

PROGRAMME ADOPTED AT THE NUS/AAM CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA  
14-15 JULY 1973

This Conference takes place in a period characterised by four developments in Southern Africa:-

- a) The escalation of the struggle in Southern Africa and in particular the intensification of armed struggle in all three territories.
- b) Increased repression by the racist regimes against the people of Southern Africa and their liberation movements under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, SWAPO, and the ANC (South Africa).
- c) The intensification of Western manoeuvres aimed at evolving "internal solutions" involving black collaborationist forces in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.
- d) Continued Western support for the racist regimes based on the justification of promoting peaceful change.

This means that the strategy for the NUS/AAM campaign in the coming year must be flexible but firmly based on three aims:-

1. To win stronger material and political support for the liberation struggle based on material aid and on understanding of the historic evolution of the liberation struggle and the present conditions of the societies.
2. To publicise the increased oppression against the Southern African people by campaigning for the release of detainees and political prisoners and against death sentences, especially that on ANC member Solomon Mahlangu.
3. To expose the fraud of the 'constitutional agreement' in Namibia, the 'internal solution' in Zimbabwe and the 'bantustan' and other 'alternatives' leaders in South Africa, based on a more solid understanding of the three liberation movements, ANC, PF and SWAPO, their political programmes and their strategy and tactics for liberation.
4. To continue the fight against Western economic, political and military support for apartheid bearing in mind the possibility of a new UK government in this period.

The rapidity of events in Southern Africa makes detailed planning very difficult. Last year's programme contained several sections which were not implemented because the 19 October bannings diverted AAM and NUS resources; events like the March month of action were not anticipated.

It is therefore necessary to delineate major features of our campaign as well as giving more detailed indications of the kind of work which can be taken up in CO's.

The most important strands of our work should be:

## I INTERNATIONAL YEAR AGAINST APARTHEID

This year, an unprecedented number of international and national organisations are becoming involved in the solidarity campaign. This should give enormous impetus in our campaigning work, especially as a National Co-ordinating Committee for the year has now been set up.

NUS should:-

- a) Support the work of the Co-ordinating Committee.
- b) Mobilise for the activity of AAM during the year, especially 21 October international demonstration in London.
- c) Seek joint forms of national action with bodies especially in the Trade Union movement.

CO's/AA groups should:-

- a) Strengthen ties with local AA organisations.
- b) Develop links with Trades Councils and local Trade Union districts, areas and branches, especially educating unions on the question of solidarity.
- c) Involve union societies in activity corresponding to the broad support for the co-ordinating committee.

## II CAMPAIGN AGAINST COLLABORATION

NUS should:-

- a) Seek to intensify the disinvestment campaigns into a national issue rather than one restricted to a few individual university colleges by paying more attention to national events such as the CVCP action on 19 May.
- b) Co-ordinate research activity into university holding during the summer vacation.
- c) Promote the Barclays campaign as a stimulus to the general campaign against economic collaboration.
- d) Implement previous conference decisions on launching a major consumer boycott campaign.
- e) Co-ordinate Western European student activity against government collaboration with the racist regimes.
- f) Publicise the international activities of the UK government around the mandatory arms embargo on South Africa and proposed mandatory sanctions.
- g) In the event of a general election, produce details of election manifesto commitments on Southern Africa, contrasting this with the reality of past government action.

CO's/AAG's should:-

- a) Intensify work on disinvestment where applicable and develop support work for those involved in the Campaign especially at area and national levels.
- b) Regard the Barclays and consumer boycott campaigns as the most suitable way to develop consciousness amongst students especially freshers, on Southern Africa, and as a base to develop a broad-based comprehensive campaign of solidarity.
- c) Take appropriate action against government collaboration especially directly with local MP's.
- d) Monitor local government and local organisations collaboration with South African institutions and take appropriate action against it.
- e) Inject the issue of Southern Africa, linked with racism in Britain, into a general election campaign. Local ANL's, CARF's, etc, should be approached to co-ordinate the campaign.
- f) Take action against exchange of academics and other academic links in your college.
- g) Work against recruitment by South Africa and use UK companies recruitment campaigns as a focus for activity on their collaboration.

### III CAMPAIGN OF SOLIDARITY

NUS should:-

- a) Concentrate national resources on producing material to enable CO's/AAG's to promote a material aid campaign as an integral part of all forms of campaigning.
- b) Produce regular bulletins on the statements and actions especially military operations of the liberation movements, to compensate for the media black-out on these questions.
- c) Circulate details of publications from the liberation movements, AAM, NSC, MAGIC, etc, dealing with the political positions of the three liberation movements and advances in the liberated territories.
- d) Co-ordinate national and participate in international student campaigns on political prisoners, detentions, murders, etc, and circulate information.
- e) Produce material in support of the liberation movements including posters, badges, T shirts, etc.
- f) Organise national speaking tours by representatives of liberation movements.
- g) Organise cultural tours eg. Mayibuye, Jabula, theatre groups, etc.

- h) Publicize activities of organisations fighting apartheid in South Africa set up before and since 19 October bannings especially in the student movement.
- i) Publicise the attempts to produce neo-colonial solutions in the three territories and the roles of black collaborators.

CO's/AAG's should:-

- a) Adopt at least one fund-raising project to be seen as a central feature of all campaigning work eg Zimbabwe medical and material aid, SWAPO medical or educational kits, ANC Freedom School.
- b) Produce, where possible, regular bulletins on the situation in Southern Africa, to counteract the role of the British media, expose manoeuvres aimed against the liberation movements and fight for the support for liberation movements.
- c) Hold regular bookstalls, days of activity, etc, to publicise the activity of AAM and expand knowledge of the liberation struggle.
- d) Adopt political prisoners in the union, publicising their cases, organising petitions, renaming halls, bars, etc.
- e) Organising meetings, teach-ins, etc, to discuss the situation in Southern Africa in an open, imaginative way using speakers from the liberation movements, and the solidarity organisations.
- f) Promote the idea of scholarships and scholarship funds for Southern Africa students in consultation with the liberation movements.
- g) Urge academic bodies to offer honorary posts and places to imprisoned academic staff and students.
- h) Organise cultural and music events in solidarity in conjunction with social secretaries, RAR, etc.

#### IV ORGANISATION

The last year has seen some advances and some decline in organisation.

1. Local AA groups have been established in many new CO's and strengthened in others. The best organisational base for some time has been created at a local level. This advance should be guarded and strengthened.
2. National organisation, only 2 national network meetings were held in the past year, compared to an average of 5 previously. Obviously increased costs and a general lack of finance all round is making it more difficult to sustain these events but at least one per term should be organised, as they are central to a co-ordination of work and exchange of information. Real consideration should this year be given to the creation of an AAM National Student Advisory Committee based on regions.

3. Regional Co-ordination: The NUS/AAM regional conferences held at the beginning of 1978 were generally successful and this approach to work should be continued and strengthened. The International Department in conjunction with the AAM should arrange regional conferences which would act as the basis for the establishment of regional activity and co-ordination which would facilitate campaigning work.

4. NUS International mailings, have generally been welcomed by activists and the 'on-going activist manual' has partly solved the problem of finance and providing up-to-date information; CO's and AAG's should find ways of circulation relevant information from these mailings to activists to keep postage and production costs to a minimum. Ideally, one person from each union and each relevant union society should be responsible throughout the year for communication with NUS and AAM.

5. Developing AAM, an intensive effort must be made during the year to:

- a) win affiliation to AAM from as many relevant union societies as possible,
- b) extend the sales of AA news as the most important agitational weapon at our disposal.
- c) organise fund-raising events for AAM.