

1.3 Structures and decision-making:

1.3.1 Type of Structures:

- REC: A number of changes had been made on this level.
- It was unanimously felt that the REC should acquire a more functional, interventionist and dynamic leadership character.
- All nominal position should be given organisational functions and unnecessary roles eliminated.
- Different portfolios: 1 President - Co-ordinator of relations with patrons. 1 Vice - President - Co-ordinator of subcommittee and commissions. 1 General Secretary - to fulfill the role of doing UDF organisational work. 1 Public Secretary - Represent UDF on the public level. 1 Recording Secretary - to do Administrative duties. 1 Treasurer - To maintain UDF funds. 1 Rural Organiser - To organise for UDF in rural areas.
- RGC:
 - It was felt that the structure of the RGC be maintained.
 - Permanent representation is essential to ensure effective participation.
 - The quorum procedure (50% + 1) needs to be redressed.
 - Redundant or non-functional organisational must abstain themselves from the quorum - total to ensure continuity.
 - A definite set of guidelines is needed to increase the poor participation of affiliates through the RGC.

1.3.2. Decision-making:

- Decisions are generally made on the level of the RGC.
- However, not enough participation and communication shown to organisations is made from RGC representatives.
- The idea of an activists-forum for all areas to evaluate developments and encourage the constant flow of ideas.
- UDF leadership needs to consistently speak to organisations on their individual needs to be able to strengthen and mould the working relationships.

COMMISSIONS:

- 4 Permanent commissions were set up to co-ordinate and spearhead UDF work in specific arenas of struggle.
- These commissions will consist of representatives of the various areas.
- Organisations and areas participate according to their particular needs.
- The commissions must meet consistently to develop a general UDF programme of action and to be able to evaluate progress.
- Commissions: (1) Conscription and Militarization; (2) Removals and Relocation; (3) Education; (4) Housing.
- A co-ordinator for each was elected at the AGM.
- I.Y.Y. was seen at the AGM as a separate but also related issue; Youths will take leadership in spearheading the I.Y.Y. campaign.
- A 5th commission, namely a Commission on Reorganisation was setup to attend to issues: UDF structures; evaluation; education and training; policy; ideological and political questions.
- Its lifespan was seen to last as long as the RGC wishes it to exist.

Subcommittees:

- The Finance and Fundraising Subcommittees will still exist; to be co-ordinated by Treasurer.
- A local fundraising programme should be developed.
- All areas used need to participate.
- The media subcommittee needs to be jacked-up and a Media-Officer (not the Pub. Secretary) should be elected.
- The latter committee needs to have an ongoing and permanent programme of action.

1.4 Campaigns:

- It was felt that UDF's programmes must contain strategic political campaigns, but this should ^{not} constitute the 'totality of our work.

- Regions should adopt campaigns according to their needs and abilities: a criticism of previous campaigns was that we (local) over-extended ourselves.
- The MSC was seen as an example.
- The campaigns must reflect issues which contain elements able to:
 - (1) Mobilize masses in action
 - (2) Organise (unorganised) people in every sphere of life.
 - (3) Heighten political consciousness.
 - (4) Develop working class participation and leadership
 - (5) Deepen the class content of struggle
 - (6) Strengthen relations with unions and other non-affiliated organisations.
- The anti-election campaign was largely fought within the Coloured and Indian communities.
- The MSC was to some extent an ambitious project, overtaxing activists and resulting in great disillusion.
- It however gave us a fair number of grassroots contact and a deeper understanding of community needs.
- The closeness and somewhat vague relationship between the MSC and the Anti-election campaign also became problematic.
- The anti-election campaign could not successfully involve organised labour to participate more effectively.
- Selectively, careful and sober analysis of our strengths and weaknesses, short-term and long-term goals: used to guide us in choosing campaigns.

1.5 Rural Areas:

- Being an area of immense importance, UDF locally failed to build a significant rural base.
- Contact, communication and development have caused a great deal of problems.
- Material resources and manpower are also problems.

- For the purposes of expanding and strengthening our rural base, a Rural Organiser needs to be elected - to fulfill this task on a fulltime basis.
- A motivation for financial assistance from Head Office needs to be drafted and a suitable person selected - preferably from the rural areas.
- Ties with affiliates in Cradock, Grahamstown, Kirkwood, Alexandria needs to be strengthened and a Rural Programme of Action adopted.
- Relations with non-affiliates was seen as a major responsibility of UDF.
- With the churches relatively good relations were maintained, however our ties needs to be given an ongoing and permanent character.
- Trade Unions outside UDF, was seen as a cardinal problem which needed serious attention.
- UDF General and Public Secretaries have to develop guidelines as to how we will relate to such organisations.
- Unions such as FOSATU, AFCWU, GWU, DWASA, have been operating with UDF on piecemeal issues in the past - no ongoing relationship.
- UDF's local programme also to reflect working class issues quite clearly, hence the abstinence of such organisations.
- Sports organisations such as SACOS remains to be a great stumbling-block with regards to our reach into the membership of it.
- Several meetings with SACOS locally did not bear any practical fruits subsequently.
- Only on one occasion joint activity really came to the fore with regards to SACOS AND FOSATU.
- It was resolved to set up structures to consciously stimulate and encourage such co-operation (in a much more structured fashion - the Secretaries should initiate such moves.
- Some individual clubs are affiliated to UDF.

- 6
- A rural organiser is definitely needed.
 - A wide spectrum of areas are totally isolated and few organisations exist in rural areas.
 - A rural programme of action which will incorporate general/common issues will have to be developed.
 - The anti-election campaign failed to reach effectively out into these areas, simply because no organisational machinery was put into effect.
 - Removals were largely monitored by small groups outside UDF such as Grahamstown Rural Committee.
 - Individual affiliates responded to some removal-scenes - PEBCO in the Motherwell issue.
 - There is a great lack of understanding as well as appreciation of the importance of the removals-question.
 - The Removals and Relocation needs to be set up in rural areas with rural affiliates taking lead therein.

1.6 Tricameral Parliament and BLA

- The most striking feature of the anti-BLA campaign in our region was that it was predominantly waged outside UDF.
- The co-ordination of the campaigns in townships was weak, often not properly monitored.
- PEBCO played a leading role in this regard.
- The anti-tricameral parliament elections campaign was taken up by UDF unlike the anti-BLA campaign.
- The anti-election campaigns created a great deal of activity in the region.
- Mostly the Coloured and Indian communities were mobilized, although the need was seen to concentrate on the African majority also.
- However, no concrete issues could be identified as rallying points.
- The anti-election campaign had the significance in the sense that it shared common grounds for SACOS and FUSAIU to co-operate with UDF.
- A great problem in the Coloured and Indian communities reflected in this campaign was lack of incredible community and political leadership in the

area.

- Mainly church ministers were taken as alternative leadership.
- No real mass-based community organisations are in existence, and this is seen as a priority for 1985.

1.7 Overall gains of UDF:

- UDF certainly introduced a new dimension into politics in the E.Cape.
- It became the political mouthpiece of the 'left' creating alternative where no progressive mass-based structures exist.
- The element of mass mobilization around UDF has not reached climatic stages upto date - because of the non-strategic nature of issues taken up.
- Only the anti-election campaign and the anti-BLA campaign succeeded in creating a climate to militate communities.
- The regional UDF also failed to project a clear alternative leadership during these campaigns.
- UDF did not successfully reach the rural areas during the MSC; Anti-election campaigns.
- The main thrust of UDF in 1985 is seen to be reflected in its programme of action. Crucial in this regard will be:
 - (1) The stimulation and sustainance of working class leadership.
 - (2) The effective and dynamic participation of organised labour.
 - (3) The surfacing of a clear and formidable leadership.
 - (4) To expand UDF to be able to create rural units.
 - (5) To gear our programme of action to the central task of building organisation.

The report merely outlines broadly aspects which were discussed and focussed on in our region.

Yours in struggle

D.I. Swartz

D.I. Swartz (General Secretary)

Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.