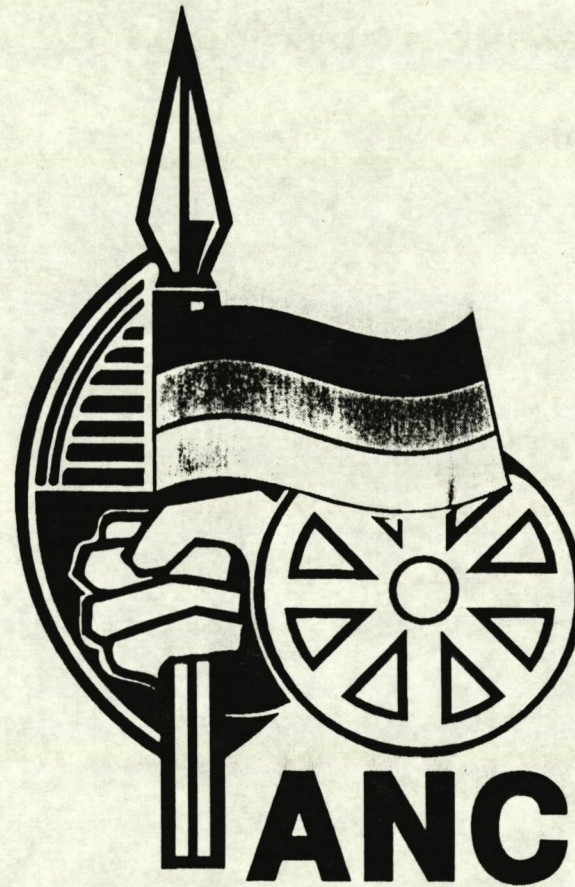


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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



NEC DOCUMENTS - 21-23 OCTOBER 1991

DEPARTMENTS **II**

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

National Executive Committee Meeting

21 -23 October 1991

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SOCIAL WELFARE



**AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS**

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- 1.3 These groups proved to be the most difficult to handle due to the frequency of the arrival of the planes coupled with the fact that the ANC was unable to grant them the standard fund of R2 225 on arrival.

To date there has been no movement on this question and none of these people have already been here for + 2 months. This matter has been a subject of many discussions between ourselves DSW including the RC, the TG and the President.

If it is not adressed soon chaos and political damage will occur.

1.4 United Nations High Commission for Refugees

- 1.4.1 August 1991 the South African Government finally agreed to the involvement of UNHCR in the repatriation exercise.

- 1.4.2 The Department has already had several meetings with UNHCR representatives who were involved in a fact finding trip here.

- 1.4.3 Our most frequent interaction is also through our representation in the NCCR, a structure they will be working more closely with.

- This development calls for a constant and fundamental review of our strategies in this regard.

- 1.4.4 From the ANC's point of view the first prize will be if the UN body agrees to refund the movement its repatriation expenses incurred thus far. This would enable us to be in a far better position to meaningfully initiate integrational and developmental projects for the returnees.

- 1.4.5 From indications that we obtained from the President, it would seem that Tanzania will be the next area of major activity with regard to repatriation. These are about 8000 of our people in that country.

On the 2nd October 1991 the Head of the Department of Social Welfare will be part of a high profile delegation that will visit Tanzania to have the discussions with the Tanzanian authorities inter-alia, to pave the way for the return of our people.

2. OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY

2.1 Funerals:

- 2.1.1 We have been involved in assisting families who have lost their loved ones, especially when the deceased pass away in exile. The standing ANC policy on this question has proved impossible and politically dangerous to implement. As a result of this brief discussions were held between our Administrator / National Co - Oordinator and the Deputy President, Cde Sisulu.

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FROM: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE - DSW

TO: THE NEC
T.G

DATE: 01 - 10 - 1991

RE: QUARTELY DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

This will be a brief overview report on the DSW covering the period from our July National Conference till the end of September 1991. This is done by way of arbitrary headings which characterise our work. The main body of each heading will be the actual progress report, but the last paragraph (s) within each heading will briefly cover recommendations, suggested ways of improvement, general comments, etc.

Also by way of introduction it must always be borne in mind that the DSW has both a service - delivery and a policy - making component. Although we strive to create an inextricable relationship between these two there are areas of distinction in practice.

1. REPATRIATION:

- 1.1 Structurally, the Repatriation Committee of the ANC is a desk of the DSW. However in practice the Repatriation Committee operates as a semi-autonomous Sub Committee. (The relationship between it and the rest of DSW is greatly harmonised by the fact that we are on the same floor and share most facilities).

Consequently, the RC will submit a separate report covering repatriation of exiles in more detail.

- 1.2 Suffice to say here that this aspect of our work dominated our activities during the relevant period of this report in which no less than 10 plane loads landed at home from Lusaka alone. Our department bears a special responsibility for the disabled, the children, the aged the mentally handicapped, etc. who are inevitably from part of each group that returns.

2.1.2 This matter was also tabled for discussion at the August monthly OTG Secretariat meeting. There seems to be broad consensus that some flexibility is called for although it is the ANC that may finally change present policy.

2.2 Accommodation:

2.2.1 This has proved to be our weakest spot. The reality is that a large proportion of our returnees are homeless or come from trouble - torn areas.

2.2.2 Unfortunately a deal to buy a village which would have greatly addressed this problem was successfully sabotaged by the right wing.

2.2.3 In the meantime we have acquired 2 large houses in Soweto, a farm near Orange Farm and a Flat in Hillbrow. These properties have surprisingly gone some way in solving the crisis but the need is increasing every day.

2.2.4 We would prefer to see the acquisition of these properties as a stop-gap ad-hoc measure so that the movement could resell these properties if a more permanent solution such as the village could materialise.

2.2.5 We have even had to resort to assisting comrades at their request to erect shacks at the back of their homes, etc.

2.3 Dissidents:

2.3.1 The Department was greatly involved in the normalisation of relations between the ANC and a group of 32 ex-detainees in ANC camps.

2.3.2 Without quick action by the ANC this issue may have developed into a political explosion. The Department initiated a meeting between an ANC delegation and the ex-detainees, after which a reconciling joint statement was read.

A week later we arranged a meeting between the ex-detainees and the President, Deputy President, National Chairperson, SG, etc.

2.3.3 We have also had to render certain integrational services to some of these people, especially those who declared themselves still as loyal members of the ANC, although the unavailability of the standard R2 225 also affect them.

2.4 Political Prisoners:

2.4.1 This issue remains a thorn in our department and it also has political implications while the ANC has set up structures around the question of returning exiles, political prisoners have reason to feel left out.

The NCCR is investigating ways of covering ex-political prisoners in its programme.

2.4.2 The mandate of the DSW technically covers this question but in reality we have dealt with prisoners in a very ad hoc manner.

The ANC for example does not yet extend the R2 225 grant to political prisoners although there is no logical or political reason to discriminate.

2.4.3 In the relevant period we have had to assist several political prisoners who have come to our offices.

3. POLICY MAKING

3.1 At the National Conference our Welfare Policy document was adopted as Guidelines.

3.2 The Commission on Welfare also endorsed the document.

3.3 Since then we have held a National Workshop in August 1991 from the 2nd to 4th in which almost all ANC regions were represented by their Welfare Co-ordinators.

- This was a very successful event and discussions were very fruitful.

3.4 The main areas discussed were the structure of the department at all levels of the ANC and the policy guidelines.

Important improvements, additions and their amendments were suggested to the Policy Guidelines.

3.5 Our aim is to call a very high profile National Conference on the future South African Welfare Policy, which will involve the entire welfare community (including welfare organisations, the civics, the churches, State welfare institutions, etc.) There is already some excitement around this idea. It will enable us to take the initiative and shift the current debate in this field.

3.6 There has been very interesting interaction between ourselves and the welfare sector. To date we have had fruitful discussions with the National Council for Child Welfare, The Council for Social Work Disable People of SA, The SA Black Social Worker Association, and others. The last mentioned association is for all practical purposes our strongest ally and our relationship with them has had a great impact.

3.7 The last paragraph of our Policy booklet sums it all up when it stated in July that because of the crises that arise everyday the service component of the department has had to be more prominent at the expense of the policy making function. A healthy balance has had to be drawn. There are certain structural measures that are envisaged to be taken in order to achieve this.

4. STRUCTURE:

4.1 At the National Workshop of the DSW held in August at the Devonshire Hotel in JHB, a structure was suggested for the smooth operation of the Department from Branch to National Level.

4.2 Were this to be implemented it would pay dividends to the organisation as a whole.

Unfortunately we have not been able to master the resources to achieve this for example one of the most serious and legitimate criticism of our department has been the apparent neglect of our regional structures and the concentration of the available resources in JHB and the PWV Region.

4.3 It has been correctly pointed out that only those comrades who are physically and geographically able to reach our head Office and cry there, have access to ANC resources.

4.4 Until such time that we build structures of the DSW in the regions this will remain so. This may be the time to announce some good news. A local wealthy business personality has donated a relatively large sum of money specifically to the DSW (R500 000)

4.5 It was initially suggested that this money be used for the returnees grants. However, it has subsequently been discussed and felt that this money would be more usefully employed in capacity building of the Department especially at the regional level. If this is done the problem mentioned above will partially have been addressed.

4.6 Even with the Head Office there is an amount of restructuring required. We are also short staffed considering that our work can only grow with each plane load, or release of political prisoners etc. There are discussions taking place between the HOD and the TG around these questions.

4.7 We have had to replace 2 drivers who failed to report to work for long periods in July / August.

4.8 We have employed a housekeeper who services the newly acquired properties.

4.9 We still need to separate the posts of National Co-ordinator and Administrative Secretary, currently performed by one individual. Give the political profile of our HOD which also is important for the movement, the idea of a Deputy Head of Department needs to be considered seriously.

5. GENERAL / MISCELLENEOUS

5.1 TANZANIA / SOMAFSCO: WE are preparing for the return of the SOMAFSCO children. This situation has been aggravated by the fact that learning had stopped there in June in anticipation of their return which was hampered by the bombing of the school in Hillsvlew.

5.2 UGANDA: We have had discussions with some of the camp commanders on welfare matters. We sent boxes of sports - gear balls, games etc. to the camps and we received very good feedback.

5.3 BOTSWANA: Our Administrator / co-ordinator visited Dukwe refugee camp in August following disturbing reports about the behaviour of our people there, emanating from the Chief Rep's Office.

- The visit was very successful and was welcomed by the Botswana authorities.

- It assisted in sobering the expectation of the comrades there and restored some calm, hopefully for long.

5.4 CUBA: At the suggestion of an ANC rep from CUBA who was in the country we facilitated the sending of ANC paraphernalia, t-shirts, a radio tape etc to the children at school in Cuba.

- 5.5. CLOTHES: We have had seperate meeting with donors from Sweden and Japan both of whom promised us shipments of clothing in large quantities.

We are informed that the Japanese shipment has arrived in Durban. We hope not to rush into this and to devise income- generating projects around this issue as well as design a fair distribution mechanism countrywide.

5.6 SEWING PROJECT:

A business personality in the Northern Transvaal has donated 50 Sewing Machines to the DSW. Maatla Trust has approved a project to train mainly the non-South African wives of our returnees in the use of these machines for income generation.

ARMY

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RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING AND REORGANISATION OF MK

This conference noting:

(1) The changing situation in our country since the unbanning of the ANC in 1990 and the difficulties this has presented our army with in terms of organisation and structure and noting further:

(2) That MK has to be strengthened and restructured to suit these new condition

Therefore resolves:

(1) That a supreme military council be immediately established consisting of the following:

- (i) The president
- (ii) MK representatives from the regions
- (iii) Heads of MHQ departments
- (iv) Representatives from departments like the International Department, NAT, the Treasury.
- (v) The NEC investigates the possibility of including other veterans of the armed struggle.

(2) That the present MHQ becomes a servicing structure of the military council.

(3) That the army research unit be established that will do:

- (a) Study the structure functions and strategies of the SADF
- (b) Prepare documentation and briefing for our team that will negotiating the integration of forces

(c) Study military balances

(d) Study international forces and integration of various forces

(e) Also study Armscor

(4) That the Commander and the Chief of Staff must be strengthened with administrative staff.

4.1. That the following positions be strengthened by adding deputies to their portfolios viz,

RESOLUTION ON WELFARE

The Social Welfare Commission of this Historic MK National Conference held in Venda

Noting that:

a) The liberation movement in general and MK in particular is confronted with a deep rooted problem of resettlement and reintegration of its membership back into the country

b) The MK cadres externally face specific social welfare problems

Therefore recommends to Conference

1) To call for the establishment of an MK Social Welfare Department which will work hand in hand with the National Social Welfare Department of the ANC and all other relevant ANC departments

2) That this Department receives its funds from an MK budget

3) That this committee should have representation from all MK regions.

The Social Welfare Commission further recommends that the said departments be set up concentrating on the following issues:

- i) Social Welfare
- ii) Education
- iii) Employment and Projects of MK cadres.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO POLITICAL WORK WITHIN THE SADF AND RELATED SECURITY FORCES.

Given the increasingly patriotic and democratic sentiment exhibited by personnel within the homeland defence forces and black, so-called Coloured, and Indian members of the SADF this commission proposes the following:

(1) That a thorough assessment be made of the presence of members of the oppressed classes within the following structures:

- (a) The SADF
- (b) The SAP
- (c) The homeland armies
- (d) The South African Prison Service

(2) That an appropriate strategy be devised and approved whereby a programme of political work within the armed forces is implemented.

(3) That the necessary structures be established within the armed forces for the execution of military work within these structures.

(4) That the tasks of these structures be clearly defined by a person or committee appointed by the MHQ and coordinated by MHQ.

(5) That we resolve through our political work within armed forces to strive for the creation of a broad patriotic front of MK combatants, homeland soldiers, and patriotic, democratic soldiers with the SADF.

The commission recommends that a list be drawn up for all MK members with a view to assess their availability for upgrading in preparation for a regular army.

Resolutions and recommendations

Security forces in the future democratic South Africa

The commission on this, after extensive deliberation, considered a number of relevant topics such as:

- (a) History and character of MK
- (b) Profile of the SADF
- (c) The concept of military integration
- (d) Lessons from other experiences especially Zimbabwe and Namibia
- (e) The politico-military implications of integration
- (f) The nature of the new army
- (g) Assistance from abroad - the reality of scanty resources
- (h) Importance of training and upgrading MK
- (i) The need for a deeper understanding of ethics within the SADF and SAP
- (j) The need for a standing commission of MK to explore the following:
 - (i) Military upgrading and skills acquisition
 - (ii) Work within the Bantustan armies
 - (iii) Appropriateness of ceasefire agreement
 - (iv) A need for an international monitoring group.

The commission accordingly resolves as follows:

1. That the MHQ under the guidance of the NEC urgently creates a Military Commission which must institute the research into projects related to the politics of transition *vis a vis* MK, initiate and implement consultations and armies of other liberatory formations where they exist.

2. In respect of the foregoing, the commission also believe that as a matter of urgency the ANC should begin to formulate policy and programmes on issues related to security, defence and policing in the transition period and post apartheid South Africa, specifically on the following issues:

- Formal ceasefire
- International monitoring force
- Integration of armed forces
- Creation of the new defence force
- Transformation of police

Commission on Armed Struggle and Negotiations

Resolution 1.

This MK national conference meeting at the university of Venda noting:

1. The report of the three agreements namely the Grooteschuur Minute, Pretoria Minute and the DF Malan Document entered into between the ANC and the government.
2. The distorted interpretation of the said agreements, especially the DF Malan Document by the De Klerk regime through the skillful usage of the mass media.
3. That the said distortions as stated above in paragraph 2 have the effect of demoralising our members and supporters.
4. That the NEC has already begun the process of establishing the department of negotiation commission with the primary aim of implementing the resolution on negotiation of the December 1990 national consultative conference and the 48th national conference of 1991.

Therefore resolves to urge the NEC to report timeously to all the regions and branches about meetings and agreements held and entered into between the ANC and the government.

Resolution 2

This MK national conference meeting at the University of Venda noting the adopted resolution on MK by the 48th National conference of the ANC in particular that the ANC accepts full responsibility for cadres arrested and/or detained by police and security organs in the course of the execution of their duties in defence of the people endorses this position and urges the NEC to implement this resolution with immediate effect.

Resolution 3

This MK national conference meeting at the university of Venda notes that:

1. The ANC and the government signed the Pretoria Minute on August 6 1990 in terms whereof the ANC committed itself to a cut off date of October 8 1990 as a date before which pardon and indemnity would be considered in respect of political offences committed on or before that date.
2. When the ANC agreed on this cut-off date conditions in our country were different.
3. The counterrevolutionary violence engulfing our country is sponsored by the state and its surrogate forces such as Inkatha, Askaris, etc.,
4. This climate of violence as it exists in our country today is primarily aimed at destabilising the democratic movement with the particular objective of weakening the ANC.

Therefore Resolves to mandate the NEC to reopen discussions with the government with the view to rendering the cut off date legally invalid.

Resolution 4

Recalling that the issue of SDUs has been discussed at all ANC conferences resolutions taken with little practical implementation;

Recognising the fact that the SDUs are community structures and accountable to the community but that the ANC and MK have a role to play in the process of their setting up and development.

Therefore resolves that:

1. The SDUs should not be isolated from concrete branch activity
2. A special committee under organising committee be formed at a national level that will be tied down to the task of ensuring the setting up of SDUs.
3. army structure liaise with that special committee on the task of developing the SDUs.

9.1.2. A programme of affirmative action be adopted to facilitate the training and recruitment of women.

9.1.3. MK strengthen the recruitment of our white, Indian, and so-called Coloured Compatriots.

9.1.4 Future recruitment should be done through regions and that preparations be made for their reception in their areas of destination.

10. In relation to finance and logistics ANC offices be requested to make facilities available for MK regional command structures.

10.1 MK maintain its own treasury and budget.

11. In relation to security and intelligence proper co-operation between M.I. and NAT at all levels.

11.1 NAT to maintain formalised relations with DIP to ensure DIP has information to counter enemy and dissident propaganda.

12. In relation to roll call, the NEC be asked to urgently set up a commission to look into roll call and the serious problems raised on this issue.