

ANNEXURE TO SECRETARIAL REPORT
COPY.

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"M"

28th December, 1945.

The Town Clerk,
City Hall,
DURBAN.

YOUR REF: AAW/EI

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter dated the 24th instant re: Round Table Conference with Congress to discuss the City Council's Post War Plans as conveyed in your letter of the 11th July, 1945.

We regret not having communicated with you earlier in this matter as it would appear that immediately after the elections we ought to have done so. Your letter of the 11th July, 1945 and our letter of the 25th July, 1945 to which you refer are not in our files. We shall be grateful if you would be so kind as to let us have copies of both.

In connection with the Round Table Conference there are a few points which require clarification. The City Council adopted the report of the Special Committee on Post War development on the 27th September, 1943. This report contains far-reaching proposals for the future development of the City, many of which vitally affect Durban's Indian population. We are not aware that at that time any attempt was made to consult us in this matter. We would like to know whether the City Council desires the views of Congress if this will involve re-discussion of the Post War Plan with possible major alterations therein, or, whether the object of this Round Table Conference is simply to obtain Congress's acquiescence in the decisions and plans to which the City Council is already committed. The answer to this question is fundamental.

Our Congress would be fully prepared to enter into discussions with the City Council providing that it is not already bound to any decisions of the City Council.

In the opinion of Congress a Round Table Conference which may traverse only a very restricted and narrow field, wherein the basic pattern of discussions has already been fixed by the decisions of one of the two parties to this Round Table Conference, is a situation that is impossible.

We would therefore ask for clarification of these points in order to be able to decide on the acceptance of your invitation and the appointment of our representatives.

Yours faithfully,

sgd. M. D. Naidoo.

for Jt. Hon. Secretaries.