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REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD
IN DURBAN ON THE 12th AND 13th JAN. 1985.

AAZ(1)

The report has been broken down into three parts:

- a. Brief ^{Report} of the various regions delivered at the conference.
- b. Report of different group discussions held at the conference.
- c. Report of decisions taken at conference, after group discussions.

GENERAL BACKGROUND.

UDF youth affiliates attended a national consultative meeting in Lenasia on the 10th and 11th November 1984, to discuss how the UDF youth affiliates could take up IYY for the year 1985, this opportunity was used to discuss the formation of a national youth organisation.

The regions which were represented were as follows:

- The Transvaal region.
- The Border region.
- The Western Cape.
- The Natal region.
- The Eastern Cape (PE).

On 7 January 1984, a national consultative youth conference was held in Welgospuit next to Johannesburg. About 30 youth organisations were represented from various parts of the country. Amongst some of the decisions taken at the conference, was that since time was not yet ripe to form a national youth organisation, then, organisations must consider seriously the feasibility of coming up with the idea at later stage. The same concern was raised at the Lenasia conference. Each region appointed one person to begin the co-ordination of regions and to initiate discussions around the formation of a national youth organisation.

Some of the points raised were as follows:

- Look at the possibility of the NYS adopting the FC.
- The possibility of the NYS being based on non-racial and emancipatory principles of the progressive movement.
- The nature of the structure and the constitution.
- Organising the South African youth under the banner of the UDF.
- That special attention be given to the rural youths.
- That colours, emblem etc. be looked into.

B. This report was not sent ^{to} many regions, as ^a result only ^a few received it. The only attempt made was to phone certain regions to keep them informed.

REGIONAL REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

HELD IN DURBAN ON THE 12th AND 13th JAN. 1985.

This is an on the spot report of various regions delivered at the Durban conference. It briefly outlines the ground covered on the NYS and the position of the region with regards to the formation of the NYS, including the conditions in the regions pertaining to the strength and weaknesses of the youth organisations.

1. TRANSVAAL REGION.

- a. That a workshop was organised to discuss the NYS.
- b. That the region supported the Idea of the NYS.
- c. That the FEDERAL STRUCTURE was adopted by the Transvaal region.
- d. That since organisations were requested to come with mandates or rather give mandates to their delegates, the decision on the form of structure adopted was therefore binding to all organisations.

2. NATAL REGION.

- a. That after the Lenasia conference, a working committee was set up in Natal.
- b. Its task was to facilitate discussions around NYS and IYY.
- c. That the working committee represents 25 youth groups in Natal ie. Durban, PMS, Newcastle.
- d. That different youth organisations were visited and discussions held with those youth organisations.
- e. That the COSAS and AZASO general student councils, were also used to discuss IYY.
- f. That the Natal region did not receive a comprehensive report on NYS after the Lenasia conference. That they received a report on NYS a week before the conference in Durban.
- g. As a result emphasis in the Natal region has been on the IYY rather than NYS.
- h. That the region held workshops, and that their delegates were mandated to take decisions at the conference.
- i. That at this stage the Natal region saw need for a national co-ordinating structure, not a national youth organisation.

Recommendations made on NYS:

- *That skilled and experienced personnel be at the leadership of the NYO.
- *That they should be exposed to material and resources.
- *That problems of co-ordination should be overcome.
- *That there must be organisational capacity to carry out the requirements of the NYO.

That during the launch of the NYO, the position of the state with regards to the situation in the Vaal and repression through the treason trial should be seriously considered.

l. That the structure and policy have not been discussed, that as soon as the region ready those aspects would attended to .

m. That the national youth structure should affiliate to the UDF and take up IYY.

3. EASTERN CAPE.

a. That held discussions on formation of regional structure to take up IYY and draft a regional programme on IYY.

That E. CAPE organisations are, Payco, Gelvandale Youth Movement, Grayco, Peyco, Westville Youth Movement, Uyco, Kirkwood Youth Congress.

c. That the region was not consulted about the last conference held in Lenasia.

d. That other youth groups had problems financially in making it to the conference.

WESTERN CAPE (CAYCO).

a. Agree in principle to the formation of the NYO in 1985.

Reasons.

- * There would be closer co-operation and co-ordination between various youth organisations.
- * Importance of formulating and developing a coherent youth movement in the country.
- * Unifying our youth organisations, both structurally and politically is far more advantageous for our liberation struggle.
- * Its formation would ensure a disciplined and organised youth that can scientifically work out strategies and tactics.

b. The following national and international issues are important when considering the NYS.

With regards to:

- * International Youth Year 1985.
- * 30 years of the F.C.
- * Education Charter.

c. That CAYCO is mindful of particular weaknesses nationally. That however, these can be overcome.

d. That the organisation accepts the proposal on the NYS made in the Lenasia conference.

e. That it supports the move for the NYS to be formed on the 6th April depending on the conditions.

5. BORDER REGION.

a. That they have been out of touch with the discussions around IYY and NYS though they tried to keep pace.

b. That they are in favour of the move to form a national youth organisation.

c. That they have problems with national co-ordinating committee.

NB. REGIONS WHICH WERE NOT REPRESENTED WERE THE OFS AND THE NORTHERN CAPE.

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