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No 19: 4/8/87: 5/8/87:

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10/9/87, 16/9/87

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23/9/87

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE N.E.C OF THE UDF HELD ON
21 AND 22 JULY, 1984 AT MOLEMELA HOTEL IN BLOEMFONTEIN.

Start: 11;00 AM

Chairperson: Comrade A Boraine

1. PRESENT:

Archie Gumede, Oscar Mpetha, Popo Molefe, Aubrey Mokoena, Cheryl Carolous, Andrew Boraine, Joseph Marks, Mohamed Valli, Moss Chikane, Hans Hla lethwa, Jerry Coovadia, Mankenkhosi Stofile, Mew Ramgobin, Mosiuoa Lekota, Johnson Khesu, Sabelo Nzutha, Steve Tshwete, Bushy Maape

2. APOLOGIES:

Mcebisi Xundu, Virgil Bonhomme, George Sewparsadh, Joe Phaahla, Albertina Sisulu, George du Plessis, RAM Saloojee, Cassim Saloojee, Derik Swarts, Prince Msuthu, Edgar Ngoyi, Fekile Kobese.

3. WORKSHOP

It was decided that the workshop be tranformed into an emergency N.E.C meeting.

It was further noted that the nature of some of the issues under discussion was such that mandates of Regions were needed. It was therefore decided that the N.E.C decision forwarded to Regions as guidelines for discussion that firm decisions be taken on the basis of synthesized views of Regions.

4. FUTURE OF THE UDF

The following topics were discussed under the above topic:

- 4.1 Future direction
- 4.2 Structure
- 4.3 Policy
- 4.4 Operational areas
- 4.5 Strategic area

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4.1.1 FUTURE DIRECTION OF UDF

With regard to the future of the Front it was noted that the Conference resolutions indicated continuity of the UDF. The view of the N.E.C in this respect is that the UDF must be retained as a Front however, that the focus thereof may change. And that, this will be determined by contradictions arising out of the implementation of the so-called new deal. It was further noted that some affiliates were beginning to feel that the Front was not militant enough, lack enough depth. On this aspect the N.E.C decided that although affiliates could be militant and committed programmes such as the Freedom Charter, the UDF had to remain broad enough to accommodate all forces particularly the unions.

4.1.2 STRUCTURE

The N.E.C observed:

- (a) that the structure of any organisation was influenced by obtaining conditions.
- (b) that the structure of the UDF was based on the conditions that existed at the time of its formation and the change in its structure would therefore be influenced by change in conditions. Change in conditions will be determined by Regional Councils.

4.1.3 POLICY

It was noted that the nature of the policies of the UDF must not depart from the spirit of the Front. The N.E.C noted that it was important that an attempt be made to develop a common understanding of the National Democratic Struggle. It was noted that some members of the Front were making demands of highly political nature which can only be taken by political organisations with a particular party-line.

4.1.4 OPERATIONAL AREAS

The N.E.C noted that the Front had to expand its operational areas. It must begin to address more concretely and seriously the question of the youth and women in particular two major international events such as the International Youth Year and the UN End of Women's Decade.

5. ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

5.1 STRUCTURE

It was reported that all regions had already set up Joint Planning Councils to co-ordinate the campaign. Only the Northern Cape and Border Regions were reported to have no JPC's.

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The Northern Cape Region reported that a Committee of Concern formed recently is co-ordinating the campaign.

5.1.2 NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

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It was decided that:-

- * the National Office subsidise of the co-ordinating committee
- * the Publicity Secretary and General Secretary jointly convene the co-ordinating committee
- * the committee in Johannesburg on Thursday July 26, 1984 representatives must be permanent
- * that polling booths must be monitored and information forwarded to the National Office.
- * full-time groups must report - harassment, torture, bribery, etc.

5.2 OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The N.E.C decided that

- . a telephone answering machine must be purchased
- . a word processor be purchased
- . investigation be made into the costs of employing computer facilities.

5.3 MEDIA

5.3.1 UDF NEWS: It was decided that a National UDF NEWS be printed in Natal, Transvaal and the Western Cape. That the Western Cape Region prints for the Eastern Cape, and the Northern Cape whilst Natal prints for the Border Region.

5.3.2 | It was noted that not all regions had been able to attend a media workshop due to unforeseen circumstances. It was accordingly agreed that those regions present i.e Natal, Transvaal, Western Cape must work on the slogans and posters which would be circulated to other regions by Priority Mail.

5.3.3 NATIONAL SLOGAN:

The slogan "No to Apartheid Elections! Forward to Freedom!"

5.3.4 The co-ordinating committee was mandated to decide on the date for printing.

5.4 ACTIVITIES OF REGIONS

Regions reported various activities that were taking place in their areas of operation. See annexure "A".

SPEAKERS:

It was decided that the co-ordinating committee must decide on how speakers will be shared amongst Regions.

NATIONAL EVENTS:

It was noted that the UDF had to offer some kind of alternatives to the election

The following were recommended:

- 7.1 A demonstration by national figures to coincide with the elections
- 7.2 Unity chain linking up different townships
- 7.3 Ringing of bells by various churches at an hourly interval in demonstration of rejection of the constitution
- 7.4 No agreement was reached as to whether the UDF could call for a defiance campaign. The emphasis made was that every action taken must win the UDF more supporters. That those involved must understand the implications of the action. It was accordingly recommended that the matter be discussed seriously by all Regions as it is likely to have far reaching implications for the UDF.

8. FINANCES

- 8.1 It was noted that the N.E.C needed to have a measure of control on the allocation of funds by Regions.
- 8.2 It was agreed that the National Office must finance the Launching Rally for the South Cape Region of the UDF scheduled for July 29, 1984 in Oudtshoorn.
- 8.3 It was decided that the treasury must make the outstanding allocation for the rural work in the Western Cape.
- 8.4 It was recommended that the Regional treasurers meet with the National treasurers in the same way as the secretariat does and work out a uniform method of keeping books as well as allocations.

9. LEGAL MATTERS:

It was reported that legal opinion was given as having a fair chance of success i.e with regard to appeal against the ban on UDF meeting in 1983. A second opinion will be sought from Advocate Ismael Mahommed (Natal).

10. OUR POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES:

It was noted that calling on people to boycott elections is not enough. The UDF has to offer alternatives.

10.1 Minimum Demands:

- a non-racial Democracy arising out of participation by all the people
- a Society based on justice, equality for all, health, education, etc.
- the release of all political prisoners
- the return of all exiles
- a National Convention
 , disarming of the armed forces
- scraping of Bantustans and puppet local authorities
- meeting of authentic leaders
- end to GST and removals and relocations

METHODS

- through extra parliamentary opposition
- mass mobilisation, mass action and building of organisation of people.

10.2 CONDITIONS FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION:

- ° authentic leaders by mutual agreement
- ° return of exiles
- ° unbanning of the banned organisations
- ° conditions allowing propagation of different views
- ° release of all political prisoners
- ° suspension of racist constitution
- ° disarming and disbanding of the current army and police force
- ° repeal of all unjust laws, pass laws, land act, the Inrenal Security Act

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° elected leaders of the people must participate fully in the planning of the convention.

10.3 We must draw a clear distinction between a National Convention and Talks. The above must be referred to Regions. Feedback must be given before 18/8/84 (14 days).

11. That the possibility of an open letter to the P M be referred to Regions.

12. That a letter from Gatsha must be replied (in Ilanga)

13. Next N.E.C 30/9/84 Telephone Conference.]

14. N.E.C Workshop 22-23 September 1984 .

15. N.G.C on 16 December 1984

* VENUES: The need for proper venues in Bloemfontein or Kimberley.

* That the Secretary make a follow-up on the film made at the National Launch.

16. CONSTITUTION

That legal opinion indicates that the draft constitution departed from original spirit of a Front.

That the Western Cape Region must circulate proposals in this respect to all regions.

17. BORDER QUESTION

It was reported that the problem of the Youth Congress was exacerbated. A meeting held on 12 July 1984 in Mdatsane had caused problems. It was noted that serious allegations against Comrade Steve Tshwete were made by Cde Aubrey Mokoena.

. The National officers gave an account on the matter as per 12/7/84 meeting

. Comrade Aubrey gave his account of the meeting held in Mdatsane on 12/7/84.

. It was noted that the National officers had been mandated. The N.E.C apologised to the Border Region.

. It was further emphasized that the N.E.C regarded the negotiations to be where they were left with the East London Youth Congress.

- . Comrade Aubrey Mokoena apologised and withdrew the accusations levelled against Comrade Steve Tshwete.
- . The apology was accepted by the entire Border delegation
- . It was noted that procedures have to be defined for handling such cases.

18. CLOSURE: 2.45 A.M

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The following are a synopsis of recommendations arising out of the meeting of the National Secretariat held in Durban on 7 and 8 July, 1984 which we think are urgent.

1. M.S.C.

That the announcement of the closing of the Campaign (MSC) be made before the "new parliament" sit on September 3, 1984. The impact of such an announcement would give a boost to the anti-Election Campaign in terms of publicity generated.

2. ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

2.1 OVERALL STRATEGIC LINE

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that an overall strategic line be worked out for the campaign. The line can be broken down into the following:

2.1.1 overall political line

- explaining and restating our commitment to a National Convention. It must further pinpoint local options.

2.1.2 Overall strategy - defining the profile of the Front for the duration of the campaign.

- the role and conduct of activists at the polling stations.

2.1.3 Mass line: This will attempt to define how day to day issues could be linked to the campaign. We have in mind things such as GST, food prices, conscription, education, rentals, new bills, etc.

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2.2. CO-ORDINATION AND PLANNING

2.2.1 FULL-TIME CO-ORDINATOR

that a full-time co-ordinator be employed to co-ordinate the campaign. This should be a highly skilled, disciplined, with political experience as well as experience of participation in campaigns. Above all the person must have some understanding of the national dynamics.

2.2.2 LOGISTICS COMMITTEE:

that a logistics committee be set up to facilitate effective work of co-ordination. This committee will be based at a fairly central office. The National Office will be an ideal place.

Some of the things that we think the committee will have to do are:-

- working out the demarcation
- sorting out addresses for letters to voters
- dealing with problems requiring intervention
- knowing what should be communicated to regions.

2.2.3 ASSISTANCE FOR UNSTRUCTURED REGIONS

that the Western Cape will second 2 persons to assess the situation in the OFS and the Northern Cape Coloured areas. On the basis of this assessment and consultation will appropriate media be produced for the said areas.

2.2.4 MEDIA/PUBLICATIONS

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- that a National UDF News be produced before the campaign and another one after the campaign.
 - that a National slogan, sticker and a poster be discussed by the regional media committees and, that proposals be given to the N.E.C for ratification.
 - that the community newspapers for the duration of the anti-election campaign be used effectively to promote the campaign.

2.2.5 OFFICE EQUIPMENT

- that a telex machine be leased by the National Office to facilitate communication
- that a word processor be bought to facilitate work of National Office during the Campaign.
- that a consideration be given to the possibility of employing computer services for purposes of sorting out addresses for letters to voters.

4. BONN CONFERENCE

Arising out of the report of Comrade Valli we are preparing a paper to be presented at an Anti-Apartheid Conference in Bonn in October this year (1984). The paper is on Reform strategy and the UDF response. The paper will be circulated to all N.E.C members.

4. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (IYY)

that youth affiliates throughout the country in their regional formations discuss the International Youth Year coming in July 1985 and make proposals for national and international activities to coincide with the IYY.

that Secretariat be mandated to appoint a UDF representative to Switzerland for a three month period and also to the conference marking the IYY.

5. UN END OF WOMEN'S DECADE

There are indications that a UDF woman representative may be invited to the Conference marking the UN End of Women's Decade as either an observer or participant.

Again here the Secretariat recommends that the matter be discussed by our women affiliates.