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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

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North P.S. GOOSE N.

MINUTES OF THE UDF N.E.C. MEETING HELD ON 1 AND 2 JUNE 1984 AT THE RONDEBOSCH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN CAPE TOWN

Conspicuous in handwritten
secret

1. PRESENT

- O Mnetsha (Chair)
- A Gumede
- P Lekota
- P Molefe
- C Saloojee
- M Ramgobir
- M Valli
- M Chikane
- G du Plessis
- A Mokoena
- Y Mahomed
- J Coovadia (Chair)
- E Ngoyi
- P Msutho
- D Swartz
- P Manilal
- S Tshwete
- S Ndzota
- B Maape
- J Khasu
- M Lesia
- C Caroius
- A Borraine
- C Tinto
- T Manuel
- J Marks

Chickens school

2. APOLOGIES

- A Sisulu
- C Nqakula
- M Stofile
- N Bouhonne
- M Xundu
- G Supersadh
- R Saloojee
- H Hlaethwa

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and were adopted.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 CONSTITUTION

It was agreed that the copy of a draft Constitution in the hands of the treasury be made available to all N.E.C. members for perusal, as from June 1, 1984.

4.2 N.E.C. MEETINGS AND VENUES

4.2.1 The General Secretary was instructed to negotiate for central venues in Kimberley and Bloemfontein. Henceforth the N.E.C. would meet in Kimberley and/or Bloemfontein.

4.2.2 The General Secretary was asked to work out another schedule for the N.E.C. meetings as the previous schedule had been disrupted.

4.3 WORKSHOP FOR N.E.C.

- 4.3.1 It was noted that what was minuted on the workshop, did not reflect what had been agreed upon. The minutes were amended to read:
"The workshop must be organised to assist N.E.C. members develop a common understanding of how a Front should function and also to deal with the contradictions within the Front".
- 4.3.2 The General Secretary in conjunction with the Regional Secretaries is to make arrangements for the workshop.
- 4.3.3 It was agreed that the workshop should take place after the August 22nd Elections for the Tricameral Parliament.

5. REPORTS

5.1 OFFICER'S REPORT

The report was read. Regions felt that there was an imbalance with regards to section "D" of the report, and that there was no definite yard stick used to assess the Regions.

5.2. REGIONAL REPORTS

5.2.1 Natal: The report of the Natal Region was received.

5.2.1.1 MSC: 35 000 signatures were collected according to the report.

5.2.1.2 Inkatha was reported to be a major obstacle.

5.2.1.3 MSC was combined with the Anti-Election Campaign.

5.2.2 Western Cape

5.2.2.1 MSC: 87 000 signatures collected on a door-to-door basis mainly.

5.2.2.2 Grassroots: Have published MSC form with space for 12 signatures, but the response was not encouraging.

5.2.2.3 Elections: Pensioners and civil servants were being forced to register as voters for the Tri-cameral Parliament.

5.2.2.4 Region observed the difference between the Labour Party and the UDF is not very clear to the masses.

5.2.3 Transvaal

5.2.3.1 MSC: 42 000 signatures are reported as collected.

5.2.3.2 There is a lack of enough activism in the Transvaal.

5.2.3.3 Problems were identified as being both of a structural and a leadership nature.

5.2.3.4 The R.E.C. was advised to address the problems.

5.2.3.5 The National Officers were advised to assist the Transvaal Region to arrange a meeting of the R.E.C., and the activists, as a way of motivating the activists

5.2.4 Border

5.2.4.1 MSC: 30 000 signatures have been collected. MSC units have been set up.

5.2.4.2 The region is experiencing problem of blitzes being disrupted by the police.

- 3.7
- 5.2.4.3 Some signatures collected in Grahamstown, which is considered as part of the Boarder Region, were sent to the Eastern Cape.
 - 5.2.4.4 Region requested that National officers be sent to the Border Region to look into the problem between the Region and the Youth Congress.
 - 5.2.5 Northern Cape
 - 5.2.5.1 MSC: 1 600 signatures have been collected.
 - 5.2.5.2 Two MSC committees have been set up in Kimberley and Vryburg.
 - 5.2.5.3 The Region experiences a problem of lack of basic organisational skills.
 - 5.2.5.4 The state of organisation in the Indian and coloured areas is very weak.
 - 5.2.5.5 The Western Cape Region is willing to help with media organisation in the Northern Cape.
 - 5.2.6 Eastern Cape
 - 5.2.6.1 MSC: 17 000 signatures have been collected.
 - 5.2.6.2 Co-ordination and leadership is a problem in the coloured areas. The leadership role is played by youth.
 - 5.2.6.3 Fosatu has been requested to allow UDF activists and volunteers collect signatures at Fosatu meetings.
 - 5.2.6.4 The Labour Party is taking an upper hand in the coloured areas.

6. UNITED NATIONS

It was agreed that the MSC figure be presented to the UN at the end of the campaign.

7. METHODS

- 8.1 It was noted that new methodologies had to be developed.
- 8.2 The MSC has to be used effectively to prove the incorrectness of the registration figures claimed by the Labour Party and other pro-constitution groups.

8. ELECTIONS

The following decisions were taken regarding the elections:

- 8.1 that the UDF makes a national call to the people of South Africa to boycott the elections for the Tri-cameral Parliament
- 8.2 that the masses of our people be made aware that it is not illegal to boycott the elections. A leaflet must be produced to this effect.
- 8.3 that it be recommended to regions to form Joint Planning Councils (JPC) to facilitate effective campaign against the elections. (In the TVL, the Regional Secretaries must work jointly with the National Officers towards the formation of JPC's).
- 8.4 that anti-elections meetings be organised throughout the country. These meetings would culminate in mass national rallies to be addressed by a speaker from Swapo of Namibia.
- 8.5 the weekend of the 18 and 19 August has been chosen for rallies to climax the anti-election campaign. During the same weekend, the anniversary of the UDF will be celebrated.
- 8.6 Transvaal is to be regarded as a priority region for the speaker from Namibia.

- 18.7 Tactics on how to handle reactionary parties would be determined on the basis of material conditions in each region. The same position holds for the sharing of platforms with collaborators and government officials or agents.
- 8.8 At the end of the Elections, the Front must challenge those with 32% poll and below, to resign.
- 8.9 The National Secretariat and the National Treasury must formulate a national strategy for the Anti-Election Campaign.
- 8.10 The anti election thrust must link to the removals of Africans and other key issues facing this community.

9. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

9.1 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVE WHO WENT ABROAD

9.1.1 "Let Live Prize"

Cassim reported that whilst in Sweden, he and Murphy (who was still abroad) met; the Editor of Arbetet (the Swedish minister who handed over the prize on Sunday 27 May 1984 in Malmö), some political parties and other organisations. His impression was that the Front is perceived as a very significant and powerful resistance movement in the country. The support for the Front was very substantial.

9.1.1 Centre Against Apartheid

Cassim further reported that at an event of top religious leaders of the world, held at the UN Centre Against Apartheid in March 1984, the Front represented by Cassim spoke on the New Constitution.

9.2 GENERAL OVERSEAS PUBLICITY WORK

Valli gave a brief report of his six weeks publicity work overseas.

9.2.1 Countries and groups

Some of the countries he visited are; Canada, U.K., West Germany, U.S.A. and Holland. His report indicated that several organisations were met.

9.2.2 Anniversary of UDF

Support groups abroad would consider calling for an International Day of Solidarity with the UDF and the people of S.A. on the Anniversary of the Front.

9.2.3 A Formis being circulated, to be signed by organisations rejecting the New Constitution.

9.2.4 There is a need to keep the African Diplomats informed about the developments in the country. (A booklet is to be produced on a regular basis and sent to them.)

9.2.5 There is a need to follow-up the work already done abroad.

9.2.6 SACC Booklet on Removals made a very big impact in church and organisational circles.

9.2.7 It was decided that a Foreign Relations Sub-Committee must be formed. The Secretariat was charged with that responsibility.

10. SWAZILAND

- 10.1 Letter: The National Publicity Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the government of Swaziland in which he is to state the position of the Front on the Land Deal question and Repression.

- 10.2 The National Officers must go to KaNgwane, assess the conditions there and prepare briefing notes for Regions.

11. NKOMATI

- 11.1 UDF Position: It was decided that the matter of the position of the Front on Nkomati should be referred to the Sub-Committee on Foreign Relations.
- 11.2 The National Publicity Secretary must write a letter to President Machel impressing upon him that it is the right of the S.A people to define their own struggle.

12. P.W. BOTHA

A letter must be written to the South African Bishop's Conference asking them to communicate to the Pope the position of the Front on P.W.'s trip abroad with the view to persuading the papal states to understand our view.

NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE

13.1 REPORT ON PREPARATION

- 13.1.1 The Diakonia is willing to sponsor the conference, i.e. the conference must be under their auspices.
- 13.1.2 The 23rd or 30th June are suggested dates for the first consultative meeting on the conference.
- 13.1.3 A maximum of 5 people per region was suggested.
- 13.1.4 It was agreed that the matter be taken back to the Regions and that the feed-back be given to Cde. Yunus Mahomed within ten days of the N.E.C. meeting.

14. RESTRUCTURING

14.1 PUBLICITY

- 14.1.1 It was noted that a properly equipped office for Publicity, Research and Information would facilitate the work of the Front in that respect.
- 14.1.2 The office should have telex and photo-copying facilities.
- 14.1.3 The National Publicity Secretary was mandated to set-up a sub-committee to fulfil this function.
- 14.1.4 The National Officers must set-up a labour unit to address labour problems and relations with unions.

14.2 NATIONAL OFFICE

- 14.2.1 Administration: It was decided that an efficient administrative person be employed for the National Office.
- 14.2.2 The National Officers and the National Treasurer were mandated to interview applicants.
- 14.2.3 The Transvaal Region was instructed to stop using the National Office telephone, to apply for their own and to pay their rental henceforth.
- 14.2.4 The National Treasurer was instructed to stop all payments of debts incurred by the Transvaal Region, and to debit to the Region all the money owing to the National Office. In the

event of allocations, all money owed to the National Office is to be deducted immediately.

- 14.2.5 Transvaal is to return all National Office keys to the National Office.
- 14.2.6 Patrick Lephunya is no longer a paid worker in the National Office.
- 14.2.7 The N.E.C. ratified the National Secretariat decision that the National Officers must play the role of organisers.
- 14.2.8 The N.E.C. ratified the decision of the National Treasury to employ Cde Johnson Khasu for the Northern Cape Region.
- 14.2.9 The National Treasury was empowered to determine the salary for Jomo.
- 14.2.10 The National Treasury was given the mandate to employ rural organisers once resources are available.

15. FINANCES

15.1 GRANTS

The decision taken by the National Secretariat regarding grants to Regions was ratified by the N.E.C.

- 15.1.1 New Grants: The three major regions, Natal, Transvaal and Western Cape were each granted R8 000. Northern Cape, Border and Eastern Cape were each granted R2 000.
- 15.1.2 Further grants would be given were resources available.

15.2 STATEMENTS

It was decided that all regions submit their audited statements to the National Office within two (2) weeks of the N.E.C. meeting. Failure on the part of the regions would lead to the National Treasury with-holding grants due to those regions.

- 15.3 Regions must carry the responsibility of transporting N.E.C. members in their regions.

15.4 GRANTS FOR RURAL WORK

- 15.4.1 Western Cape: It was agreed that the R5 000 grant already advanced to the Western Cape be treated as separate from their general budget.
- 15.4.2 Transvaal: R6 000 (six thousand rand) must be made available to the Transvaal Region once money is available. (The grant would be for work in the Northern Transvaal.)

16. DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS

The National Officer must develop a system of monitoring the development of regions. It was noted that Regions could not forever be regarded as major and small without a definite standard used to determine which are major and vice-versa.

17. RMC

- 17.1 Cde Abrey Mokoena raised the issue of the N.E.C's responsibility in terms of building the RMC. It was pointed out that the N.E.C. could not be held responsible for a matter that had never been forwarded for discussion within the N.E.C. meeting. It was noted

- 23.2 that the task of building the RMC is that of the structural regions of the RMC. The N.E.C. could, if approached, help from time to time.
- 17.2 The RMC Natal and Transvaal are to resolve the divisions existing between them.
- 17.3 The problems existing in the Transvaal between some members of the RMC and some members of the Transvaal UDF Region must be resolved by them.
- 17.4 It was suggested to Cde Aubrey Mokoena that he consult regions of the UDF if he wanted assistance in terms of setting up the RMC structure, and also as a way of ensuring that people constituting the RMC are not hostile to the UDF.

18. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 18.1 It was noted that the N.E.C could at this stage set hard and fast rules in terms of code of conduct for the regions and affiliates.
- 18.2 Regions are empowered to discipline their members.
- 18.3 The Transvaal Region was advised to take up the issue of Dr Motlana's interview with the SABC-TV.
- 18.4 Transvaal was asked to inform Herbert Barnabas that he can no longer serve in the R.E.C of the Transvaal region as he is no longer a member of S.A.A.W.U in terms of their last Congress decisions.

19. DECISIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The General Secretary was instructed to remind regions on a regular basis of major decisions that must be implemented and to ensure that regions carry out their tasks.

20. STATE OF AFFILIATES

- 20.1 Regions must submit to the National Office updated lists of their affiliates.
- 20.2 Regional secretaries must visit their affiliates on a regular basis and assess the general state of development.
- 20.3 The National Officers must prepare questionnaires to assist regions in the work of assessing affiliates.

21. UNIONS

21.1 NEW FEDERATION

The matter must be referred to the Labour Unit and any other labour matter must hence forth be handled by this unit.

22. ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

- 22.1 It was noted that resources would determine the extent to which the UDF could address the question of alternative media.

23. REMOVALS

- 23.1 It was noted that the Western Cape Region was assisting to co-ordinate an Ecumenical Service organised by the W.P.C for June 24, 1984 at 2.30 p.m.

- 23.2 The N.E.C. was asked to send a message of support to the Service. The focus of the service is to be Khayelitsha. Slogan: "No to Removals and Yes to Unity". Speakers are to include: Dr Boesak, speakers from Khayelitsha, Mgwali, CAHAC etc.
- 23.3 The National Officers must develop guidelines for discussion at the next N.E.C. meeting.
- 23.4 The National Secretariat was requested to put removals on the agenda of its next meeting.
- 23.5 It was agreed in principle to employ a full-time person to address the question of removals.
- 23.6 Regions must consider the possibility of sending small volunteer groups to work in areas affected by removals.
- 23.7 The National Secretariat must take the task of organising a National and International Day of Focus on Removals.

24. CONSCRIPTION

- 24.1 The report from the Western Cape Anti-Conscription Commission was presented. This region is planning an Anti-Conscription Rally for June 17 1984.
- 24.2 Natal, Transvaal and Border Regions are addressing the question of conscription.

25. G.S.T. AND FOOD PRICES

It was noted that a campaign against the G.S.T and high prices had the capacity to take the Front beyond the August 22 Elections. It was accordingly decided:

- 25.1 That the Front must prepare a list of basic items (based on research) and couple a campaign around this and G.S.T.
- 25.2 The National Publicity Secretary was asked to contact research units with a view to evolving a program of action.
- 25.3 Regions must consult unions and ask them to participate in a joint campaign with the Front.
- 25.4 It was recommended that July 1, 1984 be a National Day of Focus on High Food Prices and G.S.T.

26. EDUCATION

- 26.1 Regions gave reports on how they handled the crisis in schools.
- 26.2 It was decided that a National Day of Solidarity with the people of Cradock must be organised and that is must be coupled with one of the days referred to earlier. (The focus of the Rally will be amongst others, a call for the release of the people detained during the school crises).

27. CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE UDF

- 27.1 It was decided that a press conference be organised by all regions to address the campaign that is aiming at discrediting the UDF.
- 27.2 The Publicity Secretary was asked to prepare a fact sheet on attacks on the Front, and make it available to all the regions on 7 June 1984.

- 27.3 The Front must produce a publication clarifying the position of the Front, in the light of this campaign.
- 27.4 Noting the bias fo the Ilanga Editorial on UDF/Inkatha Relations, the N.E.C. asked the National Publicity Secretary and President Archie Gumede to respond to the editorial comment.
- 27.5 Regions were requested to ask their affiliates or members of these affiliates to write letters to the Editor of Ilanga Newspaper defending the position of the Front, in particular the decision not to meet Gatsha and his Inkatha.
- 27.6 The Western Cape Region was mandated to instruct lawyers in terms of pamphlets discrediting the Front, as well as various matters needing legal opinion.

28. ROLE OF ISRAEL IN CISKEI

The Border Region was asked to make the details of Israeli involvement in strengthening Ciskei, available to the National Publicity Secretary.

29. NEXT N.E.C. MEETING

The next N.E.C. meeting must be combined with a National Workshop for N.E.C. members.

30. CLOSURE

The meeting closed on Sunday, June 2, at 14-00 hrs.

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