

GUIDELINES TO ACTION
ARISING FROM THE NEC ENLARGED MEETING
Lusaka, 16 - 18 May, 1974.

The Enlarged Meeting of the ANC National Executive Committee, whose major aim was the briefing of its missions, placed on record the growing image of our movement, and this in turn raises the responsibility of our representatives abroad.

This report (which is a summary of the contributions and at the same time contains suggestions from the NEC) serves as a guide to action for both our External Missions and the Secretariat of the NEC Working Committee, which is charged, among other things, with the duty of implementing the decisions, recommendations and suggestions of the last extended NEC meeting. However, the NEC Working Committee has to make a thorough study of the records, minutes, and regular reports sent to Headquarters by our various missions. On the other hand, these decisions and recommendations will only become reality if they are implemented by our missions in the spirit of the NEC meeting. The ability to take decisions and answer questions of our missions will guarantee the proper and efficient solution of problems.

Political Education

One of the duties of our missions abroad is to see to the political education of our people. There is a crying need to politicise our people with a view to overcome the pessimism and demoralisation which is traceable in some circles. Constant discussions on the problems facing us and on our policies (eg. Freedom Charter) and on solutions to our problems will instill the revolutionary optimism that will show us a clear perspective. What is more, in this respect, is the need to inject a conviction in our people that the movement, the ANC, is the force which can and will change South Africa, and hence bring about a bright future for us all. This resuscitation of self-confidence, accompanied by a review of world developments (South Africa cannot be isolated from the rest of the world) is a necessary pre-requisite for the launching of the armed struggle we are preparing for.

Political discussions and study classes in our movement are as vital as the daily meals for our bodies.

Duties and Tasks

On the whole, it can be said that our External Missions have the same duties and face similar problems.

Our offices are expected to act as feelers and transmitters, in other words as ears and eyes, of our movement. They should have direct contacts with public figures and influential personalities, including MPs, trade unionists, prominent women and youth representatives, academics (especially those doing research on Southern Africa), and, last but not least, diplomats from various countries, especially African. The aim of these contacts should be to publicise our struggle and, in the case of diplomats, to make concrete suggestions and recommendations for submission to their respective governments, insofar as the fight against apartheid is concerned.

The representatives are further expected to issue periodic press releases on burning issues in South Africa; contribute articles to daily and weekly press; disseminate our literature, statements and other material; make use of local radio and TV; make interviews - in short, propagate our struggle and policies.

Connected with this is the reproduction of articles from Sechaba in various local papers; arrangement of photo exhibitions and posters; organisation of public meetings, rallies, seminars and lectures (if possible, jointly with public organisations of the host countries); meetings at universities, schools and colleges - in short, active participation in the political and intellectual life of the host country, with the aim of putting our point across, belong to the daily activities of our missions.

In imperialist countries, our missions should struggle for closer contact with the organised working people at individual trade union level and strive to build an anti-imperialist alliance with these forces. Close contact with anti-apartheid and anti-racist research groups should be made.

Through various African Student Associations/Organisations - and on individual basis - contact should be maintained with students from Africa and our material sent to them. The same applies to international student movements as a whole.

Liberation Movements

Consultations in the form of informal and, where necessary, formal discussions with the other authentic liberation movements on matters affecting the struggle of our people and the struggle for national liberation is of vital importance.

June 26th

Political activity and propaganda should be intensified on the occasion of June 26th. We need to explain to the world and analyse the growing significance of our struggle in the light of the developments in the Portuguese colonies. The commemoration of the National Days of each movement also helps to circumvent the unpleasant competition between liberation movement seeking support and/or aid. Equally important is the commemoration of March 21st - International Day against Racism and Racial Discrimination. This day is important to us to expose apartheid atrocities and to focus world attention on the evils of apartheid.

Administration

Where there is a large concentration of our people, office committees to deal with problems affecting our people should be elected. The office staff members should meet regularly so as to guarantee that decisions are taken collectively and that the traditional internal democracy of our movement is maintained. A common understanding and agreement on all matters affecting the implementation of directives and decisions of the NEC and execution of duties is a necessary precondition for the smooth running of the work. Where necessary, a secretary and convenor of such meetings can be elected and one of his duties will be to keep the minutes of the meetings and records of the movement.

Department of Publicity

Sechaba is faced with problems of a technical nature and is understaffed. However, the matter is receiving urgent attention. Despite these difficulties, Sechaba is receiving widespread support and popularity. The Department hopes that two more issues of South African Studies will be issued this year to add to the four issues already printed.

A French publication dealing with the history, strategy and tactics, and programme of the ANC, and with French involvement in South Africa, has been published. This has received favourable reviews in the left press in France and other French-speaking

countries. A publication in German is in the course of preparation. A publication in Kiswahili is also planned.

The editor of Sechaba welcomed the proposal of the NEC to set up an Editorial Board in Lusaka, and the suggestion for a joint meeting between him and the Radio Department. However, close co-operation between the Department of Publicity, Radio Unit and Propaganda, under the direction of the NEC and its Working Committee, is necessary.

It was suggested that:

1. A "Spotlight" be restarted;
2. A Research Centre be set up.

These projects are to be taken up immediately.

The Cairo office expressed the need for material in Arabic. We recommend that the Department of Publicity, in conjunction with the Cairo office, should attend to this matter.

SACTU

The report of SACTU stressed the fact that demands put forward by the workers were not only for higher wages, but for recognition of their unions. The liberation movement, the SACTU report says, must concentrate its efforts on creating political cells in the factories, apart from shop stewards.

Problems face the workers at home, namely, the lack of funds and the lack of trained organisers, or organisers with at least a certain standard of education, which can enable a trade union functionary to draft letters and memoranda to employers' organisations on behalf of the workers. There is need, further, to step up propaganda work amongst the workers. The meeting also called for further efforts to draw teachers and other sections of intellectuals into the broad trade union movement.

Women's Section

The Federation of South African Women is a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation since 1954. This explains the membership of the ANC Women's Section in this organisation. The Women's Section is also a member of the Secretariat of the WIDF. The Women's Section is affiliated to the All-African Women's Conference and is a member of the Secretariat. Its aims and objectives are: the mobilisation of all South African women in exile; to ensure maximum individual and collective contribution of its members to the national liberation struggle; focusing world attention on the plight of those suffering at home, and mobilising moral and material support for them.

Its organ, VOW (Voice of Women), has made a tremendous impact internationally. However, there are problems to be overcome, e.g. lack of contributions and personnel. To solve this problem we suggest that:

- a. A staff of two or three constitute an editorial board, so as to ensure its efficient and regular appearance;
- b. that the women's Voice be transferred to Lusaka.

Youth and Students

The recent events in South Africa demonstrate quite clearly that the role and responsibility of the youth in our struggle is increasing. This simply means that the youth must be organised. The tasks of our Youth and Students' Section are:

*To mobilise the youth into full and active participation in

the revolutionary struggle of our people: To this end we need:

- a. To popularise the policies and programme of the ANC;
- b. To raise the political consciousness and dedication of our youth;
- c. To help raise the academic and technical skill of the youth for service in the revolutionary struggle.

For this reason we need teaching personnel (our students who have completed their studies abroad could be of assistance in this regard); well-defined syllabus; classrooms; equipment for experiments; school books and a place where classes can be run systematically. The ANC National Executive Committee calls upon the Youth and Students' Section to tackle these problems immediately with the characteristic exuberance and revolutionary enthusiasm of the youth. Closer co-operation between the RC and the Youth Secretariat will guarantee a successful solution of these problems.

The problems mentioned above are numerous, and the tasks enormous. The NEC and its Working Committee and Secretariat will assist our missions by:

- a. Feeding our missions with information on the home front;
- b. Regular briefings on various issues;
- c. Prompt attention to specific items confronting our external offices.

In conclusion, we appeal to our offices to make a thorough study of this document. Reports about its implementation or problems arising therefrom are welcome.

Amandla! Maatla!