

CIRCULAR NO. 41.

ESTELLA HOUSE,
47a, Main Road,
CLAREMONT, Cape.

TO ALL REGIONS.

29th March, 1960.

The C.E. feels that there is an urgent necessity for every Region that can possibly do so, to arrange a public meeting within the shortest possible space of time, preferably before the new legislation banning all meetings is on the Statute Book, but if this is not possible, please try to get permission to hold such a meeting, to tell people the facts about the Pass Laws.

With only two days in which to arrange it, Cape Western had such a meeting, which was well-attended in spite of the near panic which exists among many people in Cape Town. The points discussed at the meeting were :-

DO YOU KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT PASSES?

- (a) What are they?
(This was dealt with by Dr. Simons, Associate Professor of Comparative African Law and Government at the Cape Town University)
- (b) Why do they cause hardships to Africans?
(Dealt with by Mrs. Stott)
- (c) Can South Africa do without Pass Laws?
(Dealt with by Adv. Donald Molteno)

COME AND HEAR THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

It is the belief of the C.E. that recent events have made people more receptive to the idea that some reform of Pass Laws is necessary and we should seize this opportunity of informing the public exactly why these changes are necessary and how they can be effected.

The C.E. also suggests that if you can arrange such meetings, you should give out to members of the audience copies of the S.Tvl. pamphlet on "What are Passes? Will you please wire your orders for these pamphlets to S.Tvl. immediately as reprinting of these pamphlets is being undertaken shortly and S.Tvl. wish to know the numbers required.

NATIONAL STATEMENT:

Will you please try to get the undermentioned statement in your local papers as soon as possible.

" Recent events have shown the urgent need for a fundamental change in our approach to the racial problems in South Africa. This necessary approach can be summed up in one word - consultation. Resentment and bitterness, which have been accumulating for years and which have now erupted, cannot be removed by force or by other oppressive measures. Banning of the accepted African organisations can only have the effect of causing further resentment. Reasoned discussion to ascertain the underlying causes of unrest and to seek methods by which these may be alleviated is urgently necessary. The only climate in which such a solution can be found is one of ^{mutual} trust and understanding.

At a moment such as this, it behoves every citizen to think clearly and to act wisely but clear thinking and wise action are possible only when people are fully informed of each others' points of view. We therefore appeal to members of all parties in Parliament to take immediate steps to set up for this purpose a round-table conference of white leaders and representatives chosen by the non-white people.

(Sgd.) M.C. PETERSEN.
NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN.