

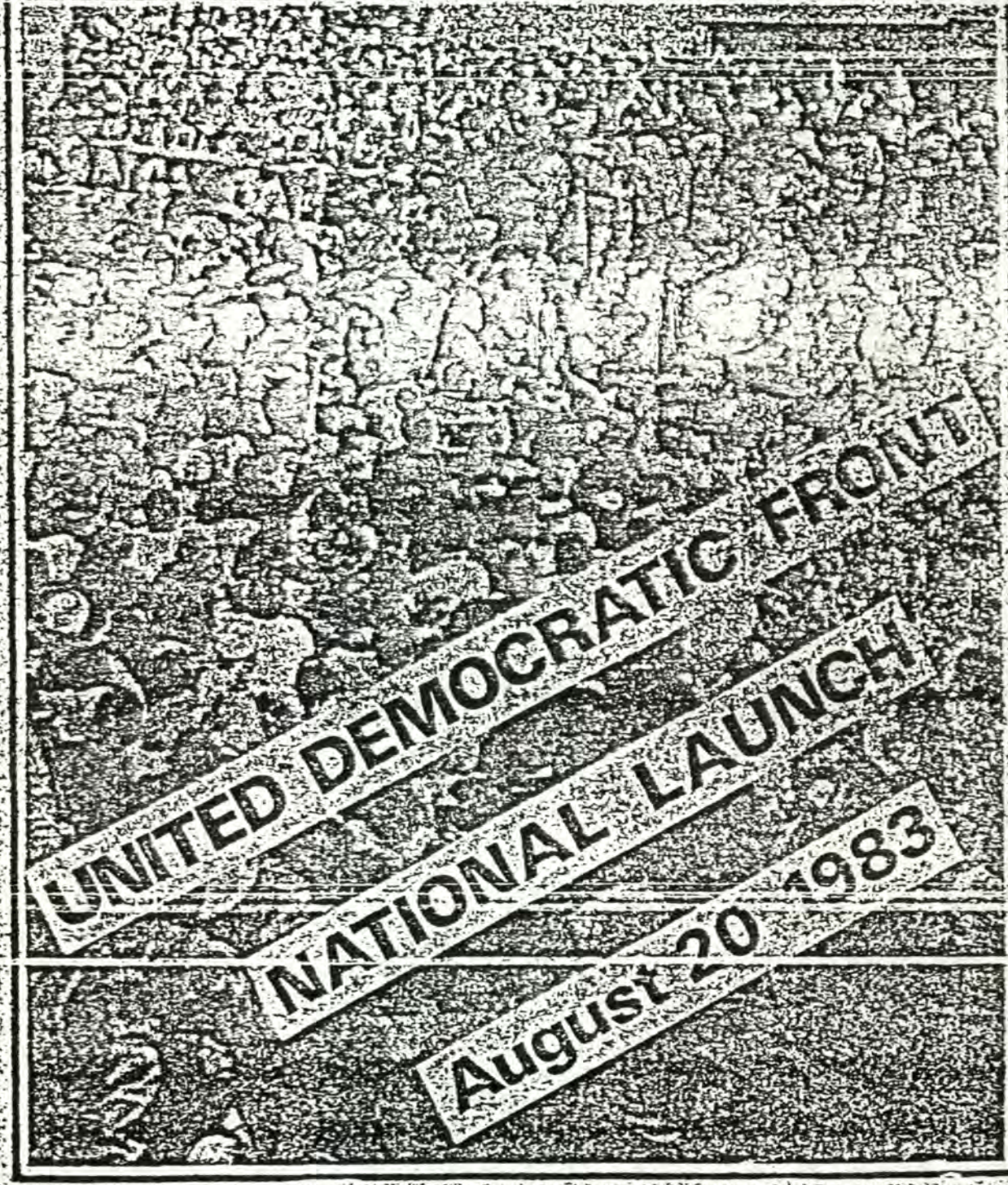
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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT  
NATIONAL LAUNCH



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT  
NATIONAL LAUNCH

AUGUST 20 1983



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# Introduction

The United Democratic Front (UDF) was launched at a mass rally of over 12 000 people in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town, on August 20, 1983.

Prior to the rally, a conference of 2000 delegates and observers from more than 500 organisations around South Africa, adopted the national declaration, which forms the basis for co-operation between organisations in the UDF.

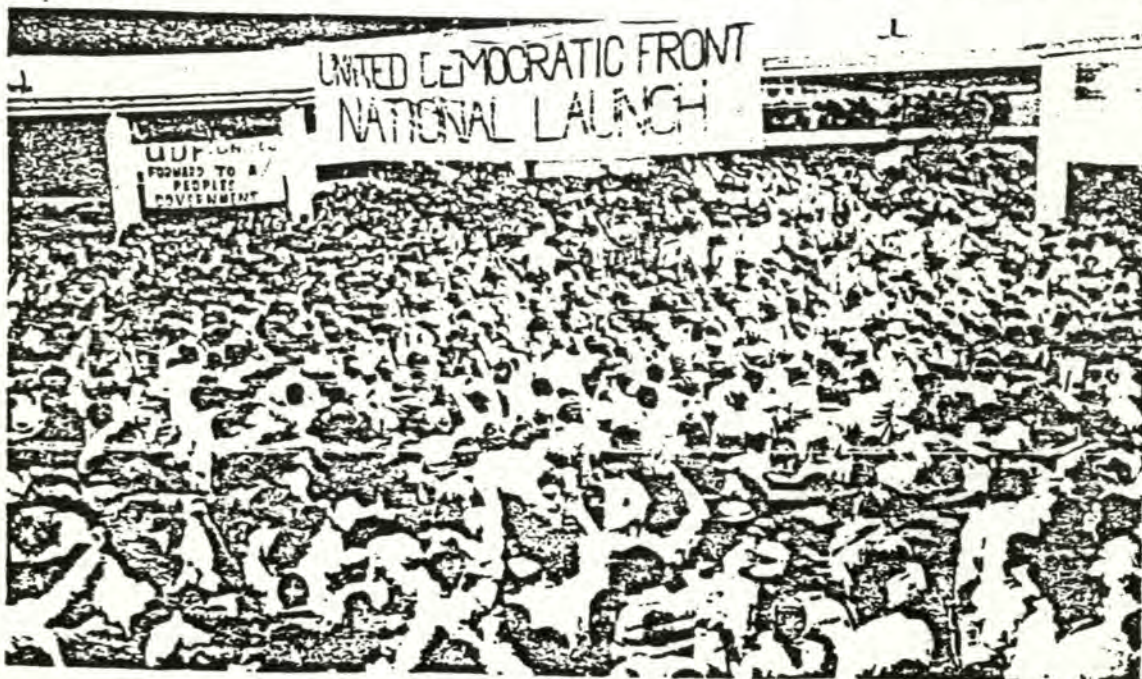
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 by Allan Boesak

The call for unity and joint action against the government's new divide and rule plans was first made by Dr. Allan Boesak on January 23, 1983, at a conference of the anti-South African Indian Council (Anti-Saic).

The UDF launch was the culmination of seven months in-depth discussions within and between organisations as to the purposes and aims of the UDF campaign.

① It was resolved at the founding conference to fight both the Nationalist government's new Constitutional Bill, as well as the "Koorhof" Bills. It was felt that, taken together, these two areas of legislation carried within them the main thrust of the new style apartheid - the attempted co-option of certain middle-class "coloureds" and "Indians", and the enforcement of harsh controls over the African working-class.

The UDF campaign will focus attention on the undemocratic and authoritarian way in which the Nationalist government's "new deal" is being imposed on the people of South Africa. As a minimum demand, the UDF has called for all political prisoners to be released, for individuals and political organisations to be unbanned, and for the return of all exiles, before a democratic constitution can be drawn up by all South Africans.







The UDF campaign will be conducted on a number of levels. On a national level, the UDF will challenge the new constitution through meetings, rallies and media, drawing together as many different organisations as possible in a campaign to demonstrate the overwhelming rejection of all forms of apartheid, both old and new.

The main focus of the UDF campaign however will be at the local and regional levels. Organisations affiliated to the UDF will run campaigns around certain aspects of the new constitution that affect their membership in a direct way. (2)

This is to ensure that the UDF does not simply become a political protest group, but is able to build and strengthen non-racial, democratic organisations as an alternative to apartheid itself.

Thus, for example, campaigns have already been planned against Community Councils and Black Local Authorities in all African townships. These institutions are a particular example of the way in which the Nationalist governments's "new deal" will adversely affect the majority of South Africans. (3)

Other local campaigns involve organisation against removals in the Northern Cape, the incorporation of Lamontville and other Durban townships into Kwa Zulu, the removal of the people of Crossroads to Khayelitsha, low wages, high rents, inadequate public transport, gutter education, lack of child care facilities - in fact around any aspect of apartheid that affects people's daily lives.

Part of these local campaigns have already included solidarity meetings with the people of Mdantsane and East London, as well as with the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) in their fight against Ciskei "government" terror. Speakers at these meetings pointed out that the "homelands" were regarded as the constitutional "solution" for most South Africans by the Nationalist government, and that the UDF's rejection of these "homelands" goes hand in hand with the campaign against the new constitution.

The UDF, as part of it's programme of action, will also focus attention on the housing crisis and the education crisis as well as on removals. By doing so, the UDF hopes to show the destructive and oppressive reality of apartheid, not just as a system of racist legislation but as a system that has the effect of controlling and exploiting the majority of South Africans for the benefit of a wealthy minority.



# Declaration



WE, THE FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA SAY WITH ONE VOICE TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT WE

cherish the vision of a united, democratic South Africa based on the will of the people,

will strive for the unity of our people through united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation.

AND, IN OUR MARCH TO A FREE AND JUST SOUTH AFRICA, WE ARE GUIDED BY THESE NOBLE IDEALS

we stand for the creation of a true democracy in which all South Africans will participate in the government of our country;

we stand for a single, non-racial, unfragmented South Africa, a South Africa free of bantustans and Group Areas;

we say, all forms of oppression and exploitation must end.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE NOBLE IDEALS, AND, ON THE 20TH DAY OF AUGUST 1983, AT ROCKLANDS CIVIC CENTRE, MITCHELL'S PLAIN, WE JOIN HANDS AS COMMUNITY, WOMEN'S, STUDENTS', RELIGIOUS, SPORTING AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS TO SAY NO TO APARTHEID,

we say NO to the Republic of South Africa Constitution Bill - a bill which will create yet another undemocratic constitution in the country of our birth

we say NO to the Koornhof Bills which will deprive more and more African people of their birthright;

we say YES to the birth of the United Democratic Front on this historic day;

WE KNOW THAT

this government is determined to break the unity of our people;

that our people will face greater hardships, that our people living in racially segregated and relocated areas will be cut off from the wealth they produce in the cities. That rents and other basic charges will increase. And, that our living standards will fall;

that working people will be divided. Race from race; urban from rural; employed from unemployed; men from women. Low wages, poor working conditions, attacks on our trade unions will continue;



students will continue to suffer under unequal education, created to supply a reservoir of cheap labour. Ethnic control and unequal facilities will remain. Apartheid will still be felt in our classrooms; the religious and cultural life of our people will be harmed. The sins of apartheid will continue to be stamped on the culture and religions of our families;

non-racial sport will suffer. There will be less money for the building of sports facilities. And, forced separation will deal non-racial sport a further blow

**WE KNOW THAT APARTHEID WILL CONTINUE**

that white domination and exploitation will continue; that forced removals, the Group Areas Act and the Bantustans will remain.

WE KNOW that there will not be an end to the unequal distribution of the land, wealth and resources of the country. That the migratory labour system will live on to destroy family life.

WE KNOW that the government will always use false leaders to become its junior partners and to control us. Our lives will still be filled with fears of harassment, bannings, detentions and death.

Mindful of the fact that the new Constitutional Proposals and Koornhof measures will further entrench apartheid and white domination,

**WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO UNITING ALL OUR PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY MAY BE, IN THE CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE, THE FACTORIES AND MINES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, HOUSES AND SPORTS FIELDS, CHURCHES, MOSQUES AND TEMPLES, TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM;**

we therefore resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder in our common struggle and commit ourselves to

**WORK TOGETHER TO**

organise and mobilise all community, worker, student, women, religious, sporting and other organisations under the banner of the United Democratic Front;

consult our people regularly, honestly, and bravely strive to represent their views and aspirations;

educate all about the coming dangers and the need for unity;

build and strengthen all organisations of the people;

unite in action against these Bills and other day-to-day problems affecting our people.

**AND NOW THEREFORE**

**WE PLEDGE TO COME TOGETHER IN THIS UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS AND THE KOORNHOF BILLS.**

---

# National Patrons

Francis Baard  
Dr Allan Boesak  
Dennis Goldberg  
Hassan Howa  
Helen Joseph  
Johnny Issel  
Ahmed Kathrada  
Martha Mahlangu  
Nelson Mandela  
Govan Mbeki  
Raymond Mhlaba  
Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa  
Florence Mkhize  
Andrew Mlangeni  
Sheikh Nazeem Mohammed  
Elias Motsoaledi  
Mrs Monty Naiker  
Rev Beyers Naude  
Dorothy Nyembe  
Walter Sisulu

---

# National Executive

## Presidents

• Archie Gumede  
• Oscar Mpetha  
• Albertina Sisulu

## Vice-Presidents

• Virgil Bonhomme  
• Rev Frank Chikane  
• George du Plessis  
• Joseph Marks  
• George Sewpersadh  
• Christmas Tinto

## National Secretary

• Popo Molefe

## National Publicity Secretary

• Mosiwe 'Terror' Lekota

## National Treasurers

• Mewa Ramgobin  
• Cassiem Saloojee

## Regional Secretaries

• Moss Chikane  
• Cheryl Carolus  
• Joe Phaahla  
• Trevor Manuel  
• Yunus Mohamed  
• Mohamed Vali

## Additional Executive Members

• Andrew Borraine  
• Jerry Coovadia  
• Mildred Leseia  
• Aubrey Mokoena  
• Dr R A M Saloojee  
• Rev Mcibisi Xundu



# Working Principles





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1. NAME

The name of this front is the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

2. COMPOSITION

The UDF shall consist in the first instance of regional formation, the boundaries of which are to be determined by the National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils or by the National General Council from time to time.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- | 3.1. To oppose the Constitutional and Koornhof Bills as decided at the first national conference held in Cape Town on 20 August 1963 and any future conference,
- | 3.2. To develop the maximum possible participation in the front,
- | 3.3. To encourage and assist democratic and full participation in the UDF,
- f 3.4. The UDF shall not purport to replace the accredited ? liberation movements of the people.

4. POWERS

4.1. The UDF shall have all the powers necessary and desirable to achieve its aims and objectives. These will include the power to :

- a) collect subscriptions from members
- b) receive money from any person and to undertake to perform any work or do anything in return for such payment provided
- c) issue publications
- | d) establish such branches as may be necessary from time to time
- | e) approach such organisations as it deems desirable for support or affiliation.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1. All organisations present at the first national conference otherwise than as observers, shall be members of the UDF subject to:

5.1.1. their right of withdrawal

5.1.2. review by the National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils or by the National General Council from time to time.

5.2. All organisations which are prepared to commit themselves to the declaration policy and to the programme of action will be eligible to make an application for affiliation through the regional councils.



- 9.
- 
- 5.3. In terms of membership of national organisations which are not members of regional committees shall be decided from time to time by National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils.

6. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 6.1. All regional formations and member organisations shall have complete independence within the umbrella of the United Democratic Front, provided that actions and policies of members are not inconsistent with the policy of the UDF.
- 6.2. The National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils will decide whether or not any inconsistencies exist.

7. STRUCTURE

The Front shall comprise:

- 7.1. Patrons. The number to be determined by National General Council.
- 7.2. Regional formations consisting of
- 7.2.1. an executive committee, and
- 7.2.2. a general council
- 7.3. National General Council (N.G.C.)
- 7.4. National Executive Committee (N.E.C.)

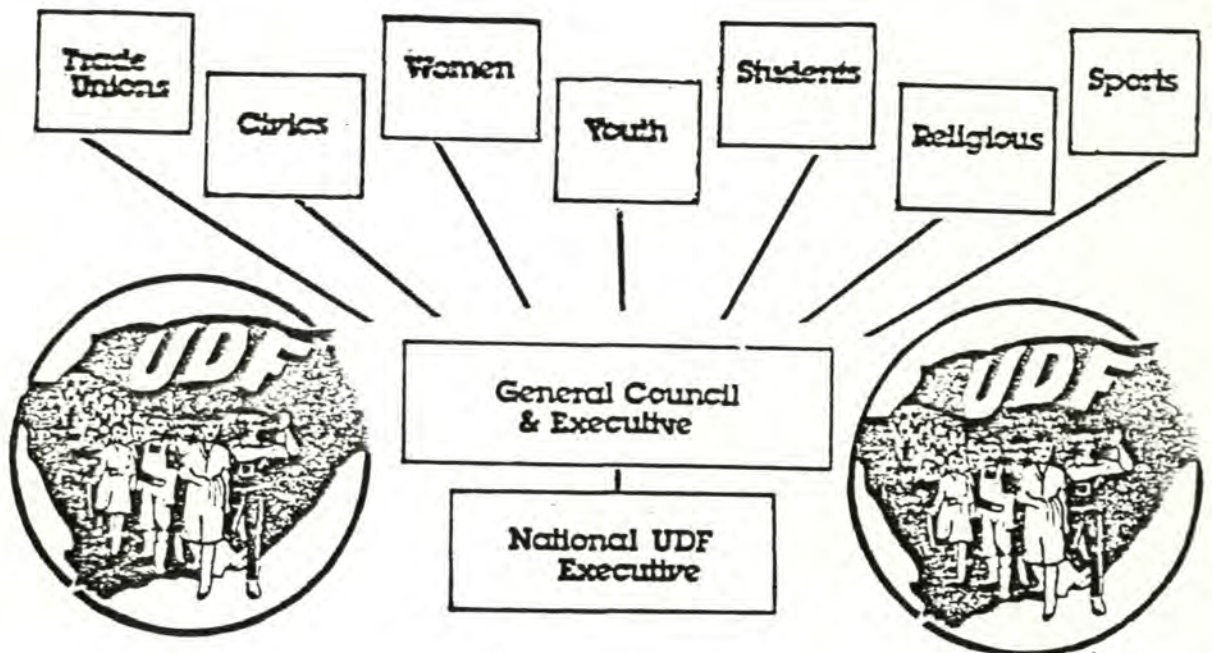
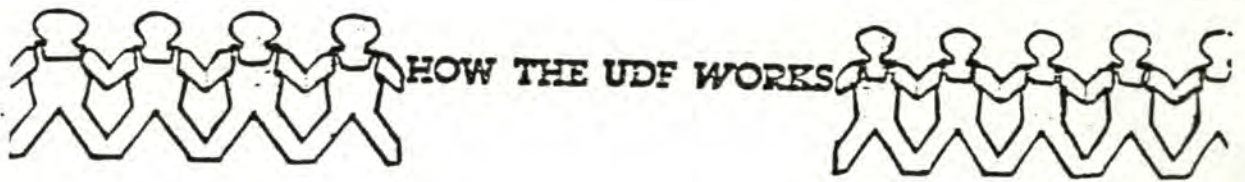
8. NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL (N.G.C.)

- 8.1. The N.G.C. will comprise all affiliated organisations and regions.
- 8.2. The N.G.C. shall meet as and when necessary but at least once a year.
- 8.3. Voting rights and representation at any conference or meeting of the N.G.C. shall be determined by the National Executive Committee in consultation with the regional councils before the meeting or conference.
- 8.4. The N.G.C. will be the supreme body of the UDF.

9. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 9.1. The N.E.C. shall comprise:
- 9.1.1. The Presidency consisting of three Presidents
- 9.1.2. An executive chairperson appointed by the N.E.C. from time to time.
- 9.1.3. Two vice-presidents appointed by each duly constituted region
- 9.1.4. The two secretaries of each constituted region
- 9.1.5. Two executive members elected by each constitutes region
- 9.1.6. Two national treasurers.
- 9.2. The N.E.C. will have the power to co-opt persons in its discretion from regions which are not yet duly constituted, or any other person likely to make a significant





contribution to its functions.

- 9.3. The N.E.C. shall carry out the policy and programme of the UDF as determined by the N.E.C. from time to time.
- 9.4. The decisions of the N.E.C. shall be carried out by the secretariat which will comprise two secretaries from each region.

#### 10. FINANCE

- 10.1. The UDF shall be empowered to open a banking account at a bank or building society.
- 10.2. All cheques shall be signed by either of the treasurers and one of two other members of the executive committee and two other members of or N.E.C. appointed by N.E.C.

#### 11. OFFICERS

- 11.1. The UDF shall employ
- 11.1.1. A general-secretary
- 11.1.2. A publicity secretary
- 11.2. The general-secretary and publicity secretary shall be members of the National Executive Committee.



# Messages of Support





# UNITED NATIONS

Dear Friends,

In reaction to your letter dated 22 July, 1983, requesting for messages of solidarity on the occasion of the national launching of the United Democratic Front on the 20 August in Cape Town, we gladly present you herewith with our appreciation and solidarity for this important step towards greater unity in the struggle of the South African people against apartheid. In this year of united action against apartheid, in South Africa and abroad, we regard this meeting to launch the United Democratic Front on a national level as a crucial development to strengthen the struggle for freedom, justice and democracy in South Africa. The ever increasing mass-struggles against apartheid constitute definitely, again inside South African and internationally, a continuous source of inspiration for the efforts to rid the world of this system condemned as a crime against humanity.

I am happy to send my warmest greetings and congratulations on the occasion of launching of the United Democratic Front. Your demonstration of unity in opposition to so-called constitutional proposals of authorities in Pretoria and in support of non-racial, democratic South Africa is welcomed by United Nations Special Committee against apartheid and indeed by most humanity.

United Nations and the International community have repeatedly made it clear that a just and

lasting solution requires the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners, amnesty to those restricted and exiled, end to all repression and discussions by genuine representatives of all people on the establishment of a truly democratic state. They have offered all the appropriate assistance in pursuit of such a solution.

I hope that even at this late stage the Pretoria authorities will abandon their disastrous course of escalating repression and aggression and seek a just solution. They cannot prevail against opposition of the majority of the people in South Africa and the rest of the world whatever their apparent might today.

Awards to Nelson Mandela in recent years of more honours than anyone else has received from all over the world is a reflection of world opinion.

The struggle of the people in South Africa for democracy is not only a great moral struggle but has tremendous international significance today as elimination of racism from the globe has become imperative. You can count on sympathy and support of all humanity in your efforts to build even greater unity for justice and democracy.

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama-Sule  
Chairman

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID.



13.

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# SWAPO of Namibia

WE, THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA EXPRESS OUR ACTIVE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION. WE FACE A COMMON RACIST ENEMY - THE PRETORIA REGIME. REST ASSURED THAT YOUR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA IS ALSO OUR STRUGGLE, YOUR VICTORY IS OUR VICTORY. OUR VICTORY IS YOUR VICTORY.

A LUTA CONTINUA  
SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

---

## KOMITEE ZUIDELIJK AFRIKA

(ANGOLA COMITÉ)

O.Z. ACHTERBURGWAL 173  
1012 DJ AMSTERDAM  
TEL 020-270801 TELEX 172125  
POSTGIRO 600667

HOLLAND COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

3 August 1983

Dear friends in the United Democratic Front

Our committee would like to extend you our warmest regards and best wishes for your forthcoming national congress, which will be a milestone in resistance to apartheid. You have the support and the hopes of the progressive community of the Netherlands.

The UDF represents for us not only a challenge to the infamous constitutional reforms, but the resurgence of mass-based non-racial resistance to racial oppression and economic exploitation in South Africa.

We wish you every success in your endeavours and you have the assurance of our continued efforts to curb the involvement of our country in bolstering the apartheid regime, politically and economically.

Courage, strength and solidarity.

| Forward to a peoples Republic! |

Gerald Kraak  
Gerald Kraak

on behalf of the Holland Committee on Southern Africa.



# Africa Groups of Sweden

A united people of South Africa is of vital importance for the struggle for democracy. We stand behind you in this task, and our solidarity will continue until that day, when South Africa has joined the free, democratic and non-racial nations of the world.

AFRICA GROUPS OF SWEDEN.

# Anti Apartheid Movement, London

The Anti-Apartheid Movement sends greetings to the National Conference of the UDF and express its solidarity with the UDF in the struggle against the so-called Constitutional and Reform Proposals and for a non-racial democratic South Africa.

Your struggle is a source of inspiration to the world-wide anti-apartheid movement and is a direct challenge not only to the apartheid regime but also to its allies like Reagan and Thatcher.

We salute your courageous stand and pledge to redouble our efforts until apartheid is totally eliminated and the goals of the Freedom Charter become a reality.

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT, LONDON

# American Committee on Africa

The American Committee on Africa, which has worked to support African freedom since the Defiance Campaign 30 years ago, salutes the first national conference of the United Democratic Front. The future of South Africa rests with you and all those who resist apartheid's inhuman yoke. Be assured that we will be with you in the struggle until the victory is won.

Amandla

William Booth  
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN COMMITTEE  
ON AFRICA.





# GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

(FORMERLY WESTERN PROVINCE GENERAL WORKERS UNION)  
1st FLOOR, BENBOW BUILDING, BEVERLEY STREET, ATHLONE.

Tel. 6382592 (Head Office)

DATE 19.8.83

670870 (Cape Town Branch)

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 301 ATHLONE 7760

The President  
UDF  
Cape Town.

Dear Comrades

The General Workers' Union has, since its inception, fought for a free and democratic South Africa. To this end we are fighting the Koornhof and Constitutional Bills and we will stand side by side with any organisation committed to the struggle for democracy.

We look forward to comradely co-operation with the United Democratic Front and to a successful campaign against the Koornhof and Constitutional Bills.

Yours in the struggle

David Lewis

General Secretary



Archbishop  
Trevor Huddleston

I am delighted to send a message to you today. Your historic gathering and your struggle against the Constitutional Proposals reflect the spirit of the congress of the People where we adopted the Freedom Charter.

I am confident that united and determined action can succeed not only in securing the rejection of the Constitutional Proposals but also the end of the apartheid system itself. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston  
PRESIDENT, ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT.

Food and Canning  
Worker's Union

Dear Comrades,

We would like to express our support for your conference, and our shared commitment to one united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Although we have not joined the UDF, we have pledged to fight alongside all organisations which reject the new Constitution, the orderly movement and settlement of Black Persons Bills and Black Local Authorities Laws. As we see it these laws are aimed first and foremost at the working class, and we will do all within our power to see that they do not succeed.

Yours in the struggle

J Theron, General Secretary  
FOOD & CANNING WORKER'S UNION

Anti Apartheid  
Movement, France

Heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your conference. Rest assured of our full support. We wish you every success in your initiatives and long life to the U.D.F.

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT OF  
FRANCE



# IRISH ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

20 Eeechpark Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18

Tel. 01-895035

8th August, 1983.

The Secretary,  
United Democratic Front,  
PO Box 48060,  
Qualbert,  
Durban 4078.

Dear Friend,

I write on behalf of Father Flannery, the President of this Movement, and on behalf of our Executive Committee, to greet the launching of the United Democratic Front.

The establishment of the Front is another milestone in the struggle for self-determination and freedom in South Africa. The 20th-21st August 1983 will join the great dates in the history of the peoples of South Africa when the unity of the people have provided a further impetus for the overthrow of apartheid.

The Front's Declaration firmly rejects the new constitutional arrangements which will entrench the apartheid regime's position. The international community too, through the United Nations, has recognised the threadbare hypocrisy of the arrangements, which are a pathetic attempt to buy the loyalty of certain sections of the blacks while totally ignoring the vast majority of them.

It is however the reaction of the people of South Africa to the proposals that is the most important. The unity of those forces opposing the proposals is a sure guarantee of the success of the campaign. Our Movement therefore extends its warmest congratulations to the launching of the Front and its campaign of opposition to the ethnic parliaments.

In the twenty years of existence of this Movement, we have again and again been heartened by the range and warmth of our support from the organised trade union movement, from all the major political parties, from the women's movement and from the youth, as well as from the plain people of Ireland. Our support has also made one thing clear: it is unreservedly at the disposal of the people of South Africa, for the removal of apartheid from every aspect of South African life, for self-determination and national independence.

Power to the People!  
Forward to Freedom!

*Kader Asmal*  
Kader Asmal  
Chairman

for freedom in Southern Africa





## *Irish Congress of Trade Unions*

Dear Friends,

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions representing 640,000 organised workers throughout Ireland, sends fraternal greetings and best wishes for the successful launching of the United Democratic Front in Cape Town.

The struggle of the peoples of South Africa for freedom and democracy strikes a chord in the hearts of Irish Trade Unionists. Our movement has long campaigned against apartheid and has supported the South African congress of trade unions and trade unions in your country in their efforts to win basic human and democratic rights.

We are certain that the formation of the United Democratic Front will mark a new and fruitful stage in your freedom fight. We greet you brothers and sisters and pledge the support of Irish workers for your heroic endeavour against the oppressive apartheid system.

Victory will assuredly be yours.

Donal Nevin, General Secretary  
IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS.

## *Swiss Anti- Apartheid Movement*

We pledge support for your fight for justice and liberation.

SWISS ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT.

## *Danish Youth Council*

The Danish Youth Council, representing the vast majority of the National Danish Youth Organisations, including scouts, political, religious and gymnastics, with a total membership of more than 1,8 million sends its greetings to your very important meeting and expresses its support to the efforts of the United Democratic Front. We share your aspirations, wish you complete success and pledge our full support to you in your struggle to achieve the objectives set out in your declaration of January 23rd of this year.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

ISIFUNDABHISHOBHI ESIKHULU  
SASETHEKWINI

Archbishop's House  
408 Innes Road  
Durban 4001  
Telephone 333942

P O Box 217 DURBAN Posbus 217  
South Africa 4000 Suid Afrika

My dear friends,

A warm and affectionate greeting to all of you in this important assembly. As I understand it you have come here to hold the inaugural meeting at national level of the United Democratic Front, the purpose of which is to bring together all organisations opposed to certain legislative measures that bode ill for the future of our country: the new constitution and legislation designed to render influx control still more tyrannical. Your purpose, I gather, is not purely negative for included in it is the intention to educate and conscientise all South Africans in the matter of human rights and political justice by every peaceful method available to you.

Though I cannot be with you in this assembly I am happy to send you this message expressing my wholehearted solidarity with the purposes that bring you together and the hope that animates you.

In regard to constitutional reform the time has surely come to set South Africa firmly on the road towards the full participation of all its inhabitants in the political life of the country. Because the proposed new constitution does not do this it is unacceptable and must be opposed by every peaceful means.

Concerning the projected influx control legislation, merely to hear such measures suggested sends a shiver down one's spine. Already influx control has reached tyrannical proportions. To aim at making the curbs still more oppressive is pushing inhumanity to horrifying lengths. May there be such united and vigorous opposition to the idea that not only will the legislation be stopped by the whole trend reversed.

Be assured of my close association with you in the pursuit of these great purposes. Be assured of my heartfelt good wishes and prayers for the success of the gathering. The rights that you plan to promote are God-given and sacred. May the guidance and strength of the Almighty support and sustain you in your campaign.

Sincerely yours,

*+ Desmond Hurley*

ARCHBISHOP OF DURBAN





Amsterdam, August 5, 1983

Dear friends,

In reaction on your letter d.d. 22 July 1983, requesting for messages of solidarity on the occasion of the national launching of the United Democratic Front on the 20-21 August in Cape Town, we gladly present you herewith with our appreciation and solidarity for this important step towards greater unity in the struggle of the South African people against Apartheid. In this year of united action against apartheid, in South Africa and abroad, we regard this meeting to launch the United Democratic Front on a national level as a crucial development to strengthen the struggle for freedom, justice and democracy in South Africa. The ever increasing mass-struggles against apartheid constitute definitely, again inside South Africa and internationally, a continuous source of inspiration for the efforts to rid the world of this system condemned as a crime against humanity.

On behalf of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement,

Yours in solidarity,

Conny Braam,  
Chairlady Dutch AAM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Braam', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.





Member  
of the European Parliament

Dear Comrades,

The democratic socialist movement in Ireland welcomes and supports the launching of the United Democratic Front in defence of democracy and racial harmony in South Africa.

We in Ireland recognise that the constitutional reform proposals of the South African Government are solely designed to entrench and strengthen the infamous apartheid regime which is so abhorred by all democrats throughout the world. We therefore extend to the United Democratic Front our most heartfelt expression of solidarity in your fight against racialism and despotism.

The Irish Labour Party will continue to participate fully, both in Ireland and within the international socialist movement, in the fight against apartheid. We embrace the United Democratic Front as brothers and sisters in the struggle for equality and justice and pledge to you our continuing support and solidarity.

Yours fraternally,

*Brendan Halligan*

Brendan Halligan

Chairman, International Affairs Committee  
Irish Labour Party

Member of the European Parliament

The International Association Democratic Lawyers congratulate the national launching of the United Democratic Front and reaffirms solidarity with the struggle of South African people against apartheid and for the achievement of democracy.

Omar Bentoumi  
Secretary General.

Through the Irish Anti-apartheid Movement I have learned of your plans for launching a United Democratic Front in South Africa and have read your Declaration.

Please allow me to offer you my most sincere congratulations and support for the initiative which you have taken.

Sean MacBride, S.C.



# SAN-ROC

South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee

15 August 1983

## CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

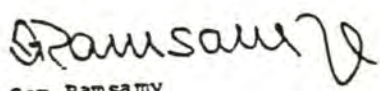
As everyone is aware SAN-ROC has and continues to campaign for the total isolation of South African sport until apartheid and race discrimination has been totally destroyed in South Africa.

In this context we welcome the conference of the United Democratic Front as we support any campaign which enjoys mass participation of the people of South Africa to remove the shackles of apartheid.

We wish your conference all the success and we hope that this will help mobilise our oppressed people in bringing about the total destruction of apartheid and in establishing South Africa as a truly democratic society with all its citizens having equal rights and privileges.

SAN-ROC awaits this day as we know that only then can there be genuine non-racial sport in a truly non-racial society.

Best wishes.



Sam Ramsamy  
CHAIRMAN:



# Resolutions



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# Housing policy

## NOTING THAT:

1. Housing is a basic human need. Decent shelter, healthy living conditions, and houses at costs that people can afford, designed to produce security and comfort, ~~are~~ *are fights which all* citizens must enjoy.
2. Our needs is to be housed close to our places of work. Our need is for rents we can afford.
3. We have some guarantee that our houses will not be bulldozed, that we will not be forced to move either to other areas or homelands, and that we will be allowed to live in the areas of our choice. We must know that our children will grow up in safety and health.
4. We want more government-subsidized housing.
5. There is a housing crisis prevelant in our country today as a result of the cruel policy of removals, the Group Areas Act, the system of low wages.
6. That the new housing policy introduced by the Govt. is part of the new constitutional plan to create a Black middle class resistant to democratic change.
7. The Government does not hear us!  
We need security - but the government bulldozes our homes and forces us elsewhere.  
We need Government subsidies - but the government has almost stopped them.  
We need to live close to our places of work - but the government builds townships far away.  
We demand housing, but the government spends the money on the army, police and bulldozers.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conferene of the UDF held at Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town on 20th August 1983,

## RESOLVES:

1. that the government scraps its new housing policy.
2. that the government must not force people to buy their homes.
3. that rents must be subsidised and fixed at prices people can afford.
4. that the government must not introduce site and service schemes as a substitute for decent houses.
5. that more government subsidised houses must be provided.
6. that the government should provide good quality housing and should maintain houses at no extra costs to people.
7. that communities throughout South Africa organise themselves to oppose this new housing policy.



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# Education

## NOTING:

1. That the separate and inferior system of education for the majority of the people of South Africa entrenches inferior and undemocratic ideas;
2. that this education system entrenches apartheid;
3. the courageous struggles being waged by our students across the length and breadth of our country;
4. the continued harassment of democratic student organisations in our schools, technikons, colleges and universities

## AND BELIEVING THAT

1. our students' struggle rises out of genuine grievances;
2. education should be free, equal, relevant and compulsory in a united South Africa;
3. the education system in South Africa should be based on the needs of the people;
4. unequal access to the wealth and resources of our country means that very few of the oppressed people have access to primary, secondary and higher education;
5. overcrowded classrooms and unqualified teachers have the same root causes as high rents or housing shortages;
6. an Education Charter should be drawn up after democratic consultation.

Hereby resolve, under the banner of the UDF,

1. to fully support the struggles being waged by our students;
2. to continue the fight and demand for a single, non-racial and democratic system of education for all in a democratic South Africa;
3. that students, teachers and community organisations should unite to fight for democratic education.

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# Ciskei

## NOTING:

- i. that the Ciskei is a shock-absorber body intended to police and persecute the oppressed people in that part of the country in the interest of the racist Botha/Malan/Koornhof clique;
- ii. that the ruthless harassment and denial of the fundamental democratic rights to our people in that part of the country is not an accident but a general expression of the tyranny which grinds our people throughout the divisive system of separate development.



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WE RESOLVE:

that the struggle of our people in that part called Ciskei is indeed the struggle of the assembled democrats here and democrats throughout the length and breadth of our country.

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# Bantustans

NOTING:

1. that the Bantustan Policy and the Group Areas Act are the hall mark of apartheid;
2. that, although this racist regime can supply the technology to make Bantustans economically viable;
3. that 13% of this land is occupied by 75% of the people;
4. that the people who live in the Bantustans reject the Bantustan policy;
5. that the "rulers" of the Bantustan Policy are doing their masters' calling.

WE BELIEVE:

1. that South Africa belongs to all South Africans
2. that South Africa is one indivisible whole.

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To reject the Bantustan Policy and Bantustans unqualifiedly."

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# Militarisation

## NOTING:

1. the increased militarisation and massive defence budget of our country while our people are deprived of the basic necessities for living;
2. the continued acts of aggression perpetrated by the SADF against our neighbouring states;
3. the growing instances of young people resisting conscription into the South African army;
4. the SADF is involved in a campaign to win the hearts and minds of young children in communities through the organisation of youth camps and believing:
  - i. that the SADF is being used by the S.A. regime to uphold white domination;
  - ii. that the government intends through its constitutional Bill to compel Indians and Coloureds to join the army to defend apartheid.

## Hereby resolves:

1. to resist all forms of militarisation;
  2. to demand an end to compulsory conscription;
  3. to demand that the SADF ceases its campaign to destabilise our neighbouring states;
  4. to support, in whatever way possible, those who do not join SADF.
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# Workers

## NOTING:

1. That workers are the producers of the wealth of this country, yet they do not enjoy the benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. That workers do not enjoy security in their jobs as evidenced by rising unemployment and the increasing threat of retrenchment;
3. Workers continue to be harassed, intimidated and jailed in their attempts to organise against these exploitative and oppressive conditions through the building of genuine democratic trade unions;
4. That state manoeuvres such as the President's Council Proposals, Wiehahn/Rieckert and the Koornhof Bills are designed to destroy the unity that workers are striving to build and are aimed at denying workers genuine political rights;
5. The migrant labour system drives down the wages of workers and forces them to live in single-sex hostels;
6. The critical situation of worker organisations in the Ciskei.



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AND BELIEVING

1. That workers must fully share in the benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. That workers are entitled to security in their jobs and freedom from unemployment;
3. That workers have a right to organise themselves into trade unions of their choice without state repression;
4. That workers must enjoy full democratic rights;
5. That migrant labour and influx controls are a fundamental denial of the rights of workers to work where they choose;
6. In the leadership of the working class in the democratic struggle for freedom.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To work for a South Africa in which the oppression and exploitation of workers will cease to exist;
2. To encourage the building of genuine democratic trade unions;
3. To oppose the migrant labour system and to fight for the right of workers to have permanent urban residences;
4. To strengthen the unity between genuine democratic trade unions and all patriotic and freedom loving people in the struggle for political rights for all.





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WE DEMAND:

1. The immediate release of all detained under Security Legislation.
  2. The immediate release of all political prisoners.
  3. The unconditional safe return of all political exiles.
  4. The repeal of all security legislation relating to the detention, banning and banishment of people engaged in the freedom struggle.
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## Namibia

For many years, the people of Namibia, like us in South Africa have been subjected to the tyranny of racist rule.

Increasingly allegations are being made of SADF's brutality in that country. South Africa continues to occupy Namibia illegally despite fierce resistance from the Namibian people and condemnation from the International community.

We believe that the struggle of Namibia's people against South African rule is a just one; that the Namibian struggle is our struggle.



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# ✓ Cost of living

## NOTING:

1. Now, more than ever before we face a serious attack on our living standards. Millions in our country are jobless and homeless.
2. Government subsidies are shrinking. The prices of bread, milk and other commodities are rising. We face crippling price increases.
3. Many are starving in our country of gold. The load is pressing on our shoulders.
4. A few enjoy privileges while most of us live a life of poverty and misery.
5. Our people have a basic right to cheap and nutritious food. We also believe that only in a country which we have control over the riches, will we enjoy these rights.
6. The unequal and totally inadequate social security benefits in the form of pensions, unemployment insurance and other state grants.
7. The problems above are caused by the government preferentially allocating funds to defence, police and propaganda.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conference of the UDF held at Rocklands, Mitchells Plain, Cape Town on 20th August, 1983,

## RESOLVES:

1. to continue to struggle for our basic right to cheap nutritious food and other essentials.
  2. to create and join democratic organisations through which we will fight for these rights.
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# ✓ Detentions, political prisoners and exiles

The first National Conference of the UDF held at Rocklands Centre, Mitchell's Plain, on the 20th August, 1983,

## CONDEMNNS

The Government for its policy of detaining opponents of apartheid under its draconian and undemocratic laws.



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# ✓ Removals and group areas

The forced and cruel uprooting and removals of our people from our land and homes as evidenced at Crossroads and Khayalitsha have been the backbone of this government's apartheid scheme.

Bulldozers and trucks remove our people daily and dump them in areas far from their working places. Children are hurt, our leaders are killed, families have been torn apart and communities destroyed.

We have over the years been robbed of our land, shelter, and livelihood. Our protests are met with teargas, batons and bullets.

We are divided, urban from rural, community from community.

WE DEMAND the return of our land and homes.

WE DEMAND the right to live where we please in the land of our birth.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conference of the UDF held at ROCKLANDS, MITCHELL'S PLAIN, CAPE TOWN on 20 AUGUST 1983.

## SALUTES

All communities who struggle against the group areas and removals, Demand that the government must repeal this group areas act and stop inhuman removals now, and return the land to the people.

## URGES

Communities faced with removals to organise their people to resist removals.

## FURTHER URGES

All communities to join with the affected community to fight removals.

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# ✓ Harassment and repression

1. That the government, despite its false claims of reform continues to use brutal force in its attempt to crush the forces of resistance;
2. That notwithstanding this onslaught, the government is finding it increasingly difficult to prevent the collapse of Apartheid;
3. That our leaders continue to be jailed, banished and harassed;
4. That this repression and harassment is directed at people's organisations.

HEREBY RESOLVE:

That we will not be deterred by these actions of the State to stop our march to freedom.



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WE THEREFORE:

1. Demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and the unconditional release of all Namibians in South African jails.
2. Reject with contempt the attempt by the USA in particular, to link the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia with that of the Cubans from Angola.
3. Pledge our full and unqualified support to the heroic struggle of the Namibian people under the gallant leadership of SWAPO.
4. Demand that the SADF cease their illegal actions in Angola.

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# Imperialism

WE NOTE with concern the support of the Thatcher, Reagan and Begin administrations for the South African Government's Constitutional Proposals.

WE KNOW that the U.S. government is, through its policy of constructive engagement, really only furthering its own economic interests in our country at the expense of the well-being of our people.

This unashamed greed and callous support for this unpopular and undemocratic government by the government of USA, Britain and Israel cannot stop us in our march towards freedom and cannot crush our resistance.

WE BELIEVE:

1. that all foreign governments must recognise the right of other people to live in a non-racial democratic country;
2. that those who claim to believe in the noble ideals of democracy have the obligation to support the just struggles of the S.A. people,

NOW THEREFORE, this first National Conference of the UDF held at Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town on 20 August 1983,

RESOLVES:

1. to demand the immediate end to the U.S.-British-Israel Government support for the South African Government;
  2. to reject the policy of constructive engagements and demand the immediate end to any support for the S.A. Government.
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