

CAM/012/0207/2

CANADIAN SOUTHERN AFRICA COALITION
CANSAC

COALITION CANADIENNE
SUR L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE
CCAA

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Hugh McCullum
Chairman/President

February 12, 1983

Report from the Co-ordinating Secretary

Although CANSAC got off to a slow start, I think it is fair to say that it is now quite accepted as an important structure for positive Southern Africa work in Canada. I want to briefly review some of the things I have been doing over the last few months, and make some recommendations that I think will improve the effectiveness of CANSAC.

Working Groups

One of the problems we encountered during the past five months was a lack of clarity about the specific role of the working groups which were charged with areas from the Conference Plan of Action and given specific campaigns. It will be important to discuss at this meeting how we can change/improve these groups.

Communications

We have done a number of mailouts so far, but they have only been sent to groups returning the affiliation forms. As we continue the number of groups affiliating with CANSAC will probably number about 50. We now have about 25 with more coming in each week. A proposal for a type of national news exchange will come up at our meeting today. The other main method used so far has been long distance calls.

Publications

The only thing that has been produced in large quantities has been the Nelson Mandela flyer. The rest of the documents produced have only been for the mailouts, and were basically copies of letters, press clippings and fact sheets.

Travel

Since September I have been to Ottawa several times (mainly to deal with finances with Colin Stuart, and the IMF package sent to the MP's) and went with Yusuf Saloojee to Ottawa and Montreal in February when he gave his background reports on his trip to Southern Africa. I used these occasions to talk to people about CANSAC and their ideas for future actions.

Administration

There aren't many problems in this area I would like to think. We have rented our post office box from a commercial company, although I would like to see us move to a regular box number in the future (because we save money). I do the mailings etc for CANSAC out of my office in my home (although I may be soon moving to an office elsewhere) and it seems to work well. I have a telephone answering machine at my telephone number and people should have no problem reaching me.

Finances

Our financial status is as follows:

Balance forwarded from the Ottawa Conference	\$9766.89
New Revenues:	
Organizational affiliation fees	\$400.
Individual affiliation fees	\$195.
Payment of embassy reception in Ottawa	\$1000.
Expenses:	
(to Feb. 1/83)	\$3275.95
Bank charges	1.20
Outstanding debts	\$1000.00 (approximately)
Balance	Approximately \$7000.00

- Notes:
1. About \$1000 of the expenses were from conference related charges.
 2. Hugh McCullum and Peter Birt are the two required signatures on all cheques.
 3. Hugh and Colin Stuart get all the cheque requisition forms and I review the expenses with Colin.
 4. The main expenses have been: printing, photocopying, postage, mailbox rental, office supplies, stationery, travel and honorarium.
 5. The honorarium paid to date has been \$800.00.
 6. Expenses related to the Feb. 12 meeting are not included in the above expenses.

Some Recommendations

1. To solve the communications problem within Quebec I suggest that I take care of all mailing for CANSAC, both English and French. Since it is generally a question of mailing out a limited number of memo's and documents I think it would be better to have them all centralized with one person. I will get people to do all the translating here. I have no problem with doing the telephone work in French and writing simple letters and notes. It would also speed up the communications process.

2. I suggest that I should continue to send mailing and letters encouraging other groups to join CANSAC.

3. I should publish, probably in March, a directory of all the groups who are members of CANSAC, with names, addresses, etc., and distribute to our members.

4. I should transfer some of our money to the Bread and Roses Credit Union until we need it for on-going expenses.

Hugh McCullum
Chairman/President

Groups Who Have Affiliated with CANSAC as of 10/2/83

Toronto Committee for the Liberation of South Africa (TCLSAC)
OXFAM Local Committee - Halifax
Free Southern Africa Committee - Edmonton
The Ottawa Citizens Concerned About Southern Africa (OCCSA)
The South African Support Group - St. John's
CUSO (Ottawa)
Manitoba Anti-Apartheid Coalition
Committee Against Racism - Calgary
Anti-Apartheid Movement (Manitoba)
Office of Social Action - St. John's
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
World Mission, Anglican Church of Canada
York Student Christian Movement
Bridgehead Trading
Spadina NDP
South Saskatchewan Committee for World Development
The SACTU Solidarity Committee (Canada)
OXFAM - Canada
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Citizens Concerned About Southern Africa (Canada)
Citizens Concerned About Southern Africa (Toronto)
Guelph Campaign for Equality in Southern Africa
The Forum Club
The High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

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Comments on the future role of CANSAC

- we feel that the steering committee should include a rep from the churches
- the idea, like NSC in UK, of the uranium connection with Namibia involving the trade unions that handle stuff en route
- information needed. eg. when a delegation of S. African parliamentarians came to Regina in October nobody seemed to know anything about them
- Bridgehead offers to send CANSAC material with our packages when we mail orders to customers.
- make noise about future IMF loans to S. Africa and encourage (groups) to work on it.
- keep in contact by occasional meetings to share whose doing what, and the possible issues for our continued work
- information on the situation of students in South Africa would be helpful at the university level; it helps bring the issue more to home for the Canadian students
- we have a growing interest in the propaganda networks used by the S.A. government in Canada and especially the U.S.

-comments written on the returned affiliation forms

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A Proposal for an Emergency Communications Network thru CANSAC

There has been some discussion of what CANSAC can do in the case of a Lesotho-type raid, or a sudden IMF decision. A suggestion has been made that we set up a telephone chain to link all the CANSAC members and pass along urgent information on an immediate basis.

We would have one person (maybe the co-ordinating secretary) start the phone chain after receiving a call from Hugh or Yusuf. That first person would then call four people:
Toronto for Ontario members
Montreal for Quebec members
Halifax for Eastern members
Winnipeg for Western members

The message passed along would be brief and maybe include suggested local actions, telegrams or whatever. Each of the four people called would only have to call 5 or 6 people. The long distance charges would be re-imbursed by CANSAC. This procedure would only be used in rare, emergency cases. We could decide to do an immediate follow-up letter the next day.

What we would need is:

- 1 The four initial contacts
- 2 A complete phone list with home and office numbers
- 3 Agreement to pay long distance charges
- 4 Cases where this procedure would be appropriate
- 5 Agreement that this is the kind of thing CANSAC should do

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Chairman/President

A Proposal Concerning a National News Exchange for CANSAC

There was a proposal at the original September meeting of the continuation committee of the conference to have a newsletter of some sort for CANSAC.

It is my suggestion that CANSAC should produce a publication which is more like a news exchange. This presumes that the target audience for our publication is member groups, and not really a large number of individual subscribers. If CANSAC continues in its role as a co-ordinator of events, activities and information, then I think the publication should be aimed at giving member groups information that they themselves can use.

The news exchange should be published at regular intervals (perhaps every two months) and every member group of CANSAC should have the opportunity to have something in it if they so wish. This also could be a forum for the ANC and SWAPO to have materials published that could help member groups in their support work. It also would be an ideal place to have a kind of checklist of current activities across the country.

If the news exchange is published primarily for groups we would only have to publish 100 or so copies of each edition.

There are, of course, dozens of possibilities for the news exchange or newsletter, but a few general guidelines should be established to give it some direction. Some of these guidelines would be:

- a. prime audience group
- b. frequency
- c. focus of contents; i.e. news clippings, regional reports, background documents, ANC papers, specific campaign reports, etc.
- d. general physical format
- e. circulation, distribution
- f. French/English copy requirements
- g. cost
- h. who does it

Since no matter what format or style we decide it will still take a long time to get it started (especially the initial set-up) we should consider a decision on this matter as soon as possible.

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