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02/04/87

ANC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

REPORT ON PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

1. Consulted DIP on our journal IMPILO. Discussed the format, style, emblem and layout. Requested to collect articles.
2. Wrote to various regions with suggested topics and requested for regular contributors and articles for IMPILO. To date no response, except the two emblems received from Angola.
3. Available articles :
 - Updated conference paper on the internal situation.
 - Conference paper on AIDS. Leaflet on AIDS.
 - Conference paper on Mental Health in South Africa.
 - Conference highlights and resolutions.
4. Outstanding articles :
 - History of the ANC Department of Health.
 - History of the ANC/Holland Solidarity Hospital.
 - Interview with the President/Secretary General.
5. Intended format :
 - Homefront
 - Editorial
 - Health Education
 - Health Politics Section
 - Health Science
 - Review Column
 - Letters to the Editor (readers forum)
 - Bulletin
5. Prepared a pamphlet on AIDS per request of the Health Secretariat with an aim for public campaign in our various settlements.

Pointless just to litter the whole town with pamphlets on AIDS because the public already knows something about the disease. However, main purpose of campaign was to ensure that everybody is covered and can act as facilitators to promote discussion on the subject, allay unnecessary anxiety, reassure people and to motivate a positive and supportive attitude and behaviour to people suffering from AIDS. Printed five thousand leaflets. To try to reach a wide audience, the RPC units are used as a platform where lectures on the subject are given. Unfortunately, attendance at these meetings have been rather poor. Nevertheless, we need a determined attempt before we can decide to approach the campaign departmentally. Only 18 people covered thus far.

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Recently a video on AIDS has been made available.

7. Requested to set up an information centre/library. Thus far pamphlets and medical books from London were recieved.

8. Problems : Out of touch with health events at home (recent important meeting by MASA where medical sid schemes were discussed; forthcoming Annual General Meeting of NAMDA where National Health Service Scheme is going to be discussed).

- subscription to home journals overdue. Suggested list of journals :

- a) Critical Health
- b) South African Medical Journal
- c) South African Nursing Journal
- d) Pharmaceutical/traditional medicine journal
- e) Conference papers from medical student meetings
- f) NAMDA journal
- g) Health and Liberation - AAM (Health Committee)
- h) Internal Health Services Journal
- i) WHO publications

- Set up information gathering network within the country to ensure fast communication and availability of reasonably fresh news and ideas as directed by Council. Initial contact made but facilities of communication not easily accessible.

- Out of touch with general health events globally.

- a) Need to subscribe to certain journals.
- b) Re-establishment of contact with WHO for publications and programmes.
- c) Some health documents to the Health Secretariat never land on my desk.
- d) Purchase of books on health and vital questions of health of our day.
- e) Adequate briefings on Secretariat and departmental briefings.

9. Most of the time occupied by work of an administrative nature like typing drafting of letters and other boring secretarial work and patient consultations.

10. Lusaka very poor communication centre for information gathering, worse still on South Africa.

- Do not even recieve local newspapers regularly.
- Newsbriefings and other ANC publications are things of the past.
- Local university library generally not well sto with books that deal with greater issues of health due to the foreign currency problems and other problems of development.

11. Poor contact with Medical Xouncils in Southern Africa. Need more than one person to handle the task and to come to some agreement on registration of our members.
12. Suggestions :
 - ? Need to be informed about the allocated budget for the department so as to begin subscriptions and purchasing of relevant books and journals.
 - Compile a list of non-medical books that define issues of the day in health that every member of this department must be acquainted with.
 - Close cooperation, including a visit with the UK Regional Health Team as a major source of information gathering.
 - Set up regional information centres as sources of health information and providers of news for health bulletin/newsletter to be issued inbetween IMPILO issues to keep members informed.
 - Every region to commission one or two members of the team for such a task and to act as regular contributors to IMPILO.
 - Run and establish an information centre in Lusaka.
13. Seeking temporary registration with the Zambian Medical Council. Have to be attached to UTH for two sessions per week - Tues. (greater part of the day) and Friday afternoon. In preparation for permanent registration and further studies later on.
14. Political Sub-committee: Agreed to set this up. Members are Information and Publicity Officer, cde. Pren, Community Programmes Officer, Training and Personnel Officer.
15. Due to changes in personael in the Health Secretariat we agreed that I should occupy the position of Deputy Secretary for Health as well as my portfolio of Information and Publicity.

Health Secretariat

2 April 1987