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REPORT ON DAC AND ANC-BOP REGION

BACKGROUND

The meeting was called on the basis that the DAC was mandated by the Anti-Bop Campaign Conference to continue engaging Sun International in negotiations. The DAC wanted to brief and consult with relevant structures in the Bop area.

INTRODUCTION

(a) Attendance

The following Branches were invited to the meeting:

MAFIKENG ANC

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GA-RANKUWA ANC ATTENTION OF: 5 - O KDT N R-O

TAUNG FROM: W DATE: Vt 30% let 3

COMPANY: RN C.-

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MABOPANE

DAC CO-ORDINATORS : PWV; W.TVL; N. CAPE

(b) Apologies

MAFIKENG, MAREF, PHOKENG/TLHABANE did not attend nor send apologies. TAUNG indicated that they would not attend.

(c) Objective

The objective of the meeting was to consult with ANC branches in Bop. Two delegates from branches were invited. The invitation was turned down by the ODI-MORETELE Civics on the basis that they were directly affected by the Bop issue and should, as a rule, be involved in the matter at decision making level with the ANC.

The meeting was characterised by lengthy, unconstructive discussions about whether the meeting could proceed as planned or terminate in view of the fact that a previous meeting had not mandated it.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions covered the following areas:

1. Sun International and DAC agreements
2. An opera to be staged at Sun City in July.

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3. Establishment of local arts and culture infrastructure

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Cde Wally Serote led the discussions. He gave the background to the establishment of the DAC Negotiations Commission to engage various apartheid cultural structures and big business concerns. Sun International has been engaged as a big business in negotiations with the DAC for the past 20 months. Among agreements reached so far was that Sun International had to play a prominent role in pressurising the Bop government to stop repression and show a firm commitment towards the emergence of free political activity and democracy in the Bop region.

Furthermore the DSAC undertook to explore artistic and cultural avenues which would create political space while establishing democratic culture and seeking to create the basis for the empowerment of people in the region.

Some delegates raised objections about the meeting at Morula Sun, saying that meeting Sun International in their territory would confuse and disadvantage the anti-Bop delegates and was therefore supposed to have been held at a neutral venue.

On the question of why the DAC engaged Sun International, it was explained that besides attempting to drive a wedge between Sun International and the Bop regime, the DAC envisaged Sun International as a potential partner in the creation of free political space, the infusion of the spirit of democracy in the region as well as the eventual re-intergration of the bantustan to South Africa through its massive resources. These resources could be an asset in the establishment of democratic cultural structures together with training and upgrading programmes for the empowerment of people in various parts of the region.

The ODI-MORETELE delegation, comprising mostly civic association members decided at their zonai meeting not to allow the DAC meeting to proceed as planned and that agreements be suspended until they resolved how to engage the Bop regime. it was claimed that their decision was informed by:

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the fact that the people represented by the delegation did not differentiate between Sun International and Bop.

the fact that the continuing staging of cultural activities, like the Dingaan Thobela fight, at Sun City caused confusion among the rank and file people of the region.

the fact that any agreements about Bop which excluded rank and file opinion would be problematic.

After it was pointed out that the continuation of DAC/Sun International negotiations had been mandated by the ABCC held in May 1993 at Wits, it was agreed that, if implemented, agreements between DAC and Sun International could complement rather than undermine the political struggle in Bophuthatswana.

It also became apparent that branch representatives did not report the ABCC deliberations to their constituencies for discussion, nor were arts and culture perceived as serious issues. It was then agreed that the recommended that delegated familiarise themselves with the DAC policy and ANC/Sun International agreement be studied with the aim of relating them to the context of the political struggle in the region. Regarding the opera that will be performing at Sun City in July, it was agreed that, through their regions, ANC branches had to submit suggestions to the DAC about the continuation of negotiations with Sun International. Conditions and agreements on performances at Sun City also had to be revisited and artists performing in Bophuthatswana had to be compelled to make public statements about the dire need for peace, goodwill and democracy in South Africa, with particular reference to Bophuthatswana repression.

#### GUIDELINES

The following guidelines were agreed upon:

1. Agreements between the DAC and Sun International had to be sustained and further avenues of engagement be explored by the DAC.

The DAC engagement of Sun International had to be continued.

The negotiation engagement with Sun International had to

continue with the objective of isolating the Bop regime.

4. The negotiations had to focus beyond re-incorporation of Bop to South Africa at the eventual establishment of a democratic arts and culture dispensation for the whole of South Africa.

It is with these guidelines in mind that the DAC will continue exploring the possibilities of Sun International contribution to artistic and cultural advancement in South Africa.

#### WAY FORWARD

Delegates to the meeting agreed that zonal and branch representatives had to return to their constituencies to report and explain the resolutions adopted by the ABCC on May 29, 1993.

A follow-up meeting was planned for July 10 in order to give representatives, particularly of the PWV region enough opportunity to discuss the issue.

As a response to the ODI-MORETELE concern about holding meetings in Sun International territory, it was agreed that future meetings would be held at neutral venues.

The ODI-MORETELE zone had to meet the ABCC co-ordinators for the clarification of some issues which arose at the May conference.

Negotiations with Sun International had to continue subject to guidelines adopted in May.

Local and regional ANC structures had to establish cultural desks and councils to act as a link between the people of the Bop region and DAC. The next meeting would table the issue of the establishment of cultural infrastructures in the region.