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MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE N'ASK FORCE TO LOOK

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INTO THE PROBLEMS AND OPERATIONS OF THE ALBERT LUTHULI

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MEMORIAL TRUST FUND, HELD AT NO. 19 KINGSWAY ROAD, 1KOY1

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ON TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1991

Present .. ' \_

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(1) Dr'. A. Anam - Director-General (POL.) Chairman

(2) P. S. Eromobor - Ministry of External Affairs Member

(3) J. A. Ashimolowo - Ministry of External Affairs " 4,

(H) M. M. Durnan - Australian High Commission V " k

(5) G. Nene - Chief Representative (ANC) "

(6) M. Skomolo - Luthuli Memorial Trust "

(7) E. Urhobo - Ag. Executive Secretary (SARF) "

(8) G. Ukubeyinje. , - SARF

(9) S. A. Ladan ' - Fed. inspectorate Of Education "

(10) Mrs. C. 'o: Fagbayi - BACAA (FME) "

(11) Mrs. J. N. Okogbue - BACAA (FME) "

Absent

'(1) DG Special Services Office

In Attendance 1"

(1) S. D. Pam - Political Affairs Office (Presidency),Secretai;)7

Introduction .

1. The inaugural meeting commenced at 10.27 a.m. with the Director-Generbl (Political) presiding).- He welcomed all membe;s t6 the meeting, and stated thatw the main assignment given to the Task Force was to look into the operations and problems of the Albert Luthuli Memorial Trust Fund (LMTF). This he added, was due to the incessant reports received by the Presidency which, if not checked, might have some national and international implications for Nigeria vis-a-vis the Nigerian/African National Congress (ANC) relationship. He then called oh the ANC Chief Representative to give an overview on the LMTF so as to enable members have a clear knowledge of the organisation.

2:: In his response, WE briefed the members on the Luthuli Fund after a few preliminary observations. According to him, it ; all started with the exalating violence caused by the Apartheid regime in South Africa last year. As a result of the violence, most youth had deserted schools and had gone into exile in the neighbouring Frontline States of

Zambia, Tanzania and Angola.

Thus in August 1990, the ANC Secretary for Education, when on-a visit to Nigeria, held discussions with the then Director-General (Political) and . out the details with the Southern African Relief Fund (SARF) and the Federal Ministry of Education (FME).

4. Subsequently, a team, drawn from the SARF and FME went to Tanzania, Zambia and Angola to assess the students. About 579 were found suitable. It was about this point in time that the LMTF with its Headquarters in London came into focus. The Trust Fund according to Mr. Nene, had been given some cash donation by the Australian Government through 'Austcare (a non-governmental organization from Australia) for the education of ANC students. It was with part of this donation that the LMTF was set up in .1.

. Nigeria about mid-February, 1990. Thus an office was set up with a Co-ordinator, Councillor and a Chief Accountant and a few supportive staff (clerks, messengers, drivers) etc. Meanwhile, according to him, government was aware of the Fund and he had written to the MEA for its registration. . . The ANC Chief adged that, he had since received a feedback from MEA that his request was being looked into. He added that the ANC had to come in to assist the programme because of the staff running the programme were not sufficient. He announced to the meeting that Mr. R. S'belinge who was the acting Co-ordinator had been replaced by Mys. M. Skomolo who had just resumed duty. 'He informed the meeting that out of the 579 that were to be placed in Nigerian schools, only 1460 had arrived. And an of this number were under SARF sponsorship while the rest were on the LMTF sponsorship. xf/

At the time of this meeting, he said, only about 39 students who were yet to go ,to school due to one reason or the other, but that arrangement had been made to get evening lessons for most of them whose admission had been deferred till the next academic session.

commence in January, 1991.

Her problem, she said, started in February,  
when at 2.00 a.m.

Mr. 5'

Hence she single-handedly had to  
run-up and down to enable the students to gain entry into Nigeria.  
this incident and a few others

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lack of adequate care etc. from the Luthuli Foundation and  
in particular from Mr. S'belinge,

7. After a lengthy discussion of the issues raised  
, the Chairman identified

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the critical issues and problem areas which the Task  
Force should look into.  
These included: . .

(a)  
(b)  
Reception of the 200 students at the airport; . , ' r  
Arrangements for transportation of the students;  
(c) Accommodation arrangement;  
f  
(d)  
Placement of students in the various educational institutions;  
(e) Operation of the LMTF;  
(f)  
Administrative style of the former Co-  
, were naturally t  
feeling so since the apartheid regime had relaxed the law on exile returnees h  
He agreed however that a few others who were St!" recalcitrant and wish to  
go home had their problem referred to the ANC Headquarters for their repa-  
10.  
the new Co-ordinator, things had begun to take shape as some of the students  
had begun to comment that "they now have a mother". She however opined  
that the LMTF should give the new Co-ordinator a proper chance to run the  
Fund and also provide her with more funds to run the

11. The Chairman again opened the floor to other members to ask questions, pass observations and comments on what had been said by the SARF and ANC/LMTF. A member from MEA suggested that with the problems facing LMTF, the government should have a permanent representative in the Fund. This according to him would stem in future, such problems of administrative lapses, Illegality etc. which the Fund had found itself. Another member in 191? according to him, was not good enough.

12. In his response, the Chairman informed the meeting that these issues would be tackled along with others when the Task Force had worked out a methodology for the assignment. He then requested members to give their suggestions on the procedure(s) to be adopted: by the Task Force in doing the assignment. At this juncture, the member from the Australian High Commission requested to withdraw from the Task Force as she had little or nothing to contribute on the internal working of LMTF. She however

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confirmed that the government of her country had pledged the sum of Australian Dollars 1.9 m to the ANC (LMTF) for the education of South

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assured the Task Force that she would be willing to supply it with any needed Africans. The grant was for a period of 3 years, she added. She also information during the sittings. The Chairman thanked her for honouring Txu-q

At that point, the ANC representative was allowed to withdraw from the Task Force.

13. On the modalities for carrying out the assignment, the meeting agreed that the terms of reference should be to:

(i) look into the problem of LMTF --V

(ii) look into the operations of the Fund and

(iii) make recommendations which would streamline the working relations

? between the government/or its agencies and the LMTF.

The ANC Chief Representative expressed fears on the assignment of the Taskforce. He wondered if the Task Force was set up on a permanent basis to monitor the affairs of the Fund. The Chairman once more allayed his fears by explaining to him that the purpose of the Task Force was

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 11. Before rising for the day,  
 the members agreed as follows:  
 (i) that Mr. R. S'belinge the former Ag. Co-ordinator be invited  
 27th  
 June, 1991, 1  
 (ii) that the ANC/LMTF FME MEA should bring along any documents  
 that would be useful to the Task Force, these include:-  
 (a) LMTF Charter  
 (b) Letters/correspondences on the L1V1TF, and  
 (c) Minutes of meetings on the subject matter.  
 (iii) that the ANC should bring the details of all financial statements;  
 (iv) that the ANC should bring an up-to-date numbers of students  
 present in Nigeria (this should include those already in school  
 and those not yet placed) and  
 (v) any other information that would help the Task Force in its  
 assignment;  
 (vi)  
 that the Task Force would hold the next meeting on Wednesday,  
 26th June, 1991 at 10.00 a.m. in the same venue.  
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 Mr gNene also informed the members that he would be travelli  
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 South Africa the following morning for an important ANC meeting and that  
 Mys. Skomolo, the new Co-ordinator of LMTF would continue with the  
 Task Force.  
 16. The meeting rose at 2.00 p.m.  
 Political Affairs Office,  
 The Presidency,  
 Tafawa Balewa Square,  
 Lagos .  
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