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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NATIONAL WORKING COHHITTEE ON
VIOLENCE HELD AT CHEADLB THOMPSON AND HAYSOH ON

31 OCTOBER 1990 AT 17:00

Present: Gill Marcus (Chairperson)

Neil Coleman

Bavumile Vilakazi

Bheki Mkhize

Johnson

Azhar Cachalia

Jabu Ndhlovu

Anton Steenkamp

Gill opened the meeting and mentioned that the following
issues had to be followed up from the previous meeting:

Sebokeng.

The arms build-up at Kwazini and Katlehong.

The hostels.

Rumours of planned attacks.

Natal schools.

Propaganda against A N C.

Warlords being attacked.

Build-up for prospective attacks over the festive season.

We have the following reports to hand:

1. The Inkatha programme in Natal schools.

2. The current build-up.

3. Kwesine build-up.

4. Train attacks.

To be discussed: .

Reports to hand and the flow of infbrmation.

Neil gave an overview of current issues. Reports have been
received that a build-up is going oh in Natal and the PWV:

An attack on the Iscor hostel in Sebokeng is threatened.

Reports have also been received that a new wave of attacks
is being planned in the PWV hostels.

These attacks are linked to the arrest of Inkatha members living in the hostels. There are persistent rumours that Inkatha is planning a march in Orlando on the 10th November 1990 and possibly in Sebokeng on the 16th November 1990. The plan is apparently that the Inkatha marchers will attack bystanders as soon as anyone throws a stone at them. It was also reported that a rally is planned for George Goch stadium, but the date has not been fixed. We have no first hand hard evidence yet but separate rumours on the same incidents have originated from different sources. From Natal it is reported that school children are being prepared to attack non Inkatha members. Apparently war-lords are also planning to attack migrant workers who have not been prepared to fight with Inkatha in the PWV area when they go back home in December. Various reports of continuing and imminent attacks have also been received from Natal.

It is strongly rumoured that Themba Khoza was present at the Naledi killings on Sunday 28h10x1990.

Reports have been received that vigilantes are being imported into the PWV hostels from Natal. In addition to meetings which have been taking place in the hostels to plan attacks, pamphlets attempting to whip up ethnic hatred have been distributed and hostel dwellers are reportedly being forced to participate in physical training sessions. Neil said that all these reports appeared to indicate that the August/September violence might recur on an even bigger scale. However; there are certain countervailing factors militating against this:

t There is growing resistance towards the war-lords in the hostels.

t The war-lords are also facing growing resistance in Natal.

t It does appear as if the police are to a certain extent beginning to act against the vigilantes.

It is nevertheless clear that there is an urgent need to adopt a concerted strategy to pre-empt these plans and to give momentum to peace initiatives.

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Gill opened the meeting for discussion on the separate issues.

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Vumi said that he had no information at present about planned attacks. A negotiation meeting is to be held with General Erasmus on the 16th or the 26th November about the return of Inkatha members to the hostels. Iscor is still reported to be housing Inkatha members. Although it has in principle been agreed that Inkatha members should be allowed to return to the hostels after the mechanics for this have been worked out, the community are against the return after the hostels had been attacked on the 4th September despite a prior agreement between the community, Inkatha and the s A P. The people living in the hostel have not been helpful and an Inkatha member who went to retrieve his clothes, was murdered. The issue of Inkatha members returning will have to be discussed further with hostel dwellers. Neil commented on the role of NUMSA. Some Inkatha people are also NUMSA members, including one of the 37 people charged after the 4h9h1990 attacks. A report from NUMSA said that Zulu speaking NUMSA members who were moved to Kwamadala hostel were harrassed by vigilantes. It was felt that they should move into the township.

Bheki said that workers were dismissed after they had been absent from work because of the violence, and that they were now seeking representation from NUMSA. following issues need to be followed up:

The return of Inkatha members and meeting with the s A P.

Report from NUMSA.

Information received from an informant needs to be corroborated.

A practical issue is that a tape recorder is needed to monitor information.

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It was reported that Inkatha with the participation of senior impis had organised camps for school children in Natal on 12th September 1990 to prepare them for an onslaught against non-Inkatha supporters. Pamphlets were reportedly distributed to the delegates from the schools saying that Cosatu, the A N C and UDF want to wipe out the Zulu nation. It appears that parents decided to protest to the principal at one unnamed school where pamphlets were to be distributed.

Azhar asked whether we could get the names of these "senior impis" and whether we could get hold of some of these pamphlets that were to be distributed.

Bheki said that someone had promised to bring him copies of the pamphlets and that a principal of a school in Ceza area had been dismissed. Bheki will follow up on this issue. Gill proposed that this issue should not go to the press before we have more information.

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Neil reported that information had been received from the hostels that the vigilantes in the hostels intend to attack people who they perceive not to be on their side when they go home in December.

Lamola, the Chief warlord in Merafe hostel, reportely told people in Natal that those who ran from the fight, support the ANC or are neutral will be attacked in December.

Johnson reported that sources in the hostels referred to meetings in Jeppe and George Goch hostels on Sunday 28h10h1990. The meeting in Jeppe hostel was called by a war-lord from Ladysmith who forced a Cosatu member to convene and chair the meeting. The meeting comprised people from the Ladysmith area to draft a plan on how to attack and murder ANChCosatu members when they went home during the festive season.

The meeting at George Goch was attended by war-lords from Jeppe and Denver. Specific areas were identified where comrades would be attacked. Another meeting is reported to be planned at Jeppe hostel on 18h11h1990. Johnson will follow up this information and will try to monitor that meeting.

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Bheki reported on Denver hostel, where a meeting was called by the AmaXunu region of Masinga. The people were unhappy because the war-lords had asked that more money should be collected for Inkatha. The people were questioning this because the King had said that they should not fight anymore. There seems to be growing conflict between Inkatha members in favour of more fighting and those who feel that the King's authority is being undermined. It was also reported that R10 000 collected by the war-lords had gone missing. It was proposed that the money should be collected from whole regions and not from individuals.

Johnson also confirmed that hostel dwellers are starting to resist the war-lords and that they are resisting the payments of dues. However, undisciplined comrades molesting Zulu speaking hostel dwellers are driving them back into the Inkatha fold. This should be prevented.

The hostel divisions seem to be centred around:

iv Compulsory payment of money.

it Leaflets.

a The authority of the King.

Gill suggested that leaflets that are distributed at the hostels should be collected and an assessment is made. Johnson will follow this up. The possibility of asking King Zwelithini and Chief Tutor Ndamase to issue a joint statement calling for peace. '

AWE:-

Various attacks on Inkatha supporters by undisciplined youth and other comrades have occurred in the last month. Azhar pointed out that this is sheer thugery and that, if it is found that the attackers do belong to A N C structures, they should be disciplined.

Gill reported that it has already been decided that the youth should be asked to explain to members that these actions would not be tolerated.

It has also been reported that comrades on the trains have assaulted innocent Zulu speaking hostel dwellers. In one incident on 9450 evening train one of the hostel dwellers lost a watch. Johnson undertook to track down the comrade who took the watch and persuade him to return it, as the failure to do this might result in a further spiral of violence in the trains.

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Bheki mentioned that it would have great effect on the people if joint peace meetings between the ANC and Inkatha would be publicised properly.

Vumi reported that a meeting with branch members was planned for the 10th November to coordinate the monitoring of violence. These issues would be addressed at that meeting.

Wham-

The situation in Natal seems to be deteriorating again and a number of incidents have been reported over the last week. Neil felt that there was not enough coordination with Natal and that we should try to get hold of more comprehensive reports from the area. The National Committee will follow up this issue.

Watau-

Independent information from three different sources point to marchers being planned in Orlando on the 10th November and in the Vaal Triangle, probably on the 16th November. The plan seems to be that the marchers will attack as soon as stones are thrown at them.

Gill pointed out that this information relates to imminent actions and that immediate steps should be taken to communicate this to the youth especially in Orlando, in order to prevent provocation of the marchers that would lead to violence. The issue will be discussed with the Committee on Violence on Friday 2x11x1990.

Neil also asked that ways to stop the marchers should be investigated.

MW-

Gill reported that Themba Khoza had been seen in a Kombi in Naledi that was reported to be responsible for some of the attacks. The source will be asked to make a written statement and to provide the ANC with the licence plates of the Kombi.

Statements taken in Naledi by the IBIIR have been given to ANC and Cosatu.

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Thabu is to submit a report on this issue.

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Neil has received information from various areas that people have been bussed in from Nongoma, Msinga, Mahlabatini and other areas in Natal. Gill suggested that we linked up with Natal in order to get hard evidence on this.

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It has been reported from the hostels that pamphlets attempting to whip up ethnic hatred are being distributed and that hostel dwellers are being forced to participate in physical training sessions.

Wm.

Vumi reported that a security guard called Sithole at Cosatu head office is rumoured to be a war-lord. On Thursday 11h10h1990 a Kombi load of what appeared to be vigilantes was seen outside Cosatu House. On Thursday 13h10h1990 the security guard arrived at Cosatu House with a notorious vigilante Vilikazi. On Wednesday 24h10h1990, when the security guard was not on duty, he was seen driving past Cosatu House with a number of people in a Skyline pointing at Cosatu members standing outside. The registrations number of the Kombi seen outside cosatu House has been given to Bheki Mlangeni. Gill suggested that photographs should be taken of known war-lords targeting Cosatu and ANC and that these should be distributed.

Vumi reported that people in a blue Ford Sapphire approached members of the ANC in the Veal and asked them where the Evaton branch secretary stays. When they were asked for the secretary's name, they gave the wrong name. Vumi does not have the registration number of the Ford Sapphire.

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at Propaganda against the ANC.

1" Arms build-up (report awaited from Thabo).

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t InkathaxANC visit (report awaited from Working Committee on Violence).

Gill pointed out that written reports seemed far more effective than verbal reports to facilitate further discussions. Phule was asked to compile similar reports from the press.

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Gill suggested that experienced monitors in Natal and the Cape should be asked to address a morning seminar to share methods that they have evolved with monitors in the PWV. Documentation from these areas should also be sent to the IBIIR. Neil suggested that the question of discipline and a possible code of conduct should also be discussed at this seminar.

Gill asked comrades to ensure that information is sent through to the IBIIR. The Board is to inquire from Black Sash and Lawyers for Human Rights whether they have received anymore information, and to make available the names of people available to take statements. An analysis of what information the IBIIR has at this stage, and what is still needed, will be drawn up for the next meeting.

Themba Khoza and the other accused in the Sebokeng trial appeared in court on 31h10h1990. Anton reported that all attempted murder charges against the accused had been dropped in order for the Judicial inquest to go ahead. Khoza will still be charged with possession of machine guns and explosives, and 13 other accused will be charged on a variety of counts, including malicious damage to property and theft. Depending on the evidence coming to light in a Judicial Inquest and other means, the suspects could be re-charged. Azhar pointed out that more evidence is needed on the incident of 4h9h1990. Vumi will try to get hold of Lazarus More.

Azar pointed out that we are not utilizing the civic structures properly in order to ensure effective monitoring. The civics have the advantage of a lower political profile and easier access to information. Gill said that the ANC had suggested that CAST send a representative to the NWC.

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12.6.

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Azhar asked to what extent the SAP should be involved. Some element of trust should be established with the police in order to increase our own protection and to increase the political coat for the state. The state could not point fingers at us if we provided them with information. They should not be let off the hook. It was pointed out that the SAP would produce documentation that we had not provided them with promised information. Gill suggested that the campaign for a code of conduct for the Police should be speeded up.

Next meeting convened for Wednesday 7h11h1990 at 16:00 on the 1st Floor of Cosatu House. Meeting closed at 19:30.