the day to hit).”

The placards raised to meet Hammarskjöld were:

1. “WELCOME TO OUR POLICE STATE” — “ACT ON UNO RESOLUTIONS NOW OR PASS” — “DAG VON PONT DO IT” — “DAG MEET OUR LEADERS” — “DAG MEET LUTULI” — “DAG MEET NAKKER.”

Mr. H and his party arrived for the crowded towards the hotel entrance, chanting and gesticulating. But when it was realised that Dag was sweeping right into his hotel without as much as waving a hand of greeting towards the crowd, the chanting suddenly switched to a spontaneous burst of booing. This lasted for about a minute, for the next minute the crowd lined up on the hotel lawn to sing “Indoci Island” and other national freedom songs.

LETTER REFUSED

Dr. A. B. Kazì, treasurer of the Transvaal Indian Congress, tried to present a letter from the Congress to Dag as he walked into the hotel. One police officer shook his hand and refused to take the letter and an official walking behind him and he undertook to convey the feelings of the delegation to Mr. Hammarskjöld.

This policeman seemed to have a foreboding that all was not as peaceful as it looked during the Pretoria demonstrations.

CAPE TOWN

CONGRESS LEADERS THREATENED WITH ARREST

CAPE TOWN.

CONGRESS LEADERS WHO TRIED TO SEE MR. HAMMARSJOELD IN CAPE TOWN WERE THREATENED WITH ARREST BY SPECIAL BRANCH.

A delegation of four who went to the Mount Nelson Hotel to seek an interview with Dag were told they would be arrested if they set foot in the building. The delegation consisted of Mr. George Peake, Mr. Johnson Ngwevela and Mr. Brian Bunting.

Mr. Bunting was told he would be prosecuted for trespass if he went into the hotel. When he pointed out that it was the function of the management, not the Special Branch, to warn him to leave the hotel, the Special Branch man went to the foyer with him to ask for the manager.

The manager was nowhere to be found and Mr. Bunting sent up a message asking Mr. Hammarskjöld’s personal assistant to come down and see the delegation.

REFUSED ACCESS

The Non-White members of the delegation, however, were still refused access to the building. The Special Branch man said they would be arrested under the liquor laws if they came inside, as Non-Europeans were not allowed on licensed premises.

Eventually Mr. Hammarskjöld’s personal assistant, Mr. Wieschhoff, came down to see the delegation. Because of the Special Branch attitude, he had to interview the delegation on the steps outside the hotel entrance.

The delegation stressed that Mr. Hammarskjöld could not form an opinion about conditions in South Africa without meeting the true leaders of the people.

Mr. Wieschhoff replied that Mr. Hammarskjöld was limited by his mandate, which was to negotiate with the Union Government over the United Nations resolution. However, he said, the idea of a meeting with representatives of Non-White leaders appealed to him personally, and he undertook to convey the feelings of the delegation to Mr. Hammarskjöld.

DID NOT INSIST

On the understanding that the possibility existed that Mr. Hammarskjöld would meet a delegation from the Joint Consultative Committee of the Congresses in Pretoria, the delegation did not insist on seeing Mr. Hammarskjöld during the short while he was in Cape Town.

They urged again, however, that Mr. Hammarskjöld should not think of leaving the country without hearing the views of Congress leaders on the racial question.

WARM RECEPTION

Earlier Mr. Hammarskjöld had been given a warm reception by demonstrators outside Marks Building in Parliament Street, where he addressed the Coloured Advisory Council.

The majority of demonstrators, representing the Congress movement, carried placards reading: “We don’t want apartheid,” “Dag, don’t talk to Government stooges,” “Dag, Coloureds did not elect UCCA,” “Dag, Find Truth About Pondoland.”

Two posters which evoked special comment from the spectators were: “Dag, Free from America,” “End Union oppression in SWA.”

Posters carried by a pathetic gaggle of counter-demonstrators read: “Be a pro-CAD and proud of it,” “We are happy Dag,” “One Bou in Nasiwe,” “We co-operate with the authorities.”

The Special Branch had taken extraordinary security precautions. Hordes of plain-clothes men mingled with the crowd outside Marks Building, and police vehicles crowded with armed men in uniforms patrolled up and down the street at intervals.

“GO TO PONDOLAND”

When Dag arrived at the entrance to Marks Building, he was met by Dr. I. D. du Plessis, Secretary for Coloured Affairs. Mr. George Peake moved forward to give Dag a letter from the Coloured People’s Congress asking for an interview, but Special Branch men seized him from behind and pinned his arms behind his back.

As Dag went into the building, the demonstrators shouted: “Go to Pondoland, go to Pondoland.” He spent about half an hour with the Coloured Advisory Council, and was then whisked back to his hotel.

New Age is informed that most Council members who spoke read from prepared notes to a quietly listening but possibly bored Mr. Hammarskjöld.

One Council member, however, Mr. C. L. R. Fortein of Kokstad, made some stinging attacks on Government policy during his speech, and Mr. Hammarskjöld was observed to be taking notes.

When the Council members themselves left the building a few minutes later, they were greeted with concentrated hooting from the crowd, who shouted “stooig,” “aila,” “you stink.” The Council members slunk away self-consciously, the slogans of the demonstrators ringing in their ears.

Kgosana and 4 Others Flee SA

CAPE TOWN.

When the Cape Town incitement case arising from the disturbances of last March was resumed in the Regional Court here on Monday, it was reported that Philip Kgosana and four other accused were missing and it is believed they have fled the country.

Warrants were issued for their arrest and the case was adjourned to January 23.

The four missing in addition to Kgosana were Lawrence Mgwaba, Alfred Manpe, Wilson Monatai and Bum Shibo.