

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MTG. HELD LILANDA 8/ 12/ 70

PRESENT: K. Mtungwa (Chairman), John, BB, Mkeba, Bawo & JJ.

ABSENT : Lemmy & Joe.

APOLOGIES: From Chief who was reported to be unavailable

STARTING TIME: 11 am instead of 10 am with apologies from the Chairman whose car had broken down on his way to the meeting.

AGENDA: Minutes, Correspondence, scholarships, Logistics, December 16 & General discussion.

Reading of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

Arising from Minutes: Comrade Mkeba asked about Chief's promise to attend one of our meetings in connection with the question of the proper handling of discrepancies contained in the list of expelled comrades.

Comrade Chair explained that Chief was at present unavailable.

Re-Non-attendance : JJ detailed summon Lemmy attend next mtg without fail
Ken " " Joe " " " " "

Correspondence: Reading of the document from Chief elaborating on Status and Functions of the Special Committee

BB: said that reflecting on the document one finds that the Special Committee is called upon to consider the political and military facets of our temporary stay in Zambia. The first step to be taken by the Committee, now that its tasks had been clearly defined, would be to establish co-ordination between itself and the Administration in our Bush Base, he said.

JJ: said that in support of the last point made by cde BB the question of the adoption of cde Dingo's name as a full member of the Special Committee be given immediate attention. He went on to say that the Special Committee - as presently constituted - was perhaps the first of its kind in the history of our External Mission. What made the Special-Committee-arrangement ^{unique} was the attempt ^{at} the involvement of leading cadres in the day to day affairs of MK and immediate plans. More talent which otherwise would be lying dormant, could be roped in this way. It now rested on the foresight of members of the Special Committee to find that talent and use it. It would stand the Special Committee in good stead to base its methods of work on the model of Branch organisation as it used to ~~function~~ ~~at home~~ operate at home. We should conduct regular meetings with comrades with a view to discussing common problems. We should also consider inviting one or two selected comrades to attend some of our meetings. In this way we would not only be 'living in the situation but would also be in a position to inform comrades about a number of things they ought to know, JJ concluded.

John: asked for an explanation on the background to the document under discussion.

The Chairman informed cde John that the request for a clearer definition of tasks (Status & Function) had originally come from the Special Committee.

John asked if the Special Committee was automatically expected to accept the document.

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BB said that he accepted it in toto and further emphasised how he was optimistic about the chances of a body like the Special Comm. making a bold bid to salvage the majority of ^{our comrades} comrades from ^{frustration} frustration and utter ruin.

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Chair said that it was to be understood that the document was wide open and that we could improve on it. New ideas could be hatched as we met from time to time.

John said that it was true we were under an obligation to save the movement. JJ had made the point that the movement had been in the hands of few individuals for a very long time. But we must be careful not to over-state our case. The question of inviting individuals to attend meetings of the Special Committee could have its own complications. The main problem was to go back home and the immediate problems are such as those pertaining to comrades due back from training. There should be close consultation between the Special Committee and the NEC on some of these issues. ON the question of expulsion - in case of appeal - the Special Comm. should handle the question with caution. We must take the position where we will enhance the position of the NEC (their position has weakened considerably), he said. Cde John concluded by saying that the document gave us a guideline to find out the weaknesses of the organisation and to try to restore good relations between the men and the leadership. Lastly he said that it should be one of the tasks of the Special Comm. to decide where our men ought to be based - in town or in the Bush.

Mkeba said that when the Committee was created there had been a lot of confusion. (This was at the time of the issuing of the Order), he said. It was a temporary Committee by then, but now it seemed a permanent one. If therefore it was now permanent we ought to be closer to the men than the NEC. I.O.W., the NEC should know the men through us. Comrade Mkeba criticised the fact that we had failed to review the situation now that the men had gone and come back from the bush. He also cited the case of Tolman whose mysterious disappearance from Lusaka should have been discovered in time. 'The Committee should not only know the whereabouts of the men but also their behaviour,' he said. Secondly the Committee had to control the movement of the men from Bush to town, vice versa. The document appeared to allow us the latitude to do the practical side of things. We should go to the men and work among them. But what about the suggested names? What is to be their fate? he asked.

Chair said that the names had been handed in but it seemed that some of us were not happy about the withdrawal of the original members of the Special Committee. The hands of the 4 comrades - Lemmy, Joe, Pule and Mkeba seemed full. It would be next to impossible to have cde Lemmy attending at all meetings. 'And conspiracy does not permit me to inquire into what he is doing' he said.

U: wanted to know how busy one could get and whether it was not true that even the busiest individual had still to be governed by an order of priorities. In the absence of a good, combat-ready Army, and certainly for the purposes of the Revolution of the oppressed people of South Africa there would be no excuse for a Commander in Chief or any high ranking officer for that matter, by-passing this kind of meeting simply because his hands were full.

Bawo: said that he agreed with the point made by JJ that the vital nature of our work demanded all hands on deck. It would seem that part of the special committee's work would be to recommend measures to save-guard its members from being over-worked. Comrade Bawo went on to say it would be no surprise for members leaving this meeting to come across cde Lemmy 'in a complete state of relaxation at the Africa Bar. And it would equally not be surprising that cde Joe is this very minute taking it easy at the Factory', he said. Bawo concluded by suggesting a thorough examination of the cases of cdes Joe and Lemmy next Tuesday.

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE REASONS FOR THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE BY CDES LEMMY AND JOE BE CONDUCTED NEXT MEETING

STUDY SHIPS

that some of our problems could be solved if we could fix
ies somewhere.

He wanted.../3

MKEBA: ...Wanted to know what steps could be taken in Africa or Europe to find courses in Mechanics for some comrades.

Chair: said in reply that there were difficulties. TX had written from London to say that only graduates were required. If the candidate happened to be a Matriculant - it had to be A Level. The additional problem was the insistence everywhere on Certificates. In Yugoslavia the applicant had to be under 25 years of age. In Africa (Siria Leon) their Matric is far advanced than ours - and they also demand a certificate. In Zambia freedom fighters were discouraged to switch over to education (Modisan and Chicks were rejected by Mkushi Institute) Modisan and Chicks were presently doing private studies in order to secure certificates. Pitso and Sipho were doing likewise, the chairman said. CHARITY ORGANISATION: cde chair further informed the meeting about a Body in Geneva which had plans to commence technical courses in Zambia. The snag was that our men preferred academic education, the chairman concluded.

Mkeba: suggested that more comrades be encouraged to do private studies in order to obtain the necessary certificates. Books had been already ordered from London to enable cde Proffessor to study.

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT a) Funds being available, comrades be encouraged to undertake private studies with a view to obtaining the required certificates (i.e. those comrades who seek and have applied for transfer to education.) b) that cdes Mkeba and Mntungwa set aside a day to acquaint scholarship-seeking comrades of the present difficulties.

LOGISTICS: Comrade Chair outlined the problems confronting the logistics department. The problem arose in respect of the policy to be followed in connection with catering for those comrades living outside the Residences. On his own initiative the chairman had issued food rations to cdes Gatyeni and Zembe - for so doing he had earned himself a reprimand from his Senior, he said. Then there was the case of Bawo and BB who also received food rations. Yet cdes Zeph and JJ had to go without their rations (JJ has been fending on his own since 1968 when he was deprived of his rations, he said. 'The general policy should be that comrades living away from the official residences ought not to be catered for. But each case will be treated on its merits', he said.

John : said that some time ago this matter had cropped ^{up} in Morogoro and that members should request to know how the NEC had resolved it. 'However, according to O.R's document (just adopted at this meeting) it would seem as if this committee is expected to use its brains', he said.

THE CHAIRMAN RULED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS COMPETENT TO GRAPPLE WITH THE MATTER BEFORE REFERRING IT TO THE NEC.

DECEMBER 16 : IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT: a) All roads should lead to the Bush Base for purposes of re-dedication on the occasion of Mkonto Day. b) cdes Bawo and Mkeba constitute a sub-committee to work out a programme and report to cde Mntungwa.

Meeting adjourned.

PRESENT: K. Mntungwa (Chairman), Bawo, Mkeba, BB, & JJ.

ABSENT : Joe & Lemmy.

APOLOGIES: From Chief who could not attend today's meeting as planned due to pressure of work. The Chairman also handed in apologies on behalf of Comrade John who had not been notified about today's mtg.

AGENDA : MINUTES; CORRESPONDENCE; Report on 4 comrades to be served with Order issued September last, General matters.

Amendment to minutes: Comrade Mkeba pointed out that the name of Rashidi be included in the list of names of comrades who had still to be served with the Order (Mkeba and Bawo had been delegated to approach Rashidi).

BB moved the adoption of the minutes as a correct record : Seconded by Mkeba.

Rising from Minutes: BB reported that he and Comrade Joe had failed proceed to the C/belt to approach cde George.

Mkeba reported on Rashidi, Gumede and Bennie Rashidi who had been served with the Order on Friday by Mkeba had expressed readiness to comply. Gumede's whereabouts were still unknown . Bennie was served with the Order on 24th (Thursday) He expressed his readiness to go by the next available transport. (Requested to be allowed back home at the month-end to enable him to finalise certain family arrangements.).

Mntungwa reported that Manyati was still untraceable.

CORRESPONDENCE:a) In view of a note received from Chief a majority decision was taken to discontinue serving comrades Gumede Manyati and George with the September Order to go to the Bush Base.

b) In the case of Bennie Natio members of the Special Committee urgently request the NEC to regularise Comrade Nato's position.

c) Members expressed a keen desire to be addressed by the APG as promised in his last note.

Document stating Functions & Status of Special Committee

Having furnished all members present with a copy of the above document, the Chairman directed that in view of the time factor and the lack of a quorum (comrade Mkeba had excused himself), members should read ~~the~~ it during their spare time and reserve discussion on the document until the next meeting of the Special Committee.

Meeting adjourned.