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REGIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT (ANGOLA)

28th August, '84.

INTRODUCTION.

Attached to this report are relative details of educational activities of the last half of 1983 as well as the rest of this year. The Luanda district only and partly Caculama centre have been active in the sphere of education in the first few months of this year. Considerable developments have taken place in ~~xxx~~ recent months in Pango, Quibaxe as well as Caculama itself. These centres need immediate attention in terms of organisation and standardisation of work. But since we are undermanned, it is difficult to reach such centres on time. A suggestion is therefore made to the effect that the department be provided with at least one comrade who has relevant experience. Comrade Anderson Magigwane is one such person.

Luanda District.

A number of comrades are active in various fields of study. These developments are quite encouraging in that Luanda has, over the years, been quite difficult to activate in the sphere of Adult Education due to its fluid nature.

i) There are ELEVEN comrades who are learning Typing - ten of which are taught by a qualified teacher in this field.

ii) TWO comrades are studying Poultry Farming - a six months course at the Kwanza Bengo Agricultural Complex here in Luanda.

iii) Three comrades have been seconded to take up a course on Journalism through SWAPO which is to take six months. Presently ONE comrade is attending classes.

iv) A number of comrades are about to do a Mechanics course in Viana town. ONE female comrade is studying Mechanics under the guidance of an experienced teacher here in the department.

v) ONE comrade has been seconded by the ANC to study for a Law degree course at the University of Angola. It is hoped that more comrades with a good command of Portuguese will join him in future if they qualify to do so.

On the other hand, the department is faced with other tasks outside the movement: two comrades - Steven Isaacson and Milner Pitso are soon to teach 3 Angolan and +4 Uruguayan comrades respectively. Comrade Zoyisile Mati has been teaching a unit of Angolan TV personnel - English.

Lubango Unit.

We have also recorded positive rapport through our unit in Lubango in the past semester. The unit consisted of Four active members who were teaching English. However, with the passing away of comrade Jeanette and her daughter Katrym, indications are that there will be only Two comrades remaining. The Rectory has not been informed about this yet. Comrade Jaimie is to ~~xxxx~~ translate and teach Mathematics this coming semester.

Caculama.

A meeting was held with the head of the department - Lionel Ken on the 25th/3/84 and the following was discussed: it was noted that the situation has deteriorated educationally due to disturbances at Kangandala and the activities of the UNITA bandits. There were 42 comrades attending classes which commenced on the 10th of January. Comrade Ken reported the situation to be fluid. Also, he was occupied at assisting the Political department. Other instructors: Walter Motaung, Sonny Letseme and Maurice Manala were also assigned other tasks as instructors in various departments. However, the present camp commissar comrade Siphon Mtshana has given assurance that time and attention will be devoted to promoting educational interest in the camp. This brings to mind that there is a need to reach Caculama in the immediate future so as to reorganise educational activities there.

Farm/.....

Farm Complex

Educational campaigns have never been effected there. The commander comrade Jackson Mba has expressly stated that there is a need to visit the centre and establish educational classes—especially the Agric.-based courses.

Quibaxe Pango Centres

Reports coming through the respective commissars of both camps indicate an urgent need that proper organisational and structural work must be effected without delay. I am also anxious to reach both camps as soon as possible.

School Project

The above reflected manifestations came at a time when the Regional Commissariat was about to implement the idea of establishing a school in the North. The plan could not take off the ground due to circumstances that manifested in the recent past.

Regional Education Committee

Mention was made as from the drawing of the Memorandum that a Regional Education Committee be set up so as to dynamise the scope of Adult Education in the region. Efforts were made that this be realised in March, but unforeseen factors inhibited this realisation. Presently the REC consist of three: Milner Pitso, Nichodemus Moloi and Steven Isaacson. The latter is presently on a study mission (Poultry Farming). Comrade Nichodemus is at the moment organising the Natural Science syllabi as well as teaching Mathematics and Mechanics. We initially had in mind that the REC members were to do an orientation course on M/L Philosophy, Dialectical Materialism on the Natural Sciences and M/L Social Psychology. This was in preparation of the new approach that is envisaged in the Memorandum, as well as an ~~enrich~~ easier ability to cope up with immediate and future researches.

This became more prominent after we had received a consignment of books from the Canadian Solidarity—the bulk of which contained material on Humanities: psychology, Sociology, Education, etc. However, we have not realised this objective due to being undermanned.

Viana Vocational Training Centre

Comrade Milner Pitso was coopted into the "Projects Committee" in July this year by the Chief Rep. This was expressly in terms of the fact that there was to be constructed (1st phase) the above centre; whose second phase (Vocational training) fell in the sphere of the Education Department.

One report of the project (drawn up by comrade Marinus Schoon) indicated the need that preparations be made in the sphere of education before it is too late. Here also, there is a dire need for immediate implementation of planning and organisational work. Yet up to now, we are not aware of the personnel (on hand) who are to instruct at the centre—so that we can plan, coordinate, etc.

Scholarships

A number of comrades have won scholarships from the region this year. 6 have gone for tailoring, 3 on a short secretarial course, about 10 in the medical sphere, 10 other are to leave soon on DAPP scholarship project. Many others have applied for various fields of study.

Conclusion

The department expresses its readiness to do whatever ~~it can~~ is within its powers to broaden the scope of Adult Education as well as evoking more and more interest to the comrades at actively participating in upgrading themselves.

Milner Pitso.

August, '84.