

Cam/054/226/3

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (SA)

Mission to Canada

Minutes of Toronto Unit Meeting, July 9 1990

Present: Peter M, Peter B, Don M, Ahmed M, Enver D, Zaheer B,
Apologies: Linzi M, Sam K, Baboo M.

1. Dance: Cmde Ahmed reported that the dance was a success. Gross earnings were about \$4000; however, some money is being kept to cover expenses, and to book a hall for new year's eve 1991. As yet, there is no hall available for new year's eve 1990, but Ahmed, Don and Prem are looking for one.

2. Mandela Reception: Cmde Peter M reported that the Mandela visit was a success. The Canadian government is now "on side" to some extent. Some of the comrades felt "left out" of the whole process. But Peter explained, as he had last meeting, that the ANC had little input into organising Cmde Mandela's itinerary, since he was a guest of the Government. By comparison, the US trip was organised by the anti-apartheid forces, even down to the security services. The ANC had far more input in to that visit.

Cmde Peter raised with Cmde Mandela the official recognition of the ANC, and also the matter of funding for the office in Canada. Mandela in turn raised both of these issues with Mulroney and other members of Government. The arguments against sole recognition of the ANC include the "domino effect" feared by our close relations with the PLO, as well as the issue of violence.

The Mandela Fund is mostly being used for ANC projects at home or in Africa. But some may be used locally, which might help our office financial situation. Oxfam and the PAC may give us funds soon, too. Mandela himself was very optimistic about the situation at home. He seems to think that the right wing will be kept at bay by De Klerk; most people could return by September, he thought. If any comrades wish to return home, they are to submit names, qualifications, and what they want to do, to the Canadian or Johannesburg offices of the ANC.

Some interesting issues were discussed, such as the integration of our ANC office with the SA embassy! Mandela felt that ANC was making progress with BCM and AZAPO in SA. Peace in Natal is part of the preconditions the ANC has set for negotiations to take place.

Sanctions is another tricky one. Our position is to maintain present sanctions, but we are not calling for increased sanctions the way we were before. On the issue of sole representation of the ANC, the June 16 turnouts to meetings called by ANC, PAC and AZAPO showed the ANC had enormous support (75 000) whereas the others drew only 2 - 4000.

On the issue of nationalization, Mandela is insistent that nationalizing big business is the only effective way to redistribute the wealth, but is calling on business to come up with alternative ways of doing this.

3. August 9: There was some discussion on this event, which will be commemorated in a major way at home. It was suggested that the women be contacted to organise a meeting, helped by the men comrades, and that a speaker be invited from overseas, possibly. Cmde Peter B would set up that meeting.

4. General: Cmde Zaheer agreed to organise a picnic in Wilket Creek Park at Leslie and Eglinton Ave E, on Sunday August 19: bring your own food pot luck. He also suggested Peter M contact city hall or the Province to send the ANC flags from Mandela's visit to South Africa.

Next meetings:

Thursday 9 August: commemoration event

Tuesday 14 August: unit meeting

Thursday 6 September: unit meeting

Please be on time: meetings start at 7.30 in the office.