TOWARDS A NATIONAL CONVENTION -"IMMEDIATE TASKS"
by D. Bruere - 13.01.61

My task is to define our tasks. I begin by defining my own tasks. I suggest that this Conference can do to achieve a National Convention, and to set forward certain specific tasks.

Our tasks in general is; it is to hold a Sovereign National Convention which will draft a new democratic constitution for our country, which will enshrine a Bill of Rights protecting the rights of every individual.

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Implicit in the holding of a National Convention:

(a) We must ensure that the Convention is truly National
(b) We must ensure that we maintain such political integrity that we are nationally regarded as fit bearers of this heavy and historic responsibility.
(c) To create or give expression to the demand for a Convention on a National scale.

What our tasks are not:

(a) It is not our task to draft the constitution at this stage.
(b) Nor is it specifically our task to create the conditions which will make a National Convention possible.
(c) We must not preclude other bodies including those backing or represented at this conference, from taking forms of action which will make a National Convention possible (I do not exclude the possibility that the demand for a Convention will itself become of the most powerful forces creating the necessary conditions. Nor do I exclude the need for those participating in this conference to play their part in their organisations to create these conditions.)

A programme of specific activities must be drawn up by this conference:

1. A Committee must be elected to carry out this programme.
2. A campaign be launched asking people to pledge support for a National Convention.
3. All organisations be asked to assist in this campaign.
4. The daily, weekly and fortnightly papers to be asked to carry the pledge for their readers to sign.
5. A list be published and circulated of those persons and bodies who have indicated support to date.
6. The committee to call on the people to dedicate themselves to the service of justice in our country and the holding of a National Convention. (this pledge to be renewed if necessary).
7. The co-operation of all religious denominations to be sought.

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8. A date to be set for a more widely representative conference (suggested date is 10th December (human rights day) on 16th December Day of Concern).

9. Conference to call for Regional Consultation as a necessary preliminary for a National Conference/Convention.

10. The Regional Consultations to work out details of representation and agenda for the National Convention.

11. A target date to be set for the submission of the finding of the regional consultative (suggested date is 6th April)

12. A specific date to be set for the National Convention (suggested date is 31st May 1962, if it is not possible) A conference may be held instead and the date of the National Convention simply postponed.

13. Conference must work prospectives for the movement for a National Convention:

(a) It must assume opposition to the demand
(b) It must ensure that the demand persists. In this way it will be assisted by the following:

(i) It is essentially simple demand
(ii) It enjoys immense support
(iii) It is a reasonable demand
(iv) It is an idea, and therefore impervious to ban.

13th October, 1961.

BY D. BRUTUS.