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CITY OF DURBAN.

Mayor's parlour,
City Hall, Durban.
6th Feb., 1948.

The General Secretary,
Natal Indian Congress,
P.O.Box 2299,
DURBAN.

Dear Sir,

His Worship the Mayor has asked me to acknowledge your letter dated 4th February, 1948, in which you ask that a meeting between members of the Durban City Council and representatives of the Natal Indian Congress should be held at the earliest possible moment to discuss the granting of the Municipal franchise to Indians on the basis of the common roll.

His Worship has asked me to point out that there can be no question of discussing the granting of the franchise on the common roll to Indians in respect of local authorities, while the policy of the country as laid down in the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act provides for any representation to be on a basis other than the common roll.

Insofar as Durban is concerned, the question of the extension of the Municipal franchise to Indians and the appointment of Indian Councillors was the subject of a Public Referendum as recently as 28th February, 1947, when the proposals then made were rejected. His Worship has no reason to believe that a similar Referendum held today would produce any different results.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. A.N. Barker,

MAYORAL SECRETARY: