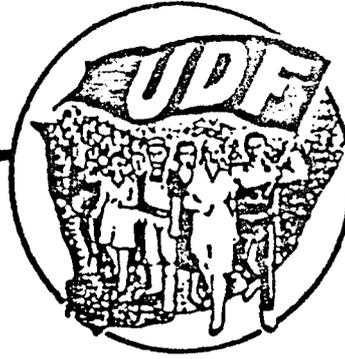


UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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MEMORANDUM TO:

FROM: UDF & COSAS - P MOLEFE AND J KHUMALO

DATE: 21 JANUARY 1985

PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION CRISIS

On January 17, 1985 four representatives of the Congress of South African Students comprising two N.E.C and two R.E.C members, met with the National and Regional Secretaries of the UDF at the latter organisation's offices in Johannesburg to assess the state of Education.

The following observations were made:-

1. That there was general confusion as students did not know whether to go back to school or not.
2. That whilst some students had gone back to school, many were still out on boycott e.g P.E., Fort Beaufort, Cradock, Lamontville, Uitenhage registering almost 100% boycott. The Vaal, Soweto and Pretoria have relatively higher numbers of students at school but not all students have gone back.
3. That the Congress of the S A Students has not been able to make a national call of any kind because of a variety of problems manifesting themselves differently in different regions and localities. Although the overall demands are as previously stated by COSAS, there are other problems such as unfair dismissal and/or suspension of teachers and students. We have here in mind the situation in Cradock and Lamontville where teachers have been arbitrarily dismissed. Here students and parents are determined that there will be no going back until the teachers are re-instated.
4. That although earlier on the D.E.T seemed willing to resolve the crisis, it seems like they are returning to their all time intransigence. This means that they may not resolve the crisis even in the short term.

5. That although some students have gone back to school the potential for another school boycott and violence at a larger scale will be a great one if D.E.T does not meet the demands of the students.
6. That the students are on the threshold of victory and that this should not be allowed to slip out of our hands.
7. That there is a need to expand the campaign by involving other forces such as the churches, unions, prominent personalities like Bishop Tutu, Allan Boesak, Arch-bishop Hurley, SACC, SACBC, etc. and to provide a clear direction in this regard.
8. That there is a need for an assessment of possible involvement in the Education Charter Campaign by the Parents Committees.
9. That there is need to a serious assessment of the attempts by the D.E.T to setup Parents Liaison Committees and the possibility of replacing same with democratic structures of parents.

The UDF and COSAS urge you to discuss the above questions and to come out with practical suggestions as soon as possible. The most concrete and crucial question facing us is, precisely How can we intensify the campaign in the event of the D.E.T refusing to meet the students' demands?

It shall be appreciated if the matter can receive your urgent attention.

Yours in the struggle,

POPO MOLEFE
GENERAL SECRETARY