

**Editorial Note:**

*The Guardian*, although never an official Communist Party organ, was in fact banned by the Government under the Suppression of Communism Act in 1952, to be replaced a week later by *The Clarion* and subsequently *The People's World*, *Advance*, *New Age* and *Spark* until the line was finally extinguished at the end of March 1963 – a run of almost 13 years from the time the Suppression Act was passed in June 1950.

**DOCUMENT 96:**

**'End Apartheid in 1951', New Year message from Dr Yusuf Dadoo, President of the S A Indian Congress, published in *The Guardian*, January 11, 1951.**

Grave problems of life and death face us and the peoples of the world in the coming year. In the international field the imperialist warmongers headed by the United States are engaged in feverish activities to mobilise war materials and manpower to drown the world in the blood and destruction of war.

But the people of the world say otherwise. They want peace, they want freedom and independence, they declare that subjection of every form, of one country by another, of one nation by another, of one race by another, leads to human conflict and disaster, and must be wiped out.

There is no reason why the peoples of the Socialist countries should not live side by side and in peace and harmony with the peoples of the Capitalist countries. There is no reason why atomic energy, the greatest invention of mankind, should not be used for the betterment of humanity unprecedented in written history, instead of being used as a most satanic weapon of destruction as hoped for by the warmongers of the world.

It is, therefore, the sacred duty of the peoples of all countries to fight for peace, for the outlawing of the atom bomb, for the elimination of racialism and for the recognition to every country of the right to self-determination.

**APARTHEID**

In order to fulfil this grave and sacred duty it is necessary for every South African to oppose every aspect of the policy of apartheid pursued by the Nationalist Party Government of Dr Malan. During the last two years this government has enacted many pieces of legislation repugnant to democratic ways of life. During the next session of Parliament which opens this month, the Coloured people, and indeed all the peoples of South Africa, face the gravest threat to their liberties.

The Malan-Havenga pact which threatens the Coloured franchise, is not merely a threat to the franchise rights of the Coloured people who have the right to vote, but it is also a most sinister attack on democracy as such.

The 48,000 Coloured voters in the Cape may lose the right of the common franchise, but it also paves the way for a fascist state in South Africa.

### **END OF DEMOCRACY**

To allow the Cape Coloured franchise to go would not only mean an end to the era of liberalism in the Cape; it would mean an end to democracy as we know it in South Africa. It would mean not only one Witzieshoek, but hundreds of Witzieshoeks, where the legitimate demands of the African people for land and living space would be drowned in blood.

It would mean more and more forcible expulsion of the urban Africans to work as serfs and slaves on the farms of the Afrikaner herrenvolk. It would not only mean the greater oppression of the Non-White peoples, but the slow but sure whittling away of the rights of vast sections of the European population. The rise in the cost of living not only affects the Non-European people, but the vast majority of the Europeans.

### **OUR TASKS**

And so our tasks for the coming year are clear.

1. In common with hundreds of millions of people throughout the world we must fight for peace, for the outlawing of the atomic bomb and all bacteriological methods of warfare, for the ending of all war propaganda, for the meeting of the big powers for a peaceful settlement of all disputes.

2. The elimination of racialism and the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination in South Africa.

3. The abolition of the pass laws, police raids in locations, the granting of land for those who need it, the repeal of the Group Areas Act, the National Population Registration Act, the Citizenship Act, the Suppression of Communism Act, the Immorality and Mixed Marriages Acts.

4. An end to apartheid tyranny, which includes discrimination of languages, citizenship rights and the establishment of a broederbond republic.

### **A CONVENTION**

To end apartheid tryanny in 1951 it is fundamentally necessary that a clarion call should go out from the African National Congress, representing vast sections of the South African population, for the calling of a National Convention in the immediate future; to bring together at a central conference representatives of all sections of the South African population both white and non-white, in order to resolve on a programme which would oppose apartheid in every form, and work for the recognition of the human dignity and the basic human rights of all social groups of people in consonance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights.

This is a question which merits the attention and consideration of all South Africans, and on this, in spite of the efforts of political parties and national movements, will depend the future of South Africa.

1951 must see an end to apartheid tyranny. We fight for peace, democracy, and an end to exploitation of man by man on earth.

### **Editorial Note:**

*During 1951 the liquidator appointed by the Minister of Justice C R Swart to wind up the affairs of the Communist Party in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act sent letters to former members of the Party (as well as to many non-members who he alleged had been members) inviting them to make representations why their names should not be placed on a list of former members of the Party being compiled by him. Once their names appeared on the list, they would be liable to a number of disabilities and restrictions at the discretion of the Minister, as provided for in the Act.*

### **DOCUMENT 97:**

#### **Letter from Sam Kahn MP, Fred Carneson, MPC, Dr Y M Dadoo and others to the Minister of Justice, September 1951.**

The Hon Minister of Justice

Sir,

We have received letters from the Liquidator appointed by you inviting us to make representations to him why our names should not be placed on a list of members and supporters of the now dissolved Communist Party in terms of Act 44 of 1950.

We decline to make such representations.

The nature of the amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act leave no doubt that the original appointment of a liquidator was invalid. The Government by making the Act retrospective has now legalised what was formerly illegal, and pushed South Africa a long way towards a fascist dictatorship.

The Suppression of Communism Act was forced through Parliament by the Nationalist Party, despite the protest of every important political, religious, professional and trade union body in the country. It was rightly condemned as a gross violation of every principle of civil liberties and citizenship rights.

It deprives the most outspoken opponents of your Government of their freedom of speech and organisation, and of any legal remedy against persecution by the State.

Your Government, incapable of solving the fundamental social and economic problems of South Africa, has passed this legislation in order to preserve a narrow, backward and primitive social system, based on race and class oppression.

You are attempting to silence first us, but ultimately all critics of your regime. We are now to be blacklisted because we resisted your oppressive policies, and amongst other things demanded equality of opportunity, equal political rights