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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA - TORONTO COMM. BOX 123 STATION E TOR.

R E P O R T O N A C T I V I T I E S

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JANUARY:

The committee ushered into the new year with limited activity. In fact the only activity that we were now engaged in was the distribution of SECHABA and the disposing of calendars - calendars had now become a tradition and an important publicity and political vehicle for our committee. We were determined to exert full effort and show a fair profit from its sale - at the same time we ensured sufficient distribution per gratia to fraternal organisations, and the embassies of progressive governments. We sent a batch to each ANC office and there was demand all around for more.

Absteeism was becoming a problems at meetings and work of the committee was certainly suffering or not progressing as it should.

At this stage little or no solidarity work was being carried out and the general atmosphere was lax on the part of the committee.

FEBRUARY:

An invitation was extended to the secretary of the committee comrade Joe Joe to address a meeting together with comrade Zami Conco at the University of Guelph.

The views expressed by both comrades were those of the organisation as a whole and were fully representative of the inner feelings of our people at home.

At the first executive meeting in February it was decided to revitalise the committee and step up our activities. 1973, it was felt, would be a significant year both for the South African and International struggle. It was imperative that we play a dynamic role in both areas.

It was decided to enlarge the committee, set up a programme of work, re-organise and inject new enthusiasm and a higher level of consciousness.

Thus the committee was pumped with new fuel and vigour by the introduction of several new members - Peter Modiselle, Dick Domingo, Masha Domingo, James Mwandile, Barry and Betty Hariparsad, Anver Domingo and Adam Carrim.

Our first task was to put our house in order - to straighten our files and records - to delegate duties to the various members and most important of all to draw up a practical and realistic programme of action.

The new comrades on the committee expressed their willingness and full co-operation to help put the committee on concrete foundation.

Umkhonto we sizwe (Spear of the Nation)

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MARCH:

The concentration at the first two committee meetings of this month rested on organising the Sharpville Commemorative day.

A small but a receptive audience participated in the Sharpville Commemorative day held on March 21st.

It was addressed by Comrade Zami Conco followed by a slide picture showing and poetry reading by Zakes Mokahe.

Speakers were sent out in the last two weeks of March to several High Schools to give talks on the South and Southern African situation as viewed by the ANC.

APRIL:

Two committee meetings were held during this month. The agenda dealt basically with the following topics:

- a. The World Youth Festival in the GDR.
- b.
 - i. Comrade Dom Mooljee would head the delegation from Canada.
 - ii. Preparation and designing of badges.
 - iii. Production of 10,000 badges to be taken to the Festival.
 - iv. Select delegates to attend the festival.
- c. The planning of a fund-raising effort in June to cover costs for the production of the badges.
- d. Plans for stepping up solidarity work were discussed at length.

Both these meetings were constructive and we were beginning to see signs of an all round improvement in the work of the committee: a greater degree of enthusiasm and a stronger commitment to the cause and the movement as a whole.

ANC - TORONTO COMMITTEE - REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 1973.

MAY & JUNE:

The first two meetings in May were confined mainly to discussions revolving around the forthcoming World Youth Festival. The decision to produce 5000 badges for the festival was finalised and the order was to be placed immediately. Seven delegates were selected to represent the committee on the ANC delegation. The names were to be submitted to Head office Youth and Student Section immediately.

On the solidarity front negotiations were under way with the Canadian Peace Congress to organise a mass South African meeting on June 26th. Two comrades were sent as ANC delegates to several meetings of the Peace Congress to ensure that our participation was guaranteed and also that the topics of the mass meeting would have an ANC flavour in its ideas and views.

A letter was tabled at the executive meeting from the Treasurer-General in Lusaka stating the urgent need for funds and delegating a project to us to raise funds for the purchase of a heavy duty truck. A special committee was set up to deal with the project.

Towards the end of May we were greeted with an unexpected visit by Comrade Thami from the New York office. He posed several questions to Comrade Joe Joe as regards the structure of the Toronto Committee, its activities, the names of each comrade serving on the committee and their background. He expressed serious concern that there was only one African on the Committee and wanted to know what efforts had been made to recruit more Africans living in Toronto or its vicinity. He also asked to have interviews with African South Africans in Toronto.

Two such comrades visited were Br Nongauza who wanted to know from Comrade Thami as to what the New York or the United States office had to do with the Toronto Committee, particularly since he knew that the work in Toronto was carrying on smoothly, whereas he had learnt that there were enormous problems being experienced in the United States and what efforts was Comrade Thami making to alleviate the difficulties.

Comrade Thami explained that it was his task not only to straighten up matters in the United States but bring or draw Canada into the picture as well since his jurisdiction was not only the United States but covered Canada as well, and that he was going to make serious efforts to call up a meeting to unite all the ANC committees and individuals in North America and make it a recognisable force.

The other Comrade visited was Dr Modiselle and his wife Comrade Maureen. After discussing several matters concerning mainly the work of ANC in general the discussion was followed by the role and work of the Toronto Committee. Comrade Thami expressed his criticism to the Modiselle's about the work of the committee and particularly Joe Joe for not exerting sufficient effort in obtaining the support of African South Africans in Canada. Both Comrade Peter and Maureen expressed their concern that Thami was viewing the whole situation along racial lines. They assured Comrade Thami that the Toronto Committee had made countless efforts to gain the support of all South Africans.

Comrade Thami then expressed his desire to meet with entire committee. He told the committee that it was responsible to him. That all communications

He told the committee that all communications to head office had to be directed via the New York office. That he would inform Head Office accordingly. That he would frequently visit Toronto to examine files correspondence etc. That the committee had to report to him periodically. That he was in the process of forming a North America Committee of the which the Toronto Committee would become part of.

As regards the World Youth Festival he would see to badges and any money collected for the production of badges should be utilised for sending a North American delegation to the festival.

As regards the letter from the Treasurer General for the Truck project, he expressed surprise that HQ had not informed him. He said he would communicate with HQ on the matter and inform us likewise.

He emphasised that all our activities and planning had to be approved by him since he was representative for North America and this jurisdiction included Canada.

He also demanded to see all records and correspondence. He took files of records and correspondence with him to New York which he later returned.

Comrade Joe Joe had to go to London at this time on personal matters. During his absence Comrade Thami summoned another meeting of the committee. He raised the following issues with the committee:

- a. Credentials of each member of the committee.
- b. What travel documents each member of the committee was carrying.
- c. The conduct of Comrade Joe Joe in several areas.

- i/ How was he able to travel with an expired passport.
- ii/ In what way was his business linked with the committee.
- iii/ Why was correspondence sometimes not placed before the committee.
- iv/ His marital problems it was felt were affecting the work of the committee/ Should he therefore not be replaced.

(ENCLOSURE)

The committee and Comrade Thami agreed that the above points would be discussed with Comrade Joe Joe on his return from London and that a detailed report would be submitted to Thami in New York.

Upon Comrade Joe Joe's return a six hour meeting was held to resolve the serious situation that had arisen. Comrade Joe Joe expressed his concern at the charges presented to him by the committee. He felt that the nature of the charges were personal rather than political. That this committee had carried out its tasks without any full time personal, and had done its very best. Certainly there was a certain degree of laxity at times but this was never intentional. That his travel documents were his personal affair so were his marital problems. And most important of all he expressed to the committee that Comrade Thami had nothing to do with this committee. That this committee was responsible to head office and a letter should be sent of to HQ immediately asking for clarification and also a report on the problems facing the committee since Comrade Thami's visit. The committee was at a deadlock. Split down the middle. Some members felt we had to answer to Comrade Thami only and leave HQ out of the picture while other members felt that the entire proceedings since Comrade Thami's visit should be reported to HQ.

The only decision that was taken at t was that Comrade Joe ~~was~~ Joe continue to hold the position as secretary.

It was also decided to send a delegation to the World Youth festival. That comrades travelling would do so at their own expense, though the committee would try to assist anyone that wanted to go but did not have the necessary funds.

THE PROBLEMS WERE LEFT IN THE AIR SINCE THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT COME TO ANY AGREEMENT.