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SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DURBAN ON 10TH. AUGUST 1974.
MINUTES.

INTRODUCTION The Chairman welcomed the delegates. In his opening remarks he stated that he felt that the South African Congress of Democrats had been successful in making people aware of its existence and for what it stands. He felt that we had not yet been able to mobilise many Europeans, but was confident that we would be successful in doing so in the course of the Congress of the People campaign. He had high expectations of future achievements by the organisation.

MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT It was reported that in general the state of branches and membership had remained fairly static, but that branches ~~in~~ particularly in Johannesburg were very active and that the membership had done a magnificent job of work in the Western Areas Campaign. The need for more intensive recruiting and the setting up of new branches in Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg and Grahamstown was stressed.

OTHER REGIONS Reports from the other regions indicated great ~~xxxx~~ improvement in their relations with other organisations.

PROPAGANDA 10,000 copies of "Where the Devil Drives" had been printed, and to date 6,000 had been distributed. Other pamphlet being prepared - "Threatened People brought up to date, Group Areas Act, Bantu Education Act, Amendment to I.C. Act and Native Settlements of Disputes Act. Speakers notes on Race and Intelligence and Amendment to the Suppression of Communism Act had been done. Counter Attack had come out fairly regularly. Numerous Press Statements had been released, many of which had been given some publicity. An appeal was made for other regions to contribute to Counter Attack, and to increase sales and subscriptions for Fighting Talk. COD Handout to be expedited. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS ADOPTED.

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE A report on S.A.C.O.D. activity re the Congress of the People was given. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Progress in the campaign was reported from all regions. Provincial conferences were under way in the three other centres, and a most successful provincial conference had been held in the Transvaal. Activity by C.O.D. members throughout the country on this issue was most encouraging.

THIS REPORT WAS ADOPTED AND ALL ACTION WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE N.E.C. IN CONNECTION WITH THE C.O.P. WAS CONFIRMED. RECOMMENDATION to the N.E.C. that they consider the general details for C.O.D. work amongst Europeans.

NATIVE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS A report to the background of the N.E.C. decision re the Native Representative Elections was given. AGREED THAT THE REGIONS BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO CONTEST THE FORTHCOMING NATIVE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS. An amendment by Mr. Beyleveld that the N.E.C. should nominate an official C.O.D. candidate in Cape Western was defeated.

FINANCE STATEMENT AND REPORT The finance statement and balance sheet were tabled. Branches and membership were paying more attention to the question of subscriptions and fund raising functions, but members were urged to increase their efforts in the vital task of raising money for the organisation. THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGREED THAT THIS BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE N.E.C. TO DECIDE ON THE ACTUAL DATE AND VENUE. Further AGREED THAT REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE BE ON THE BASIS OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EVERY 10 MEMBERS OR PART THEREOF.

RESOLUTIONS FROM BRANCHES. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED:

1. YOUNG BRANCH

a. BANTU EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY APARTHEID

This National Council meeting of the S.A.C.O.D. condemns completely the policy of discriminatory education for South Africans, as being contrary to the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It therefore calls upon all regional committees of the S.A.C.O.D. to work in the fullest co-operation with all other organisations against the implementation of university apartheid, the Bantu Education Act and Christian National Education.

2. Bellevue Branch

a. MEMBERSHIP

That the theoretical level of the membership be improved especially with respect to their ability to explain C.O.D. policy and influence and enrol new members. A series of lectures and speakers should be arranged for branch meetings

3. Youth Branch

b. BANNINGS

The National Council of the S.A.C.O.D. records its strongest protest against the arbitrary banning of elected leaders of the peoples' liberatory organisations, as attacks upon the freedom of the individual, upon freedom of movement and the right to organise. Let the Government be assured that the people's struggle for democratic rights will not be halted by these bannings, but that on the contrary, our determination to continue our work in the great cause of freedom and equality has only been strengthened by these actions.

AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION FROM THE YOUTH BRANCH GO FORWARD AS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE N.E.C. FOR CONSIDERATION

STUDENT DEMANDS

- a. The admission to primary, secondary and higher educational institutions of all youth who are capable and desirous of benefitting from education regardless of national groups, colour, sex, social origin or economic status.
- b. The granting of bursaries to needy students and the allocation of a greater portion of state funds to education.
- c. Independence of non-segregated universities from Government control over when and what is taught.
- d. Withdrawal of the attempt to introduce the teaching of apartheid doctrines into primary and secondary schools by means of the Bantu Education Act.

JOINING YOUTH

- a. The right to learn skilled trades and to sell their labour on the best market.
- b. The right to leisure and culture.
- c. The right to form mixed unions and to struggle for better conditions.

RURAL YOUTH

- a. The right to own and work on land in any part of the country.
- b. The abolition of colour bar land laws.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.
HELD ON 13th. February 1954 IN JOHANNESBURG.

RESOLUTIONS.

POLITICAL.

1. NATIONAL CONVENTION.

This National Council Meeting welcomes the decision of the African National Congress Queenstown Conference to convene a National Convention of representatives of all South Africans. It pledges the fullest support of Congress in this venture, and calls on all branches and regional committees to use every effort to bring the convention into being, and to ensure the widest possible representation of all sections of the population at the convention. This National Council Meeting regards this matter as being of extreme urgency.

2. ELECTIONS.

While believing that the Non-European people should have the right to elect their own representatives in all legislative bodies on an equal basis, this National Council Meeting resolves that it is in the interests of the democratic cause that all constituencies in the forthcoming elections of "Native Representatives" should be contested by candidates pledged to a programme of unconditional full and equal democratic rights for all, and supporting the Congress movement to this end, and who can be relied upon to expose the conditions, direct and indirect which lead to the enslavement of Africans.

The meeting therefore instructs the National Executive Committee

- (a) to seek suitable candidates from amongst the members of the S.A.C.O.D. to stand in every possible constituency;
- (b) to set up immediately a special election fund for this purpose;
- (c) to attempt to secure the support and endorsement of leading A.N.C. members for all such candidates;
- (d) to initiate a campaign of propaganda amongst the African people to inform them of the policy and stand of the S.A.C.O.D., and to prepare them for support of C.O.D. candidates.

3. AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION.

Council vigorously protests against the amendments proposed by the Minister of Justice to the Suppression of Communism Act and Riotous Assemblies Act and calls on the N.E.C. and all branches to campaign for the withdrawal of these measures.

4. LABOUR (SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES) ACT.

Council condemns the Native labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, on the grounds that the principles of dictated working conditions and the denial of the right to strike are repugnant to all democrats. Council therefore demands the withdrawal of the Act and the granting of full Trade Union rights to all. Council further instructs the N.E.C. to fight for the repeal of this Act and to support the campaign of the A.N.C. in their demand for £1-0-0 per day minimum wages.

5. INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT.

Council is of the opinion that the proposed amendment to the I.C. Act is calculated to weaken the Trade Union movement and

is designed to undermine the unity of European and Non-European workers by making it impossible for multi-racial trade unions to function. Council calls upon the N.E.C. to work for the convening of a national conference against this measure.

6. BANNINGS.

That this meeting strongly protests against the Government's policy of banning prominent leaders and workers in the people's front and urges that strong representations be made to have these banning orders removed.

7. S.A. TROOPS FOR KENYA.

Council demands that the proposal to use S.A. troops against the people of Kenya be firmly rejected. Council also takes the opportunity on calling on the people of Britain to unite in protest against the brutal methods of oppression and victimisation of murder and torture at present being practised in Kenya.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS.

8. (a) That this Council considers it the duty of the N.E.C. to protest against every infringement on the rights of associations or persons and the living standards of the people committed by the Nationalist Government, since such infringements only intensify the drive towards dictatorship and calculated to weaken the forces potentially or actually opposing reaction.
- (b) It further criticises the N.E.C.'s failure to register protests on such matters as the banning of literature, the anti-democratic features of the budget, political interference with the civil service, the re-instatement of war traitors, the maltreatment of Non-Europeans in prison, and interference in education, and instructs the N.E.C. to campaign on those of the above issues which are to-day topical.

PRISON CONDITIONS.

9. This meeting demands, in view of the recent allegations of maltreatment of prisoners in the jails of S.Africa the immediate appointment of a multiracial Judicial Commission to enquire into the conditions in these jails and the formulation of a penal system in line with modern penal reform practices including special preferential treatment for political prisoners.

EDUCATION.

10. (a) This meeting strongly condemns the Bantu Education Act which turns education into an instrument of National oppression and is designed to perpetuate ignorance and prejudice. We pledge ourselves to conduct a campaign for the repeal of this Act.
- (b) This meeting demands that education be made available to all sections of the peoples of S.Africa on a non-racial and equal basis. It opposes any attempt to extend apartheid in the universities and pledges itself to oppose any such move.
- (c) That this Council instructs regions and branches to assist in the formation of broad committees to combat the Bantu Education Act, the government proposal to institute "apartheid" at the universities, Christian National Education and other aspects of discrimination in education.

PEACE.

11. That the N.E.C. encourage members of the S.A.C.O.D. to assist the Peace Movement by joining local peace committees.

ORGANISATION.

12. (a) Members of the N.E.C. should take more interest in and give more support to the branches to which they belong.
- (b) That the N.E.C. be asked to examine the possibility of organising democratically minded youth.

PROPAGANDA.

13. VERNACULAR NEWSPAPER.

This organisation in collaboration with the A.N.C. should explore the possibilities of establishing an independent African newspaper in the vernaculars and serving the democratic cause.

14. "FIGHTING TALK" AND "ADVANCE".

Recognising the important role which "Fighting Talk" and "Advance" has played and will play in the democratic movement the National Council calls on all regions and branches;

- (a) to obtain subscriptions from all members and sympathisers and to assist in their distribution;
- (b) to initiate discussion on "Fighting Talk" and "Advance" with a view to the improvement of their content;
- (c) to stimulate members to contribute articles etc.

15. PRESS DIGEST SERVICE.

That the National Propaganda Committee be instructed to investigate the possibility of organising a Press Digest Service for local and overseas information.

FINANCE.

16. That all monies raised on behalf of the organisation, whether derived from subscriptions or donations or in any other manner shall be handled as follows:-
- (a) In the case of branches falling under the jurisdiction of regional committees, all such monies shall be remitted by the branches to the regional committee, who shall remit one third of such money to the N.E.C.
- (b) In the case of branches not falling under the jurisdiction of regional committees, one half of such monies shall be remitted to the N.E.C.
- (c) In the case of branches falling under the jurisdiction of the regional committee in the area of the national office all such monies shall be remitted by the branches to the regional committee which shall remit three quarters of such money to the N.E.C.

All monies retained by regional or branch committees in accordance with the above rules, shall be accounted for to the N.E.C. from time to time as the N.E.C. may require.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

FIRST NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13TH. FEBRUARY.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. That in order to keep the names of South Africa's foremost democrats before us, and in order to be familiar with the valiant stand they have made in the democratic cause, the Parliamentary speeches of Sam Kahn and Brian Bunting and other democrats be published in pamphlet form or in "Fighting Talk".
2. Members of the S.A.C.O.D. should win supporters and influence people to join the organisation by:-
 - a) making branch meetings attractive through more interesting and varied programmes;
 - b) intensive sales of the pamphlet "Threatened People";
 - c) personal contact;
 - d) consider ways and means of propagating its programme amongst European workers in their Trade Unions and residential areas;
 - e) compile a mailing list of potential supporters in their area;
 - f) organise cultural and entertainment activities such as film shows, musical evenings, table tennis, parties, discussion clubs, braaivleis parties, chess evenings, etc., to establish and maintain a wider contact with residents in their area.
3. The National Council to initiate a national campaign to popularise the programme of the S.A. Congress of Democrats.
4. The organisation should be more active in
 - a) holding discussion groups;
 - b) distributing and selling democratic literature;
 - c) maintaining closer liaison with the trade unions.
5. Congress should organise house meetings and public meetings where possible with a view to bringing their programme to the people of South Africa.
6. The N.E.C. should organise a more effective distribution of literature, such as the "Threatened People", and "Counter Attack" should be published regularly.
7. N.E.C. to frame a policy resolution.
8. N.E.C. to draft resolution and to issue press statement on the Amendment to the Suppression of Communism and Riotous Assembly Act.

RESOLUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
of the 13th and 14th February, 1954.

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Political.
Resolution 1.

This National Council meeting welcomes the decision of the African National Congress Queenstown Conference to convene a "national convention" of representatives of all South Africans. It pledges the fullest support of the Congress in this venture, and calls on all branches and regional committees to use every effort to bring the convention into being, and to ensure the widest possible representation of all sections of the population at the convention.

Resolution 2.

This National Council meeting resolves that it is in the interests of the democratic cause that all constituencies in the forthcoming elections of "native representatives" should be contested by candidates pledged to a programme of unconditional full and equal democratic rights for all, and supporting the Congress movement to this end.

The meeting therefore instructs the National Executive Committee

- a) to seek suitable candidates from amongst the members of S.A.C.O.D. to stand in every possible constituency,
- b) to set up immediately a special election fund for this purpose
- c) to attempt to secure the support and endorsement of leading A.N.C. members for all such candidates,
- d) to initiate a campaign of propaganda amongst the African people to inform them of the policy and stand of the S.A.C.O.D, and to prepare them for support of C.O.D. candidates.

Resolution 3. - Fighting Talk.

Recognising the important role which "Fighting Talk" has played and will play in the democratic movement the National Council calls on all regions and branches

- a) to obtain subscriptions from all members and sympathisers and to assist in its distribution
- b) to initiate discussion on "Fighting Talk" with a view to the improvement of its content.
- c) to stimulate members to contribute articles etc.

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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