

DEC 5 1955

REPORT ON CELEBRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA
OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 24TH OCTOBER 1955.

MATERIAL RECEIVED: A considerable amount of material for distribution was received by the United Nations Association of South Africa, Johannesburg Branch, from the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York, from the International Labour Organisation and from the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Africa. Our gratitude is expressed for this literature.

It included leaflets, booklets, duplicated speeches, I.L.O and W.H.O. News Letters, filmstrips and posters. The Secretary-General's "Message to Youth" was translated locally into Afrikaans for the use of schools.

EXPENSES OF CELEBRATION:

Railage and delivery charges for free literature from New York.....	£ 3.14.10
Envelopes, duplicating and postage	8. 3. I
Hire of Y.M.C.A. Theatre and Advertisement of Meeting.....	13.10. 0
	<u>£25 . 7.11</u>

Two donations have so far been received for expenses, and are gratefully acknowledged. £2.2.0 and 10/.

A. DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF MATERIAL IN JOHANNESBURG.

An AD HOC COMMITTEE consisting of representatives of societies was set up in March, 1955, to arrange for the celebration of United Nations Day: Mr.F.E.Auerbach, Chairman; Mr. H.A.Knights, Secretary.

Material was sent to 35 societies, including the National Council of Women, Johannesburg Branch, which circularised its IIO affiliated societies. Many of these mentioned United Nations Day and distributed literature in their own meetings.

LITERATURE was used by the following societies:

Highlands North-Waverley Women's Discussion Group read the leaflet, "Towards a Better World", and asked for more leaflets for members.

Home and School Council received 50 leaflets of two kinds for distribution.

Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce asked for copies of leaflets, and the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa intimated United Nations Day to its delegates attending its conference, 17-21 October, 1955.

Johannesburg Side-Bar Association took leaflets for members.

Mental Health Society of the Witwatersrand took leaflets.

Mothers' Association of the Jeppe H.S. for Girls asked for 60 leaflets.

S.A. Institute of Race Relations distributed the leaflets sent.

Trades Union Council distributed 100 I.L.O. News Letters and 5) each of two leaflets to its 50 Trade Unions.

Transvaal Association of Girls Clubs and Youth Clubs asked for 50 more leaflets, "Towards a Better World."

Transvaal Workers Educational Association received leaflets and asked to be kept informed.

Troyeville Women's Christian Temperance Union. The leaflet, "Towards a Better World" was supplied to all members at a meeting and read aloud.

A donation for expenses was sent.

Union of Jewish Women, Johannesburg Branch asked for leaflets.

MEETINGS:

I. A COMBINED MEETING for Johannesburg was held under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Committee in the Y.M.C.A. Intimate Theatre on 24th October.

The Chairman was Dr.R.G.Macmillan, president of the Transvaal Teachers' Association, and addresses were given by Mrs. J.K.Robertson, Hon. Secretary, Johannesburg United Nations Association, on the work of the United Nations for Peace, by Dr. T.D.Hall, Agricultural Consultant, African Explosives and Chemical Industries, on the work of F.A.O. for Food, and by Dr.E.H.Cluver, Director, S.A. Institute for Medical Health, on the work of the W.H.O. for Health.

A message of good wishes was read from the Mayor, Councillor Mr. George Beckett and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Leif Egeland, who had been one of the representatives of South Africa at San Francisco in 1945. The meeting closed with the Unesco film, "World Without End", which was lent by the W.H.O. Regional Office in Brazzaville.

OVER....

2. The Business and Professional Women's Club, Johannesburg, had an independent celebration with music from many lands and dancing, and invited Mrs. Robertson to give a short talk on the United Nations.
3. The Johannesburg Esperanto Society had a successful Film Evening, showing some of the United Nations Film-strips. A donation was made to the Ad Hoc Committee.
4. The National Council of Women, Johannesburg Branch, at its Council Meeting on 24th October, had a short talk from Mrs. Robertson.
5. The Nursery Training College of the Witwatersrand Technical College had a display of Unicef Posters and distribution of leaflets at a meeting for Nursery School Children's Parents, which was addressed by Miss L.M. Mackenzie, Organising Secretary of the S.A. Council for Child Welfare. Miss Mackenzie was at one time in the Social Division of the United Nations, New York.
6. The Rotary Club, Johannesburg, had an independent meeting addressed by Mr. Leif Egeland, formerly High Commissioner in London.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: 56 High Schools in Johannesburg and the Reef including 12 Afrikaans Medium High Schools and Indian, Coloured and African Schools, received a poster, a picture, leaflets and the Secretary-General's "Message to Youth", the last in Afrikaans and English.

Photo displays and Posters were sent to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg College of Education, Witwatersrand Technical College, and numbers of leaflets were given for distribution. Pictures and posters were displayed at the Youth Centre and the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., and leaflets made available.

CHURCHES. The leaflet, "Towards a Better World" with a covering letter was sent to 46 Christian ministers of religion in Johannesburg and the Reef. The Registrar of the Central Ecclesiastical Board of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism, sent out material to all Congregations. The Pretoria and the Springs and District Reform Congregations had special services on Friday 21st October. In St. Ninian's Presbyterian Church the evening sermon was on the United Nations, and the Headmaster of St. John's College advised that the Tenth Anniversary would be marked by mention in the Chapel Service on 24th October.

B. UNITED NATIONS DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA and BEYOND.

The Superintendent-General of Education in the Cape Province, Dr. J.G. Meiring, asked teachers to bring the United Nations to the attention of pupils during the preceding week. On hearing this on the radio, the Johannesburg U.N.A. secretary sent the Message to Youth to Dr. Meiring who kindly acknowledged it.

The United Nations Association of South Africa. The Johannesburg U.N.A. gave secretarial facilities for distribution of material, and joined in the Combined Meeting. Alice U.N.A. had a meeting on U.N. Day, at which an address on the Specialised Agencies was given. The Pretoria U.N.A. also received the material.

The National Council of Women of South Africa. The poster, leaflets and duplicated speech were distributed by the National Convener for Peace and International Relations to 38 Branch Councils in South Africa and the Bulawayo Council. In Pietermaritzburg, a public meeting was addressed by Mr. Maurice Webb, and at regular meetings of the Durban, Cape Town, Graaff Reinet, Grahamstown, Krugersdorp, Potchefstroom and Pretoria Councils, the Tenth Anniversary was spoken of. (Johannesburg too, as reported.) Rotary Club. Leaflets were sent by Sir Charles Mortimer, Governor of the 25th District to all Clubs in his District, extending over much of Southern Africa.

Women's Christian Temperance Union. Leaflets were given out at the Triennial Convention in Durban of the W.C.T.U. of S.A. Talks were given in four Unions, Durban and JHB.

Articles were written for the Transvaal Teachers' Association magazine by Mr. F.E. Auerbach, and in "Childhood", organ of the S.A. Council for Child Welfare.

S.A. Broadcasting Corporation. Transvaal Regional News had a notice of the Johannesburg Combined Meeting, and independently S.A.B.C. had an hour's programme on U.N. Day.

Sent out by Mrs. J.K. Robertson, Corresponding Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, and Hon. Sec. of the Johannesburg United Nations Association, 23, 5th Avenue, Parktown North, Johannesburg.

Please assure people that South Africa has not ceased to be a Member of the United Nations, but has withdrawn from this year's General Assembly in New York.

EO ✓

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MS/SI

NOV 8 1955

Latest In The Public Affairs Pamphlet Series

THE UNITED NATIONS - Ten Years of Achievement

by William A. DeWitt

To help commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ratification of the United Nations Charter by the United States, the Public Affairs Committee has just published this popular pamphlet.

Written by William A. DeWitt, co-author with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt of the book, UN Today and Tomorrow, the pamphlet reviews the UN's first ten years and examines the creative possibilities of the future.

It will be useful for discussion groups and organizations interested in world affairs and individuals who want or need literature of this kind will find it of great value.

We hope that you will want to utilize this booklet in your program on the occasion of this 10th anniversary of the United Nations.

We shall be pleased to provide copies at the low rates shown below and enclose a postpaid envelope for your convenience in ordering.

Please send me _____ copies of THE UNITED NATIONS

_____ remittance enclosed _____ bill me

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Quantity Prices

1 - 9	copies	25¢
10 - 99	"	18¢
100 - 249	"	16¢
250 - 499	"	15¢
500 - 999	"	14¢
1,000 - 4999	"	13¢

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PUBLISHERS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLETS
22 East 38th Street, New York City

File
A/B/S/1

QW/mo

12th October, 1955.

The Hon. Secretary,
Ad Hoc Committee,
United Nations Day Celebration,
P.O. Box 1811,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your circular concerning the celebrations to be arranged for the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations, while we shall be pleased to inform our members of any celebrations which may be arranged, I regret that we cannot undertake any further work in connection with these celebrations.

We have arranged for the leaflets which you sent us recently to be distributed to interested members.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,
Director

48

4 (1)

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION.

AUG 29 1955

AD HOC COMMITTEE.

*mk
ape
27-9-55*

P.O.Box 1811,
JOHANNESBURG.

302/3 His Majesty's Buildings,
Eloff Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

9th August, 1955.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ten years ago the United Nations was established and this year the Tenth Anniversary will be celebrated by the people of the Member Nations on United Nations Day, the 24th October, 1955.

In order that arrangements for the celebration of this important day in South Africa could be made an Ad Hoc Committee for such purpose was established in April last. It is proposed to hold a combined evening meeting of all interested Organizations and persons, and it is also hoped that organizations will arrange for commemoration in some way at their own general meetings nearest to or possibly on this day.

We have obtained suitable published material from the United Nations and for your information I attach a list of the available literature.

Please advise me as soon as possible, of the following:

- (a) Whether your organization is willing to join with us in the holding of a combined meeting.
- (b) Whether your organization will be able to arrange for some celebration within your own membership
- (c) What literature you will require.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. Knights
H. A. KNIGHTS
HON. SECRETARY.
AD HOC COMMITTEE.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

United Nations Day Posters;
Report on Observances;
Leaflets in English;
Background Paper;
School Leaflets;
Model Speeches;
Photo Exhibits;
Womens Bulletins;
News Letters;
Secretary General's Message.



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

Téléphone : KLEber 52-00 - BALzac 24-02 - Télégr. UNESCO PARIS
19, AVENUE KLÉBER - PARIS XVI^e

In your reply, please refer to :
En répondant, veuillez rappeler :

N°

EXP/561 738

- 6 OCT. 1955

OCT 11 1955

Subject: "Vacations Abroad", Volume VIII

Dear Sir,

May I take this opportunity of reminding you of our circular letter, sent out in the first week of September, requesting information for inclusion in our annual publication "Vacations Abroad", Volume VIII, listing activities of interest to persons wishing to obtain educational experience during their vacations in 1956 (vacation courses, study tours, camps, youth centres, international voluntary work camps, etc.).

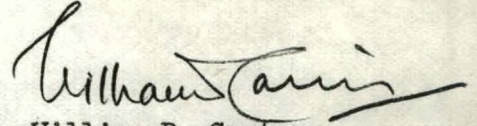
In case you did not receive our circular letter, I should explain that "Vacations Abroad" includes details on over 800 activities meeting the needs of persons wishing to spend all or part of their holidays abroad, in order to gain some type of educational experience. These activities are usually of a short-term nature, but not in many cases of a duration of less than two weeks.

As the manuscript of "Vacations Abroad" will be sent to press on 25 October 1955, for publication in January 1956, we should greatly appreciate receiving information for inclusion in the publication by 21 October at the latest. Even if you have not finally settled the

EXP/561 738 - page 2

dates or locations of proposed activities, we should still be glad to receive general statements on intended programmes. Your address, or any other address you may designate, will be given as that from which further information may later be obtained.

Yours truly,



William D. Carter,
Head, Exchange of
Persons Service.

A/B/5/11

Alfred
~~AB~~ AB

c/o P. O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.
16th June, 1955.

Mr. Alfred Métraux,
U.N.E.S.C.O.,
19, Kléber Ave.,
PARIS 19^e, France.

Dear Mr. Metraux,

I should like to thank you for your letter of 26th May, 1955, and am replying in accordance with the capacity in which you wrote to me, - that is, privately.

I can well understand that it seems strange to you that I should choose not to emphasize the one field on which Unesco has itself perhaps concentrated most, namely, that of race. I did so because the South African public at large practically only hears of Unesco in connection with race and is barely aware of its other activities. Further, the tendency here is to discount anything not only Unesco, but the United Nations Organization as a whole, says or does in the field of race as either biased or over-idealistic and, in any case, not applicable to South Africa. You have probably seen Mr. Louw's (our Minister of Finance) references to the Personnel of Unesco. I don't want to enter into any lengthy discussion of these extraordinary references: suffice it to say that I believe that the majority of South Africans would consider Unesco "cranky" on the race question. And to have stressed this matter in my letter in a Race Relations publication would only have given the impression that I was more or less defending a vested interest.

I was, as you noticed, cautious - perhaps over-cautious - in evaluating Unesco's activities. I am prepared to agree that the choice of the word "significant" was not happy. The trouble is that the slightest misinterpretation, when it involves criticism of South Africa, is regarded and represented as "significant" and hence one is inevitably driven to a self-defensive attitude.

In connection with your study project on educated African women, it may interest you to know that Mrs. M. Brandel, under the auspices of the Institute, has completed a study of a number of women's organizations, chiefly in Johannesburg. The project was designed to enquire into the "needs" of urban African, and the assumption was made that a study of their organizations would reveal their needs. The report itself, which runs into over four hundred pages, is only available in typescript, and hence in only four copies. It is planned to publish a very much shortened

version of the report, concentrating chiefly on the material given, and this work has commenced. It will, however, probably take some months before it is completed. I do not know who is in charge of your own project, but I am sure that, if it were desired, the Institute would make a copy of the original report available on loan. I would, however, like to point out that this is only an interim report and by no means in final form, and that the Institute is aware that some of the theoretical arguments advanced in the report are of doubtful validity.

c/o P. O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.
16th June, 1955.

Mr. Alfred Métraux,
U.N.E.S.C.O.,
19, Kléber Ave.,
PARIS 19^e, France.

Dear Mr. Metraux,

I should like to thank you for your letter of 26th May, 1955, and am replying in accordance with the capacity in which you wrote to me, - that is, privately.

I can well understand that it seems strange to you that I should choose not to emphasize the one field on which Unesco has itself perhaps concentrated most, namely, that of race. I did so because the South African public at large practically only hears of Unesco in connection with race and is barely aware of its other activities. Further, the tendency here is to discount anything not only Unesco, but the United Nations Organization as a whole, says or does in the field of race as either biased or over-idealistic and, in any case, not applicable to South Africa. You have probably seen Mr. Louw's (our Minister of Finance) references to the Personnel of Unesco. I don't want to enter into any lengthy discussion of these extraordinary references: suffice it to say that I believe that the majority of South Africans would consider Unesco "cranky" on the race question. And to have stressed this matter in my letter in a Race Relations publication would only have given the impression that I was more or less defending a vested interest.

I was, as you noticed, cautious - perhaps over-cautious - in evaluating Unesco's activities. I am prepared to agree that the choice of the word "significant" was not happy. The trouble is that the slightest misinterpretation, when it involves criticism of South Africa, is regarded and represented as "significant" and hence one is inevitably driven to a self-defensive attitude.

In connection with your study project on educated African women, it may interest you to know that Mrs. M. Brandel, under the auspices of the Institute, has completed a study of a number of women's organizations, Chiefly in Johannesburg. The project was designed to enquire into the "needs" of urban African, and the assumption was made that a study of their organizations would reveal their needs. The report itself, which runs into over four hundred pages, is only available in typescript, and hence in only four copies. It is planned to publish a very much shortened

version/ ...

version of the report, concentrating chiefly on the material given, and this work has commenced. It will, however, probably take some months before it is completed. I do not know who is in charge of your own project, but I am sure that, if it were desired, the Institute would make a copy of the original report available on loan. I would, however, like to point out that this is only an interim report and by no means in final form, and that the Institute is aware that some of the theoretical arguments advanced in the report are of doubtful validity.



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

19, Avenue Kléber, PARIS 16^e

MAY 20 1955

In your reply, please refer to :
En répondant, veuillez rappeler :

N°

16 May 1955

Dear Mr. Whyte,

When we were together in Honolulu last year you kindly offered to give Unesco the benefit of your advice. I think I mentioned to you at the time our desire to prepare manuals or guides for primary and secondary school teachers containing suggestions and material designed to help them to fight race prejudice among their scholars.

These manuals have now been prepared and the second step consists in presenting these texts to a group of social scientists, educators and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations so as to hear their opinion on the matter and to discuss with them ways and means of fighting race prejudice in schools. This conference will deal also with the manner in which knowledge about race should be presented in order to dispel prejudice and eventually change attitudes, and provide technical advice, material and teaching aids for the teachers in various countries and cultures.

From the outset it had been our intention to ask you whether you would accept to participate in this conference, since I cannot think of any one whose advice and experience could be of greater value to us. However, I do not know to what extent the decision of the government of the Union of South Africa to withdraw from Unesco may prevent you from coming to Paris at the request of Unesco. I am therefore writing to you in a private capacity to enquire whether we can invite you. Needless to say, we are still hoping that you will be with us in September.

Since we have to form our panel as soon as possible, I would appreciate your answering at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

Alfred Métraux

Mr. Quintin Whyte,
Director,
South African Institute of Race
Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

AB 511
Extract from Speech of Minister of External Affairs
(Committee of Supply) - 5th May, 1955.
Hansard 5073 - 5082.

The hon. member for Constantia (Mr. Waterson) on the Prime Minister's vote raised the question of the Union's withdrawal from Unesco. He dealt with it fairly fully, and perhaps I had better deal with it immediately to avoid unnecessary repetition if the matter should be raised de novo.

There are two reasons for the Union Government's decision. The hon. member for Constantia mentioned only one, namely Unesco's interference in South Africa's affairs, and its attempts to influence opinion in and outside South Africa in regard to racial questions. There is another reason for withdrawal which the hon. member did not mention, viz. the futility - I emphasize the word "futility" - of that organization.

I will deal first with its futility. I know that is a strong word to use but I have gone into the matter carefully, and the decision to withdraw was not lightly taken. I went through the relative files of the past few years, and I have read the report of the discussions that took place at last year's conference at Montevideo, I am satisfied - and I know that some other countries also have that feeling - that this organization could rightly be described as one in regard to which one wonders what its real value is.

Hon. members, on both sides of the House, probably have somewhat vague ideas as to what actually the aims and the work of this organization are. The avowed object of Unesco, which is the shortened form for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, is to promote educational, scientific and cultural matters in the whole world. Mr. Chairman, I have studied the report of this organization. I have here the resolutions passed at the Montevideo conference. I wish that time permitted me to give this Committee an idea of some of the stuff that is discussed at these conferences. The resolutions are always on these lines, viz. that the member-States are "invited to promote" or "to stimulate", this that or the other thing; they are encouraged to do this, that or the other thing, and for the rest, the organization takes note of this, or of that. One gets the impression from the records that Unesco has become a sort of Mecca - one might say a resting place, or a useful source of employment for academic theorists, for unemployed intelligentsia, and I should think quite a number of cranks. That is all being done at the expense of the 69 nations that are members of that organization. The work entails heavy administrative expenses, running into a sum of round about \$12,000,000 per annum.

Unesco is one of the many post-war international organizations that have sprung up like mushrooms, most of them under the aegis of the United Nations. What we are getting - and I am not now expressing not only my own opinion, but also the opinions of persons with whom I have discussed the matter at United Nations meetings in Paris and in New York - we are building up a huge international public service. As happens in the public service, once you start something, then it "grows and grows" like Topsy. The Director-general, every Director, and every sub-Director - they are all busy building it up as hard as they can. Everyone is holding up a job, and holding on to that job as hard as he possibly can. They get together not only Unesco but also a number of other companies - and pass resolutions. My hon. friend the Minister of Lands said that when they meet, they immediately start discussing where the next conference will be held! There are some very useful international organizations, I will admit, but there are a number of others which are not useful. They are growing in number, particularly under the aegis of the United Nations. The international conference has become a racket. South Africa is not the only country that is worried about it. I have heard the same opinions from others. I asked them: "Why do you not pull out?" They are afraid to pull out. Others admit that an organization is futile, but it is a specialized agency of the United Nations, and for reasons of policy - and this applies particularly to the larger powers - they are not anxious to do anything

/ which

which might in some way or other detract from the importance of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman, I have here the report of our own representative at the last Unesco meeting, and I want to quote only one paragraph. There are some very illuminating passages in the rest of the report but I want to quote only this one. This is what he wrote -

The main impression which a sane observer must have got out of the conference is the unreality of it all; wonderful idealistic expressions of faith and so little practical thought of how to implement them, all seemed somewhat unbalanced. The countries with the least to give in money or culture, always had the most to say. Whether these people are indulging in a gigantic bluff just to get out of Unesco what they can, or whether they are genuinely so carried away by the idealistic enthusiasm that they cannot see the earth for the clouds, is hard to say.

I was interested in a recent article in 'The Economist'. Hon. members in the past have been very fond of quoting 'The Economist' against the Government, and I am sure that they will attach great value to its opinion. That journal has an article - it is in fact one of their leading articles - which is headed "Unesco Undecided". The writer says -

Unesco started life eight years ago with the fixed idea that it must have a finger in almost every conceivable pie. The logic behind this reasoning was obscure; what is clear is that it has proved well nigh disastrous.

The article goes on to speak of the money that has been spent, and continues -

Culture alone is a vast and amorphous term; in no other field is it so easy to let one thing lead on to another, or to juggle so convincingly with the theoretically desirable and the practically useful.

What follows is interesting in view of what I said a minute or two ago about the way these organizations are being built up. The article says -

People acquire vested interests in education, science and culture just as they do in other fields; and although Unesco is young in years, it has shown itself old enough to be set in its ways. It will not be easy to turn a deaf ear to those who urge it to provide the world with coloured reproductions of Australian aboriginal art, or gramophone records of the folk music of the Eskimo, Tuareg and Foula peoples. A sadly typical section in its latest annual report described how, in 1952, the people of Cambridge, Grenoble and Uppsala had been polled on their gratitude to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It goes on to speak about a Dr. Otto Klineberg who had made studies in this field, and was employed to work out a plan described as -

Research on Evaluation Techniques Applicable to International Co-operation Programmes -

Whatever that may mean! The article continues -

In 1954, the International Social Science Council contracted to conduct for Unesco "A critical study of the evaluation techniques and methods applied to date" on the same subject. Such a chain reaction is theoretically limitless.

The articles says that in 1953 -

..... the main emphasis in the field of arts was placed on music. Some savage breasts may well be soothed by Mr. Quincy Porter's "String Quartet, No. 6", a recording of which was sponsored in 1953; but it is

/ not

not easy to see how closely activities of this kind assist Unesco in its essential tasks, which are to fight illiteracy and poverty, to break down barriers between peoples, and to open up channels for fruitful international co-operation.

Then, Sir, the writer goes on -

Is it really worth while to spin theories about "The possibility of preventing war by borrowing techniques of conciliation used in labour disputes?" What is one to think of the suggestion, coming from a seminar on international understanding, that a sociological study should be made "of the bases of the attitudes of social groups to the problem of tariffs and quota restrictions on international trade?" And, should Unesco be publishing a series of booklets on "ways of life" in various countries? An international body which must be careful not to tread on any of its members' toes is much less likely to endorse any really frank comments than an independent publisher would be.

The article goes on to say that perhaps Unesco could do something -

Unesco can do valuable work in promoting understanding and personal interchange among relatively well-educated peoples, but in that field it is not alone, at most, it can only fill crevices between the activities of universities, learned societies, publishers, and national organizations. It is in the underdeveloped areas of the world that its greatest opportunity lies.

The article concludes by saying -

It is to be hoped that the pruning of Unesco's programme initiated at Montevideo this month will produce a healthy trend towards the urgent and essential, and an equally healthy retreat from cloud cuckoo-land.

Mr. Chairman, South Africa cannot afford to spend £30,000 for flights into "cloud cuckoo-land".

Mr. Chairman, letters from persons who are acquainted with Unesco, also appear in the 'Economist', and are interesting. One writes to say -

I must write a few lines of appreciation of your article in the 'Economist'. In the course of my medical and social work in West Africa I have gained some knowledge of Unesco. Too many of its members are unpractical professional sociologists, theorists, people of meagre experience, but with starry-eyed ideas on the scope of sociology.

I do not think I need quote any more.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: I can appreciate the approval of those hon. members. They are the people who have been protesting at our withdrawal from Unesco. Obviously they are relieved to know that I am not giving them any more of what the Leader of the Opposition calls "Chapter and verse" regarding the futility of this organization.

We have a second reason for our withdrawal from this organization. Unesco has published a series of booklets directly aimed at promoting a policy of no racial differences, of no differences in colour. We particularly object to these publications because of Unesco's interference in South Africa's internal policy, and its attempts to influence people in South Africa, particularly the non-White population of our country. These booklets have been distributed, and they have been widely advertised in South Africa, even in the small local papers.

/ In

In addition, the South African Institute of Race Relations is advertising them. The Institute of Race Relations needs no introduction to this House. It is an ultra-Liberalistic organization. It probably means well, but the fact remains that it is an ultra-Liberalistic organization, which believes in absolute equality between White and non-White. The full list of the Unesco booklets is advertised by the Institute, and are being distributed by various agents throughout the country. Mr. Chairman, I have a number of these booklets here, and what is interesting is this ...

HON. MEMBERS: No, not more!

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: The hon. members must let me tell them what appears in some of these booklets.

Mr. MITCHELL: Can you not lay them upon the Table in the House?

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: The hon. member must not be so nervous. I am going to tell him what is being published in this country, and why we are withdrawing from the organization which he supports. And as the hon. member comes from Natal, I think that he will appreciate some of the stuff I am going to read. Unesco has issued a booklet entitled 'Race and Culture'. Its object is to show that there is no difference between Coloured and non-Coloured people. It says -

The differences observable between the physiques of the different races are purely superficial, such as colour of skin, colour and form of eyes and hair, shape of the skull

(Interjections). The emphasis is on the colour of the skin. I know that some gentlemen on the other side of the House are colour-blind in regard to the racial problems of South Africa. The article goes on -

..... outside the field of pure biology, the word "race" is utterly meaningless.

The object of this pamphlet is to show that there is no difference between Coloured and non-Coloured races. It says -

Racial prejudice is not innate In America, where White and Black populations frequently live side by side, it is an indisputable fact that White children do not learn to consider themselves superior to Negro children until they are told that they are so.

Mr. LOVELL: Are you afraid of that?

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: It goes on -

From the sexual point of view, there appears no evidence of any repulsion between race and race, and indeed all the facts so far collected, demonstrate that there has been continual cross-breeding between races.

And so it goes on - along the same lines, to show that there is no difference between Black and White. It says that there is no reason why Black and White should not marry -

The effects of race mixture are neither good nor bad in themselves; they depend on the quality of the individuals who have entered into the mixture and on the manner in which the hybrid is accepted or treated by the community as a whole.

Then the booklet quotes a Unesco statement on race relations -

No convincing evidence has been adduced that race mixture of itself produces biologically bad effects.

/ Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Chairman, there is a booklet on 'Racial Myths'. It is devoted to the question of colour prejudice. It says -

Our own civilization attaches special importance to the colour of the skin and relatively dark pigmentation.

But then it goes on to show that it makes no difference whether a man is Black or not Black, and argues that there is no reason to make any difference. The writer refers to the Declaration of Human Rights. (Laughter). I do not know why hon. members are amused, unless they are trying to laugh it off. But they can't laugh off the following quotation, because they are the people who have urged us to remain a member of this organization. The writer goes on to say -

The greatest humiliations suffered by Negroes are social restrictions. In South Africa, where colour prejudice is very strong, there was an instance in 1944 of certain officials being dismissed from their posts for refusing to obey certain Government instructions that the same courtesy terms should be used towards Negroes as to Whites. Colour prejudice has not only served as a basis of introducing the caste system in our society, it has also been used as a weapon by labour unions.

Then it further deals with the position in South Africa. Mr. Chairman, we are paying for the printing and the issue of these pamphlets!

Then I come to the section of a booklet which was published in 1953, entitled 'The South African Case'. The greater portion of this section amounts to an attack on the Government's policy in regard to apartheid. The writer goes back as far as the Great Trek, and blames the Voortrekkers for having introduced differentiation in South Africa, as between White and Black. He says -

The attempts of missionaries to spread Christianity within the ranks of the "out-group" (that is the Natives) threatened this group-exclusiveness, and the Boer farmers met evangelical efforts to improve and regularize inter-racial relations with strong suspicion and hostility.

I suppose the reference is to Dr. Phillip. He goes on -

This tendency, progressively restricting the rights of non-European peoples to full participation in the life of South African society, has been a significant feature ever since Union. The result is a cast-like system of human relations in which Europeans always occupy the superior, and non-Europeans the inferior place.

A further characteristic of the system is the rigid separation of European and non-European in nearly every sphere of social life. Recent legislation enacted under the present Government's policy of apartheid decrees that non-Europeans are to be residentially segregated from Europeans.

And so it goes on. I am quoting only a few passages to show the nature of the stuff that is being produced and circulated by Unesco.

Mr. WATERSON: Would you admit that the last paragraph is an accurate statement of the facts?

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: I object to it because it amounts to an inticement of the non-Whites against the Whites.

Mr. Chairman, in 1951 - and this is of importance, in view of the fact that we have now decided to withdraw from Unesco - Mr. Andrews, who is our Ambassador in Paris, spoke at the Unesco Conference, and strongly objected to the publication of these pamphlets. He told the conference on that occasion -

One method of the Secretariat seems to be to fulfil the function of collecting material of various international study groups. Publications unlikely to appear are given worldwide circulation - publications which are not necessarily authoritative and which are therefore more than likely to give rise to dissension and controversy.

Later, Mr. Andrews discussed the matter personally with the Director-General of Unesco. He referred to these particular publications and said that he had been instructed by the Union Government to object to their being published by Unesco. That was in 1951. His report is dated July 1951. Sir, the Director-General of Unesco admitted that publication of this literature was not desirable. He said that they would see what they could do about it. Mr. Chairman, you will find that the pamphlets from which I have just quoted have been reprinted since that date. The last one from which I quoted was reprinted in 1953, which is a clear indication that the Director-General of Unesco took no notice of our objections. It is also our money which is being spent, with that of other nations, viz. membership fees, and we strongly objected that it should be spent in this fashion. But in spite of our objections Unesco continued with these publications. They went even further. At the Montevideo Conference, last year, the Indian delegation introduced a motion, which was passed by the Conference, with only South Africa dissenting. The motion read -

The General Conference, bearing in mind that discrimination, as enumerated in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on the basis of Race, Colour, Sex, Language, etc. constitutes one of the greatest dangers to peace and human dignity,

Noting that Unesco has already taken some commendable steps to produce excellent publications on the subject of race relations,

Regretting that discrimination in various forms continues to vitiate relations between human beings in certain areas of the world,

Calls upon all member states and national commissions to eradicate in all possible ways the evils of discrimination, and,

Authorises the Director-General, in carrying out the programme of Unesco, to give special attention to measures designed to eliminate all such discrimination and, more particularly, to measures calculated to eradicate race prejudices.

This then is the position. In 1951 Mr. Andrews formally objected to these publications. He did so, not only in open meeting, but he later paid a visit to the Director-General, and had a long discussion, of which he sent a full report. But in spite of assurances that they were going to see what they could do about it, it has been going on ever since. In those circumstances, having given a warning, having objected to these publications, and having regard generally to the futility of this organization, the Government decided to withdraw from Unesco.

The point was made by the hon. member for Constantia, and also by others, that in terminating our membership we were running away. The hon. member for Constantia said that we were following a policy of isolation. The old story! He said that our reasons were childish, that we were running away. And then he made his great point: "After all," he said, "it is our duty to be there and to teach these people from inside". What a hope! As Gen. Smuts said when he attended his first United Nations Sitting in 1947: "I was up against a stone wall of prejudice". You can go there and make the strongest representations, but it is no use! I think the hon. member for Salt River (Mr. Laurence) had the same experience at United Nations. He also was up against "a stone wall of prejudice". I say that it is a futile hope to try and teach these people "from inside", as the hon. member for Constantia suggests. There are 69 member states of Unesco. Of those, only 22 are "White" states; there are 21 non-White states and the rest consists of Russia and her satellites, and what one may term "mixed races".

/ Mr. LAWRENCE:

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

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 paper documents 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 forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.