

THE BLACK SASH

CIRCULAR No. 1/1980

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS.

510 Voortrekker House,
18 Hoek Street,
Johannesburg 2001
30th January, 1980.

Dear Everyone,

I had hoped to be able to send you a comprehensive circular at this stage enumerating all the resolutions, fact papers and items for discussion that all of you propose presenting to Conference, but to date I have had no information from Albany, Border, or Port Elizabeth and from the rest of you incomplete details.

Please remember that I shall require a list with titles of all fact papers, in addition to the items for discussion and resolutions, in order to compile an agenda for Conference, and would appreciate these as soon as possible, and certainly before the 21st February at the latest.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE : Information presently available.

Transvaal Region.

Items for Discussion :

The Dole - with a lead-in paper containing factual information.
Change - in terms of our attitudes towards the Prime Minister's total strategy ;
the new constitution ; the divisive effects on opposition organisations ;
Black Sash strategies in a more fluid situation.

The Fund-Raising Act - and how we disburse our monies.

Venues for National Conferences - holding conferences in rural areas.

Removals Map and the possibility of a re-issue.

International Year of the Child - booklet.

Fact Papers :

Comparison of issues covered by POST and the English Press (if available)

Discrepancies between the promises and actualities of change.

Rural Poverty.

A Bill of Rights.

A comparison of school text books (if available)

Resolutions :

An as yet unworded resolution on forced removals which Conference may wish to propose.

Cape Western :

Items for Discussion :

The extension of Advice Office Work - if more workers could be employed at more competitive salaries, even more valuable work could be done by the Advice Offices. The financial arrangements would have to be reviewed and discussed.

The future of Headquarters - it has been suggested that the responsibility of Headquarters should be shared by those regions able to carry it. Running costs may be reduced by allowing Headquarters to be rotated amongst the branches and not actually maintained as a separate body.

Fact Papers :

Removals in District Six.

The Removal of an "Indian" shopkeeper from Newlands.

The feelings and thoughts of people housed in Oceanview, having been removed from Simonstown.

Mitchell's Plain.

The Western Cape as a Coloured preference area.

NATAL COASTAL/---

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Natal Coastal :

Fact Paper :

Trade Unions and Registration.

Natal Midlands :

Fact Paper :

Removals in Rural Natal.

As I have mentioned in previous circulars, it would be a very good idea if all of you who have experienced removals in your Regions were to bring short fact papers on them so that we can have a more comprehensive picture of what is happening all over the country. Those of you who have prepared articles for the February issue of SASH should bring copies for inclusion in Conference files for 1980 and for distribution to the Press, which often does not pick up what appears in SASH. Remember the suggestion that at least 50 copies be provided of each fact paper and that they be distributed before Conference if possible.

Advice Office Workshop : It is difficult to fit sufficient time for this into the actual agenda of conference. Please let me know whether you would prefer to hold a workshop on the afternoon of Monday 10th March, before Conference begins or at 3 p.m on Thursday 13th., after it has ended. Do this as soon as possible so that all Regions can be notified in time for delegates to make appropriate travel bookings.

Accommodation : Requests for hotel bookings should be made as soon as possible so that accommodation can be booked in good time.

REMOVALS : Through the good offices of Anglo-American we were able to provide a plane to take Professor Hupkes of the Prime Minister's Economic Strategy Committee, and Mr. Grosskopf, Africa Editor for Nationale Pers to visit the Batlokwa people. They were apparently very moved and determined to do something constructive about the removals.

PREMISES : For your records our new address is 510/11 Voortrekker House, 18 Hoek Street, Johannesburg 2001 and our phone numbers are 37/2435/6.

The offices are far more pleasant than we anticipated and we have settled in.

The Advice Office has been totally inundated since we re-opened.

DEMONSTRATIONS : We intend to restart our weekly one woman demonstrations with the opening of Parliament next week, hoping to draw attention to what is happening in those lofty precincts. Our first posters will probably be some version of "Stop Discrimination" and "Honour the Promises of 1979", or something to that effect.

I have plunged right into business with this circular and have not even welcomed you back after your well-earned recess. I hope you have all had a good rest and feel ready once again to tackle all the problems which will undoubtedly confront us. May this be a year when we shall at last see some constructive results for all our efforts and some moves at least towards the creation of the just society we would all like to see.

My love to you all

JOYCE HARRIS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT.