



like so many other "good white" South Africans they did the quick about turn. NUSAS was asked firstly to endorse and accept as its own the educational demands of the Charter as quoted above, and secondly to adopt the entire Freedom Charter.

"No politics ! " they cried. "Education will always be undemocratic while there is no democracy" answered the democrats. But the NUSAS Congress rejected the Freedom Charter, turned aside ~~xxx~~ its educational principles, disaffiliated from the peace-loving and democrat International Union of Students in order to co-operate fully ~~xxxx~~ with the US financed rival "splitters" International Union, v called COSEC, and refused to protest against Atom and H-Bomb warfare and the Africa Treaty organisation as a threat to students.

This is how the 'liberals' fought "tooth and nail" against the Nationalists. And at the same time they attempted to pass resolutions on colonialism of such a nature as to mislead the workers and colonial peoples into supporting their policies, and away from the cause of the people. Significantly, not one of the African students on the NUSAS governing Assembly voted for this resolution and all supported the militant demands for full national freedom for the oppressed nations as put forward by the International Union of Students.

Why did the 'liberals' behave like this ? Why did they betray the letter and spirit of much of the policy which at times they have supported in the past. Precisely because of the entire nature and character and scope of education in South Africa to-day.

To-day education is the privilege of the few. Of 2½ million whites 501,539 children attend schools. Of 9½ million oppressed and exploited non-whites only 1,051,858 children attend schools. And these children must to-day in many cases be subjected to Bantu Education, to inhumane theories of racial superiority, or be debarred from school because they refuse to be subjected to such "education". In the Universities themselves only a small handful of non-white students are admitted. And even amongst the whites it is only those who can afford the extremely costly fees who are admitted. The scope of education is thus limited to the immediate needs of the capitalist society in which we live. The bosses need

half-educated white artisans and large numbers of non-white labourers and workers who are taught from early childhood that they must be "~~XXXXXX~~ hewers of wood and drawers of water." D24

But the workers of South Africa can allow no such system to go unchallenged. They must work in common with all democratic South Africans of all national groups and races for a South Africa in which the aims of the Freedom Charter may be realised and constantly advanced upon.

The problems of education can only be solved, Bantu Education defeated, and a real peoples' educational system established when the battle for democracy has been won. When this battle has been won society will need an ever greater number of people capable of wielding the most advanced and skilled techniques of production, people working with the latest methods and technology to increase the level of production and of welfare of all the people, of men and women fully conscious of their own destinies, and breaking down the traditions of exploitation and oppression of earlier days in order to become rounded citizens of the new society in which "the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all..."

These are the lessons of the recent NUSAS Congress .

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**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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