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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT



NATIONAL OFFICE

JDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE UDF HELD ON 12 - 13 JANUARY 1985

1. AGENDA

- 1.1. Regional reports
- 1.2. Million Signature Campaign (MSC)
- 1.3. Jackson's visit
- 1.4. Black Local Authorities & Housing Conference
- 1.5. Removals
- 1.6. Finances
- 1.7. International Youth Year
- 1.8. N.G.C - preparations
- 1.9. General (Black Christmas, Rural organisers, schedule for meetings, etc)

2. PRESENT:

Yunus (Natal), Derrick & Prins (E. Cape), Valli & Moss (Transvaal), Joe Adam (W Cape), Stofile (Border), P Molefe, P Lekota & T Manuel (Head Office).

3. APOLOGIES:

Joe Phaahla (Natal), Cheryl Carolous (W Cape)

4. ABSENT:

J Khasu and Brian Hermanus (Northern Cape)

5. Late Start. Secretaries attending a National Secretariat meeting must contact hosting secretaries about venue and time for meeting. It should not be Head Office responsibility.

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6. REPORTS

- 6.1 NATIONAL OFFICE: The National officers must present reports at all National Secretariat meetings. These must be written reports.
- 6.2 REGIONAL: All reports were verbal. Regions will forward written reports to Head Office.
- 6.2.1 Border - supported N.E.C call for Black Christmas
- Black Christmas was successful in some areas.
 - 2 school children were shot on Friday January 11, 1985 in Port Alfred
 - There is a total boycott of classes.
- 6.2.2 E Cape held 4 General Councils since the last election for the Houses of Delegates and Representative. 2 were called off following poor attendance.
- 8 R.E.C meetings were held.
 - Attendance of R.E.C members not consistent
 - R.E.C failing to provide Leadership and direction
 - Experiencing serious administrative problems
 - Committee setup to workout proposals for re-organisation
 - 2 mass rallies banned - but are going to organise one.
 - Held two workshops to evaluate the role and state of the Front. The report forwarded to Head Office
 - Held local workshops to assess local situation
 - Held I.Y.Y Regionals workshop last week to discuss feasibility of the I.Y.Y campaign
 - Now have 23 affiliates, 20 active
 - Four organisations have applied for affiliation
 - Kennedy - affiliates free to participate, but not the UDF
 - Parents and students in P.E decided to continue school boycott. Boycott 100%
- 6.2.3 W Cape - since last N.E.C several R.G.C were held.
- R.E.C meetings held weekly
 - Held an Anti-Removals Conference attended by all affiliates. Unions were visibly absent
 - Conference noted anti-pass campaign was necessary and important.

- Housing, removals were seen as important
- Theme of Conference was "Housing, security and Comfort"
- Conference decided that non Africans would defy permit system
- Bus boycott was not successful. It was too short

6.2.3.1 Kennedy - special R.G.C decided not to host Kennedy

- participation will be indirect. Although there will be no UDF speaker anti-apartheid imperialist stance etc will be made clear.
- Activists will assist to ensure success of Kennedy public meeting.
- It was discovered after meeting that some people were not satisfied with the compromise.
- Lack of clarity about role of National Secretariat its powers regarding emergencies like Kennedy visit, strengthening of communication with regard to the UDF National views.
- AGM of W Cape will be held on 16 March 1985
- UDF assessment paper of N.E.C is being considered by affiliates.

6.2.3.2 Tasks for 1985 are anti-removals and I.Y.Y. campaigns, Local Authorities, strengthening of democratic structures.

- International Relations will receive attention e.g how to handle the struggle internationally
- Pass Laws, food prices, increase on fares, rent.
- Looking into means and ways of transforming passive support into active support
- Disunity affected the work of the UDF
- No adequate consultation took place during emergencies e.g Kennedy

6.2.3.3 Rural Areas- held Conference in Beaufort West for rural organisations and communities

- the W Cape Region with the assistance of H/O should determine whether these areas should form their own RGC or should continue depending on the W Cape. There are problems of distance and therefore inability to participate fully in the Western Cape G.C.

Yet there is a need for these areas to be part of the decision-making process. How can this be done?

6.2.3.4 PATRONS - did not consult the Front on the Kennedy Jackson invitation

- we must improve relation with patrons
- procedure must be found to ensure that proper consultation takes place before an invitation like the Jackson Kennedy one is made.

6.2.3.5 UNIONS

- Relations not quite good with Unions. There were disagreements on the bu-boycott
- Regions will continue seeking co-operation
- H/O must also hold discussion with the Unions - especially Federations.

6.2.4 TRANSVAAL

6.2.4.1 BLACK CHRISTMAS (B.C)

- was successful. Affiliates and non-affiliates were involved. Total support in the Transvaal. Rallies held on Christmas Day
- B.C cards were distributed
- There was confusion regarding the nature of the call. Many people thought it was a call for consumer boycott.

6.2.4.2 REPRESSION

Anti-repression meetings were held in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Tembisa. The meetings in West Rand and Soweto were banned. Fordsburg meeting to protest the treason trial was banned.

6.2.4.3 VAAL CRISIS

A Crisis Committee was set up to assist families of detainees. The Vaal Information Services & DPSC were also set up.

6.2.4.4 UDF AREA COMMITTEES

Committees have been formed in Johannesburg, Soweto, Pretoria. These are functional. Those in the East Rand, West Rand and N Transvaal are not fully functional.

6.2.4.5 Eastern Transvaal youth groups appealed for UDF assistance.

- 6.2.4.6 Regions working towards restructuring. A workshop has been arranged for 26 February 1985 to look at the structure of R.E.C and R.G.C.
- 6.2.4.7 Kennedy - following Bishop Tutu's request that the UDF assist with practical arrangements for the Kennedy meeting in Soweto the following decision were taken:

- . that UDF shall not send a speaker
- . that activists and affiliates would participate in Soweto
- . it was important to take advantage of the meeting to make the Anti-Imperialist, Anti-constructive Engagement Policy stance clear as well as other important matters.
- . Samson Ndou and I Mogase of SCA were asked to speak

6.2.4.8 FESTIVAL

Transvaal is planning a music festival for 3 March 1985

6.2.4.9 EDUCATION

Parents committees have been set up in Soweto and other parts of the Region to deal with the Education crisis. A National Parents Committee consultative meeting was held on 29 January 1985. A draft constitution has been prepared.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TVL REPORT

EDUCATION

The UDF must seek to get involved in resolving the Education crisis.

The National Officers and the Tv1 Secretaries must set up a meeting with the National Executive Committee members of COSAS to seek clarity on position of COSAS on boycott. A meeting of UDF and COSAS and Parents Committee must be called. The National Office must compile information on Education especially the COSAS Congress Resolutions.

6.2.5 NATAL

- campaigned for the release of detainees and held a demo outside the consulate
- held evaluation workshop

- 6.2.5.1 R.E.C met Kennedy. Not happy with arrangements made by Natal hosts. e.g not informed of Agenda and time of meeting in advance. Prepared memo was not read because time was too short.

6.2.5.2 PATRONS

Relationship with patrons must be improved. The National Office must take responsibility.

6.2.5.3 ANTI-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN

Successful campaigns were waged with the result that Percentage polls were very low.

7. M.S.C.

It is difficult at this stage to make the M.S.C an issue.

- the lessons drawn out at MS.C. are that of defeciencies in our organisation
- we need to discuss this matter and other defeciencies shown during various campaigns in a clear session.

8. JACKSON

It was noted that the Kennedy visit stole the show from Jackson. Therefore his visit may not achieve its objective. Also because of the prevalent political situation it is not wise for Jackson to visit.

- The National Office talks to Bishop Tutu and Dr Boesak and an attempt to persuade them to postpone the Jackson visit.

9. B.L.A. & HOUSING

Conference on both be deferred to June. Regions must set in motion the process of discussion on the strategy against BLA and Housing. The W Cape proposals be forwarded to Regions.

- Transvaal must forward to Regions an analysis of BLA by January 31, 1985. The National Office and Regional Secretaries to work out an approach that will ensure that the UDF does not trail behind the masses but lead them. That the Transvaal Secretaries attempt to link the BLA and CMC (Coloured Management Committees).

10. BLACK CHRISTMAS

The call was nebulous yet it was necessary because of the circumstances prevailing them. We need to be careful when we make calls like these in future.

11. RURAL ORGANISERS:

11.1 Accountability:

The Secretariat need to define clearly accountability of rural organisers. The Head Office must work out proposals for N.E.C

11.2 Time Schedule and Training:

The H/O must assist rural organisers with scheduling of the time and provide training.

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It was noted that some organisers - Jomo in particular still have a lot to learn in terms of organisational skills.

11.3 Job Description:

The H/O must work out proposals for job description.

11.4 Karoo, etc:

It was reported that people in the Karoo find it difficult to participate in the W Cape R.G.C because of distance problems. The H/O must in consultation with the W Cape assess possibilities regarding structures. i.e whether Karoo can be a Region on its own or any alternative structure. The matter must be settled before the W Cape A.G.M.

11.5 W Cape needs a rural organiser. They have a person who is willing to do work for an allowance of R200.

11.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- That Head Office employ on a temporary basis for Northern Natal at R300, Karoo, South Cape etc at R200.
- A firm decision will be taken after the Workshop in the OFS scheduled for 19 January 1985 regarding organiser for the OFS.

12. N.G.C - PREPARATION (N.G.C will be held on April 6, 1985)

The following must be prepared for the N.G.C:-

12.1 Minutes of the UDF Launch

12.2 Frame-work for the Secretariat report. This report must be prepared by the two National Officers.

12.3 AGENDA must include:-

12.3.1 Amendment of the Working Principles

12.3.2 Elections and structure

12.3.3 Financial Statement. (The N.E.C must decide what kind of statement) The National Treasury Workshop must workout proposals.

12.3.4 Key-note addresses (The N.E.C must ratify the area to be covered by the paper).

12.3.5 Regional Reports will constitute part of the Secretariat Report.

12.3.6 Representation at the N.G.C must be worked out.

12.4 Rally - must be left to Transvaal to decide upon. There is a need for a social event but this must be at a minimal cost.

12.5 Some issues to be debated before the N.G.C

Regions must identify these issues and forward them to the H/O to be synthesized by the National Secretariat.

12.6 The report of the Secretariat must include:-

- (a) An assessment of where the UDF is and where it is going to
- (b) An analysis of the present situation and situate the UDF therein.

12.7 RECOMMENDATION for amendment to Working Principles

Amendment proposals must be worked out by the National Officers.

Proposals should include:-

- structure taking into account conditions in each Region e.g. Cape situation (Karoo, etc)
- show how affiliates and/a Region have power at the N.E.C level.
- address the question of National consciousness. This is something the UDF has not achieved yet.
- the present size of the N.E.C
- functions of Presidents or President
- N.E.C meetings - how often?
- role of Patrons
- relationship and contact between N.E.C members
- decision-making e.g the Front has on a number of occasions failed to decide on important questions because of the limited N.E.C powers - the case in point is the Referandum and the Kennedy visit. To what extent can Regional autonomy/flexibility be *allowed*
- do we maintain three Presidents or have one President
- Treasury two or 1

- National organiser
- proportional representation - size and ability to implement decision and programme.
- subscription fee.

12.8 ELECTIONS - decision at Regional level.

12.9 Keynote addresses must include amongst others:

- attitude to imperialism, structures of Apartheid
- organisational discipline, self-sufficiency, democracy, etc.
- UDF offensive - determine programme
- strategic areas of work, pass laws, housing, food prices, rental.
- Regions must send reports on Removals and Relocation and Conscription.

12.10 THEME - referred back to Regions for discussion.

12.11 SPEAKER: A consideration be made of a speaker from another country e.g. Namibia

12.12 ACCOMMODATION - Transvaal must provide facts regarding accommodation in three days.

12.13 PRESS & VIDEO - National Officers must arrange for filming if any and the sessions that press may cover.

13. Messages to be finalised at next N.E.C

14. Removals - need for volunteer National Co-ordinator

- need for Regional co-ordinators
- Regions must organise volunteer corps
- Regions compile information on areas of removals, dates, place, etc.
- M J be asked to work out proposals for political work in areas of removals.
- publicity must be given to local leaders and organisations in these areas
- need for focus internationally
- communities must resist themselves.

15. TREASON TRIAL

Responsibility of Secretaries

- follow-up SACC position regarding detainees, National Office must take responsibility
- accept idea of adoption of families, but direct UDF involvement essential.
- need to involve communities e.g mass meetings, pamphlets, etc.

16. Information Officer:

- circular was forwarded to Regions in this regard
- H/O must work out proposals on the UDF Update
- The International Officer can only be considered at a later stage when conditions are conducive
- Local Office must be a priority.

17. ACCIDENTS:

There is a need to protect National Officers

- There must be co-drivers for long distances
- Proper planning must be made before travelling takes place
- Flights may be used for long distances and Regions organise transport once officers are in Regions
- Programmes of Officers be approved by H/O Committee
- Consider employing Vincent and Mafison

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