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Cover photograph by Anna Zieminski

On Language

South Africa is a land of many languages, but these languages can be divided into two main categories - the language of the oppressed and the languages of the oppressors. Any one language, English, or Afrikaans or Zulu, may be used to oppress other people, or to liberate people. Zulu, spoken by Buthelezi, is the language of the oppressor. Spoken by Mzwakhe it is the language of the oppressed fighting for their freedom.

This magazine is committed to the liberation of South Africa, and the liberation of culture and of minds in South Africa. Articles in any languages that speaks of freedom, of justice and of democracy are welcome in SPARK.

In the interests of communicating with as many people as possible, the editors might feel it necessary to attach a short translation in English to articles that are submitted in other languages, but it is our policy not to exclude any material on the basis of language.

Please send articles, photographs, drawings, letters, poems short stories or whatever to SPARK, P.O.Box 59092, Kengray, 2100. We do not undertake to return any material unless it is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

SPARK is put together by an editorial collective drawn from the members of PAP. The contents of SPARK do not necessarily reflect the opinions of PAP or of the SPARK editorial collective.

RESOLUTION ON LANGUAGE, taken at CASA, Amsterdam, December 1987.

Noting:

- 1. that multi-linguism is a characteristic feature of South African society;*
- 2. that English and Afrikaans have taken on a disproportionate role in cultural production and communication because of their status as official languages;*
- 3. that cultural workers have a special role to play in the preservation and development of all the languages in our country.*

We hereby resolve:

- 1. that all the languages of our country be accorded equal status;*
- 2. that cultural workers be encouraged to use all the languages of South Africa in their work and that language training facilities be made available to spread the knowledge of South African languages.*