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REPORT ON THE TENTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS
HELD IN BERLIN CAPITAL OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC FROM
JULY 28th to AUGUST 5th.

The tenth World Festival of Youth & Students held in Berlin the Capital of the German Democratic Republic from the 28th July until the 5th August 1973 was attended by over 25500 foreign delegates and guests, representing 140 Countries and 1700 Organisations. It is said that some 1542 political, cultural and sporting events were packed in those 9 wonderful unforgettable days. The thousands of young participants representing hundreds of millions of Youth with varying political, philosophical and religious views, coming from all the continents of the world, had come together under the motto of "anti-imperialist solidarity peace and friendship".

The aims of the festival expressed in its motto quoted above were warmly supported by broad political circles of the international youth movement. National delegations to the festival included young socialists, democrats, trade unionists, christians, moslems, liberals, communists, participants in the National Liberation Movements and representatives of cultural and sporting organisations. These various social strata fully participated in the organisation of the national festival committees, election of delegates etc as well as participating in the International Preparatory Committee through their elected representatives.

The tenth World Festival, as a result of its organisational structure succeeded in mobilising the broadest possible sections of youth both at the national and the international levels. The historic success of the festival proved that there are no unsurmountable political, ideological, cultural, religious, and national barriers militating against the mobilisation of the broadest possible popular anti-imperialist front. On the contrary it has clearly shown that due to the tremendous influence and power of the socialist system and the victories of the international working class and national liberation movements such a broad anti-imperialist front can and indeed must be formed in the best interest of the struggle against imperialism, for national liberation, peace and social progress. This prospect and objective necessity holds out a very important lesson and sets very important tasks to all peoples still under colonial and racial oppression.

The fact that this successful festival was held in the German Democratic Republic - a socialist state - is further proof if proof is still required - that the socialist camp forms the

the main bastion against imperialism and that any attempts to sever the socialist camp from the international working class movement, thenational liberation movement, and the broad anti-imperialist movement by dividing the world into such vague non-class categories as "developed" and "developing" world "rich" and "poor" Countries should be fought tooth and nail. Acceptance of such theories will bring untold harm to the world anti-imperialist struggle.

Right from the opening day on the 28th July thousands of youth & students demonstrated through the flag-bedecked streets of Berlin in their colourful national dresses, chanting freedom and protest songs, displaying slogans denouncing imperialism, racism, and oppression and carrying their national or party flags. All along the route to the "Youth festival stadium" the streets and buildings were packed with the citizens of the GDR chanting "Solidarity (anti-imperialist), peace and friendship". The actual opening at the stadium was unforgettable, magnificent spectacle- thousands of representatives of millions of the youth spreading through the whole spectrum of progressive political opinion had gathered in Berlin to demonstrate their high level of political consciousness, their determination to share in the political socio-economic destiny of their own countries and the world at large, and their determination to struggle relentlessly against imperialism. It was also a demonstration that the theory that the world is being divided into irreconcilably hostile racial racial camps is absolutely groundless. This new theory dividing the world into "White" and "Coloured" race-camps is erroneous and dangerous and may badly influence, to a lesser or greater degree the strategy and tactics of the national liberation movement, especially in the countries bedevilled by racism.

The final appeal ended in these words "Let us develop anti-imperialist solidarity- now more than ever with Vietnam Laos and Cambodia: with Palestine people, and the Arab peoples; with the liberation movements of the portugese colonies and southern africa, with the peoples of the socialist countries, with all the peoples treading the path of progress and peace".

"Let us re-inforce our action and unity in the struggle against imperialism".

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH & STUDENTS DELEGATION

The African National Congress Youth and Students delegation comprising 120 delegates from Zambia, Tanzania, Algeria, Senegal, Arab Republic of Egypt, United Kingdom, Canada, Ussr, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, and GDR. Attempts to bring some youth and students directly from home failed. There were however one or two delegates who had just

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delegates who had just come from home. It must be emphasised that the majority of our delegates, over 60%, came from amongst the members of Umkhonto Wesizwe. This is a most favourable/satisfactory aspect to the composition and needs to be followed whenever and where-ever possible. The rest of the delegation consisted of activists in the various fields of activities of the A.N.C including some of our Representatives at international organisations and ~~the~~ Representatives of our students at various countries abroad. A handful were patriots south african sympathetic to the movement and members of patriotic south african organisations.

Merriam Makeba, although not officially included in our delegation, was very close to us- and on one occasion, she together together with our cultural group gave a very successful performance. This is apart from her having attended and participated in some of our rehearsals both in Berlin and in Tunis.

The delegation feels a firm basis has been laid for drawing her into the stream of our national struggle as a patriotic artist. She gave us some useful artistic advice at rehearsals. and she expressed willingness to be of service to the organisation whenever possible and necessary.

Leta (Mbuli) Semanya and her husband Caiphus Semanya, the Lo-Six (presently in Kenya) and a group of South African artists (presently in London), had agreed on joining our festival delegation pending proper transport arrangements on our side. This was a reasonable offer. Unfortunately our transport arrangements did not succeed and therefore the offers did not materialise. It must be added that Brothers Lionel Ngakane and James Phillips veteran artists participated in our festivals, the former in both Tunis and Berlin and the latter in Berlin only.

We sincerely hope that this small beginning in the mobilisation of the artists will be relentlessly followed, for, our struggle will be incomplete without the participation of the artists of various categories. They have a role that nobody else but the artists could fulfil. Their participation side by side with the veterans and militants of the revolution must of necessity speed-up their ideological commitment. They will feel the revolutionary impulse and start articulating it. We have a tendency to discard too-fast simply because a song ~~here~~ and a paragraph or page in that book is considered not in line with our policy. We should bear in mind ^{that} the artists tries to depict the agonies and aspirations of our people as he feels them given the training (often bourgeois-although many thanks to the strong influence of the ANC and other revolutionary forces have matured and his understanding

of objectivity is often limited. With participation and constant persuasion our artists will be a tremendous force. It is often said that Tolstoi ~~was~~ single individual he played a gigantic role in arousing the people and preparing the ground for the Russian Revolution, without being conscious of it himself.

The delegation was led by Comrade Joe Nhlanhla assisted by Comrade Chris Nkosana. In order to ensure the most effective ~~administration~~ and maximum participation by our delegation, a Working or Steering Committee was set-up. The Committee was composed of the following Comrades :-

1. Joe Nhlanhla (chairman).
2. Chris Nkosana (deputy chairman and treasurer).
3. Jacqueline Molefe (head of women and ass. Treasurer)
4. Max Sissulu (films and programmes)
5. Thami Sindelo (press radio bilateral)
6. Mokhele Malie (assistant Recording Secretary).
7. Antonio Mongalo (bilateral)
8. Sindiso Mfenyana (political and invitations)
9. Michael Themba.
10. Veteran Simon (head of cultural group)
11. Rate Ngake (political comm and transport)
12. James Stuart (recording secretary).
13. Sidney Nkala (ass cultural)
14. Don Mooljee.
15. Albert Dlomo.
16. Essop Pahad (political and bilateral).
17. Francis Meli (representative IPC).
18. Paul Majoe (transport & liason with Guides).
19. Connie Dlingea.

Every morning at 8 a.m., a meeting of the steering committees took place to review the work of the previous day and to prepare groups for the central events of the day and to allocate tasks to leaders and delegations to bilateral meetings with fraternal national delegations. Daily meetings with GDR comrades in charge of ANC delegations to the festival as Guides and Interpreters took place at about 10 am to coordinate all the daily activities of our delegation.

A Working machinery of several commissions were set up to organise and lead specialised activities. These commissions led by members of the Steering Committee but also including members of the delegation in line with the policy of bringing all the members of the delegation into active involvement in the activities of the delegation.

There were, the Political Commission"-responsible for preparing papers for the meetings and seminars,"Press and Radio Commission"- responsible for selecting people to attend to interviews, Technical Commission"- responsible for arranging typing, Photo exhibition and it also included broadly films, placards, banners, and Flags arrangements, the Liason Committee with the Guides to bring us up to date, Programme and Invitations Commissions, Bilateral Meetings Commissions"- responsible for arranging bilateral meetings with the various delegations. The main aim of the commissions was to ensure the following :-

a). That the Steering Committee worked smoothly and was well informed. The commissions were responsible to the Steering committee. Actually they were specialised organs of the Main Committee.

b). That the maximum number of delegates participated in the festival activities.

c). That a number of problems and tasks were tackled simultaneously.

d) They relieved pressure on the Steering Committee hence allowing it to deal with the general problems.

African National Congress participation in organised activities

For the purpose of this report we shall divide the participation of A.N.C delegation in the organised activities of the festival into two categories, viz political activities and the cultural activities. This is not an attempt to divide our delegation into two distinct because that was never the case. we were always a unified delegation.

Our delegation took part in all political activities organised for the festival. All activities were in line with the central theme of the festival, expressed in its motto "for anti-imperialist Solidarity peace and Friendship".

The general level of ANC contribution was extremely high though there is still room for improvements. It is to be hoped that comrades entrusted with the tasks of preparing documents should carry out the task with greater seriousness and conscientiousness and at all times turn to the letter and the spirit of the ANC policies and principles. These are fundamental principles and policies which has made our movement an indestructible, revolutionary force. There can be no compromise on these basic ANC principles and breaches thereof should not and cannot, be tolerated.

During the festival we organised and were invited to

to numerous bilateral meetings with fraternal delegations and groups, which had more than one meeting and it is our belief that we met a very demanding situation with great credit to our struggle.

With all the delegations we discussed, to a lesser or greater degree of briefness, the history of the struggle of the peoples of South Africa under the leadership of the ANC, the present highly revolutionary situation in our country, the main aims of our movement, the successes we have attained- and the losses we have suffered- our position on many international questions of our time, and our demands from all the forces struggling against Imperialism- DEMAND THE RELEASE OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

In more than one instance, we were confronted by the so-called "Domino Theory" which is the product of imperialist ideologues but which has, unfortunately, gained some acceptance from certain sectors within the anti-imperialist forces. We explained that the very nature of imperialism demands unity in action and struggle, that this theory is, in its southern african context, a product of the unequal development of the armed struggle in the different territories of southern africa still under colonial and racial oppression; that this theory leads objectively to a division in the forces of national liberation, and that we in the ANC have always opposed this theory and in the present stage of the development of our struggle, counter this theory with the demand for greater unity of all forces struggling against colonial racial and social oppression.

We were further able to explain that the PAC- which, it appears is trying hard to pick up some support from some ideologically unclear Black Organisations and groups in places like the USA. But we were assured by the comrades of the United States that with the growing strength of the progressive forces and the weakening of the racial groups the image of PAC is bound to wane. The growing strength of the ANC will put the final nail to the coffin of this counter-revolutionary group.

The National question under the present stages of development of imperialism was also extensively discussed. All in all, we believe that we discussed all questions to the maximum satisfaction of all fraternal delegation.

Cultural Activities

Special thanks should go to the cultural group which took part in all organised as well as in unscheduled cultural activities. Our contributions in this field were very highly estimated. The group also performed with Merriam Makoba as already reported.

We suggest that :-

1. That the cultural group should continually practice and improve in readiness for any eventualities.

2. That the ANC through possibly the S.G thank Merriam Makeba and all the other artists including those that were ready to participate but failed because of transport.

DISCIPLINE.

There were no gross violations of the revolutionary discipline of our movement. Greater political consciousness -and efforts should be shared to raise the level of political consciousness of all ANC members- will certainly lead to an even higher general level of discipline. Discipline was generally good.

Our thanks go(see brief report of the festivals by the Youth Secretariat.

Affixtures

List of participants

Final Appeals already forwarded to units by Youth Secretariat.

Prepared ANC Youth Delegation to
the Festivals

Issued Youth Secretariat,
Morogoro.

1st October 1973.