

C115

BUILD THE UNITED FRONT !

(February 1985)

Brothers and sisters ! Remember when more than one million workers and youth united in action ? Remember when all of our organisations built a united committee to lead united action ? There cannot be one among us who has forgotten the mighty November stayaway in the Transvaal - when our trade unions, our UDF and our youth organisations united in the Transvaal Stayaway Committee.

Forward from the Stayaway !

But look brothers and sisters, there is a problem. It is nearly 4 months since the stayaway. What has happened in this time ? A lot of struggle. A lot of attacks from Botha and the bosses. But not one united meeting of all our organisations ! We had a united front of all our organisations in the Transvaal Stayaway Committee. Today we still need a united front. Today we still want a united front. We must not lose the unity that we achieved in the stayaway.

KEEP THE UNITY OF THE STAYAWAY - FORWARD FROM THE STAYAWAY !

Look at what is happening. Tens of thousands of miners and factory workers are striking across the country. Everywhere the youth are mobilising. Everywhere workers and youth are uniting against rents, busfares and renewals. Nearly every day there is a big struggle somewhere. We see the fighting strength of our class. But we also see a weakness. Again and again, we are fighting our struggles separately. But we have mass national organisations that link us together. We have common needs and demands. We face the same attacks. Then we must stand together on every issue, against every attack, in every struggle !

BUILD THE UNITED FRONT OF ALL OUR ORGANISATIONS !

We need a united front more than ever

THINK what we can do. The united front will be a hero for every worker and youth in our class. The united front will be our place for discussing every issue and facing it together. The united front will be our weapon for united mobilisation, more powerful than we have ever seen. And one thing is clear to us all - today we need mass unity more than ever before. Remember Sasol. Remember the army raid on Sebokeng. The liberal words of Botha and the bosses have not stopped their blows against us. Look at Crossroads. Look at the treason trial of UDF and SAAWU leaders. Look at the sacking and arrest of striking mine workers. And while they point their guns at our heads - they are stealing even more from our pockets. Price rises are eating our wages. Retrenchments are destroying our jobs.

Botha and the bosses are trying to crush our organised strength so that they can squeeze more profits out of our class. They have not slept well since the Transvaal stayaway. They will do everything possible to stop a united front. That is why they hammer our unions whenever they see unity between the unions and the UDF. They are hoping - "First we break the UDF - and then we break the unions."

But we have another plan. We know that unity is strength. We know that the fist is more powerful than five fingers. We know that the wall is stronger than the bricks. We know that the struggle in the workplace and the struggle in the community are one struggle - the struggle of our class against the bosses and their government. And we are determined to see all of our organisations to fight this struggle.

**UNITY IS STRENGTH - BUILD THE UNITED FRONT !
UNIONS AND UDF TOGETHER AGAINST BOTHA AND THE BOSSES !**

BUILD THE UNITED FRONT !

Rev C115"

We call on our leaders

The Transvaal stayaway has shown us that we can build a united front. The Transvaal stayaway has shown us the power of the united front. And the Stayaway Committee has shown us how to begin the task. Leaders and delegates from all of our organisations must get together. They must discuss the united front and how to build it. The policy of each of our organisations is for unity. We call on all of our leaders to carry out this policy. Act now for unity. You will have the support of millions of workers and youth behind you. FOSATU, CUSA, SAAWU, COSAS, civics ... the strength of all organisations can be brought together in a joint meeting of our leaders. We say to Chris Dlamini (FOSATU) and the other leaders who were in the Stayaway Committee - "You must give a lead."

FOR A JOINT LEADERSHIP MEETING OF THE UNIONS AND THE UDF

If we can achieve a joint-meeting in one area - then we use this to fight for a national joint meeting. If we can build a united front on one issue in one area - then we use this to fight for a united front on all issues and in all areas.

Organising the united front

How will the united front be organised ? The united front has the task of licking together millions on every big issue. We need a framework to bring together millions of workers and youth. It is like the scaffolding which is used to build a building. We can learn from the experience of the Transvaal stayaway. The framework of the united front is a national committee together with regional committees. Each organisation sends delegates with a mandate to the committees. The united front committees will meet regularly. They will take joint decisions on national or regional issues facing our class. Then millions can be mobilised together.

BUILD NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE UNITED FRONT

Think that can happen. The national committee decides on a campaign for a national minimum wage. Each organisation goes back to prepare its forces. In every industry and every community, united front committees are set up to mobilise united millions of workers and youth now together in struggle for a living wage !

The united front will strengthen each organisation

Some of our brothers and sisters are worried - "Won't the united front undermine the independence of our organisation ?" We answer - "It is Botha and the bosses who are trying to undermine the independence of your organisation and every organisation. They can be successful if our organisations try to stand alone. The task of the united front is to defend your organisation and all our organisations, so that they can live and grow as independent organisations." The united front is not a new organisation that swallows up the different organisations in our movement. The united front is a free and equal agreement between independent organisations. It is an agreement to co-operate against the common enemy. Each organisation keeps its own structure, its own internal democratic control, its own policies. Each organisation can fight inside the united front for its policy on every issue. Each organisation agrees to follow the majority agreement in action. This is the united front - independent organisations which stand together in action. Through united mass action, each organisation will recruit new members and grow stronger against the enemy.

**STRENGTHEN EVERY ORGANISATION - BUILD THE UNITED FRONT !
KEEP THE UNITY OF THE STAYAWAY - FORWARD FROM THE STAYAWAY !
UNIONS AND UDF TOGETHER AGAINST BOTHA AND THE BOSSES !
FOR A JOINT LEADERSHIP MEETING OF THE UNIONS AND THE UDF !
BUILD NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE UNITED FRONT !**

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.