

T27

DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



BEW 127

NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HLOPE
42 DE VILLIERS
JOHANNESBURG
P.O. BOX 1036
TEL: 29-1916
29-1917

21 January 1985

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONAL SECRETARIES

Dear Comrades

RE: HOUSING CONFERENCE & LOCAL AUTHORITIES

As you should know the Housing Conference has been on our Agenda for now a year. But because of the urgency of the campaign against the new constitution this issue has been shelved from time to time. However, the matter must still be pursued with all the seriousness it deserves.

The National Secretariat at its meeting on 12 and 13 January, 1985 decided to postpone the conference in this regard to June. (The date will be made known to you in due course).

This will allow for proper discussions and preparations for the conference by our appropriate affiliates. I urge you to ensure that thorough discussions go into this matter. Once this has been done please forward to the H/O a synthesis of these discussions.

I enclose herewith a copy of proposals worked out by our office in the Western Cape in conjunction with CAHAC - as the basis for discussion.

Although the conference is scheduled for June, I wish to urge you to address it as a matter of urgency.

Please circulate it amongst our appropriate affiliates e.g Civic organisations, Housing Action Committees, etc.

Thank you.

Yours in struggle,

POPO MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY



Ba "T27" 12

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

WESTERN CAPE REGION

P.O. BOX 27
SALT RIVER
7925

16 April 19

The Secretary

.....

Dear

RE: PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CIVIC ORGANISATIONS

Following our decision at the NEC and our subsequent discussions at the National Secretariat, we have discussed the ideas in the Western Cape. Also, in telephonic communication with Popo, we were requested to take initiatives along with CAHAC to implement the plans for a conference.

Attached, are the proposals which emerged from Western Cape consultations. Kindly forward copies of the attached to the major civics in your region and ensure that the discussions are conducted in the appropriate forums.

I will telephone all regional secretaries on Thursday 19 April for a progress report. I realise that this leaves very little time, but as can be gleaned from the attached, these matters demand some urgency.

We await your positive responses.

Yours in struggle

Trevor Manuel
Regional Secretary

CIRCULAR: NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CIVIC ORGANISATIONS

TO: ALL UDF REGIONAL SECRETARIES FOR REFERRAL TO CIVIC ORGANISATION

FROM: UDF WESTERN CAPE /CAHAC

The UDF NEC meeting held in Pretoria on 21/22 January decided to implement whatever steps were necessary to convene a National Conference of civic organisations. Subsequently, the National Secretariat discussed this matter at its meeting in Johannesburg on 10/11 March where the urgency of the conference was re-emphasised.

In accordance with the above, our REC has discussed the conference with CAHAC and the following proposals have emerged from these consultations.

1. AIMS

- 1.1 Major thrust should be the discussion of a campaign around the 'new housing deal', forced removals & local government. Discussions should facilitate the strengthening of civic organisations and the campaign should attempt to bridge racial divisions, urban/rural divisions and organisational unevenness.
- 1.2 Make a political statement (concretised) on the housing crisis.

2. CONTENT

- 2.1 Discussion of the implications of the 'new housing deal'.
- 2.2 Looking at involving civics nationally in the campaign.
- 2.3 Discussing and developing approaches to changed local government, both as Black Local Authorities and Local Councils as per new constitution.
- 2.4 Developing approaches to the 'Koornhof Bills' and forced removals with emphasis placed on attempts at co-option.

3. DATE

- 3.1 1 & 2 June : The advantages of this date would be a) the long weekend would allow for a full 2-day conference and facilitate travelling and therefore participation by working people. b) sufficient time would be allowed for the campaign to take shape and possibly climax around the time of elections c) the matters under discussion could be placed on the agenda of civic organisations sooner, thereby giving impetus to campaigns such as forced removals. The major disadvantage is the short time within which to adequately prepare.
- 3.2 Mid- July: The advantages would be a) more time for preparation and consolidation before the conference b) The impact of the 'political statement' would be greater because it will be made closer to the elections. The disadvantages are a) the short time for a campaign to take shape in the community before the elections. b) Reactionaries like the Labour Party have placed a heavy emphasis on housing and are gaining ground by seeking concessions.

4. PREPARATION

- 4.1 Discussion of this circular/proposal within civic organisations.
- 4.2 Initial feedback at UDF NEC.
- 4.3 In W.Cape a mini-conference of the rurally-based emerging civic organisations is scheduled for 29 April.
- 4.4 A trip from the Western Cape (CAHAC & WCCA) during early MAY for national consultation, touching at the major centres. If the idea is acceptable, consultations should be held with the primary civic organisations (rather than a few activists) in each centre.

4.5 Establishing a pre-conference National Co-ordinating Committee.

5. THE CONFERENCE

5.1 Suggested size ±300 i.e 50 per centre/region.

5.2 Suggested situation : W.Cape either in Cape Town or one of the inland towns (Motivation to follow)

5.3 Consideration needs to be given to the inclusion of groups like trade unions and churches who might share concerns about the matters under discussion.

6. FINANCES

Budget to follow.

CONTENT OR PROGRAMME OF CONFERENCE ON HOUSING

The conference must not be seen as one where many long papers (talks) are given, to be followed by little discussion. But rather as one which reflects the anger of our people. Our people are angry because of the hardships caused by bad housing, bad planning, high rents, bad living conditions and low wages. It is very important that the conference and talks given make it easy for a fair amount of participation by all the people.

The discussion and decisions must be able to guide us in our struggles around housing issues in the future. It must also assist us to solve the many organisational problems that make our work difficult.

The conference must be seen as our statement (or view) i.e. the view of democratic organisations from all over the country, to the housing crisis and the new housing policy of the government.

Any programme we accept must take into account the points made above. A suggested programme is presented below. We would like it to be discussed by as many people and organisations as possible. With feedback and criticism a final programme would be worked out.

1. HOUSING CRISIS

A talk (input) on what we understand by the Housing Crisis and how it has come about. For example, the housing backlog, problems with rents and maintenance, lack of facilities, the Group Areas Act, etc. would be looked at.

2. CHANGES IN THE HOUSING POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT

A short input (talk) on how the state has responded to the housing crisis and why. It would look at the various (different) aspects of the New Housing Policy:-

- sale of houses
- lowering of standards
- decision not to build houses for those earning more than R150 p.m.
- new formula for calculating rents
- etc.

3. OUR RESPONSE TO THE NEW HOUSING POLICY

In this session we would work out our response (what we are going to do) to the new housing policy i.e. to the different aspects that make this up e.g.

- sale of houses
- rent increases
- etc, etc.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

We all know about the successful boycott of the community council and Black Local Authority Act elections in the African areas. Many of us, however, do not understand all the details of the local proposals of the President's Council. These are now part of the constitution.

A talk (input) on the implications of the decision of the government to create new local authorities. It would also look at what this would mean for our organisations when they take up problems experienced in our communities.

We would also need to discuss the type of problems we must take up after our successful boycott of Community Councils and Black Local Authority Act.

5. ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY "CIVICS"

Our organisations are experiencing many difficulties. We also talk about building unity across townships. But very often we are not clear as to how we must respond to these. In this session we hope to have a talk or paper on what are some of our organisational problems and how to go about building unity. This would be followed by discussions.

6. FORCED REMOVALS

We hear constantly of new townships which are going to be built far from our places of work. In Cape Town there is talk of moving all the Africans to Khayalitsha.

In this session a talk (paper) on the threat of forced relocation of our people all over the country. In the discussion that would follow we can discuss how we must respond to these forced relocations and what kind of support and assistance we can give to each other.

NOTE

1. We would like a lot of discussion and for this reason papers or talks would be small and simply presented.

2. Resolutions could be passed after each session. These would be published as our joint views on a number of issues or problems.

3. Copies of talks or papers, if they are ready before the conference, would be sent to the different centres.

COPY OF ORIGINAL,
SEE EXHIBIT "A1"

1. NAME

The name of this front is the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

2. COMPOSITION

The UDF shall consist in the first instance of regional formation, the boundaries of which are to be determined by the National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils or by the National General Council from time to time.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Y
- 3.1. To oppose the Constitutional and Koornhof Bills as decided at the first national conference held in Cape Town on 20 August 1983 and any future conference,
 - 3.2. To develop the maximum possible participation in the front,
 - 3.3. To encourage and assist democratic and full participation in the UDF,
 - 3.4. The UDF shall not purport to replace the accredited liberation movements of the people.

4. POWERS

- 4.1. The UDF shall have all the powers necessary and desirable to achieve its aims and objectives. These will include the power to :
 - a) collect subscriptions from members
 - b) receive money from any person and to undertake to perform any work or do anything in return for such payment provided
 - c) issue publications
 - d) establish such branches as may be necessary from time to time
 - e) approach such organisations as it deems desirable for support or affiliation.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1. All organisations present at the first national conference otherwise than as observers, shall be members of the UDF subject to:
 - 5.1.1. their right of withdrawal
 - 5.1.2. review by the National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils or by the National General Council from time to time.
- 5.2. All organisations which are prepared to commit themselves to the declaration policy and to the programme of action will be eligible to make an application for affiliation through the regional councils.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE
42 DE VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG
P.O. BOX 10366
TEL: 29-1916
29-1917

Handwritten: 28/10/84

01 October 1984

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

Amendments to Working Principles

Comrade Secretary

At the N.E.C meeting held in Pretoria on 21/22 January 1984, a number of weaknesses in the Working Principles (Appendix A) were pointed out. Cde Cassim Saloojee was mandated to prepare a draft amendment (Appendix B) which was circulated in June.

Subsequently, an attorney in the Western Cape was approached and his feeling was that the Draft Constitution (Appendix B) was too detailed and that elementary amendments to Working Principles as per Appendix C would be adequate.

This matter should be finalised at the next N.E.C. I realise that discussions on matters like constitutional amendments are normally cumbersome but possibly some shorter methods could be arrived at.

We await your reply.

Yours in struggle,

MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY

- 5.3. In terms of membership of national organisations which are not members of regional committees shall be decided from time to time by National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils.

6. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 6.1. All regional formations and member organisations shall have complete independence within the umbrella of the United Democratic Front, provided that actions and policies of members are not inconsistent with the policy of the UDF.
- 6.2. The National Executive Committee in consultation with regional councils will decide whether or not any inconsistencies exist.

7. STRUCTURE

The Front shall comprise:

- 7.1. Patrons. The number to be determined by National General Council.
- 7.2. Regional formations consisting of
- 7.2.1. an executive committee, and
 - 7.2.2. a general council
- 7.3. National General Council (N.G.C.)
- 7.4. National Executive Committee (N.E.C.)

8. NATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL (N.G.C.)

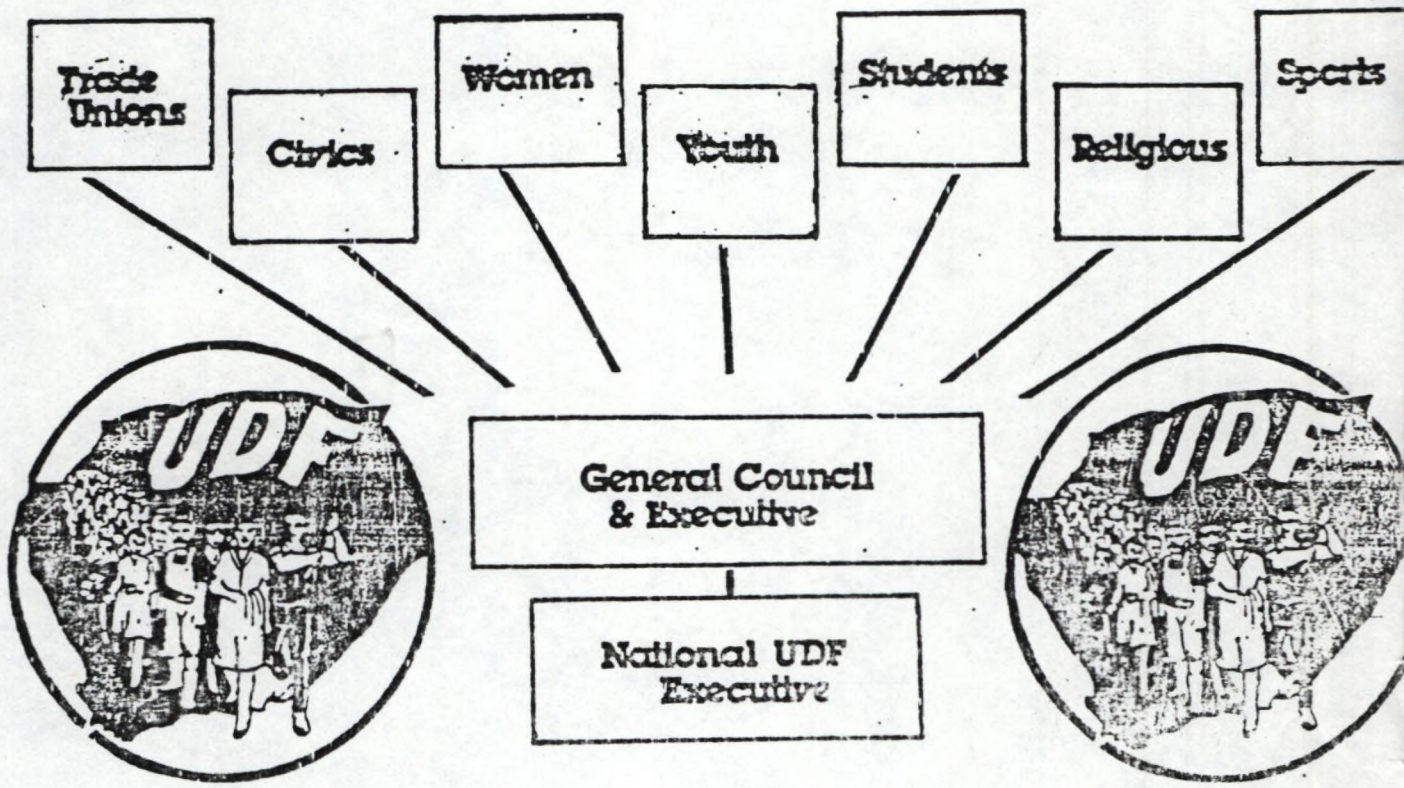
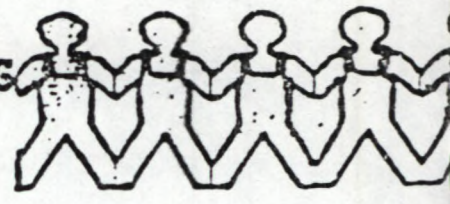
- 8.1. The N.G.C. will comprise all affiliated organisations and regions.
- 8.2. The N.G.C. shall meet as and when necessary but at least once a year.
- 8.3. Voting rights and representation at any conference or meeting of the N.G.C. shall be determined by the National Executive Committee in consultation with the regional councils before the meeting or conference.
- 8.4. The N.G.C. will be the supreme body of the UDF.

9. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 9.1. The N.E.C. shall comprise:
- 9.1.1. The Presidency consisting of three Presidents
 - 9.1.2. An executive chairperson appointed by the N.E.C. from time to time.
 - 9.1.3. Two vice-presidents appointed by each duly constituted region
 - 9.1.4. The two secretaries of each constituted region
 - 9.1.5. Two executive members elected by each constitutes region
 - 9.1.6. Two national treasurers.
- 9.2. The N.E.C. will have the power to co-opt persons in its discretion from regions which are not yet constituted, or any person likely to make a significant



HOW THE UDF WORKS



contribution to its functions.

- 9.3. The N.E.C. shall carry out the policy and programme of the UDF as determined by the N.E.C. from time to time.
- 9.4. The decisions of the N.E.C. shall be carried out by the secretariat which will comprise two secretaries from each region.

10. FINANCE

- 10.1. The UDF shall be empowered to open a banking account at a bank or building society.
- 10.2. All cheques shall be signed by either of the treasurers and one of two other members of the executive committee and two other members of or N.E.C. appointed by N.E.C.

11. OFFICERS

- 11.1. The UDF shall employ
 - 11.1.1. A general-secretary
 - 11.1.2. A publicity secretary
- 11.2. The general-secretary and publicity secretary shall be members of the National Executive Committee.

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.