

General Circular No.3

23rd January, 1974

TO: S.R.C. Presidents
NUSAS Executive
NUSAS Local Chairs

FINAL SCHLEBUSCH REPORT ON NUSAS

The final report of the Schlebusch Commission of Enquiry into NUSAS will probably be tabled soon after the beginning of the Parliamentary session. Rumour has it that it may appear before then, hence the rather urgent circular.

I have been gathering pieces of information on the likely content of the final report. However, it must be remembered that this is informed speculation.

- (a) The report is likely to be very extensive, embellishing on points raised in the three interim reports. It may be just as well to reread these reports to get an indication of what factors the commission emphasized and what points they dealt with briefly. One cannot discount the possibility of new areas of NUSAS activities e.g. Wages Commissions, being dealt with. Though there is a general belief that the report will serve to justify the action taken, it is not improbable that they have been holding back a bombshell or two e.g. further bannings or severing of overseas finance.
- (b) Sexual smears - although the report may deal at fair length with the sexual activities of individuals (including banned people) I believe that this aspect has been over exaggerated. Apart from the direct personal 'smear', the line will probably be that 'unnatural sexual practices' were a feature of an overall attempt to subvert and exercise control over individuals.

Possible response: Dismiss it with contempt.

- i) Contemptuous justification for action taken.
 - ii) Convenient to ban individuals first and then attempt to smear them publicly.
 - iii) Bears no relation to national security.
 - iv) Aggressive generation gap approach - NUSAS policy on homosexuality etc.
- (c) Overseas funds - possibility of immediate severing, but more likely promulgation of legislation empowering minister to sanction all money coming to certain organisations for certain purposes. If overseas funds are cut off, we must act immediately to launch fund-raising drives in South Africa.
- i) General appeals - university community; public
 - ii) Appointments with likely donors

The above in co-ordination with Head Office.

The sooner we act, the more money we are likely to get.

(d) Prison Education - more detailed accusations of loose control and financial mismanagement. Information being collected by Head Office.

(e) Loans to Office Bearers -

- i) usually only for very short period - one or two days. Head Office to check precisely.
- ii) Paul's car - up to 50 000 miles on NUSAS business at his personal expense.
- iii) Extremely low salaries.
- iv) very small outstanding amount to be paid back (should be paid by end of January).

Uninformed Speculation:

1. Wages Commissions - aiming at industrial unrest.
Response: aggressive - vital function Wages Commissions are serving; inference unadulterated rubbish.
2. Further bannings - NUSAS, SAIRR or CI personnel should reports on latter two organisations appear at the same time. Good idea to contact SAIRR and CI personnel - crossflow of information and possibility of joint response.

We must stress our total lack of confidence in Commission's findings:

- i) Party politicians
- ii) Interrogation procedures.

Although it is obviously difficult, we must avoid as far as possible engaging in debate on their terms. We have learned the value of sharp aggressive responses. The first response is the most important one and should be carefully formulated.

Head Office has arranged assistance and has allocated tasks which will be carried out when the report appears.

Onward brothers,

Charles.