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African National Congress (SA)
Toronto Unit , AGM 22nd February, 1987.

Report from the Secretary

During the period June 1986 to February '87 a total of 7 Unit meetings were convened and the unit Co-ordinators met a total of 6 times in separate meetings.

Meetings were scheduled for the First Monday of each Month for the second half of 1986 and for the first Wednesday of each month for the first six months of 1987. This was intended to allow most members to be able to attend meetings on some occasions. A schedule of meetings and calendar of important dates was prepared and handed out to the membership.

The meetings were reasonably well attended by the members who are generally active. When considering the total 'listed ' membership, meetings were poorly attended.

It is recommended that for the incoming year meetings be rotated over three or four days in the month, thus allowing for as many members to attend as possible.

Highlights during the past year

Co-ordinating committee attempts;

The Co-ordinating committee attempted at the outset of the past year to ; a) collectivize work , b) institute planning , c) improve communication between members.

a) collectivization of work - it was agreed that each co-ordinator would attempt to solicit the assistance of other members of the unit with the aim of introducing other members into the work and political activity of the unit, while also spreading the load of work among a greater number of members. This attempt did not in fact succeed beyond the dance committee and logistics. It would appear to be the result of both the lack of interest by members at large and the failure of co-ordinators to pursue members with concrete work efforts in mind for members to participate in.

b)institute planning - the co-ordinating committee attempted to encourage each co-ordinator to plan the activities and/or events for the following twelve months in order to again expedite the work required and to reduce the high pressure of unplanned activity, and often resultant failings. In large measure this approach was undertaken and followed through although it will require continual efforts to become habitual.

c)communication- a pigeon hole box was added to office furniture in order to facilitate exchanging information between co-ordinators. The box is rarely used, perhaps because there isn't sufficient need .

June 16th

June 16th was commemorated in both Ottawa and Toronto. Members of the Unit participated in both events.

On June 15th a fleet of buses ferried anti-apartheid participants to Ottawa where they joined others from Montreal and Ottawa, and Kingston to commemorate June 16th. Comrade Mac Maharaj was present and he addressed the crowd. In addition Comrade Thandi and Comrade Yusuf and the Amandla cultural group were present. Comrade Mike co-ordinated the sale of buttons and hats. Some \$580.00 was raised.

On June 16th the Youth Against Apartheid organized a demonstration at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, at which members of the unit were present.

June 26th

June 26th was observed in-house with an educational presented by Comrade Jabu.

August 9th Womens Day

A successful WomensDay was observed . Comrade Lindsay Manicome will report on this event in the Womens Section report.

Toronto Board of Education

The members of the unit were very actively involved in the very successful fight to get the Toronto Bd. of Ed. to reverse its decision to host an ongoing conference on Apartheid. The protest spearheaded by CCSA called on the progressive forces to present deputations at the Bd.hearings into the question. The deputations were very powerful and concerted. The victory in getting the decision reversed was not only a victory against the reactionary forces on the Bd. but also against the S.A. embassy which

had actively lobbied the reactionary forces on the Bd. to cancel the conferences.

New Members

Comrade Peter Mahlangu arrived in Canada to undertake the representation of SACTU. He joined the unit as he is stationed in Toronto. He also is incorporated into the RPC.

"Under Exposure"

Comrade Don directed the play "Under Exposure" in conjunction with Black Theatre Canada. A benefit night was offered the ANC. The understanding we were under was that all door proceeds and sales from refreshments and literature would be directed to the ANC. We eventually received only the money from tickets we sold directly, not from people directed by our membership to pay at the door. This provided a lesson for ensuring that any agreement undertaken in the name and interest of the movement be written to avoid any ambiguity or misunderstanding.

Labour Picnic at Camp Palermo

Members of the unit attended the annual Camp Palermo picnic organised by the Canadian Tribune. Cde. Mike set up the literature table and will report on the effectiveness of sales. Comrades Peter Mahlangu spoke on behalf of SACTU and Cde Yusuf spoke on behalf of the ANC. The reception both received was excellent. This event is an excellent one for socializing with other progressive forces and with our own members.

Political Education

Comrade Jabu presented a list of topics for educationals for the duration of the year, however, these topics were set aside in favour of educationals based on discussion papers emanating from the ANC Consultative Conference held in Lusaka in 1986. Comrade Jabu will elaborate in the report by the Political Commissar.

Comrade Dennis Goldberg

Comrade Dennis visited Canada during the month of September, under the auspices of the IDAFSA and ANC. In his meeting with unit members he gave a moving account of both his experiences while in prison and of events following his release. His analysis of political events at home and abroad was well received. While in Toronto, CCSA hosted a dinner in his honour, the unit called on South Africans to attend a meeting to be addressed by CDE. Dennis, however, the turnout was very poor.

The unit meeting with Cde. Dennis was not as well attended as it should have been given the important nature of the Comrade, and the one with the SA community was likely poor advertising on our part. Our list of South Africans

is not extensive, nor readily accesible. This perhaps should remain one of the main priorities for the coming year - to put together an extensive mailing list of both South Africans and Supporters in'general. It is the most effective medium for reaching people.

Unit Dances

During the past year one dance was held in October as a fund raising event. A second dance was held in January as part of the commemoration of the 75th Anniverasary celebration of the Founding of our movement.

Futher details regarding dances will be contained in the re port by Cde. Ahmed. It is necessary to state that on the question of dances long discussions have taken place regarding the necessity to look at changes in the venues, approaches to food, prices, etc.

Heroes Day

Heroes Day was observed by using the Bamboo Club on the 16th Dec. as a venue for a cultural and political forum. Proceeds at the door went to the ANC, while regular attendents of the Club became a captive audience for the evenings events.

Logistics

Only one shipment left Toronto in this period. The container was packed on the 6th of Dec. While there was enough material to fill the container, there was a definite lack of membership participation to help fill the container. Further details will be supplied in Cde, Baboos report on Logistics.

Comrade Francis Meli.

Comrade Francis Meli, Editor of Sechaba and Member of the National Executive visited london, Ontario to attend a conference of Journalists. he attended a Unit meeting and spoke to the meeting regarding the conference and in general regarding the struggle and participated in the rather intense discussion in which the unit was engrossed.

75Th Anniversary Celebrations

In January we observed the 75th Anniversary of the ANC. It was a very succesful event made up of a dinner followed by a dance, and included the reading of greetings, and statements by both SACTU and ANC REPS. The event was very well attended by the friends and supporters including members of the diplomatic corps. invited to the function.

Chief Representatives Reports

Throughout the year the Chief Rep has participated in numerous membership

Cde, David Brown joined the unit after arriving from Mazimbu to undertake studies at York University.

Concluding remarks

Given the pace of revolutionary upsurge in our homeland, it is ironic and indeed sad that the pace and degree of participation and political zest and zeal amongst our membership in direct proportion in the opposite direction. It is now that we need greater activity and participation from our members. It is now that we need to mobilise our patriotic forces amongst our women, and youth, and in general among South African patriots.

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