

J7

(20)
UDF NATIONAL OFFICE
16 NOVEMBER 1984

Ben J M
Dear Comrades

Here is the report on our deliberations regarding the International Youth Year.

I would just like to mention that this report was drawn up separately from the report on the whole plenary session and that explains why this section only covers the IYY.

I would just like to stress that there are a number of important issues that we need to address to presently:

1. Setting up of local and regional committees.
2. Contacting church and sports structures.
3. Finance for campaign. (R20 0000 - National)
4. Local and regional launches

It would be appreciated if comrades in various regions could address themselves to these issues and prepare reports for the next Interim Committee meeting which would take place in December. The Interim Committee would all welcome suggestions in terms of resources and the national launch.

Yours in the struggle

Vincent Williams

REPORT OF PLENARY SESSION HELD AT LENASIA

10 - 11 NOVEMBER 1985

Our focus on the IYY started with a paper on the history, background and objectives, and also some information regarding international developments up till now. The paper also attempted to contextualise the Iyy in South Africa, and spell out what objectives we could have for the campaign. In conclusion, the IYY paper attempted to raise some of the important questions and issues that needed to be clarified. (See included paper)

In the light of the questions raised, the following discussions were held and conclusions reached, after we had established the fact that we were meeting as UDF affiliates and thus accountable to UDF.

Arising out of the questions raised by the paper, we attempted to draw up a list of priorities and campaigns that are going to face democratic organisations next year, and more specifically youth organisations. Through reflection on the events that took place this year, the following things were isolated:

1. Anti-conscription and militarisation
2. 30th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter
3. Forced removals
4. Anti-detentions campaigns
5. Consolidation of organisations
6. Education Charter
7. Unemployment
8. Effective leadership and skills training
9. Establishment and strengthening of organisations in rural areas
10. Strong national co-ordination

Taking into account these priorities, we agreed that the Youth should engage themselves in these campaigns. At this stage the question of the Freedom Charter arose - Should we as UDF affiliates take up the 30th anniversary of the Charter? Taking into account UDF's position in relation to the Charter and also the fact that we have agreed to take up the IYY under the banner of UDF, it was decided that we should not. It was however agreed upon that individual organisations are free to take it up as one campaign in their IYY programme.

Attempts were made to decide whether we should take IYY up as a campaign or a theme. Due to lack of clarity on the difference between the two, attempts were made to clarify each one.

A CAMPAIGN was seen as a short-term, with specific objectives and a specific issue to mobilise around. An example was given of the Million Signatures Campaign - it was specific, with particular objectives and limited to a particular aspect.

A THEME was seen to be more long-term and can serve as an overall guideline to mobilise ourselves in action. A theme like that of the IYY allows for the incorporation of broader issues which become campaigns in themselves. This does not mean that the theme itself does not get emphasised -- it means that all campaigns that are engaged in should serve as an opportunity to popularise the theme.

It was concluded that we should not attempt to clarify whether we take up the IYY as a campaign or a theme, but that means the nature of our actions will determine the nature of IYY. This means that at specific stages the IYY can be regarded as a theme and at others it will be a campaign.

On discussing the advantages of taking up the IYY, the following conclusions were reached:

- 1.. It gives us the opportunity to mobilise and organise the youth of our country.
2. At the same time we can exploit the opportunity that the IYY presents to popularise, strengthen and build our organisations, including the UDF,
- 3.. It gives the opportunity to put S.A. struggle on the international agenda, while at the same time developing a consciousness and understanding of the struggle in other countries.
4. Through the IYY we can establish a unified programme of action and hence establish effective co-ordination.

Under the question of our relationship to other structures, the following were isolated:

- 1.. UDF - It was agreed upon that we were meeting as Udf affiliates and that we would thus work under the banner of UDF, while at the same time expecting support from REC'S and the NEC.
- 2.. Non-Charterist forces -- At this stage it would be detrimental for us to establish links with these forces. We should avoid extending them a direct invitation to them, for fear of provoking reaction. It was thus agreed upon that we needed to finalise our programme of action and extend a public invitation to all forces that are willing to work under the banner of UDF.
3. Religious and sports bodies -- We cannot fully involve these structures in the planning of our programme of action, but we need to draw them in as our programme develops. It was however agreed that we needed to try and establish contact with them immediately.

The following things were isolated as important priorities for the next few weeks:

- 1.. Popularising of the IYY through press releases and other forms of media.
2. Establishment of local and regional launches
4. It was tentatively decided that a national launch would take place at the end of January 1985.

To facilitate the work the needs to happen during the next few weeks, a National Interim committee was established with representatives from all the regions and one person from the nec of COSAS; AZASO and NUSAS.. The work of the committee was outlined as follows:--

- 1.. Contact absent regions and get representatives
2. Work towards establishing IYY local and regional Committees
3. Liaise with UDF, church and sports structures
4. Investigate interenational links and finance
5. Release press statements
6. Convene the National Launch

A very broad programme of action was proposed and it was felt that the Interim Committee needed to investigate this and develop a more streamline programme, with suggestions from regions.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1. End of January | - | National Launch |
| 2. 8 March | - | International Women's Day |
| 3. 21 March | - | Sharpeville Day |
| 4. 1 May | -- | Labour Day |
| 5.. 16 - 26 June | - | National Youth Week |
| 6.. 15 - 16 December | - | National Youth Festival |

It was agreed upon that local and regional committees would develop their own programme of action with some assistance from the National Committee.

This report was presented to the UDF , MEC and was well received. They promised to support us in whatever way they can.

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