

THE FUTURE OF THE UDF

PREAMBLE

In the absence of a legal ANC, the UDF fulfilled the functions of a visible national political leadership and national coordination of mass campaigns. Changing circumstances as a result of repression caused the UDF to evolve a sectoral approach giving rise to the formation of national youth, student, education and other organisations.

The consistent struggles of our people forced the apartheid regime to unban the ANC and SACP; this has directed the UDF to rediscuss its role and character. It is evident that while the ANC is in the process of re-establishing itself legally, mass campaigns and struggles must be deepened. Mass organisation must culminate in national sectoral formations that must simultaneously be built with the mass based ANC.

This workshop therefor recommends the following for discussions:

1. THE FUTURE OF THE UDF

- 1.1 The UDF must continue to exist and function
- 1.2 The period until December should be considered a TRANSITIONAL period during which the political and organisational changes which takes place will TRANSFORM the UDF;
- 1.3 This process must be regularly reviewed, taking into account:
 - a. the prevailing political conditions, in particular the BALANCE OF FORCES
 - b. the extent to which the pre-conditions in the HARARE DECLARATION have been met
 - c. the dangers of repression;
- 1.4 Three processes of transformation were suggested:
 - a. the UDF is transformed as it grows, campaigns advance and sectors broadens
 - b. the creation of a structured MDM formation
 - c. broadening and transformation to a PATRIOTIC FRONT.

2. THE ROLE OF THE UDF

- 2.1 The UDF shall not play the role of political vanguard - this was now the role of the ANC;
- 2.2 The UDF should perform the following tasks:
 - a. coordination of activities of mass formations\ sectors
 - b. facilitate the building of ANC and SACP structures
 - c. strengthening and building the sectoral formations
 - d. conducting campaigns in consultation with the ANC.

3. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UDF AND THE ANC

3.1 Building ANC branches:

- a. all UDF structures should actively in the building of branches
- b. intensify propoganda on ANC
- c. street committees to act as sites of recruitment for ANC
- d. all mass formations to engage in a door-to-door education campaign on policies, etc of the ANC

3.2 Consultation and Co-operation

There must be careful consultation and close cooperation between the UDF and the ANC on the following matters:

- a. the choice of regional and local convenors of the ANC
- b. where UDF activists are given responsibilities in ANC structures, they should where possible retain UDF positions. If this is not possible the UDF region\affiliate may appoint/ellect an alternate
- c. programmes for sectors by the ANC should be formulated in consultation with the sector concerned.

4. JOINT STRUCTURES

4.1 Joint structures of UDF, ANC, Cosatu and SACP should be formed at national, regional and local level.

4.2 These structures will facilitate:

- a. consultation
- b. joint planning
- c. coordination of activities among these structures.

4.3 The idea of "LOCALS" at an area level where all sectors are represented was also suggested.

5. MASS FORMATIONS

5.1 A number of questions arose in relation to the position of mass formations:

- a. how is a mass organisation\formation defined?
- b. what then is a political formation? the difference?
- c. do the current mass formations have a mass constituency on the ground.

5.2 The role of mass formations in the democratic South Africa must be discussed.