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ASSESSOR

J. Mohammed Joub

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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (TVL)

P. O. Box 25063
FERREIRASTOWN

2048

29 September 1983

Tvl. Anti P.C. Committee

Dear Friends

RE: NOTICE OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

This is to inform you that the next General Council Meeting will be held on 15 October 1983, at Khotso House, 42 De Villiers Street, Johannesburg, at 2p.m.

Kindly execute resolution on finances urgently (see item 8.2 of the minutes).

Forward to Democracy

M. Valli

M. VALLI (SECRETARY)

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MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1983, AT THE CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH - JOHANNESBURG

1. PRESENT:

FEDSAW, Soweto Residents Committee, T.I.C., Anti-P.C. Committee, CUSA, SAYO, Y.C.S., Afri-News-Association, NUSAS, DAM, Black Women United, Khuvahangono, RMC, COSAS, SOYCO, NEUSA, SASDA, SCA, GAWU, ERAPO.

2. ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL LAUNCHING:

- 2.1 The Council decided to record its appreciation of the excellent organisation on the part of the Western Cape Region.
- 2.2 The Council agreed that the UDF is now challenged with satisfying the heightened expectations of the masses. If this challenge is not met, the value of the successful launching would be diminished.
- 2.3 A delegate commented that every affiliated and supportive organisation must gear itself to meet this challenge.

REPORT FROM TRANSVAAL SECRETARIES:

- 3.1 BRIEFING MEETINGS: A number of briefing meetings were held with people in areas like Kagiso, Mansville, Carltonville, Orange-Vaal, Soweto and Springs.
- 3.2 WORKSHOPS: A workshop was held in Kagiso on 11 September 1983.
- 3.3 OTHER ORGANISATIONS: Members of the N.E.C. (National Executive Committee) met Black Sash and FOSATU to explain our policy. No 10
- 3.4 PRESS CONFERENCE: A Press Conference was held on 13 September 1983 and one is being planned for 14 September 1983. 9/2/87
- 3.5 MASS MEETINGS: A mass meeting was held at Wits University on 1 September 1983. The meeting was convened by B.S.S.
→ Over the next few weeks UDF would be addressing meetings in: Evaton, Boipatong, Kathelahong, Kagiso, Vryburg, Kudumane, Alexandra township, Riverlea, Laudium, Lens, and Scweto.
- 3.6 PUBLICATIONS:
 - // 3.6.1. Leaflet on Black Local Authorities
 - 3.6.2 UDF- News: The next issue would be released on 24 September.
- 3.7 EDUCATION:
Curtis Nkondo has been appointed Vice-President responsible for education. He is presently in the process of establishing an Education Commission.
- 3.8 REGIONAL SECRETARIES:
Popo Molefe has resigned as Transvaal regional secretary as he is now General Secretary.
The R.E.C. has decided to appoint Mohammed Valli on a full-time basis as from 1 October 1983.
- 3.9 OFFICES:
The N.E.C has decided that the UDF Head-Office would be in Johannesburg. The office is to be occupied as from 21 September 1983 at Khotso House (Room 405, 4th Floor). The office would also be used by the Transvaal region.
- 3.10 PATRONS:
The N.E.C. has suggested that Bishop Tutu be appointed as a patron. This matter has been referred to the regional councils to decide.
- 3.11 COLOURED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (WESTERN CAPE):
C.M.C elections were held in the Cape on 7 September 1983. UDF-W. Cape conducted a highly successful campaign.

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3.12 BANNING OF SAAWU AND REPRESSION IN THE CISKEI:

A meeting was held between UDF-TVL and SAAWU, CUSA, MAWU, CCAWUSA, AFCWU, SACWU, GAWU, SASDU, SALDU, OVGWU, and Descom. The meeting decided to embark on a joint campaign of solidarity with SAAWU and our people in Ciskei. A solidarity mass-meeting is to be held on 22 September at Khotso House.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SECRETARIAL REPORT:

- 4.1 The Council mandated the R.E.C. (Regional Executive Committee) to appoint a secretary. The appointment would be ratified at the next council meeting.
- 4.2 It was agreed that Bishop Tutu be appointed as a Patron. This decision is subject to the approval of the other regions.
- 4.3 It was decided that all affiliates would publicise the plight of the people in Ciskei. The meetings also suggested that another solidarity meeting be held over a weekend.
- 4.4 The secretarial report was adopted by the house.

5. REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES:

- 5.1 T.I.C: Workshop held in Landium (15/09/83); Mass Meeting planned for Candium (05/10/83); Congress Resister to be published this week.
- 5.2 RELEASE MANDELA COMMITTEE: Planning to engage UDF Programme of Action; campaign will be linked to housing and pass laws.
- 5.3 WORKSHOP: A workshop was held on 10/09/83 with people from Tsakane.
- 5.4 CUSA: Newsletter to focus on UDF; Workshop towards end of October; SAAWU solidarity campaign.
- 5.5 SOWETO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION: Has decided to campaign against Local Authorities elections.
- 5.6 ANTI COMMUNITY-COUNCILS COMMITTEE: Four mass-meetings planned.
- 5.7 MAMELODI ACTION COMMITTEE: A house-to-house campaign has been launched.
- 5.8 SAYO: House-to-house campaign planned.
- 5.9 COSAS: Planning a seminar on UDF.
- 5.10 ANTI-P.C. COMMITTEE: Local Committees formed in different areas; Anti-P.C. newsletter distributed door-to-door; a mass-meeting was held in Eldorado Park; Mass meeting to be held in Riverlea on 23/10/83.
- 5.11 NUSAS: UDF popularised on campus; planning to educate students on UDF, Constitutional and Koornhof Proposals.
- 5.12 SOYCO: Leaflet urging people not to vote to be distributed soon; seminar on UDF planned.
- 5.13 YCS: Internal education; leaflets distributed at churches; preparing booklet: "Christian response to 'reforms'".

NOTE: It was decided that in future affiliates should submit reports in writing.

6. REFERENDUM:

Popo Molefe outlined the position that was arrived at after consultation with affiliates. (See document entitled "REFERENDUM"). The Council adopted this document.

7. PROGRAMME OF ACTION:

- 7.1 A programme of action was adopted. (See document attached hereto).
- 7.2 The R.E.C. has appointed the following sub-committees: Media and Publicity, Legal, Rally Committee, Distribution, Training and Finance. It was announced that volunteers wishing to join these committees should contact the secretary at the office.
- 7.3 The Media and Publicity Committee requested that organisations appoint some of their members to assist in the production of "UDF NEWS", posters, banners and other publications. This can be done on a rotational basis. This would assist organisations to learn basic media skills. It was said that the UDF must encourage self-reliance on the part of its affiliates.

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8. FINANCE:

- 8.1 It was announced that the UDF was undergoing a financial crisis.
- 8.2 The meeting decided that all affiliates would contribute a minimum of R100. Monies are to be forwarded to the office as soon as possible.
- 8.3 The meeting also decided that the UDF would have an ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. Individuals and organisations can become associate members by contributing a minimum of R20.

9. GENERAL:

- 9.1 The meeting decided that a press statement condemning the coal mine disaster should be issued.
- 9.2 It was decided that the next Council meeting would be held on 8 October, however due to the unavailability of a venue, the next meeting will be postponed for one week:

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 15 OCTOBER 1983
VENUE: KHOTSO HOUSE
TIME: 2 p.m.

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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT - TRANSVAAL

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

A AIMS

1. To defeat the government's attempts to impose the Koornhof and Constitutional Proposals. } 16
2. To strive for the maximum possible unity of Worker, Community, P. Student, Womens, Youth and Religious organisations for this purpose. 7/9
3. To unite our people in action.
4. To counter the government's propaganda onslaught.
5. To consolidate and strengthen the existing grassroots and other organisations of the people.
6. To link the Koornhof and Constitutional proposals to the day-to-day struggles of our people. 20
7. To popularise the UDF DECLARATION. 17/9/87

B PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. Workshops for volunteers in all areas.
2. Area committees to be established in all areas.
3. Door-to-door campaigns in all areas.
4. Local mass-meetings in all areas.
5. Provincial Rally for the people of the Transvaal.
(The Rally would take place at the end of October)
Note : Local mass-meetings should be completed by mid-October wherever possible.

C AREA COMMITTEES

An area committee will be set up in each area. In small townships one area committee will suffice. In bigger townships (like Soweto) a number of area committees need to be set up.

COMPOSITION OF AREA COMMITTEES:

The composition of area committees would differ from area to area as conditions differ. The following are some suggestions for the composition of area committees:

- (i) a civic or youth organisation plays the role of an area committee
(ii) a number of organisations forming a joint committee
(iii) a committee comprising of a group of volunteers.

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FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA COMMITTEE:

1. To organise a workshop for volunteers in the area. The workshop should amongst others focus on:
 - (i) The history and nature of the UDF
 - (ii) The Koornhof Bills
 - (iii) The Constitutional proposals
 - (iv) A Programme of Action for the area.
2. To educate the people in the area through house visits, house meetings, etc.
3. To organise a mass meeting in the area. The mass meeting should have an appropriate focus depending on the conditions and issues in the area.
4. To speak to other local organisations about the UDF. These would include churches, welfare organisations etc. Where possible these organisations should be drawn into the activities of the UDF.
5. To link the current issues and problems in the community to the Black Local Authorities and the Constitutional proposals.
6. To publicise the Transvaal Rally in the area and also to arrange for people to attend the Rally.
7. To distribute "UDF News" and all other publications of the UDF.

D OTHER ISSUES TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. Removals and Resettlement
2. Housing (housing shortage, sale of houses etc)
3. Education
4. Bantustans
5. Military Conscription

NOTE : This document merely suggests guidelines. The specific needs of particular organisations and communities would require both flexibility and creativity as the campaign unfolds.

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REFERENDUM.

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The UDF was formed to oppose and resist the Constitutional and Koornhof Bills. We reject the entire process that led to this referendum. And we also reject and will oppose all processes which will be set in motion by this so-called new deal. Through the forthcoming referendum on November 2, the present minority government will seek to force upon the people of S.Africa a constitution that is not based on the will of the people.

This referendum misses the essence of the South African question in that it shifts attention away from Apartheid as such to its formal appearance. The real issue about S.Africa is still whether Apartheid and all that it implies is the right order of things for this country's people or not. Most white people and, to a lesser extent, sections of the voteless majority in the country have fallen into the trap of elevating the referendum and its pending outcome to the legitimacy of the past, present and future policies of this minority white regime.

We assert that an acceptable and truly democratic constitution can only be worked out in an atmosphere which is free of fear, mistrust and harassment of one section of the population by another. That includes the release of all political prisoners, the unbanning of the banned and restricted and the return of those who have been forced into exile.

In rejecting this undemocratic method of deciding on the future of the people of South Africa we call on our people to show once and for all that they are determined to control their own destiny by doing all in their power to halt the current process of Apartheid legislation.

In keeping with this call the UDF regional councils have been charged with the responsibility of working out schedules for the implementation of the programme of action which should culminate in regional mass rallies shortly before the implementation of the referendum and Black Local Authorities election.

Ours is a broad non-racial outlook which embraces everybody and we insist that it must be reflected in every decision and activity we engage in. Due to this and other considerations we addressed ourselves to the referendum question in a different manner, i.e. what can the UDF initiate in order to consolidate opposition to this Constitution Act, and all the legislation that is likely to flow from it. Our programme of action is a **very** clear response to this question.

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PROGRAMME OF ACTION

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1. We are launching an immediate house to house campaign to educate the masses of our people about and mobilise them against the new deal.
2. This will be interspersed with localised rallies and church services.
3. Of particular interest is the virgils that will be held in the various regions towards the end of October, and
4. The culmination of this phase of the campaign will be huge regional mass rallies calculated to reflect vibrant opposition to the New Constitution Act and the Black Local Authorities elections.
5. The other aspects of the Programme of Action will be made known from time to time. Obviously there are going to be shifts and changes by the Nats. which will necessitate adjustment of our tactics to suit each new twist or turn.

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NEWSPAPERS

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Sunday Times, Daily Dispatch, Finance Week, The Friend and The Natal Mercury

Recently these newspapers and publications have come out in full support of the so-called new constitution thus becoming extensions of the state's propoganda and ideological tools alongside the Labour Party.

After careful consideration the National Executive Committee has referred this matter to the regional councils for final decisions. It is important that action in this regard should flow from popular feeling if it is to enjoy maximum support.

The added advantage in this approach is that regional newspapers will be considered regionally.

