

RECEIVED - 4 MAR 1977.

THE BLACK SASH

CIRCULAR NO 2/1977.

CIRCULAR TO REGIONS

503 Lester House,
58 Marshall Street,
2001 Johannesburg.
1st March, 1977.

Arrangements for Conference are well underway. Copies of the Agenda for your delegates together with the Headquarters Report, the Transvaal Region's Annual Report and the Johannesburg Advice Office Report will be posted to you express post this week.

We have received no other reports from any Regions which means you will not be able to read them beforehand. It is now a bit late for us to post any which do arrive in the interim so we will do our best to have them waiting for you at the places where you are going to be staying in Johannesburg.

We have not heard from all Regions who is coming to Conference and whether they want hotel or home accommodation. If you have not written to Esther, please phone her at 42/3472 or me at 42/9713 or the office at 836/0789 as quickly as possible. Some of you have not yet indicated whether you are going to be represented at all! Please also let us know about your travel arrangements. We cannot meet you if you don't tell us where and when.

There is an additional resolution included on the Agenda which was not included in my last circular. It reads "That the Black Sash affiliate to the Institute of Race Relations". This was suggested to me the other day by one of our members. Such an affiliation entitles us to two representatives on the Institute's Council and our ex officio representation on the Institute's Regional Committees. It does not give the Institute any say whatsoever over our affairs. Such a resolution requires a two third's majority in order to be passed by our National Conference in terms of our Constitution. I shall be proposing it but it may well be that you feel it should not be decided at this year's Conference because you have had no opportunity to discuss it at your Regional Conferences. Please give it some thought anyway, so that we may at least discuss it in principle this year. Some of the smaller Regions who work very closely with the Institute may feel it to be of particular advantage to them.

At our Committee meeting last week we were discussing Thornhill. It is not within our power to raise the vast sums of money that are going to be needed in the coming winter to feed and succour people there or in other places where unemployment has intensified the existing poverty. But we can seek to publicise the need and to motivate people who can command money. It seemed to us obscene for the Black Sash to plan lavish lunches at Conference. We therefore decided that we will have soup and bread only. The registration fee will be R5. per delegate and the surplus money will be sent to Kupugani for high protein food to be sent to Thornhill. At tea we will have plain bisouits only.

I hope you will support us in this decision.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th March.

Love,

SHEENA.