

**REPORT OF THE YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE ON METHODS FOR INITIATING AND ORGANISING A PROGRESSIVE YOUTH MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA - A CO-ORDINATION OF SCHEMES PRESENTED TO YAC BY MEMBER ORGANISATIONS.**

1. Students Liberal Association
2. African National Congress Youth League,
3. South African Indian Youth Congress.

General principles were decided upon and immediate action arising therefrom considered.

The most important technique by which young people in South Africa and particularly those of the urban areas can be particularly educated and organised is that of youth groups. Such groups can form the nucleus for more youth work in South Africa in the future, and the campaign once instituted should not be a temporary recruiting one, lasting at most a few months. These groups whether constituted as active Congress branches or not can be the numerical and popular basis from which most Youth Congress campaigns and activity can derive its strength and support. These groups can also be the avenue for political education and the training of cadres.

Since it is the considerate opinion of the majority of members on YAC that the South African (excluding the coloured, which is not competent to comment on) are afraid of overt Congress politics and/or of politics in general, a technique had to be evolved to counteract this fear and antagonism and to gradually gain the support of South African youth for Congress programmes and politics. Below a scheme is outlined which may help towards a solution. Here, however, it is possible to form and/or maintain Congress branches, that will obviously be the preferred approach and should receive priority consideration from YAC and its constituent bodies.

Further: such a youth group will not be another Discussion Club type of organisation with a loose organisation of socially integrated and responsible young people meeting each other regularly so as to develop together a political consciousness and responsibility which will give character and ~~xxx~~ discipline, morale and strength to the whole group. A Discussion Club is a recruiting ground, a youth group as envisaged is the nucleus and basic structure of yet another Congress Branch.

Some of the following features are important in the concept of youth groups:

1. A regular membership both in the number and in the personalities, and such regularity determined social interdependence, integration and responsibility.
2. A regular and constant peace and time of meeting. This can be very helpful though not essential in politically conscious groups.
3. Such a group should not consist of more than 50 members, it being easier to achieve social and political comradeship. Smaller groups. Further it will be better for security reasons in an undemocratic country.
4. A group should be organized on a regional and/or occupational basis for the same reasons as 3.
5. The ~~progressive~~ programmes of such groups should be youthful as should be the procedure at their meetings and other functions.
6. Initially the age group should exceed 13 years, this age group being easier to organise and educate. Older members of such groups can in their turn train those younger than 13 years.

7. Political bias in relation to YAC and its constituent bodies. Where young people are politically conscious such groups be constituted primarily at the outset as Congress branches, exercising their duties and rights as such branches, but where this does not pertain such groups should commence activity with a minimum political programme such as Festival and its South African slogan. The membership should however, be educated towards becoming good Congress members. It will therefore be necessary for all such groups to be guided by Congress members.

IMMEDIATE PLANS.

1. The whole matter to be referred to the constituent bodies of YAC for consideration and adoption. i.e. both theoretically and practically.
2. A conference to be called in each province (at least) of all people interested in and concerned with youth work and the basic plan outlined. It is hoped that representatives present will undertake the constitution of groups.
3. A constitution committee of approximately three people to be elected at each conference for the purpose of (i) keeping contact with youth groups. (ii) facilitating inter-group contact (iii) Keeping contact between YAC and the Groups. (iv) For constituting an interim local YAC festival preparatory committee until a more representative can be elected.

-----

**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

*©2012*

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.