

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

DECLARATION

WE, THE FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA SAY WITH ONE VOICE TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT WE

cherish the vision of a united, democratic South Africa based on the will of the people,

will strive for the unity of all our people through united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation

AND, IN OUR MARCH TO A FREE AND JUST SOUTH AFRICA, WE ARE GUIDED BY THESE NOBLE IDEALS

we stand for the creation of a true democracy in which all South Africans will participate in the government of our country;

we stand for a single non-racial, unfragmented South Africa. A South Africa free of bantustans and Group Areas;

we say, all forms of oppression and exploitation must end.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE NOBLE IDEALS, AND, ON THIS 20TH DAY OF AUGUST 1983, AT ROCKLANDS CIVIC CENTRE, MITCHELL'S PLAIN, WE JOIN HANDS AS COMMUNITY, WOMEN'S, STUDENTS', RELIGIOUS, SPORTING AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS TO SAY NO TO APARTHEID.

We say NO to the Republic of South Africa Constitution Bill - a bill which will create yet another undemocratic constitution in the country of our birth

We say NO to the Koornhof Bills which will deprive more and more African people of their birthright;

We say YES to the birth of the United Democratic Front on this historic day;

WE KNOW THAT

this government is determined to break the unity of our people;

that our people will face greater hardships, that our people living in racially segregated and relocated areas will be cut off from the wealth they produce in the cities. That rents and other basic charges will increase. And, that our living standards fall;

that working people will be divided. Race from race; urban from rural; employed from unemployed; men from women. Low wages, poor working conditions, attacks on our trade unions will continue;

students will continue to suffer under unequal education, created to supply a reservoir of cheap labour. Ethnic control and unequal facilities will remain. Apartheid will still be felt in our classrooms;

the religious and cultural life of our people will be harmed. The sins of apartheid will continued to be stamped on the culture and religions of our people;

the oppression and exploitation of women will continue. Women will suffer greater hardships under the new pass laws. Women will be divided from their children and families. Poverty and malnutrition will continue to disrupt family life. The brunt of apartheid will still be carried by our families;

non-racial sport will suffer. There will be less money for the building of sports facilities. And, forced separation will deal non-racial sport a further blow.

WE KNOW THAT APARTHEID WILL CONTINUE

that white domination and exploitation will continue; that forced removals, the Group Areas Act and the Bantustans will remain.

WE KNOW that there will not be a end to the unequal distribution of the land, wealth and resources of the country. That the migratory labour system will live on to destroy family life.

WE KNOW that the government will always use false leaders to become its junior partners and to control us. Our lives will still be filled with fears of harassment, bannings, detentions and death.

Mindful of the fact that the new Constitutional Proposals and Koornfof measures will further entrench apartheid and white domination,

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO UNITING ALL OUR PEOPLE
WHEREVER THEY MAY BE IN THE CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDES,
THE FACTORIES AND MINES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES, HOUSING AND SPORTS FIELDS, CHURCHES,
MOSQUES AND TEMPLES, TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM.

we therefore resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder
in our common struggle and commit ourselves to

WORK TOGETHER TO

organise and mobilise all community, worker, student
women, religious, sporting and other organisations
under the banner of the United Democratic Front;

consult our people regularly and honestly, and bravely
and strive to represent their views and aspirations;

educate all about the coming dangers and the need for
unity;

build and strengthen all organisations of the people;

unite in action against these Bills and other day-to-day
problems affecting our people.

AND NOW THEREFORE

WE PLEDGE TO COME TOGETHER IN THIS UNITED DEMOCRATIC
FRONT

AND

FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL
PROPOSALS AND THE KOORNHOF BILLS.