



THE HON. J. G. STRIJDOM,
Prime Minister

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Minister of External Affairs



THE HON. C. R. SWART,
Minister of Justice



DR. THE HON. T. E. DONGES,
Minister of the Interior



**DR. THE HON. SENATOR
H. F. VERWOERD,**
Minister of Native Affairs

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THE HON. J. F. NAUDE,
Minister of Finance



THE HON. S. P. LE ROUX,
Minister of Agriculture



THE HON. B. S. SCHOEMAN,
Minister of Transport



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Science, and Health



THE HON. J. J. SERFONTEIN,
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs
and Social Welfare



**DR. THE HON. A. J. R.
VAN RHYN,**
Minister of Economic Affairs
and Mines

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

—GENEVA, JULY, 1957

MRS. J. POWER, who attended this Conference as an observer for the Black Sash, has written the following informal, but nonetheless inspiring report on her experiences.

WHEN I flew out of London airport early one morning in July to attend a conference of the International Alliance of Women as an observer for the Black Sash, I was a little apprehensive of what lay before me. I would have been glad of the comforting presence of a fellow Black Sasher at my side. I was not to know that I would return four days later the unworthy hero of the occasion, having provided, so I was told, by the story of the Black Sash, the "highlight" and the "inspiration" of the conference!

But let me tell you the story of how it all happened. After a perfect, smooth flight 21,500 feet above clouds and weather, we arrived in Geneva at 3.30 a.m., but after customs formalities and other unavoidable delays, it was 4.30 and already getting light when I arrived at my hotel. I had not been to bed before leaving, so, although I was longing to get

out and see Geneva, I went to bed and tried to sleep—but with little success. By nine o'clock I was up and out and exploring Geneva on foot. I found it a beautiful city and so reminiscent of home.

The conference was due to start at 2 p.m. I had been asked to lunch with Mrs. Margaret Mathieson, a member of the executive council of the International Alliance of Women, whom I had previously met in London, in order to meet some of the other delegates before the start of the conference.

Principal Speaker at Reception

When I arrived for the lunch, I was told it had been decided at a board meeting that morning that I should be the principal speaker at a reception to be given that evening in honour of the delegates by the Association Suisse pour le Suffrage Féminin. As you know, the Swiss are the only women in Europe still without a vote. It was hoped that the story of the Black Sash might spur them on and encourage them to fight more determinedly for their rights. I was, of course, prepared to speak at the conference, but only to the delegates, not to a big reception, and