





AMSCO

December 3, 1991  
155 College Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

Present:

Rosemary Herrell  
Oscar Braithwaite  
Colin McKay  
Sabera Surtee  
Zeib Jeeva  
Henry Martinuk  
Mike Naccarato  
Suzanne Salzman

Mike Revow  
Nita Sheffit  
Dominic Bellissimo  
Samantha Lam  
Abner Maduna  
Jabu Dube  
Wendy Dawes  
Chris Cavanagh (briefly at  
start)

Guests:

Stephen Tierney (U of T student), and his friend Frank

The meeting began at 6:50 p.m.

In the absence of the co-chairs, Nita Sheffit chaired the meeting.  
The agenda was set as follows:

1. Reports from Jabu Dube re the ANC's New Year's Eve Dance, the 80th anniversary of the ANC's founding, and updates re NOCSA visit and the December 20-21 talks.
2. Signature Campaign.
3. February 11, 1992.
4. Announcements.

Reports

Jabu Dube's reports are found at the end of these minutes.

Signature Campaign

Samantha Lam gave the following report on the activities of the sub-committee:

For the actual event, there will be press release kit that we need people to agree on tonight; also there is going to be a statement and the petition.

The event is on the 16th, from 4 to 6; at 4:15 a group of AMSCO people will go up to the South African consulate and the press will be advised; we will present the officials there with the petition and what the signature campaign and the demands are all about. At the same time, we have a scroll of all the signatures collected to show how many Canadians actually support the signature campaign and the constituent assembly.



We will also fax the statement to the Prime Minister, Barbara McDougall, Pretoria, the ANC here and in South Africa. This will all be part of the press kit that we will send to the media a week before the event, and the first two pages will be faxed to the media the day before the event.

A flyer will be sent to some key people; as well we need a lot of help to poster and a sign up sheet will be going around.

A report card of what has been happening in South Africa so far will be handed out on the street at King & Bay. It will have a ballot inside it - what the government says and what the truth is. There will be a ballot box as well on the street so people can vote for a constituent assembly.

Discussion ensued about the need for someone to co-ordinate posterings. Henry volunteered to do this.

The need to have a working party re placards was discussed, and it was determined to have a working meeting on December 10th. Also discussed was the need to contact students, solidarity groups etc, to have as large a turnout as possible. Dominic volunteered to send out a letter to all AMSCO members with respect to the demonstration. The need for a permit was discussed, with the opinion being voiced that one was not needed.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to the documentation presented to the meeting by the sub-committee. None were made known and it was agreed to move on to the next agenda item.

#### February 11 event:

Henry gave a report on the status of several possible venues:

- Bamboo is closed for February - their staff holiday.
- El Mo doesn't take nights like this, they want straight bands.
- Phoenix has a minimum \$2,000 room rental plus they get all the bar revenue.
- Opera House has a minimum \$1,000 to \$4,000 depending on the event; they would lean towards the minimum plus they get the bar.
- Bohemian Embassy did not call me back but it holds about 200 people. It is a non-alcoholic venue so it may be good for us to consider a political issue for this venue rather than a strict fund-raiser. It is possible to make a tentative booking without being locked in as there is no deposit.

Discussion followed about the date of the event, since February 11, 1992 is a Tuesday. It was agreed that the event should take place on the actual anniversary, and not on the preceding or following



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weekend. It was further agreed that the focus of the event should be political and cultural, using the symbolic date of February 11.

The Chair asked for a consensus of the meeting to give Henry authorization to book the Bohemian Embassy for February 11th. It was so agreed.

Announcements/Old Business:

A question was raised with respect to the Convocation Hall event when the Sisulus visited Toronto, and what AMSCO owed U of T. Mike Naccarato reported that AMSCO has given the ANC about \$1600 out of the approximate \$2700 which we had promised to give the ANC for the Sisulu's visit. The only bill outstanding is the U of T bill which we had understood would be about \$400 until Dean Roberts advised that it would be approximately \$1100. Mike indicated that he has therefore held back \$1100 but intended to give the ANC the difference if U of T did not present a final bill before the end of December, 1991. It would then have to be resolved with U of T if they persisted with their bill of \$1100 rather than \$400.

An ancillary question was raised with respect to what could be done to raise funds for AMSCO and its administrative costs, etc. The Chair suggested that fund-raising for AMSCO be put on the agenda for the next meeting and this was agreed to.

An added suggestion was that AMSCO could show one or more of the videos that were on TV as an educational event to bring our friends, raise money and also educate ourselves.

Dominic indicated that he would get some flyers re MartinsDay and bring them to the next meeting.

Maduna advised that the ANC would be having its unit meeting on Tuesday next week, with two guests from South Africa who would address the situation in South Africa, invited by Health Watch. AMSCO members were invited to attend. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the ANC office, on December 10th.

The previously scheduled meeting on December 18, 1991 was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 1992, at 6:30 p.m. at the Toronto Board of Education Building.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.



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Jabu Dube gave some announcements and information to the meeting with respect to the ANC's plans regarding the 80th anniversary of the ANC, which should actually be officially celebrating on the 8th of January, 1992. The ANC unit decided that it would be practical to link it with the ANC New Year's Eve Dance: on the 31st of December at Thornhill Community Centre, you are all welcome to celebrate the ANC's 80th anniversary as well as the New Year's Eve Dance; tickets are at the office, see Abner or myself; they are \$20.

We would like these twin events to be very successful, so encourage all of you to attend if you can. there is not going to be a dinner, but there will be snacks etc. We figure \$20 for a New Year's Eve party and the 80th anniversary is good enough; please do call the ANC office if you need tickets; there is a liquor licence.

(Joanne Naiman had asked that a message be passed on that she had put in several calls to John Piper re the Ontario government being part of a reception/celebration for the 80th anniversary but he had not called her back, so she suggested that we proceed on the assumption that the government would not be doing anything.)

Also you might be interested to know that we had a visit from a member of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSouth Africa). Most of you I think were called to be informed about Dan Moyo's visit and he was good enough to brief AMSCO and the ANC last week. Fortunately one of AMSCO's members was there and notes were taken and are available. I think it was very informative, I encourage you to take a look and read it carefully, it explains NOCSouth Africa's position vis-a-vis the boycott and the conditional participation of South Africa sporting bodies as something NOCSouth Africa is prepared to approve provided that these different sporting bodies are members of the federal NOCSouth Africa association and because membership is conditional on fulfilment of certain objectives concerning areas where there are no sporting facilities, development, etc., so it is not just an open-door acceptance of privileged white sporting groups going to the Olympics, there are conditions that must be fulfilled. You see why it becomes very possible to control with progressive individuals and sporting groups have entrenched themselves within NOCSouth Africa so that it will not be hijacked by the government or any racist sporting group and they will make NOCSouth Africa become more democratic and representative at home.

Of course we have had a preparatory meeting with 20 political organizations in South Africa, some were members of the Patriotic Front and others included the government of South Africa and the NP, IFP, meeting last week over the weekend, and planned the agenda for the December 20-21 meetings which will be the actual all-party



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conference and really the beginning of the constitutional talks in terms of whether we will talk about the framework, processes for constitutional arrangements, question of constituent assembly, to what extent is it going to be acceptable; so actually the talks between the government of South Africa and all South African political parties will take place on Dec. 20-21; of course the PAC walked out in the last 5 minutes of planning for this conference, because they say there have been secret private talks between the ANC and the government; we say we have not, but they have problems within their organization, people within PAC so they should not be in this negotiating stage. So the idea of saying they are walking out because the ANC has had secret talks with the government doesn't hold water, because it is open discussion between bilateral and multilateral groups. Those 20 political parties can talk to each other, but at this point in time the PAC has walked out, but we hope that they will be part of the Dec. 20-21 meetings, the all-party conference.