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REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD

IN DURBAN ON THE 12th AND 13th JAN. 1985.

AA215

The report has been broken down into three parts:

- a. Brief ^{Report} of the various regions delivered at the conference.
- b. Report of different group discussions held at the conference.
- c. Report of decisions taken at conference, after group discussions.

GENERAL BACKGROUND.

UDF youth affiliates attended a national consultative meeting in Lenasia on the 10th and 11th November 1984, to discuss how the UDF youth affiliates could take up IYY for the year 1985, this opportunity was used to discuss the formation of a national youth organisation.

The regions which were represented were as follows:

- . The Transvaal region.
- . The Border region.
- . The Western Cape.
- . The Natal region.
- . The Eastern Cape (PE).

In January 1984, a national consultative youth conference was held in We gespruit next to Johannesburg. About 30 youth organisations were represented from various parts of the country. Amongst some of the decisions taken at the conference, was that since time was not yet ripe to form a national youth organisation, then, organisations must consider seriously the feasibility of coming up with the idea at later stage. The same concern was raised at the Lenasia conference. Each region appointed one person to begin the co-ordination of regions and to initiate discussions around the formation of a national youth organisation.

Some of the points raised were as follows:

- To look at the possibility of the NYS adopting the FC.
- The possibility of the NYS being based on non-racial and democratic principles of the progressive movement.
- The nature of the structure and the constitution.
- Organising the South African youth under the banner of the UDF
- That special attention be given to the rural youths.
- That colours, emblem etc. be looked into.

18. This report was not sent ^{to} many regions, as ^a result only ^a few received it. The only attempt made was to phone certain regions to keep them informed.

REGIONAL REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

HELD IN DURBAN ON THE 12th AND 13th JAN. 1985.

This is an on the spot report of various regions delivered at the Durban conference. It briefly outlines the ground covered on the NYS and the position of the region with regards to the formation of the NYS, including the conditions in the regions pertaining to the strength and weaknesses of the youth organisations.

1. TRANSVAAL REGION.

- a. That a workshop was organised to discuss the NYS.
- b. That the region supported the idea of the NYS.
- c. That the FEDERAL STRUCTURE was adopted by the Transvaal region.
- d. That since organisations were requested to come with mandates or rather give mandates to their delegates, the decision on the form of structure adopted was therefore binding to all organisations.

2. NATAL REGION.

- a. That after the Lenasia conference, a working committee was set up in Natal.
- b. Its task was to facilitate discussions around NYS and IYY.
- c. That the working committee represents 25 youth groups in Natal i.e. Durban, PMB, Newcastle.
- d. That different youth organisations were visited and discussions held with those youth organisations.
- e. That the COSAS and AZASO general student councils, were also used to discuss IYY.
- f. That the Natal region did not receive a comprehensive report on NYS after the Lenasia conference. That they received a report on NYS a week before the conference in Durban.
- g. As a result emphasis in the Natal region has been on the IYY rather than NYS.
- h. That the region held workshops, and that their delegates were mandated to take decisions at the conference.
- i. That at this stage the Natal region saw need for a national co-ordinating structure, not a national youth organisation.
- j. Recommendations made on NYS:
 - *That skilled and experienced personnel be at the leadership of the NYO.
 - *That they should be exposed to material and resources.
 - *That problems of co-ordination should be overcome.
 - *That there must be organisational capacity to carry out the requirements of the NYO.

That during the launch of the NYO, the position of the state with regards to the situation in the Vaal and repression through the treason trial should be seriously considered.

- l. That the structure and policy have not been discussed, that as soon as the region ready those aspects would be attended to.
- m. That the national youth structure should affiliate to the UDF and take up IYY.

3. EASTERN CAPE.

- a. That held discussions on formation of regional structure to take up IYY and draft a regional programme on IYY.
That E. CAPE organisations are, Payco, Gelvandale Youth Movement, Grayco, Peyco, Westville Youth Movement, Uycy, Kirkwood Youth Congress.
- c. That the region was not consulted about the last conference held in Lenasia.
- d. That other youth groups had problems financially in making it to the conference.

4. WESTERN CAPE (CAYCO).

a. Agree in principle to the formaton of the NYO in 1985.

Reasons.

*There would be closer co-operation and co-ordination between various youth organisations.

*Importance of formulating and developing a coherent youth movement in the country.

*Unifying our youth organisations, both structurally and politically is far more advantageous for our liberation struggle.

*Its formation would ensure a disciplined and organised youth that can scientifically work out strategies and tactics.

b. The following national and international issues are important when considering the NYS.

With regards to:

*International Youth Year 1985.

*30 years of the F. C.

*Education Charter.

c. That CAYCO is mindful of particular weaknesses nationally. That however, these can be overcome.

d. That the organisation accepts the proposal on the NYS made in the Lenasia conference.

e. That it supports the move for the NYS to be formed on the 6th April depending on the conditions.

5. BORDER REGION.

a. That they have been out of touch with the discussions around IYY and NYS though they tried to keep pace.

b. That they are in favour of the move to form a national youth organisation.

c. That they have problems with national co-ordinating committee.

NB. REGIONS WHICH WERE NOT REPRESENTED WERE THE OFS AND THE NORTHERN CAPE.

OF THE HOUSING COMMISSION (FEBRUARY 10)

ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION: PERCO, GRACA, CRADORA, RHODES L.R.C., P.E.A.C

OBSERVERS: COSAS, CRADORA, AYC

CONVENOR: CHAMPION GALELA (PERCO)

CHAIRPERSON: PHILA NKAYI (GRACA)

THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION AS SET OUT AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE RGC WERE ADOPTED AS THE AGENDA

AGENDA

1) RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATE THE HOUSING SITUATION IN SA TO BE ABLE TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES - the issues to be researched are those which civic associations feel are related to the struggles they take up

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

a) RENTALS :- HOW SHOULD RENTS BE DETERMINED? RENT REMISSION FOR GROUPS SUCH AS PENSIONERS AND THE UNEMPLOYED

b) EVICTIONS

c) ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN RAIDS FROM RENTS COLLECTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

d) SERVICE CHARGES :- DOES THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES, eg HEALTH, WATER, ELECTRICITY, FALL UNDER THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT NOT ~~PROVIDE~~ SUBSIDISE THESE SERVICES?

e) LODGERS FEES :- WHAT IS BEING DONE WITH THIS MONEY WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF HOUSING (NO HOUSES IN GRAHAMSTOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE EVER BEEN BUILT WITH LODGERS FEES)

f) BOTTLE STORES AND BEERHALLS :- WHERE DO THEIR PROFITS GO? WHEN THEY WERE UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF ECAB THE PROFITS WERE MEANT TO SUBSIDISE HOUSING

g) REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE :- WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS THIS?

FOR EXAMPLE, ARE MATERIALS BEING SENT TO VARIOUS CENTRES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF ECAR

AN ASSESSMENT AND COMPARISON OF THE VIABILITY OF DIFFERENT HOUSING SCHEMES: 99 YEAR LEASE-HOLD FREE-HOLD, LETTING SCHEMES, BUYING SCHEMES

THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH THE BUYING OF HOUSES SUCH AS CORE HOUSES AT MOTHERWELL

1) STATISTICS ON THE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING, INCLUDING A DOOR-TO-DOOR SURVEY OF OVERCROWDING IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS

2) POOR SERVICES :- FULLY QUALIFIED RESIDENTS SUCH AS SHACK-DWELLERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN STATUS AS HOME-OWNERS AND MADE TO PAY SERVICE FEES, BUT ARE PROVIDED WITH HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE SERVICES

3) COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION OF SO-CALLED SUPERINTENDANTS

4) GOVERNMENT STATISTICS ON HOUSING ARE BEING COLLECTED DURING THE CURRENT CENSUS. DOES THIS INDICATE THAT SOMETHING IS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE HOUSING SHORTAGE?

5) RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE DONE ON FORCED REMOVALS AND THE CONTROL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OVER WHERE PEOPLE MAY LIVE IN AN AREA

DRAW UP FACT SHEETS BROCHURES, DOCUMENTS ETC ON THE HOUSING SITUATION - THIS IS DEALT WITH UNDER POINT 1

INFORM ORGANISATIONS AND PEOPLE ABOUT THESE ISSUES: THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO ORGANISE PEOPLE AROUND THE HOUSING ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE RESEARCH. IT WILL BE THE TASK OF THE VARIOUS CIVIL ORGANISATIONS TO EDUCATE AND ORGANISE RESIDENTS IN THEIR AREAS

4. ~~AND~~ COORDINATE AND GUIDE HOUSING STRUGGLES IN THE REGION AND POSSIBLY ORGANISE A REGIONAL CONFERENCE: AN UMBRELLA BODY

ORGANISED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE UDF CIVIL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE REGION IS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS BY WHICH THE HOUSING STRUGGLE CAN BE COORDINATED AND GUIDED THROUGHOUT THE REGION. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSION TO LOOK AT WHY AN ATTEMPT TO SET UP SUCH A BODY LAST YEAR FAILED (PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPORT, FUNDS AND SOME CIVIL BODIES BEING AGAINST THE UDF AT THE TIME) AND HOW THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME. CIVIL ORGANISATIONS WILL HAVE TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUITABLE STRUCTURE. THE QUESTIONS ARISE AS TO WHETHER THE TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR SETTING UP SUCH A BODY, AND WHETHER CIVIL ASSOCIATIONS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT SUCH A STRUCTURE OVER SUCH A WIDESPREAD AREA.

5. LINK UP WITH EXISTING CIVIL STRUCTURES IN OTHER REGIONS
THIS IS RELATED TO THE SETTING UP OF AN UMBRELLA BODY IN THE EASTERN CAPE REGION DEALT WITH UNDER POINT 4.

6. RESEARCH THE AREA OF REMOVALS AND THE SITUATION SPECIFICALLY IN RURAL AREAS: THIS WAS DEALT WITH UNDER THE RESEARCH PROPOSALS. MOST RURAL REMOVALS FALL UNDER THE BORDER REGION. THE QUESTIONS AROSE AS TO WHETHER THE COMMISSION SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH BOTH URBAN AND RURAL REMOVALS AND WHETHER THE PROBLEM OF FORCED REMOVALS WAS RELEVANT TO URBAN AREAS. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF FORCED REMOVALS BY INDIRECT MEANS IN THE PORT ELIZABETH AREA WERE PINPOINTED: REMOVAL OF PEOPLE FROM THE WALMER TOWNSHIP TO ZWIDE, REMOVAL OF COLOURED FROM THEIR OLD LOCATION WHERE THEY LIVED WITH AFRICANS TO GROUP AREAS. REMOVAL OF INDIANS OUT OF TOWN TO GROUP AREAS. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THE ISSUE OF FORCED REMOVALS WAS RELEVANT TO URBAN AREAS. PEOPLE FACING REMOVAL NEED TO BE ORGANISED TO TAKE UP THE

RE, AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED. INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE RESEARCH MUST BE USED TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS AS TO THEIR RIGHTS. THE UDF, THROUGH ITS AFFILIATES, MUST DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO CREATE RESISTANCE TO AND PUBLICITY FOR BOTH URBAN AND RURAL REMOVALS.

INVESTIGATE HOW THE HOUSING ISSUE CAN BE RELATED TO THE REMOVALS QUESTION AND PROVIDE COMMON STRATEGIES WHERE POSSIBLE: IT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE HOUSING PROBLEM IS USED STRATEGICALLY AS A MEANS OF INFILTRATION CONTROL AND TO JUSTIFY AND FACILITATE REMOVALS. A COMBINED STRATEGY IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL.

HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF RESETTLED PEOPLE AND BUILD A STRONG PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN: THE ISSUE OF REMOVALS AND THE PLIGHT OF RESETTLED PEOPLE IS NOT DISCUSSED ENOUGH IN THE TOWNSHIPS. THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN CIVIC ORGANISATIONS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS AND BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, SO THAT THE ISSUES CAN BE BROUGHT UP AT THE RALLIES OF ^{THE INDIVIDUAL} CIVIC ORGANISATIONS AND AWARENESS OF THE STRUGGLE PROMOTED. DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGNS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE ANGER OF RESETTLED PEOPLE USED TO BUILD UP ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH.

THE COMMISSION DOES NOT SEE A NECESSITY TO SPLIT INTO TWO SECTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF HOUSING AND REMOVALS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION MEET AGAIN ~~TO~~ AFTER THE RGC TO DISCUSS MEANS OF EFFECTING SOME OF THE PROPOSALS.

17 (1)

Opposition to militarisation and militarism was identified as important in our struggle for a non-racial and democratic South Africa. The aggression of the SADF in the past has shown it to be acting directly, in the interests of the apartheid system. This means that we can not have just peace or free society in South Africa until the SADF has been dismantled.

It was however noted that militarisation affects different areas in different ways - townships have been invaded, whites are conscripted into the SADF and coloured and indian communities face similar fates in the future. Hence the opposition to militarisation will be taken up in each area according to the conditions and effects experienced there.

Campaigns/focuses can therefore range from solidarity protests with township residents, a national campaign to end conscription and a preparative and educative campaign, around the extension of conscription, in the coloured and indian areas. Also, broader focuses could unify organisations across areas, eg. Focus on Namibia or Focus on the Militarism in the schools.

The IYY campaign was identified as an important campaign for 1985 and it was felt that a militarisation focus should be included. This would be discussed with the IYY committee by UDF militarisation committee reps. This has given rise to the suggestion that the IYY committee be approached ^{about} the possibility for representation on their structure by rep(s) from the UDF militarisation committee.

Structures: It was suggested that there be a standing militarisation committee to monitor the region with respect to anti-militarisation activity. The following suggestions were made:

- 1) One rep per area on the committee.
- 2) The committee would coordinate broad regional events.
- 3) Rep's from the committee will visit other organisations viz. ECC, COSG and others, to explain the UDF position on this matter and collect feed-back for the coordination purposes of the committee.
- 4) Non-UDF groups may send observers to the committee meetings.
- 5) The committee would initiate national contact and stimulate involvement in national events.

- Program:
- a) Seminars - Militarisation
 - The role of the SADF in the defence of Apartheid
 - Conscription
 - History of Conscientious Objection.
 - Militarisation in the schools (Kom speel saam
Hearts and Minds
Cadets etc.)
 - b) Media - Committee assigned to keep records of SADF activity in different areas viz. Photos, Affidavits etc.
 - Compile a booklet of affidavits.
 - Monitor military propaganda in the commercial media.
 - Distribute 'Objector'
 - Collect all media relating to the SADF viz. Paratus etc. as resources for the seminars.
 - Organise the media to advertise events.
 - Put out a regional newsletter.
 - Draw up a calendar showing historic events pertaining to the SADF and Militarisation. eg. Kassinga etc.
 - Coordinate the production of stickers and T-shirts etc.

- c) General - Look into setting up of peace camps for children of supportive parents.
 - Organise church group seminars.
 - Coordinate the following regional focuses
 - * Sharpville 21/3
 - * Namibia Day 26/8
 - * Sebokeng Day /10
 - * Kassinga Day 26/5

- d) Fund raising - Culture shows (shows, plays, poetry, etc.)
 - Video evenings
 - Progressive jorls
 - Sell media produced