

B8-2.1.9



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

WESTERN CAPE REGION

3 Hare Street,
MOWBRAY 7925.

9th November, 1984.

The Secretary,

Dear Friends,

A quarter of a million people here in the Western Cape are threatened by the single biggest mass-removal ever planned in South Africa. Official government policy is that ALL African people in the Western Cape should eventually move to Khayelitsha. In the more immediate future, the people of Crossroads, Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension, KTC and the township backyard shacks are to be moved, possibly by March 1985. For people classified 'illegal' - over 100 000 of them - the move to a site-and-service camp at Khayelitsha is just a stepping stone towards a further removal back to the homelands.

Khayelitsha is clearly an example of the latest government influx control strategy, rather than an attempt to solve the housing crisis. The United Democratic Front believes that the issue of forced removals must be seen in the context of pass laws, group areas and other measures of control exercised over oppressed people.

The UDF would like to invite your organisation to a conference, to be held under the theme "Houses, Security and Comfort". The aims of this conference are threefold: Firstly, it would be a united statement of opposition to forced removals on the part of a wide range of organisations. Secondly, organisations would be able to state publicly their support for those communities under threat of removal. Thirdly, it would be an opportunity to begin to formulate alternatives to government policies and strategies.

The proposed date of the conference is SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER. The conference will start at 9.00 and end at 5.00, with a break for lunch (donations R1,00). Topics for discussion include forced removals, with an emphasis on government divide-and-rule tactics, group areas, influx control, pass laws, housing and local authorities. We would like to encourage your organisation to discuss these issues, how they affect your members, and how your organisation envisages taking

.... /2 them up.

them up.

In the long term, we hope that all organisations concerned with these issues would be able to formulate joint strategies of action to fight state initiatives.

We invite your organisation to send two delegates / ~~observers~~ to the conference. Please reply by November 20th:

Address: 3 Hare Street, MOWBRAY 7925

Telephone: Nontobeko : 691055 or 656019.

We hope to follow up this letter with a more formal agenda, including details of the venue.

Yours in the struggle,



Z. KOTA
SECRETARY
UDF ANTI-REMOVALS COMMITTEE



c/o 131 LOWER MAIN ROAD, OBSERVATORY 7925

16th August 1985.

Dear ECC

The Claremont and Observatory Area Committees of the United Democratic Front would like to invite your organization to participate in a discussion to be held with a number of organizations working in the "white" community, on our response to the State of Emergency.

Over the past three weeks various organizations have held public meetings and discussion on the State of Emergency. Time and again the question "what can we do?" is raised. We feel that it would be constructive to discuss how different organizations are responding, to share our ideas and plans, and to consider any possible joint action between our organizations.

The meeting will be held on Saturday 24th August at 2:30 p.m. in the main hall of the Rondebosch Congregational Church, Belmont road, Rondebosch.

Your organizations is invited to send two representatives. Should you require further information, please contact me at home at 47 9272.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Ilana Korber

for Claremont and Observatory UDF area committees.

sent to ADAC, Black Sash, Civil Rights League, COSG, ECC (Cape Town and Stellenbosch), Humanists Society, Koeberg Alert, MIRGE, NAMDA, NUSAS, S A Inst of Race Relations, UWO, UDF Stellenbosch area comm, UDF Gardens area comm., Women's Movement for Peace, WPCC. Repression Monitoring Group.

Claremont & Observatory UDF

c/o 2 Rhodes View
435 Main Road, OBSERVATORY
7700
14 March 1986



Dear E.C.C.

In response to the tremendous growth of interest in the United Democratic Front and all that it stands for, the Claremont and Observatory Area Committees will be holding an open forum for the friends of UDF on the first Wednesday of every month, starting on April 2, at 8 pm

The 4 topics we are scheduling for the first 4 months are:-

- 1) A Tribute to Nelson Mandela
- 2) The History of the African National Congress: Prof. C. Bundy
- 3) COSATU - the Workers Federation: a COSATU Executive member
- 4) Liberation and Theology

At many of the housemeetings and discussion forums we held last year, many people expressed an interest in a forum which would allow for more regular opportunities to discuss the politics of the day. We are confident that these forums will promise to be stimulating and of a high standard, and will play an important role in allowing members of the public to meet people who are playing a prominent role in other important bodies.

The venue for each meeting is the Amenities Building, Medical School, Anzio Road, next to the Medical School library.

We would like to ask you to advertise these meetings in your branches and newsletters and look forward to seeing some of your members at our first meeting.

Yours sincerely

M. R. Rousseau

Claremont & Observatory UDF

c/o 2 Rhodes View
435 Main Road, OBSERVATORY
7700
21 May 1986



Dear Friend

We would like to invite you to our third Forum discussion in which we will look at COSATU - THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS DEMANDS AND ASPIRATIONS. The forum will be held on Wednesday 4 June at the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall at 8pm.

We will be fortunate to be addressed by Professor Denis Davies, UCT Law Department, who will provide an overview of the development of the trade union movement in South Africa. In addition, a COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions) Western Cape Executive Official will talk about COSATU - its policies on organisation, disinvestment, Socialism, ANC, Inkatha and stayaways. Once again there will be ample time for questions and discussion - a time which proved most fruitful for all at our last forum.

Please diarise the following forum, THE CHURCH AND LIBERATION which will be held on Wednesday 2 July.

We are in the process of deciding upon topics for future forums. If you have any suggestions or requests, we would greatly appreciate if you forwarded them to us at the above address.

We look forward to seeing you at the next forum.

Yours sincerely

M. R. Rossouw

For the CLAREMONT AND OBSERVATORY AREA COMMITTEES



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

WESTERN CAPE REGION

P.O. BOX 274
SALT RIVER
7925

29 May 1986

Dear Friends

We include some information on 2 Bills currently before Parliament. The Public Safety Amendment Bill and the Internal Security Amendment Bill give the Minister of Law and Order the power to declare a state of emergency in any designated area, and allows certain police officers to detain persons for 180-day periods in 'unrest' areas. (see attached summaries)

These laws give awesome new powers to the state and explicitly prevent recourse to the courts. They effectively provide for a permanent state of emergency in the country. We believe they in no way address the realities of our situation. Indeed, the prospect of increased repression will only increase the level of tension in our society.

The UDF has called for protest on a national level to prevent these Bills becoming law. Further, we call on all democratic organisations to discuss possible forms of action and protest.

We urge you to consider how your organisation can contribute most effectively and urgently in this campaign.

Yours in struggle

J. Blom
for THE SECRETARIAT

PUBLIC SAFETY AMMENDMENT BILL

When the State of Emergency was lifted on March 4, the State President announced that the Security Forces would have to be equipped with special additional powers to handle the 'isolated and sporadic' unrest which still continued. These special powers surfaced this month in the form of a draft bill tabled before Parliament on April 22, entitled the Public Safety Ammendment Act. If this bill is passed by Parliament, then Emergency-type powers will again prevail without the formal declaration of a state of Emergency and the 'concomitant consequences' in the words of the memorandum accompanying the draft bill. To put it simply, the government wants the powers but not the consequences of a State of Emergency and it remains to be seen whether the people of South Africa and the international community will be taken in by this wolf in sheep's clothing.

Briefly the main points of the proposed bill are as follows:

- The Minister of Law and Order (not the State President) is empowered to declare an 'unrest area' on the basis of his opinion that disturbance is occurring or may occur in that area.
- The declaration can continue in force for 3 months, and can be extended thereafter with the approval of the State President.
- Each declaration must be gazetted and then laid before Parliament within 14 days (or 14 days after resumption if not in session at the time.)
- The Minister is empowered to make any regulations he deems necessary for the unrest area and these too must be gazetted and laid before Parliament.
- Parliament is not required to approve the declaration or regulations but has the power to annul any regulation (in the unlikely event of all 3 houses concurring).
- The nature of the regulations is not specified and is presumably at the discretion of the Minister. They are likely to include powers of arrest, search, confiscation; restriction of movement, media reporting, assembly, funerals; control over school boycotts, work stayaways; and all the other repressive measures which became familiar during the State of Emergency, including indemnification of the security forces from prosecution.
- Provision is made for such regulations to apply outside of declared unrest areas, and different regulations may be made for different areas and for different classes of persons.
- The regulations may empower certain persons to make orders, to prescribe or impose penalties and to confiscate articles. The persons referred to are not specified, but would probably include magistrates, police commissioners and others, thus delegating downwards the powers of making regulations.
- New powers of detention will be included in the regulations, and detainees may be held outside of the unrest area. Any detainee held longer than 30 days must have his or her name tabled before parliament within 14 days of the expiry of the 30 days. The bill does not refer to any obligation to publish the name before that time or to release the detainee after that time.
- The declaration of an unrest area and the validity of

regulations is placed beyond the possibility of legal challenge by the specific exclusion of court interdicts or court competence.

INTERNAL SECURITY AMMENDMENT BILL

This bill provides for detention under a new clause, Section 50a, which will allow a person police believe is involved in unrest to be detained for 180 days without trial. A police officer of the rank of warrant officer may arrest or detain a person without a warrant for 48 hours if he believes this action will 'contribute to the termination, combating or prevention of public disturbance, disorder, riot or public violence' at any place in the Republic. The period of detention can be extended to 180 days by an officer of the rank of lieutenant - colonel and above if he concurs with the reasoning of the arresting officer.

A provision is made in terms of which if a person is held for more than three months the reasons for his continued detention must be presented to a board of review whose findings must be forwarded to the Minister of Law and Order.

1) Public Safety Amendment Bill

- likely to push through by 16th June
- can make any new regulations, not subject to authority of courts
- new regulations can be extended to other areas 'non-emergency'
- can seize or confiscate all goods.
- only have to release names of detainees after 30 days if parliament is in session, if not 14 days after Parliament starts

2) Internal security amendment bill

- response to Paddy Kearney case: had to give reasons for detention
- stops courts interfering in detention.
 - introduce new detention provision.

Observatory and Claremont UDF Area Committees



24 September 1986

dear Friend,

As you know the UDF was effectively banned for many weeks during the current state of emergency. In the Claremont and Observatory Area Committees, some of our members went into hiding, and two of our members were detained. However, we continued to work, and to find new ways of organising under those difficult conditions. Our structures are now tighter, our members more disciplined and our commitment to building a strong following for UDF in the white areas stronger than ever.

The government is trying to re-establish its hold over our country. The state of emergency is its way of doing so. By denying South Africans the right to speak and the right to know, it is trying to break opposition. In areas like our own we do not experience the resistance to apartheid that continues in the townships. The media blackout is therefore quite effective. Now, more than ever we must know what is happening in our country. We must know what the majority of South Africans think and feel about their future.

As a participant in our monthly forums, you will have gathered that we were unable to continue with our programme of forums while Brigadier Swart's silencing orders existed. Now the gag has been lifted, but the prohibition on the issuing of 'subversive statements' still exists. We have consulted with our lawyers about the implications of this, and on their advice have decided to go ahead with a forum.

Our fourth forum will therefore be held on the 15th of October in the side-hall of Mowbray Town Hall. The focus of the forum is "the future", and the speakers will look especially at the medium-term future. We will therefore cover issues like sanctions, violence, the role of whites and the building of democratic organisations. Colin Bundy will be one of the speakers in a panel chaired by Amy Thornton. The forum will start at eight.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in the struggle for a democratic future,

Catherine Kell.

for Observatory and Claremont Area Committees

Claremont & Observatory UDF

c/o 2 Rhodes View
435 Main Road, OBSERVATORY
7700



Dear Friend

We hope you have received our previous invitation to attend our monthly discussion forums.

Our first forum, held on April 2, dealt with the call for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. The meeting was well attended and those who came found the videos and discussion interesting and informative. Included in the evenings program was a report from a member of the UDF Executive on the recently held National Education Conference in Durban.

The forum provides an opportunity for those interested in the UDF to discuss topical political issues and keep informed of the UDF activities on a regular basis.

The next forum will be addressed by Prof. Colin Bundy of UCT's History Department. He will speak on the history of the African National Congress and examine its policies and attitudes. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

The topics we are scheduling for the next 2 months are:

Wed. 4 June - COSATU, the Workers Federation

Wed. 9 July - Liberation and Theology

The venue for the next meeting is the Rondebosch Congregational Church Hall in Belmont Road, Rondebosch. The meeting will begin at 8pm.

We would appreciate a donation of R2,00 to assist us in covering the costs of these forums. Tea will be served.

We look forward to having you with us.

Yours sincerely

M. R. Rautman

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.