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FOCUS

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Dear Subscribers,

From January 1986 the Briefing Papers will cease to be regular supplements to FOCUS. They will continue to appear but on an irregular basis. The annual review and index will be published as usual.



PROGRAMME FOR 1986 - WOMEN'S SECTION

We have just concluded two successive years i.e. 1984 and 1985, both of them very important in the history of our struggle, and both have helped to expose the atrocities inflicted on the people in our country - the mostly affected being women and children. Activities by women in opposition to this horror have been publicised on a broad scale.

First it was 1984 declared by the A.N.C. as the Year of Women of South Africa in recognition and honour of the struggles waged by the women in our country whose courage was referred to by the late A.N.C. President Chief Albert Luthuli as "..... The courage that rises with danger.....". During this period, many organisations were established using different names yet all of them sharing the same problems and together fighting for the same objectives. Old ones were revitalised and strengthened. Of the 400 organisations affiliated to the U.D.F., women's organisations are to be found in large numbers.

Extensive tours were organised by our friends during 1984 and the A.N.C. Women's Section made many new friends and gained more support for the struggle. The importance and recognition of 1984 was based also on the fact that APRIL 17 was marking the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Federation of South African Women. The U.N. Centre Against Apartheid held a meeting on that date to honour this achievement.

1985 was to see the evaluation and climax of the U.N. Decade for Women set aside for the improvement of the potential of the women and their status in society. The World Conference Of Women was held in Nairobi, Kenya in July. The aim was to evaluate and appraise the achievements of the Decade where the A.N.C. Women's Section was a full participant. Extensive support was realised during the Conference through which it was made possible to include Apartheid in the Agenda as well as discussions on issues affecting women in occupied Arab - territories, women under fascist dictatorships, etc.

Most outstanding in this year, i.e. 1985, was the active contact with our women at home. As part of our preparation for Nairobi and the SECOND NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE of the A.N.C., we held



a meeting with the women's representatives from all provinces of South Africa to discuss their input for both events, our working methods and how to improve on our work. Also discussed was the actual participation of our women from home in Nairobi.

We are glad to state that ninety women from the workers, youth, religious and other organisations from all provinces were represented at FORUM '85 in Nairobi - Kenya.

It is on the basis of all these activities in the last two years which have left us with a lot of follow up that our 1986 Programme of Action will be based.

1986 JANUARY 8th STATEMENT STATED:

".... The principal conclusion we should draw from this situation is that through our sacrifices, we have prepared the conditions for us further to transform the situation to that position when it will be possible for us to seize power from the enemy. Thus the central task facing the entire democratic movement is that we retain the initiative until we have emancipated our country....."

In keeping with the directive of this message and in accordance with the activities for 1986, the A.N.C. Women's Section proposes the following programme of actions:

(A) REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEES (R.W.C.)

- Special Seminars at regional level be held on the "Role of Women in the field of Labour" to mark the centenary of MAY DAY and the 40th Anniversary of the Great Miners' Strike.
- 30th ANNIVERSARY OF AUGUST 9th:- To be commemorated by all units of our movement (men and women) - be widely published through meetings, seminars, production of T-shirts, brochures, posters, poems etc., depicting the 30 years of extensive struggle against pass laws.



- The spirit of August 9 should be revived in every way by obtaining the green material for our uniform to be used at all important events.
- A.N.C. WOMEN'S SECTION CONFERENCE: - It is now five years since the First Conference of the Women's Section was held in Luanda, Angola - in October 1981, which resolved that Conference be convened every five years. The Women's Section therefore is supposed to hold conference this year possibly in August to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of August 9th.
- Visits to our Regional Women's Section, particularly our students in different countries therefore becomes imperative, to meet and discuss with them problems affecting our work as well as to prepare for the Conference.
- We should appoint a National Preparatory Committee to start work for the holding of the Conference. The units in different areas should also have Regional Preparatory Committees.

B. INTERNAL:

The Apartheid regime is facing a crisis history it has never experienced before. Our people suffer untold miseries in jails where they are tortured, maimed and even killed. Children are in detention - mothers cannot sleep from worry. In this situation, the Internal Sub-committee proposes: -

1. February:

To discuss plans for workshops with representatives of women from home. These workshops should be held in every region and centre around various topics affecting women.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- a) Campaign against pass-laws.
- b) Natal Native Code.
- c) Confinement - Maternity leave and Allowances - i.e. The Basic Employment Act.
- d) Taxation - how African women are affected.



A.N.C. WOMEN'S SECTION CONFERENCE:

- Campaign to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of a March to Pretoria on 9. 8. 86 to increase campaign against passes, to co-ordinate this campaign with C.O.S., A.T.U.
- To give a further injection in the launching of the National Organisation of Women.
  - e) Women Charter - The Freedom Charter.
  - f) Lobola.
  - g) Depo Provera and other contraceptives affecting the health of our women.
  - h) Bantustans - Our aim is One S.A. - one man one vote.
    - One Parliament.

These workshops are for the weapons to organise and mobilise women into the democratic organisations to step up the campaign for the:

- Lifting of the state of emergency:
- The withdrawal of the army and the police from the Townships:
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees:
- Further participation of women in the Consumer Boycott:
- To work for the launching of the Conference to establish a National Women's Organisation.

11. APRIL:

To have a "mini" Conference with women from home to discuss:

- a) The situation in the country - the involvement of women organisations in the campaigns to keep within our President's call of January 8th.
- b) The establishment of sub-committees that should be a model for other women in achieving unity at all levels before the National Conference, as well as preparatory committees both at National and Regional levels for the national launch.
- c) To report on the participation of women: in struggles of



students, as parents, - for a free democratic Educational System,

Consumer boycott.

- d) Identify women's participation - i.e., in all strata of society, namely - professionals, teachers, nurses, workers, traders and house-wives in the above campaigns.
- e) Women participation in the End Conscription Campaign - linked to the International Year for Peace.
- f) Inkatha Women's League, National Council of Women, AZAPO Women's Organisation, Manyano Women, Lekhanyane Zion Christian Church:  
- Examine contact we have with the above, prospects to involve them in our campaigns.
- g) The progress made for the launching of a National Women's Organisation.

III. JULY:

A further meeting to receive reports on work done and the final arrangements for the National Conference.

- IV. To discuss the possibility of producing their own newspaper/journal/ newsletter to act as an organiser and mobiliser of our women in the struggle for a Free Democratic S.A.

PROJECTS:

This year, the main task of the Projects desk will be to strengthen the on-going project of the Women's Section. This means that there will be a follow-up of project proposals already presented to the organisations and also individual sympathisers with the aim of facilitating approval and implementation. There are a number of projects presently in the hands of donors from whom we have had no response yet.

However, there is a growing number of potential donors seeking new project proposals from the Women's Section. Thus new proposals will have to be made or update old ones which were never sponsored.

Observation shows that most prospective donors/sponsors prefer what they call "Productive" projects such as training of cadres in vocational, technical and academic skills, supporting self-sufficiency projects,



construction of women/child care centres etc.

With regard to training programmes however, experience has shown that these programmes depend on the availability of candidates. This means that extra effort will have to be made in co-ordination with relevant departments, to identify candidates and have them released.

In a series of meetings held with the Projects Committee and other Departments of the movement, it was agreed in principle that to facilitate co-ordination, a structure will have to be formed to deal with all A.N.C. projects instead of every department/section of the movement handling it. This might avoid duplication of work and confusion.

Meanwhilw we shall continue to work in the old fashion i.e. through the office of the Treasurer-General until the matter is resolved.

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Construction of Dora Tamana Nursery School (Extention of the creche.
2. Construction of Lusaka Regional Women's Handicrafts Centre.
3. Weaving and Dress-making at the above Centre.
4. Basic requirements for children and women in all regions i.e. clothing includinf underwear and shoes, toiletry etc.
5. Other material assistance for women and children including Day Care Centres.
6. ZENZELENI Project.
7. Driving lessons.
8. Training in Child-care/ Pre-school teaching.
9. Buying of two houses in Lusaka for Women's Section use.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

1. Soap-making industry,
2. Sanitary towel production.
3. Underwear for women and children. - production.
4. Cadre training - 7 month course on Women and Development at the



Institute for Social Studies - in Holland.

5. Workshop on Nutrition and Group Feeding - Lusaka.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATION:

To carry out the tasks set out in the January 8th Statement and to mobilise women into active participation in the struggle for national liberation, for equality and peace,

Our propaganda work should be stepped up in order to reach broader cross-section of our women folk.

It also means that our methods should be improved which places on us the tremendous challenge of winning more and more women to our side both inside South Africa and the world over.

The Voice of Women(V.O.W.), radio programme, leaflets, pamphlets etc. should be geared at mobilising South African women of all races into active struggle against Apartheid and all its evils as well as mobilise international support for our just struggle.

Our propaganda should also try to put armed struggle in a correct perspective and emphasize the importance of women participation in this year declared by our movement - as the Year of Umkhonto we Sizwe.

As stated above, there is a number of anniversaries we commemorate this year namely, - 30th Anniversary of August 9th,

- 100th Anniversary of May day,

- 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike.

Above all, this year has been declared as International Year for Peace. Mobilisation should primarily centre around these events to show that our struggle is not in isolation.



THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROGRAMME FOR V.O.W.:

1986 - V.O.W. PROGRAMME:

V.O.W. 1. (End of February).

MAIN TASKS OF THE YEAR FROM THE JANUARY 5th STATEMENT:

1. Year of the Peoples Army.
2. 30th Anniversary of the Pretoria march and the pass campaign.  
Passes must go NO!
3. 10th Anniversary of June 16.
4. Crisis of the Botha regime and our strategic goal and the need to take the initiative as women.
5. The Johannesburg Centenary and the Peoples Power.
6. Winnie Mandela.
7. Women of all lands - Lesotho or March 8.

V.O.W. 2. (End of April)

1. April 17th - 32nd Anniversary of the Federation of South African Women.
2. Mobilisation of rural women.
3. Mobilisation of white women.
4. Religious women.
5. May Day - 100th Anniversary.
6. What is meant by the Peoples army.
7. Building of cadres.
8. Women of all lands - Cuba.
9. 10th Anniversary of June 16.

V.O.W. 3. (End of June).

1. Working women and Mk.
2. Pass campaign.
3. National Youth Day.
4. June 26 and the Freedom Charter.
5. Children under Apartheid.

V.O.W. 4. (End of August)

1. April 17th - 32nd anniversary of the Federation of South African Women.

2. Mobilisation of white women.

3. Mobilisation of white women.



6. Forcee removals.
7. Regional Service Council.
8. Women of Palestine.

V.O.W. 4. (End of August)

1. August 9 statement.
2. The crisis of the Botha regime.
3. Mass combat units.
4. Women police.
5. Women and U.D.F.
6. Anniverary of Victoria Mzonga, Ruth First, etc.
7. Women of all lands.

V.O.W. 5. (End of October)

1. Women political prisoners.
2. Transformation of armed confrontation in the Peoples War.
3. Women in the S.A.D.F.
4. Campaign on the regime's strategy of family planning.
5. Women and taxation .
6. Year of Peace.
7. Women of all lands.

V.O.W. 6. (End of December)

1. 25th Anniverary of Mk.
2. 1st Anniversry of C.O.S.A.T.U.
3. Cost of living.
4. Women nurses.
5. Maseru, Matola, massacres.
6. Women and Christmas.
7. Women of all lands.



LEAFLETS AND PAMPHLETS:

- On the 30th Anniversary of August 9 and Unity.
- Learn to fight series.

INTERNATIONAL:

- To pursue V.O.W. campaign launched by the LABN (Holland).
- To get sponsorship for VOW.

SPECIAL ISSUES:

- 2nd Women's Conference.

INTERNATIONAL CONTINUED:

1986 has been declared as the International Year for Peace. The ANC Women's Section together with U.N.I.P. Women's League in Zambia met to discuss the activities for Peace on March 8 - International Women's Day.

As members of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the ANC Women's Section is in contact with many International, National and Continental Women's Organisations. This gives us an opportunity to expose the crimes of the Apartheid state and mobilise support for our struggle.

EUROPEAN TOUR:

Four comrades have been delegated to tour a total of 14 West European Countries organised by the W.I.D.F. This tour will take place between February 26 and April 18.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We envisage another tour of the U.S.A. around August 9 to inform the women and people of the U.S.A. about the plight of women and children in South Africa, and the struggles they are engaged in.

P.A.W.O:

Pan African Women's Organisation of which the ANC Women's Section is a founder member, will be holding its 6th Congress in Luanda - Peoples Republic of Angola in July. Our organisation will be a full participant.



P.A.W.O. continued....

We shall need money for tickets from the movement as PAWO is not in a position to do so due to financial problems.

L.P.P.F.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation is holding a Seminar in Angola where we will also participate and take the opportunity to expose fuss about Family Planning Association of the racist regime.

W.I.D.F. BUREAU MEETING:

This meeting is to be held in preparation for the World Congress of Women for Peace in March/April.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The A.N.C. Women's Section will continue participating in all U.N. System Meetings and Conferences.

In addition, we are putting up a Newsletter - "WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER APARTHEID" to give facts to the U.N. and its Agencies, etc. on the actual situation and problems faced by women and children.