

3.9.71

SWS/23/21CA/1

MINUTES OF THE ANC WOMEN'S SECTION SECRETARIAT
MEETING HELD ON THE 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1971.

The first meeting of the Women's Section Secretariat was held in Lusaka on the 3rd September, 1971. It must be remembered that since its appointment, the Women's Section has not had the time to meet because of several reasons, such as the distance between the members and also the pressure of work in other organisations.

The Secretariat expressed gratitude to the N.E.C. for inviting its members to the extended N.E.C. meeting which took place in Lusaka from the 21st-3rd August and thus enabling its members to meet.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Florence MOPHOSHO (Chairman)
2. Magdelene RESHA (Secretary)
3. Edna MGABAZA
4. Kate MOLALE

Theresa MAIMANE could not attend.

AGENDA

1. ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

In her opening remarks, comrade Florence welcomed the members present and regretted the absence of comrade Theresa which she thought might have been due to the fact that he had learnt that the latter had taken up a job and, since then her contact with HQ has rather been irregular. All the members accepted this as valid.

Comrade Edna took the floor and explained the difficulties confronting the organisation of women because of lack of personnel. She further stated that many South African women who are married to Zambians were very generous in raising funds for our organisation and may be useful in future because they are able to go in and out of South Africa.

Comrade Kate suggested that comrade Gertrude Shope be permanent at the Women's Section when she comes to Zambia. This was accepted.

Comrade Florence suggested that it should be recommended to the N.E.C. that African women participate in such organisations as the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Luthuli Foundation. This was agreed.

It was decided that comrade Theresa be contacted through telephone by comrade Kate as soon as the latter returns to Berlin so that she represents us at the Bureau meeting of the W.I.D.F. in Berlin in November. Miss Mgabaza was to be the alternative in case of Theresa failing.

Comrade Kate reported that the W.I.D.F. has launched a campaign for the release of Political Prisoners. She also stated that in fact these campaigns can be effective. It has recently been learnt that the Vorster regime has replied to the International Lawyers Association in the case of Madinoge, who S.A. reports say has been released and on Dorothy Nyembe who is serving 15 years imprisonment. She also reported that the W.I.D.F. is preparing a bulletin on South African women.

Comrade Magdelene gave a report on the two sewing machines that have been donated to the ANC Women's Section by the A.A.W.C. She further stated the difficulty encountered in sending the machines to HQ. and suggested that they be sold and the money be handed to the office since women's section has no bank account. The price would come to 500 DA as evaluated by a government evaluator. This was agreed upon. She also pointed out that the NEC be asked to write to all representatives to take it as a duty to help the Women's Section in all its activities, in particular such things as typing and giving of funds to send out documents etc.

Comrade Florence stated that the question of funds for the Women's Section has already been raised with the N.E.C.

Comrade Magdelene raised the question of asking for medical supplies which she thought must be done carefully since there are some medicines which expire with time and therefore become a waste. This matter to be raised with the NEC in order to ask for advice from our medical men.

Comrade Florence stated that clothes from the Socialist countries can be a danger if distributed among the people at home. These also, it was agreed, could be sold and money used to help the dependents.

Secretariat members agreed that comrade Florence Majola be approached to give a brief report as a recent arrival from home, and for contacting women in South Africa and Botswana. It was agreed that messages of solidarity be sent from HQ. in order to avoid redundancy. However, this does not stop Secretariat members from sending messages in cases of emergency.

It was agreed that the NEC be approached to include women in the Scholarship Committee in order that women should not be discriminated against.

Comrade Florence stated that Mrs. Nzo and Mrs. Ngakane have been approached to testify before the UN ad hoc committee as asked by the WIDF to give examples of women whose husbands have been under some arrest in South Africa. A third person will be found to give evidence on behalf of Dorothy Nyembe. (Messrs Mabhida and Makatini to help).

It was decided that, although the F.R.G. falls under Western Europe, comrade Kate can go there for organisational work by per arrangement and agreement of her host country (GDR), this will assist in creating contacts for us.

PUBLICATION

Comrade Florence stated how difficult it has been to produce VOW due to lack of material and personnel, thanks to the presence of Mrs. Shope at the HQ.

It was decided that comrade Sindiso be asked to help Mrs. Ngalo in the A.A.P.S.O.

Comrade Kate was asked to create contact with socialist countries to invite us to their National days and conferences in order that we gain their experience. The task applies to all members of our Secretariat.

It was agreed that when all our women are organised all over, there should be a possibility of a conference for our women in the external mission.

The NEC should be approached on the question of school for ANC children. Preliminary discussions already started with Dr. Conco who is acquainted with the Luthuli Memorial Foundation. Preferably the school should be in Tanzania or Zambia.

The NEC to be asked to consider including women in delegations to international conferences so that women can gain experience. Comrade Kate to draft the message of solidarity with the Korean Women.

It was agreed that the advice of the NEC be sought on the question of sending VOW to South Africa and Botswana.

In pursuance of the decision of the Women's Secretariat, to put forward suggestions on behalf of the Women's Section to the NEC of ANC.

A meeting with the S.G. A. NZO and the above members of the Women's Secretariat was held in Lusaka on 6th September 1971.

In principle, the above mentioned suggestions have been accepted by the S.G. and will accordingly be submit them to the N.E.C. for ratification.

The Secretariat ANC Women's Section.

LUSAKA, September 1971.