

E A R N E S T A P P E A L .

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NON-EUROPEAN UNITY MOVEMENT.

To the LEADERS of the NON-EUROPEAN PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA:

Gentlemen,

You will recollect that in March, 1949, I issued an appeal to you to give serious thought to the politico-social situation in its relation to the Non-European Communities of this fair land of ours.

~~Since then much water has flowed under the political~~ bridge of the country. To implement the Policy of Apartheid a series of legislative measures has been introduced into the Union Parliament, one of the most important of which is the Group Areas Act of 1950. The present session of Parliament is being called upon by the Prime Minister, with the support of the Deputy Prime Minister, to consider a further instalment in this series, namely, the Representation of Non-Europeans Bill, or, more correctly, the Coloured Peoples' Disfranchisement Bill. The passing of this measure will complete the effectual effacement of the entire Non-European element of the Population from the political set-up of the country.

The White people of a neighbouring territory, an erstwhile enemy territory, have recently been admitted into the Legislative Councils of the Union of South Africa, while the Children of South Africa, the Non-White sons and daughters of the soil, are treated as "undesirable foreigners", "unwanted uitlanders", or aliens in their vaterland, and disqualified from all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in the land, for the territorial integrity of which the blood of their kith and kin has been shed from time to time. Think also of the cynical treatment meted out to members of the Native Representative Council at their meeting in Pretoria in December last! Think of the shameful handling of the Indian Case by the present and previous Government of the Union at U.N.O., at Lake Success (or Lake Unsuccess), the Bluff shown the Golding Deputation by the Deputy Prime Minister at Pretoria recently.

In the face of this series of rebuffs, can we still continue to fight as separate units or as rival parties against the mighty forces of a solid white public opinion? Can we still conscientiously refuse to merge our several Political Organisations into ONE CO-ORDINATING BODY, the existing Non-European Unity Movement, to which are affiliated the A.P.O., the Teachers' League of South Africa, the All-African Convention, the C.A.T.A.. and the Anti-C.A.D. Movement? Shall we still continue to dissipate our talents, our energies, our resources in fruitless endeavours at sporadic political stunts, now and then?

Gentlemen, it is high time that all Non-European political, industrial, religious and educational organisations should come together, and, without dissolving the existing bodies, form ONE CO-ORDINATING BODY which could more effectively speak for and in the name of ALL NON-WHITE RACES of the land, who are at present excluded from all rights of citizenship in the country, work and act together as one mighty army in the fight for all those rights that are the heritage of all members of the human race.

Attempts have been made on several occasions to bring about a UNITED FRONT of all Non-Whites, but there is one such endeavour which appears to stand the test of time, and that is the present Non-European Unity Movement. I respectfully call upon you all, in the best interests of coming generations of Non-White people of the country, to attend the NATIONAL CONFERENCE of this body which will be held in the WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL, CAPE TOWN, on Monday and Tuesday, the 2nd and 3rd April next. Here we hope to give an answer to the challenge that has been thrown out by the Herrenvolk of the country to keep down the Non-White so as to secure on a permanent basis the "Baaskap" of the White man in this land.

Signed: Z. R. Mahabane, (Rev.)
President, Non-European Unity
Movement.

Dated: 24th February, 1951.

Address:

"Boichoko Parsonage",
Kroonstad, O.F.S.