

JOINT MEETING OF NWC/PMC.

09. 09. 1988; 9:00 hours.

PRESENT: S.S., S.DL, T. MONG, J.SEL, JN, TM, CH, JS, ST, T.NK, J.J, HM, JACQ.M,
J.MAKH, JM, P.MAY, R.S.,.

IN THE

CHAIR : T.NK. explained the agenda.

S.T. tabled reports.

a) Meetings: i) ANC/MDM/Religious leaders.

ii) ANC/UDF.

JS.: Had received a communication he had to respond to from a party unit which had influence in COSATU and UDF. Read from a letter which expressed anxiety lest the proposed Anti-Apartheid Conference might send confused signals on the eve of L.A. elections. Some White groups were set to vote while a call had gone out to Blacks to boycott. Agreed to proceed with the meeting with information in mind.

CHAIRMAN: Read the Agenda.

J.M. proposed amendment: Meeting should consider state of organisational preparedness in Forward Areas. R.S. asked if meeting of 27th September could be fitted on agenda. It was agreed that the main discussion on restructuring in the Forward Areas would be held in IPC first, but the meeting would briefly address question of Structures in the Forward Areas.

P. MAY. proposed that the meeting should first clarify itself on the issue of the ALL-IN Conference.

JS. supported concept of Conference. It would be necessary to get Conference to focus on the main issue. The main voice coming from such a Conference should be a united call on the Elections.

J.J. said it had been agreed that the opposition in the Bantustans could attend the Conference. Opposition to the idea was not general, e.g. There was a strong feeling that Inyandza should participate, hence the request that the ANC and COSATU should meet to help settle question of participation.

T.M. said that it was not possible to separate the 2 issues: to build an Anti-Apartheid front and to mobilise against the Elections. The main focus should be a broad front programme and the march towards an alternative democratic non-racial South Africa.

J.MAKE. The two issues are related and the call for free and fair elections had been put on agenda of the day by the Namibian developments.

C.H. Agreed that the Conference would be an important landmark. The regime was working hard to realise the elections, relying on stooges and moderate leaders who had begun to rear their heads. Contingency plans post elections would have to be discussed and this would involve refining tactics. The Govt. would seek to impose its will whatever outcome of elections. How would we go forward?

S.DL. Necessary to attend to creation of internal bases, e.g. in enterprises, etc. mobilise and international opinion.

2/R.S. confirmed...

R.S. confirmed that internally there was a mood that the ALL-IN Conference is linked to the realisation of a democratic South Africa. The Alexandra Civics had come forward to participate in elections while the Youth had expressed determination to deal with collaborators.

C.H. Has the idea of Protest Days been considered?

J.J. The question had been considered in the Pretoria and Western Cape areas. The MDM/COSATU were preparing to consult on the issue.

J.M. The Conference represents an attempt to unify the people. There are contradictions, but we need to know the positions in detail and the specific roles of participants, e.g. Bantustan groups, including Inkatha.

C.H. Is there a core spearheading the Conference? How far are we prepared to compromise in favour of unity? And what of the prospects continuity?

SDL. The Inkatha was a creation of Gatsha and could not be changed.

J.S. The law of the elections had nothing to do with Gatsha's and Bantustans.

J.J. The question of Inkatha had not come forward, but other less extreme forces had been invited. In terms of continuation it was necessary to set up a Continuation Committee, and to formulate a Declaration and a Programme of Action to clarify "Way Forward".

P.MAY. "Workerist" tendencies seemed to be strong in COSATU. International campaigning should be considered as part of attempts to pre-empt possible banning of the Conference, and messages ought to be invited.

After some further discussion it was agreed that T.M. would formulate the themes of Conference and a Declaration, etc.

ANC/UDF MEETING.

JS. expressed misgiving about the decision of the joint meeting apparently to reverse part of the decision which was a "total boycott" stand. The C. Party had already gone to the people on that basis and the propaganda in the country called for total boycott. We had to be clear why this stand was correct in the circumstances. If up to May last year it would have been unrealistic to call for a total boycott, why a different approach now? The LA elections were the "building block" of an ethnic solution. Our approach to the issues should not be influenced primarily by the interests of the Whites. We had to tell the whole of South Africa that the LA elections were a fraud. The churches had taken a clear stand and the Movement could not afford to blunt the issue. Even though we might lose in relation to the Whites that was not important weighed against the issues facing us. But we should not be seen to be in conflict with UDF.

Followed discussion in which P. MAY; C.H., J.N., T.M., J.J., S.T., J.M. participated and it was agreed to accept JS's approach that we should have an unequivocal stand (on boycott), and while rejecting vacillating positions, would not come out attacking the UDF. It was agreed to meet the COSATU. On the question of a call to the go

People it was observed that a call had already been issued, but since the civics and UDF had proposed a call, it was agreed that the IPC would look into the matter.

Discussion followed on the situation on the Forward Areas. It was pointed out that machineries could not exist there as in the past and the time had arrived for the RPMC to move inside while only servicing machineries would be retained in Forward Areas. The Secretariat (PMC) would meet to spell out practical steps to implement the decision and report to NWC in a week.

It was agreed to mount military actions, and a special effort would be made to target polling booths before elections in order to send appropriate signals. Noted that the mood internally was in favour of military actions.

It was agreed to raise necessary funding with an but to exercise circumspection in application of funding.

CHAIRMAN thanked members for their attention and closed meeting at 12:30 hours.

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