

Lum 062/003/13 Memo  
Student power in the fight against racialism and race propaganda

The increasing difficulty of getting the British public - and even British students - interested and emotionally involved in the race situation in southern Africa is mainly due to two reasons:

1. Distractions such as the Vietnam and Nigerian war.
2. The success of South African propaganda in claiming that South Africa has the right to manage her own affairs as a sovereign foreign state.

An additional reason could be that with the lid screwed down completely on the non-white majority, South Africa is quite peaceful in appearance: there is little for the humanist outside the country to actually get to grips with, unless quite well informed.

The existence and nature of South Africa's propaganda campaign over the past few years in Britain offers the chance of an entirely new approach. For South Africa has made two fatal errors with this campaign.

a). South African propaganda is segregationist/racist in content. It therefore contravenes the spirit of recent British race legislation, undermines efforts in Britain towards race integration, and encourages British white supremacists - including certain members of parliament. It is thus an unprovoked and irresponsible act of blatant interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state - Britain. Thus, people helping to expose and fight this racist propaganda and its propagators in Britain are helping Britain in a propaganda war where the enemy is striking at British peace and security.

b). South African propaganda in Britain and the U.S.A. - and Europe, Australia and New Zealand - is undeniably based on falsehoods. This makes South Africa even more deserving of attack by student power. Not only is South Africa spreading racialism throughout the world, she is deliberately using known falsehoods to bolster her indefensible and poisonous arguments for segregation.

These falsehoods involve South Africa history, economics, housing, freedom and law. The economic falsehoods alone show that South Africa is gaining heavy British investment under false pretences - by means of a false investment prospectus - and in doing so is hamstringing Britain's efforts to help the world achieve racial peace by indulging in economic blackmail against the British government - and the British people.

Obviously, the subject of South African racialism is no longer something that is 6,000 miles away - "out-of-sight and out-of-mind". It is here in Britain. It is subverting British people, British M.P.s, British industrialists and investors. What can student power do about it?

Student power can firstly set up study groups to establish the facts about South Africa beyond all doubt - and expose the lies. It should also investigate foreign racist pressure-groups operating in Britain, such as the South Africa Foundation. It can inform the public that South Africa and certain pro-South African British newspapers and magazines are hoodwinking Britain on the 20th century's most crucial issue - racialism. It can investigate and publicise the terrifying facts of African child deaths through poverty in wealthy South Africa. It can demand boycotts, not only of all white South African sportsmen, but of all British sportsmen who play whites-only teams in South Africa. It can be the conscience of Britain, which its elders have cast aside.

This offers a great challenge not only to students in Britain, but in every country where South African propaganda is doing its destructive work. And it offers students a chance to show their teachers and the public that students can show more responsibility, more concern for decency and integrity, than their elders. And it has the further advantage that students will really be helping in exposing and destroying a dangerous set of circumstances which, if left unchecked, could result in a third world war - a race war - for much the same reasons that the second world war occurred. Yet again, it would unite students throughout the world in common and urgent cause against just those evils they detest most.