

MEETING OF THE ILG

31 JULY 1990

Present: Comrades DT, JS, RM, JN, SS, RS, BB, Reg S., CH, EP, JC, CC, CD, SM, MM, JG.

Apologies: RK, GM, AK, Cde Harry Gwala had indicated that he was leaving after the launch, no-one has been in contact with him since.

Regretably comrades Mac and Billy have been arrested.

Comrade RM in the chair and cde Geraldine taking notes.

Following brief introductory remarks by cde Ray the General Secretary opened the first meeting of the ILG. Hereby follows a summary of his opening remarks.

"We should congratulate ourselves on our auspicious beginning. It is clear from this morning's media that we've won the first round, 'hands down.'

Congratulations to all the comrades who worked hard to make the launch a success, in particular to a comrade who is not with us now, comrade Mac Maharaj.

Our task is to get people and organisations organised around a campaign demanding the release of cde Mac Maharaj and other comrades. This campaign has already been started by the UDF.

The members of the CC had a special meeting yesterday to transfer the powers of the CC and the PB to the ILG in terms of the day-to-day running and growth of the Party, regions, branches etc. The ILG will become a fundamental organ of the CC. There will be a need to operate as a collective, i.e. the CC and the ILG. Who yields power is a non-issue.

On certain policy issues there may be a need to consult the CC.

On the issue of recruiting and subscriptions - There has been a submission of thousands of application forms. In addition, a list of one hundred names have been submitted by Border.

I also wish to utilise this opportunity to request the permission for the presence of cde Geraldine in our meeting. She is a full-time functionary of the Party and will be full-time in the Party office. For the moment she will act as a personal assistant to the General Secretary. She will take notes of meetings, decisions and proceedings. (Approved)

"There has been a breakthrough in the growth and development of the Party. This is not only recognised by us and our allies but also by our masses! We have the foundation to grow into a powerful Party. With those words, I welcome everyone here!

AGENDA

- 1a. Authority and Powers of the ILG
- b. Function of the ILG and frequency of meetings.
- c. Working group under the ILG and the Secretariate.

2. Regional ILG's

How and when constituted.

Which regions do we first form.

3. Membership

- .1. Application forms
- .2. Provisional revision of the constitution.
- .3. Membership cards
- .4. Branches
- .5. Subs and registration fees
- .6. Six month reviewal of Party membership

4. Headquarters Sub-committees

- .1. Finance and Admin
- .2. Education and Party media
- .3. Press Liason

5. Bilateral meetings: SACP - NUMSA

SACP - Institute of Contextual Theology

Next meeting of the ILG.

1.a. Authority and Powers of the ILG

At present there are no written powers of the ILG. The CC has directly and certainly by implication given powers to the ILG to build the Party. At any point in time if the CC and FB wants to make an input, it certainly will.

(We will require to look at the powers of the ILG at the end of agenda.)

1.b. The functioning of the ILG:

Frequency of meetings - There is a need for a full ILG meeting at least once every two months. This can be reviewed later. All meetings should be diarised by the Administration or secretary. These meetings should not only be held in Jo'burg since the task of the ILG is also an organising one.

1.c. Working group under the ILG.

The CC has discussed it. The Working group of the ILG consists of ILG members based at HQ. This WG will meet once every fortnight.

1.d. Secretariate.

Emerging out of the CC meeting that it is the body under the ILG responsible for running the Party.

Comrades in the Secretariate: EP, JC, GF, SM and an additional comrade from COSATU.

The party wants Stan to re-inforce the secretariate. In addition to him if COSATU could come up with another name.

The Secretariate along with Sydney to draft a programme which would not clash with COSATU work.

Tasks at present: At present it will be technical and routine, however, since the Party is political its fundamental tasks

are political. We hence aim for a for a secretariate with a little power and clout, hence we need to be re-inforced by COSATU comrades.

Comrade Sizwe should also be joining us. Cde Chris H. to follow this up.

SETTING UP OF REGIONS:

Key Regions: FWV, Natal, Eastern Cape and Border, Western Cape.

This does not exclude other areas for example, Northern Transvaal where there are comrades who are able to organise Party structures.

We are looking towards 1 to 2 full-time comrades in each region and anticipate to set up Provisional leadership cores within ten days.

FWV, will initially serve as the centre for the Transvaal.

Two full timers were recommended for the Regional FWV office, one being an Organiser and one being an administrator.

The issue of appointees to be deferred to the existing Party structures.

It will be the duty of the structure to take the forms and divide them according to Branches.

FWV is to meet the deadline of setting up a core by 10 August 1990 and this should be ensured by the Secretariate.

Natal: SM, JG and JN to go to Natal and consult with comrades on the ground on the setting up of structures in Natal, including cde HG. The issue of reinforcement for the region should also be discussed.

Border and the Eastern Cape: RM, GM, CH, and JG to conduct a similar exercise as with Natal. They should also look at the need for seperation of Border and the Eastern Cape.

Western Cape: Cde Ray S, RS, CC, CD and JC to look into setting up the ILG in the W.C. There is a definite need for a member of the ILG to be based in this region for sometime, in a full-time capacity. Cde Ray also to play an important role as a member of the ILG.

All regions to report on progress in setting up Regional ILG's by 10 August 1990.

APPLICATION FORMS:

There will be a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 50 Party members in a Branch, which is the most basic Party unit. Area committees comprised of Branches will come together and meet from time-to-time.

The Party should not merely comprise of a mass membership of card holders. Party members should be activists within the Party, ANC or the Mass formations. Party members should also be of a personal quality which will not disgrace the Party.

In April 1991, the membership of all Party members should be reviewed. By the democratic decision of the majority witin the Branch it will be decided whether Party members still qualify to remain within the ranks of the Party.

At Congress held on the seventeenth anniversary of the Party we should have democratically elected delegates from Branches, real communists - hence the sifting process in April.

It will be the duty of the regions to take charge of the application process not the locality.

There is a need by the Secretariate to prepare guidelines to deal with this interim period. This should include rights and duties of the membership.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Plastic card with a photograph on it. Subs entered into Branch held books not on the cards.

Registration takes place once and is renewed initially after six months and thereafter annually.

In view of ongoing registration there will be a need to decide whether renewal of membership takes place in a given month or one year from the date of joining. (This is to be checked by comrades within COSATU)

Three broad categories for Subs:

1. 0 to R700-00 : Unemployed / high school students/unskilled workers

2. R700 to R2,999: Broad spectrum/semi-skilled workers

3. R3,000 and above:

A proposal submitted by cdes Chris and Moss at the end of the meeting.

Categories: 1. R2.00 registration fees, no dues until employed.

2. R2.00 registration fees, R1,00 monthly dues.

3. R2.00 registration fees, 1% of gross salary monthly.

HQ SUBCOMMITTEES

4.1. Finance committee: Cde EP to take charge of Finance and Admin. To draw in cde MR on Finance.

Need to set up a Finance Committee - Secretariate should look at this. Also a need to look into people talented in fundraising. A need for a fundraising drive.

All finances to be centralised at HQ. Regions to draft budgets and submit to the National Office from which the money will be dispatched.

Payment/Salaries of full-time Party functionaries: COSATU to be followed on this issue, especially in view of the forthcoming, 15 August 1990, COSATU CEC. This should cover salaries, provident fund and medical aid.

4.2. Education and Party media

Cde JC in charge of this dept including organising the production of the African Communist internally as from 1991.

Primer available: -History of the Party

-programme of the Party

A future division is anticipated between education and media.

Stocks of basic Party publications to be made available immediately - copies of which are to go into branches.

Translations to be made immediately into the major languages: Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho and Afrikaans. Regions are to assist with this, especially, at the level of Umsebenzi. There is a need for a sub-committee to look into the issue of languages.

Umsebenzi to be sold at R1-00/cost of production (which ever is more) and African Communist at R5-00. There is also a need to go out to big Business and sell the publications to them at a higher price.

4.3. Press Liason

E.P. is the Press Liason officer.

There is a need for a pro-active press liason officer who will, for example, ensure a monthly column in various newspapers etc.

Known Party leadership should talk more and more on behalf of the Party.

There is also a need for speakers notes.

4.4 Bi-lateral meetings.

NUMSA - 23 September 1990

A delegation to be appointed by the Secretariate which includes the GS.

Institute of Contextual Theology - 9 August 1990.

Secretariate to appoint delegation.

We must establish procedures on relating to our allies.

It has been approved with amendments that the GS of the SACP, the SG of the ANC and the GS of COSATU have regular meetings. There should be a distinction between these meetings and meetings with fraternal organisations to explain the policy of the Party.

NEXT MEETING OF THE ILG: 6 October 1990, venue the Western Cape.

Issues to be discussed: Political Perspective
Programme of Action
Press Conference to be held after the meeting.

E.P. to prepare the Press Information release of the ILG meeting of 31 July 1990.

First meeting of Secretariate: 1 August 1990.