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ASSESSOR

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BEW "P1"

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT TRANSVAALI

MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14 04 1984

PRESENT : SCA, SRC, COSAS, JODAC, SASDU, MGWUSA, NUSAS, ERAPC, FEDSAW, ASRO, DESCOM, AFRI - NEWS, TVL. AFTI P.C. TIC, AZASO, L.Y.I. VCA, NEUSA AND YCS.

APCLOGIES VALLI TVL SECRETARY
DEACON MATHE EXECUTIVE MEMBER.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received a letter from DESCOM regarding the use of courts in repression.

Received a letter of invitation from AZAFO.

Received a letter of invitation from CASSA.

Received a letter of thanks from Mrs. Tsotsobe regarding her sons funeral.

Received a letter from ASRO indicating that they want to affiliate.

RECEIVED a letter from BLACK_SASSH regarding their observer status.

MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

BLACK SASH was welcomed as observers in the UDF. General Council meeting.

AZAFO's letter of invitation was not acceptable by the General Council.

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The meeting agreed to participate with AZAPC for tactical reasons. } 7/10/87

It was further agreed that organisations must take initiatives in organising for National Days.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL 25 02 84

The minutes were read and ratified.

It was further agreed that the executive should get to the affiliates to inform them about the General Council meeting.

REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES

Only three (3) reports were received. These reports were from NUSAS, DESCCM and JCDAC.

It was noted that non receiving of reports makes it difficult for the office to keep in contact with affiliates.

Affiliates in their report should focus on the organisation's work in taking up the UDF campaigns.

Format for the report should be developed by executive.

SECRETARIAL REPORT

It was mentioned in the secretarial report that Cde. Murphy Morobe is appointed as MSC coordinator.

MSC committee held a workshop on the MSC.

Crisis in the Pretoria schools reported, it was mentioned that the situation is worsening.

UDF training committee is planning a workshop for civic associations on the 27 to the 29th April 1984, at DAIESIDE.

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Explanation was given about the UDF individuals merit in the Pretoria school boycott by M. Chikane. It was apparent that this intervention created serious problems. After serious discussion on this it was resolved that local organisations should discuss this issue among themselves rather than debate this in the UDF general council meeting.

It was stressed that UDF should respect other organisations and their role.

To avoid further confusion UDF personalities should identify themselves and make it clear on whose behalf they speak. This is necessary so as to avoid confusion about the role of the UDF.

Commission to be established to investigate this issue - M. Chikane, F Chikane and appointed COSAS member will be the coordinators of this commission.

MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

The coordinator reported on the MSC. spoke of the problems faced by

(a) MSC committee

(b) Affiliates.

(c) Activists.

A comprehensive programme of action is being developed.

A signature blitz will be held on 28 April in Johannesburg. This would link up with May Day. Over 200 activists are expected to participate in the blitz. All organisations are encouraged to take part in this blitz.

On 26 April at 5pm Khotso House there will be a briefing session on the blitz.

(21)

7/10/87

Blitz should take place in as many areas as possible in the TVI
Organisations should take the active and consult with the MSC
committee for assistance.

CONSTITUTION AND ELECTIONS

At present the TIC conducted a house to house meetings with influential
people, media blitzes to convince people not to vote.

July August agitation campaign to convince people not to vote.

Embark on a programme in the rural areas.

Constitution affects all communities therefore it is not sufficient
for only TIC and Anti P. C. to be working on this area.

The executive will look at ways and means for other organisations
to take up the campaigns.

CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEES

Reported that only four people attended the conscription committee.

Conscription committee should set up a meeting with present
coordinating committees among the youth and students groups to
get assistance from them.

Conscription Committee should try and make contact with all organisations
in the UDF.

Noted that while conscription affects youth it will be a crucial
factor in the elections therefore it does affect the adult population.
Thus all organisations should be taking up this issue, not only
the youth groups.

Date of conscription meeting is 25 April at 5 30 pm.

PRESIDENT WELCOME

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After a long absence, the president was welcomed by the General council of the UDF. She said that she hope that in the future she will be in the position to speak to us all again.

RESTRUCTURING OF UDF

Frank Chikane reported that on the executive recommendations regarding the restructuring of the UDF. This was accepted in principle.

FINANCES

Treasurers were not present to give the report. The house expressed its concern about their absence.

Also concern was expressed about the absence of the executive members.

Noted that the festival committee have not sent a financial statement. Concern was expressed about the Festival committee. It was decided that the Festival committee should submit a financial statement to the next General Council Meeting.

UDF NEWS

Could not be discussed in details because the financial statement was not submitted.

Affiliates were encouraged to join the media committee.

GENERAL

DESCOM gave a brief report on repression in South Africa and highlighted the fact that the courts are used more and more in repression. It was agreed that legal affairs would work closely with DESCOM in highlighting and campaigning against repression.

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M.S.C. REPORT

Rev P2

As the new M.S.C. Co-ordinator one of my first tasks was to acquaint myself with all the facts of the campaign since its official launch in Pretoria on 22nd January 1984.

So far the T.V.L. has accumulated just over 13000 signatures leaving us with a shortfall of over 200000 signatures.

The campaign has experienced numerous problems which have stalled progress to a significant degree. The major problem has been that of Co-ordination which inevitably led to other problems. I'll hazard an attempt to give a brief account of some of these problems and would wish that delegates note them for consideration.

1) M.S.C. Committee: This committee has been meeting (initially on ad-hoc basis) from 7th Jan 84. At the moment the committee cannot claim to be representative of all areas which it was originally meant to be representative of. It has a few activists on it. This presents problems of Co-ordination and Communication [lack of time; representivity; communication]

2) Affiliates: Some affiliates - if not most do not seem to have taken up the campaign in any serious way. Some have indicated logistics problems in taking up the campaign. Difficulties have been expressed in integrating the campaign in a meaningful way into ongoing organisational work.

3) Activists: Activists in some areas seem

to be fairly disorganised. There does not seem to be much initiative taken in keeping the Campaign going. Some activists have expressed difficulty in coping with the demands of the campaign.
(organisational inexperience)

EDUCATION: No significant number of workshops around MSC have been conducted in various areas. Therefore, a fair amount of ignorance is prevalent among activists on what the MSC is all about and some have even found it difficult to respond adequately to people's questions on the campaign and related issues.

(i) Weak org/bk of organisational experience. (ii) Lack of contact with affiliated orgs. (iii) High expectations. (iv) Low press publicity. (v) Difficulty in keeping momentum. (vi) No report on cost evaluation.

These are but a few of the problems facing the MSC

The MSC ^{com} therefore asks of all activists and Affiliates to take deliberate steps in seeing to it that the campaign regains its prominence.

The MSC-committee would like more activists to come into the committee because it's virtually impossible for the few people on it to do all the work ~~which~~ which the MSC requires of us.

The MSC ^{com} calls on all affiliates to establish strong area-committees which should see to it that the campaign is taken forward

Short term: - Blitzes

Where do the committee come from -

Methods

Areas

Scholarship ① Different Committees.

② Different Affiliates network

③

UDF oppo's Jns.

P3

Rev. P3¹

National Detainees day

Descom and DPSC convened a vigil for National Detainees Day on Saturday 10 March. Speakers included Terror Lekota and Steven Tshwete. Signatures were collected and UDF badges and T-shirts were sold.

UDF Music Festival

Descom set up a bāerewārs stall at the festival. It was relatively ~~successful~~ successful although it involved a lot of labour and little profit. Descom made R64-00 and therefore R32-00 goes into UDF coffers as agreed. In addition to the braai, Descom members helped collect signatures.

UDF committees

Descom has been sending representatives to the Million Signature Committee and the Media Committee.

Repression Campaign

Descom is canvassing progressive organisations on a campaign around repression. Last month we sent letters to organisations particularly affected by repression including UDF inviting them to discuss current repression strategies with Descom and to co-operate in developing a counter strategy. A possible component of this is a campaign against repression. We hope that this matter will be raised at the April General Council meeting.