

NOTES ON FROIAGANDA.

I am convinced that it is better to have one good and well produced journal than three poorly-produced and scanty journals. I should like to see Sechaba turned into a better paper, appearing two-monthly. It should be the main ANC organ, which must contain a weighty editorial that will push the official line. The articles should be studied and informative, discussing ANC ideology, South African legislation, personalized accounts of the lives of refugees, women in the South African struggle, poetry, fiction, essays of a committed nature, review/s of books on Southern Africa, whether such books are on our side or against. There should also be articles on the Mozambique, Angolan and Zimbabwe areas of the revolution. Articles on the black-white struggle in other parts of the world, notably the U.S.A. should be featured. The external missions of the ANC should act as news-collecting media and as correspondents,

This means that the editorial board should be set up specifically to do this job, and the editor should be full-time. The managing editor should get his mind entirely on fund raising for the maintenance of the journal and seeking out people who can contribute articles. It should not be for Sechaba to try to report events as they occur. It should be a journal of comment and a mouthpiece for our ideology. It should set right the record of things.

Once a year, preferably to coincide with a political occasion at the end of the year, Sechaba should give a round-up of South African anti-black legislation, persons that have been victimized inside the country; it should devote a considerable section to the struggle in all of Southern Africa,

It is my experience that in present conditions of

Pan-African communications, London and Paris are still the best bases for journals to circulate from London or Paris to various parts of Africa by boat than from an African base. The

ANC international missions in various countries will, of course continue to serve as disseminating centres. The operation must be placed on a commercial footing, and sloppily unorganised material must be kept out of the journal,

I do not think Mayibuye is worth the time and money that go into producing it. Some of the material that appears in it can more profitably be channelled through Sechaba. In the place of Mayibuye I propose a two-page bulletin the Zambia mission, always in consultation with headquarters,

should produce from time to time as occasion demands, Such occasion may be the desirability for a statement of ANC policy or attitude on current events, and it should be such as the ANC will desire to publish in the local press. Such a bulletin may be merely entitled BULLETIN OF THE ...; THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA, It should be despatched to as many newspapers as possible in Africa, embassies in Africa and to the other ANC offices abroad, and to private individuals in strategic positions.

I do not propose this step with regard to Mayibuye because I have no confidence in those who publish it.

My point is that we should concentrate efforts on the production of a bigger and better-looking journal so as to give a bigger thrust for our propaganda machinery.

Spotlight must stay. I see it as a most valuable informative digest and it should keep in regular monthly instalments. We need in addition to apply our minds to the dissemination of a message of exhortation to our people in South Africa, Naturally this can only be an occasional message around one of the several outrages the government indulges in from time to time*

I have always felt that we need a very strong information bureau, an indispensable and most vital arm of a liberation movement. Obviously Africa Bureau cannot give specific attention to Southern Africa* Furthermore its Africa Digest is too diffuse and much of its contents are outdated when they are published. There is however, a new Southern African Information Service run by Defence and Aid Fund which promises to become a much more useful venture. It will appear half-yearly and gives detailed documentation of events in Southern Africa,, The base for an ANC information bureau should be somewhere in Africa, preferably Dar es Salaam,; Some of the personnel of our external mission personnel can be deployed. Such a bureau will build up a library of books and vital documentation and will be a training ground for like services in a future. South Africa. Side by side with this we need to train people in intelligence- work. We are doing an appreciable amount of work through personal representation, but lag behind in documentation and information services and intelligence work. We rely too much on other bodies to collect and disseminate information on our own area of the struggle.