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RESOLUTIONS

On Bantustan Education

This conference notes :

- i) the imminent forced incorporation into the Kwandebele bantustan of thousands of South Africans in the Moutse district against their will
- ii) the fact that Moutse teachers are being forced to sign contracts with the Kwandebele education authorities upon pain of dismissal or transfer from their schools.

Therefore :

- i) we condemn this forced incorporation and the victimisation of teachers in Moutse who oppose it
- ii) we resolve to struggle against bantustan education departments and to support teachers in their struggles against these agents of apartheid.

On Statutory School Committees

This conference notes :

that statutory parent's committees at schools are the agents of the state and carry out the work of the oppressive apartheid education system throughout South Africa.

Therefore we resolve that :

- i) parents should not be members of statutory parents committees at schools
- ii) progressive parent-teacher-student structures be formed at all schools so that :
 - a) parents, teachers and students can come to understand each other's demands and problems
 - b) interaction can take place between different schools to develop the education struggle to higher levels.

The Role of Teachers

We resolve that :

- i) teachers should work actively with students towards the formation of democratically elected SRC's
- ii) teachers should work closely with parents and students in dealing with the current education crisis
- iii) teachers should become involved in community struggles and help to set up PTA's in all schools
- iv) education programmes for teachers which bring out the history of progressive teachers' struggles, the role of teachers in the community, and the role of teachers' unions, should be conducted
- v) teachers should work to unify all teachers into a single, progressive teachers' body
- vi) meetings of teachers should be called in all areas to give students and parent organisations an opportunity to address them on the education crisis.

4. On the detention of Our People

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of all students parents and teachers detained in their struggles for peoples' education in our land.

5. On Student Organisation

This conference notes :

- i) that the banning of Cosas is an attack by the State on student organisation, unity and mobilisation
- ii) that the struggle for a unitary, non-racial democratic education is an integral part of the struggle for a unitary, non-racial and democratic society, free from oppression and exploitation
- iii) that the struggle for democratic SRC's is an essential part of the democratic struggle within the schools.

Therefore we resolve :

- i) to intensify the campaign to unban Cosas
- ii) to implement democratically elected SRC's in all schools and tertiary institutions
- iii) to forge close links between student, worker and community organisations and to co-ordinate action in these different areas.
- iv) to strive to establish regional and national co-ordination in the student struggle
- v) to strive in co-ordinated campaigns to publicise the legitimate, democratic demands of students
- vi) to endeavour to take the struggle for a non-racial democratic South Africa into every school and hence into every home
- vii) to seek consciously to break down artificially created racial barriers
- viii) to encourage the different student organisations to unite in action.

6. On School Fees

This conference notes :

- i) that there is increasing retrenchment of workers, who are in turn the parents of our students
- ii) that the oppressed people of our land bear the brunt of the economic crisis
- iii) that national resources should be geared towards the education of our people instead of towards the SADF occupying our townships

Therefore we resolve this :

Parents should refuse to pay school fees in 1986.

7. On Textbooks

We demand :

the provision of free textbooks and other educational materials for our students in all schools.

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3. On the formation of a National Parents' Crisis Committee.

This conference notes :
the good work done by the SPCC, and in particular their calling of
this consultative conference.

Therefore we resolve that :

1) three members of the SPCC together with one regional
representative from each of the following areas :

- a) Natal
- b) C.F.S.
- c) Western Cape
- d) Eastern Cape
- e) Northern Cape
- f) Border Region
- g) Transvaal

constitute themselves into an adhoc committee to form a
National Parents' Crisis Committee that will liaise with
local and regional organisations in the implementation of the
decisions of this conference.

4. On People's Education I

This conference notes that Apartheid Education

- i) is totally unacceptable to the oppressed people
- ii) divides people into classes and ethnic groups
- iii) is essentially a means of control to produce subservient,
docile people
- iv) indoctrinates and dehumanises
- v) is intended to entrench apartheid and capitalism

Therefore we resolve to actively strive for people's education as
the new form of education for all sections of our people, declaring
that people's education is education that :

- i) enables the oppressed to understand the evils of the
apartheid system and prepares them for participation in a
non-racial democratic system.
- ii) eliminates illiteracy, ignorance and the exploitation of one
person by another
- iii) eliminates capitalist norms of competition, individualism and
stunted intellectual development, and replaces it with one
that encourages collective input and active participation by
all, as well as stimulating critical thinking and analysis
- iv) equips and trains all sectors of our people to participate
actively and creatively in the struggle to attain people's
power in order to establish a non-racial democratic South
Africa
- v) allows students, parents, teachers and workers to be
mobilised into appropriate organisational structures, which
enable them to participate actively in the initiation and
management of people's education in all its forms
- vi) enables workers to resist exploitation and oppression at
their workplace.

10. On People's Education II

This conference notes that the implementation of programmes to promote people's education is an urgent matter.

Believing that :

- i) all student-teacher-parent and-community based organisations must work vigorously and energetically to promote people's education
- ii) all programmes must enhance the organisations of all sections of our people, wherever they may be
- iii) the programmes must encourage critical and creative thinking and working methods
- iv) the programme must promote the correct values of democracy, non-racialism, collective work, and active participation.

Therefore resolves :

- i) that the recommendations of the commission on people's education be referred to the in-coming committee for use as a guideline for the formulation of programmes to promote people's education at all levels
- ii) that all local, regional and national structures mobilise the necessary human and material resources in the first instance from within the communities and regions and then from other sources.

11. On School Attendance in 1986

This national consultative conference, convened by the SPOC at the University of the Witwatersrand on 18 and 19 December 1985, having considered in detail the question of whether students of the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa should return to school and if so, under what conditions.

- i) commends the students and their organisations for the principled and courageous manner in which they have conducted the struggle against inferior, racist and ethnic education
- ii) salutes the heroic sacrifices made by our students throughout the country.
- iii) acknowledges that the boycott campaign has resulted in fundamental political, organisational and educational gains in spite of the many problems experienced by the students, and that it has also helped to raise the level of consciousness and organisation of the oppressed and exploited people

Therefore resolves :

- i) to call on all students throughout the country to return to school of January 28, 1986
- ii) that unless the following demands are met before the end of March 1986, another conference shall be convened to consider what action to take :

- a) the erection of school buildings where such buildings have been partially or completely damaged
- b) the postponement of all examinations until March 1986
- c) the release of all students and teachers in detention
- d) the reinstatement of all dismissed, forcibly transferred or suspended teachers
- e) the unbanning of Cosas
- f) the recognition of democratically elected SRC's
- h) the lifting of the State of Emergency in all parts of the country

iii) to call on all relevant student, teacher and parent organisations to continue the struggle for :

- a) the immediate abolition of corporal punishment in all schools
- b) controls to prevent the sexual harassment of female students
- c) the abolition of all forms of racist education
- d) the implementation of people's education in our schools

to recommend to all democratic organisations to exhort students to return to schools on the above conditions.

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