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AUTHORS .

2;: October 1991

Dear Co-Convenore

The Editorial Group has gone through the revised proposal. and then looked carefully at the overall 'emerald' shape of the NEPI endeavour. There is beyond doubt. a great deal of work either going on. about to begin. and in some salutary cases. already finished. A number of groups have begun to send completed reports to Nick as they finish them. Hopeful as all this is. it does focus our minds upon what the terminus is of the NEPI project.

We believe that all RG convenors should take the Editorial Group's proposal for the structure of your final report far more seriously than you have up to now. Probably all of you clearly grasp the message that we proposed as the format for your final report. But many of you then go on to list your commissioned research. and it is not always clear how this research relates to your final report structure. We have come to the view that all commissioned research should be linked to these requirements of the final report.

Let us be quite clear what NEPI expects from each RG. By the middle of next year, each RG should be putting in the finishing touches to its single report, between 30-40 pages long. thus. by and large, follows these steps:

1. Introduction to the issue to be investigated.
2. Description of the present situation (policies and provision) analysed in terms of existing political economy and the NEPI 5 principles.
3. Description of emerging alternative policies and proposals analysed in terms of a future political economic scenario and the NEPI 6 principles.
4. Discussion of appropriate comparative insights similarly analysed.
5. A clear conclusion. putting the above into 2 or 3 clear possible policy options, and some clear consequences of each.

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The papers you commission should be connected to one or other of these sections of your final report. Once you have a firm idea - about each section of your final report, you will know what information you already have. what you can expect to get from your commission. and you will also know what you will not be providing. It is our view that what has not been commissioned by 15 November 1991 will probably not be commissioned by NEPI. Most of the work next year. especially after Easter. will be directed to pulling together. sorting and clarifying exactly what to put in your final report. There will of course be appendices, but the main message will be in your final report.

We believe that each RG will have a clear and definite direction once you have:

1. given some shape and context to each of the 6 sections of your final report;

2. tied all commissioned work to one or other section of your final report.

Such a synthesis will then guide the work of your group from now until the end of the process. All future progress reports can then simply indicate how far you have got. what work still has to come in, and whether you will be able to meet your deadline.

In the light of this. you may well come to see that the scope of your present proposal will have to be trimmed down to more modest and do-able proportions. We will emphasize once again that we. that is NEPI. is not designing the one best future education system. We are merely clarifying the most important present and possible options in each relevant area. NEPI is the first step not the last one.

All of these matters will be properly discussed at the EXCO meeting on 2 November in Cape Town. and we look forward to establishing a common understanding amongst all RG convenors as the NEPI completion date approaches. Please feel free to contact us at any time you feel the need.

With best wishes

Johen Muller (Convener), Blade Nzimande. Saleem Dadat. Linda Chisholm. Harold Holpe. Pam Christie. Hokubung Nkomo. Nick Taylor.

PS: Please date all your documents.

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NEPI LANGUAGE POLICY RESEARCH GROUP (LPRG)

9 December 1991

Dear Member

This letter is intended to inform you of the latest developments in the NEPI world, especially the LPRG, as well as to remind you of certain procedures.

Firstly, the Editorial Group (EG) has told us that a great deal of pressure is being put on NEPI in view of CODESA to produce discussion documents around education policy options as soon as possible. This means that we cannot exceed our deadlines (see attached research programme). Thus far we have not received any completed commissioned work. We may well be requested to make such work and some of our working documents available fairly soon to democratic organisations contributing to CODESA. The final report will be a distillation of all the research undertaken in the LPRG. Since our last letter to you we have been told that the final report should not exceed forty pages (it may have appendices). We envisage that the LPRG's work will be made available in the following forms (probably meeting the needs of different users) '

1. The forty page final report.

2a The thirty page final report of each subgroup.

2b The five page summary of each subgroup's report.

3a All commissioned reports in their full 20-30 page length.

3b The five page summary of each commissioned report.

The material for 2a and 3a needs to be presented_ in a rigorously academic form because it is likely to be scrutinised _and used as source material by other researchers, both here and abroad.

As the EG is going to draw on all RG's final reports, we have been asked to structure them all in the same way (see EG letter dated 24 October 1991 and the Headings column of the research programme). We are therefore asking subgroup convenors to compile their final reports using the same structure.

Two journals, one British (British Journal of Educational Policy) and one South African (Perspectives in Education) have offered full issues to NEPI for publication of NEPI research. We have the style sheet for P.I.E. if you need it. Please let us know if you intend submitting an article - the deadline for the first round of articles is 23 March 1992.

The resource database is being updated all the time. We are attaching a list of keywords in this mailout. If you need any of the articles, etc please contact Shahieda Ebrahim at 42 Chamberlain Street, Woodstock 7925 tel (021) 4485243. Each

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subgroup convenor will also get a copy of an MA dissertation by Lynn Hewlett titled : Language Planning in Education in Sub-Saharan Africa - Issues of Relevance to South Africa (ESOL Department, Institute Of Education, London September 1991). The abstract reads as follows :

The focus of this dissertation is on language policies in education in Sub-Saharan Africa. It examines these language policies in order to identify their underlying assumptions and their socio-political and educational outcomes. It specifically focuses on the medium of instruction and the role of indigenous African languages in education. The implications of these policies for language planning in education in South Africa are then suggested.

We have not had much luck in establishing from major groupings in this country what their current thinking is around language policy in general and language in education in particular. We hope to glean this information from whichever documents are available and fairly soon.

Commissioned researchers are reminded that copies of their completed work have to be sent to the relevant subconvenor as well as to the co-convenor responsible for their subgroup. Enclosed find the following :

1. An outline of the research programme.
2. A letter from the EG.
3. A list of keywords for the database.

We hope you have a refreshing but short break before meeting the deadlines.

With our best wishes. .

Yours nepily

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KAY, SIDNEY AND ZUBEIDA