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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

OF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

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15 January 1985

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONAL SECRETARIES

Dear Comrade

re: RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIONS

On October 19, 1984 the Acting General Secretary wrote a letter to all the Unions expressing the concern and desire of the UDF to strengthen its relationship with the Unions. He pointed out that the working unity established during the Anti-Constitution Campaign needed to be cemented. He advised unions that the UDF Regional offices would contact them.

Subsequent to this letter he sent out a circular to all regions of the Front informing them about the letter forwarded to unions and accordingly requested that Regions pursue more determinedly the objective of strengthening unity with unions.

When we setup the UDF we emphasized the need for worker participation, especially the organized working class. Yet very little has been achieved in this regard. We must not relent in our pursuit of this objective. If we must mean anything to the organized working class our programmes must be characterised by its active participation.

A little reflection on what happened during the May Day activities in 1984 show conclusively a great lack of union co-operation. Of all the UDF Regions only the Western Cape managed to attract a significant crowd of 3 500 people for their May Day meeting. But here too the lack of worker participation was glaring.

The Head Office thinks that with another May Day 4 months ahead of us, we stand a better chance of creating conditions for greater co-operation with unions. The common threat to unions and the UDF expressed in recent detentions, the statements by government officials attacking both the UDF and the unions, joint participation in the Transvaal stay-away, common campaign to boycott the Simba Chips products, the Grand Bazaar's strike which the Front supported are factors indicating the existing basis for co-operation.

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Presidents: Oscar Mpetha, Albertina Sialu, Archie Gumede
Eastern Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi
Border President: Steve Tshwete

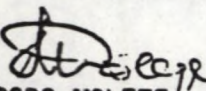
National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin
National Publicity Secretary: Mosisoa "Terror" Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe

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I actually think that we must seize this opportunity and use it to our advantage. I suggest that you move on this matter. Please appoint a person to take responsibility and forward the name to the H/O. The appointment of a person to concentrate on relationship with unions ensuring that meetings with unions take place is very essential.

Please treat this as a matter of urgency.

Yours in the struggle,


POPO MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY

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