

REPORT OF

46th ANNUAL NUSAS CONGRESS

held at

CAMP JONATHAN, ESTON, NATAL

JULY 16 TO 24, 1970

compiled by

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REPORT ON THE 46TH ANNUAL NUSAS CONGRESS AND ON THE SPECIAL CONGRESS ON THE REASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION - NEVILLE CURTIS

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DATE AND VENUE

- (1) The Congress took place at Camp Jonathan, Eston, Natal from July 16 to 22, after difficulties in finding an integrated venue made it necessary to change the dates. About 110 delegates from 13 centres attended. This was lower than expected as about 8 delegations, and many delegates from the larger centres were unable to attend due to the changed dates.

OBSERVERS

- (2) Observers from SAIRR, Christian Institute, SASO, UCM, NCFS, ASB and from three other Afrikaans or black centres were in attendance. Six international observers from student and christian organisations in Britain, Norway, Scotland, West Germany, Finland and Denmark attended for three days, and Tony Klug, the Deputy President Elect of NUS attended for the duration of Congress

ADDRESSES TO ASSEMBLY

- (3) Mrs Fatima Meer officially opened Congress, and her speech is reprinted in full in Newsletter 22 (attached as Appendix 1). Father Desmond, Tony Klug, the International Observers, SASO and NCFS all addressed the Assembly.

PROCEDURE

- (4) The Congress adopted modified parliamentary procedure for the duration of the reading of the new Constitutional white paper. The Speaker was Mike Macneil, Deputy Vice President. General Student Assembly Sessions were cut to a minimum and most of the time of Congress was spent in specialised commissions and committees. Chief among these were the Select Commission on the Constitution, and commissions on Education, Welfare, Culture and Finance. Congress was preceded by two days of meetings of the National Executives SRC Presidents and Local and Branch Chairmen, and followed by two days of meetings of the new National Executive

OFFICE BEARERS

- (5) The new constitution was adopted and provided for new office-bearers. These were elected and are -

President	Neville Curtis*	NUSAS Head Office
Deputy President	Paul Pretorius	Ditto after December
Vice President NUSED	Barry Streek	Ditto after December
Vice President NUSWEL	Ernest Raleketho	NUSAS Head Office
Vice President AQUARIUS	Deon Irish	NUSAS Head Office
Deputy Vice President	Rox Heinke	c/o SRC Wits
Deputy Vice President	Oliver Schreiner	c/o SRC UNP
Eastern Cape Regional Director	Clive Keegan	c/o SRC Rhodes
Western Cape Regional Director	Steve Jooste	c/o SRC UCT
Natal Regional Director	Paula Ensor	c/o SRC UND
Transvaal Regional Director	Chris Wood	c/o Wits SRC
Northern Transvaal Regional Director	Peter Mchalipe	StePeters Seminary, Hammanskraal

These constitute the 12 man voting executive.

* re-elected

In addition to these there are deputy Secretary Generals for each of the affiliate organisations (NUSED, NUSWEL, AQUARIUS) and six office bearers on the Executives of each of these organisations.

The deputy Secretary Generals are -

NUSED	Pete Bishop	c/o Wits SRC
NUSWEL	Karen Sweet	c/o SRC Rhodes
AQUARIUS	Clive Keegan	c/o SRC Rhodes

The remaining office bearers are listed in full below

NUSED

Internal Education Reform Conference	Pete Bishop
Student Domestic Reform	Kelvin Williams
TeSCO	TO BE FILLED
Regional Discussion groups	Calvin Henderson
Political Awareness Campaign	Janine Schmahman
Scholarships	BV Msengane
Director of Training	Jenny Landman

NUSWEL

Research, Information and Publicity	Dave Selvan
Director of Conference on Student Volunteers	Neil Cochrane
Director of Preventive Medicine	TO BE FILLED
Literacy Training	TO BE FILLED
Work camps	TO BE FILLED
Head Start	Zena Lubrin

AQUARIUS

Anti Censorship Campaign	Sue de Villiers
Film School and National Film Festival	Russell Rawlinson
Pop Group Festival	Conrad Burke
Winter School	Taffy Adler
National Drama Festival	TO BE FILLED
Research and Publications Program	Elain Unterhalter
IF	John Frankish

Herst Kleinschmidt, the current Vice President is in office until December.

NEW CONSTITUTION

- (6) The white paper presented by the President and Vice President as adopted, with amendments, as the New Constitution. The Constitution is attached as Appendix 2. The major changes made in the Constitution were -
- (a) The addition of a Preamble setting out the role of students, and the principles governing the constitution
 - (b) The provision of three affiliate organisations NUSED (National Union of Students Education Department), NUSWEL (National Union of Students Welfare and Social Action Department) and AQUARIUS (Cultural Agency). These are autonomous organisations responsible for implementing different aspects of the policy of the National Union, and with representation on the Executive of the National Union.
 - (c) The provision of individual membership in each of these affiliate organisations, while retaining centre affiliation to the National Union
 - (d) The restructuring of the Executive and the setting up of a National Council composed of the Executive and the SRC Presidents to meet quarterly, and over crisis, and as Regional Councils in the Regions.
 - (e) The inclusion of four full time officials (President, Deputy President, Vice Presidents for NUSED and NUSWEL) as opposed to two, and the possible establishment of regional offices in Natal and Transvaal.
 - (f) The restructuring of executive, and executive/SRC relationships to
 - (i) make for more direct communication and a more direct responsible decision making process
 - (ii) make for more student involvement and a more participative decision making process especially at grass roots level
 - (g) The provision for association by other student organisations, and other non student organisations (ie Southern African Students Union, High Schools Association, Teaching Students Conference (TeSCO), and University Students Conference to be set up at a later stage), and for the association of existing organisations, as defined by and governed by an article of Association in each particular case
 - (h) The changing of the format of the annual congress from a debating forum to primarily a working conference with which is incorporated a winter school and an abbreviated student assembly, and the congress of affiliate and associate organisations.

Generally the new constitution has been governed by a desire to decentralise and diversify, provide maximum flexibility with greatest efficiency, and the broadest possible base and decision making process so that greater involvement of students and greater growth are possible.

PROJECTS

(7) One of the major emphasis at Congress was on less talking and more action and a distinct move towards basing as much of the organisational activity as possible on definite and particular projects and programs took place. These projects were in turn divided among the affiliate organisations (see communiques from affiliate organisations - appendix 4) and co-ordinated by the National Executive.

The projects range over a wide field of activity, and are all directed to fulfilling the aims of the National Union (see sample constitution of an affiliate organisations - appendix 3)

It was the general feeling of Congress that students must involve themselves to the highest possible degree in actively working on campus, and particularly in society for the achievement of change towards the ideals, principles and objects of the National Union)

The major projects envisaged fall into three areas - education, welfare and culture, and are listed below (appendix 4 for details)

- NUSED - (a) Education reform program - role, content and structure of education
(b) Campus reform program - student right-, discipline, amenities
(c) Regional discussion - intercampus, non racial contact and activity
(d) TeSCO - specialised teachingstudent conference
(e) Political awareness campaigns - ongoing campaign among students and in society - awareness/action
(f) Leadership training - non racial seminar program, specialised.
- USWEL - (a) Transkei project - building, fundraising, schools, clinics during vacation, camps with local community
(b) Literacy campaign - to train students as trainers to work in urban and rural communities during term and vacation
(c) Head Start - involving individual students with underprivileged children in mentor relationships all year
(d) Community Action - involving students and community in action and development programs and plans in community
(e) Research and publications - involve students in relevant social research, publish findings, generate awareness
(f) National Volunteer Conference - to plan, coordinate and train with all students and organisation in volunteer work
- AQUARIUS - (a) Anti-Censorship Campaign - to draw attention to, exert pressure for removal of censorship of films
(b) Winterschool - convene annual winterschool adjacent to congress on theme, ie Black Education, Social Change
(c) Drama Festival involve students in writing and performance, find channels for authentic expression
(d) Filmschool Festival - ditto with cinema media, focus on South African society and creative expression
(e) If - intellectual, cultural happening over week in December
(f) Pop group festival - investigate contemporary media "POP" as contemporary/young cultural expression and action
(g) Publications - establish national and local magazines and a national newspaper, establish contact with world student/youth thought

Each of these projects is planned to take place either annually, as ongoing events, or simply once during the next 18 months. Each will operate locally, and be coordinated nationally

In addition to these, the following projects and programs continue -

- (1) Scholarships - awards of R5000-00 annually for medical study, collected on campuses, and act as an agency for international scholarships and as recruiting for any other scholarships
- (2) LOAN FUND - award of R400-00 per month as loans to students, interest free, money raised by students
- (3) PRISON EDUCATION - bursary fund for prisoners studying by correspondence in prison or detention, grants and books - R9000-00, per annum
- (4) TRAVEL - provision of facilities for student overseas travel at discount
- (5) TOUR - annual tour to Europe and Middle East for students
- (6) BENEFITS - range of benefits, discounts, employment, travel, now to be administered by SRCs
- (7) NATIONAL SEMINAR - annual leadership training seminar, augmented by additional December seminar, and regional seminar
- (8) PUBLICATIONS - newsletter, magazine, posters, pamphlets will continue
- (9) RESEARCH - social research, ie effects of apartheid on education, student attitudes, will continue
- (10) FUNDRAISING - massive campaign to be launched locally and internationally to finance various projects and above

It will be noted that these various projects will quadruple the activities of the National Union over the next eighteen months and involve many thousands of students black and white, while at the same time constituting as a whole a massive education and mobilisation campaign both on campuses and in society. All activity will be directed to fulfilling the principles and objects of the national union, promoting contact between students, and action and involvement towards change.

POLICY

- (8) It will be clear that two basic policy directions have emerged
 - (a) Increased promotion of the ideals of the National Union, and increased commitment to the most challenged of these in South Africa - non racialism
 - (b) Increased activity in all spheres to educate, implement and work towards the same

Thus while the representative role of the National Union is retained and while the role as a discussion forum is retained and expanded, the main emphasis falls on engagement with, and in society and involvement of students. This is achieved not at cost of any activity, but by expansion of activity, increase of personnel and emphasis on new projects

Second, the ideal of a "national union" as opposed to a party or partisan ideological group, is maintained and strengthened, the diversification and decentralisation provide a broader base, allow for more people and opinions to be incorporated but at the same time by allowing for specialisation increase consensus and decrease futile disagreement about non priorities.

Policy then is expressed initially in the fundamental agreement on the preamble, principles and objects contained in the constitution, second in the correlated policy which remains largely unchanged, and third in the specific resolutions adopted at Congress (See appendix 5, minutes)

The most important resolutions adopted were :

- (a) The resolution on SASO (South African Students Organisation) the black student organisation, which the National Union recognised, noted as well able to express the particular desires of black students and pledged cooperation with
- (b) The defeated motion on dissolution and foundation of an individual membership organisation (catered for by the new constitutional provisions)
- (c) The restructuring of congress and the role of affiliate organisations (noted above)
- (d) Various resolutions condemning wage scales for blacks in the universities, support for the Rhodesian students, support for international student cooperation particularly in Africa, and condemnation of security police action

Since the number of resolutions taken was drastically reduced (to 50 from 450 four years ago) statements of policy are contained mostly in the correlated resolutions (attached as appendix 6)

In addition future policy will be drawn up, and circulated to centres before Congress so that these may be discussed in detail, and amendments tabled prior to congress itself

It is envisaged that policy will become a less rigid and more living body of thought, closer related to student action, and not just preserved in minutes.

Further, while policy remains non binding on centres unless they accept a definite mandate, it is hoped to tie policy making closer to action by SRCs taking policy back to campuses for approval debate and action.

FINANCE

(9) Expenditure for the next financial year has been increased, as has income, but there remains a deficit of R5,000-00 to be met either from reserves or a fundraising campaign (see budget appendix 7)

The financial situation can be summarised as:

Income R18,000-00; Expenditure R23,000-00. Reserves R13,000-00 (R10,000-00 funds, R3000-00 general.) In addition expenditure on programs R20,000-00 plus.

A Financial Advisory Panel to the President (5 man) has been set up in the constitution, and will be appointed in due course.

Increased expenditure in the budget has been as a result of the growth envisaged.

Increased income will come from the raising of affiliation fees, the increase in the number of students on the tour, and increased revenue from donations, associate membership, and administrative levies on programs administered.

A detailed financial circular will be sent to all affiliated centres SRC's, and University Councils. Detailed fundraising programs are being drafted and will be for specific purposes, or projects, and a considerable amount is hoped to be raised in South Africa, while it is possible that an Executive member may be able to visit overseas. (See financial section in President's report, attached as appendix 8)

General financial policy will be to budget over longer periods (3 to 5 years) establish stable and balanced income and expenditure, and fundraise for projects and programs once this organisational self sufficiency has been established.

The financial year has been changed to coincide with the terms of office of the President and his Deputy, and this should ensure more direct responsibility. Financial control and administration will be the responsibility of the President.

REASSESSMENT

(10) Enormous assistance was received from numbers of people who in reply to our circular of October 1969, send in detailed appraisals of NUSAS and numerous suggestions and well set out and considered advice. Many of the ideas we thus received have been incorporated in the "new" NUSAS. While it has been impossible to engage in personal dialogues with many of the people who replied their replies have been closely scrutinised and every useful idea or point discussed and debated. NUSAS owes these people much

Further, reassessment is not envisaged as being over and completed. We have tried to build a flexible organisation that can devote its energy and attention to those areas where it is most needed, and we have built in provisions for further change and growth. We envisage a much greater interaction in the future between the organisation and the people in it, and other groups and people in the whole society.

Further publications on the new NUSAS and its activities will be appearing regularly, and we welcome any suggestions, queries ideas or directives that can be of assistance to us.