

Fort Hare,
Alice. C.P.
29th July 1952.

My dear Papa,

We are all very happy to get so much news from papa. So the Robesons are still around. I saw copies of a newsletter on South Africa which they are issuing on the campaign. I suppose they must be in contact with headquarters in Jo'burg. The school routine has taken a grip on everybody here and I have to read, read and read to cover up lost ground. The fact that I do not have to go to class gives me a lot of time for real swotting. I recently got a huge account from the university. Apparently I have to pay two guineas for each subject for which I received exemption. Fortunately my back pay of fifteen pounds came in time to avert a minor crisis.

The past week saw the release of the first volunteers including Sisulu who in an interview said jail was a good experience. I suppose we can look forward to hundreds of press statements now that Sisulu has been released. The campaign has now got into real stride particularly in the Cape. I cannot help thinking of the promise papa made at the December conference -- that we in the Cape will be the best when it comes to carrying out of the programme. The total number of people in jail in the Cape is now roughly 1300 of whom 870 are volunteers in East London jails. Furthermore in the Cape owing to the unprecedented support received from the people there is plenty of money. The Freedom stamp money is not being touched at all. That will be for a rainy day. Also the opportunity is being taken to strengthen the Congress membership by enrolling people by the thousand each week. Early in August the little towns will swing into action in the Cape. The only place which is somewhat of a headache is Kimberley. There is no leadership there at all. Br. Letele is keen, but he is not a politician and has'nt got the push required of a leader in a campaign of this kind. Otherwise the Cape is capable by itself of creating a dangerous situation in the country for the Nats. Politically this is not, of course satisfactory. A union-wide balance is required and therefore a meeting of the National heads is scheduled to take place soon. The chaps in the Transvaal were somewhat paralysed by the nature of the charge that had originally been preferred against the volunteers. The government however withdrew the charge of conspiracy and charged them under pass regulations. About Natal I have no information except the Congress meeting which was banned last week. This meeting was to be addressed by Yengwa at Nqutu and already eight thousand tribesmen were gathered to hear the Natal leaders. The Magistrate arrived with twenty five mounted police and banned the meeting. Yengwa and Co. had to be content with a meeting of leaders in the area. One thing is clear about Natal; organisationally they are far in advance of the Transvaal but their trouble is still this Indian question. You see the Indians are perturbed over the fact that throughout this campaign the Congress is not leaning on them at all. Our organisation is entirely independent and if anything we are giving orders to them. Therefore there is noticeable a tendency on their part to be cold towards the campaign. No doubt this feeling will be strengthened by the meeting between the director of the State Information Service Dr. Otto Du Plessis, and the leaders of the Indian organisation-- Kajee and Co. The government is making definite attempts to woo the Indians. I hope for their own sakes that they do fall into the Nat trap. In any case we in Congress must carry on the fight to obtain the repeal of the laws which worry us. The backing out of the Indians will make no difference because the hands of Congress will be clean politically and we do not lean on the Indian organisation. But it will be suicide for them. As regards the Whites they are in a pretty mess. The cry of unite with the Non-Europeans is now being voiced openly. The Institute of Race Relations came out with its strongest statement ever this week. It came out with a policy of full political, social and economic rights for the Africans. To the question "Do you want your ~~sister~~ daughter to marry a kafir" they have posed another question "Does my sister want to marry a blackman?". Sam Kahn who was found not guilty in the case in which he was charged with disobeying the order of the minister, has called on the English in S.A. to look for allies among the Africans to save them from the Nats. The campaign is also being used I think to divert the attention of the Europeans from the constitutional crisis. I think that is the reason why the Afrikaner press is giving it such publicity. To rally the whites seems to be their line. I forgot to tell papa the exciting news of the batch of thirty-three women who were led by Mrs. Njongwe to jail.

So the wife of the president is in. Aunt Rene is so wild , she wants to be next. I understand Dr. Ntshona is also in at East London. Its going to become a fashion now to d efy unjust laws. An eight-pointed star with the Congress colours in the centre is the coveted decoration . This is being made in metal. They will be really nice I have seen the first copies.

The poor Torch Commando has been absolutely silent since ~~the~~ their conference . The Nats are emphasising the story that the Commando is planning a Coup. We hope not. I much rather prefer the Nats to a military dictatorship that is openly so. Well papa that is all for the present. It seems as if the post going to America plays a lot of tricks. From your side the post is very regular and gets here at expected times. The A.A.C. are advocating now a union between the m and the Congress, under another name. The Impudence of the chaps! They are so thoroughly exposed and now want to come with the powerful A.N.C. Unity of the African people can only be achieved under the banner of African Nationalism as expounded by the A.N.C. Those who feel that way must just join the Congress. No backdoor business will be allowed. Cheerio papa. Hope to see you soon.

Your loving Son,

Babuel.
