

REPORT OF AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WOMENi.  
COUNCIL MEETING.

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. AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
(WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT)SL  
BOX 31791 LUSAKA

REPORT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WOMEN'S SECTION

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COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN LUSAKA ZAMBIA. 22 - 25 FEB. '83.

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The Council meeting of the ANC Women's Section was held in Lusaka, Zambia from February 22 - 25, 1983.-

The meeting convened in keeping with recommendations adopted at the ANC Women's Conference held in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola from September 10 - 14, 1981. The Luanda Conference had recommended, inter-alia, that a Council meeting be convened once in six months, to review the work done in implementing decisions of the conference, and to map out future strategic relating to the work of Women's Section both inside the country and in the external mission.

The meeting was attended by over forty(40) delegates elected by their Women's Section units in Africa, Europe and the Americas. Regions represented were:

Angola

Botswana

Britain

Canada

German Democratic Republic

Mozambique

SOMAFCO Young Women's Section

1 Tanzania

1 United States of America

L UISOSCR. : ' A

Zambia

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Also invited as special guests and 14 representatives 1

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 (.X.U) eVLisimeaomqu TeidO 1 Lisqmom diuH absimoo  
 ebstmoo  
 Comrade Ruth Mompoti - Chief Representative (Q.K.)  
 Comrade Lindi Mabuza 1 Chief Representative (Scandinavian  
 Countries)  
 Comrade Suzan Lamu - A.N.C. Women's Section Representative  
 V'in the WIDF  
 Comrade Rose Motsepe - From Belgium '  
 Comrade Sinthy Singh e-From Senegal  
 Due to problems of communication delegates from-Lesotho and  
 Swaziland could not attend the meeting. The Lesotho delegate  
 only arrived in Lusaka after the meeting.  
 The Council Meeting was honoured by the presence of Comrades  
 representing different Departments of the ANC and our  
 fraternal allies in the persons of Comrades  
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 ., ..  
 John Nkadineng f'Member ef the National Executive C0mmJ'f'trtf'e'jeTx0D  
 Joe Nhlanhla - Administrative Secretary of the ANC  
 Steven Dlamini - President of SACTU  
 Reg September 1- Member of the Revolutionary Council  
 Welile Nhlapo 1; Head of the Youth Section  
 Sindiso Mfenyane - Representing the.Dpt. Of professional bodies  
 Ray Mokoena - Representing the International Department.  
 OPENING SESSION 'VVte  
 This session was chaired by Comrade Mittah Seperepere, the  
 Assistant Secretary for International Affairs in the Women's  
 Secretariat.  
 Comrade Mittah welcomed the delegates to the first Consultative  
 meeting, which came as a result of the Luanda Conference. She  
 said that the meeting was in keeping with resolutions taken at  
 that Conference; That-gd had oome\_to make an assessment of those  
 decisions, tdbputnouteheads-t0getherrto see what is to be done  
 and formulate new strategies against racism in our countrya\_c  
 3/09.

She reminded the Council that it was sitting at a time when the enemy is intensifying its campaign of terror against the ANC. During the fourteen months Since the Luanda Conference there had been a marked increase in terror and murder by the racists against our people; this resulting in deaths of compatriots like Comrade Jabu and her husband, Comrade Ruth First and the martyrs of the Maseru massacre; She then asked the meeting to observe a minute of silence in honour of our fallen Comrades. Comrade Mittah went on to say that women were up in arms against the racist regime. This mood has reached unprecedented heights, much has to be done to keep up the tempo of this mood, she added, must be spread to all areas of our country, especially to the rural areas.-

Comrade Mittah said the racist regime was doing everything in its power to intimidate us, but that we must refuse to be intimidated. She urged the meeting that we must jump over the obstacles of our fallen heroes' and heroines and march on forward. She reminded the meeting of the President's January 8th statement, in which he said that we would witness the intensification of our struggle and the spilling of blood during this year. She put a challenge as to whether we were ready for that! She concluded her opening remarks by appealing that in our deliberations, not only our determination should count, but our actions must show commitment;

The chairperson then called upon Comrade John Nkadimeng to officially open the meeting on behalf of the National Executive Committee. The NEG in its message congratulated the Women's Section for having convened the Council Meeting so soon after the Luanda Conference. This, they observed, underlined the urgency the Women's Section attaches to the implementation of the decisions of that forum.

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It further observed that "it is"the task of the Women's Section to devote a lot of time to the destruction of the L O Of the oppression of women", and assured the meeting of their readiness to ensure that everything possible is done to raise the political consciousness and forge a tremendous force for the overthrow of the fascist regime. Having Observed the manoeuvres of the Reagan Administration and its gatsiiggein this region- the racist regime of South Africa in the NEC noted that in spite of all these we shall not be as erred from guy sgufgg.

\_.:3 1::c;;;L-L:L,;;e ended with a call for the observance of 1984- . Lao 30th anniversary of the founding of the Federation of Squah African Women - as an occasion to provide us with a "valuable boost of rally in mobilising our people and organising them into militant actions against the racist ;Q&LKQL Hit will be an opportune occasion to review the "or: done by the women of South Africa in the fight for Latic al Liberation", the message concluded.

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.r The draft agenda was presented and amended by -2Qes of greetings to the meeting were read; Comrade Reg eej.wr;.-e.;y::exr gave greetings on behalf of the RC. The RC noted . "that the development of the Women' 3 Section has been observed with keen interest, especially since the Luanda Conference. It was not always easy to strike a balance between internal and external work, as both these areas of work are important N'; 4;

al, he R.C, charged by the ANC to deal with work which is yalate: to home, has this area of work as their primary Ll Vin,1 "1'1;

The RC, Comrade Reg added , regarded propaganda as very im-LVLtahJ, and in that regard they had to mention VOW, which L.s rLouthpiece of the Women' s Section, and could be the shoi te st mobilising instrument of our struggle. He noted the L VOTu had improved, but its real improvement depend on the level of our contact with and organisation at home.

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He also said that while great strides had to be made in sphere of public organisation and protest, we must realise that having as we do the seizure of power as our objective means that we have a long way to go in terms of organising at home. It was there, in the area of establishment of ANC underground 091199 that the Women's Section could play a very meaningful role.

He emphasised that we could not say that the enemy was in disarray, that it was showing signs of uncertainty. They are only beginning to argue among themselves on how to rule us. We need to drive home this advantage; He said it was the protests by the people, coupled with blows being struck by MK, which is the cause for the disagreement surfacing within the ranks of the enemy.- ' i ' i

In conclusion, he stressed that the RC wanted guidance and active assistance, like all Sections, from our organisation. Comrade Steve Dlamini, President Of SACTU then presented his message of greetings to the meeting. He spoke about the special nature of South African colonialism, that the form of oppression " is national in form but class in content. that therefore women become -the most oppressed under\_\_ that system. That the more people are oppressed, the more they are conscious of their role. As a result women in South Africa are active in all Spheres of ' struggle. He said that the specific demands of our struggle are embodied in the Freedom Charter. That is why SACTU, the ANC and MK are one. He concluded by congratulating the Women's Section for convening the meeting and expressed his conviction that in due course we shall overcome. . I '

Comrade -Welile Nhlapho, the Head of the Youth section, then gave his message of greetings. He said that the problems of '- the Women's Section and those of the Youth are the same, to the extent that young women constitute the majority of the Women's Section in the external mission. Hence what was to be discussed by the meeting also affected the Youth Section.

He emphasised the need for a stable Youth and hence the solution of its pressing problems. With an unstable Youth we shall have an unstable Women's Section, and in fact an unstable organisation he observed.

'Comrade Welile expressed his satisfaction that the NEC had committed itself to giving the Women's Section the ability to implement the Luanda Conference decisions in the area of internal workp

In conclusion, the Head of the Youth Section registered his satisfaction at the convening of the Council Meeting, and assured the meeting of the support and co-operation of the Youth Section at all times... ' \_ w .

Comrade Martha Motsoenyane then gave greetings on behalf of the Treasurer-General. In his written message the T. G. called upon women to work towards the protection of our movement through disciplined action. The women must accord the movement the same protection which they give to those whom they have brought into this world. he said. Women must resist lagging behind men and also strive to eradicate negative male attitudes, the message read. It further called upon women to play an ever more active role, especially inside the country. Women were also urged to open new fields of soliciting material and financial support 'v'

for the movement I .

The message concluded by drawing the attention of the meeting to those gallant fighters who have been condemned to death, and urged the women to campaign together with the mothers at home for the stay of their execution., K '

Greetings were then received from the representative of the Department of Professional Bodies, Comrade Sindiso Mfenyane, the Secretary of the Department. He congratulated the Women's Section for having fulfilled the programme outlined by the Luanda Conference in the field of young mothers and their babies care. He then briefed the meeting about the developments in the field he is representing. The creation of the Education, Health Cultural Committees and the upcoming Economic Unit; the Legal Unit etc had been almost completed. He concluded his remarks by -.i\_. n'n.

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.wishing delegates a happy stay in Lusaka and successtul  
deliberationse

Comrade Ray Mokoena, Administrative Secretary-in\_the Int-  
ernational Department, then gave a message on behalf of the  
department anatall ANC missions abroad. The message read-in  
parto dMay the decisions and recommendations emanating from  
your ConsultatiVe meeting give an answer, direction,inspiration  
and courage to the many millions of women who today in their  
"nm4en" nentiqents are engaged in bitter daily confrontation  
th the fascist enemy ineide South Africa.

Comrade Getrude Shope; the He&& of the Women's Section, then  
gave thecopening'address. (Full text annexed).

qumzv SMSECRETARIAT EE\_PORT

The report of'the Women's Secretariat's activities since the  
Luanda Uenference was presented by Comrade Mavis Nhlaho, the  
Aew4wtctvauive Secretary of the Women's Secretariat. The'  
sort outlined the structure of the Secretariat worked out on  
the basis of the Luanda Conference recommendations. It outlined  
the tasks and responsibilities of each member of the Secretariat  
'It-thbn analysed activities in the fields of politica education,  
politiCal training programmes, and education. In all areas of  
work, progress had been made since the Luanda Conference, but a  
lot still had to be done.

The report outlined the activities carried out by the National  
Masupatsela Committeetsince its creation, the problems faced  
by the Committee (mainly lack of trained perSOnnel to run our  
pioneer organisation), and made certain recommendations to  
alleviate the problem.

The report identified problems encountered by the Secretariat  
in the.area of iinternal mobilisation, and expressed the hope  
that with the new structure the Women's Section will be able  
to have direct contact with the women at home, and thus improve  
our work in that respect.



While the Luanda Conference recommended the creation of a Welfare and Logistics sub-committee, the report stated that only a logistics desk had been created, and the National Treasury was still looking into possibilities of creating a Welfare Department. Material received was also outlined, together with a financial statement.

International activities undertaken by the Secretariat were outlined, and the report noted with satisfaction that in all the international fora, our delegations were able to make an impact, thus creating new contacts for us. S

The report- noted that relations with national and international women's organisations were strong, but that a lot ,still had to be done to make the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO)

Strong enough to be able to be of assistance to us.

The report noted that in the area of information and Publicity, a lot of progress had been made. VOW had improved a lot, although there was still room for improvement. The creation of a VOW Editorial Board, consisting of some members of the Secretariat, plus-additional members, had greatly facilitated the qualitative improvement in VOW.

The report outlined the problems encountered, and which made the production of VOW on a more regular basis difficult. The " Same reasons were advanced for the failure to have two issues of VOW as mandated by the Luanda Conference, i.e. lack of suitably qualified manpower, lack of information on what is 'going on inside the country and so on. A renewed call was made that each region should have a VOW correspondent.

The report outlined the manpower problems faced by the Secretariat, and the urgent need to have technical staff to assist in the administrative duties of the Secretariat.

It then gave a brief summary of all the units' activities since the Luanda Conference. In-general, a lot had been done by the units to improve the work of the Women's Section.

Political work had been done in accordance with the Luanda Conference decisions, however, a lot had to be done.

In the area of ehila upbringing, the report noted that most urgent problem facing the Woments Section in this regard is the recruiting of suitably-qualified manpower to go and work in the children's centres

On the structure of the Women's Section; the report proposed some ammendments to the proposals made at the Luanda Conference in relation to the convening of a Council Meeting once in every six monthso It noted that the financial and organisational implications 6f the proposal were too much for the Women's Secticno In conclusion, the report noted that within the period since the Luanda Conference; some of the decisions had been implemented, a lot however, still had to be done. The Seeretariat expressed the hope that all problems raised relating to our work will be discussed, and concrete ways of improving it suggested by the Council Meeting.

The reSt of that afternoon was devoted to the presentation of regional reports which were later distributed to the delegateso  
FEBRUARY 23

The Chairperson of this session, Comraae gnvsn Lamu, proposed that the discussions, based on the Secretariat's and regional reports, should be divided according to the following topics:

- . Cadre Training
- . Mobilisation of women
- . Children

Publicity

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International organisations PAWO, WIDE etc).

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CADRE TRAINING:

The meeting felt that the Secretariat should consider allowing units to choose candidates for political education courses. More attention should be paid to the choice of candidates, since in the past many Comrades had faced serious academic problems. The meeting felt that Candidates must receive comprehensive political education and orientation about the ANC itself and its policies before leaving on courses. Priority must be given to those Comrades not deployed in other departments, so that upon their return they should serve in the Women's Section. The meeting felt that political education should be the most important aspect of the work of the Women's Section. Women suffer certain disabilities in the whole, and this has its reflection in the general participation of women in political life. It felt that in order for women to be promoted in the movement; this state of affairs should be radically changed.

Delegates emphasised the necessity for a National programme of political training, which could co-ordinate the programme of Women's Section with that of the Youth Section, the RPC's and other organs of the movement. Several regions said that they had drawn up some political programmes for their units, and they were requested to send these to the Secretariat to enable them to prepare a National programme. The meeting further felt that the political sub-committee of the Secretariat should be strengthened to be able to cope with the task of seeing to the political programme and its full implementation by the units.

The representatives of the Students' Women's Section units noted that the general tendency is for many of our women students to be politically apathetic this being due to lack of political consciousness.

The delegate from SOMAFCO Young Women's Section asked that the women students there be considered for the Cuba scholarships, and the Lusaka delegation requested that these be increased from the present two to five. The general feeling was that while there is a need for a formal programme of political education, the informal sector should also be intensified. The programme should also cater for the various levels of political understanding of our women.

Several structural problems were discussed, and the meeting felt that the regions should be aware of the political understanding of every cadre in their area and should report regularly to the Regional Women's Section on progress being made by each cadre. It was also said that more and better communication should be worked out between the political education sub-committee and the Secretariat. The question of the implementation of the programme worked out by the sub-committee should be thoroughly discussed.

It was further felt that a way of improving Comrades would be to take less experienced Comrades on delegations to accompany experienced ones. The meeting felt that due to low level of political understanding of some cadres, certain units would need to address themselves to the question of the very need to organise women in the liberation movement. '

It was felt that for a sound understanding of the position of women in society, Certain books of high theoretical standing 'like' Engles' "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State", should be thoroughly discussed. Lack of interest in political life by some of our women should be clearly understood as being as a result of the triple oppression of women in South Africa.

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It therefore had a scientific base, and should be treated thus. '

The meeting felt that in drawing up a programme, we should-consider that we want to create a type of cadre who is anti racist, anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist in outlook. In summing up the disoussions, Comrade Getrude Shope said that the recommendations made should-be submitted to the ,1; NEC for ratification, and that all approved ones should be: immediately implemented by all. . i

#### WOMEN IN MK

Dissatisfaction was expressed at the-general deployment in internal work. The meeting noted that so many trained women were doing office work, when many could be sent to strengthen the women's fighting front inside the country. These dissatisfactions should at all times be guided by the fact that the criterion for internal work should be' merit, not sex. However, this meant that more attention ' should be paid to the building of women cadres in MK.- The meeting further noted that women still suffered from disabilities of the triple oppression of women at home, and they therefore needed more attention to build them into fearless fighters in the ranks of MK.'

A strong recommendation was made that women be used more-T for internal work. With regard to the deployment of trained women, the senior organs were urged to consider seriously what is often called 'lack of interest' by women Comrades. This lack of interest was due to the fact that Comrades are rnot being utilised, andwhat; they are really best at doing is not tapped; The meeting further noted that for interna- tional work, much more information was needed about women in MK for publicity and solidarity purposes. It was stressed that we have to move beyond Thandi Modise. Much has happ- ened since she was imprisoned\_by the fascists.

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The Women's Secretariat was urged to make a more conscious effort to make women aware that there is no field in which they cannot serve effectively. It was noted that we should also build up a force of trained women. The Women's Section must take an active interest in the development of women in MK, and Bet see Angola as an out-of-bounds area.

Several delegates spoke of the need for the movement to practice a form of 'discrimination in favour of Women'. This, they felt, would even up the uneven development of women as compared to men; Several recommendations were made on the training of women in Self-defence, on promoting women into internal work, and on providing an elderly woman to be posted in Angola. '

In her closing remarks, the chairperson of this session made the point that the aspect of cadre training is very important for women, much more effort should be made to break the traditional hang-ups that still hold women back. In terms of deployment of women, it was felt that it is absolutely necessary to establish a manpower commission, and very serious effort be made by the women's Section, the RC and the NBC to ensure that our women are trained in all aspects of our struggle and our work; 1 1

#### MOBILIZATION OF WOMEN

Internal:

Comrade Ray Simona opened the discussions on this subject by remarking that women at home need our guidance. Various organisations exist. Our main task is to mobilise women into ANC. Mobilisation should start on bread and butter issues, and then we should move on to explain the relationship between these and broad issues like the militarisation of the regime and the struggle in general. '

The meeting felt that the question of the President's Council should be used as a mobilizing factor in our journals and political work.

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The campaign for the release of our women political prisoners should be intensified, the meeting felt, It was also emphasised that women in the churches and religious bodies must be organised, together with domestic workers. Another campaign of importance was the Depo Prover campaign;

The question of aoroad removals to the Bantustans is to be treated with urgency; It was felt that much more research had to be done in this respect, since there was insufficient information on the Bantustans and why wefrejeot them. The meeting felt that we should pay more attention to the question of organising the rural population and in particular women. The language and approach to this matter was important, It was also noted that mobilising the rural population had serious implications to the work of MK inside the country. The internal and political desk were urged to co-operate on the question of mobilization'inside the country.

Ultimately, it was noted that internal mobilization can ' only succeed when women are properly intergrated into internal structures. The recommendation made was that this should be put to the NEC and the RC and the urgency of the matter be stressed.

International:

Peace was identified as one of the most burning problems 'in the international arena. The meeting felt that we should learn as much as possible about how women are coming together in their millions from the capitalist and socialist zworld: to fight for peace and disarmament. We must also see 'the-direct connection with our struggle. The reason fer'the imperialists' arms race were identified as the increasing success of the peoples' struggles the world over. Internationally, we must work towards building contact with all women struggling for peace.

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The meeting noted that in the United States, there is increasing effort by the Reagan Administration to destroy the ANC both internally and internationally. Mention was made of the Denton Commission as an example, and a new body which has been formed called "The Institute for Religious Democracy", which is designed to fight the churches in the USA that support the ANC.

It was further noted that in the USA, more and more money was being poured into programmes to recruit young South African students for tours and studies in the US with the purpose of decreasing their militancy and brainwashing them. It was also found to be necessary for international missions of the ANC to keep track of these events, and to try and contact all the new people from home to speak to them and explain to them what is being done by the Reagan Administrations.

It was noted that there were many South Africans and even ANC people in the Western countries who needed to be mobilised into action. - Many were apologetic and not interested in getting involved. They have to be mobilised in view of the West's onslaught against the ANC.

It was also noted that it was necessary to step up mobilisation in Africa, and in Southern Africa in particular. This had a direct bearing on our struggle: If we do not mobilize the people, the enemy will!

The evening session of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on children. The delegate from East Africa said that mothers should be allowed to leave the children's centre when a baby is one year old, and not two years as the Luanda Conference recommended. She further said that their feeling was that mothers should not be sent to morogoro if regions where they have the necessary facilities for the upbringing of children. It was felt that there was a drastic need for trained people in the centre. The mothers were generally unhappy about leaving their children with untrained people. Thus many young mothers in fact



refuse to leave for other duties because of the general condition of the centre.

Comrade Regina Nzo, the Matron of Centre, also supported the suggestion that mothers should not be moved from - their areas if conditions in those areas exist for child-upbringing. She also stressed the need for manpower, trained or untrained.

The meeting noted with concern the problems and frustrations of the young mothers at the children's centre in Morogoro. It was vital to solve all these kinds of problems if we wanted the centre properly constituted. - It was further mentioned that "there held 'beeHe-soIEQeeoniusion, on-ivthste the centre was heanthor.

In her closing remarks, the Head of the Women's Section explained at length the purpose for the creation of the Charlotte Maxeke Child Care Centre. She emphasised that the centre was a home for all ANC children, irrespective of the marital status of the mother. That the main consideration is a long-term one: a place where children can be properly looked after while their mothers perform tasks assigned them by the movement.

She mentioned the deteriorating security situation, particularly in the Frontline countries, and the fact that at some stage in the near future children may have to be evacuated from those areas, which are daily turning into war zones. She concluded by stressing that certain decisions concerning ANC cadres and their children, taken by the movement, are as a result of objective conditions and foresight.

Several other recommendations on this aspect were made (Cf. document on recommendations).

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FEBRUARY 24.

This session was chaired by Comrade iindiwe Mabuza. The question of students, and their problems was tackled first.

POLITICAL EDUCATION:

The representative of the students' units said one of the problems they were facing was lack of material from home, and from the movement, on what is happening inside the country. They therefore feel very isolated, and this led to a very low level of participation.

RELATIONSHIP WITH MALE COMRADES:

The negative attitudes of male towards female comrades and Vice versa were still very prevalent. This delegates, felt, was due to the age-old problem related to women students having relationships with foreigners. This was also a very negative attitude amongst the male Comrades towards women's unit meetings.

In the general discussion, delegates felt that regions should be more fully informed about the presence of students in their regions. Women's units need to be aware, so that they can contact young women students and involve them in ANC work. This was particularly a problem in London.

Comrades Wanted clarification on whether students were allowed to have children while studying. It was pointed out that several countries did not allow this. As for those that did, it was felt that the ANC cannot forbid women from having children. Instead, we should simply ask students to take into consideration the implications of having children while studying in a foreign country. There should be no general ruling on the matter.

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The issue of marriage to foreigners was also raised. Again, after a lengthy discussion, the meeting felt that the ANC cannot give a general rule and adopt it as policy that women should not get married to foreigners. Instead, women should simply be told to consider the implications of that marriage. Their first priority is to the struggle and the ANC. It was, however, stressed that it cannot be said that all women marrying foreigners will desert the struggle it depend entirely on the political conviction of every woman. A strong recommendation was then made that in order to solve some of the problems in places like the USSR, regular visits should be taken by our women, especially those based in Europe, to the students and help them out. Another strong recommendation was also made that the NEG should set up an office in the USSR to help deal with the problems our students are facing. A request was made by the representatives of the students that the movement should ask for an increase in their stipend from the host countries.

SOMAFCO raised the need for sex education to be included in the curriculum. The delegate noted that some attempts had been made at educating students on this, but that the irregular sessions were proving unfruitful as the rate of pregnancy is once more on the increase. It was recommended that this be done without delay, in spite of the negative response to the same recommendation made at the Luanda Conference.

The meeting felt that our conservatism was at the expense of our young women at SOMAFCO. It felt that they should be provided with contraceptives as a matter of urgency. This the Secretariat undertook to see to.

The Secretariat was also charged with the task of paying more attention to the gender bias in a lot of educational material at SOMAFCO. This bias, it was felt, resulted in many young women only seeing themselves as future housewives.

The delegate from SOMAFCO asked for the reviewal of the question of suspending a male student who has impregnated a girl. This, the meeting felt, was out of the jurisdiction of the meeting and was referred to the education council. On the question of the Masupatsela the representative of the Youth Section felt that there should be no further discussion by the Council Meeting of uniforms, anthem etc., since the Youth Conference had recommended to the NEC that there be initiated a process of transferring the Masupatsela to the Youth Section. He noted that there had been a breakdown in communication between the Women's and Youth Sections on this question, and recommended that it be subjected to further discussion by the two organs first. This recommendation was accepted by the Council Meeting. In summing up this session, the Head of the Women's Section said the secretariat attached great importance to the question of constant visits by the Secretariat to our students studying abroad. The question had further been discussed with the NEC. She said that this could not be done between the Luanda Conference and the Council Meeting; but was optimistic about the Secretariat taking up the issue in future. However, she appealed to Comrades Ruth Mompoti, Lindiwe Mabuza and Suzan Mnumzana to pay visits to our students since they are closer to them. She further said that women students should see themselves as equal to the men, and even invite them to women's meetings. Students should see themselves as political cadres of our organisation, and should behave as such. She said the countries where our students are based were already doing a lot for our struggle, and we should not burden them more by asking that stipends (on which their own students survive), should be increased for ours.

#### VOW AND PUBLICITY

Comrade Mavivi Mahzihi opened the discussion by highlighting some of the aspects raised in the Secretariat's general report relating to VOW. The most pressing problem VOW faces at the moment, as did other journals of the movement, was the lack of information from home and ultimately the fact that our journals are not properly integrated into the internal structures, and thus cannot function as they should as underground journals. i

However, the meeting noted with satisfaction that there was a general improvement in VOW in the past year, and congratulated the VOW staff for this. Recommendations were made in relation to this aspect (Cf document on recommendations) The draft structure was then presented for discussion.

There was heated discussion in relation to this document. Some delegates felt that the Secretariat in drafting the document, had departed from the resolutions of the Luanda Conference, particularly on the question of the Council. The Secretariat explained that the recommendation for the scrapping of the Council, and its replacement with a smaller body will perform the same functions as the Council but which will find it easier and quicker to meet. That such a body is the envisaged National Women's Committee,

It was then recommended that the document be subjected to discussion clause by clause, but this, having proved fruitless, the meeting adjourned, after a compromise had been reached that the final document of the structure will only be accepted after all regions had discussed the draft will come out of the Council Meeting. Regions were given the time limit (cf ?thzee ( 3) months 1501? 5th submission on 0&3? ttfgfr amendments to the Secretariat:

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JANUARY 25th:

The discussion on the structure was continued under the Chairmanship of Comrade Lindi Mabuza. All amendments proposed by the Chairperson of this session to the document were accepted. Some amendments came from the floor.

The council then considered the draft Programme of Action submitted by the Secretariat. This session was chaired by Comrade Ruth Mompoti. However, discussion on the document had to be adjourned to allow time for the President to officially close the Council Meeting.

The President declared the Meeting officially closed at 16. 30hrs

The meeting then resumed thereafter to conclude discussions on the draft programme of action. This was finally adopted with a few amendments,

Comrade Ruth, the chairperson then summarised the meeting and called upon Comrade Getrude Shope to say a few words before the meeting closed.

Comrade Getrude thanked everybody for making our meeting a success by the serious analysis and deliberations we have taken part in to better our state of organisation and bring the day of our victory nearer. She wished all the delegates a safe return home and implementation of our resolutions in this Council Meeting will be looked forward to, she added.

THE MEETING CLOSED.