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REPORT ON MISSION TO ZIMBABWE
Time of Visit: 20-25 October, 1986
Purpose of Visit:

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to attend the Longman Publishing Conference
to have consultations with the ANC Education Committee in
Harare

to establish contact with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Education
Participants: Barbara Masekela, Mbhammed fikly, Lindelwe Mabandla
INTRODUCTION

This Report is intended to supplement the Report prepared by
Lindelwe Mabandla. It is therefore not comprehensive.

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LONGMAN GROUP PUBLISHING CONFERENCE

The Longman Group organised the Conference on October 23rd
1986 to help them plan their publishing strategy for Southern
Africa and our participation was meant to enable Longman and
ANC representatives to "swap ideas on how education will
develop over the next few years and discuss how Longman can
make a contribution".

A copy of the Conference Programme and the list of participants
is attached.

Barbara Masekela led the ANC Delegation, which is listed in the
appended document. Julian Rea, Managing Director, International
led the Longman Delegation. Zimbabwe's Minister of Education,
Dzingai Mhtumbuka was present and made a formal presentation.
The information that was swapped was mutually beneficial. In
Barbara Masekela's contribution she contextualised Longman as
a multi-national in the issue of trade sanctions. Lindelwe
Mabandla's Pepper is appended. The Paper deals with ANC
education policy and curriculum aims and objectives.

There were numerous contributions on the Longman side, some of
great interest and relevance to us, both in the pre and post
Liberation phases. For instance, the experience of Zimbabwe
may have much to teach us. The rapid expansion of their education
system and the associated implications for curriculum develop-
ment, teacher-training, learning materials production and
publication will inevitably face us in a free South Africa.
The achievements and shortcomings of Maskew-Miller Longman of
South Africa were instructive. On the questions of Alternative
Education, the Maskew-Miller Longman spokeswoman was able only
to pose questions, rather than inform us what is going on at
Home.

The role of Government in educational publishing was an
important item. For me the Paper on Publishing for multi-racial

society was of great relevance because the issues and principles inherent in the production of anti-racist and anti-sexist teaching/learning materials have yet to be properly discussed and understood in the ANC.

The contingent Of maskew-Miller Longman representatives from South Africa, it appears were impressed with the educational work of the ANC, as were the other Longman people.

Impressed also was Zimbabwe's Minister for Education, Dzingai Mtumbuka. His contribution, Education Policy for Zimbabwe, touched on the need to move away from an education system that is elitist, theoretical and Eurocentric, the need to relate education with production in a country that is predominantly rural, the need to restore a national identity and, above all, the need to understand that "education is political action", the key to genuine liberation.

Minister mutumbuka was warm.towards the ANC delegation, saying that he was happy to "share ideas with the ANC" and referred to us as his "Patriotic Comrades in Arms". In the evening, Minister Mutumbuka dined with the Chief Representative and the Barbara Masekela and saw our video's on Amandla and SOMAFSCO. He was excited and grateful. '

The opportunity the Conference gave us to establish closer ties and to exchange information with the Zimbabwean Minister and others was of great value.

In concrete terms, we hope to benefit from our strengthened links with Longman in these respects:-

1) -Support with books for (a) our Library in Harare (b) for SOMAJCO, and request catalogues from Longman's African DiVipiDHE, particularly from South Africa.

ii) Support with training in editing skills and for management and other book production skills; we were going to send some names quickly, such as Premi's.

iii) Support with publishing in respect of textbooks and other ANC material for internal use, and, where the material has potential for wider use, Longmans will consider publishing it commercially.

I would add tentatively that Julian Rea, managing Director, International, for Longman is influential enough to be called upon by the ANC for support with and advice on any specific international campaign related to trade/investment/economics or diplomatic manoeuvre involving the UK government.

It is true that Longman has a vested interest in conferring with us and offering us support, but we too should get what we can from Longman in the short or long-term. It will be imperative to make publishers responsive to the needs of a Liberated South Africa. Zimbabwe's policy of a close partnership with Longman and other publishers has relevanc for us.

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ZIMBABWE ANC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Although I was not able to have a formal meeting with the Education Committee, a number of matters were discussed, primarily with Jaye Appalraju, the Secretary. Close liaison is necessary between the Committee and the NSC. '

ZIMBABWEAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

We had a meeting with Fay Chung, responsible for the Curriculum Development Centre at MOutn Pleasant and for Non-Formal ' Education. She agree in principle to train our teachers at As for curriculum uevelopment trainees, two steps should be taken as quickly as possible by the NSC/SOMAFCO First to Later, we should explore the placement of candidates for teacher training in Zimbabwe. '

CONCLUSION

personnel. We received firm offers of assistance from the Mlnistry, as well as from Longman. The perspective on our educational system through the sphere of publishing was instructive.

M Tikly

Director

15/11/86