

for filing Youth & Students

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
(SOUTH AFRICA)

Lum/078/0008/13

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Mr. A. Nzo,
Secretary General,
ANC (SA),
Box 1791,
Lusaka,
Zambia.

By Hand with Albert Dlomo

23rd October, 1978.

Dear Comrade Alfred,

Please find enclosed a copy of our report on the 11th
World Youth Festival in Cuba.

Amandla,

A. Pahad

A. Pahad
ANC Youth & Students Section U.K. Mission.

c.c. Youth Secretariat ANC Lusaka.

THE U.K. YOUTH SECTIONS REPORT ON THE 11TH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN CUBA.

The 11th World Youth Festival provided us with an opportunity to:

- (1) Inform the International Community of the ANC's perspective of the struggle for national liberation in our country.
- (2) Link up our struggle with the wider international struggle against imperialism.
- (3) Listen to, discuss and assess the political programs and activities of a large cross section of organisations from different parts of the world, and
- (4) Make contact with and establish communication links with other organisations be they church liberal or communist.

The political significance of the World Youth Festival, clearly, cannot be underestimated. In this report we will endeavour to pinpoint some of the shortcomings in our preparations and performance at the Festival. The criticisms levelled in this report are done with the express purpose of assisting the Youth Secretariat in its deliberations, not only, on our participation in the next Youth Festival but our participation at all political events. It must be noted that our criticisms are confined to the movement and must be seen as part of the revolutionary process of strengthening and making more effective our movement.

Communication

Poor communication and misinformation gravely affected our contribution at the Festival.

- (1) Some Youth Sections (including our own) were given papers to prepare which were not relevant to the political commissions at the Festival.
- (2) We were not informed of the IPC ruling that only 10 mins. were allowed for the presentation of a paper. This meant that, those papers that were prepared and were relevant to the festival were invariably found to be too long and had to be re-written.
- (3) We were given no warning to prepare documentary evidence and provide witnesses on Torture and Repression in South Africa, for the tribunal 'Youth Accuse Imperialism'. It was intolerable that our President only knew a few minutes before he was to address the tribunal, that he was expected to give evidence and produce witnesses to back up the Charge of Repression and Torture in South Africa.
- (4) Our representative on the IPC did not keep us fully informed of the changes in the official program. As a result some comrades who were instructed to prepare papers for presentation on a particular day found that their efforts were wasted, because, program changes warranted presentation at an earlier date.

The net result of this very poor communication and misinformation was that, members of the political committee, had to write papers on key political issues the night before presentation. With the proper notification, we could have prepared and edited all the papers in advance of the Festival, like most of the other delegations eg. like the P.L.O. and the Chileans had done.

Thus, as a result, we did not have time to spend on the very necessary task of discussing and writing intervening speeches answering key questions that arose each day in the political commissions. The facts as outlined suggests that we need to take a serious look at how people are chosen and the criteria that is used to select people for particular tasks. The political implications warrant the selection process to be definitive and not left to an individual or chance.

Cultural v Political activities:

Our efforts in Cuba lacked co-ordination. Our delegation was split into two camps, political and cultural, with each operating independently of each other. The distinction between political and cultural activities permeated itself right down to the point where, attempts by the political committee to allocate tasks to comrades not actively involved in culture, but who were nevertheless labelled as 'culture' were met with vigorous opposition. We even had a situation where a comrade was bodily removed from a bus to join the cultural group as a spectator. Comrades, we feel that it was fundamentally incorrect to have this distinction made between culture and politics. We believe, that the co-ordination of both these activities, is necessary, to make the required impact on the international community and keeping them informed of our movements perspective of the liberation struggle.

The Leadership:

Many comrades felt out of touch with the work of the Festival. The task of co-ordinating activities, and personnel, was the responsibility of the Festival committee. In all honesty, it must be said, that the Festival committee did not make its presence felt at the Festival. A meeting of the entire delegation only took place once, at the beginning of the Festival. Attempts by the rank and file to commit the Festival Committee to call a meeting of the whole delegation during the Festival, so that, problems in connection with participation and allocation of tasks could be resolved, never materialised. An early morning meeting was agreed upon, but, the Festival committee failed to make an appearance. We also cannot ignore the total inefficiency of our comrade in the Festival committee, who was responsible for transport at the Festival. Too often, our delegation was stranded, late for appointments, and on some occasions, unable to keep appointments with other delegations. The extent of the problem, could be gauged, from the fact that, the Americans sent buses to fetch our delegation for a bilateral meeting. It must be emphasized that, the Cubans provided adequate facilities but it was our own disorganisation that created the problem.

Bilateral Meetings:

We failed to take the initiative in organising bilateral meetings. Most of the meetings took place when we were approached by other delegations.

Thus we missed a marvellous opportunity, to make contact with, and establish links with a great number of organisations. A common problem with these meetings, were, that comrades were not briefed sufficiently on what to expect and what issues needed to be raised. As with the political committee, the problem of getting suitable people for these meetings, was always difficult. The bilateral meetings, made one acutely aware, that much work needs to be done in educating our people on the policies and history of our movement and the importance of International solidarity work.

Discipline:

We did not give the impression that we were a disciplined movement embroiled in an armed struggle. We believe that the leadership should have set a much higher standard of discipline for the delegation. In fact the indiscipline on the part of some of the leadership of the delegation left much to be desired in the way of revolutionary discipline, conduct and example. Special note must be made of the following problems of indiscipline by individuals:

1. The action of one of our Comrades who attacked SWAPO publicly as being sellouts. This incident was officially reported by the SWAPO Chief Representative in the U.K.
2. The inclusion of Drake Legasa, who is in the Youth Section in U.K., as part of our American delegation in Cuba, raises the question, 'On what basis were delegates to the Festival chosen?'. We believe, that people should not be chosen to represent our movement, simply because there was a vacant place. The question of who is chosen and who is not, is a question that must be resolved politically.

Conclusion:

Comrades, with all the difficulties that were experienced, the determination of all members of the ANC delegation, ensured that we made an impact at the Festival. But as ambassadors of the South African people, we have a responsibility that demands that we fully prepare and co-ordinate our activities at whatever event we are participating in.

We look forward to your acknowledgement of this report and of any directives that would make the activities of our Youth Section more effective.

Amandla Maatla!!

2. The Young Socialists are planning for the beginning of 1979 a large campaign of solidarity for the liberation of Southern Africa.

Our goals in this campaign are:

- a better information of the Westgerman population about the racist and colonialist regimes in Southern Africa
- a boycott of Westgerman multinationals and their collaboration with the racist governments
- solidarity and concrete support of the struggling liberation movements. In this respect we discuss the foundation of a "Solidarity Fonds" in order to give as well material help to liberation movements.

In the next month we will take part in the DBJR-Conference about Southern Africa, the AAB-Conference about the "Nuclear Conspiracy BRD - SA" and we will mobilize for the "International Day against Bank Credits for SA" the first of December 1978.

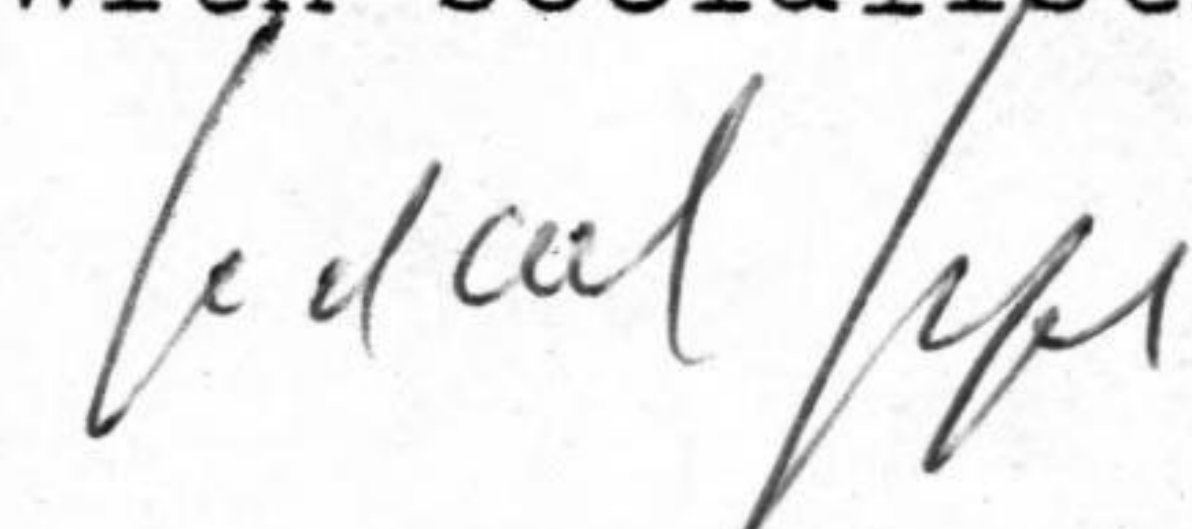
As a preparation for our campaign and in order to inform ourselves about the situation in Southern Africa, the Young Socialists would like to send a highranked delegation of 5 or 6 comrades in the middle of January 1979 to Southern Africa. In order to inform the Westgerman public about our visit we would include 1 or 2 friendly journalists in this delegation. Besides discussions with your organization we would like to see refugee camps, training senters, settlements of health and education centers etc.

For our further planning concerning this delegation it would be very important to get your response, if you could agree in principle to receive our delegation and what projects and settlements we could visit. The last point could be discussed as well in our bilateral meeting in November in Bonn.

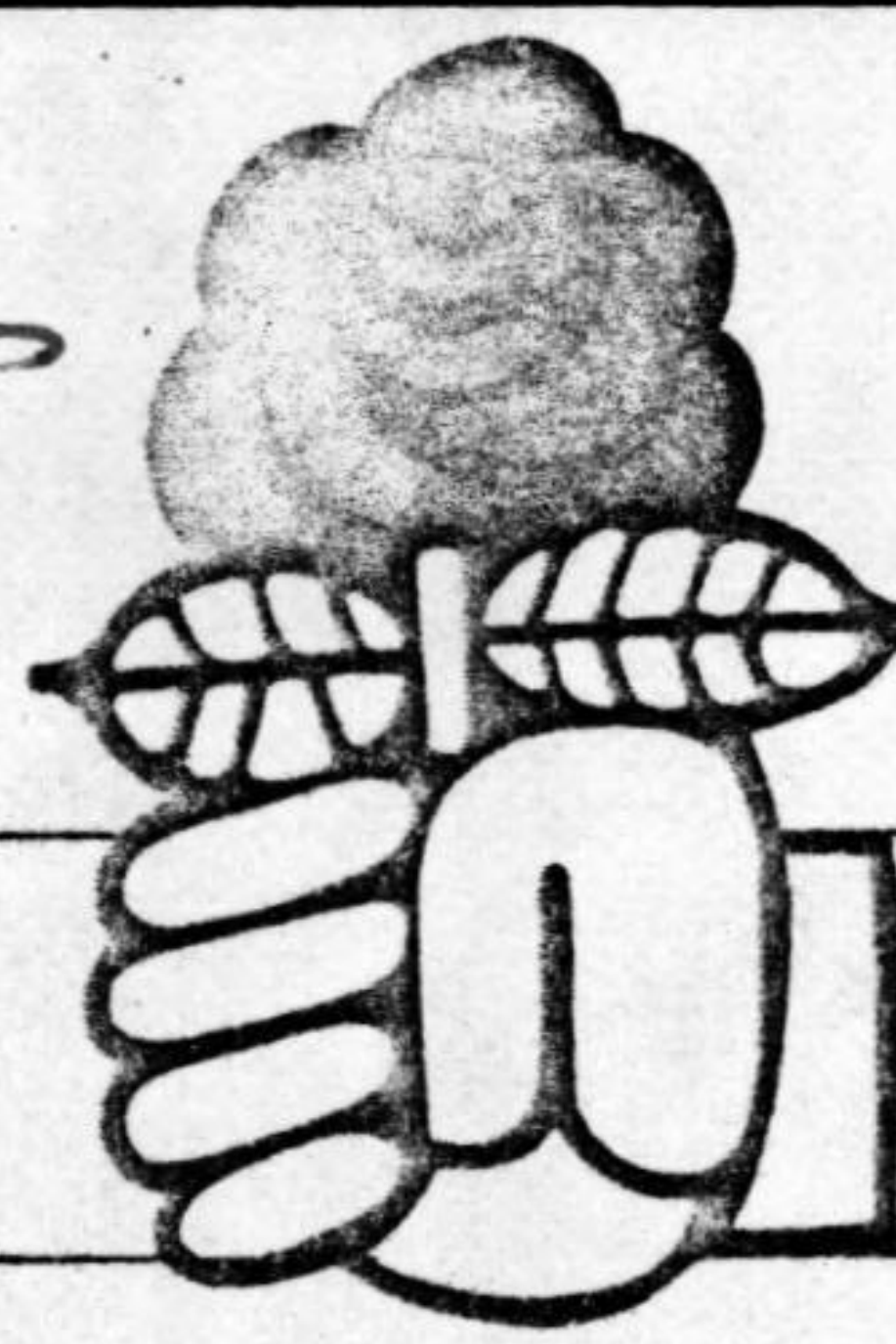
The Westgerman Young Socialists belong to the left of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and have the clear strategy to transform the system of the BRD to a socialist society. With 4,000 local groups and 100,000 active members we are one of the strongest youth organizations in the BRD. In the annex you can see some positions we take towards existing political problems.

With socialists greetings

Annex


Michael Pape
Vice president

Youth Section



Jungsozialisten
in der SPD

Bundesvorstand

African National Congress (South Africa)
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General Secretary
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4. Oktober 1978 JL/RS

- re.: 1. Bilateral discussion with your representatives between
the DBJR and AAB-Conference on the 10.11.1978 in Bonn
2. Juso-Delegation to Southern Africa in January 1979

Dear friends,

the Westgerman Young Socialists have decided on their special
"Conference about International Solidarity" in June 1978 to
work in the future with absolute priority in favour of the li-
beration movements in Southern Africa.

In this respect we have already taken contact with your repre-
sentatives during the XI. World Youth Festival in Cuba.

1. In order to strengthen our cooperation and to improve our
knowledge about the political situation in Southern Africa,
we would like to propose a bilateral discussion with your re-
presentatives while attending the DBJR Conference from 6.-10.
of November 1978 and the AAB-Conference from 11./12. November
1978 in Bonn.

The Young Socialists are participating in both activities. We
would propose to meet your organization on Friday the 10.11.1978
in our headquarter in Ollenhauerstr. 1, 5300 Bonn, Tel. 532 367/66.
Please let us know whether this timing is suitable to your plans
or what other date you may propose.

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