

CIRCULAR TO ALL OFFICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

It has been the practise in the past to send large requisitions to Lusaka Headquarters whenever an emergency situation has arisen. Examples of this practice are several incidents when food has been low in Luanda and when over a thousand each beds and mattresses were ordered by Mazimbu recently. All our Representatives and Heads of Departments (especially those belonging to the Treasury) must remember their priorities in such instances.

In every country there are various support organisations whose job it is to assist in such matters. The agencies belonging to the United Nations and the O.A.U. itself should immediately be contacted for this purpose. The procedure would be for instance, when there is a great influx of personnel to ask the Chief Representative to make an appointment with U.N.H.C.R. This organisation should be requested to assist in whatever way is necessary.

This enquiry should not stop there alone. The O.A.U. should also be contacted for the same purpose as well as other organisations like some Churches and so on.

Only after all these sources have been approached urgently and only if there is a refusal from all of them, should H.Q. be requested to use their influence to resolve the problem.

It must be clearly understood that H.Q. cannot either provide the cash or always be in a position to resolve these difficulties. Each area must do its utmost to put pressure on their local support organisations to help in every way. It is too easy to send telexes and other urgent appeals to H.Q. always. This is not the way our different areas should function : " Just telex H.Q. - and forget about it. They will resolve it for us ".

The proper and correct way is as enunciated above. Go first to those whose duty and function it is to help all the liberation movements.

These organisations deal with refugees and all their problems. They have been set up for this purpose.

All other similar organisations as ours such as Zapu, Zanu , Polisario Swapo and so on have made very extensive demands on these support groups and have been helped on a large scale. Only the A.N.C. fails to take advantage of such support.

This attitude must change. Every one of our areas must make it their business to negotiate seriously and effectively with the United Nations, and Church organisations and the O.A.U. and any other groups which offer these facilities to us. This letter is meant to clarify the position of behalf of the Movement and is meant as a directive for all future actions when such support is needed.



This support covers a very wide range and includes food supplies, medicines, beds and blankets, transport and all emergency needs due to enemy action and so forth.

Once again, we repeat : DO NOT TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT OF YOUR DIFFICULTIES BY UNLOADING EVERYTHING ON TO HEADQUARTERS !!

Wherever possible negotiate first with your support groups and organisations in your area - when doing so inform H.Q. that you are trying to get help from them. Also inform H.Q. about the result of such negotiations.

H.Q. in future will deal with emergency matters (and other needs ) only when it has been clearly informed that such organisations cannot or refuse to help.

Then only will we take the matter to resolve the problems. The above policy must strictly be adhered to from receipt of this circular.

Amandla !! Maatla !!

*Wolfe Kodesh*

p.p. T.T. Nkobi

Treasurer - General

African National Congress (SA).

31.3.1981.

N.B.

Please acknowledge receipt of this memo.