

file ANC Statement S.G. Lum/060/036A/05

## Seminar on Education and Culture for Liberation in Southern Africa

OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
A.N.C. OF SOUTH AFRICA - Cde ALFRED NZO.

(UNZA Ridgeway Campus, Lusaka. 6/10/80.)

Mr Chairman,  
Honourable Members of UNIP and Zambian Government,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Fellow Combatants ; Comrades and Friends.

It is indeed a great honour for me to address this Seminar on behalf of those who are still engaged in the struggle for political emancipation of our respective countries, not only in Southern Africa, but extending as far as Western Sahara, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

The very holding of this Seminar in the Republic of Zambia, at the initiative of the ZANU and ZAPU wings of the PATRIOTIC FRONT of ZIMBABWE, SWAPO of NAMIBIA and the ANC of SOUTH AFRICA is a clear indication of the advances made by the forces of Freedom, Justice and Human Dignity in the long and arduous struggle for the total liberation of the African Continent.

I wish to pay special tribute to the Government, the UNIP Party and People of Zambia who, through their Ministry of Education, in response to our appeal, have worked self-lessly to ensure the success of this Seminar. As hosts, not only did they provide the necessary facilities for the holding of the Seminar, but, by their active participation, are ready to impart to us the benefit of their valuable experiences during their period of transition from a colony into a fully-fledged sovereign, independent state. By this noble action they will assist us to avoid some of the pitfalls deliberately created by the colonial powers to frustrate our efforts towards true independence.

Our gratitude extends equally to those who have been able to come to share ideas with us, as well as the Dag Hammerskjold Foundation which has always been ready to sponsor similar seminars related to Education and Liberation. We as Liberation Movements have gained a lot from such seminars, as that held in Dar es Salaam in 1974 on "Education and Alternatives in Education and Training in African Countries". We also participated in the Maputo Seminar on "Educational Alternatives in Southern Africa" held in April, 1978. In fact, the present Seminar was conceived and approved at the Seminar held in Maputo.

Sponsors:- African National Congress of South Africa. Patriotic Front ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union). Patriotic Front ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union). South West African Peoples Organisation. The Peoples Republic of Angola. The Dag Hammerskjold Foundation.



This Seminar, which hopes to cover no less than Ten Topics within six days, can only be a fore-runner to more specialised and detailed discussions on issues which will be raised here. We have no doubt that our allies and supporters, who have been willing to assist us during the dark days, will not lose hope when our goal is already visible on the horizon.

Dear Comrades,

It is with a sense of deep pride and heartfelt jubilation that we welcome our comrades and neighbours from newly-independent ZIMBABWE -- a ZIMBABWE born through fire and blood against an evil system of human oppression, exploitation and national degradation.

Your victory Comrades, is a great inspiration to us, particularly in Namibia and South Africa. We are fully behind you in all your efforts to consolidate and safeguard that victory. We fully support your endeavours to rebuild and develop a new man in a free Zimbabwe, where the colour of one's skin will only have the aesthetic value of enriching the kaleidoscope of human society.

Mr Chairman,

It is opportune here to remind ourselves that victory in the battlefield is not an end in itself, but thereafter the battlefield shifts from the bush to the classroom, to the factory, to the mines and agricultural fields.

The importance of Education is that, even before victory is achieved, one has to provide and prepare the necessary Manpower Resources to man the already established institutions and even create new ones -- all for the service of the People. This means that one has first to have a thorough knowledge of these institutions in order to be able to use them to the benefit of the Nation.

Those who have gone through the phase of Revolution and set themselves the task of building socialism, appear to have this experience in common :- that although the phase of armed struggle is painful and very costly in terms of human and material resources, notwithstanding, you have a clearly defined and visible enemy or target.

In my discussions with them, some have voiced the opinion that it is even easier to elaborate policies for socio-economic reconstruction and development. The real crunch is in the correct and successful implementation of those policies. Here, the enemy is not only the hostile or paid saboteur. At times you may actually be your own enemy through ignorance, lack of experience and expertise. Nowadays, the scientific and technological progress advances at such a pace that some newly-constructed machinery becomes outdated even before it reaches the conveyer belt for mass production.



We who are faced with the task of assuming State Power in the present epoch are fortunate in that we do not have to go through the stages of early discoveries and experimentation. Our primary manpower resources are the very workers, peasants and intellectuals who today make it possible for the oppressive state machinery to function. Our task is to win them on to our side and give them the correct orientation, to make them serve even better for what belongs to them.

With the help of our tried allies and supporters, we are able, within a much shorter period, to provide them with the necessary training; to change them from reluctant semi-skilled labourers to qualified, enthusiastic workers capable of carrying the Revolution forward.

Mr Chairman,

The programme of this Seminar is an ambitious one. This cannot be otherwise, for it is no easy task to take over the running of a country. But it is at the same time a demonstration of the confidence of our people in the respective areas, that we are equal to the task.

Through this Seminar we are showing that years of malicious and damaging propaganda aimed at convincing us that, we Africans are incapable of running our own affairs, have failed to daunt our will and determination.

The South African Cabinet Minister who publicly declared that "Africans are slow thinkers" had to swallow his words when our valiant soldiers struck at the very life-line of South African industry at SASOL. The South African propagandists are fast losing credibility when, after each claim that they have "completely destroyed SWAPO bases" they have to admit to still bigger casualties by the day.

This Seminar is the essence of what we mean when we talk of an all-round onslaught on the enemy. Even as the enemy soldiers are suffering bigger losses, the people are already laying the foundations of new structures for a new society where all citizens shall have equal opportunities to develop the best in them for the good of the Motherland and mankind as a whole.

This cooperation and exchange of experiences, first among the Liberation Movements themselves, and between the Liberation Movements and independent countries of the Sub-continent, is but an aspect of the over-all concept of inter-regional cooperation among free, independent states, which was crystallised in May at the Lusaka Meeting on Economic Cooperation of Southern and Central African States. It is a fitting rebuttal to the imperialist manoeuvres of the Botha regime to set up a constellation of Southern African states with South Africa as the sun, and all the other member-countries



member-countries/

revolving around her; to force other countries to eternally solicit her scorching rays which leave the receiver a dehydrated vassal.

It is a tribute to the foresight of our Brothers in independent African States that they see no future in consolidating their relations with a transient, fascist South Africa. On the contrary. By their assistance to the liberation forces in this part of the world, they are investing in the brighter future of cooperation among free, sovereign states whose stability is not based on pogroms, massacres of children and repressive legislation.

With the destruction of expansionist Apartheid South Africa, there will be less forces to subvert and undermine the independence of free Africa.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me in conclusion to convey to the participants of this Seminar our best wishes for fruitful discussions and a successful beginning to what will no doubt be repeated -- not only in the field of Education, but in all the multitudinous fields which are components of our respective societies in Southern Africa and the world at large.

A LUTTA CONTINUA !

AMANDLA NGAWETHU !!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE !!!