

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL

SYMPOSIUM "EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION"

BREMEN, APRIL 24 - 27, 1984

1. An international Symposium about "education for liberation" was held in Bremen from 24th to 27th of April, 1984 with representatives of the ANC of South Africa, the SWAPO of Namibia, the Frente Polisario in the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and the United Nation's Institute for Namibia in cooperation with the Namibia Project at the University of Bremen, terre des hommes (Federal Republic of Germany), and the Bremen Information Center for Human Rights and Development.

The Symposium welcomed the opportunity to exchange opinions and experiences and to elaborate on possibilities and perspectives for future cooperation in the field "education for liberation". It was appreciated that the efforts of several non-governmental organizations and institutions were officially supported by various State Authorities of Bremen as well as by the Commission of the European Community.

2. The Symposium realised that the subject of the Conference can be understood only in the light of the socio-political environment in which "education for liberation" takes place. Hence the Symposium stressed that the peoples' right of self-determination is the fundamental principle on which all efforts should be based.

In South Africa, the people suffer from the oppression of the racist Apartheid-regime, the same regime, that illegally occupies the territory of Namibia. The Saharan people are confronted with the brutal war the Moroccan invader has imposed on the country. Both, the Moroccan and the South African regime, are backed politically, militarily, economically by strong imperialist forces, such as the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Great Britain.

Despite of these hard conditions, the liberation movements of South Africa, Namibia, and the Western Sahara have made gigantic efforts in developping education for liberation. However, in order to continue these efforts, the liberation movements need assistance from outside. This assistance can only be on the basis of mutual cooperation and in support of the indispensable right of every people of self-determination.

3.1 The main reason for organising the Symposium "Education for Liberation" in Bremen lies in the already established cooperation between the Namibia-Project-teams at the University of Bremen and UNIN. This project was started some 4 years ago. Now the results of the first phase of the project have been presented:

- "Our Namibia", a social studies textbook to be used in Namibian schools (Nyango, Cuanza Sul) and other Namibian institutions in upper primary and lower secondary levels
- The "Lernbuch Namibia", a book for the use in schools of the FRG, for the secondary level

The organisers, including the liberation movements and UNIN took the occasion of the publication of the two books as opportunity to exchange views and experiences. The textbook formed the basis of this exchange.

3.2 Another important reason for organising the Symposium at that time and that place is the 100th anniversary of the Berlin Africa Conference, which confirmed and intensified the colonial division of Africa. We are herewith not celebrating, but commemorating this event that brought misery and oppression to Africa. Now the colonial era is over; a new age of liberty has started.

3.3 The Symposium followed the conception already established during previous meetings that decolonization is not only a political postulate for the colonised but also for the colonisers. Streets and monuments remind us here of the age of colonisation. Even more important are the consequences of neo-colonialism which involves not only the consciousness of many people but is also constraining the economic relations between the western capitalist countries and the third world.

4. In two working groups on different levels the Symposium dealt with related aspects and issues of education for liberation. This discussion was based on certain fundamental assumptions and insights in the essential role education for liberation plays within the allembicing national struggle for independence. This has been emphasised in particular in the contributions given by the representatives and speakers on behalf of the three participating liberation movements.

4.1 The importance of the educational efforts and their contribution to social change was the framework of discussing relevant issues of reforms of both, form and structure of education which should lead to a system without any racial and sexual discrimination. The topics discussed included curriculum planning, examination systems, adult education, university and other tertiary education, education and production, teacher training, women and education. As a common perspective, education must be seen as inseparably interrelated with the allembicing process of social transformation. It is an integral part of the strive for genuine sovereignty established by the peoples fighting for self-determination. At the same time, educational alternatives designed and practised in the present transitional phase offer the historic chance to create and develop meaningful changes within the existing world-wide system of formal education with its underlying philosophy.

4.2 On the level of content, "Our Namibia" and "Lernbuch Namibia" are appreciated as necessary attempts of integrating the Namibian people's view of its history and present state of affairs into the existing body of teaching and learning materials.

Under the given conditions of the struggle for liberation of Namibia, the partiality of the two books is considered a necessity. Hence, in presenting the books to the public as well as to German teachers and students, the impossibility of maintaining a "neutral position" by self-determination should be elaborated. The books are seen as important tools for overcoming colonial stereotypes and prejudices, leading towards the implementation of the educational objectives and ideals of peace-education, reconciliation and justice in schools and adult education. However, methodological issues and in particular varieties of the ways of applying such material to differing target groups should be further developed.

The Symposium has appreciated the interest of the Namibia project group in considering the results of the Symposium as well as future working experience in developing further teaching and learning materials and in preparing a second printing of the existing material.

5. Recommendations

The Symposium notes, that education is crucial in the process of creating and shaping attitudes, in particular racism and other forms of prejudice. Similarly, in terms of political participation education can either be seen as an obstacle or an incentive. It affects the individuals taking over an active or passive role in the process of overcoming social inequality, in particular colonial and neo-colonial relations.

The symposiums states that the basis for any initiative or activity by member states of the international community should be the United Nations' recommendations and decisions concerning the inalienable right of self-determination for all people. In particular, the condemnation of apartheid as a crime against humanity, the declaration of the occupation of Namibia by racist South Africa as illegal, as well as the declaration of the right of self-determination for the people of the West Sahara.

The symposium concludes:

1. In the struggle for human liberation and dignity the conception of mutual cooperation and self-determination must be strengthened.
2. The material, political, cultural or diplomatic support offered by the Western governments directly to the liberation movements in their struggle against colonialism, racism, oppression and exploitation has been recognized as completely inadequate. The same holds for the support granted to Non-Governmental Organisations that assist the liberation movements in this struggle. These governments are called upon to intensify their support.
3. The elaboration of teaching and learning materials in the existing structures of the Namibia Project must be continued.
4. The efforts of European to overall decolonisation (economically, mentally and politically) in their own countries must be developed.

5. It is necessary to increase budget allocations for disseminating the textbook "Our Namibia" in Southern Africa.
6. The State Ministries for Education and Culture should see it is as their duty that the "Lernbuch Namibia" be used not only in Bremen, but in other parts of the Federal Republic of Germany.
7. The ongoing support for racist South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia and the backing of Morocco are radically apposed to this declaration. We call therefore for total boycott and isolation. This should include the rupture of the existing cultural relations with the apartheid-system.
The concept of "Education for Liberation" can only be achieved after the total destruction and abolition of all forms of colonialism and racism.

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REPORT OF THE ANC(SA) DELIGATION TO THE 'INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON "EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION"-BREMEN APRIL 1984

An international symposium on education for liberation was held in Bremen Federal Republic of Germany from 24th to 27th April 1984. The symposium was supported by the Namibia Project at the University of Bremen, Terre des Hommes of West Germany and the Bremen Information Centre for Human Rights. Participants included representatives of Frente Polisario of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, SWAPO, the United Nations' Institute for Namibia and the ANC(SA). Politically, various Bremen State authorities showed token support for the symposium.

The programme of the symposium included : (a) The launching of two books (i) "Our Namibia" - an English medium social studies text book for upper primary and lower secondary SWAPO schools. (ii) "Lernbuch Namibia" - a German medium book for use in secondary level schools in the Federal Republic of Germany. (b) An exchange of (i) views on the above books. (ii) Ideas and experiences on the theme of Education for Liberation with special focus on structure, form and content. Consensus declaration resulting from these discussion is reflected in the Appendix attached to this report.

The ANC and SWAPO deligations on the way to Bremen had the opportunity to be received in Algiers over a working lunch by the Chief Representative of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. The occassion was used for mutual briefings on latest developments in the struggles of the respective liberation movements. During the symposium in Bremen, the ANC deligation became strengthened by the arrival of the Director of the Luthuli Services comrade Seretse Choabi. Two interviews were also granted by the ANC deligation to Radio Deutchevel and Bremen Teachers Union. The subject of the interviews

included Somafo and the symposium.

The ANC delegation also met in Bremen representatives of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid movement. Matters discussed included (i) progress made in writing the book 'History of the Struggle'. (ii) Comments being prepared at Somafo on the planned book "Ideological Consequences of Apartheid". (iii) Preparations for the Anti-Apartheid campaign to be launched in 1985 by the Anti-Apartheid Movement of the Netherlands. (iv) Request by the Anti-Apartheid Movement to the ANC to send source material on the content of Bantu Education which could include social science books and syllabuses being used. The ANC will now be expected to send these materials to the Anti-Apartheid movement.

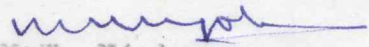
The former Chairperson of the Anti-Apartheid Movement of Bremen complained that a 'moving work-shop truck' was donated to the Dakawa Development Project by his movement But receipt of the truck by the ANC has never been acknowledged. He therefore ~~strongly~~ earnestly requested the ANC to acknowledge receipt of this at the earliest possible. Failure to acknowledge the donation has made plans of setting off with new projects impossible ^{potential} as/contributors to such projects need to be satisfied first that the truck reached Dakawa and is being put to intended good use there.

After the symposium in Bremen, the ANC delegates and others were able to attend the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Anti-Apartheid Movement of West Germany which were in Bonn from 27th to 29th April 1984.

Finally the ANC delegation recommends that (i) efforts be made to strengthen further ANC support movements in the Federal Republic of Germany. (ii) Acknowledgement of donations be prompt.

Maatla !

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