

DRAFT PLAN FOR THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BANTU EDUCATION

In introducing the plan for the campaign against 'Bantu Educ.' it is important to point out that the Bantu Education is a vital factor to the Nationalist Government drive to increase the supply of cheap labour to the mines and farms, and to consolidate their autocratic rule by dwarfing the minds of the African from childhood. For these reasons the Nationalists will employ every means at their disposal to ensure the implementation of their schemes. Any Campaign therefore, against Bantu Education must be a long and protracted one.

The Campaign must be organised with two aims in view, namely:-

- (a) To culminate in a mighty country wide demonstration by Africans, and other democracy-loving peoples.
- (b) To counter and nullify the educational effects of the system of education, primarily by raising the political consciousness and understanding of the Youth and Students.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AND PROTEST ACTION

The success of any such action depends on the effective mobilisation of PARENTS, CHILDREN, Teachers and Youth generally

The immediate action should be the withdrawal of children from schools for a defined period as suggested in the resolution of the A.N.C. (Tvl.) April 18th. 1954, and later adopted by the Provincial Conference of the A.N.C. (Tvl.) .

GUERRILLA withdrawal if properly timed would be very effective.

The new syllabus is being introduced in January 1955, and it is suggested that an appropriate time for the withdrawal of children would be immediately after all the schools have opened throughout the country.

ORGANISATION

The success of withdrawing children depends primarily on the cooperation of the parents, and in particular the Women, who have a keener interest in the children.

- (a) A.N.C. Branches must immediately form Anti-Bantu Educ. Committees preferably to be composed of one or two Executive members, two women and two youths, which should meet with a similar committee of the Province possibly on the 11th. September.

- (b) TASKS The tasks of the A.B.E.C. at all levels of the A.N.C. would be to plan, guide, coordinate, and supervise the Campaign submitting regular reports and suggestions to be considered by Branch or Provincial Executives.

Branch A.B.E.Cs. are subordinate to Branch Executives. The immediate tasks of A.B.E.C. committees would be to organise for Local parent conferences in their areas to be held simultaneously on the 28th. Sept. or some other suitable date to be called BANTU EDUCATION PROTEST DAY.

The Plans for these conferences should be explained at a central meeting of the A.B.E.Cs. to be held possibly on the 11th September.

PREPARATIONS

- (a) The National Executive should issue a bulletin in three languages explaining fully and simply what Bantu Educ. means to the people and what the tasks of the people are. The distribution of these bulletins during a house to house campaign would assist organisers in mobilising the people.
- (b) Personal contact should be made with all organisations in the area, and invitations should be made through appointed persons and not merely posted to organisations.

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PREPARATIONS. / Contd.

- (c) Press publicity and posters.

TASKS OF THE CONFERENCE.

- (i) To explain the implications of the Bantu Education Act, and the tasks of the people. It would add to the effectiveness of the conference to have speakers other than Congress members as well, preferably women.
- (ii) To elect a A.B.E. parents Committee, for the area. The Conference must be the beginning of a mass campaign against Bantu Education. Parents should be encouraged to bring their children to the Conference, and where possible, children's choirs should be organized to sing. Addresses of all those who attend should be taken with a view of organizing street committees and house meetings to intensify the campaign.

SLOGANS

"No serf Education! "Let Parents control the Education of their children", More and better schools", Free and Compulsory education for all" & etc.,

Where parents Committees already exist, it is the task of the A.N.C. A .B.E. committee to cooperate with such a committee and arrange to convene a Parents Conference as described above.

A.N.C. members who serve on Committees are responsible to the A.N.C. branches.

STUDENTS

Youth League Students committees should be formed at all levels.

Tasks

- (i) To organize the Students in preparation for their withdrawal from Schools.
- (ii) To arrange for mass student meetings on local, regional or provincial basis whichever is practical to be held in December.
- (iii) To revive or establish Students Organisations.
- (iv) To issue and distribute a Students Bulletin on Bantu Education
- (v) To organize students and parents against the holiday farm labour scheme of Verwoerd.
- (vi) To organize the Students against University Apartheid, and to coordinate efforts with all Anti- Apartheid Student bodies.

TEACHERS

A.B.E.Cs. and Youth committees should make personal contact with teachers and teachers committees at all levels and discuss their role in the campaign.

THE WORKING YOUTH

The Working Youth should be mobilised against Verwoerd's Youth Camps, which are part of the 'Educational' scheme of the Nationalists, designed to increase cheap labour and to intensify the exploitation. They should be mobilised to clamour for more and better opportunities for education and training in technical work.

WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE A.N.C.Y.L.

The statement further refers to the situation as "destructive of freedom of opinion and action within the student body and has become intolerable." In order to show much the College Executive upholds the "freedom of opinion and action" of the students, they have decided to expel the whole student body! The statement is a poor effort at justifying the closing down of the College. It appears that what has been "intolerable" to the College authorities is not the destruction but the existence of freedom of opinion and action within the student body. And the closing down is intended to intimidate and destroy that freedom of opinion and action.

There is a striking resemblance between the methods adopted by the Fort Hare authorities against the students and those continuously resorted to by the fascist Nationalist Government against the people. The language used to justify these methods is also similar - the "secret groups" and the "intimidation" by these groups. Under the cloak of protecting the interests of the majority, the Government has made the most unwarranted and ruthless attacks on the people, just as the Fort Hare authorities have done to the students. There is also a resemblance between the Government and the Fort Hare authorities in their readiness and haste to call in armed police against unarmed and innocent people. These similarities are not accidental. For the Government these methods are intended to intimidate and terrorise the people, thereby destroying their freedom of opinion and action; for the Fort Hare authorities, the purpose of these acts are the same.

The communal reprisals are becoming too frequent in our country and seem to pervade every sphere of life. A few vague accusations are made against the members of the community as an excuse for inflicting unjustifiable suffering on every member of the group. The A.N.C.Y.L. deplors the step taken by the Fort Hare authorities as inconsistent with

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every principle of democracy and progress which the university in South Africa should today uphold. The University authorities have referred so emphatically to the "proper" methods of doing things, have themselves abandoned the "proper" and recognized methods of investigating and settling the difficulties of the University. The A.N.C.Y.L. demands the immediate re-admission of all students without renewal of application and calls upon the authorities to conduct a proper investigation into the situation at Fort Hare. The A.N.C.Y.L. further calls upon all Youth workers and students to protest against this unwarranted intimidation and to demand the recognition of student rights.

R.M. Resha. 

National President of the African National Congress. Youth League.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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