

MMQIPi Chin ithBC

E BOULDER

LUSAKA - HERE WE COVE

.n air of Euphoria,
dominates discussions,
community. The reason for this is
Neraere 3

excitement and expectat ion hangs heavy over
Lusaka, the capital of Zarbia. It is not difficult to imagine what
both among the ANC members and the Zambian
leaders of the ANC to Lusaka.
the visit by the released

Con'rades Waiter Sisuiu, Armed Kathrada, Andrew Miangem', Raymond
Mhiaba, Oscar Mpetha, Wilton Mkwayi, Govan Mbeki, Harry Gwaia and
Elias Motsoaledi landed at Lusaka on January 15th, 1990 (Monday).

This visit to Lusaka has been
prompted by the desire of our
.eeders - both internal and
external - to consult ehout the
situation inside our country.
Events inside our country are
moving with hreath-tating speed.
The atmosphere is pregnant with
expectations. Central to these
events is the prospect of the
release of cde Nelson Mandela.
It is being speculated that he may
be released even sooner than xe
think. Press reports quote Cde
linnie as saying, liter meeting
her husband, that the release viii
be soon.

This then throws up a lot of
questions - the most important
being: liil the release of Cde
Nelson handela be accompanied by
the unbanning of the ARC and other
organizations? Can this act be
regarded as a statement of intent
on the part of the De Xlerk
government?

he Kiert is expected to make a
major policy statement when he
opens Parlianent eerly February.
Is he going to hold steadfastly
'These - and many more -
to the same positions that seek
to preserve and protect the
apartheid system - albeit in a
different form?

are the
questions which all of us are
asking. And these are the issues
which till occupy the minds of our
lenders us they sit to discuss,
and project into the future.
lhet is certxin is thlt the no-
lentul of our struggle lust be
Ieintxined end escziated.
This is not the fine to relex the
pressure but on the contrary, to
intensify it.

VISITSE'VISITS! VISITS! VISITS!

MEETING WITH ABOP

IUBCND

sciuaol

usually deal

is one of four teachers'

religious and includes teachers,

administrative staff.

matters. Other teacher's

with union Hatters only.

unions

trade unions are religiously based,

ABOP is affiliated to the FNV - the

Federation of Dutch Trade Unions.

the cleaning staff at school,

ABOP addresses both professional and union

in the Netherlands. ABOP is non-

union

and they

The Malibongwe delegation consisted of representatives from the

Australian Women's League and

Education, and a

The discussion began with the

Malibongwe delegation giving a

broad overview of the South

African education system. The

following points were highlighted

- education for black children is of an extremely low standard.

- there is a serious shortage of facilities (teachers, texts, money, schools, etc.)

- some of the most powerful struggles in the country revolved around the issue of education. The role of the state in using Bantu Education to maintain a subservient black labour force was discussed.

- that there are nineteen education departments in the country. it is therefore extremely expensive to provide the sub-standard, gutter education of the state.

from the

AaerZ EDEKDEithJTNBth caf:

representative from a community women's organisation, who is also a teacher.

The Dutch people listened in astonishment as we explained the reality of the South African education system. As teachers and products of the Dutch education system they too expressed much dissatisfaction, but readily pointed out that our demands and problems could not be compared with their minor problems.

Some of the problems expressed by A30? was the creation of an intellectual elite by the grammar school system. Grammar schools (ie schools for "brighter" children) were accessible only to the wealthy. Most students went to comprehensive schools and a vocational schools for special training.

As a union, ABOP has suffered

badiy. The first strike, called to protest a wage cut, backfired on the strikers. Teachers had to go back to work with a greater salary cut. Although the Dutch government spends much money on education, ABOP pointed out that they need fundamental changes to both the content and structure of the education system.

The discussion ended with a call for the delegation to the people of ABOP, to play their role in the isolation of South Africa. He pointed out the fallacy of reform, and the need for increased economic sanctions of South Africa. It was also pointed out that ABOP could assist by monitoring detainees and maintaining a link with educational developments in South Africa.

There was an assurance from ABOP that they would do whatever they could to assist in the struggle against apartheid.

MEETING WITH DUTCH JURIDICAL GROUP

The meeting between South African women and the women from the Dutch Juridical Women's Centre was

enriching

illuminating for both parties. The

Malibongwe delegation consisted of four women representing a broad spectrum of South African life. The Dutch Juridical Women's Centre consisted of four lawyers and one social worker, all women. Their clients are all women.

While it was agreed that there

were a few comparable features in

the social and legal status of

Dutch and South African women, the

disparity was far more abundant

and startling. The women from the

Centre pointed out that Dutch

women too are victims of rape,

domestic violence, discrimination

at the work place and of a

strongly patriarchal society.

However, pressure groups which

have access to effective re-

sources, a cooperative media and

some support within state

structures, have managed to impact

on this situation to some extent.

For example, the TV and other

forms of media have played an

important role in exposing child

abuse and sexual violence and this

has encouraged women to reveal

their own stories. The Dutch

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Government also makes notable

provision for the protection of

abused mothers and children and

the victims are usually guaranteed

financial assistance from the

state. The concept of a legal

group to deal only with women's

problems is a good one and has

proved to be effective in drawing

out women who would otherwise be

afraid.

The Dutch women were visibly

shocked when they heard of the

social conditions in which South

African women find themselves. Of

course, the SA social and legal

status of women is intrinsically

bound with the political

repression and oppression within

the country. The poverty and total

disempowerment of the Black

population is doubled in the case

of women. The state offers no

protection for Black children and

women who are abused. Instead the

state reinforces the conditions

which lead to such abuse. As far

as rape is concerned, the law

chooses to protect the accused

rather than the victim, believing

that the rape of a Black woman is

of no real significance.

In 1957 the Dutch women managed to

pressurize the government to

restrict the laws that called for

the husband's permission before a

woman entered any contract. In

South Africa this practice still

persists. Clearly, the Dutch women

have better legal protection than South African women. However, the social status of Dutch women too remains inferior and it is a battle that they continuously fight.

VLST TO INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

During the week of visits one of the groups Malibongwe delegates met with wweas

(ILIS).

lesbians working at the International

- Peru, Taiwan, Surinam, Italy and Dutch women.

The women spoke about their aims and objectives in uniting as lesbians and the lesbian movement in different countries. In Peru, similarly to South Africa, homosexuality is illegal and lesbians experience a lot of harassment and work under difficult conditions. With the changing political situation in Eastern Europe, the women said that a growing number of lesbians were coming out into the open. The women spoke about the need for people to be able to express their chosen sexuality freely. This would include ensuring that

children are not socialised into gender sex roles and would necessitate a total revolution in the way in which sexuality is projected and expressed in modern society.

An issue clarified during the course of discussion was ANC policy on gay rights. The Inc has in the past clarified in press statements its support for the issue of gay rights and this was clarified to ILIS.

The meeting also included the screening of a video made about gay activists in South Africa, Lesbian

We met lesbians living in Amsterdam from many corners of the globe Information Service

featuring conscientious objector Ivan Thoms and Delnas Trialist Simon Nkodi. These activists explained their struggle to be accepted as gay activists in the struggle.

The meeting was held in a very informal and relaxed atmosphere. Over tea and a variety of snacks from different countries the women spoke about their personal experiences and answered a number of questions relating to gay issues - such as religion and the church, the family and children

SUFFER THE CHILDREN

in the discussions around children on Sunday, women showed quite clearly that their concerns were not just confined to themselves, but extended to all South African children.

In her keynote address, Cde Firoza captured the pain and trauma which characterises the experience of generations of children.

Whilst denouncing the apartheid system as the primary cause of the deprivation, hardships and psychological/physical instabilities that our children suffer; she also managed to salute the young for their courage and determination in resisting apartheid.

The paper launched a strong criticism against some parents, saying that it was because of their inability to eradicate the system years ago, that the children have had to spend their formative years engaged in a war. Yet this criticism remained cautious - taking into account the long fight that many parents have been involved in, the difficulties of organising inside the country and the toll that repression has taken.

The main thrust of her argument revolved around acknowledgment that all South African children have been brutalised, but that the process of undoing that has to start now.

"It is imperative that we realise that these are the very children who will carry the major responsibility of building a new future.

'We are saying that apartheid has robbed our children of all the basic human rights that are imperative for their development. It has used our children as cannon-fodder to uphold this evil system. It has forced them to take on responsibilities that only an adult would normally have the capacity to do,' she continued.

The points raised in the paper demanded an urgent and immediate response. We now need to look at existing initiatives that deal with the traumatization and brutalization of children and reinforce them. Furthermore we have to investigate the type of affirmative actions necessary to undo all the violence and trauma that our children have been subjected to.

The commissions around children painfully illuminated the extent to which all our children - black and white - have been badly affected by apartheid.

Commissions focussed on - homeless/street children; children and health; education and children; militarization of children and repression.

But it was apparent that despite the complexity of the problems, women were prepared to grapple with the issues in a positive way. Recommendations from all the discussion groups centred around what we can do and how we would do it.

It was good to see that our South African women - themselves -hrutalised by apartheid - were prepared to take on more responsibility at developing a future generation healthy in mind and body.

VlVA THE IOHEN! VIVA OUR CHILDREN!
- FORIARD T0 PEOPLE'S POIER!

CULTURE AND STRUGGLE-

Customs and traditions, even where these are clearly oppressive to women without extensive discussion at the grassroots level. This was the dominant feeling emerging from the plenary which drew together the various commissions on culture and tradition.

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The session generated lively debate - as reflected in the discussion on the practice of lobola. On the one hand, the payment of lobola means that the man then owns the wife as a possession which 'he can use or disown as he pleases. However, in looking at any aspect of culture it is important to understand the role that it played in the past and why it emerged as a cultural practice in the first place. In the case of lobola it was noted that lobola had the function of cementing families brought together through the marriage of their children and provided a status and security for married women.

Culture and tradition are dynamic and constantly changing and adapting to new environments.

This point is of particular importance to us in the national democratic revolution, reported a commission, because our society is going through rapid change.

"It is our aim, through the National Democratic Revolution to build a new progressive people's culture. Therefore, we need to open and lead debate on lobola at a grassroots level," reported the commission.

In developing a people's culture we need to be very conscious of which cultural and traditional practices we maintain or discard and also of which new practices we adopt. It was stated that we cannot simply assume that all customs we adopt are good or correct.

Many of the customs that were discussed were clearly oppressive to women such as many of those practised in the realm of marriage and home. In general, girls are socialised to be obedient to men, respect them and prepare food for them. The wife has to subject herself to the husband's decisions. As the paper presented by the Border region pointed out - this has ramifications which are social, economic and political and limits women's participation in the struggle.

Practices like polygamy and ukuthwala were also discussed in this context.

Through the discussion it also became clear that we need to educate ourselves further about

customs and traditions as for many delegates knowlege about these was quite limited. This is very important if we are to involve ourselves in cultural struggle.

DEMONS TRATI ON .'

IWENWY cnf lJS vdii la

the other, wait for it - demonstrations!

Look, we've just started to unwind from the defiance campaign and marches and protests and placard dean's and now all conference, visit and jorl.

we've been doing

in the Netherlands, must have missed quite a few things

fran back hone. One of them is most certainly South African sunshine .

. auid

is sit in

Well, here's your chance to catch up on all the dano's you've been nissing.

On lednesday, January 11, a number

of progressive Dutch organisations

are having a demonstration.

Although all of them have not been i

involved in organising the

Halibongwe conference, this

demonstration would be their way

of showing support for our

struggle.

The organisations involved in the

planning are the Shell out of

South Africa Committee, the Anti-

Apartheid Movement in the

Netherlands, the Holland Committee

on South Africa and the Halibongwe

Foundation.

One of the organisers of the

demonstration said that they also

wanted to display their solidarity

for the South African struggle "on

the streets".

This would be a demonstration of

Dutch activists, so they don't

expect us to be part of it. But it

would give a boost and 'realness'

to their demonstration if some of

us could try to be there.

Other reasons for the

demonstration are:

- The demand for sanctions against South Africa

)x: _____.

- In honour and support of the lomen's struggle in South Africa and elsewhere

- In support of especially the 150 South African women at the

Halibongwe conference who by

their presence, face the risk of

renewed repression once they are

home

- To demand that the Dutch government takes immediate steps if any

of the participants in the con-

ference ore harassed or arrested

when they return home

Afterwards the demonstrators would

be joining us at the Paradise Cafe.

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THE BOULDER

THE ANTl-APARTHEID cm' .

Delegates to the Malibongwe Conference joined about 300 Dutch citizens and exiles in an anti-apartheid march through the city.

Ehsc:3tti:exi lay! Irracll1:exi

police and band transported ahead of the group on a truck, playing freedom songs through loudspeakers, the marchers sang and toyi-toyi-ed for about six kilometers in support of a Dutch call for sanctions and the removal of the She'll Oil Company from South Africa.

The more than 160 South African delegates were greeted by a crowd of singing Dutch people hearing flaming torches at the Paradiso Theatre. Earlier, they had attended an official reception by the city's Mayor.

The Mayor here assured by Mr. Ed van Thijn of his city's continued commitment to the

struggle.

'As long as people are still behind bars, still beaten, still on the lot because of the system, we feel that it's not possible to call off sanctions,' he said.

Paying tribute to the others of condemned prisoners, he said:

'I would like to honour all these women, heroines in their own right, who have never been honoured before.'

The fight of South Africans against apartheid and the Mayor's presence in Amsterdam has given new impetus to the Dutch city's fight against apartheid, Mr. van Thijn said.

'When Amsterdam declared itself an anti-apartheid city several years ago, we tried to do so not only by paying lip service to the anti-apartheid movement, but also by elaborating an anti-apartheid policy in quite a number of different fields. We know that it is not easy to transform this policy into daily practice, and our government is not lacking in help.' He smiled, to laughter.

He told the delegates: 'You keep holding on, trying to heal the wounds inflicted by the violence of apartheid. We must fight together till the very end against apartheid.' Expressing the hope that he may soon be able to go to a free South Africa, Mr. van Thijn said he was convinced that the resistance to apartheid would never be broken.

Mrs. Gertrude Shope, head of the ANC's Women's Section and member of the organisation's National Executive Committee thanked the

Mayor, the city of Amsterdam and
the Netherlands Anti-Apartheid
Movement for hosting the con-
ference.

Before the delegates were taken by
canal boat to join the evening's
demonstration, they sang a
thrilling song in praise of
Amsterdam and the Anti-apartheid
Movement, promising that they
would never be forgotten.

AMSTERDAM

.What delegates say about the conference

EXPERIENCES OF MALIBONGWE .

well, the conference is over - But now the real work begins.

Many of us will be taking back many many wonderful memories of Amsterdam and especially the people we met. The Boulder spoke to some of the conference delegates and organisers to find out their impressions of the Malibongwe conference. Here are some of them:

"I am very excited to experience the reunion between the women from South Africa and the women from the ANC who are in exile, who might have heard about each other but never had the opportunity to be together and fight together." -

"I am very impressed because it has brought us together with our comrades in exile and together we are able to say what we want as women and we are prepared to work very hard to achieve what we want."

"A general climate has been created which needs to be taken forward in further debate"

"The conference has been worthwhile in terms of seeing how the international community works and in terms of international solidarity, but I think the part of the conference for South African women hasn't been focussed enough"

"Malibongwe was a very good idea. We gained a lot coming here - and it made us face the problems that we have. Malibongwe was also a chance for us to voice our problems so that the whole world can hear them."

"We feel indebted and so grateful for the warmth we received from the Dutch and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. No price could ever repay this."

"The aim of the conference was to strengthen the unity between South African women living inside and outside South Africa. This has been achieved and we have also forged unity with the international community, especially the Dutch and the AABN. We have shared experiences with women from all corners of the world. This has given us courage especially where we have seen how people from places such as Cuba have won their revolutions.

We have no doubt that we are going to liberate ourselves politically and as women'.

"The conference has been very challenging and very educative and has sparked some ray of hope for women's future in South Africa".

"The conference was quite an experience, particularly because in South Africa we don't have these kinds of conferences. One can only hope that the experience we've gained and the ideas we've shared will be put into practice when we get back home".

"It's been a valuable and exciting experience to meet with such a large group of women who are concerned about women's issues in South Africa. Some important ideas and direction came out of this initiative. It was also exciting to see women's health issues being an important part of the discussion of the conference."

"I think the conference was very exciting. The visits and the informal contact were very exciting and the Dutch were wonderful. However, I felt that some of the papers were lacking in analysis."

Impressions of Amsterdam

"I feel out of place here and I realised that by caning here I am truly South African."

"There is much to be learnt from Amsterdam. However, some of the things are also very negative - like prostitution and pornography"

"Amsterdam is a shockingly different place. It is also very exciting. The shocking part of it 'is the openness of the society. I think within that shock there was a lot of education for me".

"The people here are very friendly. The fact that the hosts were prepared to keep us for so long is a gesture that is very touching."

"I 've been here for three weeks and my impression of this place is very good. It caters for everybody - for example the social security looks after everyone.

I won't forget the way in which the dogs are left to roam around - leaving things behind them on the street!"

"I've seen what I never saw in our country - the police accompanying people on a demonstration. In SA we are teargassed, beaten and shot at with rubber bullets. I was also very impressed with the Mayor's reception and the surprise we were given. At home we are discriminated against on the basis of our' skin colour. :

I find the people of Amsterdam very sympathetic. I hope they will support us in our struggle until we have won our freedom. We won't forget then even when we are free."

. . . and from the organization!

"I'm too tired .."

. "Inspiring. . . . "

"I learned a lot....

"I think if you believe in human progress, rather than technological progress, then the most important battles to be won before we can take any further step forward are the ones against racism and sexism, I have a strong feeling that in spite of all the little problems of the conference, it will sow seeds which will grow and will enable me to look back in 20 years time and say that it was the most important single event I was ever involved in."

"Sleepless nights, lots of work and much excitement."

A NEW BIRTH?

tlillee ieiena (If I: raad:iearual iucxneua':s car:aarai:uai:icxl evens augr-eneei Luacun cth'irua
lVeadtaezschayv':s czarrfeureulcna Isezsssicara, thi: fl) Iasrremrlrlerd: vnaes rreuaciaex
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Although Iany of the five
conlissions Iere in favour of the
body being in the for: of In
alliance or I forum, it Ia:
decided that the idea should be
discussed by organisations lithin
South Africa. They Iould cone to I
decision on structure Ind the
finer details.

In brief, the idea of I unitary
structure Ias rejected Is it Iould
lean that it Iould be one national
body and existing organisations
Iould lose their identity. A
federation Inuld also be In
unrealistic body for the very
reason that federations cannot
belong to Inother federation. For
example that Iould Iean thIt The
Federation of Transvaal legion Ind
the lesteren Cape legion of the
Federation of South African lonen
Iould not be able to be part ofl
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lationIl Congress is unbanned and
bodies such I: the ARC looen's
League start operating within the
country Iinn, they Iould ob-
viously have branches Ill over the
country and vould also be unable
to hecole pIrt of the federItion.
In its enthusiasl one of the
collissione cane up Iith I name:
'South African lonen's Alliance
(SIll)' Ind I proposed structure.
However it Ias stressed that it
Ins up to organisations inside
South Africa.

lhatever lay you look It it, it
seems that the obstacles to
forming I national lonen's body
have been overcome. And thanks to
Halihongle the Iiduife, Ie could
have I nonderful nee birth to
celebrate soon.

A VISIT TO VIRGINIA

A group of seven delegates visited Virginia which is a women's printing
press, ownedandr'unby wanen. We were warmly met by the arployees of
Virginia. WE first had tea and biscuits and talked about Virginia's history
earn! ivcnrlc. IVee aveure: tdleeri sdacnura aurcaxrni.

le aere told that Virginia started
12 years ago. It is named after
VirginiI loolfe. lhen it started,
it only printed material dealing
Iith lonen's issues. IOU, Ihout
half the issues printed Ire lo-
len's publication: Ind the other '
half deal Iith general issues.
Virginia houever, does not print
sexist or racist laterial.

Virginia employs six lumen: tlo
lonen run'the office, tlo prepare
the material for printing Ind tlo
others do the Ictual printing.
Virginia is I foundItion olned by

Ionen Iho have shIres in the
company.lt Ias financed by
donations Ihen it first started.
It is no! I self-financed,
commercial company. i
le discussed that is involved in
starting I printerrpress Ind ho!
they had Ianeged to lake it
financially self-sufficient, Is
Ie thought Ie could learn from
their experience. Virginia
euoloyees felt that Ioney and
skills Iere crueiIl in starting I
printing press. hachines Ire very
expensive.
le then discussed the possibility
of the Virginia Foundation 'Idop-
ting. I South African Iooan and
training her Is I printer.
Virginia employees Igreed to
discuss this suggestion and to
raise it
Foundation.
lith the Virginia

. THANKS TO THE MANY.....

Malibongwe delegates would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in making the conference a reality: The friendly, patient women and men who fed us, washed up after us, saw to the smooth running of the conference (Administrators), saw to transport, security, cultural activities, Publicity, immigration, finance, Video and film programme, all the others taking care of the hugely varied logistics of such a conference, and of course all the families and individuals who accommodated us.

The Netherlands Anti-apartheid Movement - we will never- forget.

The South African Cultural Community Centre _

The City of Amsterdam and other Dutch City Councils

. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Social Affairs

The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid

The Swedish International Development Authority

The World Council of Churches

The International Labour Organisation

The United Methodist Church

The Inter-church Ordination Committee for Development Projects

The Hunnam'st Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries

The Dutch Federation of Trade Unions

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation

Unicef

LWF

Dannida

. The Australian High Commissioner in Lusaka

Oxfam UK _

Supporters in the United Kingdom

Sactu office in Canada, Egypt

04A in Angola

International Defence and Aid Fund

Anti-apartheid Movements in Sweden, UK and Denmark

Dutch individuals and groups who donated about 100 000 guilders towards the conference

The men and women in the street who gave us directions and a friendly smile.

Richard Blake (without whom The Boulder and Conference Bulletin as well as so much else, would never have happened).

i Thank-you all, and those we neglected to add to this list.

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"V1961; 91.? 301fW COPE
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flgl'Mfggopprossog hangs heavy over
f Euphoria, excitent and expeCtatw'?t to imagine what
An air 0 f Zambia It is not diff1cu anb'an
Lusaka, the captal o and the Z 1
both among the ANC members
is the visit by the released
inates discusslons,
2::nunltY- The reason for this
leaders of the ANC to Lusaka.
From THE BOULDER's staff:-
TI-E BOULDER STRIKES BACK!
Three men have now said to us:
"We should have a BOULDER at every conference)?
That was good to hear, not just because 'it makes the work even more
worthwhile, but al\$o becaUse it matches our feelings.
Carrades Scratch, Carol, Vanessa, Gail, Sah'n and Richard probably
won't an be around next time, but we fee'l we may have started
something which can contribute a little to the struggle, and grow and
improve, probably out of all recognition.
MAYTHEBOULDER KEEPGRROLLING!