

Or 007/0015/1

08/03/91

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE N.C.C.R HELD ON
FRIDAY 08/03/91 AT 10H00 AT KHOTSO HOUSE

1. ROLL CALL

1.1 N.C.C.R. Representatives

Mr M. Dangor	-	WCRP
Mr S. Satgar	-	WCRP
Dr F. Auerbach	-	WCRP
Ms Y. Sooka	-	WCRP
Imam H. Solomon	-	WCRP
Brother Jude Pieterse	-	SACBC
Sister Margaret Kelly	-	SACBC
Bishop W. Napier	-	SACBC (Acting Chairperson)
Ms S. Duncan	-	SACC
Rev A. Phethlu	-	S A C C (representing B i s h o p Senatle)
Dean A. Mutshekwane	-	Elcsa
Dr P Mabe	-	PAC
Mr L R Ramodipa	-	PAC
Mr K. Mnikina	-	A Z A P O (represnting BCMA)

1.2 Staff & Observers

Mr M. Chikane	-	N C C R Staffperson
Ms V Meyer	-	N C C R Staffperson
Rev S. Jacob	-	Consultant to the Finance Committee
Mr P. Jones	-	Member of F i n a n c e Committee
Ms B. Bam	-	SACC Deputy G e n e r a l Secretary

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1.3 Present for Part of the Time

Mr Pule Pule	-	AZAPO (joined meeting at 14h15)
Dr F. Chikane	-	SACC (arrived at 17h30)
Ms M Ngatane	-	Convenor of Employment Task Force (arrived at 16h30 - left 15h30)

1.4 Apologies

Dr. F. Chikane
Bishop M S Mogoba
Bishop K. Mgojo
Mrs E. Mashinini
Bishop Senatle
Archbishop D M Tutu

2. OPENING PRAYERS

Were led by Mr S Satgar and Dr F. Auerbach.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Bishop Napier extended a warm welcome to everyone present. He explained that he would chair the meeting in the absence of Bishop Mgojo.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted.

5. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Acceptance - The minutes of the 18/01/91 were adopted by the meeting as a true record of proceedings.

<u>Proposed:</u>	S Duncan
<u>Seconded:</u>	S Satgar

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5.2

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the
18/01/91

- 5.2.1 PAC Representation - It was explained that this matter was dealt with by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.2 Consensus statement on non-aligned exiles - Mr Chikane was asked to attend to this.
- 5.2.3 Reception Centres - This was dealt with by the Executive Committee, who would discuss it in their report.
- 5.2.4 Meeting with the Perm - Mr M Dangor reported that the meeting would take place on the 25th April 1991:
- (a) Mr Bob Tucker would open the meeting;
 - (b) Brother Jude Pieterse would present the background to the NCCR.
 - (c) Rev Chikane would give an update on the South African situation;
 - (d) There would be an input from the Liberation Movement on the problems within the Repatriation Process. Representatives were requested to provide the names of their speakers. Mr Dangor would speak to the ANC on this issue.

6.

REPORTS

6.1

The Operations Review Report - As Mr Chikane had to leave he was asked to present his report first.

Mr Chikane was thanked for presenting his report which was adopted.

Discussions

6.1.1

Maintenance grants - Ms S Duncan informed the meeting that as no money was available at present, the present arrangement could not be altered i.e. a once off grant of R300 per person with additional payments for bigger families going up to R800. The budget would be renewed on the 21st March by the Finance Committee. It was said that until this meeting, it was felt to be too early to make a decision with regard to the amount of grants which people would receive for a period.

6.1.2

*Coordinators
to attend*

Exiles returning to the Ciskei & Boputhatswana - There were problems with certain homeland leaders, as the TVBC states had not passed indemnity legislation, and anyone returning to these areas would be at risk.

It was agreed that a high profile delegation should meet with Mr Mangope to negotiate the security of the returnees. The Executive was requested to put together a compatible team to meet with Mangope as soon as possible.

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Mr Chikane said that he felt that the returnees who had just arrived and who had to be transported should be escorted to Boputhatswana by an NCCR official.

It was decided that the transporting of these people should be negotiated with the ANC. The issue of the security of returnees should be sorted out with the Liberation Movement since NCCR did not have the resources.

The Finance Committee also recommended that a meeting be held between the Executive Committee and the ANC Welfare Desk.

6.2

National Coordinator
The Report of the Executive Committee

The report was tabled by Mr M. Dangor.

6.2.1 The National Co-ordinator has been appointed and will commence duties during the month of March. She is Ms Mankekulu Mahlangu Ngcobo. Rev Wolfgang Lauer will be starting work on the 18/03/91.

6.2.2 PAC Representation: The PAC had requested that a PAC member be employed as an NCCR staffperson. It was reported that the PAC had been informed of policy viz that a PAC member could apply for a position on the staff and would be evaluated by the Staffing Committee in terms of his/her suitability, skills, training and experience. They could not be employed as members of a particular Liberation Movement.

Mr Ramodipa said that the PAC wished to know what criteria were used to identify staffpersons. He said that historically the present staffpersons seemed to be identified with a particular Liberation Movement.

Imam Solomon said that the PAC's argument was not valid as it was at NCCR level nationally that policy was made and not at the level of staff. The PAC was represented nationally on the NCCR.

Dr Mabe said that the PAC representatives were as follows:

NCCR: Dr Peter Mabe
Mr Richard Ramodipa

Finance Committee - Mr S. Skosana

It was recommended that the PAC should advise competent members to apply for positions where they became vacant or were available.

6.2.3

Re-constituted Staffing Committee

The Executive recommended that the Staffing Committee be re-constituted. This had been agreed upon at a meeting between the Staffing Committee and the Executive. They recommended that the new Staffing Committee should consist of one member of each constituent organisation, as this would avoid problems when recommendations for appointments were made. The proposal was agreed to and all constituent organisations were asked to submit their names as early as possible.

*Did not want to be part
and assist*
Ms Duncan and Ms Sooka would remain as members to provide continuity. If possible all members should reside in the PWV region.

6.2.4 The Finance Committee

The Executive recommended that the Finance Committee be allowed to have an Executive which could take decisions on issues and which could easily and cheaply be convened i.e. that they consist of members in the PWV region.

It was felt however, that it was not necessary for this to be constitutionalised and that the Finance Committee should work out a system of deciding on smaller issues, where the Finance Committee could have a sub-group which was easily convened.

6.2.5 Ms Bam

It was noted that Ms Bam would be invited to attend meetings and to involve herself in the activities of the NCCR.

She would provide continuity when the Rev Chikane was not able to be present, but would not duplicate his role.

6.2.6 Reception Centres

It was decided that:

6.2.6.1 that regional structures should identify possible reception centres;

6.2.6.2 leases would be taken out in the name of the National NCCR. However, a local person could be identified for signing of contracts. This would need to be decided upon after consultation with attorneys.

Guidelines should be drawn up or a letter of authority for regions.

6.3

Report on the UNHCR Visit

Brother Jude presented the report. He explained that on their way here, they had been stranded in London due to a severe snow storm.

The delegation had been led by Mr N Bwakira, who heads the Africa Bureau. During their stay here they met with a range of organisation, the Liberation Movement, Trade Unions, Legal Groups, the NCCR and Business Associations.

They also met with the South African Government. There were four issues which arose:

- (a) The Sovereignty of South Africa - The Government felt that should the UNHCR be involved it would be a breach of sovereignty.
- (b) There was the fear that if the UNHCR was involved it would use its presence to try to deal with the Mozambiquian situation.
- (c) Security - There was a concern that UNHCR would interfere with local operations.

- (d) Impartiality - The UNHCR was not felt to be an impartial body because of the role of the UN in the past.

The UNHCR had however stressed that their role was a humanitarian one and that they have a mandate as an international body to be involved.

DISCUSSIONS

The NCCR discussed what it could do in order to hasten the pace of movement with regard to the governments decision on the UNHCR.

- Bishop Napier proposed that as a delegation of Church leaders (NCC) was meeting with President de Klerk on Thursday (14/03/91), the issue should be put on the agenda for the meeting. A letter should be written to church leaders which would mandate them to raise the matter.
- A drafting committee consisting of Ms Duncan, and Rev Sol Jacobs were requested to draw up a memorandum to be presented to President de Klerk by Monday 11/03/91.
- To give an exclusive interview to a newspaper, the Business Day. Brother Jude and Mr Dangor to handle this and to stress the NCCR view on the UNHCR.
- That we convey our concern to the Canadian Ambassador, as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and request him to put additional pressure on the Government.
- To request a member of Parliament to raise the question again in an interpellation debate as soon as possible.

- It was agreed that the PWV region should talk to the Star about the Human interest behind the return of exiles and the necessity of UNHCR being invited to assist, by the South African Government.
- If possible an NCCR delegation should arrange to meet with the State President.

6.4

Report on the Harare Consultative Conference

This was presented by Brother Jude. Brother Jude reported that the meeting was worthwhile as members received a clearer picture of problems.

- The monitoring of harassment inside the country would be done in co-operation with the Human Rights Commission, who would work with the National Legal Task Force. It was felt that outside of the country a central body should be in control of this.
- The idea arising from the meeting was that all interest groups within a country should meet and decide on contact persons. The NCCR should remind Frontline States and request that they submit the name of the contact person or organisation.
- Mr Dangor stressed that what had come out clearly was that those raising money inside the country, should not do so at the expense of those outside the country.

The report was adopted and decisions should be followed up.

- It was recommended that a returnee should only be allowed to apply for the grant within 6 months of arriving in the country. Should 6 monthly grants become a possibility as more funds were acquired, all those who have applied for emergency grants, would be eligible if they had no other form of income.

- A sub-committee would look at the grants issue.

6.5.6 It was recommended that the executive, and the Finance Committee and National staff members meet with representatives of the Liberation Movement as soon as possible to clarify all issues. This was accepted.

6.5.7 It was recommended that Pretoria Constitute a separate region. Vereeniging (Vaal) would continue to be part of the so-called PWV regional structure. This was accepted.

6.5.8 The Finance Committee would hold a special meeting on the 21st March, at which they would work at drawing up a new budget.

6.5.9 Mr Dangor said that he had been requested by Rev Chikane to set up an International Funding Conference with the EEC, National Staff and Repatriation Departments of the Liberation Movement.

Annual Report

6.5

Report of the Finance Committee

This was presented by Ms Duncan.

6.5.1 Mr Gillinge had been chosen as chairperson of the Finance Committee.

6.5.2 It was decided that the consultant from Douglas & Velcich should work 3 half days a week until a Finance Controller was appointed.

6.5.3 A Finance Manager would be appointed to oversee regional finances and management.

6.5.4 Date of Commencement of Programme

The Finance Committee requested that the NCCR accept their proposal that the formal date of commencement of the programme be the 07/03/91. the date on which the first plane load of returnees had arrived. This was accepted.

6.5.5 Grants

It was recommended that the once off R300.00 emergency grant be continued. This could be extended to R800.00 depending on the size of the family. It was not possible at this stage to make a 6 monthly grant available as there were insufficient funds for this. This was accepted.

6.5.10

Food Issues/Coupons

It was pointed out that if the UNHCR was involved, the possibility existed that none of the returnees would receive cash grants, but would instead receive food parcels.

N/A
A principled decision would have to be made with regard to the acceptance of food issues rather than cash grants. The coupon system was discussed. It was suggested that coupons rather than cash be decided upon. If necessary, coupons could be handed out together with a small amount of money etc. Constituents were requested to discuss with their organisations.

- The principle of coupons being handed out in place of large sums of money.
- The amount of cash money which should be given with coupons if this was decided on.

Organisation should have decided on this by the 21st March 1991 when the Finance Committee meets. The report of the Finance Committee was accepted.

6.5.11

Other Issues Related to Finance

(a) Fundraising

The World Council of Churches have suggested a fundraising conference in Geneva this month. It was felt that:

- fundraising should be delayed until after the 21st March 1991.
- the Diplomatic Corps within the country should first be approached and an attempt should be made to raise funds internally.

a briefing of the Diplomatic Corps should be arranged and the Executive should look at dates and contact the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.
- Brother Jude read a memo from Mr Abel Mbilinji of WCC in which he quotes Mr Kishindo of the AACC, who requests that 45US \$ 8,200 be released from the Repatriation Programme account to cover the cost of food and accommodation for 12 exiles at the YMCA Hostel. The request was approved.
- The Finance Committee said that the WCC had a lot of Repatriation Funds which they were waiting for us to request. It was decided that they should be requested to send 2/3rds of the funds available and to maintain a 1/3 for requests such as these.

- Mr Dangor said that the EEC had offered to help set up a donors conference.

He said that in the event of the UNHCR not being involved it was necessary for us to look at a facility outside the country.

Inside South Africa, we had a development function. It was recommended that the donors conference should take place early April.

(b) **Transparency**

Ms Meyer said that Liberation Movements had not informed the NCCR of their decision on transparency. Azapo said that their decision would be made known at a general meeting with the rest of the Liberation Movement.

7. **NATIONAL TASK FORCES**

7.1 **The Education Task Force**

This report was presented by Dr Auerbach.

7.1.1

NCCCR turned down.

The education task force recommended that the National co-ordinator be appointed. Of the 2 people on the short list, one was no longer available and they requested that they be allowed to provide the airfare to interview the other person from the Eastern Cape. This was approved. The issue would be referred to the Staffing Committee for ratification.

7.1.2

Dr Auerbach recommended that money for education for returnees should come via the NCCR, but where it is for tertiary bursaries, the money should be handed to an organisation which administers bursaries. In the case of money given to Saset by HEKS in Swiss francs for tertiary bursaries for returnees, Saset should be requested:

- (a) To extend its activities countrywide;
- (b) To ensure that there is a provision for future years of study for the bursars who have already been given bursaries for a first year of study. The list of bursaries was accepted.

7.1.3

Monies received for education for returnees should be divided into 2 categories:

- (a) Tertiary
- (b) Below tertiary

Maximum
of R1000

The recommendation from the Education Task Force of R1 000 per child per year should go to the Finance Committee with documentation before the 21st March 1991.

7.1.4

WUS had been granted 2 million Swiss francs by HEKS for their programme which they were opening up. Dr Auerbach was asked to submit the letter from WUS to all NCCR members.

7.1.5

The recommendation for an information pamphlet was referred to Zolani for inclusion in the general booklet which would be national.


7.2

The Employment Task Force

7.2.1

This report was presented by Ms Magala Ngatane, the convenor of the National Task Force. She reported that:

- (a) The Task Force had met on 3 occasions.
- (b) Two important organisations were not present viz Cosatu and Nactu.
- (c) The Task Force recommended that a National Co-ordinator be appointed (a) to liaise with organisations working on the issue (b) to do an analysis of the returnees and the economic situation.

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- (d) The National Co-ordinator should be assisted by regional employment co-ordinators, who would assist returnees to draw up CV's.
 - (e) The government had been very co-operative and helpful (Department of Manpower).
 - (f) It was necessary to draw up an information package for returnees of where they could be referred to.

No decision

The NCCR referred this matter to the Publications Editor who could include it in the National information booklet.

7.2.2

The Task Force also recommended that projects be established in areas where there was no other employment. The Task Force was asked to identify certain viable projects, which could be recommended to funders.

7.3

The Legal Task Force

Ms Sooka tabled the report of the Legal Task Force:

7.3.1

The constitution was presented. It was accepted with slight technical changes e.g. the composition of the Staffing Committee. It will now be printed.

- 7.3.2 The Legal Task Force will organise a seminar on the question of amnesty, indemnity, citizenship, security legislation.

The seminar will be a national one with attorneys attending from all over the country.

- 7.3.3 A budget had been drawn up and the Swedish Embassy had informed us that Diakonia in Sweden should be informed that the seminar would be funded from the funds which they had donated to WCC. It was accepted that the money for the seminar could be provided from NCCR funds until the Swedish money became available. The proposal for funding was accepted.

- 7.3.4 It was accepted that Ms Sooka write to Mr Arthur Chaskalson to thank him for his assistance with the repatriation programme. He had undertaken to advise all legal resources centres to assist with the processing of the indemnity applications.

- 7.3.5 *Should be* The proposal that two paralegals, *in the regional office* was accepted. Mr Chaskalson knew of somebody who would assist with salaries.

Ms Sooka would write the proposals.

- 7.3.6 The legal seminar would be held on the 16th & 17th March 1991. The UNHCR has been invited to attend. Ms Sooka had requested that either the Chairperson or the President open up the conference.

8.

REPORT ON GROUP ARRIVING ON THE 07/03/91

Mr Chikane, returning from the reception centre reported:

- 8.1 There had been one destitute person, a mother and a child, who were taken to one of our centres.
- 8.2 There were 2 mental cases who required counselling.
- 8.3 Two of the returnees were diabetics who had required careful medical attention.
- 8.4 The ANC had handed out R2,000 to each of their returnees.

It was said that this would impact on our fundraising efforts. Rev Chikane said that it was absolutely urgent that the NCCR meet with the operational personnel of the ANC repatriation groups.

- 8.5 It was important that all of us working on repatriation understand the psychology of donors.
- 8.6 Mr Chikane reported that there were about 6 people who needed to return to Boputhatswana and he expressed concern for their security.

9.

APPOINTMENT OF MR M. DANGOR

Brother Jude said that he wished to inform the NCCR that Mr Dangor had been appointed by the executive as an executive secretary. The appointment was a temporary one, but was envisaged as a permanent one. The executive had decided on this as:

- 9.1 Mr Dangor was immediately available.
- 9.2 The staff had many other tasks to attend to.
- 9.3 They were concerned about who would brief the National Co-ordinator when she commenced duties.

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- 9.4 He found that he did not have the time to carry through all the decisions of the executive, as they had too many tasks. It was felt that Mr Dangor could assist with some of these.

Rev Chikane wished to know what the exact role of the executive secretary would be, and what his relationship would be with the National Co-ordinator and the other staff.

The lines of responsibility should be clearly drawn so that there were no uncertainties amongst staff.

It was said that this would be taken up by the executive who would reassess the position once the National Co-ordinator was appointed.

10.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 19th April 1991 at 10h00.