

AK2117/J2-14

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Ben O.

MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 1984

PRESENT

1. AFFILIATES

R.M.C, DESCOM, NUSAS, T.I.C., DAM, MGVUSA, SAAWU, Y.C.S., COSAS, S.C.A., TVL. ANTI PC., FEDSAW, (PRETORIA) MOYA, V.C.A., REIGER PARK RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION, GAWU, SASDU, MAC, B.S.M., SAMWU, ERAPO, SOWETO RESIDENT COMMITTEE, SOYCO. AND NEUSA.

2. R.E.C.

M. CHIKANE, E. SHABANGU, L. VOGELMAN, I MOHAMED, D. MAHOPO, M. BOKALA, N. PAHAD, R.A.M. SALOOJEE, A. MOKOENA, C. NKONDO, C SALLOOJEE AND E MOLOBI

2. APOLOGIES

H. HLALETUA.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 TWO DANISH MESSAGES OF SUPPORT WERE READ OUT.

3.2 A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL UNION OF WINE , SPIRITS AND ALLIED WORKERS WAS READ.

3.3 APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION WAS RECEIVED FROM NGWU AND JODAC.

3.4 NOTES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVICE CENTRES WAS RECEIVED FROM BLACK SASH.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING WERE ADOPTED.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NONE.

6. SECRETARIAL REPORT

THE REPORT WAS READ AND ADOPTED.

7. MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

7.1 M VALLI OUTLINED THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN. (SEE DOCUMENT ENTITLED MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN)

7.2 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED SIGNATURE FORM : IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE THIRD CLAUSE SHOULD READ " WE STAND FOR THE CREATION OF A NON - RACIAL DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA FREE OF OPPRESSION, ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND RACISM".

7.3 IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE N.E.C. SHOULD SET ON AGE LIMIT FOR SIGNATORIES

8. FINANCE8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

A FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1983 WAS PRESENTED BY N. PAHAD. THE UDF TRANSVAAL HAS A DEBT OF R32 000. IT WAS DECIDED THAT LETTERS OF APPEAL SHOULD BE SENT TO AFFILIATES THAT HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THE R100 00 CONTRIBUTION. THE SECRETARIES WERE ASKED TO READ OUT THE NAMES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING.

8.2 FUND RAISING

- (a) AN ALL - DAY FESTIVAL IS BEING PLANNED IN ORDER TO RAISE FUNDS. THE FESTIVAL WOULD BE HELD AT FUND VALLEY ON 4 03 84. AFFILIATES WERE REQUESTED TO ASSIST THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS EVERY TUESDAYS AT THE UDF OFFICE.
- (b) IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT AFFILIATES SCREEN FILMS IN ORDER TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

9. COMRADE GUMEDE'S TV APPEARANCE

MR. C. SALOOJEE SAID THAT COMRADE GUMEDE'S INTERVIEW WAS DISTORTED BY SABC TV. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE N.E.C. ADOPTS A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ITS MEMBERS IN ORDER TO AVOID SUCH PROBLEMS IN FUTURE. THE N.E.C. SHOULD ALSO RECOMMEND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AFFILIATES ORGANISATIONS TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

10. COLOURED AND INDIAN REFERENDUM.

OF THE TWENTY FIVE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING TWELVE WERE IN FAVOUR OF A BOYCOTT. TEN WERE IN FAVOUR OF A NO VOTE. TWO ORGANIZATIONS SAID THAT THEY WERE OPEN AND ONE ORGANIZATION ABSTAINED.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT ON THE PORT ELIZABETH CONFERENCE WAS READ TOGETHER WITH THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

DELEGATES APPEALED TO THE HOUSE TO ADOPT AN OPEN MIND ALTHOUGH PEOPLE HAVE MANDATES FROM THEIR ORGANIZATIONS. IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT INSTEAD OF DEBATING THE TWO EXTREME POSITIONS, DELEGATES SHOULD APPLY THEMSELVES TO PROPOSING COMPROMISES, IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL AFFILIATES.

IT WAS SAID THAT WE MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT RULES BY FORCE DESPITE ITS TALK OF REFORM. COLOURED AND INDIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE REJECTING THE CONSTITUTION. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION MUST BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT ANY COMPROMISE POSITION SHOULD HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF HALTING THE FORMATION OF THE COLOURED AND INDIAN PARLIAMENTS.

A SPEAKER POINTED OUT THAT THE CISKEI REFERENDUM IN 1981 WAS IGNORED BY THE PEOPLE. IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT.

BY CASTING A MASSIVE NO VOTE. A SPEAKER ALSO SAID THAT MANY COLOURED PEOPLE DO NOT POSSESS BOOK'S OF LIFE. IN THIS SITUATION CAMPAIGNING FOR A NO VOTE WOULD REQUIRE OF US TO ASK SUCH PEOPLE TO REGISTER AND THUS SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO RACE CLASSIFICATION.

TWO ALTERNATE POSITIONS WERE SUGGESTED :

- (a) UDF SHOULD MAKE A DEMAND FOR A NON - RACIAL REFERENDUM. THIS WOULD DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE DEMAND MADE BY UDF AND THAT MADE BY THE LIKES OF RAJBANSI.
- (b) A DEMAND SHOULD BE MADE FOR AN INDIAN REFERENDUM AS CONDITIONS IN THIS COMMUNITY MILITATES FAVOURABLE FOR THIS CALL.

DUE TO LACK OF TIME THE DISCUSSION ON (a) AND (b) ABOVE WAS NOT ADEQUATE. FINALLY, THE HOUSE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS :

WE, THE TRANSVAAL GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT, NOTING

- (i) THAT NO CONSENSUS HAS BEEN ARRIVED AT IN THE TRANSVAAL AFTER WEEKS OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONSULTATIONS.
- (ii) THAT THE DEBATES HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP MUCH TIME AND ENERGY.
- (iii) THAT THE FRONT NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY TO TAKE FIRM DECISIONS AND AVOID PARALYSIS.

THEREFORE RESOLVE:

- (i) THAT THE VOTING STATISTICS AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS AND OPTIONS PRESENTED BE HANDED OVER TO THE N.E.C. FOR A DECISION, THIS DECISION BEING BINDING ON ALL AFFILIATES OF THE TRANSVAAL UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.
- (ii) THAT THE N.E.C. MAKES EVERY ATTEMPT TO SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTIBLE TO ALL AFFILIATES.

II. STATUS OF OBSERVERS AT GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

IT WAS DECIDED THAT IN GENERAL COUNCIL OBSERVERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK. EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE MADE IN CASES WHERE OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN DELIBERATIONS ON PARTICULAR TOPICS.

12. GENERAL

12.1 IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE UDF SENDS TELEGRAMS TO THE U.K AND U.S.A. CONDEMNING ITS STAND ON THE WAR IN ANGOLA.

12.2 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 1984.

TIME 2PM (SHARP)

VENUE KHOTSO HOUSE.

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