

Thousands flock to UDF launch

S.T. 2) Aug 1983

THE national launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF) drew thousands of people and about 400 organisations from all over the country to yesterday's gathering.

In addition to official delegates from affiliated organisations and observers, there were messages of support from organisations nationwide and abroad.

Several foreign correspondents, in-

By SYLVIA VOLLENHOVEN

cluding overseas television crews, covered the Cape Town launch which followed months of intense organisation.

At a midday Press conference, UDF interim publicity secretary, Durban advocate Zac Yacoob, read messages from the Netherlands Committee on Southern Africa, the Norwegian Council for South Africa

and the Danish Labour Movement.

The Netherlands Committee referred to the gathering — the biggest anti-Government alliance since the Congress movement of the 1950s — as a "milestone in the resistance to apartheid" and said it had the support of the "progressive community of the Netherlands".

In the resolutions passed yesterday morning the UDF pledged support for democratic trade unions and voiced its opposition to the migrant-

labour system.

The gathering was efficiently organised and ended in a rally attended by thousands of people.

To accommodate the crowds, a giant marquee was erected on the open land next to the Mitchell's Plain civic centre, where most of the meetings were held.

Closed-circuit television and a sophisticated microphone system relayed the events from one venue to another. Earlier in the day two

UDF members — Mr Bruce Irvine of the National Union of South African Students and Mr Dimitri Lennert of the Cape Youth Congress — were held by police.

The Western Cape police liaison officer, Captain Jan Calitz, said the two were summonsed in connection with contravening a municipal regulation — they announced the rally from a car with a loudhailer.

At the Press conference two delegates from Bloemfontein claimed most of the Free State delegation had changed their minds about coming because of alleged police intimidation.

PM to be quizzed on pamphlets

THE nationwide phoney pamphlet war directed at the United Democratic Front's rally in Cape Town at the weekend has sparked fears that it might be the first step in a major disinformation campaign against the anti-constitution body.

UDF spokesmen have declined to say who they think is responsible for the well-organised campaign.

The organisers also tacitly accept the pressure against

By BRIAN POTTINGER

them may be stepped up nearer the referendum date for the Indian and coloured communities.

The official opposition is hoping to ask the Prime Minister in Parliament if any State department was involved in the operation.

On Friday tens of thousands of professionally printed pamphlets were distribut-

ed in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban telling people the UDF national launch in Cape Town yesterday had been postponed until October.

Another set of pamphlets purporting to be from the South African Council on Sport and the Azanian People's Organisation and heavily critical of the UDF were also distributed.

A third set of false pam-

phlets advertising a non-existent pop concert in Cape Town at the same time as the rally, were also dropped in the city's suburbs.

The pamphlets saying the rally had been cancelled were dropped in Durban at the spot only a few minutes before buses carrying people to the rally were to leave.

UDF and some BC organisations are locked in discussions about possible common ground.