

LMM/018/0001/3

03/01/78

Short Note on Delta Project.

ex Towards the Programme Notes, 3rd January 1978.

For discussion A.M.C.

I would like to see this project off the ground within a week. In one way or another it relates to the solidarity groups and the liberation movement and therefore there should be a sound understanding of the political framework before we start. Let us never go too fast again!!

To get the real value of the project we would require a black militant to participate in the Delta cell.

10.

3. Delta, Rotterdam.

Our harbour project based in Rotterdam has always been one of our more exciting and consistent projects. It took shape during the anti-sanctions campaign in ~~1972~~ 1972-75 in Holland. The campaign was done by the anti Apartheid Movement in Holland (AABN), which at that time was well linked and effective as a parliamentary pressure group. The real effectiveness of the campaign was based in the fact that it was organised in the Dutch trade union (Vervoersbond NVV) both at rank and file level and by the union organisation. Our ~~harbour~~ cell was working in the harbour with a trade union workgroup organised by the union federation, and our overt relations with the union was done via the Dutch Anti Apartheid Movement.

The harbour activity had specialised into a number of very effective cells. A comrade from the ~~Broers~~ was working in the main cell and he played a key linking role between the various cells, and the Broers club. Through our controlling influence in the Dutch anti apartheid movement we were able to give the intelligence potential of the harbour cells considerable political clout. The sanctions law lying before the Dutch parliament is a direct result of these activities. Since 1975 political problems assumed a dominant position and we had to freeze the harbour activities and other ~~activities~~ covert activities in order to solve them.

Since the last Towards the Programme Notes much progress has been made to revive the project. A key contact, who also resigned from the AABN in solidarity with Berend Schuitema in 1975 now has a key function in the union federation. Through ~~his~~^{his} work we were able to reorganise a dock workers ~~project~~ workgroup as a setting for a Delta cell. Very much along the same lines as in 1975, but with the necessary precautions to keep lines uncrossed between overt and covert activities. There is a discussion possible with the ~~neefs~~^{for} and their endorsement of the project.

The general strategy laid down for the Delta project is that everything possible must be done to keep the activities and structures open within the organised trade union. Only when these are no longer possible will the cell start operations and include the more committed members of the official workgroup of dockworkers. The clandestine cell, Okhela militants and Dutch harbour comrades, will work in these structures but at the same time start "exercising" for the time when the union

starts getting cold feet. Then the cell will push ahead and intensify the actions that we have been able to launch openly. Our past experience has been that whenever through rank and file organisation the unions start programmes, the time always comes when the union cannot cope with the radicalisation process with the rank and file and has to apply brakes or break up the project. This is exactly what has happened with the Pronk financed SOSV project in the unions which was started some years ago with the coming of the labour government, but now disappears with the brakes being applied by the union federation itself and the coming of a new conservative government.

As was the case with the project pre-1975, we will work towards splitting the cell ~~xxxx~~ and spawn its activities in Antwerp and Hamburg and Rouen. In this way we can control the bulk of European continental trade with South Africa.

In the first instance Delta will concentrate on knowing what is going on. To catalogue the movement of ships, know where the goods for piece trade ~~in~~ are being concentrated, where goods for container trade is being engrossed etc. The shipping lists from pre-1975 are still available, so we still have a good idea as to the routes and ships and shipping companies involved. After this we can start splitting cell activities to the other ports, thus geographical splitting, and cells to other activities, thus specialisation splitting. The geographical split takes place first of all to Antwerp where there are already some contacts linked to the workgroup in the ^{Rotterdam} harbour ~~of the trade union~~, then ~~the~~ to Hamburg ~~which~~ where there are some contacts from the pre 1975 period. Specialisation splitting will be done over the following. First of all, Delta concentrates on intelligence. Then as intelligence increases, we split first to moving of material via containers, initially propaganda material. This is something which our Echo cell was doing with great effectivity prior to 1975. Then, finally, we start working towards the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ possibilities of moving material, and personnel. Much can be learnt from Algerian experience when the FLN could use the French ports, with the support of comrades in the harbours, to move men and material. Also, in the longer run, the liberation movement may start thinking of infiltration of militants in the sailing ~~in~~ profession. Many ships use black south African crew, and Safmarine apparently is even thinking of recruiting black officer crew. Our Delta cells can keep abreast of these activities and do the ground work to infiltrate South African bound shipping. In this way we work up to the position that the IRA now has to

keep itself supplied via the shipping routes ~~from~~ ^{from} mainly the USA.

International trade and arms embargoes by the bourgeois governments against the ~~aparth~~ apartheid state are to increase over the next few years. We have experienced with the Rhodesian sanctions campaign that these embargoes mean nothing unless the execution and the intentions can be challenged by forces sympathetic to the revolutionary ~~movement~~ movement. Anti apartheid forces will never be effective without a good intelligence network.

The moving of information, personnel and material is something which other movements, especially the ~~solidarity movement~~ experiences of French support for the Algerian revolution can teach us much about. The present trend to containerise trade offers especial possibilities.

Infiltration. The way that the Delta project has been set up is ~~set up~~ already a mild form of infiltration. We must in particular keep a close watch on South African crews on South African bound shipping, and Safmarine.