

Ten Days of PAYM Festival

A great contribution to the African revolution, is how one can describe the tremendous work done by the African youth during the ten days (22nd to 31st) of the Socond Pan-African Youth Festival which was held in Tripoli, Libya.

It was the most representative gathering of the African youth since the 1973 festival in Tunis. Delegates came from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morroco, Mozambique, Namibia (SWAPO Youth League), Seychelles, Senegal, South Africa (ANC Youth Section), Saharawi (Youth of POLISARIO Front), Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Inspiring messages of solidarity in the common world-wide struggle against imperialism, for national and social liberation, peace and social progress were presented by representatives of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), International Union of Students (IUS), the OAU, All-African Students Union (AASU), Young Communist League (KOMSOMOL) of the Soviet Union, Free German Youth (FDJ) of the German Democratic Republic, Union of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia, Union of Cuban Youth (UJC), the Youth of the Democratic Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Syria.

Comrade President Oliver Tambo sent greetings on behalf of our people and their vanguard movement, the African National Congress. He said:

"Imperialism is intensifying its global offensive against the forces of progress. Dark clouds, formented by the enemies of our continent, are gathering around every step we take. Needless to say, imperialism is meeting with stubborn resistance and continuing victories by peace-loving peoples determined to win self-determination, independence and social advancement. We need however to remain vigilant and united against this offensive. Unity must be fought for and defended. The striving for unity is an ongoing challenge which must be met at every level and by the people of Africa in all their various organisational formations. Unity poses a special challenge to the youth of Africa. In this struggle against imperialism and its agents, we wish to commend for your support to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people led by their great movement, the PLO".

FOR INDEPENDENCE, UNITY AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY

The festival's opening ceremony was marked by a colourful parade of participants at the City Stadium, Tripoli. Its slogan was *Independence, Unity and Anti-Imperialist Solidarity*. The Pan-African Youth Movement is a continental organisation



The festival's opening ceremony.

of the African youth with clear-cut basic principles which guide its activities: to ensure that the youth plays an active role in the ongoing struggle for the total liberation of our continent. This means:

- strengthening and defending African unity against imperialism;
- clearing the way for united action in the struggle for the total liberation of the continent;
- the implementation of the OAU programme of economic reconstruction; and
- joining hands with the world progressive forces in fighting for peace and progress on our planet.

It is in keeping with its democratic and anti-imperialist traditions that the Pan-African Youth Movement dedicated its Second Festival to rallying the youth to make a concerted effort in meeting the crucial challenge facing our entire continent. Considerable success was achieved in this direction.

The programme of the festival consisted of four major issues and the participants accordingly formed themselves into four commissions:

1. Political;
2. Economic;
3. Culture; and
4. Interest groups.

Each of the four areas had a number of topics on which delegates presented papers throughout the duration of the festival.

There were also solidarity meetings including one with the Libyan people on the last day of the festival. All this activity was further enriched by cultural performances and sports activities by different delegations.



One commission in session during the Pan-African Youth Movement Festival.

The ANC Youth Section deserves special attention. The delegation which represented the youth of the African National Congress and the entire youth of our country was led by its Head, Welile Nhlapo, with other members of the National Youth Committee: Mongezi Stofile, Joyce Dipale, Jackie Selebi, Kgomotso Mogase and Klause Maphepha. The "Amandla Cultural Ensemble" of the ANC directed by Jonas Gwangwa, a renown trombonist and a musician of international class, constituted a vital component of the ANC delegation.

DAWN SPOKE TO ONE OF THE DELEGATES:

Our delegation went to the festival to represent our fighting people in the revolutionary tradition of the ANC. From the beginning to the end our delegation worked tirelessly. We participated actively in all commissions: political, economic, cultural and in interest groups. On every platform our speakers told the story of the brutal oppression, starvation, hangings, humiliation, etc., on the one hand and mass action by workers, youth, women, military action by Umkhonto we Sizwe and the community at large on the other. We told them of the sacrifices made by the workers, peasants, children and women of the Front-line States like Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe. All of whom are daily victims of Pretoria's campaign of terror, destruction and destabilisation simply because the political and social systems they are creating are a direct opposite to apartheid domination and they support our just struggle for national liberation. We made it clear to our African friends that the fighting peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Saharawi led by the African National Congress, the South West Africa People's Organisation and POLISARIO Front respectively are fighting against colonial domination just as any other African state which have since won independence. And we went further than that: we called on the delegates to ensure that their countries increase their support for our peoples struggling for

national independence and to the Front-line States. This included suggesting practical action like forming Release Mandela Committees in their respective countries.

In addition to the work done in the commissions, units of bilateral discussions did tremendous work. We met with a number of delegations ; Cape Verde, Seychelles, Ghana, Gambia, Mauritania, Upper Volta, Djibouti, Madagascar, Congo, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and a few others. In the discussions we were able to ensure that even those youth groups who are distant from the Front-line of the struggles for the total liberation of our continent get a clear picture of our situation.

The performance of Amandla crowned it all. I can only describe it as being heroic. Only a week earlier these comrades had been sweating it out, performing twice daily for the embattled people of Mozambique. They kept the audience spell bound throughout their performances. Their political message resounded in the music from the ghettos of South Africa and the majestic traditional dances of all our indigenous people, the wrath of our fighting black working class, women and youth, all unmistakably expressing the justness of our cause and people's certainty in final victory.



The fantastic Amandla Cultural Ensemble setting the pace during the cultural opening ceremony.

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

The Second Pan-African Youth Festival left a lasting impression on all of us. It gave us an opportunity to get a closer look at young Africa, which to a considerable extent reflects the pains felt by all generations, their hope in, and determination in striving, for a brighter future.

The anti-imperialist principles on which the Pan-African Youth Movement is founded became the guiding force of the collective activity of the participants.

At the same time the fact that African countries are still striving for economic independence against an intensified imperialist campaign to entrench neo-colonialism and that they have different ideological lines showed itself. This showed itself in the different approaches to certain problems.

This, however, did not prevent the over-whelming majority of participants from boldly declaring that Africa's enemy number one is world imperialism led by the Reagan Administration, the force behind the terroristic destabilisation campaign of the Botha-Malan regime and the continuing massacre of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples by Israel. In the same spirit the delegations condemned the inhuman policies of Pretoria and the reactionary regime in Morocco and Tel Aviv and reaffirmed the right to self-determination for the peoples of South Africa, Saharawi and Palestine as led by the ANC, SWAPO, POLISARIO Front and PLO respectively.

To have been part of this battle for the defence of the basic interests of the suffering millions of people of Africa which demanded an uncompromising stand against imperialism was a rich experience for us.

As was the case before we went to the festival, we still do not harbour any illusion that the implementation of the resolutions taken at the Second Pan-African Youth Festival will be an easy matter. We always have and will be convinced that only a determined and united struggle by the working masses in every country and by the continent as a whole in alliance with the world peace and freedom-loving people led by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries against imperialism, that Africa will win genuine liberation - when hunger, diseases, ignorance and war will be swept from the face of our continent once and for all. The struggle of our people for a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa as outlined in our people's programme, the Freedom Charter, is both our guarantee to a prosperous future and contribution to the African revolution.

DAWN PolitiXword No. 7 - Answers

ACROSS:

1. Harmel 4. NFC 6. Muster 8. Napalm 10. Ultra 11. Cue 12. ECT
14. O.R. 16. Zini 17. Form 18. MAWU 19. CUSA

DOWN:

1. Hammock 2. Rescue 3. Event 4. Nama 5. Calm 7. Rare
9. Pacific 13. AAM 14. On 15. Rig