

Lum/070/0007/06



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL EDUCATION
P.O. Box 31791, Lusaka, Zambia. Telephone 216263

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

The Secretary,
Department of Education,
LUSAKA,

March 18, 1988.

Dear Comrade,

RE: STUDENTS IN THE U.S.S.R.

Attached hereto find copy of a report written for us, on our request, by
cde Themba Thabetha. The contents speak for themselves.

Quite obviously there is cause for concern by all of us. With this in mind
we propose that one or two of us from each of the following departments:
ECC, Women & Youth Sections, DMD & NAT should meet in order to consider
the report with the view of considering what can be done in order to prevent
recurrence. of this sort of problem or avert the process of the development
of negative attitudes.

I would like to propose a joint consultation to take place at Alpha Offices
- Discussion Room on Thursday, March 31, 1988 at 14.30 hrs.

Amandla!

REG SEPTEMBER

Secretary

c.c. Cde Simon Makana, Moscow
c.c. Cde Sindiso Mfenyane, Berlin
c.c. Cde Stanley Manala, Havana

REPORT ON ANC STUDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

Every one of us in the USSR receives lessons on Soviet History, Marxist-Leninist Leninist Philosophy, Scientific Communism and Political Economy. Some of us have a negative attitude towards these subjects. This is especially the case with those of us who are not doing the arts.

Reasons:-

- 1) Soviets are trying to indoctrinate us.
- 2) The work is too much yet it has got nothing to do with our specialities.
- 3) There is too much repetition e.g. when in the Prep Faculty you are taught USSR History in English than again in the 1st course the same thing in Russian. Part of this is repeated in Scientific Communism, M/L Philosophy and Political Economy.

Suggestion:-

- 1) Soviets should make these subjects optional
- 2) They should reduce the volume
- 3) These subjects should not be taught

Publications of the National Liberation Alliance: The females usually do not read them. They did rather read a novel. Male comrades generally do read these publications. However some of them read when they have got nothing else to do. Usually the excuse is that there is no time. But if you can say there is a party somewhere everyone, male and particularly female will leave what they are doing and go to the party.

Political discussions: They are usually attended by not more than half the membership. Sometimes they are attended by less than half. There is general passiveness. And this is not because the discussions are not interesting. They are quite interesting.

Why do students behave the way they do? Maybe it is because:

- some of them believe that there is favouritism in the movement.
- some of them believe that there is no uniformity in the treatment of those who left their parents in South Africa and the ones who have their parents in the different capitals of the world - London, Lusaka etc.
- they are far way from the struggle and the ANC. They are able to forget for a while that they are in the struggle.

- The movement mistakenly believes that once you have been taught History of the Struggle and Development of Societies in Mazimbu you do not need any further contact or political training by the movement you can be left to develop on your own in the USSR or Cuba and everything will be okay, after all the Soviets will teach you politics. We seem to forget that students usually study for exams and not in order to know. It seems like we also forget that theory without practice can't produce a revolutionary. It instead arms the intellectuals with Marxist-Leninist rhetoric, so that he can pretend to be a revolutionary.
- Problems which called for perestroika did not leave us unaffected. The bribery, Racist attitudes etc seem to have influenced some of us against the USSR or socialism. Some comrades especially among the women have made it clear in private discussions that they don't want socialism in our country, that they don't want to see Soviets in South Africa. My feeling is that if there can be a successful implementation of perestroika in the economic and social life of the USSR, some people might change their minds about socialism and our struggle for National Liberation.

THEMBA THABETHA (Student of Law in the USSR)

Lusaka, March 15th 1988