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Wum/065/0006/01

SPECIAL DIRECTORATE MEETING HELD 15/1/83.

PRESENT: From Headquarters, Cds: Joe Modise, John Nkadimeng, Chris Hani, Henry Makgothi.

Directorate, Cds. Tikly (Chair), Dennis, Ntilashe, Maseko, Sidweshu, Marcus, Gaboo, R. Nzo, Abrahams.

The Director welcomed the representatives from H.Q. and outlined the agenda for discussion:-

1. Law enforcement and lock-up

Cd. Nkadimeng said there was already a decision from HQ that this should be set up. We must be able to control our people, or else face the risk of creating a bad atmosphere both on the campus and in the country. We have to try to eradicate bad tendencies.

Cd. Modise stated that we are in a war situation, therefore not only undisciplined elements but enemy agents also have to be dealt with. There is no society in the world which does not have such arrangements and we have to understand that it is difficult for the Tanzanians to take such action for us.

Cd. Makgothi outlined the experience of other liberation movements in this country where the Government has found it difficult to deal with acts of indiscipline, and has always suggested that we resolve our own problems. We have to deal with those who commit crimes against society and those who are identified as enemy agents, therefore the question of rehabilitation and re-orientation are important. The NEC puts much stress on the organisation's attitude to work and labour. Bad attitudes to work have to be eradicated, thus labour should not be made a form of punishment. Our people must be educated to an understanding of the dignity of labour and they should feel privileged to contribute towards self-sufficiency.

2. Law enforcers - personnel and running of rehabilitation centre.

Cd. Modise thought this would depend on how soon conditions could be created. The onus would rest with HQ to help, though we may not get all the personnel we needed. However, he promised that a few would be sent to assist. When the situation is controlled they may have to be withdrawn. But the implementation of such a place is urgent.

Cd. Tikly pointed out that while the lack of personnel was a serious factor, the presence of our security people had already made a tremendous difference.

3. Individual cases of Oscar Mali and Arthur Nkayi.

Cd. Nkadimeng expressed surprise that we made a request to HQ for his removal (Mali). He re-iterated that we have to deal with these cases ourselves. We should not feel sympathy for such anti-social elements. His brutal actions cannot be tolerated, nor others in the same category.

Cd. Hani informed the meeting that the NEC had indicated that each area must deal with its own recalcitrants, not export them.

Cd. Modise explained that each area had its own problems and it was not healthy to export problems from one place to another.

Cd. Dennis maintained that Mazimbu is full of problematic people who, under one pretext or another have been dumped here. He considered this to be unfair since we did not as yet have the machinery to deal with them. Yet no one wants to take our problems off our hands. Many of these comrades require rehabilitation, drying out, etc. Leaving them here is condemning them to death.

Cd. Modise hinted that Dakawa may yet have to be the major rehabilitation centre for the entire movement.

Cd. Maseko pleaded for full briefings on people sent here, also that comrades before coming should be properly briefed on Mazimbu, what is expected from them and so on. He quoted the Chief Rep as saying that in future he will only send comrades to the project who have been specifically assigned to tasks.

3. Stronger administration for Dakawa A politically mature person with initiative was needed if the right kind of contribution was to be made there.

Cd. Modise regretted that it may not be possible to find the personnel for this leadership role, but they will certainly try. He stressed that those who will be locked up must also be part of the work force.

Cd. Hani claimed that whatever we do at Dakawa will be directed to changing comrades to be in a better position to serve our people and our movement. Politics is primary therefore the NEC and Directorate must apply themselves to this. They should always be conscious of the fact that people who are sent there for disciplining should emerge feeling corrected and uplifted.

c. 4. Scholarship graduates

Cd. Tikly Spoke of cadres who have completed their courses and returned to Dar where they have been marooned. These are exactly the kind of people we dream about having with us; people with good qualifications but who have already been vegetating in Dar for 3-5 months. HQ is supposed to assign these comrades and the Chief Rep has sent details of them to Lusaka. In the meantime we have taken the initiative and temporarily assigned them to tasks here, as they were getting very frustrated. He promised a full list before the NEC members left. Some of the qualifications were telecommunications, biology, physics, electronics, agronomy, medical assistant and male nurse. Some will certainly be needed here and some should be deployed elsewhere.

5. Drivers

Cd. Tikly made another plea for trained drivers and Cd. Modise warned that many very experienced drivers had been proved to be agents. We must guard against this.

6. Projecting SOMAFCO

Cd. Hani said there was not sufficient publicity and propaganda coming out to make a positive contribution. It is crucial for the type of education we want to introduce - we need a Charter for Education.

Cd. Modise believed there was a contradiction in thinking that security was a factor in restricting publicity. If we thought along these lines then we are creating a situation whereby we are inhibiting ourselves. He was convinced that we could not hope to keep SOMAFCO a secret when our leadership are travelling the world soliciting funds for it. The enemy also has access to our donors, many of whom are from the West.

While we are trying to recruit our own people, including students to come here it is imperative that they should know exactly what they are coming to, what kind of education is being given, that it is the alternative to Bantu education. Naturally, publicity goes with the surroundings and visual material is necessary and vital not only for outside but for use within S.A.

He was of the firm opinion that our security here is in discarding secretiveness and being perfectly open. If we are secretive then we will draw interest and become a target.

He agreed that HQ should vet doubtful elements who wished to come here and also agreed that we needed a comprehensive film as well as articles on all aspects including the problems with which we have to grapple. Many of the problems we face can be placed squarely with the enemy - oppression, Bantu Education, lack of science and deprivations of all kinds. We have to think of encouragement to parents at home to support our project and also the student campaigns.

Cd. Dennis also saw the necessity of trying to reach technicians at home who may be motivated to join us. If we could portray our own artisans who are proud of their work it should help to change attitudes.

Cd. R. Hodgson was curious as to why HQ had given a negative response to the making of a film by Ivan and Tony Strasburg - members of the ANC and people who were the most capable of producing exactly the political and sympathetic film that we needed. Ivan is an internationally renowned camera man and they had offered to make the film available to the ANC for fund raising and publicity purposes, as well as trying to get it shown widely on the media in Britain and Europe. Many other film teams had been given permission to film here but so far had not produced what was envisaged.

7. Role of Labour in the Student Community

Cd. Modise said there were a number of different schools of thought as to the type of education we should have here. Some believed that it was solely an academic institution, with perhaps some sporadic work done on the land. He had been disappointed to find uncontrolled vegetation around the school and staff houses. He believed this had to be a prestigious project where youngsters would feel that they had come out of the slums to better conditions. However, we are not meant to be producing an elite. The students must participate in work in the fields and around their quarters. We do not intend to make intellectuals out of workers' children when we mean to bring about a workers society. Therefore we need a working class approach. We must not only pay lip service to this concept but must get them practically and physically involved or be doomed to face the same problems that beset all other African states.

Cd. Tikly maintained that the policy of the Education Council on this subject is very clearly stated - that attitudes to labour must receive priority. The curriculum includes a contribution to the complex as a whole. Not only O & A Levels and University but also helping with the harvest and other manual work should be part of the activities so that mental and manual labour should be seen as integrated.

Introducing labour when the school started was shelved because it was felt that concentration must be given to the academic side. This damaged further development and was very detrimental. Every effort is now being made to change direction by a concerted attitude within the school administration, by the Commissariat and by construction.

A rift between the school and the rest of the community was created where the guiding hand of construction was never sought resulting in still no clear communication between the two sides!

Cd. Maseko agreed that the surroundings of the school leave much to be desired, but Saturday mornings are set aside for work. One and a half hours twice a week is set aside for shamba work and site maintenance. Perhaps this is not sufficient and he recommended staff participation. While the attitude of students was not negative nor was our organisation's policy sufficiently positive. The students are willing enough, but implementation is difficult.

Cd. R. Nzo Felt that too much attention is focussed on the school and very little on the working class. Leaders and other visitors are always programmed for the students while the rest of the community is neglected

Cd. Dennis was critical of the utterings of our leaders who always emphasise ^{that} the role of the students is geared to reconstruction after liberation. This gives the impression that after MK have done the job, the intelligentsia, as in Zimbabwe will return to take up leadership posts and run the country. He felt that we had not yet really worked out what we wanted from SOMAFECO. He said after students graduated they were prepared to return here for a few months and then immediately wanted to go back for post graduate studies. He urged that the Department of Education and the NEC should be discussing this.

Cd. Nkadimeng welcomed Dennis' contribution and said we are strengthened when we can correct mistakes. Criticism and self-criticism is important for the objectives of our movement.

Cd. Modise re-iterated that the policy of the organisation is clear, namely that of the school being labour orientated. It seems it is a question of implementation. He criticised the staff, political commissars, principals, teachers, boarding masters and the Directorate for this. He believed that if properly directed, 200 students working $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week should be able to achieve a sizeable amount of work. If not, time should be increased.

He thought there should be a concerted effort on the school leadership and this matter should be debated at staff meetings. He also blamed the Secretary for Education. The NEC wants the students to be involved in work.

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Cd. Tikly Said we were very fortunate in having a new education Secretary and with his guidance at the top our role should be much easier. However, HQ should come to an understanding about exactly what we expect from our students so that a clear policy from our leadership is expressed when addressing SOMAFCO students.

He added that salaries to teachers was creating attitudes, since the only impression gained was that people get paid only for doing mental work. This is widening the gap as it must seem apparent that we only put a value on certain kinds of work. He acknowledged that we had a teacher crisis and were forced into offering rewards but the consequences of this decision are now militating against us.

THIS CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION.