



XIIITH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS PYONGYANG 1 - 8 JULY 89



A . N . C . Y O U T H S E C T I O N R E P O R T

The 13th World Festival of Youth and Students follows after the monumental Moscow 12th Festival which marked the 40th Anniversary of the defeat of fascism in Europe, the 10th Anniversary of the Helsinki Peace Accord and the UN-declared Year of the Youth.

Pyongyang Summer^{of} 89 played host to a record-setting, most representative Festival with more than 20,000 participants from 180 countries. Historic also about the 13th Festival was that of it being held for the time in its history on the Asian soil. ^{it} [^]

With the slogan of the 11th and 12th Festivals as its theme: "For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship" the 13th WFYS brought together youth and students from the five continents to Pyongyang to engage in varied and deep discussions, exchange of views and opinions on issues and questions relevant in present times on the new international economic order, which represents the present dialogue between the rich and poor nations, questions of peace and nuclear disarmament, environmental and ecological problems, which are threatening the very existence of our planet, the relationship between education, the sciences and technology, the desires and rights of children, youth and students, the rights of women, problems of national liberation and the rights of nations to self-determination, etc.

The deliberations during the Festival expressed the desires and aspirations of the youth and

students of all continents for a nuclear-free, non-exploitative, democratic and peaceful world with a bright future.

FESTIVAL PREPARATORY PROCESS

The Importance of the World Festival movement finds expression in the elaborate and arduous process of preparations undertaken to guarantee its success. As from February, 1987 preparations for the 13th WFYS had begun. The stages of preparations were Moscow, New Delhi, Berlin and Korea which were the first steps to the fourth International preparatory Committee (IPC) meetings respectively. Just on the eve of the Festival the 5th IPC was held in Pyongyang, the venue of the Festival.

In between the IPCs, Provisional Working Groups were set up to continue the process. The 3rd IPC had appointed a Permanent Commission (PC) which started its work in Korea in January 89.

The IPC is constituted by representatives of national organisations, National Preparatory Committees (NPC), liberation movements, regional and international organisations, thus preparations begin from grassroots level and ascend to international bodies such as the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and International Union of Students (IUS), representatives of the youth and students on a global scale. The task of the IPC is to ensure that preparations are undertaken, receive progress reports, draw the Festival

Programme and to facilitate the means for the successful holding of the Festival.

It is important to note that during the 3rd IPC a list of guests of the Festival was proposed and adopted. Amongst those invited were prominent figures such as the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Director General of UNESCO, the Chairman of the ;Non-Alignment Movement, the President of the IOC and the leader of the ANC, Comrade Nelson ;Mandela.

The Korean Preparatory Committee (KPC) shouldered the most enormous task. As the host NPC they had to provide facilities for all Festival activities – the PCHQ and working means, accommodation for about 30 000 delegates, meeting halls, sports and cultural facilities, etc. Immense as this task may have been, in a period of about three years, dozens of 15-storey blocks of flats were built and furnished for use by delegates, a 150 000-seat stadium, swimming pools, national clubs for the different delegations and other extraordinary facilities were created for this occasion.

Recreation, food, transport, excursions were the responsibility of the KPC. The indelible impression left on our minds by the diligence of the KPC is that no material or human resource was spared in attaining that high level of organisation. Every detail was taken care of, such that, as we came until our departure we were continuously ;impressed and inspired by the readiness of the Korean people to respond to every call by the Festival delegates.

The Pyongyang Festival has set a very high standard which can only take the whole nation to match or supersede for the oncoming festivals. They have further enriched the Festival Movement, thereby declaring themselves a permanent point of reference for future festivals.

ANC PREPARATIONS

Our NPC was launched in November, 1988. Immediately after its setting it sent out directives to all our youth and students including youth and students inside South Africa who belong to the Mass Democratic Organisations. All documents and information sent to us by

the IPC, WFDY and IUS were dispatched to our respective detachments for the preparations.

Owing to the fluidity of our situation most of those initially appointed for NPC work fell out and assumed other pressing tasks of our organisation. New personnel to continue the work of the NPC was allocated and its final structure eventually stood as follows:

1. Convenor – Malombo Ntshilontshilo
2. Administrative Secretary – Bob Mazwi
3. Assistant Administrator – Nyembezi Nkuhlu
4. Material Assistant Sec – Bachana Mokoena
5. Publicity Co-ordinator – Gladstone Zenzo

The final stage of preparation for the regions was the election of delegates in accordance to a quota allocated to each region. Unfortunately, not all of our regions managed to take part in the Festival due to various reasons ;ranging from communication breakdowns, late responses to directives, etc.

We take this opportunity to commend all those regions that succeeded in preparation and attendance of the Festival, despite being fully engaged in studies and organisational work. Some of the most outstanding of these were Australia, Canada, Cuba, USA and Tanzania. It was precisely because of their hard work that our festival delegation made such great impact on our deliberations at the Festival.

To be commended also are the youth and ;students from the mass democratic organisations inside South Africa, who, despite enormous tasks on their shoulders and working in the conditions of the state of emergency, succeeded in the preparations and participation in the Festival.

Before our delegation left for Korea Comrade Thabo Mbeki agreed to give a briefing on the current internal and international situation, thus arming the delegation with the line of march during the festival.

In Pyongyang the Secretary-General of our Movement, Comrade Alfred Nzo, further strengthened the political base of our delegation when he briefed the entire ANC Youth Section delegation, ensuring that all topical issues related to our struggle were addressed to and in their proper perspective.

PARTICIPATION AT THE FESTIVAL

Our delegation could be characterised as being most representative in that it included representatives from all sections of our movement starting from Masupatsela to the NEC members. It had also a backing of the token but very representative delegation of the youth and students in the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa.

There were sixty-five people coming from 12 countries where we are working and studying, including Comrade Nzo, eleven pioneers and nine journalists. Twenty-seven expected comrades could not attend.

Comrade Nelson Mandela as a special guest of the festival could not attend as well.

Five organs – Co-ordinating Committee, Political Committee, Bilateral Meetings Committee, Technical Staff, Administration – were created for the smooth running of our activities during the festival. Though these structures managed to fulfil their tasks some of them manifested weaknesses that would need to be corrected in future.

26TH JUNE COMMEMORATION

26th June found us in Korea, and, in keeping with our tradition, we observed the South African Freedom Day with our friends and sympathisers present at the time. The young people who attended came from Angola, Brazil, Chad, Cuba, El Salvador, Jamaica, Korea, Laos, Patrice Lumumba University, Nicaragua, USSR, Vietnam and PDR Yemen.

The commemoration of this day had some significance for our participation at the Festival. Firstly it helped introduce the ANC to that virgin land in terms of our political presence. By the support that we enjoyed from those present the Korean people began not only to know us better but also respected us very greatly.

The main content of the message delivered on that occasion was aimed at exposing the South African regime which in the present posed as having changed colours to allow for peaceful and democratic changes in the country, Namibia and the entire Southern African region, whereas in practice it had increased its

repression of the people of our region.

This message which was heard loud and clear also underlined our contribution in all our deliberations at the Festival.

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 13TH WFYS

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the 13th WFYS was a solemn declaration reflecting the unanimous desire of the youth and students of the five continents to defend the ideas of the Festival Movement, preserve its traditions and experience and record a brilliant chapter in its annals.

The Ceremony began with the youth and students from all the countries represented at the Festival marching into the May Day Stadium adorned in their traditional colours to register their presence and preparedness to participate in the Festival.

They were welcomed by Comrade Choe Ryong Hae, Chairman of KPC and Chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea. Presidents Kim Il Sung and Robert Mugabe also gave welcoming addresses.

The opening ceremony was also marked by the unveiling of the 13th WFYS Monument, the hoisting of the Festival Flag and the lighting of the Festival Eternal Flame.

Finally, the people of Pyongyang welcomed their friends who had come to attend the Pyongyang Festival from across continents and oceans. In a daringly colourful cultural activity that retained its high standards throughout the Festival period they sang and danced for their guests.

EXCURSIONS

Our delegation undertook several excursions during the Festival period some of which were:

- Visit to the 38th Parallel, Panmunjom, which is the demarcation line between the two Koreas. There is much tension here caused by the division of Korea by the US Administration and its threat to continue to penetrate the North.

• Visit to Kim Il Sung Memorial House where the leader of that country was born. The Korean people hold their leader in very high esteem and they have pictures of him and his son almost in every building.

• Visit to a Pyongyang Maternity Hospital which offers 1 000 beds for Korean mothers and their babies. We were told that North Korea has done away with child mortality!

Climbing the beautiful Kumgang Mountains which some locals referred to as the most beautiful spot on earth. Unfortunately, they said, we could have come in autumn to see this.

• Visits to the various cultural and sporting resorts around the city of Pyongyang. Koreans have rich culture and children as young as four years old were also engaged in the cultural activity of that country. The children by their performances left us in great surprise.

• Visit to a collective farm outside Pyongyang where the Juche farming system was introduced to us. Korean agriculture has a record of successive bumper harvests in many of its sectors and has made the country to be self-sufficient in agricultural products, despite the fact that 80% of the country is covered by mountains.

Visit to the Memorial Cemetery of Korean Heroes, Koreans draw much inspiration from their revolutionary heroes, who fell during the liberation war against the Japanese and American forces of aggression.

The Nampo Barrage which cuts through an enclave on the Pacific shores and joins two provinces of North Korea making it not only an economic viable project but also adding to the beauty of that country.

• Korea is a very beautiful country characterised by thousands of mountains and green terrain. Its capital Pyongyang seems to be embodying the beauty of the entire country with its bright buildings, trees and flowers. Its beauty is reflected, as one delegate commented, not only in its buildings and greenery, but also in the people of that country who really bent backwards for our comfort as their guests. Pyongyang is said to have no parks, but is a city in the park.

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

The youth and students gathered in Pyongyang took part in the political discussions including problems affecting humanity at present. These discussions were divided into eight these

Each delegation informed the Festival on these problems as manifested in their respective countries. They made clear the positions of their governments, parties and organisations in relation to these problems. They also made recommendations as to what could be done to resolve them thereby ensuring a secure world and a brighter future for the youth.

Our contribution to these discussions covered our theoretical understanding of the problems with reference to our country. In this respect we were able to portray the repressive nature of the apartheid regime at present and also exposed its demagoguery of wanting to appear presentable to the world whilst continuing to be even more aggressive than before.

We successfully revealed the connection it has with the imperialist countries in general and the transnational and multinational corporations in particular, who have remained as the main source of its strength and, consequently, brutality.

We also exposed the collaboration of some of the African, Asian and Latin American countries with the racist regime in the economic and military spheres.

Israel was continuously mentioned as a very strong ally of South Africa which acts as the main link in the chain of collaboration with the racist in the military sphere, and Japan on its increasing trade links with the regime. The success of our participation was reflected in the amount of support we enjoyed from our colleagues during the entire period of the Festival. It was also felt in the way the regime was being condemned by almost every speaker during the discussions. Above all, the participants gave a unanimous support to our struggle as just including the use of arms as means to eradicate the obnoxious system of apartheid once and for all from the face of the earth.

Representatives of the delegations from the

five continents expressed the wish to have stronger links with our movement and joint activities with us in their respective countries.

Of the many Important resolutions and suggestions raised during the discussions we herewith present but a few.

1. The need to organise a day on which the world community will make a human chain across the continents demonstrating for the release of Nelson Mandela.
2. The need to lobby for Comrade Mandela to be conferred with the Nobel Peace Prize award.
3. To encourage all-round support for ANC and SWAPO as a condition for solving the problems of the violation of human rights in Southern Africa.
4. To Increase the morale and material support for South African workers who labour under state terrorism in their country.
8. To isolate South Africa in all spheres particularly in the scientific and technological even if she can sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
9. To campaign against the rescheduling of new loans to South Africa. The World Bank and IMF were condemned in their role as tools of imperialism.
10. To work to isolate all those regimes that collaborate with the racist regime of South Africa.
11. To make a move by the UN member states to challenge the veto powers of the USA and UK which impeded the process of implementing comprehensive mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa.
12. To condemn Japan for having increased its trade links with South Africa in the last two years despite repeated calls from the world community to isolate the regime.
13. To fight for an end to arms race and the rechanneling of military spendings to favour socio-economic development projects.

14. To work to involve more of our people in the front of struggle for the protection of the environment as the Imperialist countries are increasingly using Africa in particular as a dumping ground for their toxic waste. Starting from August this year Italy will dump its toxic waste in Pieter-Maritzburg.

The experience gained during our participation in the various thematic centres, special fora and events, as well as in the Children Centre, showed that youth, students and children from all parts of the world were on our side. During this period we were able to win even more of the world youth to support our cause. However more work still needs to be done to spread our support base and to deepen its content and practical participation of our supporters.

During the course of the Festival we also got the opportunity to learn more about the struggles of the people of other countries and the need for us to pledge solidarity with them as part of our duties.

SOLIDARITY RALLIES

The solidarity with the youth and students as well as the entire people of South Africa was part of the festival programme. It was during this rally that the youth and students of the world reaffirmed their support for our struggle. They came in their numbers to pledge their solidarity with the fighting people of our country. The occasion was a mammoth event and will leave a mark in the minds of those people who were present, people who wish to see South Africa free.

The rally was preceded by many such rallies. We accepted with pleasure the invitations to attend rallies organised for the people of Namibia, Palestine, Korea, Western Sahara, El Salvador and many others. Worth to mention is that among the demands made in these and other rallies was the demand for the release of our imprisoned leaders. 'Release Mandela' was a common slogan chanted in most of these rallies.

At the Namibian rally our delegation was invited to the stage to pledge, together with our sister organisation, to deliver the final blow to apartheid, the enemy of the people of

our region and of humanity as a whole.

These rallies and all the other activities undertaken at the Festival pointed to the need for youth, students and children to unite in the struggle against all forms of oppression, exploitation, discrimination and the violation of human rights. More exchange of information and joint actions were realised as the main vehicle for the unity of the young people of the world.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Due to the tight schedule of the Festival and indicative of the popularity our movement enjoys internationally, our delegation was unable to honour most of the meeting requests flooding our quarter. We only managed to participate in a little more than twenty-five of them, some of which discussed issues of mutual interests or followed up on questions discussed in meetings prior to the Festival.

Central to our discussions was to seek ways and means of broadening and deepening the campaign to isolate the Pretoria regime and solicit more support for and increased solidarity with the ANC and its allies, plus all other formations of the Mass Democratic Movement inside the country.

To this end we signed a Protocol Agreement with the Afghan youth. We also received a five-hundred USA Dollars token from the Democratic Youth League of Japan and Zengakhurin in support of the youth and students from inside the country. We received T-shirts from the Australian, Canadian and USA youth and people specially made for the Festival and which we will continue to use in our activities. We also received printed propaganda material in different languages from the Soviet Union, GDR. In addition we received two typewriters from the latter delegation.

We engaged with the Soviet youth in the thorny and perhaps the most burning issue of the 13th WFYS – the future of the Festival Movement. We also welcomed the proposal of the French delegation to initiate a nomination campaign that would make Cde Nelson Mandela the next Nobel Peace Prize contestant.

PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA

A series of propaganda and publicity activities were conducted during the entire period of the Festival by our delegation taking various forms like meetings, individual discussions, wearing t-shirts, photo exhibition, disseminating information through videos, etc. The following material was exhibited or displayed wherever we participated:

Posters: Posters from the MDM and the NLM of our people depicting repression and struggle in our country.

Tee Shirts: Five types with Festival Logo and ANC colours; each with portrait of Solomon Mahlangu, Nelson and Winnie Mandela and various types of T-shirts belonging to individuals.

Publications and printed Material: Sechaba May 1989; Freedom Charter, Constitutional Guidelines, in English, French, Russian and Spanish; photo exhibition on the trade union movement in South Africa; information file on the South African women in struggle.

Banners and Flags: We carried three flags and one or two banners with us which we effectively utilised at the Festival.

In addition our radio, newspaper, photo and video crews collected massive information on the proceedings of the Festival in their various forms. These will be presented to our membership for its information.

Apart from these achievements in this aspect of our work much would have been achieved had we prepared well in advance.

SPORTS AND CULTURE

The Festival proceedings were also marked by many other activities attracting youth interest and appreciation. Sports and culture, the cradle of youth unity, took place as part of these activities. We played a football match against the French delegation in which we lost – by three goals to zero. We were not well prepared to take part in other sporting activities.

We were also not prepared to take part in cultural activities. It was only the pioneers that

put up cultural activities though they performed to a limited group i.e. their pioneer colleagues from other countries. The time factor played a role in our failure to take part in culture, since we were a group made up of people from different regions and the festival schedule would not allow time for any practice. This question will still need to be looked into more closely as it involves many other issues including the very selection of our delegation.

Culture was a subject of discussion as one of the programmes of the Festival. We participated in this elaborating culture in South Africa and the cultural policy of the racist regime. We also called on the youth and students of the world to intensify the cultural isolation of racist South Africa.

PIONEER ACTIVITIES

Pioneers from fiftyseven countries representing eighty children's organisations participated in an international pioneer camp which was part of the many festival events.

Pioneer leaders and the youth specialising in children's programmes discussed and shared experiences on the plight of children in this world of conflicts. During their deliberations they came up with a number of proposals aimed at the following goals:

- a) The need to struggle for the adoption at the UN of the Convention of the Children's Charter;
- b) Campaign for the release of children detainees and all political prisoners in South Africa;
- c) To campaign for material and morale support for ANC and SWAPO children and all children fighting for national liberation and against all forms of oppression; and exploitation.

The delegates of Masupatsela A Walter Sisulu also took part in the Festival pioneer camp where they engaged in discussions, cultural, sporting and folklore games. At the camp, to their surprise, they did much playing than discussions for which they so much prepared.

VOLUNTARY LABOUR

We also took part in the traditional Festival voluntary labour. Delegates contributed their labour in a gesture of solidarity and friendship at a construction site of the 105-story Ryon-gyong Hotel which is the first concrete structure of its height in the world. The Hotel stands 323 metres high, offers 3,000 rooms, meeting halls, restaurants, swimming pools, saunas, physiotherapy rooms, etc. to its guests. It took the Korean workers only one year to erect the hotel.

This event served as a token solidarity and friendship with the workers and people of Korea; who are fighting for the complete victory of socialism in their country. Participating in the labour were youth and students from many parts of the globe including those from the most reactionary states.

HIGHLIGHTS

Unveiling of the 13th WFYS Monument: This was one of the main events marking the opening of the festival. It was with great pride that our delegation was invited to speak on behalf of the entire delegations of the Festival on this important occasion. To us this was indication of how the youth of the world and the people of Korea regarded our movement and our struggle.

Peace Torch March: We were honoured to have been included in the small group of countries that lighted the Festival Peace Flame for the much inspiring Torch March of Youth and Students for Peace and a Nuclear-free World. Other delegations who lighted the Elame were PLO, USA, USSR, El Salvador, Korea, Christian Peace Conference, World Peace Council and Habakusha (atom bomb victim).

Banquet:

Per the invitation by the President of Korea, Comrade Kim Il Sung, we attended a banquet as his guests.

OUT OF AGENDA EVENTS

The 13th WFYS did not pass without its own incidents some of which threatened the very continuity of the 13th Festival and, indeed of the Festival Movement as a whole. Some of the

discussions had to be adjourned one or more times as a result of confrontations that took place between various individual and group delegations.

The Tiananmen shooting was one issue, Morocco vs Polisario, Japan vs Japan, Palestine vs Israel, Japan vs Korea, England vs Ireland, Middle East vs EEC, etc. were other matters which needed great concern whenever they manifested themselves. Though the Festival proceeded to its successful end without any serious hindrance to its proceedings, it does not mean that these problems were resolved by the Festival. Many were left in abeyance as 'regional or internal' matters. But as some of them have shown there is a necessity to review the present social and political relations with a view to map out future correlation of forces particularly among the youth and students of the world.

MEETING OF OUR DELEGATION

Before departure our delegation came together to make an initial assessment of our participation in the Festival. There it was generally agreed that our participation was commendable and that we could have done even better had we had ample time for preparations. The next Festival must find those who are to participate better organised by learning through the experience of the present festival.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 13TH WFYS

The closing Ceremony of the 13th WFYS included votes of thanks from Festival dignitaries and representatives of the Korean people, delegations, etc.

The people of Pyongyang bid farewell to their guests and friends from afar in the most spectacular cultural event which will remain in

their memories for a long time to come for those that witnessed it.

The Festival Flame was extinguished on the 8th July and that marked the end of the 13th WFYS. But it did not mean the end to the Festival Movement. Participants would take with them to their respective countries the light from the flame, the spirit and traditions of the Festival Movement and spread them to their quarters. They would come to the next WFYS with new and accumulated energy for more battles ahead.

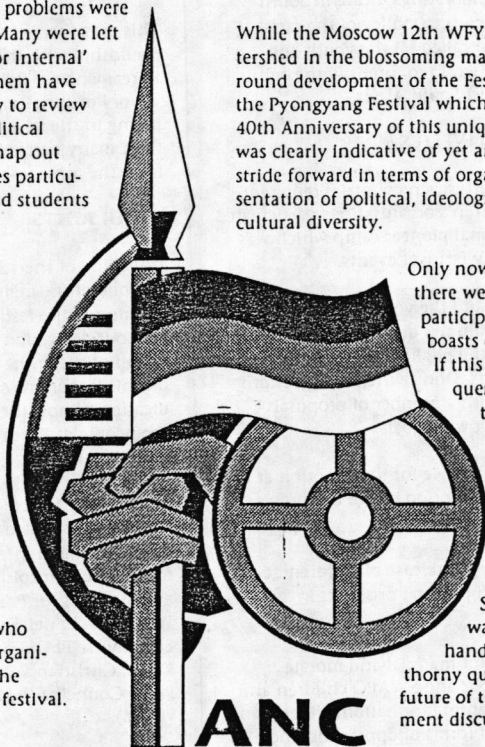
While the Moscow 12th WFYS marked a watershed in the blossoming maturity and all-round development of the Festival Movement, the Pyongyang Festival which marked the 40th Anniversary of this unique movement was clearly indicative of yet another step, nay, stride forward in terms of organisation, representation of political, ideological, religious and cultural diversity.

Only now in Moscow 85 there were 157 countries participating, Pyongyang boasts of 180 countries.

If this is not an eloquent and graphic testimony to the growth in scope and depth of our movement, then the manner in which the explosive Tainanmen Square episode was discussed and handled, plus the thorny question of the future of the Festival Movement discussed should be such an indicator.

We may therefore safely and confidently say that the theme: 'For Anti-imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship', guided the 13th Festival of Youth and Students to the successful finish.

ANC NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 1989



Year of Mass Action for People's Power!