

TO: RANWEDZI HARRY NENGWEKHULU -

MEMORANDUM ON B.P.C. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

The fifth congress of the Black People's Convention of Azania, held at Durban on the 28-30 January 1977 appointed a commission to look into:-

- (a) the need to project B.P.C. home policy outlook more effectively abroad as well as to project its policy on foreign and international matters more broadly to its audience at home.
- (b) the need for B.P.C. to take a positive view to the growing numbers of supporters of the Black Consciousness movement who find themselves refugees in foreign countries away from home as a result of the present political situation in South Africa.

The commission based its recommendations on the following premise which had previously been spelt out by B.P.C. already:-

That B.P.C. sees itself as a movement that purports to voice the true political aspirations of the oppressed people in South Africa at all times, and that it seeks to foster a sense of national belonging into the black community and a hope for a better future, in spite of the current efforts by the enemy to accelerate its nefarious divisionist programme of the bantustamisation of our motherland. B.P.C. seeks to operate as an overt political movement that the masses of the oppressed people in this country can readily rally around.

To facilitate the execution of the work of the external affairs secretariat, a director-general of external affairs would be appointed to be in charge of all external work, and responsible to the Secretary for External Affairs. The director shall in turn appoint staff and establish offices in all the regions of Africa, as well as the major capitals of the world.

Their function would be to develop and maintain support and working relationships with governments and other organisations, and bodies working for change in South Africa. It would be important to project the B.P.C. policy of positive neutrality towards such bodies.

In addition the director-general would be responsible for the welfare of refugees of the black consciousness movement in foreign..

The other major reason why we decided on the establishment of an external office was the growing need to present and clarify our political outlook and ideology regarding the liberation struggle in South Africa and Southern Africa as a whole.

We realized that many people did not have a clear grasp of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa and the role that it is playing in its quest to create Azania. Thus in this article we will provide a short expose of our philosophy and policies.

Thus the external office will be responsible for the distribution of all information material on the Black Consciousness Movement.

Perhaps it should be clarified that although the decision to establish an external office was taken by the Black People's Convention, the office however, will cater for the whole Black Consciousness Movement simply because we belong to one harmonious family. But it was only logical that BPC should establish the external office because it is the mother body and also a political organization.

#### THE MEANING OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS

The concept of Black Consciousness implies an awareness and pride in their blackness by Black people and implies that Black people should and must appreciate their value as human beings.

Black Consciousness also means that Black people should be aware of the significance and importance of their own value systems, i.e. their socio-economic, political and cultural values. Implied in this appreciation of their value systems is the need to reject those foreign alien value systems which were forced down Black people's throats as part of the oppressor's logic of maintaining and perpetuating its brutal system of exploitation and emasculation.

Thus the essence of this search for our indigenous value system is the need to redefine ourselves and our value systems which are today engulfed in the foreign and alien exploitative and oppressive values which have been imposed upon us, both physically and psychologically, by our oppressors in order to make us malleable to subjugation. The challenge of Black Consciousness for any Black man in South Africa today is the need for a new and incisive redefinition, reidentification and reappraisal of the Black totality in the context of a capitalist, racist and exploitative South Africa, presided over by a self-appointed white minority acting as the missionary of international capitalism and finance capital.

development of a future prosperous Azania; B.P.C. wishes to encourage its supporters who are refugees and exiles as a matter of urgency, studies in various important fields like engineering (of all types), electronics, telecommunications, geology, agri-cultural sciences, aviation and navigation, mechanics and other key technical activities. To ensure this, the director general would need to establish an extensive scholarship program and clinch agreements with certain countries for such training opportunities to be made available.

People undergoing training on scholarships under this program would be expected to see themselves at all time as belonging to a united family unit which would continue to be loyal to B.P.C. even when they qualify. They would not be permitted to go on their own to pursue independent careers without the official sanction of the B.P.C. The office of the director-general, in collaboration with the secretariat for external affairs would lay down conditions under which our students would be offered training.

With regard to other South African political movements operating in the international form, notably the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress and the Unity Movement of South Africa, B.P.C. wishes to point out that according to a decision which was taken by the fourth congress at Kingwilliamstown in December 1977, we fully recognise the existence of these bodies, but we however are not involved in whatever projects they pursue; B.P.C. would like to assume positive neutrality towards them and would only appreciate positively what good work they do that is not in conflict with our own principles and beliefs. B.P.C. would emphasise that under no circumstances should there be any feelings of animosity fostered between its ranks externally and any of the other organisations referred above.

Having made the recommendations which have been elaborated upon in this documents, the following resolutions was taken by congress:

R3/77: This congress noting:

- I. - the direct necessity for projection of the B.P.C. policy outlook, internally and externally in a more meaningful manner.
- II. the growing number of members and supporters of the black consciousness movement who find themselves refugees and exiles in foreign countries, as a result of the political situation in South Africa.

Resolves:

to establish an External Affairs Secretariat lead by the Secretary for External Affairs, who in turn shall be responsible for the establishment of the External Affairs Directorate in the hands of the Director-General, appointed by the national executive committee whose duties shall be, inter alia:-

1. to establish an information and foreign public relations service.
2. to handle all programmes of the welfare of the black consciousness movement refugees.

Congress adopted the recommendations put to it by the External Affairs Commission as they were with a few details added, and those have been accommodated in this memorandum. The necessary constitution changes to enable these recommendations to be effected were made by congress.

Thamsanqa Robert Zani was subsequently elected Secretary for External Affairs. As it was the first instance that B.P.C. would appoint a Director-General for External Affairs, it was felt that congress should make the appointment; and that all future appointments for this position shall be made by the executive committee as reflected in the resolution quoted above. Congress elected Ra Harry Nengwekhulu to take the responsibility of this post. He will be responsible to the National executive committee of B.P.C. as the Secretary for External Affairs.

The full executive is as follows:

President - Hlaku Kenneth Rachidi,

Vice President - Rev. Drake Tsenkeng

Secretary-General - Thandisizwe Mazibuko

Publicity-Secretary - Thamsanqa Zani

Secretary for Education - Zinjiva Winston Nkondo

Secretary for Labour Affairs - Thamsanqa Robert Zani

Secretary for Sport, Recreation, culture and Religion -

Vuyisile Mdleleni;

Secretary for Economics, Finance and Trade - Pwter Cyril Jones.

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Secretary for Urban and Rural Development -- Rev. Smangaliso  
Patrick Mkhatswa

In addition congress appointed an honorary president whose term office shall be five years. To this position, congress elected Bantu Stephen Biko. He shall be regarded as titular head of the movement with advisory capacity.

Signed.....

THAMI ZANI.

PUBLICITY AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY.