

X: P.C.

FEB 3 1978

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 1978 MEETING OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE  
FOR THE FREEDOM OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meeting convened by Cliff Conner at the headquarters of the Greenwich Village - Chelsea Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. (at 42 Grove Street, New York, N.Y.) at 7:40 p.m.

All those in attendance signed a sheet. See the attached list for a complete listing of those present.

Robert E. Massi agreed to take the minutes of this meeting.

-R. Massi indicated that for various reasons he was unable to complete and mail the minutes of the last meeting (Jan. 16th) until the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 24th.

-No one present had as of yet received these minutes.

-Extra copies of same were distributed.

-No corrections or additions to these minutes were made.

Upon inquiry two members of the Working Committee (R. Massi & K. Miliner) reported on what had occurred at the January 19th meeting of that committee. The following was reported:

1. Five members of the Working Committee [W. Douthard (WRL), M. Chappell, R. Gould (ACOA), K. Miliner and R. Massi] met on January 19th at the headquarters of the ACOA;

2. It was the general consensus of those present that nothing could be effectively done by the PC/FSA toward obtaining its goal of the June Rally at Madison Square Garden until and unless a full time convenor could be found.

3. Some prospects for this position were considered without results.

4. W. Douthard indicated that he would contact Mike Simmons of the American Friends Service Committee with a view toward getting him to agree to act as a convenor for the PC;

5. At this point it was generally agreed that nothing more could be done to complete the previously agreed upon agenda (See minutes of Jan. 16th meeting of the PC); and

6. The Working Committee adjourned upon agreement that W. Douthard would convene its next meeting upon phone call notice.

A general informal discussion followed as to the present situation of the PC/FSA.

A. The majority of those present felt that the political and moral questions posed by the crisis in Southern Africa and the struggle there for national liberation are of such immense importance at this time that we should do all in our power to preserve this coalition, the PC/FSA.

B. It was also generally agreed that the fact that such a wide variety of disparate groups had even managed to begin to form such a coalition was extremely significant.

C. Disappointment was expressed over the fact that prominent organizations like the ACOA and the WRL seemed to lack the requisite commitment to this coalition to help keep it going.

D. It was also the general consensus of those present that every effort should be made to keep as broad a base (ideologically) as possible in the PC/FSA for the sake of maintaining a balanced and wide support for its goals and that this could be achieved only by keeping within its ranks as many different kinds of component organizations as is possible.

E. There was also great disappointment expressed over the poor turnout for this meeting; but it was generally agreed that at least one more attempt should be made to get as many groups and individuals as possible to attend the next meeting.

F. It was agreed that the next meeting should have as its chief purpose a discussion of an action somewhat less grandiose as a rally at Madison Square Garden - i.e. a march on the United Nations on June 16th, the second anniversary of the **Soviet** Massacre.

This was agreed upon because it was generally felt that the PC had undertaken too large a venture in setting a goal of having a rally at the Garden and that if we decided upon some other form of public action we could extricate ourselves from the burden of the need for a full time convenor and a staff.

G. While there was some opinion expressed favoring a dissolution of the PC, the overwhelming majority of those present opted for a continued effort to keep the PC going and to broaden and build its base of support and membership.

R. Massi volunteered to have the minutes of this meeting typed and mailed to all present and former participants.

S. Anderson agreed to take responsibility for making telephone contact with the following individuals in order to urge their attendance at the next meeting: F. Beal, M. Simmons, I. Davis and R. Van Lierop.

A. Babel agreed to do the same by calling the A.C.O.A.

A. Rosenhaft did likewise by agreeing to contact **D. McReynolds** (WRL).

It was agreed at the conclusion of the meeting that PC would meet again on Thursday, February 9, 1978 at 6:30 p.m. at the headquarters of the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Branch of the NAACP (42 Grove Street, New York, N.Y.) and that the minutes would reflect an urgent plea to all participants to make every effort to attend that meeting for the sake of maintaining a vigorous effort to rally public opinion in this country against the vicious racism of apartheid and in favor of black majority rule in Southern Africa!

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

PC/FSA MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 1978

Robert E. Massi	Socialist Labor Party	126 Bay 47th St. Brooklyn, N.Y. (home)	996-9364
Ellie Rodriguez	People's Democratic Ass'n	156 5th Ave., room 819 New York, N.Y. 10010	929-8130 (office)
Arnold Babel	Socialist Labor Party	3700 Manchester Rd. Wantagh, N.Y. 11293 (home)	(516) 826-9340
Sam Anderson	BISSAL	232 E. 124th St. Harlem, 10035	237-0927 (home)
Ann Rosenhaft	SP-USA	158 W. 13th St. New York, N.Y. 10011	
James Miller	NCOPP <i>National Comm. in Defense of Political Prisoners</i>	c/o Yuri Kochiyama 545 W. 126th St. New York, N.Y. 10027	WA6-7412
Ken <i>Miller</i>	Socialist Workers Party	853 Broadway, #414 New York, N.Y. 10007	982-8214
Jennifer Lawson	(Independent)	467 CPW New York, N.Y. 10025	866-8303
Maceo Dixon	SWP	410 West St. New York, N.Y. 10014	242-5530
Cliff Conner	Vill/Chelsea NAACP	42 Grove St., New York, N.Y. 10014 Correspondence to: 520 W. 56th St. #13-L, New York, N.Y. 10019	
William David Elimo	Black Media Lac	507 5th Ave. New York, N.Y. 10017	867-0983
Melvin Chapell	SCAR	160 5th Ave. New York, N.Y.	