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Re "AAG"

RE: BLACK CHRISTMAS

Following the recent wave of unrests throughout our country, the UDF together with a number of organisations decided to call for a "Black Christmas." The period to be observed as such is the 16th to 26th of December.

The UDF appeals to the people of South Africa to refrain from merr-making in demonstration of solidarity with the families of those killed, maimed, detained, standing trial for their beliefs and those who lost their jobs. Above all, the UDF views as an important period calling for the greatest possible unity of the peace and justice loving South Africans.

The UDF wants to make clear the fact that it is not calling on the people not to buy. It rather calls on the people not to buy surplus foods and to avoid unnecessary expenditures or luxuries. Simultaneously the UDF discourages acts of coercion. The response must be seen as purely voluntary.

We appeal to all the churches to observe the 10 minutes of silence. We think this will assist in strengthening the solidarity of our people and give an added strength to those in detention and their families.

We attach for your perusal a memorandum giving a background and perspective to the Black Christmas. Please ask your member-churches to read the memo to the congregants so as to acquaint them with the reasons for the Black Christmas

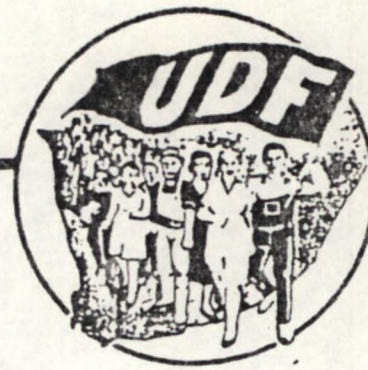
Looking forward to your support.

Yours sincerely

POPO MOLEFE  
GENERAL SECRETARY

# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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12 December 1984

## PRESS STATEMENT ON BLACK CHRISTMAS

### Background:

The UDF had, together with a number of organisations decided to call for a 'Black Christmas!' We see it both as appropriate and necessary at this juncture to give an explicit form and content to this call.

### The Call:

The UDF appeals to our people to observe the 'Black Christmas' between 16th and 26th December. Within this period, we ask the following of our people:-

1. Avoid all unnecessary expenditure on luxuries and surplus goods.
2. Avoid arrangement of or participation in functions, normally associated with the 'festive period.'

However, there are some functions which appear to be unavoidable e.g family gatherings & cultural gatherings which may have been arranged a long time ago. We want to make an appeal to those involved in these gatherings to observe a silence of at least 10 minutes to note the events now taking place in our country.

The UDF also wishes to appeal to churches to make a special note of detainees, the unemployed, those who gave their lives to the struggle and those dying of hunger in the Bantustans, in their prayers on Xmas day.

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Further, we wish to state that our intentions with the call for a Black Christmas are to impose self-sacrifices in order to strengthen the solidarity and the unity of our people. It is therefore an attempt to win people onto the side of those committed to change. In view of this, voluntary participation is imperative and coercion would be counter-productive. Our appeal is for this spirit to mark the way in which we celebrate the 'Black Christmas.'



## UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

### UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT DECLARATION ON "BLACK CHRISTMAS 1984"

The UDF appeals to all concerned South Africans to support the call for a BLACK CHRISTMAS.

We find no reason to celebrate when :-

- i) During the past year many have lost loved ones at the hands of our rulers, when the only "crime" was a desire to be allowed a place in the sun.
- ii) An unjust, immoral "New Constitution" has been foisted upon the people, their protestations notwithstanding.
- iii) The increase in the cost of living has caused more hardship, suffering and starvation. There is no end in sight.
- iv) Massive retrenchments have caused despondency and an air of hopelessness in many homes.
- v) The use of the SADF in the townships is a declaration of civil war in our country.
- vi) While white matriculants are looking forward to careers as leaders in Commerce, Industry and the Civil Service, hundreds of thousands of their fellow students face a bleak future. Most of them have not even written their inferior tests. To blame them would be to offer simplistic solutions.
- vii) Many of our country's popular leaders are either banned, banished, detained, imprisoned and at a time of peace and goodwill for all mankind their families will experience neither.

Surely, such circumstances militate against and nullify the very ideal for which Jesus Christ was born.

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