

ZIM 022/0047/02

REDDY

REPORT ON MISSION TO ZIMBABWE

Time of Visit: 20-25 October, 1986

Purpose of Visit:

- i) to attend the Longman Publishing Conference
- ii) to have consultations with the ANC Education Committee in Harare
- iii) to establish contact with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Education

Participants: Barbara Masekela, Mohammed Tikly, Lindelwe Mabandla

INTRODUCTION

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

(A) LONGMAN GROUP PUBLISHING CONFERENCE

- A.1. 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.

2. 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 Mutumbuka was present and made a formal presentation.
- 3a 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 Paper is appended. The Paper deals with ANC education policy and curriculum aims and objectives.
- 3b 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 development, 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 SOMAFECO. 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:-

- i) Support with books for (a) our Library in Harare (b) for SOMAFECO, and request catalogues from Longman's African Divisions, 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 relevance for us.

The ANC delegation had a preliminary discussion on the eve of the Conference and a number of concrete suggestions were made. These assisted our deliberations at the Conference. One of the issues worth mentioning is the feeling of the group that we should research systematically into what is happening at Home.

ii 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 Jaya Appalraju, the Secretary. Close liaison is necessary between the Committee and the NSC.

iii 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 The Curriculum Development Centre and to provide us with its materials, such as, the Zimsci equipment. Indeed, we brought along some donated materials.

As for curriculum development trainees, two steps should be taken as quickly as possible by the NSC/SOMAFSCO. First to identify trainees and negotiate the details of placement with Fay Chung. Second, to find a donor for this scheme.

Later, we should explore the placement of candidates for teacher training in Zimbabwe.

CONCLUSION

The delegation benefited greatly from the mission to Zimbabwe. Apart from learning about is educational system, closer ties were established with the Minister for Education and other key personnel. We received firm offers of assistance from the Ministry, as well as from Longman. The perspective on our educational system through the sphere of publishing was instructive.

M Tikly
Director

15/11/86