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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

(SOUTH AFRICA)

MINUTES OF THE OFFICE STAFF MEETING

Held at the office on Thursday the 11th of September 1984 at
8.30 Hrs.

Present: Comrade Zuma

" Mhlophe

" Sue

" Keith

" Bobby

" Jessica

" Malume

" Ngalitye

" Indres

MINUTES - The minutes of the last meeting were read and the following addition was made. Comrade Zuma added that it was decided in our last meeting that people should always report to the office in the morning before proceeding with their daily duties. After this addition, the minutes were adopted.

MATTER ARISING - (i) Quarrel between Saeeda and Indres: Comrade Zuma told the meeting that comrade Saeeda has reported the quarrel to him. Comrade Zuma was to meet the two when he came back from his trip but hadn't been able to do so.

(ii) RPC Collective: Comrade Zuma reported not having yet realised a meeting with the RFC collective because some of its members were not in the country.

(iii) Ruth First Memorial: Comrade Keith remarked that some confusion arose during the wreath laying ceremony. He said comrades were not officially informed about the ceremony and as a result a few attended. He further said that comrade Indres' absence was noticeable. In response, comrade Indres said he knew nothing about the ceremony. Comrade Sue then explained how the office got to know about the wreath laying ceremony. She told the meeting that just as they were going to meet comrade J.S. at the airport, she learnt that the Centre of African Studies was organising a wreath laying ceremony

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in memory of comrade Ruth. Comrade Sue also learnt that the RFC collective had taken a decision that there should be no wreaths laying ceremony since wreathes are laid on all our graves on December 16th. At the airport comrade Sue told comrade Mhlophe and Bobby about this. The three of them felt there should be some ANC presence at the cemetery and since the ceremony was the following morning, they were unable to inform everybody. Comrade Mhlophe told the meeting that Cde Indres did not liaise with the office when he was organising the memorial ceremony which is why there was general confusion which led to impromptu decisions. Comrade Zuma asked for explanation from comrade Indres why he did not liaise with the office and comrade Indres could not give any tangible reason. On the question of the wreath laying ceremony, comrade Indres said it was an RPC standing decision that this is done on June 26th and December 16th. The RPC collective merely re-iterated this decision. He further explained that to observe the murder of comrade Ruth, the RFC took a decision to sponsor memorial lectures annually. Comrade Jessica wanted to know if there is an RPC in our region. Comrade Zuma at first asked comrade Indres to answer the question but later answered it himself. He said that after Inkomati, the RFC was suspended. Later after consultations with H.Q., a need was felt to organise the membership one way or another. Comrade Zuma then met the former RFC and explained that it could not function as it used to because of the changed situation, but a core has to be established which would be charged with a duty of organising our membership. Cde Zuma told the meeting that this core has not been constituted yet. It therefore has no right to take decisions. Comrade Bobby criticized the informal decision that there shouldn't be a wreath laying ceremony. He said there wasn't much thought given to this decision because comrade J.S. specifically came to lay a wreath at comrade Ruth's grave. Comrade Zuma intervened and asked that this question should be left pending until we find out from comrade Rob what actually happened. Comrade Zuma explained that comrade Indres was supposed to liaise with comrade Rob on this matter since comrade Rob was handling it at the level of the Centre of African Studies. Comrade Zuma further .../3

explained that comrade Ruth was a leader in the movement and that she deserves special treatment in that capacity. He said that in the post-Inkomati period, he feels that we should use the name of comrade Ruth to advance our cause. At this point, comrade Indres told the meeting that comrade Rob was not in the country during comrade Ruth's memorial ceremony. He said its someone else at the Centre who decided on the wreath laying ceremony and not comrade Rob. Comrade Indres further told the meeting that when the RFC was still operating openly, there was a lengthy debate on this issue and it was finally decided that to honour comrade Ruth as a leader, a memorial lecture would be organised annually. Comrade Zuma then said that its good that comrade Indres clarified that comrade Rob was not around during the memorial ceremony and proposed closure of the discussion on this question. Comrade Jessica then urged that the RFC core should be constituted so as to avoid further confusion in future.

(iv) Report on Kelly's house: Comrade Mhlophe reported that comrade Kelly was threatened with eviction from his house since it was argued that he is not part of the office ten. After an explanation that comrade Kelly would be leaving his wife behind when he leaves Mozambique, comrade Alfredo offered to intervene so that Kelly's wife could keep the house.

(v) X-Rax machine: Comrade Keith told the meeting that comrade Indres thinks that the boxes which contained the X-Ray machine got burnt at Avenida de Angola stores. He proposed and it was agreed that a requisition should be made for another one.

(vi) Progress report on Malume's work: malume reported slow progress. He said he is busy organising iron sheets to construct containers in which our property will be packed for shipment. He complained of shortage of personell to assist him in his work. On transportation of our things, comrade Malume told the meeting that our host is reluctant to ship them and the Soviets have agreed to help. The Soviets have asked for a list of all our property to be sent away and have said part of it could be sent by plane. Comrade Malume however said that we shouldn't allow the host government to run away from its responsibility of transporting our property. He

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explained that the Soviets were originally approached so as to curb thieving that was rife at the time but since there are soldiers now guarding the place, our property is safe and we do not need to rush things. On our property in Nampula, comrade Malume told the meeting that comrade Alfredo is making arrangements for it to be shipped to Maputo. He has said that the ANC will foot the bill for this shipment. Comrade Mhlophe added that when comrade Alfredo told him this, he suggested that our property be left in Nampula so that arrangements are made to ship it from Nampula directly to its final destination. Alfredo rejected this suggestion. Comrade Indres proposed and it was agreed that this question should be taken up at a higher level.

REPORT ON A MEETING WITH ANDREA - Comrade Zuma told the meeting that comrade Andrea has been appointed to deal with us. He raised with comrade Zuma the question of personal belongings of our comrades that were left at Machava. He was supposed to go with comrade Bobby to fetch them. Comrade Andrea told comrade Zuma that the Boers are interested in our office, our houses and cars. Comrade Andrea then complained that our cars are all over. He said for instance the truck is still at Liberdade Stores. Andrea reminded comrade Zuma that they had asked to be provided with a list of our cars that would be remaining for office use and for use by our visiting leadership. They had also asked for a list of cars that are leaving. Andrea further raised the question of building extra garages at our old office for parking our cars. Comrade Zuma remarked that it is clear that they are interested in monitoring us closely. He further told the meeting that they are keen to get a list of people who are in touch with us and a list of Mozambican women who have children with our comrades. Andrea is still to come with orders on what restrictions will be imposed on us, comrade Zuma said. Comrade Zuma expressed his agreement with Malume that all pipeline cars should be sent away. Comrade Zuma also told the meeting that our host is interested to know who is using which car. Comrade Keith mentioned that when we met the then Minister of security, we were told that we would be transferred to another government department. He then wanted to know if Andrea

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mentioned anything to this effect. Comrade Zuma said that he did ask Andrea about this and his response was that this has not been decided upon yet. comrade Zuma promised that they would raise this with the Foreign Minister when the opportunity avails itself. Comrade Bobby then said that since the 25th September is a big occassion this year, our President is likely to come for the occassion. He said if our President comes, he should be asked to take up this matter with our host government. Cde Zuma assured the meeting that this would be done though experience has taught us that he would be dodged. Comrade Keith pointed out that the Boers are monitoring the situation better than SNASP. He urged that the question of repairing cars be speeded up before the Boers act. Comrade Malume said we should resist removing our cars from the stores but instead press for them to be trasported away. Comrade Keith proposed and the meeting resolved that dealings with our host should be committed to paper to avoid future problems. A decision was then taken to write a letter to Nucleo de Apoio telling them that we are ready on our side to transport our cars. They should also be asked to give us a share from the food they received from UNHCR to replace the food that was burnt at Avenida de Angola stores. Comrade Zuma said that he does not have a problem with committing major issues to paper. He continued that if everything is committed to paper, we may be the ultimate suffers. He gave a short historical background of our dealings with the host government to support his argument. After this comrade Zuma asked to be excused as he was going to honour an appointment With the UNHCR Representative. Comrade Malume took over as the chairman.

REPORT ON CUSO-SUCO - Comrade Indres told the meeting that CUSO-SUCO will be holding its annual meeting at the end of that week. They have asked the ANC to provide a vedio film for the oocassion and someone to give a talk. The meeting will be on the 13th. Cde Indres said we have provisionally agreed to give a talk and provide a vedio film. Comrade Sue asked if CUSO-SUCO has stated the topic on which they wish to be addressed. Comrade

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Indres responded that they have not .' The meeting then agreed that they should be borrowed the vedio film on UDF. It was also decided that comrade Zuma should be the one to give a talk since CUSO-SUCO people have not met him as our Chief Representative. THE MEETING WAS DECLARED CLOSED.