

PAPER DELIVERED AT THE CULTURAL WORKSHOP  
-OF THE REGION OF TANZANIA HELD IN  
MAZIMBU FROM 9th - 11th DECEMBER 1988.

TOPIC: Strategy For The Isolation Of The South African Regime Through  
 Cultural, Academic Spheres And Sport And Development Of  
 Democratic Cultural Structures.

Introduction: The topic we are discussing is a sub-topic of the topic  
 "Culture and Its Role In The Liberation Struggle For A Democratic non-racial  
 South Africa" We are therefore called upon to examine culture as a weapon  
 against Apartheid.

The isolation of the South African regime through culture, academic spheres  
 and sport is part of the total isolation of the regime socially, economically  
 politically, diplomatically and militarily.

The strategy of isolating South Africa is derived from the fact that the  
 of the South African minority is derived from and strives on World Culture  
 and in particular European Culture; that academic excellence can not be  
 achieved in South Africa without the exchange of academic experience  
 between South Africa and the rest of the world; that South African sports  
 can not develop without international competition and exchange of sporting  
 knowledge and experience.

The strategy is aimed at two targets namely:-

- (a) The people of S.A. in particular the white minority who constitute the constituency of the regime.
- (b) The international community which supports S.A. by interacting with the regime, by establishing cultural, academic and sport ties with South Africans.

Tactics of the Strategy

The Apartheid regime develops within the country culture, sport and academic products which are meant to consolidate racism, white supremacy and contempt for the culture of the oppressed people by the white majority and the so-called elite amongst the oppressed.

This reminds one of what Basil Davidson says in the book "Old Africa Rediscovered"

for the oppressed .... /2



for the oppressor to succed the oppressed need to be made to despise their own heritage and history because it is difficult to oppress people that have a history that they are proud of."

The correct tactic to use against the regime is to foster cultural endeavours, production and excellence amongst the oppressed within the framework of a unitary democratic S.A. and to preserve and protect the peoples cultural heritage to produce a culture of the people.

The regime markets racist culture and caricatures of indigenous culture as South African culture to the international community.

It is therefore encumbant on the Democratic movement to expose the international community to high quality products of democratic culture.

In pursuit of these aims the movement has produced Amandla, it has organised conferences such as Culture In Another South Africa (CASA), Mayibuye, the choir by the late Phillips and others.

The movement has also agitated for revocation of protocols by the regime with some other countries to be replaced by protocols with the movement; it has agitated for the expulsion of the racist bodies from affiliation to international bodies.

The boycott of South Africa has been one of the effective weapons used that have made many South African academics, sporting administrators and cultural administrators to discuss with the movement a way out of the rut created by the regime.

#### Development of Democratic Cultural structures:-

It is obvious that we cannot achieve the development of a democratic culture without the structures to foster it.

During CASA the question was addressed and the decision was reached that structures had to be developed inside the country to mobilise all cultural workers into cultural bodies that will be part of the Democratic Movement within the country.

It was also resolved that the South African cultural workers outside our country should also organise themselves into bodies that will become part of similar bodies inside the country.

#### Conclusion:-

Considering that we want to compete with the regime in marketing cultural and sporting products to the international community it is our duty as the vanguard of our people to foster cultural endeavours with excellence so that our people can emulate us.

To do this we need to develop structures and bodies that will carry out this task.

As a region we need to ask ourselves whether with the means at our disposal, what have we done in pursuit of this goal.

Do we indulge in culture and sport for the purpose of becoming serious cultural workers or sports people who give their best to represent the movement and our people or have we only used culture and sport as a means of just a good time passed time?

We need to answer this question seriously and honestly with the aim of changing our attitude so that we tackle the task that we have defined in the foregoing discussions with the seriousness it deserves

Each cultural worker a combatant

Forward to a rich culture in our region

Forward to a liberating culture in our region!

Forward to coordinating and cooperating democratic cultural structures in our region!

8/12/88

ANDREW MASON O



the oppressed and giving access to facilities.

- e) Political and diplomatic pressure must be brought to bear upon Frontline State Governments, which allow their countries to be staging posts for African sports persons to enter and play in South Africa.

In terms of the movement externally recommendations were made to redress the neglect of sport as follows:

- a) the ANC should create proper structures and identify sports persons within its ranks for deployment and/or input into these sports structures, especially those already trained. (The example of university trained Tebogo Rankoe was given).
- b) A fully fledged sports programme should be included into SOMAFCO curriculum and facilities provided.
- c) Sport should properly introduced into Dakawa. As a model for post-apartheid South Africa, sport should be integrated into the community.
- d) Regionally sports events should be organised.
- e) Links should be established with international sports bodies for solidarity purposes as well as with the aim of participating in sports events.

Lusaka Regional Cultural Workshop,  
4 and 5 December 1989



## SPORT

Sport was discussed in plenary after a lengthy and comprehensive paper. Given the sad neglect of sport within the movement, and the present initiatives by the ANC in this area, most of the discussion was coming to grips with the significance of these initiatives and sport in the society and in struggle as presented in this paper. Consequently there were few concrete recommendations, but it was nevertheless valuable and served to highlight the urgent need for the ANC to seriously address the question of sport not only within its ranks but in South Africa.

Time was spent on attempting to define "people's sport", and arguments ensued as to which sports were more accessible to the people; but this was discarded in recognition of the fact that sport is for all people regardless of culture, race or class and that whatever the sport it is important for character and nation building. Sport is a unifying force, promoting team to national spirit and loyalty and developing the discipline, and health and minds of individuals. The crux of the matter is that sport and facilities should be put into the hands of the people.

There was, in general, endorsement of the present strategy of actuating alignments and re-alignments in formation of a broad democratic sports front and sowing division within the ranks of apartheid sport. As such the following recommendations were made:

- a) ANC should give every assistance with funds for facilities and training for sports persons in the democratic sports organisations.
- b) Mass democratic movement must be consulted to look into the matter of sports persons leaving the country to acquire skills. Acceptance of invitations from dubious sponsors (such as US, Israel) should be dissuaded alternatives offered. SANROC should play an instrumental role.
- c) The newly formed National Sport Council (NSC) must be strengthened and given every means of support for its development as a national body which acknowledges the crucial role of sport in politics.
- d) Noting with concern the lack of action in the struggle by well known sports persons and teams, they should be impressed upon to fulfill their responsibility of helping develop sport among