

**B13**



THERE CAN BE NO JUST EDUCATION  
IN AN UNJUST SOCIETY

*Bew "B 13"*  
By THE LEARNER SIBUSISO Mhosi

Revolutionary greetings to the forces of change!

Today we gathered here at the first congress of the AZANIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT, AZASM. We meet in a situation that is potentially explosive. And we have stood the test of a million fires as Black students in trying to shape our destiny and to contribute to the creation of anti-racist and scientific socialist AZANIA. As students that are proud of being Black Conscious, we believe we have an important role to play in making this more of a humane world. No one shall deny us that right, of that we are justly proud.

The attacks that have been made against us in this philosophy of B.C. both by the system and the potential black people (those that are colour blind or orthodox Marxists) who claim to be engaged in the search for liberation are numerous. It is ironic that we are the subject of intense attack from two allegedly diametrically opposed quarters.

Comrades, I must admit that at times the gears of my so-called slow thinking brain do grind to a complete halt and at such times and moments I am left completely in the dark, about quite a number of things.

But history will prove either themselves or myself innocent and genuine to the total liberation of this country. A case in point is the white liberals from Lower Houton and Wits who are shouting slogans at the top of their voices "Amandla" "We shall be free" speaking of liberation. If I remember correctly the term "Liberate" means to set free especially from oppression. But assuming that the Whites are free, whom do they intend freeing, and from what? In South Africa we have the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) which is striving to free the Black people of Azania from White racism and capitalism. That is Azapo's aim, and I must confess I do not know and have never heard of any Black Parliamentarians in South Africa from whom the White South Africans want to remove the territory for Whites.

If the Black people of South Africa want to be liberated from White Racial and Capitalist domination, and also the Whites of this country want to be liberated, someone should be having our facts mixed up here, or else my mind is once more up to mischief. Assuming that I am correct as I am and it is the BLACKS who have a point about their STRUGGLE in South Africa. It is then obvious that the Whites do not know what the "liberation" they want is all about. Today I warn all those who play around with words and confusing those that are colour blind.

Comrades, our purpose here is not to ponder upon the attacks that will be a waste of energy. Today, Comrades, allow me to address myself to the role that students can play in this country to bring about revolutionary change in our society. By speaking about the role which students could play for a revolutionary change, I do not mean that the students are the vanguard of the struggle as the prophets of doom allege. I simply mean the role or the part that is very important for the students to play in the quest for liberation.

I believe that before I am anything else in this country, I am Black; which does not really define me according to my pigmentation and how my skull is shaped. But it comes from the political definition of all those who are by law, traditionally, politically, socially and economically discriminated against as a group in the South African society, AND identifying themselves as a unit in the struggle towards the realisation of their aspirations. By being legislated against, does not mean that you can be categorised under this political definition; it does not end there. It continues to say you must also identify yourself as a unit in the realisation of the people's aspirations which means you can't be an OBSERVER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR



THE LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE. there are many ways of identifying yourself with the oppressed when; if and only if; you are part of them.

As Black students we are from the Black exploited workers which are the vanguard of the struggle in South Africa. It is again the logic of sanity to strive for change when our fathers and mothers are subjected to slavery. Some of us know for a fact that we have some shortcomings in the system of education in South Africa. We are aware that the White settlers have always considered themselves as the barriers of civilisation and consequently considered Blacks as backwards. The type of the educational system that we are given serves as an ideology to justify inequalities, rivalry and racist consciousness which has been entrenched in the educational system in the country. The most fundamental point about our education is that, it is used to widen and reinforce class divisions between the exploiters and the exploited; and it indoctrinates and domesticates, hence one finds many "I don't care Students, as long as I've got my degree". They should not be blamed or be found guilty of their ignorance of not knowing what is right and what is wrong. White oppressors are to be blamed for the evil of selfishness and the class division they perpetrate among the Black people.

#### PRESENT METHODS

As students must be integrated together with our education into the overall struggle for liberation. And intricately linked with the class racial struggle in this land of ours. We must strive for pursuing the struggle for a new society as students. Our education has the effect of creating a Black Middle group that is far removed from the true aspirations of the people.

#### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Our objective is to work towards the establishment of an educational system that will meet the requirement of the country and shall respond creatively towards the needs of AZANIA and be generally creating a self-reliant nation. I note that the unjust, oppressive and exploitative practices in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres are also primarily represented in the existence of an educational system which caters for different peoples in this country. I also contend that no equitable and just system of education can thrive and function in an unjust and exploitative society.

The means of communication and education are controlled and owned by the dominant White ruling class ideology in order to promote and perpetuate their own interests.

Now, allow me again, to put emphasis on culture and education. The White dominant group maintains its position of power by fostering and encouraging ethnocentrism in the country. It is quite clear that lack of freedom on the part of the people signifies a deprivation of their own authentic culture. Their position can be understood when we view this ethnocentrism as it is tied up to culture and education; and realise that nowhere, in this state of affairs, can capitalism (as it operates and manifests itself in our nation) offer any hope for genuine progress and social justice that can be accessible to all.

In our analysis of education, we should also realise that we are also analysing culture. (And cultural groups of sections). When cultures come into contact, acculturation and so-called assimilation take place. The ruling White minority group has always stood to benefit in such contacts, at the expense of the indigenous and the majority of the people. The Black people have always been the objects of assimilation, under direct rule or control of the latter apartheid eurocentrism.



### DOMINATED PEOPLE

The dominated people are the culturally subjected. This is clear in all institutions including the education/one, where White schools are considered made to be of a higher standard - attended by the privileged and by those who can afford to pay exorbitant fees. They are also attended by the children of those Blacks who have a stake in the present ordering and structuring of society. These are the Blacks who have been culturally alienated from the popular culture of the oppressed people. The status quo aims at making the subjected people despise their culture and lose confidence in their capability at contributing creatively in the progress of mankind. In our search for cultural Liberation, we should never lose sight of the fact that political and economic Liberation are a prerequisite.

Culture and education have no meaning apart from the social organisation of life on which they are built. All institutions in society must not be considered in isolation and therefore, our position in our pursuit to retain our culture and create from it relevant values for living, must be a dialectical approach.

### CAPITALISM AND CULTURE

Capitalism will always produce an anti-human culture; and this will manifest itself in this manner:

- (i) Within this system, and its educational subsystem, men are educated with an emphasis to rule, to dominate, and suppress the interests and aspirations of the majority people.
- (ii) It encourages and deepens sectionalism and conflicting interests.
- (iii) Individuals and social groups will be alienated from themselves and their environments.
- (iv) The means of production are removed from the control and ownership of the masses.

The racist capitalist culture nurtures subservience, self-hatred and mutual suspicion in our society. The educational system, then, will reflect inequalities which arise from a racial pyramid which has become typical in our society. Those at the base of this pyramid must be made to despise their self-image and to consider White culture as the model for progressive life. A culture which is the preserve of the few, cannot be ruthlessly enforced. Such a culture can only serve to rationalise the exploitation and oppression of the masses in the name of culture.

### CONCLUSION

The time for debates has passed. Today, we are here to reaffirm our commitment, dedicate selflessness, involvement and a resolution to oppose and destroy the system of tyranny and oppression - with might and main - to our last breath, and our last drop of blood. Our AZASM is blacker than it was yesterday; and more committed to the dynamic philosophy of BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS. We wish to direct the oppressed people's attention to the fact that a new generation has emerged as a more fearless and dedicated leadership. It is also appropriate to mention that it is the apartheid regime which has consistently and treacherously attacked us as: the schoolchildren (1976-1984); the defenceless detainees; and now the exiles; amongst others. Let us not forget the terror campaign conducted against the so-called squatters. Albeit all the efforts of the oppressors and exploiters to deter our progress, we as students must work even harder in highlighting the inconsistencies prevalent in the oppressors' educational system; and make it known that while we cannot immediately create an alternative one, we shall remain in theirs ONLY under continual PROTEST and make this fact acceptable to all those Blacks who share our interests and aspirations.

**FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION!! WITH LIFE AND DEATH THE OPPRESSED SHALL MARCH!!!! ONE AZANIA ONE NATION! : : by Sibusiso Mabaso**



**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

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

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

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