



African National Congress (South Africa)

Box 302,
Adelaide Postal Station,
Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4

Provisional H.Q.
Box 1791,
Lusaka, Zambia

ANC - CUSO

SOUTH AFRICA WOMENS' TOUR OF CANADA

MARCH / APRIL, 1977.

Cities Visited:

Windsor; St. Catherines; Toronto; Ottawa; Montreal; Lennoxville;
Sudbury; Winnipeg; Regina; Edmonton; Vancouver; Kingston; Halifax.

Total Number of Cities Visited:

Twelve.

Total Number of Days in Canada:

Thirty seven days.

Co-ordinating Groups in Each City:

Windsor: CUSO and Windsor Peace Council.

St. Catherines : CUSO

TORONTO: African National Congress (South Africa)

CUSO

Canadians Concerned About Southern Africa

Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa.

Toronto Association for Peace.

Ottawa: CUSO / Southern Africa Information Group (SAIG)

Montreal: CUSO / SUCO/ Anti -Apartheid Movement.

Lennoxville: " " " " "

Sudbury: CUSO

Winnipeg: CUSO

Anti-Apartheid Movement of Manitoba

Manitoba Anti-Apartheid Coalition.

Regina: Regina Coalition for a free Southern Africa.

Edmonton: Free Southern Africa Committee.

Vancouver: Southern Africa Action Coalition (SAAC)

CUSO

Kingston: Kingston Anti-Apartheid Committee

Halifax: CUSO

Southern Africa Information Group (SAIG)



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Total Number of Groups Involved in Co-ordinating:

Seventeen

Public Meetings:

One in each City ; Total of 37.

Average attendance: 250.

Largest Attendance: Vancouver - 350

smallest attendance: Windsor- 40

Format of meetings: Introduction

Film - ' There is no Crisis'

Mpho

Kate

Questions.

General Response : Positive from audience. Some Problem questions but well handled and answered by Kate and Mpho.

Meetings With Trade Unions:

Nine meetings - with locals, provincial and one with the executive and staff of the Canadian Labour Congress. All proved to be useful in the sense that greater interest and attention would be directed to the South African struggle.'

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These meetings also helped to popularise Infosa (Information South Africa - published and distributed by ANC (CANADA) and funded by CUSO). The labour movement of British Columbia and Manitoba not only expressed their moral support but were keen to take concrete action on South Africa and promised assistance to the liberation movement - ANC.

Government Meetings:

In Ottawa Kate and Mpho were guests of David McDonald (MP) to a luncheon, sponsored by CUSO / SAIG, at the House of Commons where they addressed several Members of Parliament. Although there were no real direct benefits arising out of this meeting



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the fact that two members of the liberation movement had the opportunity to put forward the case of the liberation movement was in itself a useful exercise .In Manitoba a member of the legislature brought greetings from the Manitoba Government to the Public Meeting. Kate ,Mpho, And Joe also met with Ken Dillon (MLA) and the Attorney General of Manitoba who promised to assist with the ANC school project for Tanzania.'

WOMENS GROUP:

Meetings with womens groups were arranged in every city visited. Covered were such groups as ; Young Womens Christian Association; Voice of Women; Canadian Council for Women. The CCW undertook to collect clothing and food for ANC (students) in Tanzania and Angola. In Toronto representatives of womens groups attended a meeting addressed by Kate and Mpho and organised by the ANC Womens Section in Toronto.

Media:

Television: Coverage was wide in all the major centres such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Regina, and Vancouver. The appearance at the beginning of the tour on the national network -the CBC- show - the Peter Gzowski Show - set the pace and the interest for the duration of the tour.

In Toronto Global TV especially called to express their thanks for one of the best programmes they had televised (response recorded by public phoning the station).

Radio: Wide radio coverage (mainly interviews) all accross the country on local and national stations- CBC; Radio Canada (French)etc.

Newspapers: Although there was excellant coverage in all community papers and a number of trade union papers, the large newspapers especially in Toronto (STAR, GLOBE, SUN) did not even mention the tour. However, newspapers in Winnipeg(Free Winnipeg Press) , in Edmonton (Edmonton Journal), and in Vancouver, provided good coverage.



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Most press conferences were poorly attended.

Schools, Universities, and Colleges:

Schools, Universities, and Colleges were visited in all the tour centres.

A keen interest was displayed by the students, who asked many questions with the object of knowing and understanding the situation better.

In Toronto Mpho visited schools daily for a week addressing three to four classrooms at a time. She evoked tremendous interest and concern on the situation in South Africa.

Both Kate and Mpho and the ANC realised that knowledge about the real situation in South Africa is either lacking or in some instances non-existent.

Students in one high school in Toronto undertook (Victoria Park Collegiate) to collect items such as pens, pencils, writing books, for Soweto students now based in Tanzania and Angola.

South African Community in Canada:

Meetings were held with South Africans, resident in Canada, in centres where there is a large concentration of South Africans such as in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver.

These meetings proved to be useful because they helped mobilise these South Africans around support and recognition for the ANC.

Churches:

The tour received endorsement from the Canadian Council of Churches as well as all the major church organizations in Canada- the United Church; the Anglican Church; the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; and the Presbyterian Church. Kate and Mpho were guests at a dinner organised by the Canadian Council of Churches. Both spoke at this dinner meeting which was attended by representatives of several church organizations. There was also participation of the church in many of the centres visited.



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Organisation:

A) ANC/ CUSO - Contact and Co-operation:

In organising and planning the tour at the national level there was both satisfactory contact and co-operation. Both ANC and CUSO jointly planned the itinerary and suggested programme for each centre.

Co-ordinating groups for each centre were also decided upon jointly by ANC and CUSO.

There was constant exchange of information and progress reports from ANC to CUSO and vice versa.

Joint meetings were held - two meetings were held in Ottawa and two in Toronto involving Joe Saloojee, and Zaheer Bhyat (ANC) and Jackie Chernian and Jean Christie (CUSO).

Both ANC and CUSO (Ottawa) mailed out information to the co-ordinating groups across the country; e.g. Press Releases, Photographs; itineraries, programme outline sheets etc.

ANC also maintained contact with CUSO offices across the country.

There were no problems of organization, of the dissemination and receiving of information. However, CUSO personnel experienced problems in Winnipeg with the two groups assisting in co-ordinating the programme. The names of both groups were suggested by ANC. The two groups concerned have an age old animosity and refused to work together and this presented CUSO Manitoba with endless problems.

No such problems were experienced in other centres.

Publicity:

ANC with the agreement of CUSO (Ottawa) undertook to take care of publicity. Posters (20" x 15") were designed by ANC - 5000 were printed together with 10,000 handbills. These were bussed to all centres across the country and well in advance.

As mentioned earlier press releases, photographs, biographical notes, and other material was also mailed by ANC on a joint ANC/CUSO letterhead.



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The dispatch of publicity material could have been earlier - the delay was caused by the late arrival of names, biographies, and photographs from ANC or CUSO or both in Africa.

Budget:

The original estimate of the budget for the tour became out of focus. The original budget had to be increased for the following reasons:

- 1). Two airfares from Africa instead of one.
- 2) Three airfares across Canada instead of one or two. ANC (Head Office) request that ANC (in CANADA) person accompany the two women across the country.
3. CUSO Ottawa was slow in advancing money to ANC (CANADA) for expenses - printing, postage etc.
4. Although CUSO increased the budget there was still a shortfall which was covered by funds contributed to the ANC during the tour - such as collections at Public meetings where ANC made a special appeal for contributions.

(SEE ATTACHED BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE SHEET)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The tour in general had a tremendous impact on the Canadian public in general.

It clearly strengthened the following areas;

- a) Enlightened and educated the Canadian public of the problems of South Africa - in particular enabling them to visualise the nature of unjust society as manifested in Apartheid. Problems of racism show themselves in all societies - racism is a disease of the mind. In Canada the problem of racism has become a concern - South Africa presents an excellent example for Canadians to see that racism is a dangerous weapon which has to be abolished.

The one question of concern that was posed throughout the tour was 'what will happen to whites in South Africa when the black man takes over?'. This was answered by Kate not as a racially oriented



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problem but one dealing with the people (no matter what colour). She clearly stated, and this had a tremendous impact on Canadians, that racism is manifested by the Apartheid system which is closely tied to imperialism. And that the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movement - the ANC - is crystal clear that racism shall have no place in the future South Africa. She constantly referred to the ANC programme the Freedom Charter - "That South Africa belongs to all who live in it (black and white).".

b) The justification of armed struggle in South Africa has been another main area of concern for many Canadians. Kate explained this very well and her explanation was generally accepted; that "the South African regime has carried out a reign of terror - violence of the State - for decades, shooting black people who expressed peacefully their demands for basic human rights. It is the violence and terror of the state that has left the people of South Africa with no choice but to resort to arms.

c) The tour has given ANC (in Canada) and CUSO offices many new contacts.

d) Interest on the Southern African Question has no doubt been aroused to a higher level as a result of the tour. This will of course mean more work for ANC and CUSO.

Suggestions :

The tour laid the basis for creating the conditions for Canadian interest in the outside world (in this case South Africa), a good choice because it has become the most important international concern for human rights.

A good follow up would be a joint tour of the leadership of all three liberation movements in Southern Africa - ANC, SWAPO, and THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.
