

h4M/001/0001/16

C O P Y

16th February, 1972.

Dear comrade,

RE: ACTIVITIES OF THE ALGERIAN UNIT

A little over a year ago, around October, 1970 to be exact, we embarked on occasional discussions as a "unit" then consisting of the members of the representation and two comrades that had joined us on temporary basis. A series of topics were discussed the bulk of which were of military nature aimed at serving as a refreshing exercise and exchange and enrichment of skills acquired by those already trained whilst helping to furnish elementary knowledge to those untrained.

In addition, we exploited every available opportunity of comrades passing by charging them with the task of leading discussions on current situation and problems facing the movement.

When our group was increased by the subsequent arrival of three comrades, one in December, 1970 and three others in March, 1971 we sought to formalise such activities. It was then that we appointed the youngest comrade of the group to serve as Convenor and Chairman of such discussions. The aim was to correct a perhaps unconscious mistake we have always committed of always relegating to the background the less formally educated and young ones with the result of suffocating their potential talent and consequently robbing the movement of possible contributions.

Following the Zambia forest meeting recommending the establishment of units in all the centres where we are based attempts were made to have this undertaking assume an official character. This took the form of having regular sessions following a fixed programme. However, about two weeks ago it became clear that to some members there was no unit in Algeria since the above-mentioned group activity had not been formalised to the extent of electing a chairman and a secretary and reporting this to headquarters. It was then that the group ratified the position held by comrade Jack (Verwoerd) as convenor and chairman and comrade Solomon Dube as secretary of the unit. It was also agreed that the discussion of topics related to organisational problems should be reported to headquarters, hoping that these could be regarded as the views emanating from the membership and worthy of consideration in the shaping of policy, ~~xxxxx~~ strategy and tactics.

...../2

We are in fact also encouraged by the fact that in some correspondence from headquarters it is suggested that attention of the unit should be drawn to the problems facing the movement. The latest example is the circular letter conveying to us the Liberation Committee's Communiqué announcing the creation of a commission charged with the task of "Study the situation in South Africa with the view to drawing a new strategy".

This has already been discussed and a circular letter reflecting the views expressed by the members of the unit is on its way. Should the feeling expressed by some members of our unit that ours is the only one that has so far not been sufficiently active and reporting to headquarters, we undertake to endeavour to correct this.

Amandla! Maatla!

F. MAKATINI

Copy to: APG
All ANC Offices