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TELEGRAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Kurt Waldheim
The Secretary General
United Nations Organisations
NEW YORK
United States of America.

The Conference of the African National Congress (SA) Women's Section in the External Mission, meeting in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, from 10th to 14th September, 1981 notes with indignation that the apartheid regime of South Africa is intensifying its acts of aggression, harassment and brutal massacre of the women, children and peoples of Angola.

We as women are concerned that the United States government and its allies are part of this unjustified aggression against the people of Angola.

The actions of South Africa's regime are a direct challenge to the principles contained in the United Nations Charter. They pose a threat to peace and security in Southern Africa, the African continent and the world as a whole.

We appeal to the United Nations to take urgent steps against the invasion of the racist troops of South Africa into Angola and the marshalling of its troops to the Mozambiquen - Zambian orders.

We urge the United Nations to act before it is too late.

Gertrude Shope

HEAD - WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE ANC (SA)

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TELEGRAM TO THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Edem Kodjo,
Secretary General,
Organisation of African Unity,
ADDIS ABABA
Ethiopia.

The Conference of the African National Congress (SA) Women's Section meeting in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola from the 10th to 14th September, 1981, notes with indignation that the racist troops of South Africa have undertaken a campaign of aggression, plunder and murder of the peoples of Southern Africa, choosing the people of Angola as the main target.

This barbarous war is a war against Africa. It is a war against the OAU.

We women, we mothers, urge the member states of the OAU, to come out to the defence of Angola in the face of this fascist invasion. Africa must respond to this challenge to her peace and stability now.

Gertrude Shope

HEAD - WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE ANC (SA)

MESSAGE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF ANC (SA)
TO THE ANGOLAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATION (OMA)

The Conference of the African National Congress Women's Section, meeting in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola from September 10 - 14, 1981 sends warm revolutionary greetings to our sisters - THE ORGANISATION OF ANGOLAN WOMEN (OMA).

The Conference wishes to place on record its deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Organisation of Angolan Women (OMA) for having accorded us the warm hospitality and excellent conditions of work. Our deepest thanks go to you for having agreed, at such a short notice, to host our Conference which was an important event in the course of the execution of our struggle against the barbarous apartheid regime of South Africa.

The Conference notes with deep indignation that the fascist murderers are continuing to massacre hundreds of the sons and daughters of Angola. Women and children are the worst victims of these acts of aggression.

The Conference therefore, wishes to convey its deepest condolences to all the women, wives, mothers and sisters of the victims of the unjustified war that Pretoria has launched against the people of Angola.

We for our part, undertake to intensify our struggle inside the country, the victory of which is a precondition to peace, security, stability and happiness for our children and common peoples.

Abaixo o racistas Sud Africana!
A LUTA CONTINUA!

Down with racist South Africa!
STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

Gertrude Shope

HEAD - Women's Section ANC (SA)



African National Congress

Women's Secretariat

P.O.Box 31791, Lusaka, Zambia. Phone 211169 Telex 45390

1981 -- Year of the Youth

Dear Friends,

The Conference of the African National Congress Women's Section met in Luanda, the capital of the People's Republic of Angola from September 10th to 14th, 1981.

The Conference was attended by eighty (80) delegates, members of the African National Congress Women's Section coming from seventeen (17) countries of Africa, Asia, East and Western Europe and the Americas.

The opening session of the Conference was honoured by the presence of Sam Nojuma, the President of the South West Africa People's Organisation, who also opened the Conference. Other distinguished guests on this occasion were Comrades Alfonso van Dunem Mbinda, the Secretary of the Central Committee for External Relations of the MPLA-Party of Labour and Member of the Central Committee, Joao Hailonda, the Representative of the OAU in Angola, Maria Jose da Gama, Member of the National Executive of the Organisation of Angolan Women (OMA), The Secretary of the SWAPO Women's Council and Comrade Oliver Tambo, the President of the A.N.C.

The five (5) days of the Conference were devoted to thorough discussions on the responsibilities facing the struggling women of South Africa, and our tasks as the Women's Section of the A.N.C. to meet the demands of the developing situation inside the country.

Important resolutions were adopted by the Conference, and recommendations made to the National Executive Committee of the A.N.C. However, we are sending you some of the materials of the Conference for your information.

With Best Wishes in Your Work!

G. Shope

Getrude Shope.

HEAD. WOMEN'S SECTION. ANC (SA)



African National Congress

Women's Secretariat

P.O.Box 31791, Lusaka, Zambia. Phone 211169 Telex 45390

1981 -- Year of the Youth

Dear Comrades,

Please find enclosed the final document of recommendations made to the National Executive Committee by the Conference of ANC Women held in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola from September 10 to 14, 1981

The NEC has since considered these recommendations and has appropriately given their response to some of the suggestions made. We therefore are now in a position to pass on to you some of the decisions taken by the NEC on these recommendations.

We hope that your unit will be in a position to discuss both documents and send us your comments.

Revolutionary greetings
In the Year of the Youth

Mavis Nhlapo
for/Women's Secretariat

A F R I C A N N A T I O N A L C O N G R E S S
(W O M E N ' S S E C R E T A R I A T)

D R A F T P R O G R A M M E O F A C T I O N

A: I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Consultative Meeting of the African National Congress Women's Section, meeting in Lusaka, Zambia on February 22nd to 24th, in the Year of United Action, notes with satisfaction the great victories scored by the struggling women and people of our country, particularly since the historic ANC Women's Section Conference held in Luanda, on September 10 to 14, 1981.

These have been victories on the trade union front, against the racist and exploitative capitalist system of labour relations and the results thereof - retrenchments, lay-offs, short-time and the huge 3million strong army of Black unemployed. The past few months have been characterised by increased militancy by Black workers in defence of their rights.

Women have scored victories in struggles against increases in rents and bus fares. Of great significance is the partial victory over the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons' Bill.

On the other hand, in an effort to suppress the rising tide of revolution in our country, the regime of Apartheid has stepped up police surveillance, detentions, deaths through torture in detention and the assassination of our compatriots, both at home and in the neighbouring countries.

The regime has increased its harassment of the neighbouring countries, killing, maiming and torturing innocent civilian populations in these countries in an attempt to enforce its political and economic dominance over the countries of the region.

The inncrease in the support the regime enjoys from Western countries places even more urgent demands on the women and people of South Africa and the whole of the international peace-loving community, to step up the struggle to rid mankind of the fascist monster in our country.

To respond to these challenges, the ANC women therefore adopt this Programme of Action.

A: GENERAL

The Structure, Recommendations and Resolutions of the ANC Women's Section Conference held in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola on September 10th to 14th, 1981 should be the general guide for the implementation of this Programme of Action.

INTERNAL:

The Women's Section must, through the appropriate machinery, undertake the following tasks inside the country:

- + popularise the ANC and work tirelessly towards the recognition and acceptance of the ANC as the only authentic representative of our people and the leader in the struggle against white domination, national oppression and exploitation, for national liberation.
- + forge links with the patriotic and democratic women's organisations and co-ordinate their activities in the common struggle against the racist regime.
- + offer guidance and leadership to our women at all times in the day-to-day struggles of our people.
- + encourage women to co-ordinate their own activities, and further to co-ordinate with the activities of the community around them, and to take a more active part in the community struggles. The most urgent campaigns to be undertaken are:
 - a. The campaign against the Genocide Bill and all other oppressive Influx Control Laws and regulations.
 - b. Forced removals to Bantustans, "resettlement" camps and other human dumping grounds.
 - c. The urgent campaign to save the lives of our six young combatants - Bobby Tsotsobe, Johnson Lubisi, Naphtali Manana, Marcus Motaung, Jerry Mosolodi and Simon Mogoerane, presently facing death by hanging at the hands of the Pretoria fascists.
 - d. To explain and expose the President's Council, together with all that it stands for and rally especially the Coloured and Indian populations in our country to reject this latest enemy manoeuvre aimed at dividing the ranks of the oppressed people.

- e. The campaign for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.
 - f. The anti-community councils "election" campaign.
 - g. To expose and discuss the South-Africa - Swaziland land deal, with a view to drawing in all sections of the population to fight and defeat the deal.
 - h. The campaign against increases in rents, bus fares and the price of bread.
 - i. The campaign against the Depo Provera "contraceptive" injection.
 - j. The campaign to mobilise the masses of our people in the Bantustans to reject the regime's imposed puppet leaders must be intensified.
- + raising the political consciousness of women and drawing in of more and new members into the democratic women's organisations must be viewed as a matter of urgency.
 - † Ensuring the regional unity of democratic women's organisations, with the aim of uniting these organisations at the national level.
 - + Mobilization of the rural women into the struggle must be intensified. Priority must be given to the fight against mass removals of women and children into these Bantustans.
 - + To intensify anti-fascist propaganda inside the country, using as many Vernacular languages as possible.
 - + to actively contribute materially and otherwise to the development of educational, literacy and self-help projects of women in both the urban and rural areas.
 - + to organise women to support and contribute effectively to the struggle of the unemployed youth and all those who, by virtue of the regime's educational and other policies, find themselves out of school.
 - + to call upon all women, Black and White, to urge their sons, husbands and brothers, to refuse to serve in the racist marauding army.
 - + to ensure the consolidation of relations between women's, youth and church groups, together with workers' organisations.

The just-ended Year of Unity in Action, which marked the 70th Anniversary of the ANC, marked the beginning of a new phase in the development of the general strategy of the struggling masses of our country - the phase of consolidating the ranks of all democratic and patriotic forces into one solid force. The correctness of the ANC's call for unity in action and the need to consolidate the gains already made in this regard have been clearly demonstrated by the declaration of 1983 as the Year of United Action, a year during which we must organise ourselves "for the capacity to attack effectively, as well as defend ourselves effectively".

We must be ready to respond to the enemy manoeuvres and tactics, which come in the form of the President's Council, the Genocide Bill, "community councils", and all other dubious pieces of legislation and institutions aimed at dividing the ranks of the oppressed but fighting masses, for the further entrenchment of the colonial Apartheid system.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM

1. Accordingly, we call upon all the women and people of South Africa to observe the year 1984 as South Africa Women's Year. This will be a year marking the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the South African Women's Federation on the 17th of April, 1954.
2. We call upon the women of the world to unite in their condemnation of the death sentences imposed on freedom fighters of the ANC, and urge them to demand that they be accorded Prisoner of War Status, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols additional to the Convention.
3. We call for united action of all anti-apartheid forces in the just struggle of our people, led by their vanguard movement, the ANC.
4. This year, which marks the 20th Anniversary of the Arrests of our leaders in Rivonia will, by decision of the United Nations General Assembly, be observed by further intensifying the campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of all South African political prisoners. As our President said in his January the 8th message, we, the people of South Africa, must be in the forefront of this campaign. We further call upon all the women and people of the world to strive even more to ensure the realisation of this objective, which is the only guarantee for peace and stability in South Africa itself and in the whole of Southern Africa.

5. The world must condemn in no uncertain terms, the continued naked aggression and economic sabotage carried out by the racist regime against neighbouring countries, in particular the People's Republic of Angola, Lesotho and Mozambique. The international community must take concrete steps to halt racist South African aggression and its immediate withdrawal of troops from the People's Republic of Angola. We further urge the women and people of the world to undertake actions in solidarity with the Frontline States, and raise material support for the suffering women and children in these countries.
6. We must promote and intensify solidarity actions with the people of Namibia and their vanguard organisation - SWAPO.

In declaring 1984 the Year of South African Women, we envisage undertaking the following activities:

- + to prepare a comprehensive history of the struggle of the women of our country on the basis of the life histories of our women leaders and militants;
- + To prepare a calendar of the Women's Section;
- + To highlight the militant struggles of the women of our country against the racist and colonial regime, with a view of educating our young women militants and deriving from these experiences various tactics of struggle.
- + to produce publicity material - booklets, stickers, posters, etc., portraying the struggle of the women of South Africa.
- + to launch a huge anti-pass campaign, with special emphasis on influx control laws and their implication on the lives of women. This will be used as a uniting campaign for all women's organisations inside the country.
- + to launch an effective anti-Depo Provera campaign, with the aim of educating women on the negative effects of this drug, and using its maladministration on African women as an example of the regime's policies of genocide.

Inside the country, our rallying call must be the consolidation of the united action of all democratic women's organisations at local and regional level.

On the international scene we must continue to actively participate in the struggle for peace and complete disarmament, linking the question with the militarisation of South Africa by the Apartheid regime.

UNITED IN ACTION WE SHALL WIN!