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# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT



NATIONAL OFFICE

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!

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## MINUTES OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN JOHANNESBURG ON 10 & 11 NOVEMBER 1984

PRESENT: A Sisulu; F Chikane; M Chikane, I Mohammed; M Moosa;  
C Saloojee; Z Yacoob; C Ndlovu; Y Mohammed; J (Jabu);  
K Gordham; C Carolous; A Boraine; J de Vries; M...  
(Miranda); S Tshwete; A Hendricks; T Manuel; S(Sabelo)  
J Khasu; B Hermanus.

APOLOGIES: A series of apologies tendered for all except E. Cape  
delegation.

- AGENDA:
1. Correspondence
  2. Discussion on prevailing situation
  3. Introduction to assessment
  4. Input & discussion on political aspects of UDF
  5. Input & discussion on organisational aspects of UDF
  6. " " " " administrative " " "
  7. Broad strategic direction
  8. National General Council
  9. International Youth Year
  10. General

### 1. Correspondence (received)

1.1 UDF Co-ordinating Committee Northern Transvaal re: request  
for financial assistance.

~~1.2~~ Zakhe - information re: their funding application

~~1.3~~ Anti-P.C Committee - request for funding

~~1.4~~ ~~1.5~~ London Women's Organisation - disaffiliation from Border  
Region.

1.5 Basuto National Party - congratulations and thanking UDF for concerns expressed in previous letter.

1.6 Transvaal Region enquiries re: Anderson's visit.

Items 1.1 to 1.3 referred to discussion on finances under 'admin'  
Item 1.4 - N.E.C informed that there appears to be a connection between E.L.W.O and the E.L.Y.C which had previously disaffiliated

Item 1.5 - Head Office requested to reply

Item 1.6 - Referred to discussion on political aspects of UDF

## 2. Discussion on prevailing situation.

Transvaal delegates gave an account of the situation. The report included UDF participation in the Stay-away, the schools boycott, the relationship with trade unions; FOSATU's call for a Black Christmas; the Vaal; Soweto increases; forced resignation of community councillors; pattern of detentions.

Head Office gave an account of the raid under Section 54 of I.S.A and the kind of material removed. Also, the acting General Secretary reported on the interest shown by RDM & SAPA in UDF finances.

The events surrounding the Durban Consulate were explained. The motivation for the move, the processes of consultation, the difficulties in consultation and the impact of the move were explained. In addition the queries raised by Transvaal regarding Anderson's visit were explained.

## 3. Introduction to assessment

To lead-in the assessment, a brief input was given on behalf of head office. This input raised the following points for consideration:-

~~rapidly~~ rapidly changing circumstances and UDF's inability to change sufficiently to accommodate these.

~~presence~~ presence of features which make for a truly national movement, UDF ~~is still~~ still have a largely regional character.

- \* Lack of understanding for front politics
- \* Inability to exact uniform discipline from units e.g MSC
- \* The need to politically extend on our objectives and in particular to focus attention on issues which affect the majority of our people.
- \* Unrealistic goal-setting which does not sufficiently take into account the objective material conditions.
- \* Unity is sometimes superceded by inter-regional competition.
- \* The need for absolute honesty about achievements.
- \* The nature of the front and its relation to state power often not sufficiently clear.

4. Input on political aspects of UDF  
(see attached input)

Out of discussion on the paper the following agreements were reached.

4.1 THE DECLARATION AND THE FREEDOM CHARTER

The two documents are not incompatible however, the Freedom Charter is a document of far greater stature. Organisations which have adopted the Freedom Charter should campaign for this document. It would be unwise for the front per se to adopt the Charter at this juncture. This does not however preclude this position from being later achieved.

A brief report was given on discussion of the assessment meeting of the Transvaal Stay-away Committee. There would not be another stay-away, instead the TSC would support the call for a Black Christmas. The N.E.C unanimously decided to support the Black Christmas call, to issue a press statement to the effect and urgently requested regions to discuss the practical implementation of the call.

4.2 Some discussion followed on working class leadership, militance and spontaneity. The agreements related to advancing both working class interests and leadership within the UDF and ensuring that in all regions we are sufficiently sensitive to all needs and views and that the front can continue to win over the maximum number of people and organisations.

#### 4.3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The major focus on was the Durban Consulate. Discussion and debate around whether the issue was advancing or clouding the anti-imperialism content of our struggle was fairly intense and, for all intents and purposes unresolved. Other elements of the Durban Consulate issue were also discussed. Eventually, the following points crystallised out of the discussion:-

1. Differences around the autonomy of regions to wage campaigns in the name of the UDF.
2. Differences in the understanding of our resolution on imperialism.
3. Different understandings of tactics, strategy and principles.

Further, it was strongly motivated that the consulate issue be rounded off and until such point, head office should be a point of communication to ensure that all regions are involved in decisions related to the consulate issue.

#### 5. INPUT AND DISCUSSION ON ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS OF UDF.

The attached input was presented. As much of the issues raised were self-explanatory and the suggestions were to be referred back, not much discussion ensued. The following points were raised:-

- 5.1 Insufficient attention is being paid to development of rural structures.
- 5.2 N.E.C members must attend N.E.C meetings fully armed with information on activities, feelings, etc at base level.
- 5.3 There had been no feedback whatsoever on amendments to Working Principles.

6. INPUT AND DISCUSSION ON ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF UDF

See attached input. Arising from the input, the following points were discussed:-

6.1 The accountability of Head Office

It was agreed that a Head Office Committee be established comprising of President Sisulu, Treasurer Saloojee, Acting General Secretary Manuel and Administrative Officer Maleka. This committee would have powers to take emergency decisions.

6.2 .E.C Minutes

These should be circularised and time allowed for comment.

6.3 Administrative Officer

Should convene all N.E.C meetings and attend these for purposes of recording.

6.4 Information Office & Officer

This should be addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure speedy implementation.

6.5 Statements on Policy matters

These would be issued by or in the name of the President.

\*\* Northern Cape requested to leave at 13H00. They gave an undertaking that their R\_G\_C would be set up by the end of January.

6.6 FINANCES

It was the understanding of National Treasurers that they would be expected to raise and administer funds for the National Office. However, they have gone beyond that to raise funds to assist the regions. However, an undue demand was placed on the National Treasury by regions. It was reported that to date, allocations had been made in close consultation with the National Secretariat. Also, allocations had been made ~~exclusively~~ to regions and not to affiliates.

The auditors appointed by head office were greatly concerned about the fact that regional grants are by large completely unaccounted for. An urgent appeal was made to regions to submit audited statements of account.

Regions requested income and expenditure statements from the national treasurer. It was agreed that these would be forwarded soon.

The National Treasury was remotivated. It was agreed that it would meet at the same time as the Secretariat. Its task would be to discuss financial accountability, agree on a single accounting method and arrive at a more scientific basis for future grants.

N Tvl's request for funding. This would be made available subject to discussions at the meeting of the National Treasury and funds being available.

Western Cape reported that the N.E.C had accepted their rural budget. However only 1/3 of this money had been granted. Also, all regions still owe the W Cape substantial amounts of money. The treasurer reported that funds were low and indicated that the matter would be rediscussed at the above-mentioned meeting. It was further agreed that all regions would pay the W Cape the outstanding amounts.

7. BROAD STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The future work of the UDF should take the following into account:-

- 7.1 Economic Contradictions
- 7.2 Continuing contradictions around the implementation of the constitution e.g local councils. Also the handling of strategic considerations e.g the upgraded powers of Allen Hendrickse etc.
- ~~7.3 Forced Removals~~
- ~~7.4 Greater national link-up~~
- ~~7.5 Greater advancement of the demands of the majority of our people.~~

7.6 National Conference of civics - agreed that it would be convened in Natal.

7.7 Militarisation

7.8 UDF offensive

#### 8. THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

The attached report on the I.Y.Y was tabled by a delegation from the I.Y.Y meeting.

The youth comrades were commended by the N.E.C., who promised to give maximum support to their work.

#### 9. NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL

It was agreed that the N.G.C be held in Johannesburg over the Easter weekend. Prior to this, preferably during March, all regions should hold the A.G.M's.

It was further agreed that the N.G.C take the form of an A.G.M with keynote address.

#### 10. GENERAL

##### 1. Women's organisation.

W Cape reported on their attempts to unify the two women's organisations viz. UWO & WFO. They also requested that the attached report be circularised to all regions.

##### 2. Million Signature Campaign

Regions were urged to discuss the MSC so that a decision on the future of the campaign be reached

##### 3. It was requested that regions investigate an extension of the BLA campaign to take into account the prevailing circumstances.

The question of appointments to head office was raised as a ~~problem~~ by Transvaal. The N.E.C re-affirmed its previous ~~decision~~.

The meeting terminated at 16h30 on ~~Monday~~ Sunday 11 November 1984.



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