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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

IDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE
42 DE VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG
P.O. BOX 10366
TEL: 29-1916
29-1917

The Australian Ambassador
3rd Floor,
302 Standard Bank Chambers
Church Square
PRETORIA

31 October 1984

Dear Madam/Sir

All indications point to a deepening crisis in South Africa. The government seems to be increasingly less willing to address the just demands of our people and is becoming more reliant on repressive and para-military measures.

Thus, their refusal to address the demands of the Vaal Civic Association for affordable rentals and their refusal to accede to the demands of high school students serve only to exacerbate the conflict. Clearly, in the context of this conflict, military manoeuvres like Operation Palmiet amount to acts of bravado and not solutions to the problem. The decision to allow Community Councillors to establish their own police force must be seen in exactly the same light.

Democratic popular organisations like the UDF and its affiliates have been met with the same 'kragdadigheid'. Minister Le Grange's threat to ban the UDF is an example of this. We believe that the threat was not executed only because it was inopportune for the government to take such an arbitrary action at that point. However, we see the effect of the threat played out in different ways. Firstly, more UDF officials are being sought by the Security Police, possibly for a further wave of detentions. Secondly, the government is now using its surrogate bantustan leaders to execute Le Grange's threats. The UDF, COSAS and AZASO have now been banned in the Transkei. More recently, Gatsha Buthelezi's war-mongering indicate that more such acts might be in the pipeline.

In essence, this amounts to full-scale war on the UDF and, indeed, on the people of South Africa. All of this is geared to silencing the democratic voice of the people.

The UDF urges you to bring these facts, and the context within which they occur, under the attention of your government. We would highly appreciate it if your government could voice their protest with the South African government.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Manuel
Acting General Secretary

TRANSLATION : PAMPHLET

VAAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ASINAMALI
(We have no money)

ASINAMALI
(We have no money)

Parents Residents Workers and Children. The Community Council has increased rent again. Let we meet against this unjust action taken by the councillors in our townships.

Let we meet in the Anglican Church on 26 August 1984 at 1 O'clock on Sunday.

ANGLICAN CHURCH
TIME : 1-00 O'clock
DATE : 26 August 1984

ASINAMALI

VAAL CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ASINAMALI

Batswadi, Baahi, Basobetsi, Bana; COMMUNITY COUNCIL e nyolletse rente hape. Ha re kopaneng kgahlano le BOKEBEKWA bona ba Di-KHANSELARA, ka metseng ya bona. Ha re ye kgopane KEREKENG YA CHACHE (ANGLICAN CHURCH). KA DI 26 AUGUST 1984. KA NAKO YA 1.00 PM KA SONTAHA. KEREKENG YA CHACHE (ANGLICAN CHURCH)
NAKO: 1.00 O'CLOCK
DATE: 26 AUGUST 1984

T. TRANSLATION

By A. MAHLANU.

Vaal Civic Association

WE HAVE NO MONEY

WE HAVE NO MONEY

PARENTS, RESIDENTS, WORKERS, YOUTH/CHILDREN. THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAS INCREASED THE RENT AGAIN. LET US UNITE AGAINST THIS UNJUST/^{CRIMINAL} ACTION BY COUNCILLORS IN OUR TOWNSHIPS.

LET US GO/ATTEND A MEETING AT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH ON THE 26TH AUGUST 1984. AT 1 O'CLOCK ON SUNDAY

ANGLICAN CHURCH

TIME 1.00 O'CLOCK

DATE 26 AUGUST 1984

Collection Number: AK2117

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