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EX LIBRIS
D. BAGWANDEEN

1982-02-07

P. O. Box 4118,
Johannesburg.

15th September 1952.

I am increasingly concerned about the passive resistance campaign. All my information is that the great mass of the non-European people are behind it. At the same time, the whole European population would appear not merely to be against it, but to have no sympathy with the legitimate grievances which lie behind it.

It is your duty to your people that your Branch should participate in this Conference which we hope will take historic decisions to be submitted at the National Conference, and to liberate South Africa from the chains of injustice and oppression.

if we are to judge from the many
YOUR DUTY: line

FORWARD TO FREEDOM!

Yours fraternally,

D.W. Bopape. Provincial Secretary:

I feel that the publication of the enclosed statement might serve a useful purpose. It is designed to focus attention on our responsibility, as Europeans, for good government in this country and upon the necessity to associate the non-Europeans with the making of policies under which they are to live.

I would very much appreciate it if you would support me by signing this public statement along with me. May I ask you to be good enough to send me your reply so that it will reach me not later than 25th September.

Yours sincerely,

(Margaret Ballinger)

PASSIVE RESISTANCE AGAINST UNJUST LAWS.EX LIBRIS
D. BAGWANDEEN

1982-02-07

A Statement.

We have watched with dismay the situation that has developed from the growth of the non-European movement of passive resistance against unjust laws.

This movement clearly is no sudden impulse. It bears all the signs of careful thought and planning, over many months, by men who are acknowledged leaders among Africans and Indians, and who have organised it with a full appreciation of all it implies.

The movement has met with a very remarkable response from the mass of the people and from those to whom it appeals for voluntary personal support, substantial courage and sacrifice.

In these circumstances, it is clear that we South Africans face a double challenge. It is a challenge to those who hold the reins of government; and it is, not less, a challenge to all who participate in the exercise of political power, i. e. the whole white community. The challenge comes primarily from those who are excluded by reason of their race or colour from any real form of citizenship.

Considering the movement in this light, we are sure that no good can come from merely condemning it and denouncing its leaders. We Europeans must frame an answer and adopt an approach to the movement that holds within it constructive possibilities.

Otherwise we foresee a progressive worsening of race relations and an even deeper bitterness than is already visible in our country in the relations between its peoples.

We believe that it is imperative that South Africa should now adopt a policy that will attract the support of educated, pol-

revival/

of the liberal tradition which prevailed for so many years with such successful results in the Cape Colony. That tradition, an integral part of South African history, was based on a firm principle, namely, equal rights for all civilized men and women and equal opportunities for all men and women to become civilized. In our opinion only the acceptance of that fundamental principle can provide South African government with the moral basis it now lacks.

We believe that the wise and steady application of this principle will gradually remedy the worst grievances and disabilities which non-Europeans now suffer, since their deepest feelings are stirred by the fact that our laws are not based, as they should be, on tests of civilization, but on race and colour.

On their side we ask the African and Indian leaders to recognise that it will take time and patience substantially to improve the present position. We ask them to accept the principle we have indicated as a long-term aim, and we do so in the hope that it will make negotiations possible and their success probable.

As an immediate short-term programme of reform, we urge all who sincerely desire racial peace and harmony in our country to concentrate on demanding the repeal of the most mischievous measures on the statute book. These are measures such as the Group Areas Act, the pass laws and the Suppression of Communism Act in its present form - measures which offend the human sense of justice as well as the canons of good government.

Finally, we appeal to all concerned to express themselves with restraint at this disturbing time and to refrain from doing or saying anything that might aggravate the present unhappy situation.

We invite all South Africans who are in active sympathy with

to send their names and addresses to us at P. O. Box