

General political situation (GPS)- East Rand

Report received 17.08.84 written on the 11.08.84:

Youth:

Since my last report (May) we have seen a significant amount of progress in organisational and political developments on the ER.

The launching of the Wattville Youth League (WYL) on the 11.06.84 was the culmination of almost three months of organising and consultation of youth and respected figures in Wattville. Whilst Wattville registered the lowest poll on the ER in the last community council elections, the launching of the WYL is a significant breakthrough in a community that is generally considered a-political and passive.

Wattville is perhaps a-political because it lacks the political leadership existing in most townships. This view is shared by a local Anglican priest who at the WYL launching expressed the hope that the formation of the WYL would be the beginning of developing the much needed political in this area!!.

Ideologically the WYL has adopted a neutral position since its executive committee consists of both UDF and Azapo supporters. However we are confident the WYL would gradually move towards the UDF since the UDF supporters are in a slight majority and are more active. Also significant is the fact that the three largest churches in this area have supported the WYL and has allowed its church youth groups to affiliate to the WYL. School going youth on the ER are showing increasing degree of political awareness and are beginning to organise themselves. Cosas has traditionally been weak on the ER and therefore has never had a branch in this area besides Tembisa. But branches of Cosas have recently been formed in three ER townships, namely - Daveyton, Wattville and Thokoza.

Three weeks ago three schools in Tembisa went on boycott demanding amongst other things the creation of SRC's and the scrapping of the age limit. A fourth school has joined the boycott which now involves 7 000 pupils. Repp Reports received from comrades working in the area indicates that there is constant consultation between representatives of different schools as well as

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as well as consultation between scholars and SAAWU organisers from the Tembisa office. Lessons have been indefinitely suspended at these schools and students remain adamant that they will not return to school until all their demands have been met.

On the 10.08.84 two Daveyton schools join the school boycott bringing the number of pupils involved in the boycott on the ER is 9 000. The demands of the Daveton pupils does not differ much from the demands of other boycotting schools.

The Wattvill Cosas branch is planning to wage a campaign against carrying of ID cards by pupils at one of the high schools. Students have correctly interpreted this as an attempt to prepare them as factory workers. It is expected that the school principal would refuse to scrap this law and pupils would then call for a boycott of classes.

ER youth was further strengthened by the recent launching of the Kathlehong Youth League (KYL): The KYL is expected to affiliate to the UDF in the near future.

REPORT ON THE CIVICS ORGANISATION:

On the 01.6.84 a number of community councils announce proposed increases of rents and service charges. In Tembisa the TCA under the leadership of Goba Ndlovu spearheads the campaign against the increases. The TCA opted to fight its campaign in the courts and subsequently had the increases suspended because of a legality overlooked by the community council. The fact that the TCA preferred a 'legal' struggle to a mass struggle involving the entire community initially worried me (him) because they were not mobilising the community against the community council. This can be perhaps be explained by the fact that some elements are from the middle class and are in majority on the TCA and were not in touch with the feeling of the masses.

Attempts to rectify this position were made by inviting GN of the TCA to address a mass meeting on the 28.6.84 organised by the Daveyton branch of the ER Peoples Organisation (ERAPO). This meeting was attended by more than 4 000 Daveyton residents. At this meeting members of the TCA saw

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At this meeting members of the TCA saw how the people took their own decisions and decided on strategy . The 4 000 people resolved to continue paying the old rentals and to boycott the Daveyton buses if the increases were to be implemented. They also elected 10 person action committee that we hope would later be transformed into the Daveyton Civic Association.

ERAPO activists are at present conducting house to house visits talking to people about the resolutions adopted at the mass meeting.

These rent increases in almost every township on the ER have brought forward a high degree of militancy amongst the people on the ER of which in the past years it was politically dormant. I believe this campaign if properly planned and co-ordinated would advance the over-all struggle and re awaken the ER communities political consciousness. It is with this co-ordination in mind that the ER- Area Committee of the UDF (ERAC-UDF) is intending to convene a meeting of all organisations involved in rent campaign throughout the ER would be spearheaded by the UDF.

One realises the increasing anger and militancy of our communities after watching hundreds of Rhatanda / (Heidelberg) residents march to community councillors homes demanding that they resign. Four Rhatanda councillors subsequently resigned. In Daveyton ordinary people openly discuss amongst themselves that they hope someone would kill the mayor of Daveyton, Tom Boya.

I believe that out of this rent campaign a strong people's civic associations will emerge and would serve a genuine alternatives to community councils.

AUGUST ELECTIONS 1984

In the Indian and Coloured areas on the East Rand organisations such as the ER branch of TIC, BSM, BYL and the Anti-PC Committee are conducting an intense campaign for the boycott of the August 22-28 elections.

In the Indian areas where the TIC is working the support for a boycott appears to be strong although it is expected that more people would vote than in the SAIC elections (nov 1981)

Whilst the TIC undoubtedly enjoys massive support in the Indian areas I am worried about some of the methods of organising it uses. It is placing too much emphasis on Indian culture, symbols, tradition and history. This phase of our struggle demands a broad unity of the oppressed people, it demands that Indian people unites with the African people and see themselves as part of the broad struggle. By merely organising people as Indians we will fail to create this unity and allow the Indian people to identify themselves with the African masses, however, we hope the formation of the ER-AC UDF would be an attempt to overcome this problem.

The ER Coloured areas is indeed worrying many UDF activists on the ER. After a joint house to house campaign in Altra Park it emerged that the ER - Anti PC has done no work in the Coloured areas on the ER. It is feared that the poll may reach 50% and above in some of these areas were the Labour Party enjoys some amount of support.

With only ~~two~~ weeks left before the elections the ERAC-UDF co-ordination committee met George Du Plessis to discuss the position in these areas and also a assistance from other areas so that we can at least reach some of these people.