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THE AFRO-ASIAN ECONOMIC SEMINAR -
February 22 - 28, 1965. Alger.

The seminar was attended by representatives from 40 countries. There were 3 delegations with observer status, viz.,

- (i) U.N. Economic Commission for Africa - E.C.A.
- (ii) Asian Economic Bureau - (Colombo)
- (iii) Cuba.

Our delegation was headed by Comrade Resha, and included Comrade Piliso, Makatini, Nzo, Seedat and Kgokong. Comrade Seedat is a second-year economic student in the G.D.R. and had come as an observer but when this was refused, our delegation decided to include him in our team and save everybody from embarrassment.

The Seminar was opened by the Algerian President, Brother Ahmed Ben Bella. It was also addressed by the Gen. Secretary of the Organisation for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity, Brother Youssef el Sebai. There were 5 Commissions elected and our team served on each of these Commissions.

- Commission 1: For economic emancipation of Afro-Asian Peoples. Comrade Piliso.
- Commission 2: For Social Progress within the framework of genuine economic independence. Comrades A. Kgokong, Mohammed Seedat.
- Commission 3: For development of economic relations between the Afro-Asian countries. Comrade Johnny Makatini.
- Commission 4: For a new economic policy between the Afro-Asian countries and the rest of the world. Comrade Alfred Nzo.
- Commission 5: This commission was to consolidate the reports of the other four commissions and draw up a preamble to the report as a whole. Comrade Robert Resha.

We were honoured at the Seminar by being elected one of the vice-presidents of the Plenary Sessions throughout the duration of the seminar. Comrade Resha filled this position.

We/...

We re-drafted the papers that had been prepared by Thabo Mbeki in order to make them suit the course which deliberations took. The Seminar ended on the 28th February, 1965.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

- (a) The discussions took a very strong political colouring and as can be observed from the final report did not result in the actual formation of any of the various bodies and machinery proposed in the contributions of delegates as well as in the resolutions of the seminar.
- (b) The Algerian delegation approached the Chinese delegation and asked for their co-operation in the running of the Seminar. They also cautioned the Chinese delegation that no Sino-Soviet attacks would be allowed.
- (c) Our delegation met the Algerian delegation and decided to co-operate very closely. This gave us the opportunity to work in harmony with the U.A.R. delegation which was also close to the Algerian team. The U.A.R. provided most of the interpreters.
- (d) Some liberation movements such as Swapo. and P.A.C., Z.A.N.U. signed a joint statement complaining that they were being excluded from the Seminar. The decision of the Presidium of the Seminar was that all the delegates participating in the Seminar were accredited members of the Organisation of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity. Somehow the view gained currency that the A.N.C. was not only a liberation movement but a govt.-in-exile. This was not meant in a derogatory sense but in appreciation of the work of our delegation. After the Seminar we were invited to the residence of the Ghana Ambaddador in Alger who expressed the wish that he hoped the A.N.C. delegation to Accra in the near future would co-operate with Ghana as it had done with the Algerian delegation.
- (e) Comrade M. Piliso left for Ghana soon after the Seminar on a mission sanctioned by the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation.
- (f) We were informed by a very reliable source that the U.A.R. had recently sent a scout into the Republic to assess the political situation there. He reported that the P.A.C. has no influence among the masses but that the A.N.C. was well known, and supported by the/..

the the people. He also reported that the A.N.C. works with Communists and Jews. The U.A.R. on the basis of this report decided to grant P.A.C. time to broadcast on the radio every day while the A.N.C. was restricted to a fortnightly broadcast.

- (g) The Algerian delegation had promised to repay my travelling expenses after the Seminar but the head of the delegation left for France and so it was impossible for me to obtain the money. We approached the Political Bureau and the Algerian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee but to no avail.

2.

MISSION TO PRAGUE.

We approached the Czechoslovak embassy in Alger and requested that they contact the International Organisation of Journalists to inform them that I was coming. We also requested a ticket to Prague. All this was agreed upon and we were told to wait a few days. However, after repeated visits to the Czech embassy we were finally told that the ticket could not be provided but that the I.O.J. had been contacted. We then approached the Indian embassy which made the ticket available. On arrival in Prague I held discussions with Messrs. ~~Kasner~~ ^{Meisner}, Fischer, and other official, and other officials of the I.O.J. I addressed in written form the following points to the I.O.J. :-

"We request from your Organisation assistance to facilitate the establishment of an underground printing press of the A.N.C. We would like you to help us with the following:-

- (1) Printing or Roneo Machine.
- (2) Small envelope - sized paper (5 3/4" x 4") specially treated to be highly inflammable.
- (3) Special training of one or two operators of the machine (define the duration of training and state the place.)

Details of further contact to carry out this request will be done through special channels. All the above-mentioned points were discussed and full agreement was reached. We now have to take up the question of delivery of goods, and training of personnel. It was suggested that the training could take place in Dar. The visit to Prague gave an opportunity for closer co-operation with the I.O.J. to obtain news

News/...

for our publications. I left Prague on the 14th March.

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2nd NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE U.G.T.A.

The 2nd National Congress of the U.G.T.A. was held in Alger March 23rd - 28th, 1965. I attended this Congress on behalf of S.A.C.T.U. It will be remembered that in Nov. 1964 when I visited Algeria I had the opportunity to discuss the S.A. trade union movement with the U.G.T.A. Sec. Gen. I gave them S.A.C.T.U.'s address in Prague and London but apparently there was no response to their communications. The Sec. Gen. of U.G.T.A. met me after the Seminar and indicated their desire to have a S.A.C.T.U. delegate. He also said that there had been no response from S.A.C.T.U. Comrade Resha was also approached on the same matter. We called a meeting of all our delegates to the Seminar who were still in Alger including Mrs. Resha and Thamie. After reviewing this situation, we decided that as I was the only trade-union organiser at that meeting and owing to my presence in Alger, my name should be given to the U.G.T.A. as a S.A.C.T.U. delegate. We also decided to write a letter of explanation to Dar and to request confirmation of our decision. We further approached S.A.C.T.U. The U.G.T.A. agreed to pay for my travelling back to Dar. In Prague I discussed the question of S.A.C.T.U.'s representation at the U.G.T.A. congress with Comrade Shope. He was busy at the time and could not attend but instructed me to attend on behalf of S.A.C.T.U. I left Prague to Alger via London. In London as in Prague I held discussions with Phyllis Altman on the whole question of S.A.C.T.U. and also specially the U.G.T.A. congress. Phyllis was also of the opinion that I should represent S.A.C.T.U. at the U.G.T.A. congress.

I arrived in London on the 14th March and met Raymond Kunene who gave me security items to bring back to Dar. I refused to take these as I was going to Alger. He then requested me to come via London in order to fetch these. He also asked me to accompany Robert and J.D. Matlou to see a man dealing in certain goods which he said our organisation will require. We went to see this man but could not decide on anything because Raymond was away. I met Comrade Kunene immediately after the departure of Comrade Cabral. He was busy and we could not have any discussion. I, however, met him again the day before he left on a week's visit to Denmark.

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He left for Copenhagen on the 20th April and was to return on the 27th April.

S.A.C.T.U. meeting in Prague.

After the U.G.T.A. congress I waited two days for my ticket to be given to me. I went to apply for a British visa but was told that it would take six weeks before I could be granted one. I then decided to depart for London and to apply at the airport as I had done on the previous occasion. On the 1st April I arrived at London airport but was refused entry under the Aliens Act and sent back on the next Air France flight which was within 20 minutes of my arrival. I tried to contact the A.N.C. office for help but there is nothing that they could do. I was then flown to Alger via Paris. In Alger I received a message asking me to hang on as a visa was being fought for in London. This was obtained on the 7th April and I landed in London on the 8th April. On the same day that I arrived Comrade Cabral of the so-called Portuguese Guinea arrived. He was apparently Raymond's guest and so, although I tried, I could not meet Raymond for a number of days. I visited Phyllis Altman to hand over the documents that I had collected at the U.G.T.A. congress. Phyllis discussed with me the urgency of us meeting in Prague to review S.A.C.T.U. outside and to establish proper machinery for the running of an External Mission of S.A.C.T.U. There was also the urgent question of suggestion that had come from home to consider the dissolution of S.A.C.T.U. This was a new development unknown to me. I discussed the question of my attendance with Comrade Leon Levy who agreed to send a cable to Dar requesting that I be allowed to attend the "S.A.C.T.U. gettogether" from the 27th to 30th April in Prague. Comrade Levy received no reply from Dar. I proceeded to Prague. We held our deliberations and I returned to Dar on the 2nd MAY.

OUR OFFICES:

ALGER: (i) P.A.C. is gaining ground in Alger. It can broadcast on the English service which they did for the first time on the 21st March. This programme was monitored by one of us at my instance after I had been informed by a friend of what was going to take place. Robert was in London at the time and I was in charge of the office. Johnny was also away on

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a tour. The programme was introduced as a special feature from S.A. I have a rough draft of the content of the news.

(ii) P. Leballo sent a message from China to Alger on the occasion of Sharpeville Day which was carried in the Algerian newspapers.

(iii) Whilst Alger Republicain" continues to report very favourably on the A.N.C. especially on Sharpeville, the other newspapers such as "Le Peuple" and "Revolution Africaine" do not follow this line but tend to support P.A.C. (very indirectly, though).

S.W.A.P.O. and P.A.C. openly co-operate in Alger.

(v) A delegation from Alger of the A.N.C. visited Tunis. It was led by Comrade Resha. Their report is bright and requires attention from us because in Tunis there is a standing offer to give us certain goods and to train a man on their use.

(vi) Apart from the growing strength of P.A.C. which now has 28 men being trained in Alger and several academic students, the influence and prestige of the A.N.C. is very high. This has been confirmed by Comrade Shope who attended an International Teacher's conference in Alger April 10-15. The organisation and administration of our office in Algiers also appears to be good, judging by my brief experience in running it during the absence of the Alger A.N.C. representative.

LONDON:

(i) Organisation and administration can be improved in London.

(ii) The status of Comrade Reggie September requires clear, precise and unambiguous definition for purposes of the running of the London office. He continues in his membership of C.P.C. and could be embarrassed by his present position unless it is defined.

(iii) London is such an important centre with so many able freedom fighters resident there, that it could wield greater influence, and command more attention than it does at present.

(iv) The position of the A.N.C. as a participant in the A.A.M. and other bodies required attention. P.A.C. is using these organisations to appear on a par with the A.N.C.

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(v) Lionel Ngakane requests advice on the films that he will produce from time to time. He has just returned from the United States where he attended the "Conference on South Africa" organised by the American Committee on Africa on the 21st March. He reports that P.A.C. influence was dominant at this conference where A.N.C. was represented by the Rev. Mxolisi Ntlabati. He also stresses that P.A.C. influence is strong in the U.S.A. especially among our students. On Miriam Makeba he positively states that she is P.A.C. It should be noted that one of the sponsors of this "Conference" was the A.F.L. - C.I.O.

(vi) Whilst in London I sent a report to the Deputy-President regarding his Scandinavian itinerary.

(vii) DEFENCE AND AID: Canon John Collins and the London Defence and Aid Committee plan to campaign in Italy and France early in July to raise funds. They request an A.N.C. leader to accompany Mrs. Rica Hodgson who will be the chief organiser and head of the delegation.

(viii) Comrades Resha, Matlou and I visited the London offices of the magazine "Africa and the World" to lodge a complaint with the editor, Mr. Douglas Rogers on the series of articles which Matthews Nkoane wrote in March attacking the A.N.C. and distorting facts relating to the A.N.C. He appeared apologetic and offered us space to reply provided we would undertake not to attack P.A.C. This undertaking we refused to give but stated our readiness to reply. The question of a comprehensive document exposing P.A.C. is becoming very urgent and pressing by the day.

CAIRO:

(i) P.A.C. is still a favoured body in the U.A.R. It enjoys the privilege of daily radio broadcast.

GHANA:

(i) During the U.G.T.A. workers' congress I met Mr. Patrick Ofi Menaku (Secretary of the Ghana T.U.C.) He spoke favourably of the A.N.C. and wondered why we do not open an office there.

(ii) As already pointed we visited the Ghana ambassador in Algeria after the Afro-Asian Economic Seminar. He
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invited me again during the U.G.T.A. congress but I could not attend as the appointment was at 2 p.m. in the afternoon while the congress was in session.

INDIA:

(i) During the Afro-Asian Economic Seminar, the Indian delegates raised the question of an A.N.C. office in India and wanted to know when Comrade J.B. Marks will proceed there.

(ii) The Indian Ambassador in Algeria also raised the question of opening an office in India with me.

LONDON (SPECIAL)

Canon J. Collins requested a short list of names and addresses of the victims of apartheid known to us to whom help could be sent directly. This would be A.N.C. people and their names will be treated in the most confidential way. This is intended to bridge the gap which D/Aid in South Africa finds when A.N.C. families have to be traced.