

30/06/88

Date: 30th. June 1988

Present: Regional Commander, Regional Commissar, R.C.O.S., R.C.O.L, R.COT,
R.C.O.Sec. and a member of the MHQ cde. Keith.

Absent : Chief Medico and Chief of Personnel who are both outside the country.

- Agenda : a) Brief reports
b) Restructuring
c) Correspondence
d) General

Meeting started at 9.00hrs. The first to give reports was cde. C.O.S. and presented the strength of the Region short of the exact strength in the Luanda district due to the outflow of personnel during the week. The situation in the different districts is as follows;

EAST;

The basic course started on the 25th. April with 86cds. of which 8 are the commanding personnel. It is reported that the situation of food is bad and cds. had to ask Fapla to assist. Last time they were given a two months supply.

The military situation is bad. On the 4th. June, just 20km. from Malanje our truck was ambushed and we lost 4cds. while 3 got injured. We later got the information that the bandits are moving in big units transporting arms and attacking villages. Our activities are conducted in collaboration with the Cuban cds. there.

Irregularities in the camps are not much except the bad maintenance of weapons. There were reports of deliberate acts of sabotage e.g. gun powder was removed from cartridges and replaced with soil. Again cartridges were put into the fire which was next to a place where there was supposed to be a gathering. Luckily the gathering was late and no one was hurt. Some cds. sneak-out to buy liquor at the new camp.

The specialisation course will be starting on the 1st. July with 61 cds.

LUANDA;

No serious cases of irregularity. We have declared a curfew from 18.00 - 6.00hrs. We need to arm cds. but we haven't enough weapons and there are strangers moving around collecting information about our cds. The families also want to be armed.

NORTH;

There is a serious shortage of fuel and we need to have extra tanks.

In concluding his report, cde. COS brought to the attention of the meeting the cases of the Tribunal which have delayed and needs urgent attention. He also reported about two officers from Moscow Camp and a female cde. who are involved in stealing spare-parts and sell them.

N.B.

After a brief discussion on the report, the meeting drew the following conclusions
- Since the office of the R.C.O.S. lacks personnel, cde. Sibusiso, the present Staff Commander in Viana Camp, is to be appointed the District Commander. One more cde. must be added in this Office.

- The cds. who are living outside our centres should not be armed and all the weapons in the whole region should be properly registered.

The regional Command should have a large topographical map in order to widen scope and facilitate our work.

Logistics Dept.;

The present figures of the state of our logistics was given but it ^{was} ~~was~~ sited that shortages are only on sugar, beans and cooking oil supplies.

N.B.

After a brief discussion the meeting concluded the following way;

- The R.C.O.S. must make a circular to all our centres reminding them about monthly reports and how those reports should be written, i.e. they should ^{include} transport, logistics etc. etc. This is urgent and it will help in compiling the reports of the Regional Command.
- On the question of clothing, the donors should be asked to buy us new cloths. This is in order for the cloths to last longer. Such clothing should also be packed according to bales of trousers, shirts, etc.
- MHQ must be asked to send to Angola the bales which were left at Maputo in order to solve the clothing problem here.

Transport Dept;

At present there are 11 diesel vehicles and 5 petrol vehicles ready for the next convoy. It was reported that there are 25 diesel and 19 petrol vehicles which can be fixed. The problem is lack of spare parts and also finance to obtain them from the black-market, where they are available.

It was reported that theft is rife and our property is vulnerable to subortage due to lack of proper lighting system and fencing of the camp. Cds. do work but the conditions are not good. The centre is short of facilities for leisure and there is a decline in political work.

The report also forwarded the following recommendations;

- That cde. Max Sithole be made a Camp Commissar
- That, means be made to purchase spare parts locally and outside Angola
- Cds. be sent on short courses on transport management, repairs, maintenance etc.
- One good vehicle be set aside for driving school and more learners be added.
- All convoy vehicles be armour plated ~~i.e. convey vehicles.~~
- All obsolete vehicles be sold and buy new ones and spare parts.

N.B.

The meeting discussed the report and agreed that;

- The steel ~~sheds~~ which we received from the Cubans is weak, therefore we must send it back because we exchanged ~~with~~ it with timber. Cde. COS was asked to check the steel at Viana Camp for the possibility of doubling it.
- As from the next convoy, ZGU's ~~won't~~ be allowed because they become easy targets against attacks.
- The selling of vehicles can continue but the money must be sent to the treasury. No ANC money must be left floating and the Regional Command must be involved ~~in~~ in money dealings.
- On the question of re-enforcing the Moscow administration, cde. COS must look

around for a comrade who is good in maintenance and another one to help commanding.

The recommendation of cde. Max being the Camp Commissar is pending clearance.

The question of making contacts with the locals in the sphere of transport and of purchasing spare parts outside Angola must be discussed with the Chief Rep. or in the Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

A letter has to be written to the MHQ requesting to send comrades to the USSR for Short courses on transport but this has to be confirmed with the local Soviets .

N.B.

As a form of a closing remark, cde. Keith strongly stressed that meetings should be regular and for the sake of progress, accountability should be a serious demand.

Meeting adjourned at 9.00hrs. until Friday the 1st. July.

The continuation of the meeting of the 30th. June was held at the same venue, Res.1

The attendance was as before plus cde. Lenox also from the MHQ.

The meeting started at 8.00hrs.

Security Dept.;

The report was presented and the it stressed the following points;

- The information concerning the departure of convoys is not kept secret by cds. It is so especially ~~with the~~ with those who are married to the locals and those who are part of the growing looseness in the ditrict.
- Enemy agents have infiltrated Luanda and they are after English speaking people They want to gather as much information about their activities as possible. We do not have enough transport to monitor this.
- The rate of theft is high. Some cds. want to accumulate money for nice time while others prepare for marriages. The most affected areas are the Stores and Moscow. We need to unite as the Regional Command and combat this situation ~~as a~~ collectively.
- There has been some desersions in the East and Luanda. On the other hand subortage of property is rife i.e. vehicles and weapons.
- There are comrades who have been confined and have been released by the NWC. They have to be deployed in Luanda Upon arrival.
- It is rumoured ^{by the enemy} that cde. Jerry Adams of Camp 13 is imprisoned by the ANC. Arrangements have to be made for him to meet his family and prove the falsity of this rumour.
- The Angolans are delaying about the case of the late cde. Jerry Zithulele's ~~case~~.
- There have been no developments of late.
- Discussions have been held with the Angolans about the question of lisences for weapons and I.D. cards. This includes also the question of acquiring a cell for criminal cases.
- There is a problem of correspondence with MHQ. Requests are sent to us ^{and} not mention is made as to who made such a request. It is difficult to attend to cases like this.

After the report the following was concluded by the meeting;

- We need to raise to MHQ as to how to relate to those who have been released, what type of tasks can they perform etc. On the other hand we have to give the released person a period of observation and see how he behaves. Upon release, cds. Chief of Security and Regional Commissar must give them briefings concerning the conditions of release and that they are free to move around and do things like the rest of the comrades.
- The dates of the departure of convoys must be a closely guarded secret.
- We must introduce a mail-bag system between Lusaka and Luanda.

Political Report:

Out of the 10 centres which we have in the region, BMC, new camp and Moscow do not have Commissars. The Northern Front Commissar is also busy at Camp 32. All this causes serious problems of political work.

The North does not have enough political depts. especially at DRC. There is a shortage of manpower at the Logistics, Construction and Ordnance depts. This makes the selection of personnel for Party School difficult and improper.

EAST:

The specialisation course has started with 11 cds. doing politics. There is a problem of potential comrades for further development. Cde. Walter was responsible for all the centres in the East but now he is out of work because he is injured.

LUANDA:

The District Commissar has been down down with malaria for a long time and the underground houses have not been attended to. Added to that there is no transport to take these rounds.

At Moscow there is lack of political work because there is no Commissar. There is no proper welfare for comrades and they don't have transport for leisure times while the conditions of work are bad.

All the centres are short of technical means, there is a shortage of reading material although the DPE and the National Commissariat did try to send some.

Presently the Commissariat is in the process of building its centre which is meant to groom political activists. Experienced political workers will be invited to give lectures. At present there are ³ desks of the Commissariat i.e. Research, Political Education, Youth and Women.

The present task is to develop female cds. and raise them to higher positions. Three are presently instructors in the camps and one in Luanda. Of all the cds. who come from the political courses abroad only 8 are capable instructors. At present we don't have comrades to send ^{to} Bulgaria, Soviet Union and Cuba.

N.B.

The meeting agreed that;

- Study groups must be revived in all the centres.

- That cds. must be prepared first long before going to Party School and when they return they must undergo the process of re-orientation and proper grounding.
- Political literature must be seen not to delay before arriving in our Region.
- There must be feed-backs on important meetings like the Dakar Conference, PASA etc.
- Political work is not meant for the Commissariat alone, everybody must ^{help} the Commissariat.
- The heads of depts. must first be informed when comrades are needed for convoys.

2nd. Agenda; RESTRUCTURING

It was recommended that cde. Luvuyo fill the post of Chief of Communications and cde. Pax Bathathe that of Chief Ordnance. This is pending a reply from the MHQ.

Deputies cannot attend meetings of the Regional Command but can ^{be} called to make some clarifications in the absence of the head of a particular dept.

There after the meeting selected comrades to go and hold briefing meetings with the depts. which are not represented in the Regional Command and these are;

Chief of Security and and COS are to meet the Ordnance dept.

" " Transport and cde. Lenox " " " Communication dept.

Commander and cde. Keith are " " " Medical dept.

Commissar and Chief Logistic " " " Personnel dept.

Chief of Transport and COS " " " Treasury dept.

The meeting also agreed that since cde Winston Jacobs will be leaving for Party School he must be replaced and on his return he must not re-assume his duties. At present cds. Chief of Security and COS were assigned the task of finding a suitable replacement to start acquainting him or herself with the job before cde. Winston leaves.

It was also stressed that the Regional Command must assess all the movements of cadres and take action. The Regional Command must be as effective and authoritative as before.

3rd. Item; CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting agreed that in future correspondence must not be photo copied because this might cause problems. At present there is no correspondence

The meetings of the Regional Command were then set as follows;

Every Monday at 8.00 hrs. These are normal weekly meetings

Every Wednesday at 8.00hrs. These are consultative meetings

GENERAL;

- The 15 comrades who come from Cuba will go to the South for practicals.
- Cde. Teddy Harris, the Mechanical Engineer, must go to Tanzania to round up the material he needs.
- Two Scania and a Benz truck have been received from the OAU.

The Soviet comrades are not entitled to the plans of the Regional Command yet we have to have contacts in solving some of the problems.

- Two comrades who are technically inclined are needed by HQ wanted
- One comrade who is disciplined, having done MCW and with the knowledge of Soweto is ^
- Training manuals of all subjects are needed for the front and at home.

Meeting ended at 15.00hrs.