

CIRCULAR NO. 45.

TO ALL REGIONS.

Estella House,  
47a, Main Road,  
CLAREMONT, Cape.

23rd May 1960.

re: CIRCULAR NO. 43 of 3/5/60.

1. It is felt that in Circular 43 dated 3rd May 1960, an incorrect impression may have been given by the first paragraph.

The Sash does not normally involve itself with such charges as murder and arson, but since large numbers have been rounded up on suspicion of being implicated in these offences, the C.E. would ask Regions to try to assist anyone who approaches the Sash to ask for assistance on the grounds of their innocence. (See footnote) ... NB.

Further we suggest that Regions adopt our practice: We have found sympathetic attorneys who will act when approached. If asked for help, we have given these attorneys names to those needing assistance. They can then choose the lawyer they prefer.

2. It has been suggested by Cape Western that a useful way of keeping the public aware of the fact that the Sash is still active in its efforts to bring pressure to bear for good government in South Africa, would be to publish either weekly or monthly in local newspapers, a short statement of what the Sash has done. The C.E. recommends that Regions should seriously consider this idea. If reports from other Regions are sufficiently current, details of their activities could be used. If newspaper space is not offered, we suggest it might be worthwhile to advertise.

3. NATIONAL CONFERENCE: It is the unanimous opinion of the C.E. that the date of the National Conference should be forwarded to September, preferably the first week in September, but if this clashes with school holidays, to the second half of September. The reasons for this suggestion is :-

- (1) the depleted state of the C.E. which makes it virtually impossible for the C.E. to carry out its duties satisfactorily.
- (2) the great changes in the political situation calls for (a) an examination of that situation and (b) a decision on the role of the Sash in that situation and a revision of Sash policy in accordance with decisions come to under the first two headings.

The C.E. are of the opinion that it would be advisable for a fully constituted Conference to discuss these matters as soon as reasonably possible. This could be done by a special Conference if Regions so wish; but the C.E. feel that if the National Conference could be advanced to September, there would be no need for a special Conference to be called. The Sash could be saved great expense and these matters could be dealt with as well as the regional matters which normally come before a National Conference.

Would Regions please notify the C.E. as soon as possible whether they agree that the National Conference should be advanced to September.

RESOLUTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Whether the National Conference is advanced to September or not, the C.E. asks Regions to send in any resolutions or subjects which they wish to be discussed on the first day (which, as agreed upon at the last Conference, will be set aside for free discussion) by the end of July. Regions will bear in mind that they can communicate direct with other Regions concerning any resolutions or subjects for discussion which they wish to bring before Conference.

N. B. Because of mass arrests which will be followed by mass trials, it will be more difficult to sort out the guilty from the not guilty and in the special circumstances, the C.E. think that those (Signed) who claim they are innocent and ask for help should receive it if at all possible.

M. C. PETERSEN  
NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN.