

NUSAS 60th Congress
Durban 1982

MINUTES

N U S A S M I N U T E S

60TH CONGRESS

DURBAN 1982

29 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

NSA	National Student Assembly
NUSAS	National Union of South African Students
NAAWU	National Automobile and Allied Workers Union
H.O.	NUSAS Head Office
SADF	South African Defence Force
W.M.	Women's Movement
S.R.C.	Students Representative Council
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand
Durban	University of Natal Durban
Pmb/Maritzburg	University of Natal Pietermaritzburg
U.C.T.	University of Cape Town
Rhodes	Rhodes University
SASPU	South African Students Press Union
SASTS	South African Students Travel Service
C.O.	Conscientious Objectors
Sec Gen	NUSAS General Secretary
Comm	Committee
p	page
para	paragraph
P.L.O.	Palestinian Liberation Organisation
P.C.	Presidents Council
ARMSCOR	Armaments Corporation
COSAS	Congress of South African Students
AZASO	Azanian Students Organisation
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
U.M.U.	University Military Unit

Head Office

Jonty Joffe
 Di Sandler
 Annette Griessel
 Bruce Irvine
 Mike Evans

NUSAS President
 General Secretary
 Media Officer
 Projects Officer
 Research Officer

Voting Delegates

U.C.T.

Chris Giffard
 Charles Kent
 Eckart Schlotfeldt
 Ilana Korber
 Anton Richman (S.R.C. President)
 Peta-Ann Teague
 Di McIntyre
 Debora Patta
 Keith Jenkins

Rhodes

Seun Rankin (S.R.C. President)
 Sue Lund
 Janet Small
 Cathy Ackerman
 Paul Crankshaw

Durban

Shane Hodgeson
 Paul Ross
 Fiona Dove
 Kevin O'Connor
 Jonathan Taylor (S.R.C. President)
 Mark Allison-Broomhead
 Gary Cullen
 Andrew Sampson
 Val Lindsay
 Roland Stansell

Wits

Brian Leveson
 Garth Klein
 Brendan Barry
 Lloyd Vogelmann (S.R.C. President)
 Dave Cohen
 Ruth Bekker
 Gavin Rabinovitz
 Bruce Rubenstein
 Andrew Stoddart

Congress Secretaries

Cindy Postlethwayt
 Barbara Sudano

N.S.A. convened in the Durban Congress Hall at 18h00 on Sunday 28 November 1982 with Jonathan Taylor (Durban S.R.C. President) in the Chair. Taylor paid tribute to Dr E G Malherbe, a former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal, who died on 27 November 1982. He then called upon Dr Gerry Coovadia of the Natal Indian Congress to deliver the opening address.

Dr Gerry Coovadia gave his address - applause.

NUSAS President Jonty Joffe then delivered his opening address. He paid tribute to Beyers Naude who "symbolises the potential for creating a group of white democrats. I would like to dedicate this Congress to him, to the ideals for which he has been silenced." - applause.

Congress adjourned at 19h00.

Delegates and observers then attended the cocktail party hosted by the Vice-Principal of Durban University.

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MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER: N.S.A. convened 08h45. Joffe in the Chair. The President made various procedural announcements and explained the rules of debate.

CLAIMING OF VOTES

U.C.T.	9
Rhodes	6
Wits	9
Durban	9

RESOLUTION 1/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. ratify the voting strengths as claimed by each centre.

PROPOSED: Jenkins

SECONDED: Allision-Broomhead

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 2/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. ratify the minutes of the 59th NUSAS Congress held at Cape Town, December 1981 with the following amendment

AGENDA OF THE 60TH CONGRESS (as finally put into practice)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28 1982

1.00 - 5.00pm	Registration (Students' Union Foyer)
4.00pm	Delegation Meetings
6.00pm	Opening Addresses: Jonty Joffe, Gerry Coovadia
7.15pm	Cocktail party
8.30pm	Pub opens

MONDAY NOVEMBER 29 1982

8.15 am	N.S.A. - Introduction and reports from H.O. and campuses
10.30am	Break
10.45am	Reports (N.S.A.)
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Organisational meetings
3.00pm	Reports (N.S.A.)
4.00pm	Politics in the University - panel discussion
6.00pm	Supper
7.00pm	Delegation meetings
7.30pm	N.S.A. announcements
8.00pm	State of Struggle - Auret Van Heerden
10.30pm	Pub opens

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30 1982

8.15am	N.S.A. Announcements
8.45am	First session A and C Committees
10.30am	Break
10.45am	Announcements
10.50am	Workshops
12.15pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Structures and Finance Comm
3.15pm	N.S.A. Announcements
3.45pm	Second Session A and C committees
6.00pm	Supper
7.15pm	Delegation meetings
8.00pm	Struggle in the Community : Our Response? - Yunus Mahomed
10.30pm	Pub opens

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1 1982

8.15am	N.S.A. announcements
8.45am	Repeat Session of workshops
10.45am	Break
11.00am	First session B Committees
12.45pm	Lunch
3.15pm	NSA announcements
3.30pm	Third Session A Committees
	Only session D Committees
6.00pm	Supper
7.15pm	Delegation meetings
8.00pm	Student Movements - Ray Bella
10.00pm	Pub opens

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2 1982

8.15am	N.S.A. Announcements
8.45am	Second Session B Committees
10.45am	Break
11.00am	N.S.A. - C Committee reports
12.45pm	Lunch
3.30pm	N.S.A. - C and D Committee reports
6.00pm	Supper
8.00pm	N.S.A. reports continued and motions
10.00pm	Movie and Video

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 1982

8.15am	Theme Comm
10.45am	N.S.A. B Committee
12.45pm	Lunch and Structures and Finance Comm
2.00pm	Delegation meetings
2.30pm	N.S.A. - A Committee report
4.30pm	Tea
4.45pm	N.S.A. - reports continued
6.00pm	Supper
6.30pm	Theme Comm
8.00pm	N.S.A. - reports continued
	Structures and Finance report
	Theme Comm report
	Motions
	Closing Address
	Election of Office Bearers
	Pub opens

RESOLUTION 5/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. rescind policy on those aspects of policy to be covered by committees to be established by this N.S.A. and that policy taken at the last Congress on those aspects of policy which will not be covered by committees to be appointed by this Congress be allowed to stand.

PROPOSED: O'Connor

SECONDED: McIntyre

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 6/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. allow non-voting delegates and observers to address Congress for the duration of this Congress.

PROPOSED: Kent

SECONDED: Lund

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 7/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the Head Office report, Rhodes, Durban, Wits and U.C.T. centre report and the Pmb local comm report.

PROPOSED: Cullen

SECONDED: Crankshaw

Carried unanimously

H.O. Report and Financial Statement

Corrections: p 9 para 8 : "news" becomes "reps"

p 12 para 4: "produced" becomes "productive"

p 15 para 5 "cr" becomes "creative"

Financial Statement: 32880,42 becomes 32780,42.

Joffe: Last year organisation was solid but we failed to mobilize our campus base - the theme has potential which wasn't used. NUSAS is not really mobilising except around controversial issues eg. in Durban around the cricket tour. U.C.T. was probably the strongest in this regard. We must not fall into the trap of taking up high profile protest or sensationalist issues instead of articulating student based sentiments eg. this issue of the military. The military press statement (by NUSAS in response to the invitation extended to two women S.R.C. members on each of the campuses by the SADF) was an example of a breakdown in communication. Ultimately, however, I think it was taken up correctly, albiet perhaps too sensationally.

Richman: The response to the press statement depends on the extent of organisation on each campus. We got quite a good response at U.C.T. because of the militarization focus and the relatively level of education around that issue.

Teague: I would like to propose that some time every week there will be people at the S.R.C. phones on all the campuses to have reportbacks to promote co-ordination.

Taylor: To make a correction in the Durban report: the call was not for the resignation of the S.R.C. but for control of the union hall. However, it was put in such a way as to be unacceptable.

Cullen: Our relationship to H.O. needs to be carefully worked out.

Wittenberg: Our (Pmb) report contradicts the H.O. report. Organisation is not particularly strong.

Joanne Bekker: NUSAS publications were of quite a high standard but they need to be more accessible. There is a difference between accessibility and simplicity.

Griessel: I think the biggest problem is distribution - we cannot compromise in content or appearance. Some S.R.C.s have subsidised the cost of NUSAS publications.

Kenyon: Selling publications is important in terms of contact with students and it must be organised well.

Cullen: The theme booklet must come out in Orientation Week.

Mike Evans: At U.C.T. a voluntary levy has been introduced where individuals choose to pay (aside from affiliation fees) and I would like to encourage it.

RESOLUTION 8/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the NUSAS H.O. Report and Financial Report.

PROPOSED: Rubenstein

SECONDED: Korber

Carried unanimously

Rhodes Centre Report

Jenkins: Christian groups should be seen as a general recruiting ground.

Small: NUSAS research should be done on the university power structures.

Joffe: The problem of changing from being geared towards a referendum to now trying to establish NUSAS presence on campus is a particularly difficult one. You don't have solid organisational structures and this problem hasn't been fully come to grips with until the last few months. But Rhodes has a fairly solid S.R.C. and people with a solid understanding who will be able to transform the campus next year.

RESOLUTION 9/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Rhodes Centre Report.

PROPOSED: Cullen

SECONDED: Teague

Carried unanimously

Durban Centre Report

Corrections: p 2 para 3 "of" becomes "and"
para 6 "inevitably" is deleted

p 5 para 3 "of a collective editorship and committee who" to be inserted between "establishment" and "produced"

p 6 para 5 "of" becomes "and"
para 13 "memners" becomes "members"
para 11 "or" becomes "and"

p 1 of addendum para 4 "optional" becomes "optimal"

p 2 of addendum para 4 "Neither" to be inserted between "basis" and "Durban"

"reallocation" becomes "relocation" wherever it appears

Cullen: This year we have come accross problems because organisations are not developed enough to cope with new people. Relationships with U.D.W. and medical school is an important feature on Durban at the moment. However we must define that relationship more clearly.

Korber: What is the Tolkien society?

Durban delegate: It is a fringe society, a fun society. But we are interested in developing an alternative technology and alternative society.

Taylor explained the events surrounding the cricket tour boycott.

Cullen: I wouldn't advise other campuses to take up an issue like the cricket tour and we won't be doing it again!

Baskin: An important point coming out of the tour was that before the right wing presented an undefined threat which we never really took cognisance of. During the tour, we were confronted with an organised right, things start collapsing.

Joffe: The sports issue has been placed firmly on the national agenda and needs to be highlighted (there are workshops at Congress) to see the limitations of taking up the issue. I suggest setting up a working committee to do a feasibility study into H.O. moving to Durban and they can then present it for debate.

Amendment

To replace Women's Movement section (p 3 and 4):

In 1981, the W.M. found that there was little participation or division of the workload, so in 1982 a variety of committees were formed. It was hoped that these would encourage participation and would lead to a greater sharing of responsibility.

A major difficulty was that no structure or programme had been worked out prior to the first meeting and new people were expected to decide on this before they were really familiar with what W.M. was.

Two committees were successful - the rap groups and the external education committee. However, the rest have hardly got off the ground. There was little communication between committees and co-ordination of the organisation as a whole was inefficient.

Next year greater attention will be given to co-ordination, internal education, women's res's and a structured programme for the year.

Despite the internal problems, W.M. does have a surprising amount of credibility and support on campus. This was revealed in the S.R.C. elections where res women were particularly important in support of feminist candidates.

Plans for 1983 are to continue the campaign for a creche and establish a baby-sitting service in the meanwhile; to launch the Women's Advice Bureau during Orientation Week and to put out the rape survey in the second term.

PROPOSED: Dove

SECONDED: Cullen

RESOLUTION 10/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Durban Centre Report as amended.

PROPOSED: Giffard

SECONDED: Crankshaw

Carried unanimously

Wits Centre Report

- Corrections:
- p 1 para 1 "camping" becomes "campus"
 - para 2 "contact" becomes "meetings"
 - para 4 "helped to" is inserted between "organisations" and "develop"
 - "in" becomes "among"
 - p 2 "Off campus relation" becomes "off campus relationships"
 - para 4 "an" is deleted
 - para 5 "Council" becomes "counselling"
 - para 7 "All was however not bad" is replaced by "However our relationship with admin was not all bad."
 - p 3 para 1 "impact" becomes "input"
 - para 2 "the" to be inserted between "by" and "Orientation"
 - para 6 "experienced" becomes "of"
 - "1" becomes "5"

- p 4 para 1 "what appears to be" inserted between "is" and "the"
 "SMA" becomes "Right wing"
 para 2 "caught in a contradiction" becomes "in a highly sensitive
 situation"
 para 9 "report - " to be inserted between "grass-roots" and "basic"

Wittenberg: What is the strategy against so-called liberals?

Vogelman: We can make students aware of that deception. S.R.C. elections next year have to be more rigorous about candidates.

Giffard: About the Zionism/PLO issue: the report says it is essential for the S.R.C. to make a public stand even if only confirming its neutrality. Can you explain?

Barry: Any issue, no matter how major must be controlled and directed by the S.R.C. to channel it in a positive direction.

Nathan: We see the contradictory nature of the university - on the one hand, it supports big business and on the other hand maintaining its liberal image when eg: Roshalt condemned the outcome of Hogan's trial but refused to back down on the Veldspun issue.

Vogelman: Roshalt's statement on Hogan wasn't voluntary - he was asked to read it.

RESOLUTION 11/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Wits Centre Report.

PROPOSED: Schlotfeldt

SECONDED: McIntyre

Carried unanimously

U.C.T. Centre Report

Corrections: p 3 para 5 "that affect every student" (line 3) to be inserted between issues and like (line 2)
 "mural on militarisation" to be inserted between Workshops and succeeded

Addendum A p 2 To be inserted under May:

"10th Fort Hare Mass Meeting"

"11th 1 day solidarity boycott with Fort Hare"

"10th - 14th" becomes "12th - 14th"

To be inserted under August 10th "Fort Hare, Dephale, Kaplan mass meeting"

Nathan: We have identified campus as a site of struggle and can make ideological and organisational gains but structural gains - those affecting the balance of power eg course reform - have not been adequate. There has been a lack of emphasis here because we have not identified what defines a structural gain. We have to identify where power lies in the university.

Vogelman: How was sexism taken up within the university?

Myrdal: C.R groups were set up within the left to eradicate competition, male aggression, domination etc. which are often part of hierarchical structures of student organisation.

Teague: It is difficult to combat sexism in the university structures because none of us stood on a specifically anti-sexist ticket.

Richman: We haven't had a co-ordinated campaign to root out sexism and the relationship between the SRC and Women's Movement was undefined. But for eg. we appointed the Rag chair on condition they hold seminars on sexism next year.

RESOLUTION 12/82

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the UCT centre report.

PROPOSED : Stansell

SECONDED : Leveson

Carried unanimously

Pietermaritzburg NUSAS Local Committee Report

Corrections: p 1 para 5 "syymous" becomes "synonymous"
 p 2 para 4 "Rabi" becomes "Rabie"
 p 3 para 6 "Membership" becomes "Members"
 p 4 para 4 "especially" becomes "and in particular"

Wittenburg: I think we were a bit hard on ourselves in this report.

Irvine: A tremendous amount of work has been put in on this campus and there has been a growth in NUSAS related activities.

RESOLUTION 13/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Pietermaritzburg local committee report.

PROPOSED : Sampson

SECONDED : Bekker

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 14/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the SASTS report

PROPOSED : Stansell

SECONDED : Lindsay

Carried unanimously

SASTS Report

Irvine: Indojet has approached the university Principal to set up a buying consortium and give a travel agency a contract to deal with travel on all campuses. This poses a threat to SASTS as they are offering travel to the same market and we will have to fight it out in the next few months.

Richman: At UCT, Council decided to go ahead with the agreement with Indojet. We put forward an objection but haven't had any response yet.

Rankin: Swift lift worked well at Rhodes and it should be given attention on other campuses.

Irvine: We would like to thank the sales staff at SASTS for all their work.

Korber: Bruce - your trip to Europe in the winter - is it for business or for skiing?!

Irvine: Ilana, if you've seen me walk across the Congress floor, you wouldn't ask that question!

RESOLUTION 15/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the SASTS report

PROPOSED : Rankin

SECONDED : Lund

Carried unanimously

A panel discussion was held on Politics in the University, chaired by Kate Philip. The panel consisted of Laurie Nathan, Sarah Cullinan, Alan Velcich and Jeremy Clark. Congress broke for supper at 18h00.

Congress convened at 19h30. Griessel in the chair. Griessel read out a letter from 1978 NUSAS Publications Officer, Gerald Kraak.

Dear Friends

A short message to wish you strength and success on the occasion of your Congress - no ordinary congress for NUSAS has been in existence for 58 years.

Many of those years have been spent in principaled opposition and direct action against apartheid. For this, NUSAS has often paid a high price.

1982 has been a difficult year for all democrats and many people associated with NUSAS and the student movement have been detained, banned or forced to flee the country.

The brutal treatment meted out to detainees of all races in detention and the untimely death of Neil Aggett in detention have brought home that opposition to apartheid is no game and as the struggle progresses the demands and sacrifices on all involved will weigh more and more heavily.

Success in you endeavours. Hopefully NUSAS will go forward in the next year to consolidate on the achievements of the last 3 years.

The struggle of South Africa's students has made its impact here in Holland. Where we may once have looked to the student movements of Europe for examples, there are many here who now look to COSAS, AZASO and NUSAS with respect and inspiration.

May NUSAS go forward in strength, unity and courage.

Yours in solidarity
Gerald Kraak

Auret van Heerden then spoke on "The State of Struggle" - applause.

TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER : NSA reconvened at 08h45. Joffee in the chair. Procedural announcements.

MOTION A

THAT THIS NSA

NOTING:

- 1) that South African universities serve to provide personnel with technical skills and know-how which uphold the apartheid economy.
- 2) that universities also play an ideological role by instilling and reinforcing the aspirations of the ruling classes in its staff and students.
- 3) the role that administrations have played in opposing the progressive demands of students and staff.
- 4) the increasing control being exercised by the state over South African universities as witnessed by the events at Fort Hare and Turfloop and the militarization of education.

BELIEVING:

- 1) that universities are an important site of struggle.
- 2) that the democratic organisation of students can lead to the radical alteration of the structure of the university.
- 3) that the existence of students organisations can contribute to the united opposition to the apartheid state.
- 4) that our universities' conception of academic freedom provides scope for reforms in our education to allow it to serve the need of the majority of South Africans.
- 5) that university education must contribute to the realisation of an equal and democratic South Africa.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- 1) to organise students and to foster an alliance with progressive academics in order to expose and take action against attempts by the state to extend direct control over our universities.
- 2) to support the struggles of progressive students on the non-NUSAS campuses.
- 3) to isolate the real areas of power within the university hierarchy and use these as arenas of struggle to bring about effective change in our educational system.
- 4) to reaffirm our dedication to work for a free and equal education system in a democratic South Africa.

PROPOSED : Cohen

SECONDED : Rankin

AMENDMENT A1

That Believing clause (3) becomes Believing clause (2)

That Believing clause (3) then be "That our universities conception of Academic Freedom provides scope for the democratic organisation of students to effect change in our universities.

That Believing clause (5) becomes Believing clause (4)

PROPOSED : Giffard

SECONDED : Richman

After much debate, accepted by proposer and seconder of original motion and incorporated into substantive motion.

AMENDMENT A2

That the word "often" be included in Noting clause (3) to read "The role that administrations have often played in opposing..."

PROPOSED : Schlotfeldt

SECONDED : Korber

Accepted by the proposer and seconder of the original motion and incorporated in the substantive motion.

RESOLUTION 16/83
THAT THIS NSA

NOTING:

- (1) That S.A. universities serve to provide personnel with technical skills and know-how which uphold the apartheid economy.
- (2) That universities also play an ideological role by instilling and reinforcing the aspiration of the ruling classes in its staff and students.
- (3) The role that administrations have often played in opposing the progressive demands of students and staff.
- (4) The increasing control being exercised by the state over S.A. universities as witnessed by the events at Fort Hare and Turfloop and the militarization of education.

BELIEVING:

- (1) That universities are an important site of struggle.
- (2) That the existence of students organisations can contribute to the united opposition to the apartheid state.
- (3) That our universities conception of academic freedom provides scope for democratic organisations of students to effect change in our universities.
- (4) That university education must contribute to the realization of an equal and democratic S.A.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- (1) To organise students and to foster an alliance with progressive academics in order to expose and take action against attempts by the state to extend direct control over our universities.
- (2) To support the struggles of progressive students on the non-NUSAS campuses.
- (3) To isolate the real areas of power within the university hierarchy and use these as arenas of struggle to bring about effective change in our educational system.
- (4) To reaffirm our dedication to work for a free and equal education in a democratic S.A.

PROPOSED : Cohen

SECONDED : Rankin

Carried unanimously

Cohen: The education struggle must be seen in the light of the crisis in education. It is essential that we continue to play a role in our education which is not merely the instrument of the ruling classes but is fraught with contradictions which we can exploit to make short term gains. We need to improve the structures and democratise our universities which will have a concomitant effect on the broader struggle. This motion is a reaffirmation of the importance of the education struggle for us as a National Union.

Rankin: Not only do we face an education crisis, but Total Strategy, militarisation, repression etc. which affect our universities. We should use the liberal concept of academic freedom to push for educational reform. The class contradictions in the university reflect the class contradictions in society. It not only serves the interests of society but also allows scope for us to organise in eg progressive courses and activities. The liberal facade in many areas must be used to organise students. We demand a free and equal education system.

Ozinsky: Our universities provides people with skills essential to the running of the economy but it also provides us with the opportunity to present our opposition to ruling class ideology. University administrations, the State and capital have recognised the tremendous need for skilled manpower (sic) - the Vista universities have been set up for this. Bush colleges are set up by the state to control what is being taught and who is to teach.

Wittenberg: We cannot divorce the education struggle from what goes on outside of it - to do so would be to ignore SA reality.

Giffard: While I think democratic organisation of students can be effective in bringing about change, it is not possible to radically alter our universities unless society has been transformed - we must accept our limitations.

Katie (Pmb): The concept of Academic Freedom misses the point of who controls our universities - basically capital.

Leveson: Perhaps it is our concept of academic freedom which will allow scope for change.

Taylor: Humpty Dumpty told Alison that words are defined by whatever you want them to mean - I think "conception" must be changed to "concept".

Rankin: Are you referring to the "fertility of the argument"?

Cherry: It is often difficult to link issues on campus to off campus. However, students do respond to direct repression and we can use the events at Fort Hare and Turfloop to educate people and extend that to an explanation of democracy.

Borain: As a point of clarification, could you explain what a radical alteration of the university structures would entail?

Cohen: As a total institution, the university won't be altered but we can democratise to some extent and students should have a direct say, which I would consider a radical transformation.

Richman: Are we organising students democratically or are we organising for democratic ends?

Glazer: The term radical is not usually applied to gains achieved through essentially reformist actions. It is better applied to fundamental change.

Leveson: The university's concept of academic freedom is born in an ivory tower and relates to a very superficial understanding - it does not include the democratisation of our society which we are striving to achieve.

Glazer: Ideas can be given different meanings in different contexts and the notion of Academic Freedom can be used in this way.

Karon: It is impossible to develop a radical concept of academic freedom but it does enable students to roll back the interventions in the universtiy by the state and big business. It gives us a platform from which to attack that.

NSA closes for supper.

NSA reconvenes at 20h00. Joffe in the Chair.

MOTION B
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The 1982 NUSAS theme "Campus Action for Democracy"
2. The redirection of the student movement towards organising its campus base.

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the student press plays a crucial role in reaching this campus base
2. That the formation of SASPU in 1977 was primarily intended to promote the student press
3. That the creation of SASPU has resulted in the unforeseen tendency to separate the student press from campus political organisations
4. That it is essential for this Congress to include meaningful discussion on issues relating to the student press

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To encourage discussion around the student press at this Congress
2. To emphasise the integral nature of the student press within the student movement as a whole.

RESOLUTION 17/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The 1982 NUSAS theme "Campus Action for Democracy"
2. The redirection of the student movement towards organising its campus base

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the student press plays a crucial role in reaching this campus base
2. That the formation of SASPU in 1977 was primarily intended to promote the student press
3. That the creation of SASPU has resulted in the unforeseen tendency to separate the student press from campus political organisations
4. That it is essential for this Congress to include meaningful discussion on issue relating to the student press

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To encourage discussion around the student press at this Congress
2. To emphasise the integral nature of the student press within the student movement as a whole.

PROPOSED: Kent

SECONDED: Stoddard

Against - 1

Abstentions - 1

Motion Carried

Borain: This motion arose out of discussion at SASPU - the feeling being that the student press should not only be in SASPU. The NUSAS theme has been redirected towards consolidating our campus base and the press is a crucial part of this.

Dougmore: Unlike other organisations, the student press doesn't organise but it does create the climate in which other organisations can work more effectively - it neutralises antagonism and gives theoretical input. We feel people need to recognise the role of the student press.

Borain: The student press has specific dynamics and SASPU has allowed the co-ordination of these at a national level but it has had the effect of separating the student press from this forum.

Taylor: This gives me doubts about the independence of the press.

Borain: SASPU has constituted itself as part of the alternative press - affiliates affiliate on this basis.

Evans in the Chair.

Yunus Mahomed then spoke on "Struggle in the Community; our response?" - Applause.

Congress broke at 22h30.

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER. Joffe in the Chair.

MOTION C
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

- (a) That some delegates and observers to Congress practice smoking
- (b) That this smoke is not confined exclusively to their lungs, but becomes distributed throughout the entire hall
- (c) That other delegates find the habit of smoking inconsiderate and unnecessary
- (d) That this habit generates litter as well as smoke, and denudes the air of oxygen, having an effect on the clear thinking of all delegates
- (e) That a vote was not taken as to whether delegates could smoke, making this practice unfair and undemocratic

AND BELIEVING:

- (a) That smoking is thus an antisocial, inconsiderate practice
- (b) That cigarette smoke is unhealthy
- (c) That smokers should not be voting delegates if they are so addicted to smoking that they cannot avoid smoking during open Congress, speeches, meetings and meals

AND FURTHER NOTING:

- (a) That the Residence Dining Hall is a public eating place with large NO SMOKING notices
- (b) That cigarette smoke spoils the taste of an already unpalatable meal

- (c) That lit cigarettes can damage furniture, trays and eating utensils
- (d) That smoking does not contribute any positive aspects to our day to day lives

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- (a) That all smokers be asked to leave the hall, the dining hall, and all committee rooms if they smoke
- (b) To condemn smoking as antisocial and undemocratic
- (c) To call on all delegates to stop smoking altogether in the interests of the community as a whole
- (d) Not to distribute any more cigarettes to delegates
- (e) To request all smokers to use the waste bins provided to dispose of their litter
- (f) To request the SRCs of all affiliated campuses to adopt a similar motion as correlated policy of each respective campus.

ADMENDMENT C1

Delete noting clauses (b), (c) and (d) and replace with

- (b) that cigarette smoking is unhealthy
- (c) that some delegates object to cigarette smoke
- (d) that smoking delegates do not always clear up their litter

Delete believing clauses.

Delete further noting clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) and replace with

- (a) That the ventilation of the Congress Hall is adequate and smoking in moderation is not offensive

Delete further resolves clauses (a) to (f) and replace with

- (a) To ask smoking delegates to attempt to limit their cigarette intake at NSA
- (b) To take a vote on smoking in small committee session venues
- (c) To request all smokers to use the waste-bins and ashtrays provided to dispose of their litter
- (d) To request co-operation and compromise from both smokers and non-smokers

PROPOSED: Korber

SECONDED: Patta

Rankin withdraw his second for the original motion. Taylor seconds if Korber's amendment is allowed to stand. Amendment accepted by proposer and becomes part of substantive motion.

RESOLUTION 18/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

- (a) That some delegates and observers to Congress practice smoking
- (b) That cigarette smoking is unhealthy
- (c) That some delegates object to cigarette smoke

(d) That smoking delegates do not always clear up their litter

AND FURTHER NOTING:

(a) That the ventilation of the Congress Hall is adequate and smoking in moderation is not offensive

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- (a) To ask smoking delegates to attempt to limit their cigarette intake at NSA
- (b) To take a vote on smoking in small committee session venues
- (c) To request all smokers to use the waste-bins and ashtrays provided to dispose of their litter
- (d) To request co-operation and compromise from both smokers and non-smokers

PROPOSED: Stoddart

SECONDED: Taylor

Passed nem con (1 abstention)

Straw vote: against - 3
abstentions - 16
for - the rest

Stoddart: There should be no need for such a motion according to the principals by which a real democracy should run.

Rankin: I am just asking that people be more considerate.

Gavin Evans: Recent medical evidence has shown quite decisively that smoking is very good for your health and may in fact be a cure for the common cold. 37% of leaders from progressive countries smoke whereas only 30% of leaders from reactionary countries smoke!

John Lazar: I think a motion like this is diverging us from other more important motions at Congress and I think it is a waste of time.

Procedural announcements were followed by Workshops.

Congress reconvenes at 15h15.

MOTION D

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The death of Dr E G Malherbe on 27th November 1982;
2. That Dr Malherbe, a former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal,
 - a) was responsible for the formation, in the face of great pressure from the state, of the Black Medical School at Natal University;
 - b) played a leading role in fighting for academic freedom in response to the Extension of Universities Act. It was on his initiative that the first Academic Freedom lecture was held on UND campus, with other campuses following soon afterwards.

3. That, under Dr Malherbe's guidance, Natal University was by 1959 the largest centre of tertiary education for Blacks in Southern Africa.

FURTHER NOTING:

That the Natal University Medical School has provided most of the doctors so desperately needed in Black communities.

AND BELIEVING:

That his large contribution to the goals of academic freedom has helped in keeping this issue alive.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express our condolences to his wife and family.
2. To express our appreciation for his services to the University of Natal and the community.

AND FURTHER RESOLVES:

1. To repeat his call for non-racialism and academic freedom.
2. To commit ourselves to working for justice in this country.

PROPOSED : Taylor

SECONDED : O'Conner

AMENDMENT D1

To exclude further resolves clauses (1) and (2)

PROPOSED : Lund

SECONDED : Cohen

Amendment not accepted by Taylor.

Straw vote on amendment D1 - Against : 6
 Abstentions : 10
 For : the rest

Vote on amendment D1 - Against : 2
 Abstentions : 3
 For : 26 Amendment D1 carried

RESOLUTION 19/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The death of Dr E G Malherbe on 27 November 1982.
2. That Dr Malherbe, a former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal,
 - a) was responsible for the formation, in the face of great pressure from the State, of the Black Medical School at Natal University;
 - b) played a leading role in fighting for academic freedom in response to the Extension of Universities Act. It was on his initiative that the the first Academic Freedom lecture was held on UND campus, with other campuses following soon afterwards.
3. That, under Dr Malherbe's guidance, Natal University was by 1959 the largest centre of tertiary education for Blacks in Southern Africa.

FURTHER NOTING:

That the Natal University Medical School has provided most of the doctors so desperately needed in Black communities.

AND BELIEVING:

That his large contribution to the goals of academic freedom has helped in keeping this issue alive.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express our condolences to his wife and family.
2. To express our appreciation for his services to the University of Natal and the community.

PROPOSED : Taylor

SECONDED : O'Conner

Straw vote : Against : 0
 Abstentions : 3
 For : the rest

Vote : Against : 0
 Abstentions : 1
 For : 30

Taylor : I find it sad that people should judge people on their political affiliations of 40 years ago - it should rather be on the basis of his humanity. His politics were different from the majority at NUSAS but his qualities of humanity and justice would be well to be adopted.

Nathan : I'd like to pick up on the notion of academic freedom. The liberal notion allows students to force the university to accede to student demands. But, it can also be used in reactionary ways - for eg. the case of Michael Morris - a police spy who was not refused entry into UCT because there were no academic grounds for refusal. By insisting on its neutrality the university obscures the interests it is serving. We must move away from the liberal notion of academic freedom - academic freedom is not a right but a responsibility to the majority of the people.

Cohen : It seems Malherbe did do constructive work but we must look carefully at the concept of non-racialism. While Natal Medical School has provided opportunities for many black students, it reinforces the racial divisions in our society. The health system is highly exploitative and unequal. Non-racialism doesn't mean the same thing now as it did then.

Lund : The use of the terms non-racialism and academic freedom and the controversy around them detract from the sentiments of the motion.

Cullen : They bear no relation to the motion.

Taylor : I worded the further resolves clauses in such a way because I thought these were 3 concepts we should identify with. Non-racialism is non-racialism and I accept the liberal notion of academic freedom as an ideal, not immediately realizable - I believe Michael Morris should have been accepted into UCT. Working for justice is essential - which Malherbe was.

MOTION E

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The rent increases in Sobantu and the subsequent protests by the community.
2. The peaceful nature of these protests.
3. The brutal police action and the death of Graham Radebe.
4. The high-handed and undemocratic manner in which the Drakensberg Administration Board attempted to implement the increase.
5. The wave of arrests and house searches.

BELIEVING :

1. The rent increases to be unwarranted in view of the lack of maintenance and provision of facilities by the authorities.
2. That the rent increases, coupled with other increases in foodstuffs and GST, exacerbates the appalling living conditions in black townships generally.
3. That the restrictions placed on, and the subsequent police disruption of, Radebe's funeral were unjustified and grossly insensitive.

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn the actions of the D.A.B. and the police.
2. To support the people of Sobantu in their unified resistance against the undemocratic nature of the State apparatus.
3. To demand that all charges against those still facing trial relating to the general "disturbances" in Sobantu, be dropped.
4. To dedicate ourselves to support action taken by democratic, community-based organisations throughout South Africa.

PROPOSED : Lund

SECONDED : Cullen

AMENDMENT E1

The words "undemocratic nature" in Resolves clause (2) becomes "repressive action".

PROPOSED : Taylor

SECONDED : O'Conner

Amendment accepted by proposer and seconder of original motion and becomes incorporated as part of the substantive motion.

RESOLUTION 20/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The rent increases in Sobantu and the subsequent protests by the community.

2. The peaceful nature of these protests.
3. The brutal police action and the death of Graham Radebe.
4. The high-handed and undemocratic manner in which the Drakensberg Administration Board attempted to implement the increase.
5. The wave of arrests and house searches.

BELIEVING:

1. The rent increases to be unwarranted in view of the lack of maintenance and provision of facilities by the authorities.
2. That the rent increases, coupled with other increases in foodstuffs and GST, exacerbates the appalling living conditions in black townships generally.
3. That the restrictions placed on, and the subsequent police disruption of, Radebe's funeral were unjustified and grossly insensitive.

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn the actions of the D.A.B. and the police.
2. To support the police of Sobantu in their unified resistance against the repressive action of the State.
3. To demand that all charges against those still facing trial relating to the general "disturbances" in Sobantu, be dropped.
4. To dedicate ourselves to support action taken by democratic community-based organisations throughout South Africa.

PROPOSED : Lund

SECONDED : Cullen

Carried unanimously

Van der Hagen: The commercial press deemed this issue unnewsworthy. There was police action at the initial demonstration, then at the funeral followed by house searches. A court order banning all forms of protest at the funeral allowed the police to justify their presence.

Christie : The community council acted undemocratically in that they did not inform people of the rent increases nor was there any consultation with the community. The youth initiated the protest, stressing that they were peaceful but as De Wet of the D.A.B. said "We are not going to let a lot of kids intimidate us." There were organisational gains in terms of consolidation of SOYO - Sobantu Youth Organisation and a rent committee has been formed. House arrests and harassment continue on a daily basis and the issue has still not been resolved. I would like to stress the importance of students showing support for democratic community organisations.

Philip : As the recession gets worse these issues will affect the community in an increasingly critical way causing real problems for community organisation. On the one hand there is the likelihood of increased militancy and on the other hand, the issue of survival will become more important.

Cullen : Despite the "reforms" of the State, repression is not letting up and the people of Sobantu aren't seeing any of these reforms.

MOTION F

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The orderly movement and settlement of Black Persons Bill.
2. The opposition that is being voiced against this Bill.
3. The postponement of the Bill until 1984.
4. The introduction of the Black Community Development Bill and the Black Local Authorities Act.
5. The massive pass raids around the country in recent months.

AND FURTHER NOTING:

The recent constitutional proposals emerging from the President's Council report.

AND BELIEVING:

That the Bills:

1. Streamline the system of labour control.
2. Are an attempt to divide the black communities and thus greatly increase control over them.
3. With the President Council proposals are a strategy adopted by the government to preserve minority control and power.

THEREFORE RESOLVES

1. To add our voice to the protest against the Bills.
2. To actively participate in the growing movement which is calling for the total withdrawal of the Bills.
3. To educate and mobilize our campuses around this issue.

PROPOSED : Teague

SECONDED : Dove

RESOLUTION 21/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The orderly movement and settlement of Black Persons Bill.
2. The opposition that is being voiced against the Bill.
3. the postponement of the Bill until 1984.
4. The introduction of the Black Community Development Bill and the Black Local Authorities Act.
5. The massive pass raids around the country in recent months.

AND FURTHER NOTING:

The recent constitutional proposals emerging from the President's Council report.

AND BELIEVING:

That the Bills:

1. Streamline the system of labour control.
2. Are an attempt to divide the black communities and thus greatly increase control over them.
3. With the President's Council proposals are a strategy adopted by the government to preserve minority control and power.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To add our voice to the protest against the Bills.
2. To actively participate in the growing movement which is calling for the total withdrawal of the Bills.
3. To educate and mobilize our campuses around this issue.

PROPOSED : Teague

SECONDED : Dove

Carried unanimously

Teague : In the past, there have been various categories of Africans - they are now to be known as P.U.R.S. (Permanent Urban Residents). These bills are an attempt to separate those people with urban rights and those without.

Dove : The bills were published in the 1982 session and have been put over to 1984. They largely put into effect the Riekert Commission to ensure a stable urban population and to more effectively enforce influx control. It will more rigidly than ever increase control over labour and increase the impoverishment of the reserves.

Teague : The 2 other bills - the Community Development Bill and the Local Authorities Act are attempts to give credibility to Community Councils and must be seen in terms of the overall strategy to increase control over the African population. There has been immense opposition from the community and we must participate in the call for the withdrawal of these bills - one way is to organise and mobilize students around the issue.

Patta : Although the bill has been postponed to 1984, it is necessary to prepare students now for a response to the bill.

Lund : With this control the ruling group can more effectively co-opt the rising Black middle class which it requires. The bill is likely to have horrifying implications in the Eastern Cape - diverting dealing with the problem of rising unemployment. Those living in "black spots" will be continued to be moved to the homelands. It is vital that we examine and recognise the deplorable conditions of the bills and we must publicise and condemn the overall State policy that such legislation enforces.

Roux : When there have been leaks of bills, the bills are often amended. When it is reintroduced in 1984; it may well be changed and it is important that we develop a sophisticated analysis to counter claims that its harshness has been reduced.

Lynn : Even though the bill has been shelved, the effects are already being felt. In the Western Cape, pass raids are extensive and employers have been threatened with R5000 fines for employing "illegals."

Jenkings : The bills must be seen in the context of State strategy to keep the required amount of labour in the urban areas.

Bekker : Not only is it important that we expose the sophistication of the controls but we can also organise around for eg. migrant labour, the homelands etc.

Teague : The bills represent not so much a departure from previous government policy but in fact an entrenchment of the migrant labour system. It is vital we take up and maintain a high level of awareness of this issue.

Taylor asked for a statement to be minuted with regards his remark in the debate on the Malherbe motion :

"The first time that I heard of Michael Morris was when Laurie mentioned him this afternoon. On this campus a couple of years ago we had a police spy who, during his time here, reformed, confessed and committed himself to working for change. I assumed that Morris was a similar case.

I agree that it is only just that a person who has violated the concept of academic freedom like he did, and who does not repent and change, should him/herself not be granted the privileges of academic freedom. I, therefore, withdraw my remark referring to Morris made this afternoon.

Irvine in the chair.

Ray Belle then spoke on "The Student Movement" - applause.

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER

N.S.A. convenes at 09h00.
Joffe in the chair.

MUSIC WORKSHOP STATEMENT

Arising out of the workshop it was seen that there existed a lack of understanding or even an antagonism between progressive students and youth culture. This youth culture, present on all our campuses, is strongly rooted in alternative music. In the sphere of youth culture internationally, there have been progressive trends in recent years, for example independent record production, Rock Against Racism, alternative 'underground' radio stations, 'fanzine' publications - and also support for CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament).

It was felt that there was common ground between the student movement and youth culture, in that the confused protest politics evidenced in many youth cultures is similar to that prevalent in NUSAS pre-1976. The workshop felt that there is scope for channeling such short-term frustrations into a longer term commitment to progressive change.

Areas for possible attention include :

- 1) An awareness by NUSAS of the importance of youth culture as an area for mobilization and organization.
- 2) Youth culture reaches people who would brush aside conventional student media.
- 3) Concerts provide opportunities for the involvement of people with a diversity of skills who would not necessarily be involved elsewhere on campus. Areas for such involvement include :

playing as musicians
 concert organization
 advertising
 poster design/artwork/silkscreen/distribution
 stickers and badges
 security/door management
 slide shows
 refreshments
 guerrilla theatre
 sound and lighting

Thus these people can come into personal contact with progressive students as well as experiencing democratic organization which can lead to more committed involvement - if given adequate attention by the student movement.

Concerts - whether issue-based or part of an ongoing theme (eg. Rhythm against Detention at UCT), afford the student movement opportunities for politicization and mobilization of a sector of students falling outside of the mass-meeting regulars. Consideration should be given to ways in which initial politicization achieved through speeches and publications at concerts, can be followed with concerted organization - perhaps through organizations like Projects Committees.

4) Student organizations can work with campus musicians and other interested people to consider the potentials and problems in youth culture - this can be related to the circumstances of the broader society.

5) Campus Radios provide an important site for progressive students to involve themselves in on a long-term basis.

Gordon : We are using the term 'youth culture' broadly, to include people who use music almost as a lifestyle.

Allison Broomhead : Youth culture is agist.

Lowry : We must recognise the importance of alternative ways of presenting political ideas and issues.

RESOLUTION 22/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the C Committee reports.

PROPOSED : Cullen

SECONDED : Small

Carried unanimously

Student Services Report

RESOLUTION 23/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Student Services report.

PROPOSED : McIntyre

SECONDED : Jenkins

Carried unanimously

Teague explained the UCT administration deciding to finance the creche.

Lund : With regard to how the SRCs should take up the accommodation crisis, I think it would take up a lot of time and severely tax the SRCs. Perhaps what we should do is get admin to pay more attention to the issue.

Rankin : Speaking from a small campus and one which is concerned with student benefits, it is important that NUSAS gives greater emphasis to student benefits and enhance the impression people have of NUSAS as a student organisation. A student services co-ordinator will improve the situation.

Rubenstein suggested somebody be appointed and paid to update the student handbook.

Relationships with other groups report

Amendment 1

Delete paragraph 2 of introduction (It is important...our own organisations) and replace with : "It is important that in terms of our commitment to working for a non-racial and democratic future, we further develop links with other organisations. Each of these links should, however, be dictated by the specific circumstances involved and take account of the development of the organisational strength of the democratic movement as a whole."

Amendment accepted by proposer and seconder of the report and therefore becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment 2

To page 2, (6) Religious Groupings, the following should be added : "Relationships with other religious groups should be explored."

Amendment acceptable to the proposers and became part of the substantive report.

Amendment 3

Add on to the beginning of (8) Community and Labour organisations : "We must be in mind the difficulty of defining relationships with these groups, especially with regard to ongoing contact. Student organisers like Wages Comm. should specifically maintain this contact."

Amendment acceptable to the proposers and became part of the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 24/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report, Relationships with other Groups, as amended.

PROPOSED : Kent

SECONDED : Dove

Carried unanimously

Fafak : It is generally difficult to work in the schools. Contact should rather be through, for example, layout skills. Political input shouldn't necessarily reflect in the content of the publication but we should rather focus on informal talks with school students.

Fish : We noted that religious groups does not only include the church; it was an oversight in the report.

Lowitt : When dealing with organisations which contradict the fundamental tenets of the student movement, even if that link means gains, we have to consider it very carefully.

Cohen : Despite the move this year to consolidate our campus base, we must consider not only our own strategies but also where we can aid other groups.

Lynn : With regard to contact with community and labour organisations, we must stress the kind of input that kind of contact can give to us and how it will build organisation as a whole.

Cherry : Liberal organisations are often in the position to provide material support eg. Nyanga Bush. If NUSAS doesn't support these groups, we can lose a lot of credibility with our campus base. Also, for eg., if committees are formed around an issue and we don't sit on them, the committees could be to some extent co-opted by the liberal organisations.

Sandler : Liberal organisations are not homogenous - they have a history of opposition and we must continually reassess our relationship with them.

Joffe : Amendment 1 changes the emphasis - in forming relationships with other groups, we must be sensitive to the needs of the democratic movement as a whole.

Post-university Involvement report

A verbal report was presented by Cullen, arguing that too much emphasis was placed on organising students around university issues, which has a limited lifespan. It was argued that organising for eg. pensioners would be useful - they were an important electoral group and strike action by this group would cause great State embarrassment. People could remain politically involved after leaving university through FONS; from the seminar to the cocktail circuit. Fundraising would not be such a problem of H.O. salaries were pegged at R120 a month and if people led simple lifestyles. It was then announced as guerrilla theatre and a statement was presented.

Post-University Involvement statement

More and more people committed to a democratic future are emerging out of the student movement. There are not necessarily progressive areas which they can move into. Because of this post university involvement in professional employment is becoming increasingly important. This could involve personal compromise but provides opportunities for organising (for instance teacher and journalist organisations). Because of the problems that emerge when students leave campus for example isolation and losing touch with the process of political education it is essential to establish reference groups to cope with these problems.

Recommendations

NUSAS should view the role of graduates as a priority. We recommend that students in their respective centres discuss post university involvement with the existing progressive student groups. Post university involvement is a problem which faces final year students yearly and therefore should be discussed annually. The notion of a political community is of particular importance in this regard.

Gavin Evans : We can identify 2 areas for organisation: (i) Professional organisations such as SASJ and TAG; (ii) Those in 9 to 5 jobs who are involved in groups outside of that - for eg. church groups, detentions, research. We stress the fact that it is not always necessary to look for alternative jobs and that people should move into professions. But people must maintain a political reference group so as to keep in touch politically.

McIntyre : Could the NUSAS research officer compile a list of areas for post university involvement.

Joffe : This area is very underdeveloped so that would be difficult. But people in H.O. should generally be in touch with what the dynamics are with regard to post university involvement and should relay that information to people on campus.

Macun : It shouldn't be a matter of lists but rather that we be creative because so little exists in this area.

Evans : A large number of people at UCT are moving off campus and we got together to discuss it, which was useful and perhaps other people should do it.

NSA broke for lunch at 12h45

NSA recovenes at 15h30.

Joffe in the chair.

Joffe outlined the criteria for selecting NUSAS honorary Vice-presidents. They should be either :

- 1) people who have been active friends of NUSAS and have made a contribution to that organisation.
- 2) people who are important figures in the S.A. arena and with whom it is useful to maintain contact.

He then raised the Gavin Stuart affair which brought up the question of whether we should expect an honorary Vice-president to abide by NUSAS policy. A suggestion was made that withdrawal of an honorary vice-presidency should be on the basis of why that particular person was elected.

Cohen : I feel we should elect people who we don't necessarily agree with politically but want to cultivate a relationship with.

Gavin Evans : It is important to elect people who will lend credibility to NUSAS in the eyes of the liberal public. They don't have to have the same views as NUSAS but should support our overall aims and have contributed some way in the past.

Church workshop statement

The Church workshop focussed on the relationship between NUSAS and Christian societies within the context of organisation, mobilisation and education. This led to discussion of the problems and possibilities of the interaction between NUSAS and Christian organisations. Furthermore there is a need for the discussion to be located in the dynamics of the church in South Africa today.

Problems

1. Christians are sometimes identified as a homegeneous group. However, the church reflects the divisions in society including political divisions which need to be recognised by any groups dealing with Christians.
2. On campus there is a lack of unity among Christian students who are divided into conservative, liberal and progressive strands. These divisions are reflected by the different relationship which exist between NUSAS and the Christian organisations on the various campuses.
3. Some Christians feel threatened by a relationship with NUSAS which they feel challenges the nature of their organisation and membership.

Common Ground

In analysing the relationship which exists between NUSAS and Christian organisations, 3 important areas have been defined. The first is the interest which some of the organisations display in social issues for example militarisation, influx control, population removals and feminism. Although this interest is often located within the framework of a liberal analysis of society it creates potential for a relationship which can be productively developed for both NUSAS and the organisations concerned.

The second area is that of the relationship which already exists between progressive Christians and NUSAS. This is often reflected in the role which Christians play in NUSAS.

The third area needing further exploration is that created by statements and motions of some church authorities in South Africa. These can be used to develop the political analysis of the Christian organisations on campus. In addition they serve to lend support to the political stand taken by NUSAS on the issues raised.

Suggestions

1. NUSAS needs to develop an analysis of the church in South Africa, identifying its political strands and acknowledging their potential.
2. As an organised constituency on campus, Christians are in a position to be mobilized. The relationship between NUSAS and Christian organisations therefore needs to be explored. Particular emphasis needs to be placed in developing the role of NUSAS as an educative body within this relationship.

Cherry : Very few people in the workshop were not Christians and we felt it was a reflection of the lack of emphasis on the church in NUSAS. It is important to see how the church reflects conflict in S.A. and in the past year, it has increasingly spoken out as the conflict increases. Stark political differences have emerged within the church, for eg. the S.A.C.C. accepting civil disobedience; the narrow defeat of a motion in the Anglican synods condemning the role chaplains play in the SADF; and the W.A.R.C. declaring apartheid a heresy. They are significant when one takes into account the extent of influence churches have, especially in the black communities. The church is often the only form of organisation in large areas in S.A. and we have to look at the progressive potential within christian organisations.

Hilton (Pmb.): There are 4 christian groups on Pietermaritzburg campus which all, to a greater or lesser degree, have a liberal orientation, except the Pentecostal group. There was an attempt to change the political direction but it resulted in an alienation of many of its members. There is much political division within these organisations.

Jenkins : There are 4 christian groups at UCT which are highly organised. Perspective has taken an increasingly progressive line and has the closest relationship with NUSAS although the relationship is generally issue based eg. on the military and Nyanga Bush.

Durban member : There are 4 christian groups at Durban and the relationship with the SRC has been one of mutual co-operation and doing joint projects. Most of them are fairly liberal.

Lowrie : There are a number of christian societies at Wits which are fairly conservative. Cathsoc has been involved in some way with issues such as militarisation.

Lund : A few individuals have got together at Rhodes and have had seminar groups with some political content.

Roux : It is important not to see christian groups as homogenous. Many people feel they should be more supportive than they are. It is important to develop an understanding and not be too optimistic or pessimistic about what they can do.

Gavin Evans : The institutions of the church are analagous to the universities - the hierarchy is more ambiguous on the stands they take as opposed to sections of the youth taking a fairly progressive line. These put pressure on the hierarchy to change their stance. However the hierarchy is to some extent held back by some of the more wealthy members who contribute to the church.

Barry : We must recognise the church as a significant site of struggle.

Flynn : Perhaps because there are contradictions between NUSAS and Christians the relationship will continue on an individual issue based basis rather than at a formal level.

Patta : The different divisions in the church on a large scale reflect the divisions in society. People can be moved to take a more progressive line and we must see it as a potential recruiting ground.

John Taylor requested his statement be minuted : I would like to make further comment with regard to point 1 of the "suggestions" section, that "NUSAS needs to develop an analysis of the church, identifying its political stands."

The church sees its overriding concern as being a spiritual one. It believes that right relationships amongst people are subordinate to, and arise from, a right relationship with God.

The sentence already quoted reflects a misunderstanding or ignorance of the church's philosophical basis, and if NUSAS is going to analyse the church to identify its political strands, then academic and intellectual honesty demand that the analysis must also include the spiritual claims of the church out of which its political attitudes arise.

Furthermore, the committee which performs this analysis must, for the sake of getting a true picture, consult with the church, or at least include Christians on it.

Labour directive report

Corrections : p 2 para 2 : "four yearly" becomes "quarterly"
 p 4 para 2 : "ole" becomes "role"
 para 4 : "then to expose their class interests" becomes
 "educate them about labour issues."
 p 5 para 2 : "see" becomes "set"
 p 6 para 4 : "smallness of the left" becomes "low level of
 organisation."

Amendment 1

Paragraph 3.2.2 clause (i) be deleted and replaced with :

(i) It is vital that we examine in more depth the ways in which we can take labour issues up on campus. Focus on strikes, boycotts and resistance to new legislation should be seen in this light. In addition, it may be necessary for us to provide material support.

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment 2

Paragraph 1.3 be deleted and replaced with:

"We recommend that there be one session which discusses the running of the labour directive, involving those who have been and would like to be involved in the organisations of the labour directive."

Amendment acceptable to the proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 25/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the labour directive report, as amended.

PROPOSED : Crankshaw

SECONDED : Stoddard

Carried unanimously

Mike Evans : While it is important to emphasise the dual nature of the theme (on/off campus) and we have failed to make the link.

Joffe : I suggest that at the next conference, the labour directive have 2 sessions - 1 with directive people only and one general session.

Law Directive Report

Corrections : p 2 para 3 : "oriental" becomes "orientated"
 para 4 : "conservation" becomes "conservatism"
 para 5 : "In addition to a well-run focus week, a" to be
 inserted between "directive" and "mini-conference."

Amendment 1

On page 4, delete :

"Recommendation for National Co-ordinator : Justin Hardcastle"

Amendment acceptable to the proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 26/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the law directive, as amended.

PROPOSED : Sampson

SECONDED : Rabinowitz

Carried unanimously

MOTION G

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING

1. The increasing research for military purposes being undertaken at our universities
2. That courses are offered at some of our universities on military strategy and administration.
3. The attempts by the SADF to establish a military unit on the University of Natal campus in late 1981.

FURTHER NOTING THAT

Student action resulted in the withdrawal of plans for Natal University Military Unit.

AND BELIEVING THAT

It is the responsibility of students to oppose the infiltration of the Military onto the campus.

RESOLVES

1. To educate our campus about the growing role of the military in South Africa.
2. To oppose the use of research and courses for military purposes.
3. To mobilise students in opposition to the establishment of University Military Units.

PROPOSED : Cullen

SECONDED : Lund

Amendment G1

To add a further Resolves clause :

- (4) To attempt to gain the support of the university administration in opposing the increasing militarisation of our campuses.

PROPOSED : Vogelmann

SECONDED : Rabinowitz

Amendment acceptable to proposer and seconder and becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment G2

To amend amendment G1 to read :

- (4) To attempt to gain a commitment from the university administration to oppose the increasing militarisation of our campuses.

PROPOSED : Cohen

SECONDED : Vogelmann

RESOLUTION 27/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING

1. The increasing research for military purposes being undertaken at our universities.
2. That courses are offered at some of our universities on military strategy and administration.
3. The attempts by the SADF to establish a military unit on the University of Natal campus in late 1981.

FURTHER NOTING THAT

Student action resulted in the withdrawal of plans for Natal University Military Unit.

AND BELIEVING THAT

It is the responsibility of students to oppose the infiltration of the Military onto the campus.

RESOLVES

1. To educate our campus about the growing roles of the military in South Africa.
2. To oppose the use of research and courses for military purposes.
3. To mobilise students in opposition to the establishment of University Military Units.
4. To attempt to gain a commitment from the university administration to oppose the increasing militarisation of our campuses.

PROPOSED : Cullen

SECONDED : Lund

Carried unanimously

Cohen : The creation of an honours course in strategic studies was introduced by captain/professor Clifford Vaughn. The course will be conducted with a particular bias which will define the universities relation to society as a whole. The attempted creation of a U.M.U. by the Principal of Durban was an issue which was viewed extremely seriously by the SRC and many groups supported it. Eventually, Clarence sent the military a negative reply.

Lund : The rapid growth of the military is playing a key role in maintaining the system. It serves a variety of functions for the State. Militarisation into education takes many forms, for eg. it has a blatant influence on the cadet schools to get an unquestioning acceptance of the war both inside and outside S.A. Likewise with Veld schools and school boys in the S.A.P. The hierarchical structure of the schools means that questioning of the role of the military is limited and highly unlikely.

Cohen : We must stress the necessity for educating and mobilizing students around this issue and we must monitor our administrations to have some background to oppose this. It was primarily student action that kept U.M.U.S. off campus.

Vogelman : The SRCs should get a guarantee from their Vice-Chancellor that if U.M.U. are to be established, the SRCs will be contacted.

Gavin Evans : It is important to go into the reasons why the military is trying to infiltrate the universities : (1) For research, funded by the military. This information is difficult to get but for example, a number of projects in Engineering and Public Administration are used specifically for the military. (2) Recruitment. The university provides people with skills useful to the military. It has been people with skills useful to the military. It has been necessary for them to tighten up because so many people are now resisting the military. (3) Ideological influences. The English universities have resisted the State in various forms and this is extending to the military which is one of the reasons why the military is there. But there is not necessarily a coherent strategy - a number of methods have been used by the State. The effectiveness of resistance lies in the relationship between the university and the State. The universities do retain some autonomy from the State and are affected by resistance from the students.

Karen (Wits) : It is important to look at the role of ARMSCOR - bursaries are offered as well as jobs. It penetrates the whole of the economy and is part of the big business power in the universities.

Nathan : There is a fourth reason why the U.M.U.s are being established : the army is facing an acute shortage of skills and on the university, it would be able to tap the technical and scientific skills. The military aren't pressing us now because its needs are being partially met by the Afrikaans universities and because of the unfavourable press. But if the skills shortage becomes worse, this might override the fear of opposition.

McIntyre : The P.C. proposals pave the way to the incorporation of Indians and Coloureds and we must educate people about the extension of the military into all areas.

Cullen : The military is penetrating the black communities through adventure clubs for black school children - no permission from the parents is asked and they are not given proper information about these camps. The aim is possibly to co-opt people of the relatively privileged sector of the black population. "Developing leadership, patriotism and loyalty" is the reason they give. Basically, it is defending apartheid.

NSA broke for supper at 18h00

NSA reconvened 20h00.

Joffe in the chair.

MOTION H

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING

That in the Constitutional Proposals of the President's Council :

1. Africans, and thus the majority of the people, are excluded from central government;
2. The key institutions of apartheid such as the Group Areas Act, as well as puppet bodies such as Community Councils and Bantustan governments, are retained;
3. Racism remains as the basis for the new government structures;

AND BELIEVING that these proposals are fundamentally undemocratic in that :

1. they were drawn up from above by unrepresentative middle-class conservative government appointees;
2. they are being put into practice by the same government which is using increased repression to silence opposition;
3. they fail to even address the minimum demands of the majority of the people as set out in the Freedom Charter;

THEREFORE RESOLVES

To condemn the President's Council proposals as hopelessly inadequate in confronting the root causes of inequality and conflict in our society.

PROPOSED : Sampson

SECONDED : Rubenstein

Amendment H1

To add noting clause (4) :

- (4) Enormous powers are vested in the executive, making it more difficult for parliamentary parties to monitor the decision-making of that executive.

And believing clause (2) is deleted and replaced by :

(2) the implementation of these proposals go hand in hand with increased repression.

Therefore resolves clause is deleted and replaced by :

And further believing :

(1) that while implying moderate change, the proposals are, in fact, simply a strategy aimed at restructuring apartheid in an attempt to undermine broadbased opposition through a divide and rule strategy.

Therefore resolves :

(1) To condemn the President's Council proposals as a modification of apartheid rather than an attempt to confront the root causes of inequality and conflict in our society.

PROPOSED : Sampson

SECONDED : Rubenstein

Amendment automatically becomes part of the substantive motion.

RESOLUTION 28/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING that in the Constitutional Proposals of the President's Council :

1. Africans, and thus the majority of the people, are excluded from central government;
2. The key institutions of apartheid such as the Group Areas Act, as well as puppet bodies such as Community Councils and Bantustan governments, are retained;
3. Racism remains as the basis for the new government structures;
4. Enormous powers are vested in the executive, making it more difficult for parliamentary parties to monitor the decision-making of that executive;

AND BELIEVING that these proposals are fundamentally undemocratic in that :

1. they were drawn up from above by unrepresentative middle-class conservative government appointees;
2. the implementation of these proposals go hand in hand with increased repression;
3. they fail to even address the minimum demands of the majority of the people as set out in the Freedom Charter;

AND FURTHER BELIEVING

That while implying moderate change, the proposals are, in fact, simply a strategy aimed at restructuring apartheid in an attempt to undermine broad-based opposition through a divide and rule strategy.

THEREFORE RESOLVES

To condemn the President's Council Proposals as a modification of apartheid rather than an attempt to confront the root causes of inequality and conflict in our society.

PROPOSED : Sampson

SECONDED : Rubenstein

Carried unanimously

Sampson : The P.C. proposals have been seen by many whites as a progressive policy, a break from the past. It has led to a major split in the N.P. However, the word, reform must be understood. It is by no means to be regarded as fundamental change nor can it be seen as merely cosmetic. It is the most sophisticated strategy thus far. The majority of South Africans are excluded from all aspects. The parliament is to consist of whites, coloureds and Indians though this is not precisely defined. A segregated voters role has also been suggested.

Throughout, whites dominate by a 4:2:1 ratio. The metropolitan areas are based on the ownership of property and will be dominated by the middle class and capital. It therefore seeks to divide S.A. along class, race and ethnic lines. It also has the potential to divide the races themselves. Central power will be removed from parliament and the cabinet will probably have representatives of big business and industry. This contradicts the policy of decentralisation supposedly a principal of recommendations themselves.

Richman : We must set the P.C. in the context of the development of the white political situation. The white middle-class is seeking alliances to promote their interests, particularly with the economic and political crisis facing them. Labour and educational reforms (Wiehahn and De Lange) are geared to meeting the needs of capital by providing skills. The P.C. is an attempt to change the political system to retain political control, despite intense opposition amongst the working class. The N.P. base is breaking down and this new constitution will make it possible for a minority of the minority to retain control.

Vogelman : The P.C. seeks to bring sectors of the coloured and Indian population into the white political fold, preventing their alignment with blacks. Increasing resistance has meant that the State has to alter the present apartheid system. It is confident of co-opting coloureds and Indians because of repressive measures. But coloured and Indian popular mobilisation has come to the fore since 1973. The oppressed people are aware of the real intention behind these proposals.

Small : Concessions are being made on the State's terms. They will not satisfy the people whose minimum demands are encapsulated in the Freedom Charter.

Glazer : There is not enough emphasis on the dictatorial nature of the proposals. It is important that Parliament has been a place where one can monitor the ruling groups to a certain extent. The removal of power from here means an increasing censorship of information.

Giffard : I don't see the relationship between the motivation and the motion. The resolving clause sees the P.C. as an attempt to confront the root cause of inequality.

Wittenberg : Chris has a point - it condemns the P.C. because of racialism etc. but the motivation looked at the fact that it is a response to a crisis.

Taylor : Why worry about finicky details?

RESOLUTION 29/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the reports of the D Committees.

PROPOSED : Dove

SECONDED : Lindsay

Carried unanimously

Media CommitteeRESOLUTION 30/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Media Committee.

PROPOSED: Taylor

SECONDED: Allison-Broomhead

Carried unanimously

Borain: This was an attempt to more content to discussion than previously with regard to the role of media on campus.

Cullen: I think cartoons are very good for presenting things but there is a feeling on campus that cartoons are patronising. They must be of a sophisticated quality.

Cherry: I think the question of style is important. All NUSAS publications this year have been excellent, but students do respond to sophistication eg. Witoke in Azania.

Borain: Our press is an alternative press. People have all their lives been presented with a particular world view in the commercial press and therefore we don't need to present those views.

Academic Freedom Committee

Corrections: p 1 para 10: "education faculty representative" to become
"SRC education counsellor"
p 2 para 1 : "2" becomes "6"

Amendment 1

P 2 para 1: "It hasn't been....any gains" to be replaced by "It has been successful in achieving gains on a number of issues."

PROPOSED: Cullen

Amendment acceptable to proposers and therefore becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment 2

Delete A 2) and replace with:

2) The liberal universities do see separate education and unequal state financing of education for the different race groups as an infringement of academic freedom. However, in their terms, the problem would be solved if state financing were equal, regardless of broader social inequalities.

Delete A 3) and 4) and replace with:

3) The liberal universities see the necessity for black students to obtain ministerial permission to attend "white" universities as an infringement of the criterion that academic merit should be the sole criterion for entrance to the university. In their terms, Academic Freedom would be restored if the universities were open to all races. They do not fully accept that even if the universities were open to all races, economic inequalities would continue to restrict university education to an elite minority, and that this invalidates their criteria. Efforts on some campuses through fee remissions or low interest loans simply treat the symptoms without challenging the causes.

PROPOSED: Patta

SECONDED: Lund

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 31/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Academic Freedom Committee report, as amended.

PROPOSED: Kent

SECONDED: Ross

Carried unanimously

Phillip: I'd like to present a critique of the critique of the liberal notion of academic freedom. Paragraphs A (2) and (4) are precisely the liberal concept of Academic Freedom. Where the critique comes in is in terms of solutions. The liberal conception is limited - it doesn't see broader inequality. Point (4) is in contradiction to academic freedom and is why academic freedom has been upheld.

Taylor: This (Durban) university recognises economic inequality and provides long term loans at lower than commercial rates and does help students that are hard up.

Ozinsky: The liberal notion of Academic Freedom developed specifically around the issue of permits for black students.

Nathan: A more progressive notion of Academic Freedom sees it not as a right that the university claims. It is a responsibility to serve the needs of the majority of South Africans. Nyrere said that students are at university at the expense of the peasants and workers. Students are not productive and are therefore responsible to the peasants and workers to pay back that debt through (1) education geared to the interests of the people; (2) education used for the people. If they don't do this, it would be like stealing their bags of wheat at night.

MOTION I

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The increasing numbers of people refusing to participate in the SADF;
2. That conscientious objectors have demanded acceptable forms of alternative National service;
3. The state's continued refusal to provide acceptable forms of alternative National service;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the refusal of some to participate in the SADF is a result of their commitment to democracy;
2. That the provision of acceptable forms of alternative National Service would help to retain skills needed in this country;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express solidarity with those conscientious objectors currently in exile and those in prison;
2. To demand acceptable forms of alternative National Service for all objectors.

PROPOSED: Patta

SECONDED: Lindsay

Amendment I1

In Therefore Resolves clause 2, "objectors" becomes "conscientious objectors".

PROPOSED: Stansell

SECONDED: Taylor

Amendment accepted by proposers and therefore becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment I2

And Believing clause 1 is deleted and becomes

1. That it is the commitment of some people to democracy that leads them to a refusal to participate in the SADF.

PROPOSED: Bekker

SECONDED: Stoddart

Amendment acceptable to the proposers of the motion and therefore becomes part of the substantive motion.

RESOLUTION 32/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. allow Billy Paddock, a non-voting delegate, to address the Congress floor.

PROPOSED: Taylor

SECONDED: O'Connor

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 33/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The increasing numbers of people refusing to participate in the SADF;
2. That conscientious objectors have demanded acceptable forms of alternative National Service;
3. The state's continued refusal to provide acceptable forms of alternative National Service;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That it is the commitment of some people to democracy that leads them to a refusal to participate in the SADF;
2. That the provision of acceptable forms of alternative National Service would help to retain skills needed in this country;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express solidarity with those conscientious objectors currently in exile and those in prison;
2. To demand acceptable forms of alternative National Service for all conscientious objectors.

PROPOSED: Patta

SECONDED: Lindsay

Carried unanimously

Straw vote: carried unanimously

Patta: In locating C.O. politically, we can identify three roles of the SADF: (1) It is engaged in a civil war in S.A. and (2) a war of occupation in Namibia and (3) it has a political role - in Namibia the SADF has effective government and in S.A. it is used to control. The SADF is therefore not neutral - it is actively involved in supporting apartheid and it is in this context that we must see the increase in C.O. Since 1976, there have been eight objectors and yet there is no consistent strategy from the state towards Christians who have expressed political objections to the army. Billy Paddock has taken the most overtly political stand. We would like to extend our solidarity to all C.O.s and repeat our urgent calls for alternative national service.

Hawthorn: The state's response to the widely supported calls for alternative national service have been the Naude Commission. Its recommendations are likely to be of a divisive nature - between political and Christian C.O.s. However, an increasing number of people are unable to participate in the army because of the role it plays. We must reject any separation of political and Christian C.O.s. Nor must we forget those who have responded by evasion or exile.

Paddock: It is not an individual conscience that makes for a C.O. but a total resistance to apartheid in all its forms. Even those who don't make a political stand are still rejecting the system. We must use the issue of support for political C.O.'s to educate campus. Alternatives need to be looked at and we must see what role they play - are they going to be just another form of propping up the system.

MOTION J
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The events of the past year at Fort Hare;
2. The breakdown in communication between the administration and the students' committee;
3. That the problem is still unresolved;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the breakdown is due to the totally unreasonable attitude of the Fort Hare Rector and Administration;
2. That close links exist between the brutal Ciskei Police and the Administration, for the control of the student body;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express our solidarity with the students of Fort Hare;
2. To make the struggle for a fair and democratic education better known as a potential focus for the coming year.

PROPOSED: Rankin

SECONDED: Taylor

Amendment J1

To delete Resolves clause (2) and replace with:

2. To make the struggle for an equal and democratic education a priority in the coming year.

PROPOSED: Cullen

SECONDED: Korber

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment J2

Resolves clause 2. becomes Resolves clause 3. and a further clause is added.

2. To call upon the administrations of Rhodes and Wits universities to follow the universities of Cape Town and Natal in taking a stand on the issue.

PROPOSED: Rubenstein

SECONDED: Stoddart

Amendment acceptable to proposers and therefore becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment J3

Added to And Believing clauses:

3. That the struggle for a democratic education should be seen in the context of the struggle for a democratic society.

PROPOSED: Korber

SECONDED: Giffard

Amendment acceptable to proposers and therefore becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment J4

Noting clause 2. - "breakdown in communication" becomes "conflict."

And Believing clause 1. is deleted and becomes:

1. That the conflict is due to the authoritarian and undemocratic attitude of the Fort Hare Administration to students.

Amendment not acceptable to proposers of the motion.

RESOLUTION 34/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The events of the past year at Fort Hare;
2. The conflict between the administration and the students' committee;
3. That the problem is still unresolved;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the conflict is due to the authoritarian and undemocratic attitude of the Fort Hare administration to students.

2. That close links exist between the brutal Ciskei Police and the Administration, for the control of the Student Body;
3. That the struggle for a democratic education should be seen in the context of the struggle for a democratic society;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express our solidarity with the students of Fort Hare;
2. To call upon the administration of Rhodes and Wits universities to follow the universities of Cape Town and Natal in taking a stand on the issue;
3. To make the struggle for an equal and democratic education a priority in the coming year.

PROPOSED: Rankin

SECONDED: Taylor

Straw vote: against: 3
 abstentions: 1
 for: majority

Vote: against: 5
 abstentions: 1
 for: 21

Carried by a majority

Taylor requested it be minuted that he voted against the motion containing Amendment J4. He then requested a vote be taken on the amended motion excluding Amendment J4.

RESOLUTION 35/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The events of the past year at Fort Hare;
2. The breakdown in communication between the administration and the students' committee;
3. That the problem is still unresolved;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That the breakdown is due to the totally unreasonable attitude of the Fort Hare Rector and Administration;
2. That close links exist between the brutal Ciskei Police and the Administration, for the control of the Student Body;
3. That the struggle for a democratic education should be seen in the context of the struggle for a democratic society;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To express our solidarity with the students of Fort Hare;
2. To call upon the administrations of Rhodes and Wits Universities to follow the universities of Cape Town and Natal in taking a stand on the issue;

3. To make the struggle for an equal and democratic education a priority in the coming year.

PROPOSED: Rankin

SECONDED: Taylor

Carried unanimously

Phillip: The U.C.T. SRC is being sued for their coverage of the events at Fort Hare.

Karon: There were two fundamentally opposed political forces and the "break-down" was not due to the unreasonable attitude of the Rector but is inevitable.

Nathan: The reason that we took the issue up was not because the Administration was being unreasonable but because of extreme harsh and brutal repression against the students and that is what the whole issue was about.

Creative Arts Workshop Report

CAW members presented a play outlining the report and their activities this year. Applause.

RESOLUTION 36/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Creative Arts Workshop report.

PROPOSED: Cohen

SECONDED: Korber

Carried unanimously

Statement from Feminism Workshop

If we look to the history of motions brought up on this Congress floor since 1975, we note that both motions and debate generally centred around issues of sexism in Rag, drummies and royalty.

Obviously NUSAS has come a long way since then. However, the past year has effectively shown that whilst blatant displays of sexism have largely been eradicated, the concomitant development of a deeper feminist understanding has not been apparent. We now have to address ourselves to the more productive and positive process of building real alternatives based on a deeper understanding of feminism. Feminism has been seen to be an automatic process once one is intergrated into the student movement - one does do certain things, one doesn't do or say others - a kind of recipe for feminism. However the lack of debate and discussion around the issue has shown that an incorporation of feminist principals remains largely at the level of rhetoric. We have to see feminism as a long process which is continually challenging our ways of relating and behaving and which should be a fundamental part of our political development. But we also have to go beyond the level of personal politics. Whilst it is generally accepted that the women's struggle for liberation should be part of a broader struggle for change, there has been very little debate as to why and how. We, as white, intellectual feminists, need to examine how feminism fits into a national democratic movement and what role we play in that process. The debates surrounding the building of SA feminism did begin at the women's conference but discussion seems to have stopped there.

Feminism has also not been structurally integrated enough into organisation. When part of, for example, a focus week includes women, it is generally assumed that this will be the responsibility of the Women's Movements. Whilst we would never deny our responsibility in this area because we do have the specific skills and knowledge, the fact that it is often solely up to the Women's Movements to conduct feminist workshops, National Women's Day etc. means on the one hand that a firm understanding of feminism is not spread throughout the student movement, and on the other hand, that our own political development is retarded.

This statement is a result of much discussion at this Congress, not only amongst the Women's Movements and not only amongst women. It is intended as a challenge to the student movement to address itself to the issues which we have raised. We believe that it is imperative that this occur, not only on the Congress floor, but that it should be a continual process of evaluation of the Congress.

Kaplan: I strongly support the statement and would like to say it is an issue that affects both women and men.

Burger: The student movement is concerned with the eradication of sexism but there is a further step - that of developing the positive aspects of feminism ie: the building up of new ways of relating to people, personally and politically.

Szucs: I think that feminism is conflated with the women's struggle.

Dove: What do you mean by "the women's struggle" - are you implying the "women's struggle" is broader than feminism? Let me just give you a rave: In SA, the women's struggle has revolved around the exploitation and oppression that apply to all people rather than mobilising around issues specific to women. This is because their oppression as blacks and exploitation as workers is so glaring - day-to-day survival is the most important thing. At a structural level, women aren't really drawn into organisation and the fact that they bear the brunt of child-caring and housework means that often they simply don't have the time. But if the national democratic struggle is to be truly liberatory, then it must incorporate the liberation of women. It is up to progressive organisations to begin raising issues around the oppression of women as women and we need to continually reassess the stage of struggle and how feminism fits into the national democratic struggle in SA.

There was further, quite discussion. Unfortunately it was recorded and the recording didn't come out.

RESOLUTION 37/83
THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Technology Report.

PROPOSED: Small

SECONDED: Klein

Carried unanimously

Klein: I think technology is an issue for all faculties, not just science and engineering.

Cohen: Technology has a specific appeal to people involved in the direct use of this technology.

Vogelman: The student movement usually shies away from mobilising engineering students because we believe they are conservative. But if we bring up a contentious issue, such as technology, they would be interested.

Nathan in the Chair.

Nuclear Power Workshop Statement

Issues such as Nuclear Power have been neglected by the student movement despite the fact that such issues have a significant potential for mobilising and educating students. Participants in the Nuclear Power workshop felt that this potential should be tapped and used as the basis for organisation on campus.

The potential health and environmental hazards of nuclear power could be used as a focus of student interest. Topics such as the disposal of nuclear waste and the dangers of radiation have not been raised on our campuses before.

However, the real potential of the nuclear power and technological debates arises out of the fact that they can be developed to question the structure of the present system. This is possible because in our society the development of new forms of technology, such as nuclear power, is often centred around the desire by both the state and commercial interests to extend their control and to increase profitability. In numerous cases these aims contradict other more desirable aims such as the maintenance of the health of the labour force, the preservation of the environment and natural resources, and a decentralisation of control within society.

Furthermore these issues are relevant within the university context, since universities play an integral role in both developing these new technologies and in training the technologists that will keep these systems functioning. This means that definite gains can be made by organising within the university. Moreover, these are issues which directly affect certain sectors of the student body, who have not been reached effectively by the student movement as yet. Furthermore, there is already a significant sympathy for environmental issues.

In addition the position of technology in the present system and the way technology could serve the interests of the majority of the people should also be considered.

In the light of this discussion the workshop feels that the student movement should play greater attention to environmental and technological issues and should attempt to create organisations within which these issues can be debated.

Wittenberg: Technological debates go further than for example the question of waste disposal. They are questions that beg questions and is an issue that should be taken very seriously.

Schlotfeldt: What is the potential for mobilising students around one small nuclear reactor in Cape Town, not even in operation? Aren't we just jumping onto the European/American bandwagon?

Em (Wits): There is a vast sector of our campus that refuse to be mobilised and environmental issues do present an alternative means.

Macun: The issue of technology relates very much to the armaments war after WW II and we could relate it to militarisation.

Taylor: Nuclear Power is not so much the issue but rather the broader context. Russia and America have the power to wipe out the world ten times over and the fact that we are 6 000 miles away doesn't mean we are exempt from it.

Irvine: What we should be looking at is who controls nuclear power and that if progressive forces controlled it, wouldn't it be very useful.

MOTION K
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

- 1) The escalating number of retrenchments in South African industry which estimates project to 200 000 by July 1983;
- 2) Various demands made by progressive unions with regard to retrenchments;
- 3) The present level of unemployment which is estimated at 3 million;

BELIEVING:

- 1) That retrenchments exacerbate the conditions of the workers in S.A.;
- 2) That many firms are practising selective retrenchments as a means of undermining democratic union activity;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- 1) To condemn the retrenchments used to undermine union and worker organisation;
- 2) To call on management to recognise progressive union demands regarding retrenchments;
- 3) To educate our campuses about retrenchments and their political implications.

PROPOSED: Kent

SECONDED: Vogelman

RESOLUTION 38/83
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

- 1) The escalating number of retrenchments in South African industry which estimates project to 200 000 by July 1983;
- 2) Various demands made by progressive unions with regard to retrenchments;
- 3) The present level of unemployment which is estimated at 3 million;

BELIEVING:

- 1) That retrenchments exacerbate the conditions of the workers in S.A.;
- 2) That many firms are practising selective retrenchments as a means of undermining democratic union activity;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- 1) To condemn the retrenchments used to undermine union and worker organisation;
- 2) To call on management to recognise progressive union demands regarding retrenchments;

3) To educate our campuses about retrenchments and their political implications.

PROPOSED: Kent

SECONDED: Vogelmann

Carried unanimously

Kent: Layoffs and retrenchments are seen as an easy way to recover from an economic crisis. Often retrenchment is selective - shop stewards, the more militant workers and union organisers. This is made easier for management by the high level of unemployment. In the Eastern Cape, unemployment is running at 30%. NAAWU has made some short term demands: that a month's notice be given to union leaders to work out how to deal with it; the cutting or overtime; short time and if all else fails, a policy of last in, first out.

Drew: I'd like to stress the importance of using labour issues to mobilizing and educating campus. The Veldspun issue was useful because of the connection with Roshalt. Progressive academics can also be worked with on issues like this.

Phillip: As the recession deepens, retrenchments are going to increase and women are going to be most affected. I think we can use this to draw links to the oppression of women in society.

Cohen: The unemployment figures ignore domestic and agricultural workers.

Evans: Keenan has given an estimate of 3,3 million unemployed - this is probably one of the worst recessions that SA has faced and has important political implications. For black workers, the objective conditions are worse and wildcat strikes will become more frequent. The unions are going to be on the defensive and losing factories. This puts new stresses on community organisation. It will also have an effect on white workers, particularly in the motor industry and they are going to be pushed increasingly to the conservative parties.

Karon: Progressive unions relate factory issues to broader issues and do not accept the existing framework of the political structure.

Vogelmann: I would like to thank all those who helped me understand the difference between retrenchment and strikes and would you please ask black dwarf to leave me alone!

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER

N.S.A. convenes at 09h30. Joffe in the Chair.

MOTION L
THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The arrest twenty years ago of Nelson Mandela and his subsequent trials under government security legislation;
2. That Nelson Mandela was an important leader of the largest non-racial, democratic mass movement in South African history and played an important part in the Defiance Campaign and the Congress of the People which drew up the Freedom Charter;
3. That campaigns for the release of Nelson Mandela began as early as 1962;
4. The mass campaign of 1980 for the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That South Africa's security legislation has been promulgated by the government in defence of apartheid;
2. That many South African democrats have been silenced by this legislation;
3. That Nelson Mandela is regarded both nationally and internationally as the leader of South Africa's people;
4. That the Freedom Charter encapsulates the democratic demands of the majority of South Africa's people;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To continue to oppose South Africa's security legislation;
2. To continue to campaign for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners of apartheid;

AND FURTHER RESOLVES:

1. To educate students around these issues.

PROPOSED: Mc Intyre

SECONDED: Kent

RESOLUTION 39/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The arrest twenty years ago of Nelson Mandela and his subsequent trials under government security legislation;
2. That Nelson Mandela was an important leader of the largest non-racial, democratic mass movement in South African history and played an important part in the Defiance Campaign and the Congress of the People which drew up the Freedom Charter;
3. That campaigns for the release of Nelson Mandela began as early as 1962;
4. The mass campaign of 1980 for the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That South Africa's security legislation has been promulgated by the government in defence of apartheid;
2. That many South African democrats have been silenced by this legislation;
3. That Nelson Mandela is regarded both nationally and internationally as the leader of South Africa's people;
4. That the Freedom Charter encapsulates the democratic demands of the majority of South Africa's people;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To continue to oppose South Africa's security legislation;
2. To continue to campaign for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners of apartheid;

AND FURTHER RESOLVES:

1. To educate students around these issues.

PROPOSED: Mc Intyre

SECONDED: Kent

Carried unanimously

Ozinsky: Mandela was born in the Transkei, the son of a chief and studied law at Fort Hare. He opened a practice up with Oliver Tambo. In 1946, he and others formed the ANC Youth League which in 1949 adopted a Programme of Action committing the ANC to radical mobilisation and this formed the basis of the campaigns of the 1950s. At the Treason Trial it was noted that the Defiance Campaign was non-violent and disciplined. COD was formed and became part of the Congress Alliance. Their next campaign was the drawing up of the Freedom Charter. In 1960, there were uprisings all over the country, starting at Sharpsville, and a State of Emergency was declared. The ANC and the PAC were banned. At the All in Africa Convention, they launched a three day stay-away against the formation of the republic and Mandela clearly emerged as a leader. He went overseas to organise support for the struggle in SA and they only managed to receive support from the Eastern countries. He returned in 1962 and was arrested.

Shandler: In 1964, he was convicted under the Suppression of Communism Act which was promulgated in a period of intensified resistance. Other acts dealing with state security are all broadly defined and there is extensive exploitation under the guise of legality.

Ozinsky: The first Free Mandela campaign was initiated straight after his arrest in 1962. Attempts to prevent mobilisation around the trial were made. In 1980, a campaign was taken up on a mass scale.

Tolkein Society Member: Zinzi Mandela has been arrested on a charge of supposedly forging travel documents.

RESOLUTION 40/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the reports of the B Committees.

PROPOSED: Small

SECONDED: Patta

Carried unanimously

Political Education Report

Corrections: p 1 para 4: "Seminars comm. co-ordinates seminars" to be inserted after "effective media"
 p 2 para 1: "structural" becomes "structured"
 para 6: "ideas" becomes "videos"
 p 3 para 6: "is" to be inserted between "publications" and "useful".

Amendment A1

Delete point 4. Wits from "There was a lack of co-ordinates seminars" and replace with:

"A systematic and sustained seminar programme was conducted by Seminars Committee. Women's Movement, SAM and ERC ran simultaneous programmes of external seminars, but these were not co-ordinated with each other or with those of Seminars Committee Problems included erratic attendance and an inconsistent standard of media."

PROPOSED: Leveson

SECONDED: Bekker

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 41/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Political Education Committee, as amended.

PROPOSED: Lund

SECONDED: Teague

Carried unanimously

Patta: Focus weeks can often be used to consolidate interest that has been aroused earlier in the year. If one is having a focus week, publications can supplement education in the focus.

Sandler: It was isolated at last year's Congress that there was a low level of political awareness. What role can NUSAS H.O. play in this regard?

Lund: H.O. should play a role in building and directing organisation on the smaller campuses.

MOTION M

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The long history of South African colonisation of Namibia;
2. The denial of political rights and the continuous plunder of economic resources that has accompanied this colonisation;
3. The ongoing legacy of popular resistance to South African occupation;
3. The 1971 International Court of Justice decision that South Africa's continued occupation is illegal.

AND FURTHER NOTING:

1. The escalating military confrontation in Namibia and throughout Southern Africa;
2. Attempts by the South African government to place obstacles in the way of a Namibian settlement;
3. Ongoing attempts by South Africa to implement an internal settlement outside the framework of United Nations Resolution 435.

AND BELIEVING:

1. That South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia is not legally or morally justifiable;
2. That the Namibian people have a right to determine their future through free and fair elections;

RESOLVES TO:

1. Support the calls for free and fair elections in Namibia;
2. Condemn South Africa's presence in Namibia and the continued repression of the Namibian people, as exemplified by the recent deaths in detention of Jona Hamukwaya and Kaduma Katanga;

3. Expose wherever possible the attempts to obstruct Namibian independence;
4. Educate students as to the realities of the Namibian situation;

PROPOSER: Leveson

SECONDED: Crankshaw

RESOLUTION 42/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The long history of South African colonisation of Namibia;
2. The denial of political rights and the continuous plunder of economic resources that has accompanied this colonisation;
3. The ongoing legacy of popular resistance to South African occupation;
4. The 1971 International Court of Justice decision that South Africa's continued occupation is illegal;

AND FURTHER NOTING:

1. The escalating military confrontation in Namibia and throughout Southern Africa;
2. Attempts by the South African government to place obstacles in the way of a Namibian settlement;
3. Ongoing attempts by South Africa to implement an internal settlement outside the framework of United Nations Resolution 435;

AND BELIEVING:

1. That South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia is not legally or morally justifiable;
2. That the Namibian people have a right to determine their future through free and fair elections;

RESOLVES TO:

1. Support the calls for free and fair elections in Namibia;
2. Condemn South Africa's presence in Namibia and the continued repression of the Namibian people, as exemplified by the recent deaths in detention of Jona Hamukwaya and Kaduma Katanga;
3. Expose wherever possible the attempts to obstruct Namibian independence;
4. Educate students as to the realities of the Namibian situation.

PROPOSED: Leveson

SECONDED: Crankshaw

Carried nem con (1 abstention)

Leveson: We need to refocus attention on the Namibian situation. There is a growing militarisation in Namibia and we need to expose why there is a conflict and expose attempts by the SA government to mystify the situation. We can draw many parallels to the SA situation. It has arisen as an exploited and oppressed people have chosen to oppose their oppression.

Glazer: Namibian colonisation goes back to 1652 and has, since then, always been, to a greater or lesser degree, under foreign domination. In 1915, SA siezed control from the Germans. It is characterised by a particularly harsh system of contract labour, which was the basic reason for the 1961 revolt. The pattern of resistance has encountered systematic resistance by the Namibian people. In 1958, a new phase was introduced with the formation of the Ovamboland People's Organisation which later became SWAPO. 1966 was the first military encounter between SWAPO and the SADF. The final phase of the escalation of the war was in 1974 after the fall of the Portuguese government in Angola. The D.T.A. was set up based on tribally defined groups and ethnic pluralism. Growing international pressure pushed for the presence of UN troops. The way Namibia is going to be rules has never been defined by all the parties involved. Since 1977, two strategies have been adopted by SA: (1) continual negotiations with the Western contact group and (2) slowly and systematically introducing an internal settlement. It has continuously placed obstacles in the path of a settlement.

Crankshaw: SA is attempting to push the development of a black middle class in Namibia, not very successfully. There are stark racial inequalities. It is important we look to Namibia to see how SA is attempting to do for survival of white supremacy.

Roux: The Cuban presence in Angola is a result of the civil war and is directly related to SA aggression in Namibia.

Nathan in the Chair.

Women's Directive Report

Amendment A1

On p 2, delete c(iii) and insert

"During the year a very successful seminar programme was run and these alternated with a film programme. A car maintenance course was held. A focus week on Rape was held as well as a focus on Women and Health which included talks on contraception, abortion and on women and psychology. Inroads were made into the women's reses which proved very positive. Unfortunately only one edition of Consent was produced but this was particularly imaginative and informative.

Although meetings were well attended, the Women's Movement failed to incorporate people at an organisational level."

PROPOSED: Patta

SECONDED: Teague

Amendment acceptable to proposer and becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment A2

On p 3, at (iv) Rhodes insert:

"has a very small membership which concentrated primarily on internal education"

PROPOSED: Small

SECONDED: Lund

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment A3

1 a) (iii) deleted and replaced with:

"Pietermaritzburg's OASIS, although functioning as the only campus Women's Movement, does not have many student members and thus doesn't see itself as having a campus base. Furthermore, it makes little attempt to recruit students."

1 d) (v) deleted and replaced with:

"Pietermaritzburg's OASIS consists of people connected with campus, though most members are not actually students. OASIS does nowever have a student executive in order to remain a society constituted by the SRC. The organisation is more of a discussion group than a major movement."

PROPOSED: Dove

SECONDED: Jenkins

Amendment acceptable and automatically incorporated into the substantive report.

RESOLUTION 43/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Women's Directive, as amended.

PROPOSED: Bekker

SECONDED: Richman

Carried unanimously

Fine: The feeling in the law directive was to consolidate locally. What is the emphasis placed on national projects in Women's Movement?

Sue Rubenstein: The Women's Directive hasn't worked effectively this year. Next year, emphasis will be placed on this through contact and travelling. We had ideas for a regional rather than a national conference this year.

Cherry: The Women's Movement is looking at issues in a very positive way - the development of feminism rather than the abolition of sexism.

Forsyth: The fact that Rhodes doesn't have a co-ordinator does reflect problems with the internal organisation of Women's Movement. Consolidation of the organisation hasn't really been achieved as it has lost its momentum, largely due to personal and political problems in Women's Movement.

Irvine: Delegates should pay particular attention to this report - it is important and successful discussions were held this Congress on the directive.

Student Representation and Discipline Committee Report

Stoddard: The Committee was divided over the issue as the report reflects. Point 2 the real power in the university rests in areas where students have little or no say. The committees that students sit on have no importance and decisions often have to be ratified by higher bodies. Further it is naive to think that students can influence decisions that are taken in the interests of big business and the state which the university supports.

Point 3. Contentious issues are usually omitted from the agendas or well hidden.

Point 4. Through sitting on committees, students are coopted in various ways.

Point 5. Students are a valuable resource and to sit on meaningless committees detracts from their political activity. Students are forced to capitulate to the deft arguments of administration. Student reps are forced to submit to the collective will of the committee thus ignoring their responsibility to students because they are now bound to committee procedure.

Point 6. The phrase "university as a site of struggle" has been misused to the point of false idealism. When we look at the university structure we must not lose sight that the primary contradiction is between capital and labour and not between admin and students. The universities contradictions are great and students don't have the resource or ability to exploit them.

Point 7. The only effective change in the past has come about through mass action which is concluded by an agreement with the administration.

Point 8. An SRC which mobilises and organises must have strong support from its student base.

In conclusion - we should move from our previously subservient attitude. We are not advocating boycott on principle but a strategic approach should significant gains in representation be offered and after tactical considerations we could accept these.

In summary I would like to point out the difference between university and faculty representation. If at faculty level people make mistakes, that's all right but at university level you are dealing with people who are skilled in co-option techniques and tactical manipulation for their own ends.

Evans: I'd like to make a point about the committee we sat on. Although there were differences and a lot of debate, there was a lot of agreement. I believe that there are implications of the policy we are adopting that we have to consider carefully. I want to pick up on a few points. Firstly, Campus Action for Democracy has been taken to the absurd extent of seeing every university structure as being fraught with contradictions where students can make significant gains. We must remember that we are dealing with a bourgeois university which is always in the final analysis above the class struggle rather than seeing the university itself as a result of the fundamental contradiction in our society. We are not arguing that there is no space for student politics but it does mean that the primary struggle is over the student mind and student action and not in the sphere of university committees. This does not mean that we are undertaking a policy of non-collaboration but we are saying that the only way we can work in the university is on the basis of our collective strength and this requires mobilisation and education of students. We need solid organisation on the ground. What we are arguing is that the boycott is a particular strategy which can be revised once we have sufficient organisational strength. We are not suggesting boycott of all structures but certainly those in the hierarchy of the university.

Taylor: This report demonstrates the weak point of democracy ie: that the majority is always right. In this case they certainly are not. One thing I've learnt about NUSAS this week is that the attitude of the NUSAS raving left really annoys me. They remind me of theologians of the 14th century. The main issue discussed by them was how many angels could dance on a pin. You have spent a whole week discussing and spending money and what's going to happen? It will all be forgotten next week. This is an opportunity to get off your backsides and do some work for a change and all you can do is suggest boycott.

Minority Report presented: by Walker and Cullinan

We totally reject this radical view. Earlier this year it was decided that research would be done into student representation. In this report we provide a few ways of identifying and minimising problems.

Cullen: Jon's attack was quite heavy and unfounded.

Vogelman: My support lies with the minority report. I'm actually quite worried this is guerilla theatre but nevertheless. But coming back to boycott. The last few years has shown that it takes a long time to get representation and although we are often railroaded at least we have learnt a fair amount about the universities in the event of us having to take action - we do know to a certain extent what is going on in the university. Secondly, admin control the university and we have to work through them.

Nathan: This was a difficult committee and I find Gavin's attitude particularly disappointing. Some of the points raised in the majority report are very valid but I disagree with the conclusion. I also take exception to the stand Jonathan has taken.

Teague: I'm also not sure that this isn't guerilla theatre. What do the proposers see as the advantages of boycott? Secondly, how do they think this will go down among liberal students on our campuses?

Evans: I'm disappointed that people think this is guerilla theatre just because there is a difference of opinion. We are not advocating a principled boycott. There are certain gains that can be made on some committees. We are arguing that a strategy of boycotting all the main issues could be a mobilising and educating strategy.

Equalisation of debate was called.

Kent: Speaking for majority report. At UCT committees responsible for the main decision making have very little student representation. Students are well represented on the less important committees. The General Purposes Comm which is the Executive of Senate has no student representation.

Ozinsky: I'd like to point to a contradictory and circular argument in the majority report. It points to the fact that power is not in university structures, yet in the conclusion they note that representation may be granted. What then is the point of this representation?

Sampson: I would like to support the majority report. For two years we have been shunted from committee to committee with a facade of representation - I think it is advisable to therefore adopt a boycott strategy.

Rankin: By supporting majority report we will lose a lot of credibility on campus especially on a small campus like Rhodes.

Closure of debate was moved;

Sampson: We are advocating boycott as a strategy and not as a principle. By explaining to students why we are boycotting we can educate students.

Macun: To argue that we boycott until we mobilise students is a problematic argument. It is highly unlikely that we will achieve this. Secondly I don't think we have considered enough the implications of boycott. We could miss out on the advantages of understanding the structures we're trying to work against.

Kent: Quotes from H.O. report calling for recreation of militancy.

Kaplan: I support the majority report - within the committee system we can't further the aim of democratisation of the university. Taylor's attack on the left was emotional, vitriolic and I would like him to concretise what he was saying.

Gordon: How seriously are people taking this? We can't make these kind of decisions at NUSAS and take it back to campus.

Karon: The majority report is drawing out a dichotomy between sitting on committees on the one hand and mass action on the other, which is wrong. The very point of winning issues on committees is precisely because of mass mobilisation.

Phillip: There is a danger of false idealism in the majority report but it doesn't undermine the advantages of trying to democratise the university in some areas.

McIntyre: At U.C.T. Senate reps are not allowed to have a motion discussed. When Edcom refused to withdraw their reps, admin backed down. I think there is some point in the boycott strategy.

Taylor: Student reps have been hard fought for and we shouldn't put admin's backs up. The majority report seems to be some sort of gimmick to rally support. There may be a case for selective boycott but not generally.

Joffe: The SRCs have not estimated the level of co-option enough. The majority report will serve to put a check on co-option.

Straw vote: on majority report: for: 40
on minority report: for: 40

Joffe's casting vote makes the majority report accepted.

Nathan: I think it is remarkable how the floor has allowed Jonty to move all these rules on us - exactly the kind of co-optive strategies he was talking about.

Joffe: Aren't we people? When I say all people on the floor can vote, we (H.O) can also vote,

The previous 45 minutes are then explained to be guerilla theatre. It was felt that although most people accepted the minority report, the majority report raised some important problems. It was decided that the original Minority Report now become the Majority Report and the original Majority Report become an addendum. However, paragraph 1 of the original Minority Report, on Confidentiality, is to be deleted with the exception of the sentence "Students could....observe confidentiality."

RESOLUTION 44/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Student Representation and Discipline Committee report, as amended.

PROPOSED: Korber

SECONDED: Rankin

Carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 45/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the report of the A Committee.

PROPOSED: Schlotfeldt

SECONDED: Rabinovitz

Carried unanimously

Student Political Action Report

Correction: p 4 para 4: "when" to be inserted between "of" and "taking".
"limiting action" becomes "action is limited".

RESOLUTION 46/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Student Political Action Committee.

PROPOSED: Lund

SECONDED: Stansell

Carried unanimously

Wittenberg: This is a very well drawn up report.

Kate (Pmb): The problems of small campuses has been highlighted in this report - all too often they are considered secondary but these problems do weaken NUSAS as a whole.

Irvine in the Chair.

Faculty Councils Report

Correction: p 1 para 7: "rondom" becomes "random".

RESOLUTION 47/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Faculty Council Committee.

PROPOSED: Taylor

SECONDED: McIntyre

Carried unanimously

Korber: I would support the idea of a conference because it would be organised under the auspices of NUSAS and would involve otherwise "apathetic" students.

Teague: The conference should be organised by Edcoms and Faculty Councils, with input from H.O.

Support and Resource Role of Students ReportRESOLUTION 48/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the report of the Support and Resource Role of Students committee.

PROPOSED: Lund

SECONDED: Cohen

Carried unanimously

Macun: I suggest next year the committee should have terms of reference and possibly the committee itself should be more structured to make it more useful.

Health Directive Report

Corrections: p 1 para 2: "of" (last line) becomes "as"
 para 6: "soleness" becomes "schemes"
 p 2 para 2: "for example" to be inserted between "of" and "fact"

RESOLUTION 49/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Health Directive report.

PROPOSED: Allison-Broomhead

SECONDED: Crankshaw

Carried unanimously

Robin (Wits): In order to make people aware of the undemocratic nature of the country, we can also demonstrate the undemocratic nature of the health system. It should not be solely directed at medical students, psychology and social science students can be involved.

MOTION N

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The use of detentions by the State to silence democratic opposition;
2. The D.P.S.C., which has consistently organised around issues of detention and torture;
3. The new "code of protection for detainees";

AND FURTHER NOTING:

1. That it is primarily due to the D.P.S.C.'s persistent use of all available channels that the horrors of detention have been exposed to the public;
2. That the D.P.S.C. has been vital in the support of detainees;

BELIEVING:

1. That the code represents an attempt to legitimize the existing system of detention.
2. That in ny way does the code meet the minimum demands of the D.P.S.C. for the treatment of detainees;

Amendment N1

Therefore Resolves clause (3) becomes clause (4) and the following is inserted:

"(3) To support the D.P.S.C.'s call for an independent judicial inquiry into the detentions system."

A further Therefore Resolves clause is added:

"(5) To continue to demand the unconditional release of all detainees."

PROPOSED: Giffard

SECONDED: Bekker

Amendment becomes part of the substantive report.

Amendment N2

In Therefore Resolves clause (1) "the system of" is deleted.

PROPOSED: Vogelmann

SECONDED: Rabinovitz

Amendment acceptable to the proposers and becomes part of the substantive motion.

Amendment N3

Therefore Resolves clause (1) deleted and becomes:

(1) To condemn the detention of those working for a democratic SA.

PROPOSED: Giffard

SECONDED: Bekker

Amendment becomes part of the substantive motion and amendment N2 falls away.

Amendment N4

Therefore Resolves clause (1) deleted and becomes:

(1) To condemn political detention and the enabling security legislation.

PROPOSED: Stoddart

SECONDED: Rubenstein

Amendment acceptable to proposers and becomes part of the substantive motion.
Amendment N3 falls away.

RESOLUTION 50/83

THAT THIS N.S.A.

NOTING:

1. The use of detentions by the State to silence democratic opposition;
2. The D.P.S.C., which has consistently organised around issues of detention and torture;
3. The new "code of protection for detainees".

AND FURTHER NOTING:

1. That it is primarily due to the D.P.S.C.'s persistent use of all available channels that the horrors of detention have been exposed to the public;
2. That the D.P.S.C. has been vital in the support of detainees;

BELIEVING

1. That the code represents an attempt to legitimise the existing system of detention;
2. That in no way does the code meet the minimum demands of the D.P.S.C. for the treatment of detainees;

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To condemn political detention and the enabling security legislation;
2. To acknowledge the very real contribution made by the D.P.S.C.;
3. To support D.P.S.C.'s call for independent judicial inquiry into the detentions system;
4. To reject the code and to continue to educate students around the issues of detention;
5. To continue to demand the unconditional release of all detainees.

PROPOSED: GiffardSECONDED: BekkerCarried unanimously

Giffard: This motion is based on the events following the detention of a large group of people at the end of last year. Out of these, six were charged, the charges against two were dropped, two have been convicted and two have died. The Rabie Commission presented its report two days before Neil Aggett died. It did little more than give legislative legitimation to the detentions system as it operates now. The D.P.S.C. report pointed to the total discretion of the Minister and the Security Police; the lack of independent monitoring of their exercise of power; and the dependence of detainees on interrogators. The New Internal Security Act has basically made new names for old laws. Ex-detainees have alleged Security Police assault, intimidation and lack of protective safeguards. The Le Grange Code was published, supposedly to provide protection for detainees. But essentially, the system remains closed off from anyone but the state.

Bekker: The D.P.S.C. arose out of these detentions in September 1981. It spread nationally, gaining support especially from the Church and student organisations. They wrote letters to the press, visited heads of the Special Branch in their area and held public meetings. They have also effectively used international publicity and official channels eg. to Le Grange with a list of torture affidavits, to further generate opposition to detentions. It is a good example of short and long term goals. It's a particularly significant organisation and it is important for them to have support from NUSAS.

Cherry: Our education of students should go beyond detention to look at the brutality of security legislation.

N.S.A. broke for supper at 18h00.

N.S.A. reconvened at 20h00. Joffe in the Chair.

RESOLUTION 51/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. table the report of the Structures and Finance Committee.

PROPOSED: Allison-Broomhead

SECONDED: Cullen

Carried unanimously

Mike Evans: Other SRCs should look into the possibility of a voluntary levy in Orientation Week. At UCT they pay R2,00 and it makes an incredible difference to our budget.

Sampson: Shouldn't some provision be made for increased rent of H0 if it moves to Durban?

Mike Evans: We'll have to reassess the budget in July after a feasibility study.

Sandler: With regard to H.O. moving to Durban - we looked at the issue politically and organisationally for Durban and Pietermaritzburg and what it would mean for Cape Town. It has been in Cape Town for 40 years and can't be done in a week.

Allison-Broomhead: Taking into account the political dynamics at Durban, election time would be the worst time to move to Durban.

Patta: H.O. developed a specific relationship with Cape Town and it will have to be redefined.

Sandler: We defined H.O. on two levels: (1) touring people and (2) those who stay continuously and can give input. UCT is organisationally developed and there is a high degree of political awareness and therefore H0 input hasn't been used to its full potential. At Durban, organisation is at a low level but we must look at the issue of domination. But it is geographically located well.

Baskin: H0 has an important role in uplifting campus organisation. The student movement in Durban is weak but the political scene is very active and we need to play a positive role in that struggle. Cape Town is furthest away from NUSAS's weakest links. It would be in the interests of the National Union and not just Durban for H.O. to move.

Richman: There is widespread support for the move in Cape Town.

Giffard: Given that Durban is one of the weaker campuses, what are the possibilities of a disaffiliation and what are the consequences for a Durban H.O.?

Cullen: There hasn't been the threat of a disaffiliation for quite a while.

Sandler: We must be careful not to conflate H.O. people with NUSAS.

Joffe: I think that the argument (that the political climate in Durban is advantageous) falls by the way. If we look at the Western Cape there are political dynamics which have significant problems and the same argument could be used against a move from Cape Town.

Wittenburg: From the Pietermaritzburg point of view, we agree 100% with the move. Organisation is quite weak to understate the case, and in the next few years it is vital that there is some sort of input.

Straw vote for NUSAS committing itself to move to Durban in 1983:-

carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 52/83

THAT THIS N.S.A. adopt the Structures and Finance report.

PROPOSED: McIntyre

SECONDED: Stansell

Carried unanimously

Theme Committee Report

General points in selecting a theme:

- (1) The NUSAS theme is not a description of NUSAS strategy for a particular year. It is simply a slogan which the organisation uses to attract support and give direction to activities on the campuses.
- (2) The theme should both appeal to and, at the same time, challenge the broadest possible range of students.
- (3) The theme must initiate a process of questioning around which NUSAS can develop the key concepts it wishes to convey to the student body in general.

Specific trends emerging from 1982 Congress with relation to the theme:

- (1) The Congress has established the expansion and development of NUSAS' organisation on the campuses as the priority for the coming year.
- (2) Congress has clearly indentified the arena of education as the ultimate responsibility of NUSAS. The theme should therefore incorporate the concept of "education", in the broadest sense of the word.
- (3) The concept of "democracy" has not yet been fully explored by NUSAS. It need not, however, be a central public issue, to remain a focus for our organisation. The fact that it has been included in the theme for the past two years, would mean that students would see us as simply "rehashing the same old thing" if we used it again.
- (4) The vast majority of students on our campuses either support change in South Africa, or acknowledge the inevitability of it. The concept of "change" is therefore one which will interest students and, at the same time, allow NUSAS to explore and educate around.

Suggestions for 1983 theme:

- (1) Educating for Change
- (2) Student Action for Change

Taylor: One point worth noting is that motions this year as compared to last year have been much more oriented towards campus education.

Loewe: General agreement that democracy was something that we heard over and over and over and so to commemorate that great, great theme we've decided that we would dedicate a little thing to it.

UCT bursts into "Campus Action for Democracy" to the tune of "The Red Flag" -

The NUSAS theme is really dead
As Jonty scratches his curly head
Campus Action for Democracy
Will soon be but a memory
So shout the new theme loud and clear

Or the campus base will never hear
 Though cowards shirk and traitors sneer
 We'll keep "democracy" out this year

Thunderous Applause.

Joffe: The first idea for the theme raised by Anton was that we adopt the theme this year "Boycott Wilson Rowntrees". The second idea which we felt was far more appropriate which has appeared round the country on a sticker which reads: "Shame - Greedy Sri Lankins".

Another song from UCT - to the theme of "ENOS" advert:

If you're feeling down
 Don't frown
 If you're feeling low
 Don't slow
 Just work together
 Fight forever
 E.M.O. (ie: Educate, Mobilise, Organise)

Joffe: Two ideas came from the committee: (1) Educating for Change and (2) Student Action for Change.

Coleman: Comments on Education for Change. I feel it is far too general and would like to motivate why. If you look back at the last theme - analysing the theme - you have Campus which is where, Action which is what and Democracy what for. This theme gives a definite direction for organisations to work with whereas Educating for Change doesn't have where and how. I didn't think that organising with that theme will cause a lot of problems and will take a long time to begin to be implemented.

Borain: The theme is not a Programme of Action. In the past the theme has simply represented our direction. I don't think the theme should ever be a programme of action. You can't incorporate a programme of action into three words you are going to bandy around campus.

Taylor: I think the theme can be a programme of action as Exposing Total Strategy in 1980 was.

G Evans: I don't think we should be looking for a theme which is a programme of action. I think the problem with Exposing Total Strategy was that it was too specific. I prefer Educating for Change. Student Action for Change is a bit too similar to Campus Action for Democracy. I don't think we should be looking for a slogan which tries to cover everything. This is the strength of Educating for Change. It is not too general but it is broad enough to cover all aspects of education that we want to be involved with.

Stansell: Two suggestions: Democracy for an Educated Future
 Democracy for a South African Future

Joffe: Reads out theme proposed by UCT Wages Comm - Organise or Crumble.

Sampson: In regards to the theme educating for change. What change are we talking about? I think we should qualify what changes we are talking about - Educating for a Progressive Change.

Joffe: Clarifies some of the things expressed in the Theme Committee. The feeling was that when you assessed the students on our campus one thing you could be fairly certain of is that most students on our campuses either support change or at least know that change is on its way. Because of that it is

something that will attract people because it is their own real feeling. But at the same time it is something that if you input to you can take further and elaborate. My feeling was that it is easier to explain what you mean by change than by democracy. The word change can enable you to raise a whole host of issues.

A suggestion from Durban: Moving H.O.

A further suggestion: Durban or Bust

Also from Durban: Students for Academic Freedom

Baskin: Educating for Change can make us confused as to who we're educating. I propose Student Education for Change.

Korber: I don't think there is any doubt as to who we are educating. It is a NUSAS theme not a trade union theme.

Joffe: The theme is specifically for campus.

A request from the floor not to place stickers which are not easily removable all over campus.

Teague: What happened to the suggestion Education:for Change?

Joffe: Precisely the dot, dot in the middle - how do you present a colon in your speech for campus?

Joffe: One more suggestion: Educating for a Liberated Future.

Cohen: I think this could be a very alienating theme.

Myrdal: Suggests: Educate for Change - because it is a different form but the same concept.

Coleman: Points to educating, that word is a positive thing. You want to emphasise education, but you also want to keep open the broader issues as well. Educating does that.

Sampson: Educating is far more positive - it denotes action. Educate leaves it up to some one else to do.

Korber: Educate is more all inclusive, it is also more emphatic.

Zasman: Educate for Change sounds more like a command whereas Educating for Change sounds like an ongoing process.

Cohen: I think Educate for Change is too emphatic, it looks like NUSAS is trying to command people to educate for change which I think is very negative.

Joffe: What are people's comments on Student Action for Change?

Patta: I think it is too similar to Campus Action for Democracy.

Vogelman: I favour Educating for Change. It is the most active theme and in terms of the political processes in South Africa change is going to be quite prominent. Also Educating for Change seems to be more catchy and lively and really nice.

Joffe: Do people think there is a problem with the word educating in the sense that it might imply that NUSAS is taking on the responsibility of educating students and is a little patronising?

Jenkins: I think it is important to have educating in the theme because if you look at it in terms of where we are in the struggle, educating is the field.

Baskin: I like the word action, it gives the idea of a dynamic movement.

Cullen: Does anyone find action a threatening word? It wasn't so last year.

Teague: Action can suggest students running around campus with placards. I think educating is more appropriate and it suggests in itself action.

Joffe: In the past maybe we haven't had a really accurate understanding of what we're trying to do with the theme. There was something of a feeling that with Campus Action for Democracy, it was a theme with which we were trying to convey what we on the congress floor are trying to do rather than using the theme to attract students.

UCT sings about boredom in the theme debate to the time of "Bank Robbers" by Clash.

NUSAS was a bit perturbed
Themes are getting boring
Education, Africa,
Democracy, ad nauseum
The line has changed
The campus was
Now a site of struggle.
Contradictions, concrete gains
and not forgetting Eichbaum.

Stansell: Educate for a future. If we don't educate what future do we have.

Joffe: Feeling of people on theme comm. was that if you looked at some of the issues we're going to be facing next year, particularly the President's Council proposals, the theme can lead directly onto discussion of that type of issue and at the same time can actually raise questions of our own education.

Baskin: Suggest Democratic Education for Change.

Sampson: Proposes to put in positive before change.

Patta: I think Educating for Change as it allows us to give content to that change.

Heather: I don't think positive adds that much to the theme.

Stansell: Suggest - Educate for a people's future.

Cohen: When we consider the theme we must keep in mind campus - I don't think people from school see themselves as part of a people's future. I would like to support Educating for Change - of all the suggestions it's the most ideal, succinct and catching, it focusses on education and also shows the need to look at society in general.

Burger: Educate for a future is too similar to educate for an African future. Suggestion withdrawn.

Nathan: Argues against educating - because it is a passive word - students will think how can I get educated, rather than how can I get involved. Secondly, Action embraces organising immobilizing and educating whereas education can be quite self-limiting. Thirdly, if we want to organise and mobilize students we need a vallying cry to inspire and motivate people.

Fafak: Agrees with criticism of educating as it gives the idea of a separation of Nusas from the student body - Nusas up here and students down there. I support rather student action for change.

Joffe: Do people think student action adequately reflects the emphasis on education that has come out during congress.

Patta: Repeatedly at congress has been the feeling that our role is the education struggle and we as the student movement should be looking at the education struggle. Therefore, it's important that we have education in the theme.

Joffe: Two more suggestion, organise for change; student involvement for change.

Stansell: Suggestions - Total education is change.

Goosen: Education flows from the word action - also change is a good way to put things as one can give one's own content to that.

Joffe: A suggestion from Cape Town - that we adopt the theme 'Roland for Sibera'.

Patta: I don't think that people should be thinking of themes like that. I think we should all try and do what Roland is doing.

Joffe: Suggests that we boil down the suggestions to two or three. After straw vote the themes to be considered for final discussion were :

Educating for Change; Education for Change; Student Action for Change.

Teague: Supports Student Action for Change. An example is the potential establishment of UMUS - won't Student Action for Change be a better theme to back you.

Coombe: That might be true but what are you going to do for the rest of the year.

Nathan: Student Action is not limited to high profile activity - what we are trying to get through is not only for students to educate themselves but also to get the idea across that through action students can bring change.

Cohen: Favours educating for change. It is important that it focusses on education as a site of struggle. Also the change in SA over the next few years is going to be important - we need to educate people about it and the theme provides this opportunity.

Korber: Education comes first to the average student and is preferable to Action.

Goosen: Important at this congress has been mobilise, organise and education - the theme must try and encapsulate these three - I think that student action aids the translation from education into organisation.

Call for closure.

Cullen: Educating is more alienating than student action as it emphasises the thought of us preaching to students.

Leveson: Supports educating for change - there has been a neglect in placing students in a historical perspective. Educating for change can do this as well as initiate action to get back to where students are at eg. in faculty councils.

Richman: Student Action is too similar to last year. Student Action does go well with mass meetings but what we need is a guide for action and analysis between mass meetings.

Dugmore: Educating allows for more scope than student action.

Evans: Educating for change is not passive - it is acting for change and that is quite exciting.

Call for equalization.

Barry : I'd like to disagree that educating is alienating. I think the word educating will depend very much on the way the theme will be presented and how we are going to interpret its meaning. Also educating does not necessarily exclude the ideas of mobilise and organise. In fact we directly need organisation and mobilisation to achieve that educating. Student Action is not as attractive as people have made out - student action is something associated with what students have been socialised to avoid and it is not close to where students are at. Education is something that is very close to students, it can be related off campus fairly easily. So I support educating for change.

Goosen: I think we must consider how we are going to carry the theme through the year. I think that students will respect an SRC more for their action than for the educating role.

Fafak: I'd support education for change and try and avoid the word educating.

Debate is closed.

UCT presents another song to the tune of 3 blind mice :

4 NUSAS campuses
 4 NUSAS campuses
 See how they rave
 See how they rave
 They educate
 They mobilise
 They give their base a big surprise
 4 NUSAS campuses.

Choices for the theme were then narrowed down to :

- (1) Education for Change
- (2) Educating for Change
- (3) Student Action for Change

Straw vote : Educating/Education : Majority
 Student Action : Minority

Straw vote : Education : 56
 Educating : 73

Voting delegates : Education : 8
 Educate : 22

RESOLUTION 53/83

THAT THIS NSA adopt "Educating for Change" as the NUSAS theme for 1983.

PROPOSED : Taylor

SECONDED : Richman

Carried unanimously

Statement from Rhodes to NUSAS congress

Our participation in national student debate this year has been particularly beneficial in giving encouragement and ideas for the direction that Nusas work at Rhodes now needs to take. It has also helped draw attention to areas that require priority over others at Rhodes.

We are able to use to our benefit the lessons learnt by the stronger campuses during their years of organising political activity. So while this congress seems concerned that Rhodes' contribution in many areas is limited, it is precisely the fact that the stronger campuses are able to contribute substantially more that serves to build Nusas nationally. While selectively taking up issues that this Congress has agreed are important for the coming year, the way we handle such issues will be formulated in order to meet a particular goal ie. to build organisation.

Clearly, the formation of numerous formal networks simply to match similar bodies on other campuses or to facilitate "national co-ordination" will place unnecessary strain on our already extended resources. So while we do not want to restrict attempts at co-ordination between campuses, Nusas needs to be aware that a campus like Rhodes is at present not equipped to fill all such representative positions created. We have a lot of work to do in building organisation at Rhodes; we are a small group; and cannot afford to over-extend ourselves.

Statement from Pietermaritzburg to NUSAS congress

We have benefitted by our participation in this 60th Nusas congress. Although our assessment of Pietermaritzburg's activities was very critical, we nevertheless believe that there is real potential for the strengthening of organisation on campus next year.

However, we do feel that there is insufficient understanding and discussion by Nusas of the particular problems and dynamics of organisation on the smaller campuses.

The fact that two affiliated campuses, and Maritzburg, fall into this group constitutes a serious lack within the National Union. As this results in the weakening of Nusas as a whole, we believe more attention should be paid to these areas.

Nevertheless, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to Nusas and its aims, and to the broad democratic struggle. We will attempt to take Nusas onto Maritzburg campus in a significant way in the coming year.

Statement from Cape Town to NUSAS congress

Can we have our songs minuted?!

RESOLUTION 54/83
THAT THIS NSA

NOTING (1) The high calibre of speakers
(2) The increase in numbers attending evening sessions

AND BELIEVING
(1) That this increase in numbers was largely due to the standard of input
(2) That the theoretical knowledge gained from these speakers will be of immense value in the coming year for our activity on campus and in the broader democratic movement

THEREFORE RESOLVES to thank Gerry, Yunes, Auret, Ray, Laurie, Jeremy, Sara and Alan for their invaluable contribution to this congress.

PROPOSED : Klein

SECONDED : Sampson

Carried unanimously with acclaim

RESOLUTION 55/83
THAT THIS NSA

NOTING The resounding success of the 60th NUSAS congress in spite of Fedics food.

AND BELIEVING That this was only possible because of the hard work of certain individuals : The Durban working group and Liz and Sibongeli, the SRC secretaries, Penny Samuels who helped type. Mrs Bremner, the finance officer, Siphon the printer, Cindy and Barbara, the minutes secretaries, The Steering Committee, All who helped in the bookshop and pub. Mr Southwood, the warden, Mrs Wandel and Mrs Mirtinage, the matrons. The student union cleaners.

THEREFORE RESOLVES To thank them for their important contribution to the organisation and smooth running of congress.

PROPOSED : McIntyre

SECONDED : Kent

Carried unanimously with acclaim

RESOLUTION 56/83
THAT THIS NSA

NOTING (1) That the 1982 NUSAS executive's period of office expires tonight.
(2) That Trevor "Mother Goose" Baily, Mike "Kenyatta" Kenyon, Laurie "Jacob Squirm" Nathan and Jeremy "Tickety-boo" Clark have served on the executive since the last NUSAS congress.

AND BELIEVING That they have, both on their individual campus and nationally, contributed significantly to the strength of the National Union over this year.

THEREFORE RESOLVES
(1) To declare them true sons of Africa.
(2) To appoint them honorary life members of NUSAS.

PROPOSED : Rankin

SECONDED : Richman

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Statement on Mog Davids

Mog Davids, the NUSAS administrative assistant, has worked for the National Union for 21 years. I think you'll all agree with us that this is a remarkable feat. For us (H.O.) it has been particularly valuable having Mog around. He has been a continual source of information, both on the administrative workings of H.O. and on the social history of H.O. staff.

He has provided a continuous link between the annual head offices and for us has allowed for an ongoing stability throughout the year.

We would like to thank Mog sincerely for his work and commitment to the National Union.

Applause.

Joffe then announced the 1983 SASPU executive :

UCT : Terence Moll (Vice-President)
 WITS : Karen Jonkelson
 Rhodes : Melanie Cullam
 Durban : Lee Schaefer
 PMB : Stefanie Sychalt
 : Annette Griessel (President)

Tribute to Barbara Hogan

This time last year in the midst of one of the largest waves of State repression against the democratic movement in our country, feelings of sadness and trepidation clouded the spirits of NUSAS congress.

Many of our friends and colleagues were in detention, and were forced to suffer the consequences of opposing apartheid.

In the light of the State's attempts to crush progressive opposition, including members of the white democratic community - we reaffirmed our commitment to actively participate in the struggle for justice.

During the past year we have come to understand more clearly the implications of detention. Months of solitary confinement, assault, torture and even death have become more real to us.

As the National Union is gathered here again, we are in many senses reunited. However, one person who is not with us, and who remains foremost in our minds, is Barbara Hogan, currently serving a 10-year jail sentence.

After 13 months in detention, she faced her trial with courage and undaunting determination. By convicting her, the State has found the strivings of a committed young South African, for freedom and justice, to be treasonable.

We should also note that Barbara, being the first white woman to be found guilty of treason in South Africa, will be forced to serve her sentence, isolated from other political prisoners.

Although Barbara has been convicted, we know her to be honourable, democratic, and of the highest integrity. We also know that she did not act out of personal gain or political advantage to herself, but in the interests of the majority of South Africans.

To all the people who know her, Barbara has always been a warm, friendly, and extremely intelligent person. Her primary interest was in the field of labour, and despite her numerous commitments and activities, she took a deep interest in those of us involved in student organisations, constantly offering support and advice.

Her clarity of thought and sensitivity provided her with a unique ability to condense highly complex issues, and make them accessible to students.

On this the final night of congress, it seems only appropriate to pay tribute to her. Barbara, friend and comrade, we salute you.

Applause.

Tribute to Neil Aggett

It is with deep sadness that we remember the death in detention of Neil Aggett on the 4th February, 1982.

Neil's contributions to the struggle for democracy were manifold. As Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union, he was dedicated to bettering the lives of many workers. But his far-sighted contributions in the labour field extended beyond one particular union. He was committed to the development of a strong and united trade union movement, and played a leading role in the unity talks held amongst various progressive unions in 1981 and 1982.

Neil's commitment to the people of S.A. did not end with his union work, which was voluntary and unpaid. He also worked night shifts in the casualty section of Baragwanath Hospital. Furthermore, he was instrumental in the formation of the Industrial Aid Society, which helps workers with problems arising out of inadequate social securities, injuries at the work-place and strikes and retrenchments.

His death in detention highlights the brutality of an apartheid regime, forced to resort to harsh repression to maintain a status quo rejected by the majority of South Africans. At the inquest which followed Neil's death, allegations were made of widespread torture of political detainees. Evidence was led stating that Neil himself had been subjected to repeated physical assault, sleep deprivation, and electric shocks.

Over the past year, Neil has come to stand as a symbol of those committed to non-racialism and democracy in S.A. He was amongst those prepared to surrender the privileges offered him by an exploitative system, and to work instead for a free and truly equal society. As white democrats then, the example set by Neil is particularly relevant for us.

The most meaningful tribute we can pay to him is to commit ourselves to the struggle for which he so tragically died.

1 minute's silence was held in tribute.

RESOLUTION 57/83

THAT THIS NSA invite the following people to serve as Honorary Vice-Presidents of NUSAS for 1983 :

Alex Boraine	Sheena Duncan
Dr Stuart Saunders	Jacky Kock
Sir Richard Luyt	Helen Joseph
Graeme Bloch	Eddie Webster
Mike Savage	Helen Suzman
Margret Nash	Phillip Tobias
Guy Burger	Geoff Budlender
Gerry Coovadia	Charles Nupen
George Sewpersadh	George Bizos
Archbishop Dennis Hurley	Archie Gumede
Dave Webster	Barbara Hogan

PROPOSED : Teague

SECONDED : Sampson

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Chair to Nathan

RESOLUTION 58/83

THAT THIS NSA invite Beyers Naude to serve as NUSAS Honorary President for 1983.

PROPOSED : Joffe

SECONDED : Taylor

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Nathan pointed out that being banned, Beyers Naude could not formally accept this invitation.

Joffe then made his closing address.

There has been a general cohesiveness of line at this congress and so I won't do that. I would just like to make a few personal observations. This has been the most productive congress I have come to - people have come to grips, to a large extent, with the problems facing the student movement. A lot of challenges have to be faced but I will leave the student movement feeling far more positive than in a long time. It is testimony to NUSAS that we have held together and ultimately come out with something that will go from strength to strength. The jargon that has come up illustrates the seriousness with which congress has come to grips with things. I want to now address myself to my co-workers in H.O. It has been a very productive and warm year and though we have had differences, we have been able to maintain a cohesive team. It has been fulfilling and educative working with them. I would also like to thank them for the contribution they made to the smooth running of the congress.

It's obvious there is sadness in leaving the student movement after 5 years but I come out feeling its been incredibly rewarding. This year's presidency has been rewarding but not easy with regard to getting to know people in depth. Hopefully I can catch up. I wish NUSAS strength and feel it will go forward with optimism.

Standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 58/83

THAT THIS NSA

NOTING (1) Jonty; Bruce; Di; Annette and Mike - otherwise known as "Head Office".

FURTHER NOTING (1) Their hysterical gigglings; short tempers and erratic behaviour.

AND BELIEVING (1) That this is either due to the "bite" of Durban humidity, or to their repressed relief at their pending "retirement".
 (2) That they have worked ceaselessly for NUSAS with a commitment that puts us all to shame.
 (3) That this can't have been easy, given our semantic quibblings and inability to concentrate on anything other than guerrilla theatre.
 (4) That the above is proved true by the continual necessity for "just a couple of announcements."

THEREFORE RESOLVES

- (1) To prevent them from sliding off onto the trash heap of history by naming them Honorary Life Members of NUSAS.
- (2) To convey to them our appreciation and admiration for their leadership and dedication by proclaiming them true children of Africa.

PROPOSED : Bekker

SECONDED : Cullen

Carried unanimously with a standing ovation

Cape Town bursts into a song of appreciation :
 (To the tune of black petit-bourgeois by Linton Kwesi Johnston)

Dem-a-side-witha workers when da going gets rough
 Dem-a-side-witha students whena army comes up
 Dem-ocracy, dem-organise, de-mobilise
 Dem-a-packin-ip-dem bags and-a-leaving us
 Dems a tired head-office
 Dems always trying-ta-please
 Dems-a-tired head office.....

RESOLUTION 59/83

THAT THIS NSA appoint Martin Wittenburg and David Shandler as scrutinizers of voting.

Carried unanimously

Joffe called for nominations for the position of NUSAS Secretary-General for 1983.

NOMINATED CHERRY

PROPOSED : Patta
SECONDED : Cullen

Cherry asked to leave the chamber.
 Cherry voted by secret ballot - standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 60/83

THAT THIS NSA elect Janet Cherry NUSAS general-secretary for 1983.

PROPOSED : Patta

SECONDED : Cullen

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Joffe called for nominations for the position of Media Officer for 1983.

NOMINATED FAFAK

PROPOSED : Teague
SECONDED : Lund

Fafak asked to leave the chamber.
 Fafak voted by secret ballot - standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 61/83

THAT THIS NSA elect Guilietta Fafak NUSAS media officer for 1983.

PROPOSED : Teague

SECONDED : Lund

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Joffe called for nominations for the position of NUSAS Research Officer for 1983.

NOMINATED MACUN

PROPOSED : Korber
SECONDED : Leveson

Macun asked to leave the chamber.
 Macun elected by secret ballot - standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 62/83

THAT THIS NSA elect Ian Macun NUSAS research officer for 1983.

PROPOSED : Korber

SECONDED : Leveson

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Joffe called for nominations for the position of NUSAS Projects Officer for 1983.

NOMINATED BEKKER

PROPOSED : Dove

SECONDED : Barry

Bekker asked to leave the chamber.

Bekker elected by secret ballot - standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 63/83

THAT THIS NSA elect Ruth Bekker NUSAS projects officer for 1983.

PROPOSED : Dove

SECONDED : Barry

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Joffe called for nominations for the position of NUSAS President for 1983.

NOMINATED PHILIP

PROPOSED : Vogelman

SECONDED : Richman

Philip asked to leave the chamber.

Philip elected by secret ballot - standing ovation.

RESOLUTION 64/83

THAT THIS NSA elect Kate Philip NUSAS President for 1983.

PROPOSED : Vogelman

SECONDED : Richman

Carried unanimously with acclaim

Philip in the chair.

Kate: I am deeply moved by the trust and confidence the National Union has in me and I assure you of my absolute commitment to fulfilling my role. I think that the broad direction we are going in is a correct one - we have a greater clarity and understanding. If we can implement this, we will be able to better mobilise, better organise and better educate. To give content to National Unity, we must address ourselves to the relationship between the stronger and weaker campuses. I would like to pay tribute to the last head office for their dedication, work and the very real role they've played in giving guidance and direction to the student movement. I would also like to pay tribute to Andrew Borraine. We pledge ourselves to the student movement.

Applause.

Congress then sang the National Anthem.

At 02h00 the 60th NUSAS Congress was declared closed.
