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6/08/77

A N N E K I

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE

Austria	1	<u>Africa</u>	
Romania	5	S. A.	2
Canada	5	Lusaka	2
G. D. R.	18	Cairo	1
U. K.	7	Botswana	1
Italy	1	Nigeria	1
Sweden	7		
Bulgaria	2		
U. S. S. R.	22		

(out of 30)

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1 NEK	1 SACTU	1 SACP	1 WOMEN SECRETARIAT	2 YOUTH
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## REPORT ON THE 1st CONFERENCE OF ANC STUDENTS

(MOSCOW 6 - 10 August, 1977)

### Background.

The Conference had originally been planned as a Summer School, but owing to events linked with the SOWETO aftermath and ever-increasing outflow of young people from South Africa a large proportion of whom were students from Secondary and High Schools, the NEC of the ANC decided that the situation required something more than a Summer School. By the end of May all areas where there are ANC students had been informed by circular to prepare and elect delegates to attend the 1st Conference of ANC students abroad.

With the selfless help of the Soviet Komsomol, both the Youth and Students Secretariat in Lusaka as well as South African Students preparatory committee in Moscow, it was possible to assemble in Moscow 76 delegates from 14 centres in Africa, Europe and Canada, as well as delegates coming directly from inside South Africa.

### Conference

Following a prestigious opening ceremony with messages from the Soviet Committee of Youth Organisations, the Soviet Afro Asian Solidarity Committee, the Committee of Soviet Women and the Prorector of Lumumaba Friendship University, the participants settled down to serious work in closed sessions.

A report on the latest meeting of the ANC National Executive Committee held in Lusaka at the end of July, 1977, acted as a guiding spirit during the deliberations and was reinforced by papers presented on behalf of the NEC, ANC Women's Section, SACTU, the SACP and the Youth and Students Secretariat. Papers were also circulated prepared by ANC units in Sweden and Canada.

The reports by heads of all the delegations were followed with keen interest and became subject of lively, constructively critical debates.

Delegates dealt with broad issues of strengthening the organisational machinery under direction of headquarters. Information on the heroic struggle being waged by Black people and students largely contributed to firm declarations from delegates in support of the liberation struggle led by the ANC, solidarity with those who have been imprisoned, tortured or murdered in South Africa fascist jails.

Participants made a pledge to dedicate themselves to the struggle of the oppressed South African masses until final victory. They examined in detail the various problems confronting students and youth in their respective areas of residence. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Canadian delegation who brought solidarity T-Shirts for the delegates, a strong feeling of identity and togetherness was generated throughout the conference.



This was particularly so when delegates participated in Solidarity meetings organised by Soviet Youth (August 8th) and Soviet Women's Committee to commemorate August, 9th - South Africa Women's Day.

The prevailing atmosphere of serious and profound discussion reflected itself in the resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the participants.

There is no doubt that the conference was timely, fruitful and a resounding success. The foundation for a strong militant ANC Students' section has been laid.

It now remains for the two major interested parties i.e. the ANC Students and the NEC to play their respective roles in the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the 1st Conference of ANC Student Youth.

#### PREAMBLE

We, the Youth and Students of the ANC (SA) realising the absolute necessity for organising ourselves for carrying on the Policy of the ANC in the struggle for National Liberation and self-determination of the People of South Africa, have assembled here in Moscow on the occasion of the First conference of the ANC Youth and Students from different countries of Europe, America and Africa.

We meet at a most crucial stage in the history of our struggle with our People locked in mortal combat with the enemy and displaying heroic and unbrakable determination in the face of a sadistic and murderous enemy. The sustained uprisings in Soweto, Langa, Gugulethu, Bonteheuvel, New Brighton, Ngoya and throughout our land, are a glorious indication that our People will no longer stand the evils of the old order and are prepared to fight until final victory is achieved, whatever the sacrifices.

Conscious of the outstanding role of our revolutionary Youth who have written glorious new pages in the history of our struggle; conscious that "There comes a time in the life of a Nation when there are only two choices to submit or fight" we declare:

- a) our unswerving loyalty to our organisation the ANC of South Africa and its tried and trusted leadership;
- b) reaffirm our complete support for the policy of our great movement and its noble goals expressed in the Freedom Charter;
- c) that we unreservedly place ourselves at the disposal of the ANC and pledge ourselves to be disciplined and dedicated revolutionaries;
- d) that we will strive to constantly rally our Youth whether at home or abroad to unite behind the ANC, and to be ever vigilant against all renegades, splitters, opportunists in whatever form they present themselves, and all those who seek to spread the seed of discontent;
- d) United behind the banner of the ANC and Unkhonto we Sizwe we pledge ourselves to move ever forward against the enemy sparing neither strength nor courage until we have won our Freedom.



### International Support

The Soweto events crystalised the urgency for further advancing the international solidarity campaigns of the ANC against the racist-fascist regime of John Vorster. The decision of the Lisbon conference is a sign of the growing prestige and international recognition of our movement.

We, the representatives of the first ANC Student Conference abroad express our full appreciation of the consistent, unwavering and principled assistance and support given to our movement and struggle by the Socialist countries headed by the USSR.

We vigorously condemn the capitalist countries for assisting and maintaining the Vorster regime through investments, trade, sale of licenses and the blueprints of armament production including nuclear technology.

We pledge our solidarity with the liberation struggle of the peoples of Southern Africa in Zimbabwe, led by the Patriotic Front, and in Namibia led by SWAPO.

We support the struggle of the people of Chile and Palistine (PLO)

The successes of the people of Angola and Mozambique are of great significance to and have a direct bearing on our struggle. It is therefore our firm conviction that solidarity, being a two way street, is in the interest of our people and the anti-imperialist world.

### Tasks of Students.

We, the representatives of the first ANC Student Conference abroad recognise that we have a vital role to play in international solidarity work and therefore commit ourselves to the fulfillment of this duty.

We regard the following tasks as general outlines for the fulfillment of our role as students of the ANC abroad:

- The accomplishment of our studies in service of our country and people.
- The propagation and popularisation of the struggle of our people.
- To defend the ANC.
- To raise moral and material aid for our struggle.
- To display appropriate discipline and behavior as befitting off ambassadors of our people.
- To ensure the influence and impact of the ANC is felt in all areas of study.

### INTERNAL RESOLUTION

In view of the revolutionary role played by the students in our country, and the difficulties they are faced with arising from their insufficient knowledge of our liberation movement and a lack of clear political direction which makes them vulnerable to political opportunists. We therefore suggest the following:

- The establishment of close contact between ANC and Students inside South Africa by creating one or two offices in one



of the neighbouring states which will deal solely with student matter, this will help the spreading of ANC propaganda, policy and programme and interchange of information between ANC and students in South Africa. The most important task will be to guide and direct the Students political activities inside South Africa.

- The ANC should support the efforts made by people at home to help alleviate their problems. We suggest that the ANC students abroad should assist financially in this regard. The students should take it upon themselves to establish a fund contributing a certain percent from their monthly income.
- That the mobilization and organisation of students in rural areas should be stepped up.
- That we the ANC Students abroad like all South Africans pledge solidarity with the Pretoria 12, Goch Street comrades and all comrades who will be facing similar charges in our country. We re-assure them of our firm determination to rescue them out of the dungeons.
- We also pledge solidarity with our leaders like Mandela, Mbeki, Sisulu and all the others who are languishing in Vorsters jails.
- That the ANC abroad reject with contempt, the Bantustan policy and the proposal of the so called Bophuthatswana independence. We fully support the national campaign against Bophuthatswana independence.
- That we urge all students and South Africans to vehemently condemn and completely reject the bogus concept of independant Soweto which is designed to isolate and dampen the revolutionary mood of our people, who are fighting for total liberation of the entire South Africa.
- That we the ANC students abroad condemn the detentions bannings, torturing and murdering of our people by Vorster agents.
- We condemn the expelled renegades (8) whose propaganda is used by the state in the prosecution of the Pretoria 12.

#### MOBILISATION OF STUDENTS

This conference adopts the NEC report presented by Comrade Sindiso and expresses hope that all the provisions in this report are implemented by the National Executive.

The problem of mobilisation is to a large extent affected by the geographical location of one student sections. The geographical situation is a decisive factor as it determines the composition of the student section. In Socialist countries we are concerned with students who are primarily ANC members. In capitalist countries we have to address ourselves to both ANC members and non ANC people.



But from whatever section one comes from, our primary consideration must be firstly, to consolidate and unify our existing youth section and secondly, we must work towards drawing in new people to join the ranks of the movement.

The achievement of both these objectives are totally dependent on the level of political consciences of our cadres. The greater the understanding of the political issues at stake in South Africa and the ANC's perspective of the struggle, the better the chance of establishing and maintaining a determined, disciplined and unified youth and student section. The continuous process of educating ourselves requires every student section to be regularly supplied with as much information as is possible - in particular, present and past publications of the movement (SACTU) together with study group discussion papers that certain youth and student sections have prepared. Attendance at educative and political events like the next world youth festival in Cuba make an important contribution to this end. A further suggestion is that we should look into the possibility of a youth and student bulletin, where all sections can contribute articles on their problems, experiences, success and on political issues affecting the youth. This facility allows for the sharing of experiences and provide a useful platform for the youth to express their views.

The successful co-ordination and direction of youth activities is heavily dependent on good two way communication, between the youth secretariate and all youth and student sections. To ensure the consistent maintenance of communication requires the establishment of formal procedures and structures. Besides having a person, who has overall responsibility for the youth and student section, we would like to suggest that the aforementioned structures are permanent making for regular contact between the various student sections and the youth Secretariate. This structure will take responsibility for sending out all necessary directives to the various Youth and Student sections, and generally servicing the various sections with information, advice, requests, criticism and so on.

The mobilisation of youth and students in capitalist countries poses certain special problems in that they have an added task of mobilising people who are not ANC supporters. It has been noted, that study classes open to all interested South Africans, provides a useful introduction to the ANC and its policies for these prospective supporters. It is important also, to make the ANC presence felt, in these countries by initiation campaigns and demonstrations against the racist regime in the hope that this will attract those S. Africans who have not as yet committed themselves to the struggle.

The whole question of military training, has to be looked into seriously, for it is a request that is being made by the youth, who have recently left the country and others. The question is important not only because it affects the struggle in general, but, more specifically, it can make the difference between people being mobilised into the movement or drifting away from it.



There are certain things that can be done to ensure the well being and commitment of the youth section e.g. whenever possible, our students should be called upon to contribute to certain projects. This kind of involvement will give comrades a feeling of belonging and responsibility. Similarly the suggestion that comrades should donate a portion of their stipend for the benefit of the movement is an excellent idea that undoubtedly shows commitment and seriousness of intent in the fight for the seizure of power.

Of great importance also, is that, we must do everything to ensure that we maintain our identity. We cannot expect commitment from people who are unable to identify themselves with the culture and traditions of South Africa. It is within this context that we see the importance of holding informative cultural events on South Africa's art, literature, music and so on.

In conclusion, we would like to say that, given the role of the students and youth in the uprisings at home, it is imperative that our student section make serious attempts to forge links with these groups at home. We believe that similar links need to be forged and maintained with the armed wing of the ANC - Mkhonto we Sizwe for, it is the youth and students who can expect to be must be called upon to swell the ranks of our armed wing, the peoples liberation army, Mkhonto we Sizwe. Whether we are working in a capitalist or socialist country we must endeavour to build greater bonds of unity with sympathetic organisations and all progressive forces.

AMANDLA!

MAATLA!

POWER!

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