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FAX COVER SHEET
31 AUGUST 1993

SACTWU
FAX NO : 478515

ATTENTION : EBRAHIM PATEL

SUBJECT : CONFERENCE - WORKER RIGHTS IN A NEW SA

FROM : ALBIE SACHS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 7

A SACHS

South Africans and 10 Participants. And when we say no government we mean no government.

I'm speaking in my capacity as a member of the NEC of the ANC, I'm stating that we say no government can take these Rights away from us, meaning no government including an ANC government or an ANC led government can take

away these Rights from

the

ANC = 2a * 2 * 1 * 4
LUGliiclicsiii vad Nayiiuve

in rity in Parliament can

think we can distinguish between

two groups. The key, absolutely fundamental Rights, are those

Rights that enable the working people to fight for and

defend their : ? that.

collective bargaining and the right to strike. These are

environment

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equal pay for work of equal value. There

are all sorts of detail Rights, a number of which are in the

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wWailni 3 Â» Will

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we feel are
entitled to, at all

=e.

But the most important Rights are those Rights that

for

A SACHS

I'd like to say a few words about this idea of expanding, Rights. Terrien When my dad was the general secretaŦy up north, \had a different complexion from the Union today ,ess Ehe basic struggle then was s&ply over working conditions, over pay, establishing industrial councils, procedures for settling disputes, a provident fund, medical aid.

Now these are fundamental to any Union anywhere in the

DR EY workers
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of speech, the right to articulate yew? demands, the right

to health, the right (to movement, the right to travel bss
workessalso

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come some ody Not just he a upit production. >
ot ? pale on el â\200\234ol Many a the
o have a persdnality, an inner l

ave a right to Mearn to advange their skills,

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BC

messed around. F to be able to advance 3
overcome all them barriers thetâ\200\224wesve onl Jpaethad,

Zfri+=a that diminish te respect for human seine anh hg y's
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Telation to all the Ahi

Workers are primarily interested of

porsanality not to be interfered SL or AN to be

course in their rights as workersy but they're also
interested in their rights as human beings.

= dts the working people who've suffered the most
general opression in this country, the most racial

LIN soni mite , the most poverty and malnutrition, hg Lean
0 reel Se lives for their children, to have 30

security, not to beWracked by crime and threats to their
physical integrity all the time.

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WL hla

So I would sore the organisers of this conference in
concentrating on the question f fundamental rights for
rights that

c RT apn Df ntalise
are citizens, you i di human

are South Afric are men

workers as workers don

and women, sons and daughters of the soil and you must be
interested in every aspect of the Bill of Rights in ie
full dimensions.

Sastly Me are fighting now sie Spit
a principles tha ill in the Bil Rightgg A
: \ Â¥)

that \Â\$\\necessary to secure rights already won and to serve
as a platform for advancing the rights of the working

cn abe. (you th carly de

Interim Bill of Rights

pesmanentâ\200\2243TIT TOT Rights Uthat writâ\200\224b=â\200\224edl

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at the general constitutional principles that will be

binding on the Constituent Assembly. os WR Wad WR

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We must Seal.

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Â¢a declaration of principle wd Lg Ee that workers can
aspire to) ether IT Tâ\200\224â\200\224T3ak TS Mi or/a Code of

2.21 Legislation/....

PERT TT

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Legislation, bour code which I would support in that ia)

one comprehensive document s that p le can pick
up a\200\234i out what workers's rights A« ifferent

chapterddealzsy with different s

areas Lees ; .

And then of course we're going to have to have a series
of particular agreements that have legal force that apply to
workers in particular sectors and in particular industries.
So that's also So to be looked forward to.

sab Whrkers won ' a\2027 imply be s+4sing at the places of
production or coming to conferences like this. We look

forward Ls the working people who are the
majority of the people in this eountyy, constituting the
majority of the representatives in the Constituent Assembly.

Why not? Why should that be seen as, ,SO ething
remarkable or extraordinary? The We Nah stewards, we
have Trade Union organisors, we have people from every nook
and cranny of this country who have struggled for rights,

exh ~
wail a\200\234ii

pression is, who know the importance of
discipline, of orderly procedures, who are in touch with
their people, who speak all the different languages of this

country, who come from all the different groups of this

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Why shouldn't they be in Parliament? , Why shouldn't

majority outside of Parliament.

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they be the majority in Parliament ,b they are the
eptremely impor{ant when establish the

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YOU have 1157 and you won't have

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standing for a constituency we have at the moment.
You will have national lists and regional lists getting
on the list and where you're placed on the list is going to
determine whether or not you get into Parliament.

And each party should be compelled to ensure that
workers and workers' representatives and people who fought
for the Unions and of for the rights of workers, are well
placed on those lists. want to see workers in
Parliament. We want to see workers in Government. We want to

express, direct natural...contact established between

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the working people and Government which democracy really
requires.

we expect to see workers in the Cabinet,
working people expressing the sense of the workers in the

the form possible in a new South African Government.

express

However many nations we have in the world. however many
nations? 2 at the time of the League of Nations - the League of Nations ever man

1% =

from the working population. however many

their own voice, in their own way.
and the fundamental
rights for the working people, I repeat, the right of
(the whole of the world. the unions, must be in any country

rights of collective bargaining so that your common

don't let the Zionists in the struggle for your
Johannesburg Eight; let the workers to
withhold your labour, the right to strike which is the
only real meaningful weapon in the hands of the working

people have. I thank you.

AAR REA |

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Natal Cape

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16 August 1993

Professor Albie Sachs
Constitutional Committee
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Fax No: 222-626

Dear Albie

PUBLICATION OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: WORKER RIGHTS IN A
DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

iis

the first set of papers delivered at the Conference on Worker Rights held in
Durban

in 1993 is due to be published in September under the title "Engine of
Development? - South Africa's National Economic Forum". I am now preparing

and send it for publication
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Sincerely
SACTWU

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EBRAHIM PATEL

DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

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