

Cam/003/0032/22

South African Congress of Trade Unions



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Secretary
SACTU Solidarity Committee (Canada)
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TORONTO
Canada

Background to Document Three

Dear Comrades

We are in receipt of your letter dated 19 November in which you informed us of the problems you are facing in Canada, especially after the departure of comrade George Ponnen.

Firstly, I would like to re-iterate our position: we had asked that this Committee be established in Canada because comrade Enver Domingo was unable to cope with all the work involved, since he already had a full-time job.

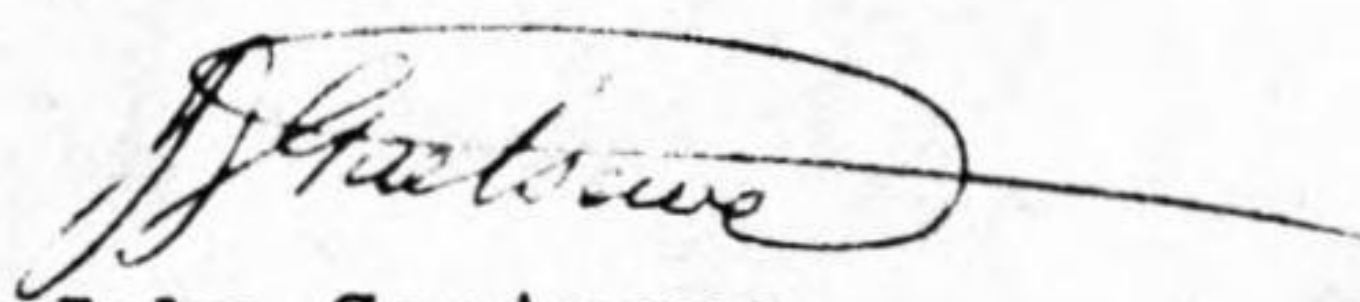
The SACTU Solidarity Committee was created in Canada to do the work of SACTU i.e. to give information to trade unions, to establish links with the Canadian trade unions and to make appeals for funds if necessary. This is very important to us, because we have nobody else in Canada. I suggest that you inform anyone who enquires who you are, that the SSC is the creation of SACTU. People who are sincerely committed to the work of SACTU, whether in Canada, London or Europe must accept the fact that the SSC has been created by SACTU to do the work of SACTU among trade unions, and that it must exist.

If the ANC in Canada would like to assist in one way or another, they are entitled to do that. This can only be done, however, if there are harmonious discussions between yourselves and the ANC. You did not place yourselves in that position - it was us who decided that the SSC should be formed. Here in Britain we have the office of the ANC, SACTU, Anti-Apartheid and the SACTU-British Liaison Group. All these organisations are based in London and work in Britain, yet there is no misunderstanding at all. Therefore I would like to request that you continue working in the trade union movement - that is what SACTU is and that is what SACTU stands for.

I hope that this letter clears up all the misunderstanding. I am sending a copy to comrade Nzo, Secretary General of the ANC.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for the good work put into the reproduction of the ILO Memorandum.

With warm greetings


John Gaetsewe
General Secretary

cc. Comrade A Nzo, SG, ANC