

AK2117/J7

DA - 72.

the date 6/4/85
'UDF Conference dresses
'non-violent direct action'
(Age 20).

UDF conference stresses 'non-violent direct action'

— by —
Jo-Anne Collinge

More than 300 delegates will be attending the second national conference of the United Democratic Front on the West Rand this weekend.

The theme of the conference, "From protest to challenge — from mobilisation to organisation", reflected that the UDF was facing a crucial new phase, said publicity secretary Mr Terror Lekota.

"What we are saying is that in its initial phase the UDF protested against the new constitution and mobilised the masses against giving it their democratic approval.

"But now the Government has gone ahead and imposed the constitution. Our new task is to challenge its implementation. The conference will have to decide on tactics and methods to put into practice such a challenge," said Mr Lekota.

The emphasis would be on "non-violent means of direct action", he said, adding that the Uitenhage and other township killings would force the

conference to ask itself "In the face of such brutal repression how can the Front continue to organise without risking heavy loss of life?"

The conference was opened last night by the only one of its three presidents who is not in jail, Mr Oscar Mpetha. Also scheduled to speak at the conference is Dr A Shevali, the general secretary of the Namibian Council of Churches.

The conference is likely to result in a considerable reshuffle of office bearers as a result of the arrest and continued imprisonment of many national leaders of the UDF. Mr Lekota stressed that jailed leaders — including the 16 treason trialists held in Durban — were still held in the highest esteem and if their positions were filled it was purely because of the demand that the work of the Front must continue.

The venue of the conference is the Civic Centre at Azadville. Members of the public were invited to the opening session but all other sessions will be restricted to delegates.

STAR 6/4/85.

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.