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_ygEIONAL FUND RAISING WORKSHOP March 14-20 1986
SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE
REGION REPQRT - ITALY
Our mission to Italy started in the late seventies. I am
9W to be posted to this
:ountry. There are no members of our organisation that
know of in this country, except for one student who
studies about three hundred kilometres from Rome and
someone called Govin Reddy who is a journalist.
Our organisation has no office of its own, we conduct our
operations from a little corner inside the offices of a
sympathetic non-governmental organisation oalled(9IES.
This NGO was responsible for the December 1985_visit to
Italy of our SOMAFCO students. This mission is staffed
solely by the Chief Representative.
1. In April 1385 I assumed duties. Comrade Thami Sindelo
before his departure introduced me to the Communist Party
of Italy, comrade Soncini of Reggio Emilia; to two trade
unions CGIL and CISL respectively and to the NGO Molisv.
These organisations give monthly contributions towards our
rent and transport costs.
2. MOLISV has had a long relationship with us and has for
several years been engaged in ANC projects. In Reggio Emilia,
comrade Soncini through the National Committee has spear..
headed support programmes.?rominent among these was the
sending of twoxshiploads of solidarity goods to our comrades_
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in the West and to East Africa. Mention is also made of
support we once received from factory wgggggg_ig#M9geng,lwho
donated woodworking machninery for Star Fufhitupeijgam
following up this contact.
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This mission has no records of past projects; whatever was done in the past was apparently handled directly between the particular donor and our National Treasury. However, we are presently in the process of reorganising ourselves. Thus far we have had three meetings at the United Nations (Eggg_gng_gggiggitggejggggggggg&ngogethem with four NGOs who have expressed interest in understaking projects with the ANC.

FUND RAISING

Italy has a population of fiftysiX million people and is a multi-party country. There are no records in this office of past fund raising activities that were taken here on our behalf. In this connection through the recently created National Coordinating Committee against Apartheid, we have embarked on a nation wide campaign. Our objective is to consoientise the local public into supporting our just struggle politically and materially.

Financial support in this country is very difficult to obtain. Business houses because of commercial links or other ties to South Africa are reluctant to support us.

CIES has currently launched a subscription campaign for SOMAFCijrospects for its success are bright. In addition to appealing at rallies I have also been speaking to' church groups and recently been given by a Protestant group a cheque for one million lire for our Womens' Eggiionnmw

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Public interest in the South African quuBtion continues to grow here in Italy. Local trade unions, NGO's, Catholic and Protestant church organisation are willing to fund projects for us but are less enthtsiastic when it comes to ; making cash contributions. Together with the friends I have 2 just mentioned we are in the process of devising ways of fund raising apart from project undertakings. Needless to say, the Iltalian lire is not a strong currency, It is strictly controlled and is not negotiatable outside the3/

the E.E.Cv countries.

In conclusion, our mission will at the forthcoming Fund Raising Workshop give a comprehensive report. In the meantime, we are seriously addressing ourselves to the President's call of January 8, and are conscious that for our struggle to move we need money. We are gearing ourselves to go out and find it or perish in the effort.