

1978

Lum/073/0008/20

FESTIVAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

In accordance with the decisions of the Festival working committee, the following Political committee was formed:-

1. Victor Makhosini-Sabu :Chairman of the Committee (Member of the F.W.C.)
2. Hilary Rabkin :Secretary of the Committee (Rep. from Sechaba.)
3. Praga sin Nicker :Head of Centre I (Rep. from London)
4. Zakes Tolo :Head of Centre 2 (Rep. from Lusaka)
5. Ralph Magijima :Head of Centre 3 (Rep. from Zambia)
6. Zungu Duke :Head of Centre 4 (Rep. from U.S.A.)
7. Tessa Marcus :Head of Centre 5 (Rep. from Poland)
8. Khumalo Mekgoe :Head of International Tribunal (Rep. from Angola)
9. Mervin :Head of Student Centre (Rep. from Canada.)
10. Manala Manzini :Head of Pioneer Centre (Rep from ~~XXXXXX~~ Zambia)
11. Reginald Mpongo :Head of Solidarity Meetings (Rep  
9 :from Cuba.)
12. Nkhosazana Dlamini :General Assistant (Rep. from London)

The Political Festival Participation programme was divided into the following distinct fields/areas which ran concurrently throughout the seven days of the nine days of the entire festival.

- A. CENTRES WITH CERTAIN NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS EACH
- B. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL- YOUTH ACCUSES IMPERIALISM
  - AMONG COMRADES IN THE STRUGGLE
  - WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR
  - SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
  - EXHIBITION
- C. STUDENT CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA.
- D. PIONEER CENTRE
- E. SOLIDARITY MEETINGS
- F. SPORTS CIRCLES

The 11th World Festival had far reaching political impact in our struggle. Its significance is not only on the basis that it gave us a chance to see the achievements of the Cuban Revolution and meet youth from various parts of the world, but that it gave us a platform to project our struggle and to...

...and to clarify the distortion made about A.N.C. which our enemy and imperialists have been promoting in the past. It gave us a chance too, to meet some of our comrades in the struggle from various regions of the world. We were able to exchange ideas and learn from people of diverse political opinion.

#### A- CENTRES (I-5) AND COMMISSIONS

Well over 700 delegates from different N.P.C.s', International and regional organizations delivered papers and or made interventions during the seven days sessions in the commissions of these centres. The warm spirit of comradeship which characterized the 11th World Festival, is reflected in the final draft communiques from various centres- which covered the whole Festival Political programme and many other topical world problems.

Almost all the delegates from different centres agreed unanimously that there is an urgent need for the introduction of a new, just and equitable International Economic order, BUT clearly indicated that this New Economic Order, is not THE solution to the problems of the so- called "Third World", but can be used as an immediate measure to activate the economic and social stresses in these countries.

They remarkably pointed out too that the problems in the so-called "Third World" are of diverse nature. The people of the developing countries are among other things also fighting for the creation of zones of peace, free from nuclear Pollution, and above all for the equality of nations.

The struggle of the peoples in the developing countries and still colonized countries are part of a global anti-imperialist struggle for social and economic transformation, detente and international security. The final draft communiques further indicates that the establishment of a new, just and equitable New International and Economic Order cannot be divorced from the need of limitation of arms race, stopping production of destructive weapons like the neutron bomb, and the right of the peoples of Southern Africa (South Africa led by ANC, Zimbabwe led by the Patriotic Front, Namibia led

.....

SWAPO), Latin America, Middle-East, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands to self-determination and total guinean independence.

And finally the communiques hinted on the need of unity of all the Youth throughout the world at the wake of new Imperialist and transnational-grand coup-strategy, to hint actions so as to repel and condemn Imperialist perpetuation of world tension, poverty, exploitation, hunger, disease and continued promotion of seeds of discontents and friction between nations; to mobilize all our resources for anti-imperialist solidarity, lasting peace, fraternal friendship, justice and social progress. Different types of ANC propaganda materials were distributed at these centres.

#### B-INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Youth accuses Imperialism; This ~~was~~ was one of the most important centre in the entire Festival, held at the Academy of Science-Havana. Here the Youth from over 140 countries were called upon to accuse and condemn imperialism as the main factor responsible for the evils of mankind, disseminating the content of their struggles and presenting concrete evidence, the criminal actions of imperialism throughout the world.

The centre had also the following activities;

##### 1. What are we struggling for;

The participants and speakers were able to explain the causes and aims of the struggles being waged by their people.

##### 2.-Among Comrades of the struggle;

Outstanding youth in the struggle of their peoples, met with other delegates and transmitted their experiences and answered questions.

##### 3.-Social Activities;

Some personalities invited to the Festival took the floor, e.g.-among others were Comrade President O.R Tambo, Comrade Jassa Arafat, Comrade Luis Corvalan, Comrade Romesh Chandra etc .....

##### 4. Film Showing;

Films whose content reflected the struggles were shown. The ANC film on Soweto was shown in this centre.

##### 5. Song to Solidarity;

Programme of songs and ~~solidarity~~ poems expressing international solidarity was drawn, but due to divers and many engagements of our delegation we could take part.

##### 6. Exhibitions;

We exhibited different works and articles on the struggle of the people of South Africa-all other countries also took part.

Our great day in this centre was on the 31st July, 1978, when ANC was to lead the TRIBUNAL in charge II- DIFFERENT FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. We delivered a fifty (50) minutes document and thereafter Comrade Khumalo Mekgwi was called to give evidence against the fascist regime of South Africa. Our performance received good response and standing ovation.

We delivered as evidence some well prepared papers during the whole Tribunal session and on two occasions we could secure a place for active participation because many of the delegates wanted to take part.

A lot of ANC propaganda materials, flags, posters, stickers, literature, etc were distributed among delegates and local Cuban people around the center.

#### C - SOLIDARITY MEETINGS:

Our delegation was invited and attended actively the solidarity meetings with the following countries; Arab people of Palestine, Vietnam, Chile, Panama, Ethiopia, with Youth and Students and peoples from all over the world against imperialism for the attainments of new, just and mutual beneficial economic relations, and the establishment of New Economic Order, with the Youth and Students in the capitalist world against exploitation, with Canada, United States of America, and lastly with the peoples and young generation that live, work and build Socialism in Cuba.

Due to transport problems we failed to attend solidarity meetings with Polisario, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Guyana, North Ireland and the planting of the Forest of Solidarity. However we did meet most of these countries during the bilateral discussions. During these meetings we were able to educate the delegates about our struggle and distribute ANC literature, stickers and many types of propagandist material.

#### D6---PIONEER CENTRE:

Activities of the international Centre of Friendship of  
Children - at Jose Marti Pioneer Camp.

The title of the Conference was; "THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND THE COOPERATION OF CHILDRENS ORGANISATION".

Delegates from over 63 countries and organisations took part in the discussions during the session. International organisations present among others were, CIMEA, WIFD, World Federation of Democratic Youth and International Childrens Federation.

Different delegates and local, regional, and international organisations spoke on the rights of children and pointed out how most countries violate these rights- concluding by calling all progressive mankind and governments to fully recognize the rights of the child as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Children.

Our participants delivered a paper on the conditions of children in South Africa specifically relating to Education of the generation.

#### E---STUDENT CENTRE.

University of Havana.

The broad programme of the centre reflected the daily struggle the students alongside their peoples and their interests and aspirations. The programme included commissions, discussion circles, special meetings, faculty gatherings, lectures, cultural and sport activities, a Forum and an International Student Solidarity Meetings.

During the session delegates participated in an atmosphere of unity; cooperation and fraternity. Outstanding personalities in the Field of space research, social and political life honoured the centre with their presents.

Our delegation to this centre was able to make two interventions. The subject of discussion been mostly on June 16, 1976 mass uprisings, the role of the students in the National~~A~~ Liberation Armed Struggle.

The ANC delegates made an appeal among other delegates not to refer always in general about struggles in Southern Africa, but rather replace it with THE STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA LEAD BY ANC, ZIMBABWE LEAD BY PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE STRUGGLE ~~IN~~ IN NAMIBIA LEAD BY SWAPO. A lot of propaganda material was distributed.

#### F-INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE.

Artists from close to 1,600 NPC's, local, regional and international organisations all from about 134 countries took part in this centre, displaying their talents in culture, painting, poetry, drama and singing. At the same time there were daily discussions on the problems facing youth from their respective countries; problems which create obstacles to the development of their national cultures.

Our delegate to this centre discussed at great length the problems facing our people and the attempts made by our oppressor to harness and destroy it.

At this centre too we distributed a lot of ANC propaganda material and as the results many people became ~~xx~~ interested to know more and our struggle

#### CONCLUSION.

The 2000 delegates from 140 countries who took part in the Festival activities were very sympathetic towards the people of Southern Africa, but to South Africa in particular. This was evident from the many speeches delivered at different centers throughout the Festival and out of ~~xx~~ the conference discussions.

It is also no doubt that the ANC enjoys international recognition, and that its policy and the stand reinforced the world progressive movement. Our performance in Political activities could have been even far better had we been properly full informed before hand about the various political areas of the festival centres like the International Tribunal, among comrades in the struggle, were relatively new to us when we arrived in evidence HABANA. As a result, we had no concrete evidence to present before the court - Our evidence was too general.

We hope that in future this type of mistake will be avoided. It is advisable too that Political Committees be always formed so as to ensure maximum and efficient participation and such a committee should be representative of our entire delegation from various ANC residential centres

AMANDLA NGAWETHU!

V. Makhosini (Chairman of the Festival Political Committee)