

AG15

PLANNING OF THE RELEASE
MANDELA CAMPAIGN

New AC 15.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines the nature of the Release Mandela Campaign and its modus operandi. (i.e) the way it is going to be carried out) It is not an absolute or definitive document but only sets out guidelines for the campaign and is subject to improvements by deliberations from time to time at relevant national gatherings of the RMC.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The RMC is essentially a political effort. It is incisive in its call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the ending of bannings, banishments, detentions and all allied repressive legislation and, finally the return of all exiles - all culminating in a national convention for the end of apartheid, economic exploitation and all vestiges of injustice, for the creation of a true non-racial, democratic society. However the RMC is not to be construed as a permanent political organization, but a committee specifically established to facilitate and popularize the aims and objects of the RMC which are as follows:

- (i) to campaign actively for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other S.A. political prisoners and detainees.
- (ii) to campaign actively
 - (a) for the unbanning of the oppressed and the exploited people liberation movements and the return of all political exiles.
 - (b) the unbanning and unbanishment of people's leaders.
- (iii) to campaign actively for the abolishment of all banning and banishment orders and all allied expressive legislations.
- (iv) to encourage the widest possible participation of the masses and organizations in the RMC at home and abroad
- (v) to promote the Freedom Charter as the viable democratic basis for an alternative SA society as envisaged by Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and exiles
- (iv) to actively oppose all reformist legislation and other measures that fall short of accomodating the above-

3. PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The purpose of the RMC must be to generate active mass involvement in this campaign for the unconditionally release of all legitimate and authentic leaders of the people of South Africa.

The RMC programme of action shall be to work towards

- (i) encouraging consultation amongst ourselves and other organisations
- (ii) agreeing on uniform tactics and strategies.
- (iii) laying down a basis for cooperation and coordination.
- (iv) fundraising activities, designing all RMC symbols, insignia and T-Shirts.
- (v) giving the RMC a national character
- (vi) launching the campaign nationally
- (vii) projects that would identify the RMC with community needs.

4. STRUCTURE

The RMC is not an innovation. Attempts have been made in the past to call for the release of our leaders. However, from our analysis, the campaign fizzled out due to lack of coordination and concrete structures that would sustain it. In order to be able to direct and sustain the campaign, a formal and concrete structure should be instituted. Regional structures may be established in any region where there exist 3 or more RMC branches that would be able to co-ordinate with one another and contain the campaign.

These regional committees will in consultation with the Co-ordinating Committee carry the responsibility of implementing the RMC programme of action through the establishment of the following sub-committees:

- (a) Publicity
 - (b) Contact (Co-ordinating)
 - (c) Education
 - (d) Finance
 - (e) Media Distribution
 - (f) Legal Consultation
- (See structure diagram hereto attached) B

The National Co-ordinating Committee and regional committees shall consult with and encourage other organisations to participate in the campaign. The Co-ordination Committee and Regional Committees shall as far as possible facilitate the maximum participation of the masses and organisation in accordance with non-racial democratic principles and on the basis of guidelines which will be drawn by the said structures in the course of the campaign.

6. BUDGET

Putting up structures and ensuring the general smooth running of the campaign inevitably involves financial commitment of serious proportions. It is proposed here that the RMC Budget accommodate the following basic points

- Transport
- National Co-ordinating office
- Seminars
- Publications (e.g. RMC Newsletter)
- Employment of full-time functionaries.

7. ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Because, as it has already been reiterated that the RMC is essentially an overt political effort, there is a possibility that, in the course of taking up or responding to certain issues directly or indirectly falling within the scope of its operation, there may be incidents of duplication and lack of co-ordination between the RMC and other organisations. In this light, it needs to be emphasised that the nature of the relationship of the RMC with such organisations should be designed as elaborate, uncomplicated and democratic as far as possible and should guard against duplicating already existing structures such as the UDF.

8. PROFILE & FRAMEWORK OF OPERATION

Whilst the RMC will be flexible in terms of the way it conducts the campaign, there is a need to draw a framework within which the RMC will operate and to determine its profile in accordance with the aims and objects of the overall campaign.

In keeping with the aim of promoting the Freedom Charter as set out in the 5th of the above proposed aims and objectives, the F.C. itself will inevitably become the theme and framework within which the RMC will operate. This involves:

- (a) Popularizing the Freedom Charter
- (b) Creating a deeper understanding of the F.C. by the masses
- (c) Contextualizing and linking it throughout the campaign to the day-to-day issues, struggles and activities of the masses and their progressive organisations through those clauses that correspond to the relevant issues, struggle and activities.

This does not suggest that the RMC will deprive organisations of important issues or struggles, but on the contrary it means that the RMC will facilitate the issues and strengthen the struggles by reinforcing their demands either with those of the F.C. or in any other way depending on the nature of the RMC's relationship with the involved organisation. In the light of this, it will become imperative on the part of the RMC to:

- a. be in constant contact with all organisations agreeable to the campaign
- b. be constantly conscious of issues and struggles taking place at a particular point in time
- c. keep a calendar of dates which are relevant to the campaign around which programmes or activities can be organized (e.g. Freedom Day or Day of the Rivonia Trial)

This paper was adopted at the National Consultative Meeting of the RMC held at the Wits University on the 6th - 7th April 1984.

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DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

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