

AG14

A PAPER ON THE PLANNING OF THE RELEASE
MANDELA CAMPAIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is intended to outline the nature of the Release Mandela Campaign and its modus operandi. (i.e. the way it is going to be carried out). It is not an absolute or definitive document but only meant to suggest and is subject to improvement by deliberations that will follow its presentation.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Just to repeat what is already known to people, the RMC is essentially a political effort. It is incisive in its call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the ending of bannings, banishments, detentions and all allied repressive legislation and, finally the return of all exiles - all culminating in a national convention for the end of apartheid, economic exploitation and all vestiges of injustice, for the creation of a true non-racial, democratic society. However the RMC is not to be construed as a permanent political organization, but a committee specifically established to facilitate and popularize the aims and objectives of the RMC which are proposed as

- (i) to campaign actively for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other S.A political prisoners and detainees.
- (ii) to campaign actively (a) for the unbanning of the oppressed and the exploited people liberation movements and the return of all political exiles.
(b) the unbanning and unbanishment of people's leaders.
- (iii) to campaign actively for the abolishment of all banning and banishment orders and all allied expressive legislations.
- (iv) to encourage the widest possible participation of the masses and organizations in the RMC at home and abroad.
- (v) to promote the Freedom Charter as the viable democratic basis for an alternative SA society as envisaged by Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and exiles
- (iv) to actively oppose all reformist legislation and other measures that fall short of accommodating the above-mentioned principles.

This consultative meeting is, besides bringing different experiences from all over the country together; intended

- (i) to encourage consultation with one another,
- (ii) to agree on uniform tactics and strategies,
- (iii) to lay down a basis for co-operation and co-ordination.
- (iv) to look into fundraising possibilities, the design of all RMC symbols, insignia and T-Shirts (e.g. see logo hereto attached), A
- (v) to look into the idea of giving the RMC a national character,
- (iv) to look into possibilities of the establishment of a National Co-ordinating Committee the purpose of which will be amongst others work out the format of launching the campaign nationally and projects that would keep the RMC actively involved with issues that would identify it with community need

For instance the working committee of RMC, whilst on its mission to form RMC branches throughout the country, identified a community need at Taung in the form of a bridge. In order to implant the campaign in the minds of the people of Taung, and indeed the whole of the N. Cape, it is hereby proposed that the RMC undertakes, as a community development project, the construction of a bridge. This will be done in conjunction with local people. Consultations shall be conducted with engineers and architects.

The purpose of the RMC must be to generate active mass involvement in this campaign for the unconditional release of all legitimate and authentic leaders of the people of South Africa.

4. STRUCTURE

The RMC is not an innovation. Attempts have been made in the past to call for the release of our leaders. However, from our analysis, the campaign fizzled out due to lack of co-ordination and concrete structures that would sustain it. In order to be able to direct and sustain the campaign, a formal and concrete structure should be instituted. It is proposed that regional structures may be established in any region where there exist 3 or more RMC branches that would be able to co-ordinate with one another and contain the campaign.

These regional committees will in consultation with the Co-ordinating Committee carry the responsibility of implementing the RMC programme of action through the establishment of the following sub-committees:

- a) Publicity
- b) Contact (Co-ordinating)
- c) Education
- d) Finance
- e) International liason
- f) Media Distribution
- g) Legal Consultation

(See structure diagram hereto attached) B

The proposed National Co-ordinating Committee and regional committees shall consult with and encourage other organisations to participate in the campaign. The Co-ordination committee and regional committees shall as far as possible facilitate the maximum participation of the masses and organisation in accordance with non-racial democratic principles and on the basis of guidelines which will be drawn by the said structures in the course of the campaign.

6. BUDGET

Putting up structures and ensuring the general smooth running of the campaign inevitably involves financial commitment of serious proportions. It is proposed here that the RMC budget accomodate the following basic points

- Transport
- National Co-ordinating office
- Seminars
- Publicity and Publications (e.g. RMC Newsletter)
- Employment of full-time functionaries.

7. ON RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Because, as it has already been reiterated that the RMC is essentially an overt political effort, there is a possibility that, in the course of taking up or responding to certain issues directly or indirectly falling within the scope of its operation, there may be incidents of duplication and lack of co-ordination between the RMC and other organisations. In this light, it needs to be emphasised that the nature of the relationship of the RMC with such organisations

should be designed as elaborate, uncomplicated and democratic as far as possible and should guard against duplicating already existing structures such as the U.D.F.

8. PROFILE & FRAMEWORK OF OPERATION

Whilst the RMC will be flexible in terms of the way it conducts the campaign, there is a need to draw a framework within which the RMC will operate and to determine its profile in accordance with the aims and objects of the overall campaign.

In keeping with the aim of promoting the Freedom Charter as set out in the 5th of the above proposed aims and objectives, the F.C. itself will inevitably become the theme and framework within which the RMC will operate. This involves:

- a. Popularizing the Freedom Charter
- b. Creating a deeper understanding of the F.C. by the masses
- c. Contextualizing and linking it throughout the campaign to the day-to-day issues, struggles and activities of the masses and their progressive organisations through those clauses that correspond to the relevant issues, struggles and activities.

This does not suggest that the RMC will deprive organisations of important issues or struggles, but on the contrary it means that the RMC will facilitate the issues and strengthen the struggles by reinforcing their demands either with those of the F.C. or in any other way depending on the nature of the RMC's relationship with the involved organisation. In the light of this, it will become imperative on the part of the RMC to

- a. be in constant contact with all organisations reable to the campaign
- b. be constantly conscious of issues and struggles taking place at a particular point in time
- c. keep a calendar of dates which are relevant to the campaign around which programmes or activities can be organized (e.g. Freedom Day or Day of the Rivonia Trial)

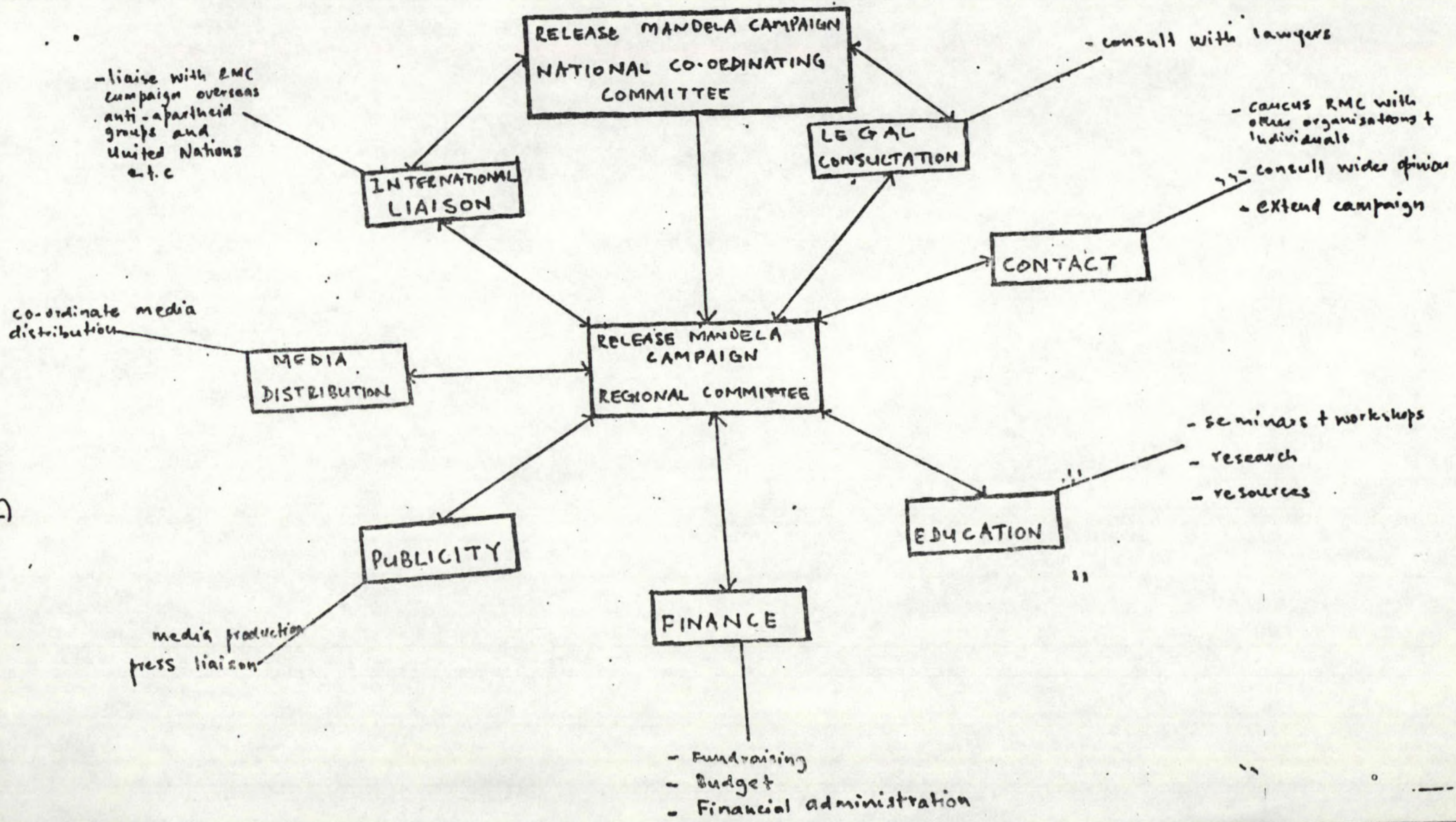
9. QUESTIONS

1. How do you see the RMC plan fitting in your local situation with reference to
 - a. fund-raising
 - b. projects
 - c. structure and
 - d. the political dimension of the campaign itself?

2. How can we co-ordinate and strengthen RMC branches throughout the country?



RELEASE MANDELA CAMPAIGN - PROPOSED STRUCTURE



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