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# HANDS OFF THE UNIVERSITIES!

## HANDS OFF NUSAS!

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## I INTRODUCTION: GOVERNMENT ATTACK ON THE UNIVERSITIES!

### THE DECLARATION OF AN "ACADEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY"

P W Botha's threats to cut off State subsidies to the universities in his opening address to Parliament this year has been given substance in the Minister of Education, De Klerk's declaration of intent following his meeting with the heads of South African universities on 5 August, to attach conditions to the granting of State subsidy to the universities.

This, according to De Klerk, with a view to achieving the following principles:

- \* The uninterrupted and undisturbed tuition of any study by students;
- \* The functional, constructive and educationally responsible use of taxpayers' money;
- \* The application of effective measures to maintain good order and discipline;
- \* The maintenance of traditional academic values and standards.

Details of the conditions which will determine the granting and regulation of State subsidy to achieve these principles are of great concern to those committed to a university free from State interference. The following implications are implicit in the conditions:

- \* The complete banning of NUSAS from universities;
- \* "Good order and discipline" will, we know, be interpreted in the same authoritarian and repressive fashion which leads the Government to detain thousands, clamp down on Press freedom and use underhand smears and distortion to discredit its political opponents. It is safe to conjecture that police will be given a free reign on our campuses. Expulsion of troublemakers without fair trial will be the order of the day. Once expelled, students will not be allowed to study any further at any other South African university.
- \* "Responsible use of taxpayers' money" may well be interpreted as the universities orienting itself towards the Nationalist government in its research, political and academic activity. Socially relevant research, which exposes the negative effects of apartheid laws, may well be deemed "not in the national interests".
- \* The "prevention of political meetings" which in the Government's view "promote the public image or aims of banned or affected organisations" is a very broad and vague condition likely to stifle almost any political activity. Government propaganda paints almost any anti-apartheid activity as "furthering the revolutionary climate". Will this effectively ban a Dakar reportback or a debate on the Freedom Charter?

Clearly, the target of this attack is the critical and open academic and political climate on the campuses. The conditions prescribe to the Councils, the role of law enforcement agencies and provide for supervision and policing of the conditions. These conditions can only be interpreted as pressure to disallow almost any protest, political activity or legitimate student organisation. The disciplinary process is devoid of any due concern for accepted principles of justice, and legislates against sensitivity to the context of events, or a flexible response to explosive or divisive situations.

The history of the open universities and their quest for academic freedom is inextricably tied up with the history of NUSAS and its leaders. NUSAS is completely open and legal. No evidence has ever come to light which suggests otherwise, despite a protracted commission of enquiry in 1973. Yet these conditions render NUSAS and all its aims illegal.

## 2 BACKGROUND TO THE ATTACK : COUNTDOWN TO THE CRACKDOWN

A systematic campaign to undermine and discredit liberal universities in general and to destroy NUSAS and SANSCO in particular has been in evidence over the last year. In the last month this attack has reached fever pitch. The students and liberal community have been target constituents of this process to undermine NUSAS and SANSCO. We believe that the objective of this attack has been to lend the Government the moral legitimacy and space it needs to take action against students organisations at minimum political cost to it. At the same time, the Government would be able to force the universities into toeing their line.

At the same time we believe forces have been at work to divide students from students, academics and the administrations and the liberal public thereby isolating the progressive organisations, making them easy meat for State attack.

### 2.1 Invitation of Linda to speak at UCT (4 August)

The day after the Worrall incident at UCT, when conflict and tension was running high and the day before the universities scheduled meeting with De Klerk, the Moderate Student Movement (the NSF affiliate at Cape Town) invited Mayor Tom Linda to speak at UCT. In inviting Linda to speak, MSM had not followed the set procedures for the invitation of controversial speakers. The invitation of Linda, ex-community councillor in the Eastern Cape, exiled from his community and unpopular for his role in rent evictions, alleged corruption and involvement with vigilante squads, was a highly provocative action.

So much so that Dr Stuart Saunders, Principal at UCT, ordered the postponement of the meeting with the agreement of the MSM and the UCT SRC. Yet the MSM chose to ignore and broke this agreement by going ahead with this meeting.

When it became apparent that an incident might occur, a NUSAS executive member approached Linda directly and asked him to leave the venue on the grounds that the meeting had been banned and that an explosive situation had developed. He refused. Violence flared when he attempted to speak. This secured extensive coverage in the Press.

Saunders immediately banned all future campus meetings of the MSM which he said acted provocatively in not postponing the meeting as ordered by the University. This would be the case until the MSM responded with an explanation as to why it failed to comply with this order.

The UCT SRC "questioned the MSM's motives for deliberately disregarding the Admin's ruling" and asked why the MSM did not delay their meeting and go through agreed procedures. Perhaps the answer is quite simple. The MSM meeting was planned to occur on the eve of the VC's meeting with De Klerk, designed to provoke an incident which would invariably lead to an outcry in the liberal Press about freedom of speech and provide a perfect "foil" for De Klerk to take heavy steps against the VC's on the liberal campuses.

#### NSF Provocation

A commission of enquiry in 1985 under the auspices of the Wits Council into events on the Wits campus came to similar conclusions about the actions of their NSF affiliate the SMA:

"The suggestion that the SMA is an innocent victim of, rather than an active contributor to and indeed cause of, considerable campus conflict and tension seems to us to be a facile misrepresentation".

Notwithstanding the incident at UCT, a week later the NSF affiliate at Rhodes, contesting the referendum there, invited Linda to speak on the campus on an anti-NUSAS platform. It is safe to conjecture that their wish was that a similar incident would occur at Rhodes. Fortunately the meeting was postponed and only Rhodes students allowed to speak. (Also see Section 5.1).

## 2.2 Meeting of Minister of Education. F W de Klerk and the University Chairs of Council (5 August)

Following the Linda incident at UCT, De Klerk and high powered Government delegation met the Chairs of university councils and the Vice-Chancellors, in a climate of public condemnation of disruptions and campus violence.

The Minister appeared on SABC that night projecting that the meeting had reached "agreement" as to how the university situation should be dealt with. Events following this have put this "agreement" into doubt.

It was only following this meeting that the conditions for granting of subsidies were made known to the universities and leaked to the Press.

## 2.3 Letters sent to parents (7 August)

A "concerned academic" at Rhodes University sent anonymous letters to parents of students at the university, warning of their involvement on the campus in the End Conscription Campaign and NUSAS. The ECC said the move was typical of a systematic campaign to discredit ECC through underhand means. The letter blames NUSAS and ECC for bringing about detentions and fines. This is not the first time this has happened. At Pietermaritzburg the NSF surreptitiously sent letters to all students warning of NUSAS' extremist political stance and calling on them to vote for disaffiliation.

## 2.4 Disaffiliation campaigns (Rhodes & Pietermaritzburg (10-12 August)

On 10, 11 and 12 August, referenda were held at Pietermaritzburg and Rhodes Universities to determine if the SRC's should be affiliated to NUSAS. Fought on both campuses by the right wing National Students Federation (NSF), NUSAS won the referenda on both campuses with high polls recorded.

According to the book "The Super Afrikaners", the Broederbond isolated what it saw as NUSAS' soft under-belly as:

- (a) its reliance on overseas funding;
- (b) its policy of centre affiliation.

The first was dealt with through the declaration of NUSAS as an effected organisation following the Government-appointed Schlebusch Commission into NUSAS in 1973, thereby cutting off 90% of NUSAS' budget. To target the second "weakness" disaffiliation campaigns have been waged against NUSAS since 1976 at regular intervals. In 1978, Arthur McGivern, a student informer of the State intelligence-gathering network, BOSS, revealed that "Campus Independent" and the disaffiliation campaigns had been funded by BOSS. The "Info Scandal" of 1978 confirmed that the Government had ploughed thousands of rands into anti-NUSAS campaigns on all NUSAS campuses. The main content of the attack is NUSAS' policy of centre affiliation, focussing on the untrue and spurious allegation of compulsory membership and hiding the referendum's campaigns' true intention: To undermine NUSAS and thereby student opposition to apartheid.

The NSF attack focussed on the "extremist" politics of NUSAS, our alliance with SANSCO who they termed a "bunch of violent thugs" (one poster inviting students to attend a debate with community councillor Tom Linda, who was to speak on an anti-NUSAS platform at Rhodes, depicts a demonic-looking Black man labelled "SANSCO thug" wearing "Viva ANC", "Viva UDF" badges on a military-style beret and a necklace victim in the background), our

affiliation to the UDF, who they consistently smear as being a front for the ANC, and centre affiliation. Clearly, the NSF had hoped to win both campaigns, leaving NUSAS very weak and discredited as a nationally representative organisation.

## 2.5 The State exposed: Spy Danie Pretorius (12 August)

### Security Police on Campus

#### Case Study

#### Danie Pretorius

Age: 19  
 Active in NUSAS  
 Full-time member of the SP  
 Pay: R660 per month  
     All University fees paid  
     Travelling expenses  
     Medical Aid  
     Pension

Early in August, Daniel Pretorius, an active member of NUSAS exposed that he was working for the Security Police. This drew attention to the role that the Security Police play on campus.

#### (a) The Security Police : Undermining the Student Movement

DP was briefed by the SP that 8 000 smear pamphlets were to be distributed at UCT discrediting the SRC election process. The SP wanted DP's advice as to when would be the best time to distribute them. DP exposed his links with the SP in order to warn NUSAS about these pamphlets.

#### (b) The Security Police: Causing divisions

DP said that his specific brief in NUSAS was to provide information on any potential divisions or tensions between NUSAS and SANSCO on the campus that could be created or exacerbated. DP said that the SP saw the non-racial alliance as a powerful weapon on campus which needed to be undermined.

#### (c) The Security Police : Inciting Students

A UCT student has claimed in a sworn affidavit that Daniel Pretorius had urged students to throw stones at police vans during protests on the campuses in April 1987. As a result of this incident two students were shot with birdshot in the face. This allegation came as no surprise to student leaders and the administration, who have long suspected the presence of provocateurs on campus.

## 2.6 Smear Pamphlets (Distributed May-August)

Anonymous pamphlets which either smear NUSAS or are aimed at confusing students have appeared at regular intervals on the campuses (eg over 10 smear pamphlets have been circulated at Wits in the last 6 months). These pamphlets have varied from pornographic portrayals of various NUSAS leaders to pamphlets issued in NUSAS's name and aimed at dividing student organisations and the PFP.

It is particularly over the last month and in May over the election period that the smear pamphlets campaign has been at its height.

It is impossible for us to ascertain precisely who is responsible for these pamphlets. What we do know is that, whoever is responsible, has vast financial resources and the ability to distribute pamphlets nationally (see Appendix).

## 2.7 Campaign to undermine student organisations and the public image of the University in the Press (Over period 1987)

Systematic attacks on the universities have been waged in the Press either through editorial comment (Ken Owen for example) or in reviews - Financial Mail letters and advertisements, pronouncements on Network have all led to a negative and biased public viewing of the universities.

Two issues in particular have received attention:

### 2.7.1 The PFP Incident

NUSAS was incorrectly blamed for the PFP losing its status as the official opposition in the recent White elections. It was claimed that NUSAS called on students not to vote. This was not the case. NUSAS never called for a boycott of the election. NUSAS stated that voting was not the most important issue in the White elections and that students should decide whether to vote or not according to their conscience. The well publicised and co-ordinated claim to the contrary led to many an editorial and has done much to anger PFP supporters and to isolate NUSAS from potential sympathisers.

### 2.7.2 Campus protest

Reports about protests on campus are often biased and reflect student activity in a bad light. The image portrayed in the Press is one of campuses in almost constant turmoil with regular disruptions of lectures. This is far from the truth. NUSAS and SANSCO are invariably associated with these protests and the violence that accompanies them. This happens despite the fact that NUSAS repeatedly calls on students to remain peaceful during demonstration. Our task is often frustrated however by the overzealous action of the police and the presence of provocateurs in our ranks.

The Wits Commission of Enquiry into incidents between 1985 and 1986, led by Advocate Bizos, says in its report... "The incidents of disruption and confrontation which have occurred should in our view be seen in their appropriate context. First, in the context of a country which is being brought almost to standstill by opposing social forces in the determination of the majority to secure a new social order; secondly, in the context of an academic institution the normal activities of which were disrupted only on a very small number of days in the course of the whole year..."

#### 4 NUSAS'S OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID

##### 4.1 Why has the State launched an attack on NUSAS?

\* Not out of concern for freedom of speech of academic freedom

The State has never shown themselves to be concerned about either of these freedoms in the past. Academics and students have been detained and banned and books and articles have been banned. The Nationalist party has systematically destroyed the tradition of the liberal campuses by keeping tight control on who is taught and what may be taught.

\* Not out of concern for peace on campus

Agents of the State have often acted in a brutal and provocative manner on the campuses towards students involved in peaceful protests throughout the early 1980's without incident. Things changed with declaration of the State of Emergency and restrictions on reporting on police action. Police have jack-booted their way onto the campus with sjamboks, teargas and shotguns. There is absolutely no doubt that it is mainly due to police action that demonstrations have become violent.

\* Not out of concern for the correct use of taxpayers' money.

If the State was really concerned about efficient and effective use of taxpayers' money in the production of high quality research and degrees, then they have chosen the wrong university to pick on. The universities which have received the brunt of their attack - UCT and Wits, are the most prestigious universities in this country and, between them, produce more than half the country's total research.

##### 4.2 So why then does the State attack NUSAS

\* NUSAS keeps students informed and critical

NUSAS has a long history of keeping students informed of what is happening in the country. This task has been made especially difficult by the wall of silence that was erected by the declaration of the State of Emergency. As a result of this information generation after generation of students have been produced from NUSAS campuses who are critical of the Nationalists and the destructive course they are leading this country on. These students are willing to work actively for change. The State has tried often in the past to limit the effect NUSAS has by banning NUSAS publications and limiting NUSAS funds.

\* NUSAS co-ordinates action against apartheid

In a context where so many Whites feel impotent to contribute meaningfully to change, NUSAS provides a vital channel for protest, a national voice and direct involvement in the fight against apartheid. This year thousands of students under the banner of NUSAS and SANSCO voted for 1 person 1 vote showing their rejection of the racist elections. Last year 10 000 students voted for NUSAS to talk to the ANC expressing their desire for information about ANC and rejecting Government restrictions on their access to such information.

Such co-ordination clearly frustrated the Government's attempts to portray the White community as united behind their reform initiatives. Further, there is no doubt that the Government is dissatisfied about the limited impact of the State of Emergency on the campuses which have remained islands of dissent and protest in the face of a massive State clampdown.

\* NUSAS builds non-racialism on campus

Apartheid has divided students. White and Black students on campus come from very different backgrounds and vastly different experiences of South African reality. Invariably too they feel different levels of anger about the South African situation. It is within this context that NUSAS and SANSCO try to build non-racialism on campus. It is no easy task but is one which we have committed ourselves to. Over the past 7 years we have seen the power of non-racial student action on campus.

The State has realised the power of this non-racial alliance, and the vision of hope that it provides students and the community about the future and they have made frequent attempts to undermine this alliance as evidenced in spy, Danie Pretorius's confession.

\* NUSAS challenges the universities to change

NUSAS, since its inception in 1924, has played an active role within the universities, challenging racism and undemocratic practices.

In the 1980's NUSAS has especially focussed its attention on the relevance of the education we receive both for the African context and for a society which is in the process of change - (African Literature, Industrial Sociology, Community Health and Labour Law are all courses introduced after student pressure for a more appropriate education). Over the past two years NUSAS and other progressive organisations have made calls on the universities to democratise their structures so that the structures of power do not only reflect government and business interests.

As a result of these calls the university has become much more sensitive to the needs of the broader South African community.

4.3 Student action against State intrusion

NUSAS has never been popular with the Nationalist government. Throughout its history NUSAS has almost consistently gone against the grain of White politics. Reflecting the student opinion on the English campuses, NUSAS has rejected White minority rule and come to ally itself closely with the broad extra-parliamentary movement for change in South Africa.

Two of the largest campaigns NUSAS has ever run were about the intrusion of apartheid into the universities:

\* 1957-1959. NUSAS protested against Nationalist moves to legalise the segregation of universities. Despite the involvement of hundreds of students and extensive international support, the Government rail-roaded the Segregation Bill through Parliament in 1959.

\* 1983. Huge mass meetings were held on all the campuses by NUSAS to condemn a racial quota system of university admission which the Government tried to introduce.

NUSAS has paid a heavy price for its involvement in broader political issues. Over the 60 years of its existence, its leaders have been banned, detained, deported and generally harassed.



Now NUSAS faces its darkest hour. It is faced with State action that may effectively ban NUSAS on campus. But NUSAS deserves to survive, and it is in South-Africa's best interests that it does. But its survival is dependent on the support and resilience of students on campus.

We call on students to defend NUSAS in this time of crisis and to defend the universities against State intrusion.

## 5 OPPOSITION TO NUSAS

### 5.1 The NSF - Nationally co-ordinated campus oppositon

The NSF's stated objective is to "free campus from NUSAS". The NSF, a highly controversial organisation, is widely believed to be deliberately provocative and to divide students on campuses. They refuse to stand in SRC elections to test their campus support. Russel Crystal, past-President and founder of NSF said in an interview with the Star - "We have learned faster and faster that politics is a dirty business. We started off as gentlemen and now we have learned to operate on a more sophisticated level".

### 5.2 NSF invites controversial speakers

Besides the Linda example, other examples such as the invitation of Unita officials into the Wits campus, can be mentioned.

### 5.3 NSF provokes conflict on "sensitive" days

In the Wits Commission of Enquiry into the events of 14 May 1985, the report says: "The SMA frequently organised counter-meetings when the BSS had organised a meeting to commemorate some special or sensitive occasion. Moreover, ... members of the SMA set up tables and poster displays (including prominent displays of the South African flag) at points of vantage which are certain to be encountered by those who have attended the BSS meeting in question." Commenting on pamphlets produced for these occasions, the report questions... "the desirability of these pamphlets being displayed in a provocative manner which is designed to entice confrontation".

Commenting on the SMA members photographing campus events, the report says: "There is no question but that this constitutes flagrantly provocative and objectionable behaviour on the part of the SMA members concerned. It is widely believed on campus (and this belief is acknowledged by Wits Security) that members of the SMA have links with the Security Police or at least that they might make any material which they collect available to the Security Police".

### 5.4 NSF puts out pro-Government media

Since its inception the NSF has spent huge sums of money on "glossy" media, seen as Nationalist propaganda on campus. In 1984, the SMA was in the forefront of anti-UDF media attempting to link it to the ANC and the SACP. Much of the information used is widely believed to come from Intelligence sources. A Wits Commission of Enquiry into campus events between 1985 and 1986 notes: "...the sneering, at times even vituperative, tone of a pamphlet..." The Commission also notes the distribution "...at evidently high cost of elaborate tracts and pamphlets attacking as radicals all those who do not share its 'moderate views'. On the basis of patriotism, Government actions are supported and critics of the Government are divided. An instance is a pamphlet which casts the police actions at Sharpeville in 1960 in a sympathetic light".

The report continues: "The tendency of the attacks on the University and its university officers in much of the SMA literature strongly seems to echo harsh criticism of this University which is expressed in documents... from the SABC... The SMA seems to be deeply implicated in an assault on this University's public credibility...". The NSF has made use, on a number of occasions, of highly costly advertisements in commercial newspapers.

#### 5.5 The NSF has links with ultra-conservative student organisations internationally

At the Rhodes and Pietermaritzburg referenda, the NSF brought Marc Glendenning, past-President of the Federation of Conservative Students of Britain onto their platform. The FCS was suspended from the British Conservative Party in 1985 for its racism, far-right wing statements and 'rowdy behaviour'. The NSF has links with the US "College Republicans" - far to the right of the Republican Party in the US.

The FCS Training Manual, the 'Gordon Liddy Guide to Disrupting NUS Conference' urges supporters to pose as far-left students, start fights, bog down proceedings by making ceaseless points of order and using speeches to cause pandemonium - for instance, calling for the execution of Nelson Mandela or directly abusing the audience. Their ideals of a good political job done is to say something so calculatedly outrageous or distribute literature so obviously offensive and repulsive, that they will get thrown out of a meeting or barred from distributing literature.

In 1985, the NSF held the "Youth for Freedom" Conference, attended by 100 delegates from 35 countries, which set the NSF back R400 000 at least. Russel Crystal attended the "Jamba" conference in Angola, hosted by Unita, in the same year.

#### 5.6 The NSF has dubious connections

- \* In 1981 the Sunday Express revealed that the SMA used the Nationalist Party's official printers for their publications.
- \* In 1982 Crystal was seen by a detainee on the 10th floor of John Vorster Square.
- \* In 1985 Crystal told the Star "I don't deny I was there. I simply went to make a statement."
- \* The NSF, in July this year, held a conference at which Major Craig Williamson, ex-Security Police, was the keynote speaker.
- \* In 1982 letters from P W Botha, Koornhof and R F Botha supported an appeal for SMA financial support.
- \* In May 1987, Crystal was the campaign manager for National candidate and ex-spy, Craig Williamson, in the Bryanston Constituency.
- \* In 1980, the acting treasurer of the SMA (affiliate to NSF) appeared before a University Disciplinary Committee for threatening students with a loaded gun during a political meeting. Shortly thereafter he left Wits and joined the SAP.
- \* Lance Crystal, in 1980/81 when asked as a new SRC member to sign an affidavit, requested all SRC members not to involve themselves in espionage on campus and said..."I do not want to be held responsible for any patriotic urge that might occur during my term of office".

### 5.7 The NSF undermines the public image and authority of the University

\* In the Wits Commission of Enquiry into the 85/86 events, the findings included that "...there appears to be a concerted attack on the University and its principal officers which has received a disproportionate amount of publicity in the editorial, news and letter columns of newspapers and other media. The attack is echoed on campus in the activities and publications of the SMA about whose sources of funding there is some doubt. There is considerable doubt as to whether the SMA is 'broadly based campus organisation' as it claims to be and, indeed, as to whether it is a bona fide student organisation at all".

\* The SMA has, on occasion, refused to testify before University Commissions and refused to recognise the authority of the SRC. In November 1984, the Special Student Discipline Committee found members of the SMA, including its Chair (Russel Crystal, guilty of misconduct and deliberate defiance of SRC by-laws and fined them up to R500 each.

### 5.8 The NSF's sources of funding are unknown

The NSF's refusal to come clean on its funding sources has led to suspicion among students and embarrassment by the NSF. Right-wing student groupings are known to have been financed by Government agencies in the past, and in the book, "The Super Afrikaners", it is claimed that "...various student movements were financed by the Broederbond to counter the influence of NUSAS".

Some indications of the NSF expenditure, which includes its R18 000 a year offices in Bramfontein which it occupied in 1985, its Youth for Freedom Conference, estimated to cost R400 000, placement of advertisements in seven major newspapers in November 1984 at a cost of estimated R10 000, glossy media estimated in 1984 to have topped the R100 000 mark - and so on.

And the Wits Commission in 85/86 noted: "It seems evident that the SMA and its parent body NSF, are provided with lavish funding from anonymous sources for the attacks which they mount upon this University and its executive officers..... The presence of covert funding in campus organisations is a relatively recent memory. The possibility of its recurrence cannot be excluded. The NSF's refusal to disclose any information about its sources of funding gives credence to speculation along these lines."

### 5.9 The NSF tolerates racism in their organisation

\* The NSF claims to be anti-racist. But they have been associated with racist practices. At Wits this year a speaker at an SMA meeting assured the audience that..."one day Blacks till be people too". No SMA or NSF explanation was given although they organised and Chaired the meeting.

\* In 1981, the Secretary of the SMA resigned after having come under pressure over her relationship with an Indian student. Russel Crystal expressed his disapproval of the friendship, pointing out that the friend was "after all, a little sunburned". According to the Citizen Newspaper, Crystal allegedly told the Secretary that she was welcome to pop into the office any time "as long as you leave your dark-skinned friend behind".

\* The NSF has done nothing to show it is anti-racist. It has yet to act against apartheid; to condemn detention without trial, police action on the campus or the State of Emergency.

#### 5.10 Repression

NUSAS has faced detentions, bannings, magisterial orders restricting and banning legal and public meetings, State commissions of enquiry, smear tactics, such as fake pamphlets or dagga being planted in NUSAS leaders' offices and homes, police action on the campuses, infiltration, raiding of offices and homes and harassment of members.

The present threat against the universities, however, constitutes the most serious attack on NUSAS. If effected, NUSAS will be banned on the campuses.

State repression such as the banning of the "National United Action Campaign" meeting of NUSAS, SANSCO and YCS late last year or the 4 May banning of the protest meeting which Winnie Mandela was to address, only act to heighten tension on campus.



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NUSAS STATEMENT : 8 AUGUST 1987

NUSAS believes that the Government ultimatum to universities to "get their house in order" is motivated by clear intent to put a stop to political activities in the universities. Under the State of Emergency the Government is determined to close off all avenues of discussion, debate and information within the White community so that they can continue on their course of creating their barbed wire wall of alliance between Whites and Blacks in this country.

NUSAS will fight any attempts to close off free discussion and debate in the universities. We will not soften our resolve to join forces with our fellow Black student organisation, SANSCO, in protecting our right to organise and to free expression. We will not stop our students from their right to peaceful protest. How can we make informed and responsible decisions about our futures if we are to buckle down to undemocratic measures imposed by an undemocratic government?

Our universities must address the challenges of a changing South Africa. It must address the needs of all South African people, thereby contributing towards the building of a peaceful, democratic future for all.

The possible imposition of repressive legislation - the usual Government response - must be opposed by all who believe that South Africa's answers do not lie in steel fluted measures.



NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS 2 Rhodes Van 438 Main Rd, Observatory, 7929, Tel: 4728 79

NUSAS STATEMENT : 12 AUGUST 1987

In referenda with generated intense debate and discussions held over the last two days, students at both Pietermaritzburg and Rhodes universities, voted in favour of SRC affiliation to NUSAS.

NUSAS, with 5 affiliated SRC's and 3 groupings organised on other campuses, is now the strongest it has been since 1969 when Black students left NUSAS.

At a time when the Government has thrown down a blanket of silence over the White community and is attempting to clamp down on the universities' and student opposition to apartheid, the support shown for NUSAS must come as a step in the face for the Government and a victory for all who believe in a non-racial and democratic future.

The NUSAS victories confirm that any attempts to suppress NUSAS amounts to the suppression of the legitimate concerns and the democratic will of South African students on NUSAS campuses.

MUSAS STATEMENT ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY June 12th 1977

MUSAS WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE A WARNING TO  
P W BOYHA AND HIS NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT

HANDS OFF OUR UNIVERSITIES!

With the imminent reposition of the State of Emergency, we fear that the autonomy of the University to learn and to teach, already hampered by years of apartheid legislation, may be permanently abridged.

P W Boyha's recent threats against the Institution as a whole and students in particular can only be construed as the Government pushing the universities over the edge into the darkness of total suppression of academic freedom.

We are not surprised, however, that the Government is scared by the display of non-racial unity on our campuses. Recent events have shown that students have entered a new era; the University has become the melting pot of two polarised communities and, for many students, it is the first time they have come into contact with and had insights into the "other" reality. Non-racialism is being built in the classrooms and centers, discussion is flowing in our student meetings and action is being taken to protest injustices of an illegitimate government.

International examples, Nazi Germany as one, show the dangers of suffocating the academic spirit and the responsible questioning of a university community which wishes to freely discuss and debate, through the pursuit of knowledge and truth, the course of the society of which it is a part. This is the motto for the University. All who cherish the search for justice and freedom must stand against the reposition of the emergency. All must stand up for the University's right to exist free from Government interference and the right to speak out.

The State of Emergency has aimed to maintain control through repression and propaganda. But far from taking South Africa along the road to liberty and social justice, the State of Emergency has further polarised the communities from which our students come. It has angered the black community and struck fear into the hearts of white South Africans. Under the protective mantle of state violence and propaganda, the Government seeks to force undemocratic and racist laws down our throats. Democrats, however, have shown that they will not allow their spirit nor their organisations to be crushed this easily. P W Boyha's threats against the universities will not remove the concerns of students and academics. We will continue our search for solutions and our campaign for democratic education in a democratic SA.

We condemn the continued detention of staff and students - some of whom have been in detention for the full year of the emergency - of trade unionists, children and community organisers.

We demand the right to organise and to engage in the political process in SA.

We demand the right to freedom of association and expression. We demand the right to decide what should be taught and how and to whom this should be taught.

How can we allow genuine and legitimate concerns of the University community to be stifled while the government leads South Africa into civil war?

How can we allow our universities and schools to be tools in the hands of apartheid?

We insist that we be allowed to investigate and take action to determine how our education can be used to develop South Africa and to transform it into a just and democratic society.

We appeal to all democratic people to stand up and defend the universities and our organisations - TO DEMAND:

Hands off COSSATU

Hands off the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Hands off the SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STUDENTS CONGRESS

Hands off the NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS

# NUSAS

Also available in Afrikaans

## FACTS

About the National Union

### What NUSAS offers you

**National Contact**  
A strong National Union gives students a powerful forum for national united responses to the concerns and interests of South African students. National campaigns such as the 'One Person One Vote' campaign or last year's 'NUSAS Talks to the ANC' campaign have provided students with organised and effective national responses to important issues.

Years of experience put the student government through the collective and representative SRC's in the sphere of representation and benefits has resulted in a huge pool of resources and skills which are passed on from one generation of student leaders to the next by NUSAS. These resources and skills have resulted in important victories for students such as the protests against the Quota Bill of 1983 or the precedent at Wits of full student voting rights in Senate. Benefits such as SASTS, NUSAS Swathin Scheme and discounts are

products of the energies of South African students under the banner of NUSAS.

Regular national contact is ensured through the quarterly National Councils and the annual NUSAS congress. NUSAS Head Office is responsible for national gatherings such as the annual Harberg and July Festival and, through their travelling office, bears facilitates the flow of information around the country. The ideas and information generated through the national contact is essential to the growth and strength of student government.

**Action Against Apartheid**  
NUSAS has a proud history of opposition to apartheid and in the context where so often we feel impotent to contribute meaningfully to change, NUSAS provides a vital channel for protest, a national voice and direct involvement in the fight against apartheid. Now more than ever before, when many are responsible and informed students.

Continued on p2

**SUPPORT THE NATIONAL UNION**

decisions about your future. And NUSAS political debate adds an important dimension to the normal education you receive in the university.

NUSAS's history of opposition to apartheid and the governments attacks on NUSAS make it vital that all South African students rally behind NUSAS. The determination and banning of NUSAS leaders, the establishment of right wing groupings with the expressed intention of NUSAS disaffiliation campaign, the declaration of NUSAS as an affected organisation thereby cutting off NUSAS funding, have all been attempts to stop the organised opposition to apartheid that NUSAS provides.

Strong relations with other groups

The National Union makes it possible for white students to act alongside thousands of black students through our working alliance with SANSKO and with the black community through our contact with UDF and COSATU. In this way NUSAS is breaking the barrier which divides and tears our country apart.

NUSAS's commitment to and practice of non-racism alongside SANSKO is a beacon of hope for students on all South African universities, black and white. For example in response to the May 6 elections the joint NUSAS/SANSKO campaign saw 10 000 students join hands in protesting against the racist election and 14 000 students and staff nationally supporting the principle One Person One Vote in a Uninary South Africa. In this way students can join forces with one another and the majority of South Africans in acting for peaceful change.



more attention to redressing the inequalities in the university—such as the numbers of black students, lack of student or community representation on Senate and Council on research priorities, course content and so on—and in orienting itself politically and socially not to the needs of the white minority, but towards the black majority. In this way, the NUSAS Health Centre offering their services to the community in the necessary contribution to resolving the crisis in education and in South Africa as a whole.

As a national democratic South African organisation we are positioned to give direct contributions to the university and Africa of the future. We have coordinated shared organisational addressing practical skills tutoring SC faculty organisations. Six NUSAS Health Centre offering their services to the community in the necessary contribution to resolving the crisis in education and in South Africa as a whole.

**STAY AND CONTRIBUTE, NUSAS!**





7:3 LETTER BY V.C  
ON SMEAR PAMPHLETS

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

TO ALL STUDENTS

Two pamphlets of unknown origin have recently been distributed on campus. The one pamphlet purports to have been issued by a student organization, but the group denies this and has dissociated itself from the publication.

It seems that these pamphlets have been issued with the intention to discredit some student organizations; the nature of the pamphlets and the country-wide method of their distribution suggest that the persons responsible for them command resources beyond those normally available to student organizations. I cannot believe that they have been issued by NUSAS or by representatives of Wits students.

It is possible that further attempts to discredit certain student organizations will take place. Students should not allow themselves to be influenced by these pamphlets and should be circumspect in their interpretation of what is proposed in them. The persons responsible for them do not have the interests of students or of the country at heart.

The matter has been reported to the police and anyone who can throw light on the origin of these pamphlets should please inform Wits Security without delay.



D J du Plessis  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

24 February 1983

# NUSAS AND THE ANC 5 Good Reasons Why NUSAS Should Not Meet With The ANC

The NUSAS sponsored SAC's have launched a campaign to legitimize planned talks with the ANC. We challenge NUSAS to justify its planned visit in the light of the following facts -

1. NUSAS's policy of compulsory membership means that they will be speaking on the behalf of the majority of English-speaking students whether they like it or not.
2. NUSAS will at the very least be lending credibility to the ANC and its allies by its proposed visit on the behalf of its constituent members.
3. The organization which NUSAS proposes to meet is engaged in an ongoing terror war which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of South Africans.
4. NUSAS will be meeting with an organization closely aligned with and largely led by the South African Communist Party.
5. The ANC which NUSAS plans to hold talks with is mainly funded by the Soviet Union and the communist bloc.

NUSAS has no right to represent South African students who have no choice in whether or not they are members. In a meeting with a terror organization which has brought nothing but death and suffering to many South Africans under the false promise of liberation and freedom.

We call on students to reject the proposed NUSAS talks.

Edited by THE NATIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION Student Movement Alliance (NSA) Student Action Front - SNAF Student Movement (SMT) The views and opinions expressed do not pertain to those of the SAC or Councils of the above universities.

## Reasonable or Treasonable

**Army Service**  
"The conscription now SADF out" These and many other slogans are being bandied around campus and other places. Even words like desert which were considered treasonous have become virtually inoffensive in certain circles - even bravely.

The reaction on the right to these words becomes hysterical - such pressure which words and the cacophony, from both sides, comes such an unharmonious din that a rational sober-minded appraisal is often impossible.

**Equality**  
South Africa is a country where we have grown up where we have received our education where we live where we work where we socialize and harmonize - the country where our children will be raised. Our loyalty to our country should be above all else. It should be not only our attitude but also our actions. It is not only reprehensible but treasonous to have an affiliation on the other hand are the democratic ideals of even today. Anyone working for the good of the country can only be praised if they are sincere but a destruction of law and order by violence and subversion never brings harmony. In fact a reaction which class always emerges - refer George Orwell's Animal Farm - if animals equal but some more equal than others.

**Gratitude**  
South Africa as our motherland has given us life and all that we have for this we must show our gratitude. Further there must be certain institutions which are part of the social fabric of the country which are necessary for the well-being of the people. They are essential, practical and are really for the benefit of all.

**Questions**  
Is it not logical that a defence force is such an institution? It would be naive in the world in

which we live to suggest that a country should not have a defence force to protect the country as a whole. Without detaching the question of politics it is obvious that South Africa's borders are threatened and while solutions are being worked out, the borders must be protected. Should such an obligation not devolve on all citizens so that they can in turn when defending what they have strengthen our defence?

Or a question closer to home - do the parents' brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, not deserve to be protected? Can we demand of others to do so while we do not? Terrorism etc. is all well to be abhorred academically, until it is our families, the families of those who are injured or killed, the families of those who are imprisoned or who are being tortured, if they feel they should not be a defence force to protect the country or freedom fighters should be allowed to express themselves.

**Dialogue**  
There are many people who talk about taking sides and professing to be neutral. It is not for their stand where in fact they are taking their feet on a slippery slope of compromise and confusion. But a dialogue service is a way of serving one's country and getting to know one's fellow citizens. Different people have different backgrounds and ways of life. We must learn to understand each other and to be sound and sincere in what we say. It then finds common purpose and direction - a that detriments to the common good.

In the operations of life where the chips are down blacks and whites - it should be no but their lives on the line for each other. The example of understanding between groups in the SA should be a starting point for all citizens rather than be dismissed. To take up the cause of one group whether black or white at the expense of the other would be immoral. To appreciate the developments that have eventuated and to encourage them, even though they have been initiated by a party which is not one's own requires maturity and honesty.



# SHARPEVILLE — TIME FOR REASSESSMENT

This year will represent the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville tragedy, a regrettable event in South Africa's history. However that this event has been manipulated to produce anti-NA propaganda is a tragedy in itself.

The radical left will predictably view an about the fact that trigger happy policemen gunned down as many unarmed blacks as possible, who were peacefully protesting about the pass laws. This distorted picture of events cannot be seen in isolation.

To get Sharpeville seen perspective, one has to go back to the murder of SA policeman that took place at Case Measur - a steady state was Durban on January 25, 1960. Here some policemen, (five white and four black), were brutally beaten to death by a crowd of blacks armed with pipes and knives.

A crowd was present that was not out to beat and arrest stateless persons. On looking closer, the police was quickly surrounded by a crowd that was demanding their release. Underestimating the location of the crowd, the police refused. The crowd started shouting in type of war cry and in the confusion one of the police stood as a witness. He is seen a crowd which provoked a direct reaction in the crowd. The police were rapidly surrounded by a howling mob whose subject was ended by others pouring out of the station armed with weapons.

With the mob now shouting "let the police, let the police", the police bunched together and attempted to fight their way out and escape. One policeman was killed. One policeman was killed, though he had not been hit by a single pipe that was even his partner could recognize him.

In the light of the above, the story of Sharpeville takes on a different perspective. The police at Sharpeville had priority to hear what the majority of Case Measur still lives in their minds. They had the crowd surrounding the police station forgotten Case Measur. The men on duty were not ordinary policemen, but trained in riot control.

Orders were to gather around the police station for eight hours at 1.30pm. Armed loads were being changed by police, but their attempts proved to be fruitless in dispersing the mob during the night. In fact an attempted escape attempt.

By midnight the following morning the tear-gas used and the resulting crowd had grown to 17 000. Two officers were shot and one died. The crowd was still in the area but failed to disperse then.

Tensions were high and police were being hit with stones and bricks for 24 hours. Although Colonel Passer and his officers repeatedly warned their men not to fire their weapons unless so commanded, the mob was so loud that instructions could not be heard properly, even in short bursts.

At 1.30pm after attempting to arrest a shot policeman, the crowd rushed the police barracks throwing rocks and shouting "Case Measur, Case Measur". What followed was not a military massacre but a police reaction to an unprovoked police which left 69 killed and 180 injured.

The majority afterwards found that the initial shooting is self defence, given the circumstances, was justified, but not to the extent to which it had taken place. These shootings occurred at the time that the police had judged in good faith, but were too young and inexperienced to handle the crisis that faced them.

While we condemn in the strongest terms the killing of those who were shot while attempting to flee the shooting, critics of the police action should consider what they would have done had they stood in the shoes of the Sharpeville police on that fateful day 25 years ago.

The United Democratic Front is, as left-wing organizations go, a relative babe-in-arms!!

After all South Africa is still enemy territory in terms of the imperialist ideology of the Soviet Union (unlike Poland, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Cuba, etc., etc.)

To be a Frontist organization in these circumstances requires subtlety. Yet subtlety is precisely what was lacking when the U.D.F. publicly observed a minute's silence at a recent week-end meeting following the death of former K.G.B. chief and Soviet head of state, Yuri Andropov.

"The U.D.F. is a front of over 600 organizations, and shows the depth of opposition to apartheid in whatever form".

(Note Philip Nuzo President interviewed in the SASDU Focus Vol 3 No 1)

## U.D.F. — a "Front" for Who?

Edited by the Student Movement Alliance (NSA) Student Action Front - SNAF Student Movement (SMT) The views and opinions expressed do not pertain to those of the SAC or Councils of the above universities.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONTIST

STAB THE HAND OF  
COMMUNISM  
1987



"BE A SHIT  
KILL THE SHIT"



DEATH'S  
HEAD  
UNIT



WHITE IS RIGHT

BE A SHIT...



Vote IN THE  
SEPTIC RECIUM COLLECTIVE  
ELECTIONS

© 1987 BY SHAF (STUDENT HANDS AGAINST FASCISM)

OLD SMEAR PAMPHLET

# NUSAS NEWS

What is NUSAS?

NUSAS is a group of students who travel around the country having a good time. They hold meetings they give speeches and they claim to represent the oppressed majority. It all sounds very grand.

How important is NUSAS to white students? That's a difficult question because it seems that NUSAS does very little for the average student. They do a lot of representative work for the opposition party and for various self appointed political groups. They have a very impressive bank balance and whether you like it or not you are helping to keep them financially well-off. White SAC gives a pile of money to NUSAS every year. Where do you think that money comes from? Simple, it is taken from part of your fees. Nobody tells you this. I wonder why? Perhaps you don't want to give NUSAS any money. Why don't you do something about it.

The biggest joke of all is the fact that NUSAS claims to be a democratic student organisation. I have been at Wits for three years and I never voted for a NUSAS representative. I have never agreed that part of my fees be given to NUSAS. I have never seen a report issued by NUSAS stating what they have done with my money. Maybe Stalin taught NUSAS about democracy and they have picked up some of his bad habits.

If I were you I would do something about it. Why not write to the university and ask them why they give part of your fees to NUSAS without your permission.

Issued by the Democratic Student's Committee.

OLD SMEAR PAMPHLET

# CAMPUS NEWS

Distributed to all NUSAS Affiliated Campuses Free of Charge

## Introduction

This year, 1983 is destined to be one of the most significant years in the entire history of the student movement in South Africa.

Students of NUSAS - affiliated campuses around the country will play a crucial role, in alliance with their brothers and sisters in the Liberation Movement, in achieving new milestones in the struggle for the freedom of the Black masses against white tyranny, fascism and oppression.

Even now, the Black liberation army of



Len Philip is the army general of the

Umkhonto we Sizwe is achieving new successes in the struggle against the fascist S.A.D.P. The brilliant success of the attack against Koeberg Nuclear Power Station during December 1982 echoes the earlier attack against BARC, which as with the Koeberg attack,

struck at the heart of the fascist military/industrial complex.

This edition will examine some of the issues confronting students and will pose entirely new questions, the correct answers to which will demand entirely new levels of commitment to the struggle from individual students.

The struggle continues on all fronts. The most important front is that of the military struggle, but no less significant are the struggles being waged in the spheres of labour, sport, the universities themselves, and many others. The possibilities and opportunities for significant contributions by individuals expand constantly.

**1983**  
Year of Unity  
in Action

Welcome to Wits...



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NUSAS!!





SOMEWHERE IN THE UNION..



NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENT MODERATE ALLIANCE  
(Affiliated to the National Student Federation)



# Open Letter To All South Africans

Contrary to popular belief it is not NUSAS which presents a COMMUNIST threat to South Africa, it is the pseudo-liberal morality of the average white South African (well represented by organizations such as the ProgSoc and the Liberal Association).

Yes, strange as it may seem to those who have been reared in the Western view, the weak protagonist on the brink of moral collapse is not COMMUNISM, it is liberalism. Sociologists have pointed out that the praxis of liberal economy is plagued with a crippling contradiction. On the one hand liberalism is rooted in the egalitarian creed and postulates the equality of economic agents, on the other hand, the liberal economy, through the freedom of enterprise, never stops generating inequalities. In the long run, this contradiction becomes unbearable for the majority of citizens because it fuels and frustrates simultaneously the egalitarian passion. As a result, socialism, especially in its totalitarian communist form, is increasingly being perceived as the way of "solving" this contradiction because it does not hesitate to take the steps necessary to fulfill the egalitarian desiderata.

This should not be interpreted as a suggestion that the Western/Westernized masses will suddenly turn communist. But it does mean that the will to resist communism is being seriously impaired, especially when this requires a costly and dangerous effort. In times of enduring economic crisis, chronic unemployment, dropping standards of living and political instability, communism may soon appear as a lesser evil, especially when, at the same time, Soviet society has grown in strength and self confidence to such an extent that it can accept a softening of its institutions without renouncing its ideological principles.

Seen from such a perspective COMMUNISM, far from being the antithesis of liberalism, is its logical conclusion. Hence the choice offered to South Africans between two opposed super-powers, while being very real in military terms, is a false ideological alternative between two universalisms moving slowly towards one another and tending to crush or absorb any legitimate struggle, such as the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa.

Don't be fooled by false liberal philosophy.

FORWARD TO MAJORITY RULE      ONE PEOPLE ONE COUNTRY!  
 ONE PERSON ONE VOTE      VIVA TAMBO VIVA MANDELA!

**NUSAS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**  
 (FAKE 1987)

# BEWARE! LIBERALS

**SNEAK AROUND  
DISGUISED AS  
HUMANS!**



We are deeply disturbed by the participation of the liberals/progressives in the undemocratic general election.

What of the unrepresented masses?

issued by:

**NUSAS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

(FAKE: 1987)

## SALUTATIONS! HEROES OF DAKAR

**NUSAS/SANSCO APPLAUDES AND EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR HEROIC DAKAR DELEGATES!**

- They have shown that it is a time for action, not for the double talk that we all know so well.
- History has been made by the 50 member team which, although chiefly comprising white afrikaners, are united in their condemnation of the illegal apartheid regime and unanimous in their support for the true and legitimate government of South Africa.
- A friendly atmosphere was experienced for four days whilst the group became acquainted with the ANC's goals and strategies FIRST HAND — a small step for Frederick but a giant step for South Africa!!!

**WE TOO SUPPORT A NON-RACIAL DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA WHERE LEADERS ARE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, EACH ONE WITH AN EQUAL VOTE!!!**

**ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE**

**ONE NATION, ONE COUNTRY**

(FAKE 1987)

Issued by: NUSAS/SANSCO

### PLEASE ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

NUSAS will publicise but will not fund any election campaign which is interpreted by many. This misinterpretation resulted in many concerned citizens abstaining from voting, not wishing to be involved in an "illegal" election. The reason for this misinterpretation lies with NUSAS' refusal of the illegality of the election, and their failure to specify that the "illegality" should be noted by the voters, but should not prevent them from voting. The NUSAS campaign was therefore a result of the fall of the PFP and the friends of NUSAS as the official opposition, the making of an ultra right wing opposition.



Don't let this happen again...  
 The time has come to take a stand against extra-parliamentary groups that reject participation in reformist constitutional structures.  
 Vote for participation...

Vote for GARY COONEY on Ward 25 on 19 August

(FAKE 1987)

FRIENDS OF PFP

## JOINT NUSAS - SANSCO STATEMENT

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED ORGANISATIONS, REPRESENTATIVES AND INDIVIDUAL REJECT THE THREAT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, F W DE KLERK, TO IMPOSE A NUMBER OF RESTRICTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES AND THE STUDENT ORGANISATIONS NUSAS AND SANSCO, THROUGH PLACING CONDITIONS ON THE GRANTING OF SUBSIDIES TO THE UNIVERSITIES.

### WE RE-AFFIRM:

- 1 THE RIGHT OF THE UNIVERSITIES TO DETERMINE, INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE, THE MOST APPROPRIATE DIRECTION FOR THEMSELVES.
- 2 THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS AND STAFF TO DEBATE THEIR SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE OPENLY. THE UNIVERSITY'S CONCERNS CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE BROADER SOCIETY.
- 3 THE RIGHT OF NUSAS AND SANSCO, THE ORGANISATIONS MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED, TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES AROUND ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE STUDENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

### WE BELIEVE:

THAT THE UNIVERSITIES HAVE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH INCIDENTS AND EVENTS AND THAT ATTEMPTS TO DICTATE SOLUTIONS TO THEM CAN ONLY PROVOKE GREATER CONFLICT.

WE THEREFORE CONDEMN IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE UNIVERSITIES!

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO ACTING FIRMLY TO PREVENT ENCROACHMENTS ON THE ABOVEMENTIONED RIGHTS.

SIGNED:

26 August 1987

HOW SANSCO VIEWS DE KLERK'S REGULATIONS

SANSCO notes with great concern the current state attacks on universities. Coming after a period when the state has attacked our organisations in Bush Campuses, it seems as if the state is gearing itself to do likewise in the liberal campuses. Under the guise of empty slogans like "Academic Freedom", the new regulations proposed by De Klerk seem to us to want to destroy precisely that which it seeks to uphold viz high academic standards.

In a systematic campaign originating from dubious quarters, attempts have been made to portray liberal universities as universities which are controlled and manipulated by a small radical group whose only intention is to destroy the university. In such attacks SANSCO and NUSAS have been implicated as being part of such activities.

In response to these slanderous claims, we would firstly like to dismiss as ridiculous any suggestions claiming that these universities are hotbeds of chaos and tyranny.

If this is in fact the case then those making such a claim need to explain why it is that a high percentage of students continue to graduate and by international standards a high academic standard is maintained in universities such as Wits and UCT.

SANSCO and NUSAS have consistently struggled for the creation of a non-racial, democratic South Africa in which the human potential of all South Africans will be realised. We believe that the universities have got an important role to play in this process to ensure that the education that they receive is relevant for developing the needs of a South Africa we envisage. We have attempted in many situations in breaking down barriers that exist between students of different social backgrounds which are caused by the apartheid system.

Given this we believe that those who have tried to portray the university to be that which is not, have done so not in the interests of academic freedom or the correct usage of tax payer's money, but because of their wish to maintain a political system which is inherently unjust and unconducive for a free flow of ideas.

To ensure the further development and survival of the university we believe we have to continue to move along our chosen path. We cannot allow ourselves to be derailed by those who stand in the way of the creation of a democratic South Africa as this, we believe, will lead to our ultimate detriment of not only the university but to the people of South Africa as a whole.

Thank you.



LIST OF ENDORSEES: JOINT NUSAS-SANSCO STATEMENT

South African Council of Churches (SACC)

Detainees Parent Support Committee (DPSC)

Black Sash

United Democratic Front (UDF)

National Education Crisis (NECC)

South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS)

End Conscription Campaign (ECC)

Progressive Federal Party (PFP) Youth

Young Christian Students

Beyers Naudé, Honorary NUSAS President

Nadine Gordimer, Author and Vice-President Friends of NUSAS (FONS)

Sheena Duncan, Honorary Vice-President NUSAS

Sir Richard Luyt, President (FONS)

South African Youth Congress (SAYCO)

## END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (WITS)

### PRESS STATEMENT

The end conscription campaign (ECC) sees the attempt by the Nationalist Party, under the auspices of the Minister of Education's recommendation, to suppress freedom of speech and the activities of NUSAS in a very serious light.

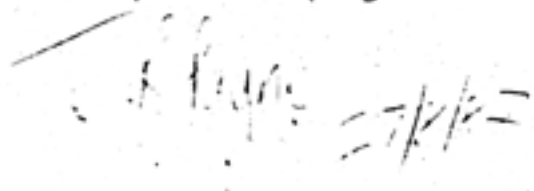
We support NUSAS in its fight to continue to exist and its work for a democratic alternative in South Africa. The ECC considers NUSAS to be one of our strongest and most supportive member organisations and this is especially true of our five ECC campus branches who have enjoyed the support of NUSAS for several years.

ECC, who enjoys the support of a large number of students and organisations on the campuses, regards de Klerk's recommendations as a strategy by the Nationalist Party to clamp down on all student activity that questions the escalating civil war conflict in our society, and works to build a non-racial, democratic and peaceful alternative.

We as ECC pledge our support to NUSAS and stand by them in their attempts to prevent de Klerk's recommendations becoming a reality.

ECC reaffirms its right along with NUSAS and SANSCO to expose the realities of an apartheid civil war in our country and to build, as a university community, the desire for peace and justice in our land.

Wits End Conscription Campaign.

A handwritten signature, possibly "S. ...", followed by the date "27/1/78".



# OASSA

ORGANISATION FOR APPROPRIATE SOCIAL SERVICES  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

P O Box 34, Wits, 2050

6th Floor  
Jenner Chambers  
189 Jeppe Street  
Johannesburg  
2001  
Tel 23-4714

The Organisation for Appropriate Social Services in South Africa (OASSA) - a national organisation of socially concerned psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers is deeply concerned about recent government statements regarding the universities. Any attempt to restrict the critical input of students and academics will further erode academic freedom and intensify the anger and conflict that plagues our land. The contribution of NUSAS and SANSCO are essential to the building of a new South Africa. Students in these organisations will inherit South Africa's future, and should be given the opportunity to contribute to it. It is unfortunate and sad that protest and criticism are now seen as privileges rather than rights in South Africa.

The threat to cut subsidies, while if implemented may prove effective in the short-term, the long-term consequences are enormous. The outflow of health professionals to other countries is beginning to take its toll on the quality of health care. Subsidy cuts lead to poorer training, the effects of which will be to further lower the standard of mental health care in South Africa. This at a time when the incidence of psychological difficulties is increasing, will only serve to exacerbate South Africa's problems.

We therefore pledge our support to those organisations who are at the forefront in resisting the government's new attempts at furthering their control of their universities.

STATEMENT ISSUED BY:

- C Vogel

LLOYD VOSELMAN (OASSA CHAIR) 716-2407 (W)