

THE BLACK SASH

CIRCULAR NO. 13/1978.

56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
Johannesburg.  
11th July, 1978.

Dear Everyone, I do believe I've written more circulars during my short term of office than generally are despatched during an entire year, but circumstances seem to call for them so I hope you will bear with me.

Firstly, there have been no comments at all regarding the Draft Minutes of Conference, so I assume you are all satisfied with them. Transvaal Region feels that the decision regarding membership count based on paid-up or signed-up members should be included - that is that for the purpose of estimating the number of delegates to National Conference to which each Region is entitled only paid-up members should be enumerated, while for the purposes of the levy all signed-up members should be included.

If you are all agreeable, if you have no further comments, and if I do not hear from you in this regard in the near future, I shall send you each a copy of the addendum for inclusion in your draft minutes, which will then become the minutes of National Conference held in 1978.

I have now telephoned most of you regarding the Special National Conference on the 22nd July. I hope that those of you who have not yet done so will let me know which and how many of you are coming, how much hospitality you require, and who will need transport from stations, airports etc.,. I hope, too, that the smaller Regions who felt it impossible to send a delegate have been able to reconsider and to make arrangements to be represented, and that Cape Western will increase its delegation. Vital decisions will be made.

Please will you bring your own copies of the present Constitution with you, as it is pointless to roneo further copies of a document which will soon be out-dated. Please let me know your plans as soon as possible, as we cannot even settle on a venue until we have some idea of how many delegates we can expect.

We have got moving on the National Campaign on the proposed New Constitution for South Africa combined with the campaign on the New Foreigners. We have decided to extend our base of operations by inviting individuals and organisations from outside the Black Sash to co-operate, and the inaugural meeting of this ad hoc committee will take place on the 17th July. The response to the invitations I have extended has been encouragingly affirmative, and I should be able to report progress at the National Conference. In any event I shall keep you posted, for if we can get it off the ground here, the idea would be for each of you to start something similar in your own Regions

Transvaal Region/---

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Transvaal Region is very busy with its planned demonstration about Squatters. This will be held indoors on private property. It will be called "Plural Monopoly", and will consist of a Squatter's shack as the main feature. Photographs and slides will be shown and certain games/<sup>such as</sup> darts, skittles, cross-words and pass laws puzzles will be used to highlight the effects of apartheid legislation. The demonstration is intended to be light-hearted, but with a deeper meaning. A fork supper will be provided. This project still awaits a suitable venue.

We are informed that a group of lawyers is involved in organising a campaign to inform the public of their rights with regard to the Criminal Laws Amendment Act so, hopefully, we will not have to do anything further about this, except possibly, to assist with the circulation.

I understand that some of you are involved, or are thinking of becoming involved in a project of self taxation, and I should urgently like to know details of how the money is collected and what you do or propose doing with it. I must warn you that there are dangers involved in terms of the Fund Raising Act and the Welfare Act. The Black Sash is NOT a Welfare organisation and therefore not in a position to hand out monies, though it may collect money from its members. Money collected could possibly be given to a legitimate fund-raising organisation to administer, or possibly distributed on a person-to-person basis, but definitely NOT as an organisation. I have taken legal advice on this and our advisor would like more information from you, before he is able to make a final ruling.

Our Barbara is out of jail, looking very thin, but with her own inimitable bright smile. It was a most shattering experience for her - the loneliness was unendurable - and she feels that nothing could ever induce her to repeat the experience as nothing was achieved except to give her what she found to be a most painful insight into herself. We are so happy to have her back amongst us and welcomed her to a lunch party which the committee gave last Wednesday to celebrate our twenty three years, Jean's and Netty's birthdays, and Barbara's release. It was a happy occasion which we all enjoyed.

I look forward to seeing at least some of you on the 22nd.

Love,

JOYCE.

(W. Mandela)  
H. Zosop

One mark