

"Klmfmw'w LRBM 529
African National Congress
51 Plein Street /
, 11k 011 -
Johannesburg 2001 1., , C () 330 7234
Fax:(011)330i7242
P O Box 61884 Telex: 421252
Marshalltown 2107
RESEARCH .9 oJrL
November-eist. 1992

REMINDER

Invitation: TONIGHT 6-7.30PM

8TH FLOOR BOARDROOM

Dear Comrade,

of a Mission currently in SA at the invitation of the ANC, COSATU and SANCO. A brief on the mission is attached.

The members of the Mission are all people of international standing who have helped formulate science policy in a number of countries. They are:

Jim Mullin - Canadian who heads the mission, formerly head of the OECD Science and Technology policy Committee.

Geoffrey Oldham - formerly Head of the UN Science and Technology for Development Committee

Thomas Odhiambo - Kenyan -President of the African Academy of Sciences

Deana Ashley - Jamaican - Ministry of Health

Lydia Makhubu - Vice Chancellor University of Swaziland. She may not be able to come.

There are South African counterparts who are part of the Mission and may also join us tonight.

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The People Shall Govern!

A NATIONAL RESEARCH POLICY FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA
INVESTIGATION INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S RESEARCH SYSTEM

ANC, COSATU and SANCO have initiated a project which involves a review of the national science and technology system in this country. The purpose of this review is to prepare the way for a national science and technology policy which will contribute to the transformation of our country. In the past the research and scientific resources of the country have been used to meet the needs of the minority, and the research agenda has been set according to the priorities of the apartheid. It is necessary that the system be re-oriented to serve the needs of all.

As the first stage of the project, which is being assisted by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a mission composed of external and internal experts will be

carrying out a review of all the institutions and structures involved in the research system. It will assess how well it functions in terms of its present goals; find out what plans are being

made for the future; and make proposals for options which could be adopted in order to achieve the goals of the democratic movement. That report will become one input into what will undoubtedly be an extended policy process as we formulate a policy for a democratic government.

This review is being organised to follow broadly the method used in reviews of science policy by countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The main differences compared the usual method are that the mission is acting for the democratic movement, rather than the government; and that its brief is to consider not

only the contribution of research and technology to long-term economic development, but also transformation in the more immediate period. The review will be covering both the natural sciences and the social sciences.

The review mission begins its work this Sunday, 15 November, and over the next two weeks it will be meeting relevant government departments, research councils, universities and technikons, organised business and the major parastatals.

The mission will also be engaging with the democratic movement in various ways. It will receive a briefing on the political situation at the start of its review, and it will also be

briefed by people from the democratic research community on the character of the present system. In addition it will have a day long meeting with a wide range of democratic research

structures in order to begin to discuss some issues and options for a future national research policy.

By December the mission report will be given to ANC, COSATU and SANCO and about two months later the mission will return to discuss its report with us. The process then needs

to be broadened in order to formulate a broadly supported policy which will contribute both to the long-term development and to the transformation of the country in the coming period.

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