

Report to D.L.C.A ON Meeting of NWC 13/03/87.

The NWC met in special session to review the Constitutional Documents prepared by the DLCA. The two documents were 'Statement of Intent' and 'Foundations of a Democratic Government'.

After the reading of the two documents the following points were made regarding their contents.

(i) 'Statement of Intent' :

The purpose of the document is unclear. Perhaps it needs a preamble that makes clear whom its intended for and what purposes it is supposed to serve. The document itself as it stands is ambiguous and could be harmful if it reaches an audience it was not intended for.

The document, if it is to be an introduction to the second document, is much less successful than the 'Foundations' document. Many of the arguments are repetitive. Perhaps the section on 'Foundations' should be removed to avoid serious damage to the document.

We are making a little closer to consensus!

Portions of the document are purely laudatory. Do we want to do that in a document?

(ii) 'Foundations'

The document was gone through item by item and a number of criticisms raised regarding it. Most of these were with respect to the specifics of the items. In some cases members of the NWC had changed their minds about issues they had insisted be placed in the document.

The following specific amendments were proposed:

Section One:

(h) and (i) These should be combined so that the issue of tranquility and disruption is dropped. The item could then read: "The creation of the conditions and guaranteeing of the security necessary for the achievement of these goals."

Section Two:

(k) Objections were raised with regard to the term 'open press'. Various suggestions were made about its reformulation to accommodate such concepts as 'a people's press'. Fears were expressed as to the power of the monopolist press being left intact so that it may be used in opposition to the people's government. It was proposed that some formulation be found which while not placing a ban on a free press will not leave this tool in the hands of the enemy.

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The document, if it is meant to serve as an introduction to the second document, is much too long. Its length results in the repetition of many of the arguments and statements in the 'Foundations' document. Perhaps the section 4 to 9 can be lost without serious damage to the document.

Portions of the document are a bit self-congratulatory. Do we want to do that in a document of this nature?

(ii) 'Foundations' :

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(l) It was felt that the use of 'special consitutional guarantee' implies that the other 'ordinary' guarantees are not as weighty. If the quality of the guarantees is considered good, why the need to qualify some as 'special'.

(n) Reference to the victims of forced removals it was felt should be dropped since all blacks are in one sense or another victims of forced removals.

(o) Questions were raised as to why only the public sector should be under democratic ontrol. Should not the private sector also be subject to control? . sector be
Why should the family given state support?

(p)add to the item after 'population', especially the African people.

In addition to the above, it was pointed out that no mention is made of special programmes regarding the rights of women and children. The DLCA should examine the possibilities of inserting such a clause.