

A P P E N D I X A

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ALBERT JOHN LUTHULI (1898-1967).

1) Biographical Details.

Albert John Luthuli was born in 1898 at the Seventh Day Adventist Mission near Bulawayo in Rhodesia.

He moved to the Groutville district of Natal in 1908 where his uncle Martin Luthuli was chief.

He was educated at a Methodist Mission in Edenvale near Pietermaritzburg from which he graduated as a teacher in 1917. In 1920 he was awarded a bursary to study at Adams College, an educational institution run by the American Board Mission. In 1922 he refused a bursary to the Fort Hare University College in order to earn a salary so as to help his mother. Instead, he took up a teaching post at Adams College.

In 1928 he was appointed Secretary of the Natal Teachers Association. His President was Mr. Z. K. Matthews, later Acting Principal of Fort Hare University College and at that time Principal of Adams College. In later years Dr. Matthews was to be a fellow leader of the African National Congress.

Luthuli was a keen sports fan and became the first secretary of the South African Football Association, a non racial body. At this time, he married Nokukhanya Bhengu.

In 1936 he became chief of the Umvoti tribe and moved back to the Groutville area.

In 1938 he made his first trip overseas to attend the International Missionary Conference in Madras.

7 years later he joined the African National Congress and in 1946 was appointed a member of the Native Representative Council - a body set up by the government after the removal from the common roll of Africans.

In 1948 he made a speaking tour of the United States and in 1951 became President of the African National Congress in Natal. A year later he was elected President General of the ANC. In the same year he was served with his first banning order. The banning order was operative for 2 years. After his order expired, he made a speaking trip throughout the country at the end of which he was again banned for 2 years. When pressured to resign from the ANC, Chief Luthuli refused and in 1952 he was stripped of his chieftainship.

In 1956 he was charged with treason, but the charge was later withdrawn.

In 1959, he was served with a 5 year banning order and a year later the ANC of which he was still President was itself banned.

In 1961 he was awarded the Nobel Peace price and was allowed to travel to Norway to be awarded the Prize by King Olaf.

In 1962 he was elected Honorary President of the National Union, a post which he held till his death.

On the expiry of his 5 year banning order, he was served with a further 5 year order, even more stringent and on his tour of South Africa in 1966, Senator Robert Kennedy made a short visit to Chief Luthuli. He described him as one of the most impressive men he had ever met.

He died on July 21, 1967 after being struck by a train on the Umvoti River Bridge.

2) Tributes.

(a) The world

At the time of his death the World wrote "If ever there was a man about/^{whom} we should raise a monument it is Chief Albert Luthuli..... He remained a lover of his people, a man of unshakeable faith, a Christian, a servant of Africa and an African, gentleman and warrior.....A product of the beneficent influences of what is best in the heritage and cooperation of Black and White".

(b) Dr. Edgar Brookes, National Chairman of the Liberal Party:

"We have lost in him a Christian gentleman in the best sense of the word: He took part in politics from a sense of duty, not for his own enrichment".

(c) Archbishop Denis Hurley

"He suffered a great deal for the ideals he upheld but there was nothing bitter or resentful about him. The lesson of his life will last long after his death".

(d) Senator Robert Kennedy

"All those people of the world who value courage, decency and compassion have lost one of their noblest champions"....."I shall always remember my visit. For 5 years his own people had no direct word from their leader yet his patient and compassionate devotion to the future of his country became a model of courage and dedication for all of us."

(e) Mr. Jeremy Thorpe (Liberal Party in Great Britain).

"All Liberals felt shock and heavy loss at the death of Mr. Luthuli - the standard-bearer of freedom and of civilised values in these harsh circumstances of South Africa. His courageous example will be remembered by men of all races when apartheid gives way to partnership".

(f) Right Rev. Bishop Trevor Huddleston:

At a memorial service Bishop Huddleston said that Mr. Luthuli had demonstrated as few men of the present generation the costliness of achieving a true peace. He said that there were three great truths which found expression in the life and work of Mr. Luthuli. They were, firstly, a leadership based on integrity and loyalty to principle which alone would rally men to the course of freedom. Secondly, faith as a revolutionary force challenging Christians to live to the tenets of their religion. And thirdly, peace for all men....."A man of peace and one who believed passionately that inter-racial strife was an evil, destructive and totally wasteful force".

3) The Funeral

Chief Luthuli was buried at Groutville on Sunday July 30, 1967. The funeral was attended by a crowd of 4500 people of all races. The speakers who paid tribute at the funeral were Dr. Edgar Brookes, Chairman of the Liberal Party, Dr. Alan Paton, National President of the Liberal Party, Mr. L. Helland, the Norwegian Vice-Council, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, Mr. S. N. Mayet, Life Vice-President of the South African Indian Congress, Dr. Lavinia Scott of the American Board of Missions and Miss Margaret Marshall, President of NUSAS.

Countries represented at the funeral were Britain, Sweden, Denmark, United States, Italy, Norway. The service was conducted by the Right Rev. A. Zulu, Anglican Bishop of Zululand.

Paying tribute at the funeral Dr. Alan Paton said: "It was a tragedy that his great gifts could not be used and that a great voice could not be heard in the service of South Africa.

"We shall never reach what we desire if we have to silence men like this, because history cannot be silenced. I can tell you what history will say: it will say a great man was silenced".

".....I extend a message of sympathy to the Luthuli family, to the African people and all the people of South Africa. The sun rises and the sun sets and the sun rises again, 'Nkosi Sikelele Africa'".