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ALL AFRICA STUDENT'S UNION CONFERENCE

ALEXANDRIA 17-19 NOVEMBER, 1974.

The conference was attended by more than 20 participants. The ANC Youth and Students was represented by Michael Themba and Mike Mbeya. As it is characteristic of all African youth conferences held in Arab countries this one in particular was no exception, in regard as to who is invited, who is to be an observer.

According to Article 3(1) of the Constitution we were informed that South Africa will be represented by both ANC and PAC we did not consider them as any threat because as far as we are concerned their case is closed in our files. But since South Africa was entitled to one vote we somehow induce them into following our line.

The conference was lacking in preparation to the extent that one day was wasted debating the rule of procedure and some credentials of the two Eritrean Movements. It is important to note that not a single document of the conference was typedwritten from the Secretary General's report to most of the delegates speeches. I will here inform you of what I consider important, since Michael Themba as the head of the delegation is going to present a comprehensive report:

1. The inconsistency of the All African Student's Union as a continental organisation somehow handicapped our political activity in scope.

2. We felt that since the ANC never campaign for positions and instead she is always invited to occupy some, we deemed it proper not to indulge ourselves in position seeking spree, since it was the sole purpose of the 3rd conference.

3. The poor attendance gave the conference an atmosphere of unofficiality, because some Western African Countries had to leave even before the elections.

4. In the midst of all that confusion there came a time that was awaited for by those who were interested in positions that is elections. Since the office of the Secretary General ~~was vacant~~ and that of the Assistant Secretary General for Information, Education and Culture were vacant there were to be contested. It was felt that those unions elected to this posts should work on acting basis, because that of S!G. which was occupied by Tanzania the term of office is expiring next year, and that of the Ass. S.G. for Information, Education and Culture supposedly occupied by Guinea since the Second Conference held in Dar es Salaam but was never filled because Guinea does not recognise the Accra HQ.

5. The elections of Regional Secretaries climax the confusion, where countries even refused their geographical locations like Sudan in the D'Salaam conference she was ~~not~~ classified as falling in the Northern Region but in this conference she claimed to be in the Central Region because there was no representation of this region they took advantage of that.

The electoral commission was composed of the following;

(a) Ass. S.G. for Liberation Movements and Political Affairs. Namibia



- (b) Lesotho
- (c) Mauritius
- (d) D.R. Korea

Elections standings.

Secretary General	Egypt	Unanimous
Ass. S.G. Inf. Educ. & Cult.	Malagasy	"

The other Assistant Secretaries retained their posts since their term of office expires next year.

Regional Secretaries:

Eastern Africa	Somali	
Western Africa	Togo	Uncontested
Northern Africa	Tunisia	"
Central Africa	Sudan	"
Southern Africa	S.A.S.M.	contested (NB)

Regarding the Southern Africa region the Assistant Secretary for Liberation Movements and Political Affairs told the conference that SASM is representing students from Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia. Zimbabwe's position is not clear. In view of SASM's activities the Ass. S.G. for Liberation Movements and Political Affairs told the Conference that it should continue to occupy the post of regional secretary for the Southern Africa region. Z.A.P.U. Had not informed us as to whether they wanted this post, as a result they tried in vain to get it but to no avail, as they had done previously in Benghazi and Baghdad. Unofficially they were promised an Executive membership on the pretext of strengthening the Liberation Movements in the Executive.

Recommendations

1. The childishness of this organisation stems from ~~xxx~~ its shaky constitution and therefore it must be amended.
2. Try and talk to our comrades ~~from~~ of ZAPU so as to know before as to whether they are interested at certain position before we go to any conference because they tend to embarrass themselves and in turn put a blame to ANC.
3. ANC delegation if it need be should be informed as to whether have to direct our guns to certain posts, although we have never had to resort to such methods.

Mike Mbeya.

Cairo!