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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

DF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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NATIONAL OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SECRETARIES

FROM: HEAD OFFICE

DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 1985

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

Dear Comrades

On January 12 and 13, 1985 a number of Youth organisations, affiliates and non-affiliates of the UDF met in Durban to discuss the I.Y.Y and the structure of the National Youth organisations and plan to launch the two.

The National Office discussed the report (verbal) of the said meeting with the co-ordinators of both the N.Y.O and the I.Y.Y. viz Dan Montsitsi and Deacon Mathe. After this discussion the National Office was left with the impression that firstly there was no strong motivation as to why the campaign should not be conducted under the banner of the UDF. Secondly that there was no clarity as to how they proposed to prepare for the campaign between then and the formation of the N.Y.O. Thirdly that meeting did not seem to recognize the urgency of the I.Y.Y. To that extent did not give a deadline for co-ordinating structures to be set up and the unrolling of the I.Y.Y. programme.

It is the view of the National Office that the decision taken is incorrect and may affect the effectiveness of the campaign. The UDF has already won a great amount of legitimacy both nationally and internationally. Many people and organisations on these planes will support anything that is associated with the Front. To give the I.Y.Y. campaign publicity and to win even greater support for it we need to encourage our affiliates to conduct it under the banner of the UDF. This will also provide a measure of protection from state harassment to activists for they will be projected as UDF activists in the event of detention and arrest. And the state does not want negative publicity at this stage. They may therefore avoid unnecessary arrests.

But important is the fact that we have already started building the UDF as a vehicle to advance our struggle. The youth organisations in their campaigns, especially the I.Y.Y must be seen to be part of this broad movement. The I.Y.Y provides the scenario.

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Presidents: Oscar Mpetha, Albertina Sisulu, Archie Gumede

Eastern Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi

Western Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi

National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin

National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota

National Secretary: Pano Molefe

NATIONAL SECRETARY PANO MOLEFE

Another factor which every Region must take into account is that it is the UDF which is ultimately responsible for everything done by our affiliates locally and abroad. There must therefore be a close co-operation and common discipline to our approach to issues. Now the UDF having gained experience during the past campaigns stands a better chance of assisting and ensuring that the campaign becomes a success.

We are not suggesting that the UDF will lead the campaign itself but simply saying that the youth must do so using the UDF name and guided by it. This suggestion does not conflict with the objective of strengthening affiliates in effect it achieves two goals; It simultaneously strengthens the youth organisations and project the UDF.

We would like to appeal to the R.E.C and R.G.C's to discuss this matter urgently with a view to persuading the youth affiliates to change the position taken in Natal as stated above.

Please forward your response to the H/O as soon as possible.

Yours in struggle

POPO MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY

SIGNED E. MOLEFE

FOR POPO MOLEFE

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