

DA 133

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE HELD AT THE HOME OF
MRS. JOYCE HARRIS 29 5th Street, Lower Houghton, at 8 p.m on 13 8 76

PRESENT : Mrs. J. Harris in the Chair.
Mr. M. Richards, Dr. N. Motlana, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Godsell.
Mesdames : J. Sinclair, E. Nell, A. Coleman.

ABSENT : Mr. Saloojee.

The meeting was opened by Mrs. Harris who outlined the purpose of calling this meeting.

1. To initiate a campaign against the proposed New Constitution.

2. To consider calling a National Convention, to propose a positive viable alternative to the Government policy.

3. To prevail on P.F.P not to participate in the New Constitution.

4. To bolster opposition within African, Coloured and Indian Quarters.

5. To work out whether this campaign is to be run on a regional or national basis.

6. Tactics and strategy.

She emphasized that Homeland Independence and the loss of S. A. Citizenship by Blacks were part of the total Government Constitutional strategy, and that Blacks were therefore as involved in protest as any other section of the community.

Discussion followed with every-one expressing their views. Out of this evolved the following :-

MR. M. RICHARDS felt that the Labour Party rejected the New Constitution on many levels. Feels that the New Constitution is aimed at eroding the Coloured Representative Council to the point where it will no longer be an effective force. He felt that the meeting in Cape Town where he will have to discuss the New Constitution will be an embarrassment.

DR. MOTLANA felt that the Freedom Charter was one time when a group of whites identified completely with blacks but since then the real opposition has been black.

He pointed out that there has been a great polarisation - the whites in their laager, the blacks to theirs.

He felt that the black people to-day are suspicious of everybody White, Coloured Indian.

He suggested that definite decisions must be taken as to an alternative constitution. Nevertheless, he agreed that the idea behind this meeting is a good one.

MR. DAVIDSON agreed that opposition groups should get together, but felt that it should be established groups which had a recognised base from which to operate. He pointed out that Inkatha and the Black Alliance already exist, and wondered why everyone did not simply join them.

MRS. HARRIS/---

MRS. HARRIS pointed out that unfortunately there is antagonism between the different groups - among the Black, Coloured and Indian communities, but that this is one time everyone must get together, with a common purpose in mind.

MR. GODSELL said that he felt the Whites to-day are suspicious as to whether Blacks will work with them.

He also feels that P.F.P leaders must be involved now in negotiation with this committee.

He proposed that all those present plus additional people they recommended be invited to the next meeting where every one will come together to discuss if there is any common ground on which to fight the New Constitution and form an on-going consultation.

This proposal was accepted by all those present.

PARTIES TO BE REPRESENTED AND PEOPLE TO BE INVITED ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

Frog P.P - Mr. Gordon Waddell to be asked by Mr. B. Godsell

INKATHA Mr. Davidson will find out who is to represent them.

LABOUR PARTY : Mr. Richards will consult as to who they will send.

REFORM PARTY : Mr. A. Mayat to be contacted by Mr. Richards.

Dr. N. Motlana who will also ask Mr. Vusi Kanile.

BISHOP TUTU to be contacted by Mrs. J. Harris

MR. W.D.WILSON do Mr. Godsell

DR. ASVAT do Dr. Motlana

Mrs. Harris was elected to convene the next meeting which will be held on the Friday 8th September at 7.30 p.m at the home of Mrs. J. Sinclair, 4a Second Avenue, Parktown North at 7.30 p.m

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10.15 P.M

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