

resolution on the process of political settlement

from COSATU congress, july 1989

"This Congress noting:

1.

That the South African regime has effectively banned all internal progressive political opposition, restricted COSATU and detained without trial hundreds of our people under emergency security regulations.

2.

That the leadership of the Mass Democratic Movement remains imprisoned or exiled, with the ANC, SACP and other organisations banned and their activities outlawed.

3.

That the SAP/SADF still occupy our townships to enforce emergency rule by instilling terror in the lives of the masses.

Further noting:

1.

That imperialism, and Thatcher in particular, are intent on initiating a settlement that protects their interests and those of the racist minority.

2.

That there can be no negotiation without full freedom of political assembly and association for the oppressed and exploited masses.

3.

That if there is any negotiated settlement it can only have meaning where there is free and open political association, assembly and debate in the true spirit of worker control and democracy.

Therefore Resolves:

1.

To reject any attempt to impose reformist solutions which do not address our fundamental social and economic demands and needs in a non-racial unitary and democratic South Africa.

2.

That there can be no genuine negotiations unless a climate conducive to negotiations is unilaterally created by the South African regime by fulfilling the following conditions:

2.1

Unconditional unbanning of all banned organisations.

2.2

Unconditional release of all detainees and political prisoners.

2.3

Unconditional return of all exiles.

2.4

Confinement of SAP/SADF to barracks.

2.5

Lifting of the state of emergency and the repeal of all security legislation.

2.6

The end of all political trials and executions.

3.

To call upon the Frontline States, the OAU, and all international forums to increase pressure on the regime to meet the above requirements so that a climate conducive to negotiation prevails.

4.

To ensure in the event of negotiations taking place that the masses of our

people are involved in shaping the process so that no negotiations take place without the democratic participation of the people.

5.

That only a sovereign body mandated by the people and accountable to the people as a whole can have the authority to develop a new constitution and decide on the method of implementation.

6.

To avoid any settlement being imposed on our masses, the MDM should initiate discussions aimed at developing a common position on the South African road to power through negotiation.

7.

To reiterate our demand for a non-racial democratic South Africa based on one person one vote.