

**AL140**





**UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT**

P O Box 10366  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

File "AL 140"

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT - OCTOBER 10 1984**

Minister Le Grange's ill-advised statements during the past week represent the pinnacle of a sustained and vicious propaganda campaign against the UDF and its affiliates.

It is clear to us that the Government intends to vilify the Front in the eyes of the people and to create a climate in which they will be able to take repressive action.

Mr le Grange has relied on veiled threats, innuendo, false conclusions and misinformation to achieve his sinister objectives.

His allegations of links between the UDF and ANC are totally without foundation and cannot be substantiated even on the basis of his own flimsy evidence.

We make no apologies for the fact that parts of our leadership have been members of the ANC. Even the Minister cannot deny that they have a proud history of struggle against this evil system and that they command the respect and support of the majority of our people. For this reasons these leaders have been democratically elected.

We cannot influence the content of the publications of ANC or the SACP, as we have no access to these publications, and therefore view the accusation of the UDF as an ANC front as mischievous.

However, the UDF understands that the ANC was forced to choose its present tactics as a direct result of the repressive measures taken against legitimate dissent.

The policies of the Botha regime are the incubator for the conflict and turmoil which are currently tearing our land apart. In our country today students refuse to accept unequal education which has been highlighted by massive stayaway campaigns.

The death and destruction prevalent in the Vaal Triangle are a direct result of the people's inability to pay high rents, and a reflection of the people's alienation from Government-created structures.



The Government's undemocratic constitution has been rejected, international isolation is unparalleled, the economic crisis looms large in the face of the falling rand. The Government has lost control.

South Africa faces a bleak future in the hands of the present Government.

To suggest that the UDF is responsible is an attempt to divert attention from its own bankruptcy and inability to govern.

The UDF is committed to struggle peacefully for a non-racial, democratic, unitary South Africa in the belief that this is the only means of achieving long-term justice, peace and security.

There are indications that the Government intends to declare the UDF an unlawful organisation. We place on record that this action will contribute nothing towards alleviating the present crisis and will in fact exacerbate it.

Any banning of the UDF will show the Government's determination to stifle all legitimate and peaceful opposition.

The UDF merely articulates the aspirations of the majority of the people and these aspirations cannot be wished away by a ban.

We are not afraid of the UDF being declared an unlawful organisation.

During the next-month the UDF will demonstrate that its support has grown despite the Minister's efforts. Numerous initiatives are being taken locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is impossible to provide any detail about these initiatives at this stage.

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