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NELSON MANDELA SCHOOL (ISLAND OF YOUTH) DECEMBER REPORT

1988.

The academic demands have increased and the students are expected to study hard in order to meet these demands. Actually very few comrades have the correct habit to study. As a result we have taken the best comrades and constituted an Education Committee. Two in Grade 9, one in Grade 8 and one in Grade 7. They are assisting the other weak comrades in their academic problems. On the other hand we also have enrolled at an adult school to study Spanish so that we can also be of assistance to the comrades. There is progress in this direction. The comrades that still lag behind are in Grade 7, namely Sillo Motlana, Citizen Nolao, Spinks Mpumelelo and Fanwell Zungu. These comrades are actually supposed to be in Grade 4, but in terms of age this is not possible. We are paying special attention to these comrades. Those problems that have manifested themselves in Grade 8, are the ones of lack of study or proper study methods in Biology and maths and we have embarked on intensive study to try and set a habit of studying, we are still watching for the results. In grade 9, all the comrades are coping well with their studies except three, i.e. Bibi Ntiso,, Thami Solomons and Loyiso Mkhosi. Together with the Education Committee we are working closely with these comrades.

With regard to working in the fields, comrades are coping well to the satisfaction of everybody in the school. With an exception of Fanwell Zungu who has now influenced Reggie, everybody is doing his level best.

RELATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

The school and particularly the Principal are very pleased with the South Africans. These were the results of hard work of everybody, especially the commanders and commissars. The previously indisciplined comrades like Joe Mabhena, Rooi Simelani and Spinks Mpumelelo have changed..They are doing their best in everything, especially Rooi Simelane who has just become exceptional after we had spoken to him several times. He is a captain of sports, gumboot dance. In Grade 9, he is the vanguard of the school in everything. On December 16, in the presence of our Chief Rep., we emulated the whole Grade 9, together with the comrades of other grades. They totalled to 45 comrades. In Grade 8 we still face the problems of Reggie, Neville and Joy. They are not too bad comrades. With time, we are sure to solve their problems. When comrade Chief Rep. closed the emulations, he had to pay particular attention to these comrades especially Fanwell Zungu and his problem of stealing. Now it appears as though Fanwell and Rock Thabiso are beginning their mischief of theft. We have spoken very strongly to them.



POLITICAL WORK, SPORTS AND CULTURE.

More and more political work is each day. Commissars daily have a political reading session as a collective. We also have study and discussion groups for all comrades. In preparation for January 8, we are discussing the theme of National Democratic Revolution.

For December 16, we matched 6 comrades to raise our flag at assembly in the morning, and after the National Anthem, a message on December 16 was read by one of the comrades in Spanish, there after the poetry group presented poetry in Spanish, and everybody was just held spell-bound. Everybody in the school spoke highly of the political nature of the South African students.

Thereafter, we welcomed our Chief Reps in Cuba and FRG who had come to mark the occasion with us. We had a short cultural performance to their reception to the school. Thereafter, following their short round around the school, we had a political meeting. In this meeting Comrade Chief Rep. in Cuba read us a speech and the Chief Rep. from FRG also presented us some insights into the nature of the situation in FRG. He expressed his satisfaction at the high moral of the group. In the evening we held symbolic burning of Botha's effigy and Comrade Chief Rep. made a short speech to the significance of the act and was translated by one of our student into Spanish. During the toyi-toyi towards the burning of Botha we joined by the students of Ethiopia and Sao Tome. Hence the translation.

On Saturday, we had a soccer match with Ethiopians and our team played draw, thereafter we had the emulations which closed the December 16 Celebrations. We were honoured to have the presence of our Chief Reps. though we were inconvenienced by transport in the process.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT.

The group has realised the importance of their good reputation in Cuba. They want to consciously defend these gains and not be quoted again as bad students. We encourage them in doing so. Politically, something has been achieved that even the School Administration feels the high moral of the South Africans. The School Principal recently remarked that the South Africans are ever happy and doing the best in whatever they do. But we do also need material assistance from the movement so as to further support and keep their moral high.

We have indicated previously that we need a car as we are staying far from the school so as to can be continuous in our political work. We need political material for 1989 publicity and propaganda work within the group and the school in general. We also need 'Umphando' and financial assistance.

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AMANDLA! MAATLA!

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