

H. J. [unclear] I "Bantu Edu" (1) H.C.M.3

Francis, we are met to examine the position in Education in our country, and by studying the present situation, and the discussions which we will have amongst ourselves, we hope to find new ways of making our struggle more effective and unanimous. Before I speak on the present position in Education particularly, I would like to attempt some analysis of the world situation. The occasions are rare when we do have the opportunity to analyse the world situation. And yet, if we are to determine our tactics correctly, it is not enough that we should analyse the distribution of forces in our own country only. It is very necessary that we make a correct analysis of the general world situation.

What is the most primary and the most important issue in the world today? The most important issue in the world today is the question of PEACE or DEATH! The violence of the recent U.S. hydrogen bomb explosions have revealed the fact that the end of life on this earth is not a matter on which philosophers and theologians may dream and speculate; it is very much a real issue. The people of the world, whatever their political beliefs, must make up their minds whether they want to live or to die. There is no doubt that the people of the world desire to live in peace. We the people of this country want to live in peace: We want Peace because we want to live and we want to live because we are determined to see the realization of our ideals. What are our ideals? Our ideals are the attainment of full freedom in our country, the end of exploitation and the end of slavery.

Therefore we are committed to a policy of peace, therefore we oppose the suppression of violence, murder, and oppression, therefore we are opposed to imperialism. The foot of the United States of America, by making war in Korea, by intervening in Indo-China (Viet Nam), by holding the world to blackmailing the whole world with its weapons of destruction, by signing agreements of friendship with the enemies of democracy like Franco of Spain and Malan of South Africa, is quite clearly People's enemy No. 1.

Our struggle against the fascist govt of Malan is therefore a struggle for democracy and peace. But it has a particular aspect; it is a struggle against fascism. For fascism is the belief of all who believe in the use of force and violence, those who are the sworn enemies of democracy, those whose actions are dictated by greed and disrespect for human beings. Apartheid is but the South African brand of fascism or nazism! Writing to a fellow priest in the United States, the Prime Minister of South

Africa claims that 'Apartheid' is the most beautiful theory of Government in South Africa. But the honorable Prime Minister says himself that it is not "practical politics". That is, Apartheid cannot be implemented, it cannot be put into practice. If therefore, the Nationalist government is not trying to commit the impossible, what policy are they putting into effect? The answer is clear, it is the policy of Fascism. Here is Fascism being put into practice in our country? By using Parliament to pass laws like the Industrial Conciliation laws to break Trade Unions, laws like the Native Resettlement law to legalize the theft of people's rights to our property, the Bantu Authorities Act to ensure the division of the oppressed peoples, and many others including the Bantu Education Law, to ~~convert~~ ^{change} the African people into complete slaves!

You have listened to an analysis of "Native Education"; you have seen that its whole aim was to produce inferior beings of ^{us} you. You can judge for yourselves ~~but~~ the teachers of Native Education have been. For ~~we~~ fought unsuccessfully for our freedom; spies, informers ~~and~~ ^{traitors} have emerged amongst us because we have been encouraged to fight amongst ~~us~~ ourselves for the crumbs which fall from the feasts tables of our rulers. And yet, Native Education has failed, our rulers do not think it is sufficient to keep us in chains, they have replaced it with Bantu Education!

I must here deal with the argument which one often hears from some irresponsible African Teachers. The men who know all these things and yet excuse themselves by saying that they are not politicians, that politics is a dirty game which must not be allowed to soil the noble profession. What is politics? Is it not the subject which tells us how people are ruled? Are these people cattle that they must not be expected to be interested in how they are governed? Is Education not a process whereby human beings are changed? However people may answer this

So that the latter can continue to oppress and exploit him. And in any case, the Minister of Finance has promised the European electorate that he will increase the poll-tax of the African So that he pays towards his own edue. It has been calculated that in a space of 5 years, the polltax which the African pays will be more than double the present amount he is paying.

These are the facts of the situation; No amount of playing around with figures will hide the fact that only 1/3 of the African children of school going age ever receive any education at all!

I have tried to show that the struggle against the Bantu Edue is the struggle against fascism in South Africa, and I have tried to show that it is closely connected with the struggle for peace and democracy in the world. It should be clear therefore, that the ^{success} ~~the~~ Bantu Edue in particular will go hand in hand with the struggle against the forces of barbarism and violence. What are the chances of success in the struggle against fascism?

The forces of reaction are very powerful. In fact, never in the history of this country have the enemies of progress and truth been so powerful. But history teaches us to turn our eyes to what is new and developing, for the baby of to-day is the adult of to-morrow. What is it that is new and developing in the present situation of our Country? It is the new spirit of democracy which is slowly taking shape in South Africa. It is the spirit which inspires the National organizations of the people, particularly the African Nat Congress and its democratic allies. The most important thing about the period through which we are passing is that it educates not only the leaders but the masses of the people as well. These are the

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