



WALTER SISULU AT THE CDF: "Our objective is a transfer of power"



CDF delegates supported a democratic Constituent Assembly

Sisulu calls for mass action at CDF

"IT is a time of new opportunities and challenges. The South African regime has its back to the wall".

In his keynote address to the Conference for a Democratic Future, Comrade Walter Sisulu said delegates faced the task of deciding on a programme of action that will build unity.

Sisulu said the regime was faced with renewed resistance, a serious economic crisis and massive international pressure.

In the face of its many crises, the regime had no choice but to start tinkering with apartheid, he said.

He dismissed Mr de Klerk's so called reforms as a reaction to the many crisis the regime is experiencing, and said they are designed to capture media attention and improve South Africa's image abroad.

"They are moves that the allies of the South African regime have long urged it to take accurately understanding that they do not entail lessening of government

power", he said.

He rejected as deceptive all talks of reforms by Mr de Klerk with his so called "great Indaba", "group rights" "urban blacks" and "Great Beginnings".

"There can be no 'Great Beginnings' while his killing machines continue to operate; while our patriots remain on Death Row and in prison; while our activists and leaders are in detention; and our political organisations are banned."

Sisulu said: "Our grievance is our exclusion from political power, our objective is a transfer of power."

He pointed out that segregated beaches have symbolised our exclusion, but their desegregation is not a transfer of power.

"That is the fraud that De Klerk seeks to perpetuate", said Sisulu.

Comrade Sisulu challenged Mr de Klerk to recognise the current South African situation for what it was.

"Mr de Klerk, your back is to the wall. Come and stand on the floor of a conference like this. Like the rest of our delegates, bring a mandate from those who want you to represent them. Submit to the process of democracy."

"It is true that you will be only one among many delegates but you will not be lonely. Come and feel the power of unity and action with the people of South Africa, instead of against them".

"Act now so that we may minimise the damage to our people and our land. Abandon the 'Great Indaba' and 'Black Election'. Submit to a democratically elected Constituent Assembly".

The ANC stalwart made a call on workers, peasants, white compatriots, democrats and members of the police and army to participate in various campaigns and take mass protest to its highest level during 1990.

"We call on workers in the mines, the factories, the farms, in the shops and back yards to lead the entire people in a campaign for a living wage, and workers' rights."

"We call on our people in the countryside to demand access to the land that lies empty and unused. The land should belong to those who work it".

"We call on our white compatriots to embark on mass action under the slogan "No to Apartheid".

"Today we make a special call to members of the army and the police force to recognise that breaking from the order that forces them to commit atrocities is a moral imperative. Join the struggles of the people".

"We call on each and every one of our compatriots to join hands in the struggle against press censorship, death squads, political imprisonment, and all other forms of repression".

"We urge the oppressed people to build a united front of all anti-apartheid forces, for the establishment of true democracy and lasting peace".

Comrade Sisulu said: "Let us not forget that important lesson of modern history: it was only a united front of workers and professionals, communists and capitalists, people of all religions, that made possible the defeat of fascism in Europe in the 1940's".

Demands unite

ORGANISATIONS participating in the CDF committed themselves to seven unifying perspectives:

- One person, one vote in a united democratic country;
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners
- The unbanning of all political organisations
- Freedom of association and expression
- Press freedom
- A living wage for all

CDF adopts OAU Declaration, resolves unity

DELEGATES at the CDF adopted 19 resolutions which will form the basis of a programme of action in coming months.

DECLARATION:

The CDF declaration said "we, the thousands of representatives of organisations throughout SA" "find our country in a chaotic state in that:

- The minority rulers hold onto power against the will of the majority;
- They perpetuate violence against our people;
- The economy is in total ruin;
- The suffering of our people increases daily - unemployment, low wages, high rents, high cost of living."

"Our people have made it clear

that:

- No minority government is acceptable;
- Apartheid must be completely dismantled;
- Only a united, democratic, non-racial SA is acceptable;
- We will continue to resist apartheid, even defy and actively dismantle it, whatever the cost."

The declaration also said we would build the maximum unity among all anti-apartheid forces, and map out a programme to intensify the struggle against apartheid.

NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY:

The resolution on negotiations said the basis and climate for genuine negotiations did not

exist. De Klerk's proposals were designed to trap our people and organisations.

The immediate tasks of the people were to strive for one person, one vote in a united, democratic country; the lifting of the State of Emergency; the unconditional release of all political prisoners; the unbanning of all banned organisations; the abolition of all laws which inhibit free speech, press, association and assembly; a living wage and the right to work.

The resolution called for the CDF to adopt the Harare Declaration (OAU Declaration) on how the conflict in South Africa could be resolved. It called for a non-racial Constituent Assembly representing all the people of SA to draw up a new constitution



for our country.

The resolution also called on the people to organise and intensify the struggle, and the international community to impose sanctions.

LABOUR:

The resolution called on all parties to campaign for work for

all; a living wage; action against the Labour Relations Act; a national minimum wage; a end to privatisation of services such as SATS, ESCOM and hospitals, skills training, affordable housing and services and other items.

The resolution called on the trade union movement and its allies to discuss actions such as: industrial area marches during the week, factory mine and shop occupations, blacklisting of companies, stay-away actions, anti-sabbing campaigns, solidarity actions against employers who use the LRA, mass rallies and marches and intensifying the overtime boycott.

Other resolutions covered areas such as education, resistance in rural areas, Natal violence, welfare and health and isolating the regime.