

CAM/054/0023/2

African National Congress (South Africa)
Toronto Unit,
Annual General Meeting
21st February, 1988.

Report from the Secretary

During the past year (from 22nd February, 1987 AGM) monthly unit meetings were regularly held with one meeting being cancelled. Co-ordinators meetings were not held regularly, nor did the co-ordinators meet effectively outside of Unit meetings.

Meetings were scheduled to be held on the first Monday/ Tuesday /Wednesday of each month on a rotating basis in order to allow members to attend at least one meeting out of three should they be occupied on the other two. The success of this approach is not conclusive since it appears that the numbers of members attending did not change significantly, if at all, nor was there any noticeable change in the makeup of the members attending. It would seem that those members who attend meetings with some regularity will do so regardless.

The AGM is requested to provide a clear directive with regard to the days on which Unit meetings should be held.

UNIT ACTIVITIES IN 1987

The following is a list of activities undertaken during the past year for which the Unit can take responsibility to a greater or lesser degree. The list follows a chronological order .

JUNE 16/26th 1987 Commemoration

This important event in our calendar was observed successfully. The main organizer of the occasion was the Anti-Apartheid Coalition, Youth Against Apartheid, and the ANC. Our role was to an extent minimal, and subsequent to the fact. The activities were initiated by the support movement not by the ANC, we participated in a similar capacity as support organizations do. This situation is not negative in itself - if our workload was of a level precluding us from undertaking a leadership role than it would be totally acceptable for support organizations to take the lead. However, when we were in a position to undertake the leadership we did not rise to the

occasion. In this instance we as a political 'collective' failed to rise to the occasion.

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JUNE 26th DANCE

On the evening of the 26th our Unit hosted a dinner-dance to commemorate the 26th June as well as attempt to raise very badly needed funds. As it turned out the evening was a shambles by all accounts. It was a total fiasco which left both members disillusioned and supporters disgusted. Fifteen years of building support and a reputation for hosting good fund raising dances was swept away in one fell swoop. Once again there appears to have been a failure on the part of the collective to organise and work in a collective fashion. While many comrades worked hard prior to and at the dance the efforts were in vain due to the lack or absence of collective effort prior to and at the dance.

SUMMER PICNICS

At the first unit meeting last year a suggestion was tabled to hold a 'picnic' once a month during the summer months at one of the city parks as a concrete attempt at build personal relations between Unit members. This attempt at encouraging socialization amongst comrades showed limited promise. During the three to four picnics a number of members got together with their respective families and generally enjoyed each others company. It remains the opinion of the Secretary that while collective efforts do not hinge on friendship amongst comrades, friendship can make for greater and more effective collective effort. This activity should be pursued both during the summer and the rest of the year so that comrades can get to know each other better and that the children of the members may interact and learn of our roots and the struggle of our people and of humanity in general.

WOMENS DAY AUGUST 8th

Womens Day 1987 followed on the pattern used in 1986 in which our Unit initiated the commemoration by our collective inviting support organizations to help in commemorating the occasion. This approach led to the involvement of a number of organizations during the planning and subsequently during the evening in question. The evening involved the ANC Cultural group, Garment Workers play, Filipino readings, Lillian Allen performing, Comrade Kitty Molefe Speaking, a number of messages of solidarity, and a Native sweet grass ceremony. For two years running the Womens Section has successfully organized Womens Day. This pattern of success can be continued with timely and correct collective attitude and effort

LABOUR DAY PICNIC AT CAMP PALERMO

Once again the ANC was present at the Camp Palermo Labour picnic. While it may appear that there is not much activity at the picnic in terms of fund raising, or picnicking

it is an important political exercise of displaying solidarity

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with the progressive forces especially the Communist Party of Canada, and other international forces from , for example, Chile, Salvador, Palestine, Iran, Philipines, and others. Our participation is unfortunately not as large as it could be, however, we are always there and will continue to be there.

LOGISTICS

At the AGM in 1987 it was noted that only one shipment left Canada in the previous year. A plea was made to increase our efforts in this area and attempt to increase the numbers of shipments. However, once again due to procrastination and a lack of collective zeal and effort we managed to make one shipment last December. The logistics department must take a leaf from the pages of the Womens Section organizers and go to the supporters of our struggle and solicit their efforts on an ongoing basis. We must, once again, take the leadership role of going to the supporters and proposing action. It can be done and indeed must be done. People in general thrive on concrete work - effort that shows results, direct involvement, something concrete to show their support for the struggle taking place thousands of miles away in which they cannot play a direct role. So much solidarity work borders on the ethereal that real tangible involvement builds morale, the spirit and a renewed sense of commitment and urgency.

DECEMBER 16th HEROES DAY

This year Heroes Day was commemorated in a more subdued manner compared to the year before. Members gathered at a Comrades home where a recent film was shown and invited supporters from solidarity organisations were present. The evening while not extravagant in scale was successful nevertheless.

NEWS YEARS EVE DANCE

This year for the first time the efforts of progressive South Africans were solicited to assist in holding a fund raising dance at which some \$6 - 7,000 were raised. This effort came about through default - adverse reaction to the June 26th dance organised by the ANC led certain supporters to suggest that they would be willing to organise dances in order to assist the movement. The efforts on the part of a couple of our members and the "Friends of the ANC" led to a very successful event despite the criticism levelled against the minimal involvement of our members on the evening. The criticism perhaps again points to the lack of a collective approach on our part where we can discuss our expectations, our level and ability to participate and direct activities in the name of the movement of which we are

custodians. This event has a great deal of potential and must be pursued with vigour in order that not only funds be raised but the consciousness and active and open participation of progressive South Africans be brought to a level in keeping with the number of South Africans in Toronto and the intensity of the struggle at home.

VISIT OF COMRADE PRESIDENT OLIVER THAMBO

The high point of 1987 was without a doubt the visit to Canada of our President Comrade Oliver Thambo. We in Canada have always been graced with the visits of senior members of the movement, the towers of the struggle such as Comrades Stephen Dlamini, Yusuf Dadoo, Dennis Goldberg, Mac Maharaj, and others, however, the visit of Cde President was special. While in Canada the President instilled in hundreds of supporters a deeper sense of commitment and understanding of our struggle and of the principled leadership guiding the struggle. It is sad, however, to note that while our President inspired Canadians he failed to instill in our membership and South African Community the same sense of purpose and urgency.

CHIEF REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

During the year the Chief Rep consistently and comprehensively provided reports relating to the situation at home and with regard to the movement. As the struggle has advanced so has the necessity for the Chief Rep to visit Headquarters. This has meant that upon his returns the reports provided the unit have been fresh, and detailed. The Toronto Unit is fortunate in that the Chief Rep is present to provide regular reports.

OFFICE STAFFING

The past year was indeed off to a good start with the arrival of Comrades Kitty and Simon who took up full time involvement in the work of the office. It is therefore unfortunate, due to reasons best left to headquarters to evaluate, that neither comrade are currently working in the office and that the Chief Rep is once again left to carry out the office work on his own. It is hoped that the problems are resolved in a politically correct manner to the satisfaction and best interests of the movement and the struggle.

SECRETARIAL REMARKS

Self criticism appears appropriate at this point in the hope that through such criticism some good will be forthcoming.

For some time members have noted that as the struggle at home intensifies the efforts abroad, in particular in Toronto,

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weakens on the part of 'ANC Members'. The sincerity, personal commitment, political consciousness of the membership is not being questioned here. Indeed it is obvious that our members do not suffer from a lack of political commitment but rather from a lack of political vitality. The kind of vitality we lack comes only from political zeal - a fervent energy that translates political consciousness into action. We are and have been suffering from a state of lethargy that is commensurate with burn out, disinterest, disunity, a lack of collective spirit and will, and perhaps most of all an inability to assess what the problem of inactivity stems from and how to overcome it.

The above comments are deliberately intended to stir a reaction and evoke a response. Therefore, it is only appropriate that following on from criticism there come recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

* The Unit should convene a meeting within three weeks of the AGM with the specific intent of assessing our strengths and weaknesses.

* The Unit should prepare a plan of action (following an assessment of our capacity to carry out work) for specific projects e.g. fund raising, logistics, commemorating special days, and solidarity work.

* Emphasize collective efforts in all our work - establish a collective wherever possible - no matter how small the numbers.

* Begin to work at the grass-roots level both in the wider community and the South African community in order to aid the unit to carry out specific tasks as well as politicize others.

* To seriously examine the potential of organizing the progressive South Africans into a political support organization distinct from the ANC and other solidarity groups.

AMANDLA !
FORWARD TO FREEDOM!

"NO REVOLUTION IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT A REVOLUTIONARY VANGUARD"
"WE ALL HAVE A TASK TO BUILD THIS VANGUARD"

President OLIVER THAMBO
8th January, 1988.

African National Congress (South Africa)
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CULTURAL REPORT
Comrade Don Mooljee

After the cultural activities of the Toronto Unit being in the doldrums the previous year, they were revitalised with the numerical increase and strengthening of the Youth Section they virtually became synonymous with the the cultural group.

Rehearsals began in earnest and with great expectations and soon a credible program of song, skits, and dance was put together.

The first performance was at the Africa Liberation Day commemoration in conjunction with Theatre in Exile. This was followed by several by several other performances: notably JUNE 16th, and AUGUST 9th.

All the performances were enthusiastically received, filling a void that had been there for a long time. The cultural group began to think of expanding their repertoire and rehearsals were in progress when, suddenly, everything came to an end.

The cultural group fell apart and all activity in this area ceased. This was a sad event, as the growth of the group and its activities looked very promising.

I hope that something can be done to wield the cultural weapon more effectively in the New Year. It has been proven without a doubt that culture plays an important and vital role in protecting our escalating struggle and in rallying international support to our side.

Every attempt should be made to bring our artists, poets, musicians, writers here. A committee such as the Fund Raising Committee should collaborate with the cultural workers in exile to come and demonstrate their rich and varied talents. A start could be made with our artists across the border. Dances raise vital funds which could be augmented by our visiting cultural workers.

February 1988

Department of Information and Publicity
Report to AGM

In 1987 there was some confusion as to who was co-ordinating DIP activities. As such, this report is probably incomplete in some respects as I am not aware of all activities.

1.0 Materials

1.1 The following materials have been prepared during the past year:

- * 500 T Shirts
- * 500 Sweat Shirts
- * Pens - These were generally of poor quality and were not successful
- * ANC 75'th anniversary mugs. Initially these sold well, but following reports of defects, we curtailed further sales. We are still attempting to recover costs from the manufacturer
- * A shipment of IDAFSA books were received and have been distributed.

1.2 **SECHABA** and **NEWS BRIEFING** are being received and mailed out in a timely fashion. However, despite repeated notices to subscribers, there has been a general decline in the size of our distribution lists. This despite the fact that subscription rates have not been increased for over 5 years.

2.0 DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

2.1 All mail requests for literature are generally responded to. Literature tables are set up at A/A events. These tables are moderately successful, but not as successful as they used to be in 1985/1986. This may be in part a result in the general decline in media focus on South Africa, but also may be because we have no new innovations to publicize our struggle. In other words many of the people coming out to such events have already seen the literature, T shirts, etc.

T shirts continue to be the most popular item (this has been the trend over the past few years). Sweat shirts although novel were not as popular, probably because of their higher per unit cost.

Distribution at out of town events appear to be more successful. However the logistics involved are more complicated.

3.0 LIBRARY AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

For many years, we have emphasized the importance of doing our own research and maintaining a reference facility in the office. Unfortunately, we have always lacked the people power to implement such schemes. During the past year, Mrdes David Brown, Aleem jeeva and Zeenat Saloojee have made an excellent start to updating our library. They have reorganized the files and attempted to keep them up to date. This good work needs to be continued and made into an ongoing activity. It could possibly even be expanded into conducting our own research and preparation of papers on topics of importance to the movement as a whole and of particular importance to our Canadian activities. As a start, we should perhaps set the goal of producing 2 or 3 papers in the coming year arising from our monthly educational sessions.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Hopefully, 1988 will see the appointment of a DIP co-ordinator so that the work of this department may go forward in this year.

AMANDLA

Mike revew
Interim Co-ordinator, DIP

REGIONAL WOMEN'S SECTION - ANC MISSION TO CANADA

INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION

The following report was written by the Coordinator of the Regional Women's Section for submission to the ANC National Women's Conference in September, 1987. It outlines the activities of only the Toronto Unit of the Women's Section between February and August 1987. The Women's Units in Vancouver and Manitoba did not respond to the Regional Coordinator's request for reports on their respective section's activities.

Since September, the problems in the ANC Office involving the Regional Coordinator have had the effect of disrupting the work of the Women's Section in Toronto. The members of the Women's Section have met very infrequently as a unit, although individual members have continued to participate in the activities of the South African Women's Day Committee and the Theresa Ramashamola Campaign, and more recently, the Interim Planning Committee for a national workshop on solidarity with women in Southern Africa.

WOMEN'S SECTION - TORONTO UNIT OF THE ANC REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

In this report we will elaborate on the following points which we feel should be given particular consideration:

- a) the importance of regular communication between the National Women's Section and the Regional Women's Section;
- b) consistent dissemination of information:
 - i) VOW and ANC Women's newsletter, books on/by South African women
 - ii) Updates about women's activities inside the country;
- c) South African Women's Day - August 9th.

MEMBERSHIP

As stated in the report to the AGM, the Toronto Unit of the RWS has more or less 8 members but less than half that number are effective in the work of the Women's Section and in the ANC unit. The only better attended meeting was a welcome brunch for Cde Kitty held in February. Since then, only three comrades have been involved in executing every task of the Women's Section. Among the reasons given for this lack of participation is family responsibilities.

POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

The Women's Section has been invited by the NGO's; women's groups, and Native People's organisations to speak about the plight of women and children under the state of emergency, apartheid and South Africa in general. The audiences range from day-care children (6-10 years); highschool and university students, church women to the communities in general. We also had radio, press and TV

interviews. At conferences we are invited as resource people, delegates and observers. The latter was the case at the "Taking Sides in Southern Africa" conference. During the workshop on women we managed to raise the issue of Theresa Ramashamola. This received a positive response and plans were initiated to make the campaign a nation-wide one. The idea of a national campaign did not come about, but Theresa Ramashamola's case was taken up in the Toronto commemoration of August 9th, as a symbol of South African political prisoners (see below).

The response from audiences, more especially at student conferences, reveals that a considerable percentage of Canadians are ignorant of our struggle. A workshop tends to become an educational where one has to impart such basic information as the name of the capital town of South Africa, provinces, what the ANC is, who is Nelson Mandela etc.

CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

The Women's Section has had some contact with non-ANC South African women now for some years. Early this year we made an attempt to form a solid group from amongst this constituency which would mobilise and give support to the struggle in an organised manner. The first meeting was held on 29th March and our fellow South Africans who were present showed an impressive amount of enthusiasm for supporting the movement in ways that fitted in with their lives and capacities. The discussions centred around soliciting material aid for women and children inside the country and in exile, emphasising women in Tanzania, Zambia and Angola; financial aid for women's organisations and projects inside the country; and getting involved in informing Canadians about the liberation struggle in South Africa. The group has so far collected new and used clothing and toiletries for women and children in Tanzania. Also in the group's program is the opening of a bank account under the name "South African Women Support Group". We hope to maintain and uplift the strength of the group. We have noticed that there is more interest in aiding women inside the country than in exile. Of importance is the group's appreciation of evidence that the goods were sent and were delivered to the right people.

CONTACT WITH CANADIAN WOMEN

This is one area where there is potential support for us. The ANC Women's Section is invited each year to participate fully in organising the Toronto celebration of International Women's Day. Due to problems of manpower we were not represented this year in the planning committee. But at the function itself, the ANC was given a 3-4 minutes standing ovation. We also get full support from the Canadian women through the women's organisations, NGOs, solidarity groups, churches, unions and individuals in organising South African Women's Day. The ANC Women's Section invites the above organisations to send representatives to participate in an ad hoc committee to plan for this commemoration. The same organisations also assist in planning rallies, vigils, and other forms of activities in solidarity with our struggle. Plans are underway for holding a vigil/rally at the South African consulate in Toronto on the 9th September to mark the sentence appeal of the Sharpeville Six. (September 10th is election day in Ontario Province which is why it could not be held then).

Canadian solidarity groups are planning a parallel conference to the Commonwealth Conference in Vancouver in October of this year. At this conference there will be a workshop on solidarity around South African women (in part to address the criticisms raised about the February Montreal Conference where there was very little focus given to women). Our sense, on the basis of our experience in Montreal where there was a very positive response to working with the ANC Women's Section, is that our presence at the women's workshop would be very fruitful in terms of developing our base and contacts within Canada, and in terms of building up Canadian support for women in the liberation struggle.

AUGUST 9TH - SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY

As mentioned above, the commemoration of this day was planned by the Women's Section in conjunction with an ad hoc committee of representatives of support groups. This year this committee - the South African Women's Day Committee - started holding weekly meetings towards the end of May. We decided to organise August 9th around the theme "Stop the Execution of Theresa Ramashamola and Release all South African Political Prisoners". A campaign was launched to send postcards to P.W. Botha and to circulate petitions addressed to the Canadian government asking it to intervene in Theresa's case. Following the decision taken at the Montreal conference in February, we communicated our suggestion that this theme be taken up by ANC women and solidarity groups in the other areas, but there was inadequate time to plan a coordinated national campaign. We informed the other ANC women's units of the progress in our planning for August 9th.

The following is a list of letters, flyers, etc., that were produced or sent by the South African Women's Day Committee as part of the campaign or preparations for the day.

1. Flyer about the campaign and cultural event
2. Petition to the Canadian Government
3. Postcards to P.W. Botha
4. Letter to several organisations requesting support for the campaign and August 9th event

The program for the cultural evening consisted of the following performances:

- * the ANC cultural group which did gumboot dance, chanted freedom songs and recited poems relevant to the day;
- * Lillian Allen, a popular political poet and songwriter, who read poems on South Africa;
- * excerpts from a play written and performed by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and theatre activists which depicted their experiences as immigrant women and drew connections between their situation here and women workers in South Africa;
- * Members of a Filipina theatre group who read poems about South Africa;
- * A Native woman leader who conducted a sweetgrass ceremony in honour of South African women;
- * Kitty Molefe speaking on behalf of the ANC Women's Section
- * members of the South African Women's Day Committee, along with the ANC cultural group, sang South African Women's Day songs.

The event was co-chaired by two popular community leaders, Olivia Chow - a trustee of the Toronto Board of Education and Carmencita Hernandez - a community organizer - and messages of solidarity from different organisations were read out in between items of the program. The church sanctuary where the meeting was held was decorated in ANC colours, our flag and yellow carnations (also worn by members of the organising committee), and the national anthem was sung at the conclusion. Refreshments donated by Canadian supports groups and the South African Women's Support Group were sold at the end of the performances. Buttons and T-shirts produced for the day were major sale items.

Cde Kitty covered the following points in her speech: the significance of the day; recent women's activities inside the country; women detainees and children detainees; how the day is commemorated in South Africa; Theresa Ramashamola; Heroines of the revolution; revolutionary and fraternal greetings to women inside the country, SWAPO and other progressive liberation movements. The South African Women's Day Committee is still meeting regularly, to finish up the organising of the campaign, to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Canadian government in order to present the petitions and to request the government's intervention in the Sharpeville Six appeal. There is a strong feeling within the group that it would like to continue working together and with the ANC.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

The first correspondence we received about the 2nd National Women's Conference was concerning suggestions of topics for discussion at the conference. Due to our geographical situation and the expense of travel, it was impossible for the Regional Women's Section to meet to discuss the circular. We therefore sent copies to the Women's Units in Vancouver and Manitoba with the agreement that all three units hold discussions and all recommendations would be compiled into a report to be sent to the National Conference Planning Committee from the Toronto Unit. Because the area reports were not submitted on time, we sent separately to HQ the reports from the Toronto and Manitoba Women's Sections.

The Toronto Women's Unit sent a letter requesting funding to various NGOs. We requested that our women in the other regions also undertake fund-raising for their delegates. We received only one positive response, that is from CUSO who promised us \$500 toward the travel expenses of delegates.

We did not receive any further communication about the Conference from HQ until late June when it was requested that we hold a Regional Women's Conference around the themes of the National Conference. The previous circular (of 3.5.87) referred to in the later Circular No 2 (not dated) did not reach us. It was difficult to pursue more active fund-raising without more concrete information about the progress of the planning of the Conference and about the objectives and rationale of the Conference itself. We realise that it would have been really useful to have had an elaborated letter or funding proposal from the Women's Secretariat or Planning Committee that we could show to potential funders.

It was far too expensive and not feasible with such short notice to hold a Regional Women's Conference as Circular No 2 directed. The circular was therefore sent to each area for their consideration and reports. Copies of the reports from Toronto, Manitoba and Vancouver are attached.

Due to our limited success at raising funds here in Toronto and, at the same time, our preoccupation with organising the South African Women's Day event, we were not able to give too much consideration to the question of a Canadian delegation to the conference until the last moment. It seemed at one point that no one was available to attend. However, particularly in the light of our successful working relationships in Toronto with Canadian support groups, the potential for developing our work within the women's constituency here, and the strategic importance of Canada in international anti-apartheid questions, we discussed again the great importance of at least one person from Canada attending the conference to receive a thorough updating and briefing about strategies in our international work.

CONCLUSION

The above details of activities indicate clearly that:

- (1) There is a potential for political and material support for the Women's Section and for the movement in general. The resources for this support need to be utilised to the maximum but due to the lack of manpower we are not in a position to execute our tasks fully.
- (2) The above tasks fail to be done because comrades - Women's Section members - are somewhat too busy to attend meetings and are therefore not involved in discussing or taking up the duties of the Women's Section. It has, as a result, become easier to work with Canadian women who are active and committed than with our own Women's Section membership.
- (3) Much has been done in popularising our struggle and the plight of women and children in South Africa, but more work has still to be done. This manifests itself in the size of the audiences one addresses, ignorance of even Grade 13 (pre-varsity) students at conferences and the attitude of the black Canadians towards our struggle.

REMARKS

* The amount of knowledge most Canadians have about our struggle is very limited. The Women's Section and the Office are highly involved in changing this situation positively but much remains to be done. There is a great need for regular dissemination of VOW and the ANC Women's Newsletter. The fact that we have received neither publication for many months has put us in a rather awkward position.

* The Regional Women's Section needs to have up-to-date information about developments inside the country. Some support groups have direct contacts with organisations inside the country and know more than we do about recently formed organisations, their affiliations, their need financially and

otherwise. This hampers the leadership position the Movement has to play in terms of anti-apartheid and solidarity work in the region. Those support groups which do not have contact with organisations at home and which look to the ANC for information (such as the recent developments in the formation of democratic women's organisations) become disappointed when they realise that we know only what has been published in the public media and Newsbriefings.

* Mobilization among the black community in Toronto is one of the areas of work where the mission as a whole has not achieved very much. As such the Women's Section's contact with black Canadian women's organisations is at a very limited level. Attempts were made during the planning of South African Women's Day to extend invitations to black women's organisations and individuals but attendance of this constituency at the event itself shows that much still stand to be done.

* We need to have a few proposals for projects for South African women handy. Many organisations (and particularly those women's organisations which are just starting to get involved in solidarity around South Africa and are not yet well-informed about the struggle) are interested in funding projects inside the country rather than elsewhere. The Women's Section encourages assistance to the women and children in exile, pointing out that their situation is as much a product of the apartheid system and they require support. Our concern is obviously that support and funds might be being given to reactionary groups inside the country and we need to be able to give more direction to those insistent on funding internal organisations.

* Communication between the National Women's Secretariat and the Regional Women's Section in Canada has been on the weak side (for example, the correspondence around the ANC National Women's Conference; the lack of reply to our request for a go-ahead on the Theresa Ramashamola campaign).

* We would like some clarification on relations between Regional Women's Sections, that is, would it be appropriate for us to request information from or discuss decisions with the London or New York Women's Sections, copying the correspondence to the Women's Secretariat. We found, for example, that when we did not get a response from HQ about the Ramashamola campaign and time was running out, that we needed to check with at least one other RWS (the New York women).

* We recommend that the National Women's Section draws up a yearly program or set of guidelines for the Regional Women's Sections (that can be adapted to the specific conditions of the different countries where we work) that take into account the developments within the internal situation, particularly in terms of the organisation of women within the liberation movement.

Regional Coordinator,
Kitty Molefe.

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE INVOLVED MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S UNIT IN TORONTO
DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1987 - FEBRUARY 1988.

1. The South African Women's Day Committee which organized the campaign to save the life of Theresa Ramashamola and the Sharpeville 6, submitted a petition containing approximately 2500 signatures to Prime Minister Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark. The SAWDC sent a letter to Joe Clark on the eve of his visit to Southern Africa in August, requesting that he take up the issue of Theresa Ramashamola's death sentence with Pik Botha. In a later meeting with a representative of the Committee, he confirmed that he had raised the issue. The SAWDC heard recently from the Department of External Affairs that Canadian government officials in South Africa had made a further plea for clemency on behalf of Theresa and the others when the appeal in the Sharpeville 6 case was turned down. The SAWDC is now no longer formally in existence, but previous members are considering how to respond to the call from within South Africa to keep up pressure to stay the executions of the Sharpeville 6 and other death row political prisoners.

2. Cmd Linzi, the intended delegate to the 2nd National Women's Conference was unable to get a flight out to Africa so unfortunately, the Canadian Mission had no representation at the conference. The Women's Section here has yet to receive the official report and a full copy of all the documents of the conference.

3. At the Vancouver Parallel Commonwealth Conference, a decision was taken to organize a national workshop around solidarity with women in the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia. Women solidarity activists in Toronto were mandated to organize the workshop. Planning began in late November and Comrades Nompoti, Linzi and Kitty have been attending the meetings.



African National Congress

Mission to Canada.

Box 302, Adelaide Postal Station, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2J4 • Phone (416) 461-4255 Telex 06-22199

RPC REPORT TO EGC1

Mobilization Re: Political and

Material support for the ANC

Generally, efforts by the ANC at mobilizing the Canadian public involve speaking engagements, working together with solidarity groups and participation in conferences, workshops, etc. For purposes of this report, the RPC has decided to highlight the following:

Montreal Conference: Taking Sides in Southern Africa, Feb. 27 - March 1, 1987. ANC delegation led by cde. Thabo Mbeki, who delivered one of the keynote addresses.

Visit by Pres. Tambo: Over the years, the ANC has attempted to establish relationships with the Canadian government at the highest level. These have been confined to the junior level - Southern Africa desk.

With the visit to Canada of President Tambo in September, contact with the Dept of External Affairs is now at a higher level. In his meetings with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, President Tambo reiterated the call for Canada to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions. Total sanctions were the theme of the President's addresses throughout his brief, heavily scheduled visit.

Coming out of the President's visit is the support the ANC was finally able to garner from the Black community as evidenced by the reception given at a Black community leader's home with 200 people in attendance. In this regard, the ANC has instituted talks with three members of the Black community to mobilize Blacks for our cause.

Vancouver Parallel Conference Like the Montreal Conference of Feb 27 1987, the Vancouver Parallel Conference in October was organized by the Inter Agency working group on Southern Africa. Even though there were ANC members working as coorganizers of these two conferences, there was a concerted effort to minimize the role of the ANC in these meetings, but rather using its presence for rubber stamp purposes only.

Through a motion passed by the extended RPC meeting on 31 May 1987, ANC fully participated in the conference (Cde Johnny Makhatini gave one of the opening addresses), workshops and resolutions adopted. PAC/BCM and SWANU attempts to participate in the Conference were foiled as ANC had support groups veto such participation.

Meetings with Native Peoples There has been greater contact with Native Canadians. Dialogue with the representatives of various constituencies of the native peoples has resulted in a better understanding of our struggle. Cde Mac Maharaj's address of the Cree Nation in April 1987 in Ottawa focussed the deliberate policy of the SA regime in exploiting the unjust treatment of the Native Peoples. This was done in the context of misguiding the people's aspiration for self rule as being equal to that of apartheid homeland policies. This veiled attempt was negated by our meetings with progressive leadership of the Native peoples. After the dissident Louis Stevenson visited SA, he was soundly condemned by the Chiefs Council. George Erasmus of the Assembly of First Nations has extended an invitation to the ANC to visit the North West Territories and meet the Inuit.

Francophone Conference Sept 1987 Cde Makhatini attended the Conference which is considered to be the French speaking counterpart of the Commonwealth Conference. The Conference set the tone vis-a-vis SA for the Vancouver Conference.

Scholarships Emanating from international conferences held in Canada, scholarships for South Africans and funding have increased considerably, eg the Black Education Trust Fund for which \$2 million have been set aside by the Canadian government. These scholarships will be available to South Africans in Southern African States. It was also agreed that for SA students inside the country there will be consultation with the National Education Crisis Committee. WUSC has also made available scholarships for members of the ANC tenable in Canada.

Logistics This is an ongoing project of humanitarian aid given by NGOs, churches and support groups. It is done at both the local and national levels and has resulted in two shipments of goods being sent to SOMAFECO. In order to consolidate our work throughout the region, and to ensure a unifying position of our policies, the RPC has drawn up a document (dated 12 MAY 1987) to be used as a guideline (enclosed).

Youth The youth section sorely needed revitalizing. There has been no meetings and participation on the solidarity front fell on the shoulders of one individual. With the injection of new members in the youth, particularly from those recently arrived from home and from southern Africa, we have achieved an increased participation on the RPC, at the level of the Unit, and in solidarity work locally and nationally. This has also given rise to a cultural group which the youth has decided is not only restricted to ANC members, but includes active participation from other South Africans and Canadians who are closely supportive of the ANC, and best express their support through cultural work. Our Youth Section presented a highly commendable document on Masupatsela (ANC young pioneers). However, the RPC felt that for our region it was too ambitious and its objectives could be interpreted as political dogma. The RPC has recommended that the document be revised and the final report be sent to all our Units for input prior to the document being sent to HQ for approval.

Educationals In order to increase an understanding of the policies and objectives of the ANC, an educational programme was drawn up based on leased documents emanating from the National Consultative Conference of 1985.

Membership

a) Dual Membership: A peculiar phenomenon of this Region is ANC members holding positions in NGOs and support groups. In some instances this is unavoidable because of the nature of some of our members' employment, eg by religious, educational or community-based institutions. However, there comes a point where there is a contradiction between the organizations they belong to and the ANC on policies and strategy of anti-apartheid work in Canada. Therefore dual membership should be evaluated from time to time to ensure its relevance to ANC policies and objectives.

Membership Applications: The lengthy delay in processing membership

b) Membership Applications: The lengthy delay in processing membership applications is of great concern to the RPC. We feel that known active participants in the struggle within SA, who are now in our region and cannot return to SA, should be given priority in the processing of their applications for membership. For example, we have in the Youth Section a former UDF activist who was elected coordinator of the Youth Section, and who also carries out administrative functions in the Office on a voluntary basis (under the guidance of the Chief Representative). He has had to relinquish his position until his membership application is approved.

We also have a religious figure (whose religious organization is affiliated to the UDF) residing in Toronto. He is an active participant in ANC activities on religious matters and has on occasion represented the ANC at the request of HQ. It is over six months since these two comrades submitted their applications, and there are other outstanding applications that have waited over a year and have still not heard.

Office Personnel Administrative problems that had arisen in the Toronto office were referred to HQ (International Department, SG's Office and Women's Secretariat and Treasury) have been resolved. HQ has Telexed our Office with the recall of the two comrades to Africa for redeployment.

BCM/PAC The RPC has decided to maintain a strategy of not sharing a platform with the BCM and PAC. Criticism has been leveled at the ANC from some of its members and supporters. This stand has led us to not participate (in fact to withdraw from) for the first time, in the annual conference on apartheid held for high school students of the Toronto Board of Education. This was due to the organizers of this conference being influenced and coerced by some Black Consciousness elements on the planning committee.

The RPC felt that sharing a platform with other organizations with BCM/pac views would create confusion in the minds of the school children. It is past history that the BCM and PAC have attacked the ANC on such occasions. It was for this reason that we withdrew from the Conference. Also the BCM and PAC have used such forums to gain visibility which otherwise is virtually nil in Canada. Our concern with these organizations is the disruptive nature of their work which is slowing down our inroads in the Black communities in Canada. Because of racism

in North America, black consciousness tends to have an appeal to some powerful elements within the black community which thwarts our work. This tendency was evidenced at the Vancouver Conference, where a lot of energy was spent deflecting verbal abuse and confusion.

Self Criticism The RPC feels it spends a lot of time dealing with matters that should be handled at the Unit level. Therefore, documents, statements etc are forwarded to Units without input from the RPC deepening understanding of policies and objectives of the movement. The RPC recommends that the incoming RPC should adhere strictly to matters of receiving, digesting, analyzing and making recommendations to Units. Administrative matters should be left to the Office unless the Chief Rep specifically calls for RPC input.