Boston, September 14, 1952

1. First visited this city nearly twenty years ago. I was the guest of an American
missionary who was living here in retirement
after 25 years of distinguished service on
the mission field in South Africa. During that
visit my host took me round Britain's
enemies and showed me all the places
connected with the American struggle for
independence in the 18th century. Today
I have come here to tell you a little about
another struggle for independence and
freedom from domination which is going
on at this very moment in Africa.

2. The struggle I am going to speak about
is going not confined to one part of Africa
All over the continent of Africa the indigenous
people are awakening and are beginning to
demand for the freedom and the independence I
demand. In the freedom and the independence I
demand for the freedom and the independence I
which they have been deprived for so long.
In North Africa the struggle for independence
in Tunisia and in Egypt, is being fought in
demand for self-government
in West Africa the cry for self-government
can no longer be suppressed.
What can we do to help in this situation?
In this connection I should like to pay a tribute to the African ministers for the part many of them played in this Campaign. The Campaign was launched on April 6 which was observed as a Day of Prayer and Dedication. African ministers co-operated by making available their churches for these services. Others took a prominent part in the activities of the day by delivering addresses in which they emphasised the dependence of man upon the will of God for success in any undertaking and appealed for discipline, self-control and freedom from bitterness and hatred. In my opinion the dignity and self-restraint which has marked the campaign so far and which has earned the volunteers the respect of even those who disagree with them is in no small measure due to the spiritual basis which the Campaign has had from its inception. It is to be hoped that this attitude will be maintained and for this the prayers of all are asked. Your prayers are asked for peace with justice and honour that those who wield power in the land may be led to realise the futility of the negative
use of force to suppress the urge to freedom from oppression, and to embark upon a constructive revision of their policy to bring it into line with modern conceptions regarding fundamental human rights. There are more things brought by prayer than this world dreams on."

It goes without saying that this campaign has brought suffering and hardship to many a home. Efforts are being made to raise funds to help the dependents of those who have been arrested. In South Africa itself a Shilling Stamps Fund has been inaugurated by the African National Congress to enable even persons of limited means to contribute to the Fund. Contributions to the Fund have come from freedom-loving peoples beyond the borders of the Union. Steps are being taken to appoint a Treasurer in this country to receive donations for transmission to the proper quarters. In the meantime as the accredited representative of the African National Congress I shall gratefully receive any contributions which any may care to make.
It has been reported that various Nations will discuss as the leader, intend to bring up the racial situation in South Africa for discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations. Although this organization has not got a particularly high reputation for effective action, there can be no doubt that it will be good for the spotlight of publicity to a situation which may develop into a threat to international peace and security. The argument will of course be brought up ad nauseam that this is a matter of domestic jurisdiction. No government least of all one in which the majority of the inhabitants of the country are defenseless and defenceless ought to be permitted by the world community to practice racial discrimination, to deprive large numbers of people of their fundamental human rights by taking refuge in sterile legalistic interpretations of the United Nations Charter. As the letter of the law going to be allowed to destroy the confidence of millions of non-white
peoples not only in Africa but throughout the world in international morality? The leaders of the Nations of the world, especially the Great Powers such as the United States and Great Britain would do well to ponder over this question for upon the answer which they give may well depend the future peace of mankind. I am aware that the Union Government will probably threaten to leave the United Nations rather than permit what she regards as outside interference in her internal affairs, but the remedy lies within her own hands. It is only to the extent that a country genuinely grapples with her own internal problems by progressively widening the freedoms of her peoples rather than deliberately circumscribing them that it can rightfully claim freedom from so-called outside interference. The world in which we are living has become One World in fact as well as in theory. The peace of the world depends upon our learning the lesson of the Oneness of Man in spirit and in truth.