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INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND AID FUND FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (CANADA)

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STATION B

OTTAWA

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February/March 1981

'Newsletter' No 5

Dear Member

February 4 was IDAFSA's first Annual General Meeting. For those of you who were able to come - thank you - and for those of you who are not in Ottawa we hope that you will keep in touch and be patient during this period when everything seems to be Ottawa centred. That is not our intention but because we are still a very young organization in Canada and because travel is so expensive this is how it is at the moment. Perhaps next year each area will be organized enough and a local committee established and a representative delegated to attend our second annual general meeting - wherever it may be held.

Attached is some information about the annual general meeting. The AGM also agreed to a change in the bylaws to enable the Board to appoint a Council. The Board of IDAFSA (Canada) was formally elected: Andrew Brewin; Prof Douglas Anglin; Clyde Sanger; John Harker, CLC; Rita Cadieux, Human Rights Commissioner; Tad Mitsui, Canadian Council of Churches; Jim Manly, MP; Dr Timothy Shaw; Anne Mitchell. There remains one vacant place on the Board of Directors. Andrew Brewin was elected President of IDAFSA (Canada). A Nominations Committee was also elected to prepare the slate for next years board and also for the Council. The members of the Nominations Committee are: Dr Michael Oliver; Father Bob Ogle, MP; J M Quirion, Ottawa University; Norma Walmsley, MATCH International Centre; Bill McNeill, WUSC.

Full minutes of the AGM and an audited financial statement for the period February to December 1980 are available at the Ottawa office.

We expect to receive very soon the Canadian Government's agreement to support IDAFSA's work in Zimbabwe. We have already forwarded \$12,000 raised in Canada to the UK for the Funds Clause II activities.

We have 132 members to date and we have set ourselves a goal of 1000 members by the end of 1981. If each of us could find another five members we would be nearer our goal. I therefore urge you please to renew your own membership for 1981 and use the enclosed membership form to encourage someone else to become a member. (Please feel free to photocopy the form or ask me to send you some more.) We all have to assume the responsibility of building up our membership. Each one of us has to ask other people to join IDAFSA otherwise we will never reach our goal and will not be in a bargaining position with the Government if we cannot show that we have a constituency behind us.

IDAFSA's role is going to increase as it becomes clearer that Botha's Government's position is not changing. "I am not prepared to lead them on the road of one man one vote." South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha said this in August 1980 at a meeting with Church leaders. In the Globe & Mail in January 1981, it is reported "South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha has ruled out granting the country's voteless black majority equal status with other racial groups in a planned new constitution."

Therefore, it is even more important that Canada play its part in providing humanitarian aid to the victims of this system.

We are going to try and get local groupings of IDAFSA set up soon. If you are interested in this please let me know and we can put IDAFSA members in each area in touch with each other. Also if you are prepared to coordinate a local committee please let me know.

I think we have had a reasonably successful first year and with your support we can look forward to a second year where we can be of even more assistance to the millions of people in Southern Africa who are victims of apartheid.

New IDAF Publications available from the Ottawa office include:

Namibia: The Facts \$4.00

Facelift Apartheid: South Africa After Soweto by Judy Seidman \$3.00

Information has just come through from CIDA that the Canadian Government has approved IDAFSA's submission on Zimbabwe. This is to assist in the rehabilitation of released political prisoners and to assist their families.

But we still need your help - to interest other Canadians in what is happening in Southern Africa; to distribute and buy publications and to recruit members for IDAFSA (Canada). Please, also remember to renew your own membership if it is due for 1981.

Thank you very much for your interest and support.

Anne Mitchell

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The following motion was moved by Clyde Sanger, seconded by Anne Mitchell and unanimously adopted:

'be it resolved that all acts and procedures taken by the directors since date of incorporation to the present are confirmed and approved.'

The bylaw amendment to enable the board to form a Council was moved by Doug Anglin, seconded by Clyde Sanger and unanimously adopted.

The motion to accept the financial statement was moved by Anne Mitchell seconded by Rita Cadieux and unanimously adopted.

A motion to appoint Paul Duchesne as auditor for the coming year was moved by Anne Mitchell, seconded by Clyde Sanger and unanimously adopted.

At this point a question was raised about the possibility of a reduced membership for students. The President replied that this would be discussed by the board of directors.

The Executive secretary submitted a written report and moved that the report be received. This was seconded by Lynda Muir and unanimously adopted. Wilfrid Grenville-Grey, the Funds representative in New York commented at this point that he was pleased to be here having just returned from IDAF headquarters in London. He commented on the magnificent attendance and the achievement of possibly getting some money from the Canadian Government and the money from ICFID. He said that no Defence and Aid national committee had done so much in so short a time. He said he will report back to Canon Collins who will be pleased to hear that the meeting has been so good and so well attended.

Report of the Nominations Committee was submitted and the slate of names for the Board; President and Nominations Committee for this year was put forward. Renate Pratt withdrew her name because she felt she did not have adequate time to devote to the activities of the board.

A question was asked as to whether the board was one which was easily accessible or regionally representative. The President responded that in the initial stages the board is mainly an administrative group and the Council would be the regional representative body.

No other nominations came from the floor, the slate of names stands and the board, President and Nominations Committee were duly elected:

Incorporators of IDAFSA (Canada): Andrew Brewin; Doug Anglin; Clyde Sanger; John Harker and Anne Mitchell

Board: Incorporators; Rita Cadieux; Jim Manly; Tad Mitsui; Tim Shaw

President: Andrew Brewin

Nominations Committee: Michael Oliver; Bob Ogle; Norma Walmsley; J M Quirion; William McNeill

Moved by Anne Mitchell and seconded by Mary Anglin.

Under the item of Other Business, Clyde Sanger briefly commented on his recent trip to London to attend a Special General meeting of IDAFSA. He said the meeting was a consultative one and had been very constructive. The question of a new constitution was still not solved but he felt that the Canadian Committee had had a fair input into the discussions so far and that there would be further discussions once another draft was forthcoming from Canon Collins and his lawyers.

There being no other business the meeting closed at about 9.25 pm.

Anne Mitchell
Executive Secretary

13 February 1981

International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa (Canada)'s first Annual General Meeting was held on 4 February 1981 at the CBC Video Viewing Centre in Ottawa.

The President, Mr Andrew Brewin, opened the meeting at about 7.15 pm by welcoming everyone to IDAFSA's first AGM. Forty-three people were present. Mr Brewin continued by saying that the first year has been a very successful start to the organization in Canada. There are roughly 130 members from Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and the Maritimes. He added that the Executive Secretary would be travelling to the Maritimes later this month to encourage members from that area. Mr Brewin continued that in this first year IDAFSA (Canada) has been very generously assisted by the Churches and expected to receive some funding from CIDA in the near future for IDAFSA's overseas work in Zimbabwe.

The President then went on with a few remarks about the situation in Southern Africa. The Prime Minister of South Africa, Mr P W Botha, as recently as this week stated that changes in constitution and voting practices would not involve the black majority. Mr Brewin emphasised the need to inform the world, and in our case Canada, of what is going on. He continued that he was glad to see Canada taking an independent role and incorporating IDAFSA in Canada to assist in this battle against repression.

Those present then viewed a CBC production in the Man Alive Series called "Crossroads". This video was about the squatter camp just outside Cape Town. The video was mostly about women who had come to Cape Town to live with their husbands and had set up this shanty town. The authorities have threatened several times to destroy it and the women indicated very forcefully that they were not going to move because they wanted to remain with their husbands. The video ended with the women themselves saying that more violence will come in South Africa unless the whites change their attitude.

Rev Tom Anthony of the Anglican Church of Canada then addressed the meeting. He spoke personally about his own experience in Southern Africa. Before he began he paid tribute to Andy Brewin and others in Canada who have struggled for many years to bring the truth about Southern Africa to Canadians and to try to get the Government to respond. He continued by saying that IDAFSA and other organizations like it in Canada will have an important role to play in the Canadian situation and that Canada itself may also have a key role to play in the international situation. Rev Anthony continued by talking about the first time he went to South Africa in 1975 on a fact finding tour; he talked about the people he met who are involved in the struggle; the fact that the struggle is going on at every level of South African society; he mentioned that the radical change from 1975 to 1980 was clearly evident. The war is on in South Africa and he continued by saying that what you have is one of the world's most beautifully designed evil, exploitative systems in terms of an industrial labour pool. The whole purpose is to provide a mass employment pool for the white economic system. He continued that it can't work and it's going to come to a violent struggle before change. He saw no sign whatsoever that there were forces in place, black or white that could really pull off anything else than a violent confrontation at some point.

Rev Anthony continued by saying that the key things for us and IDAFSA is to look much more carefully at and expose much more deliberately, the Canadian connections of South African interests. Anything that IDAFSA can do to begin to get out there in Canadian society and do some things that are different that make people sit up and take notice that here are some Canadians prepared to commit themselves to a radical change in Southern Africa.

Then followed the business meeting: