

a movement to fight illiteracy, gain democratization and reform education

The most restrictive higher educational systems are to be found in countries ruled by fascist and dictatorial regimes which are deeply hostile to education and culture and are even attempting to change higher educational institutions into centres for the dissemination of the fascist ideology.

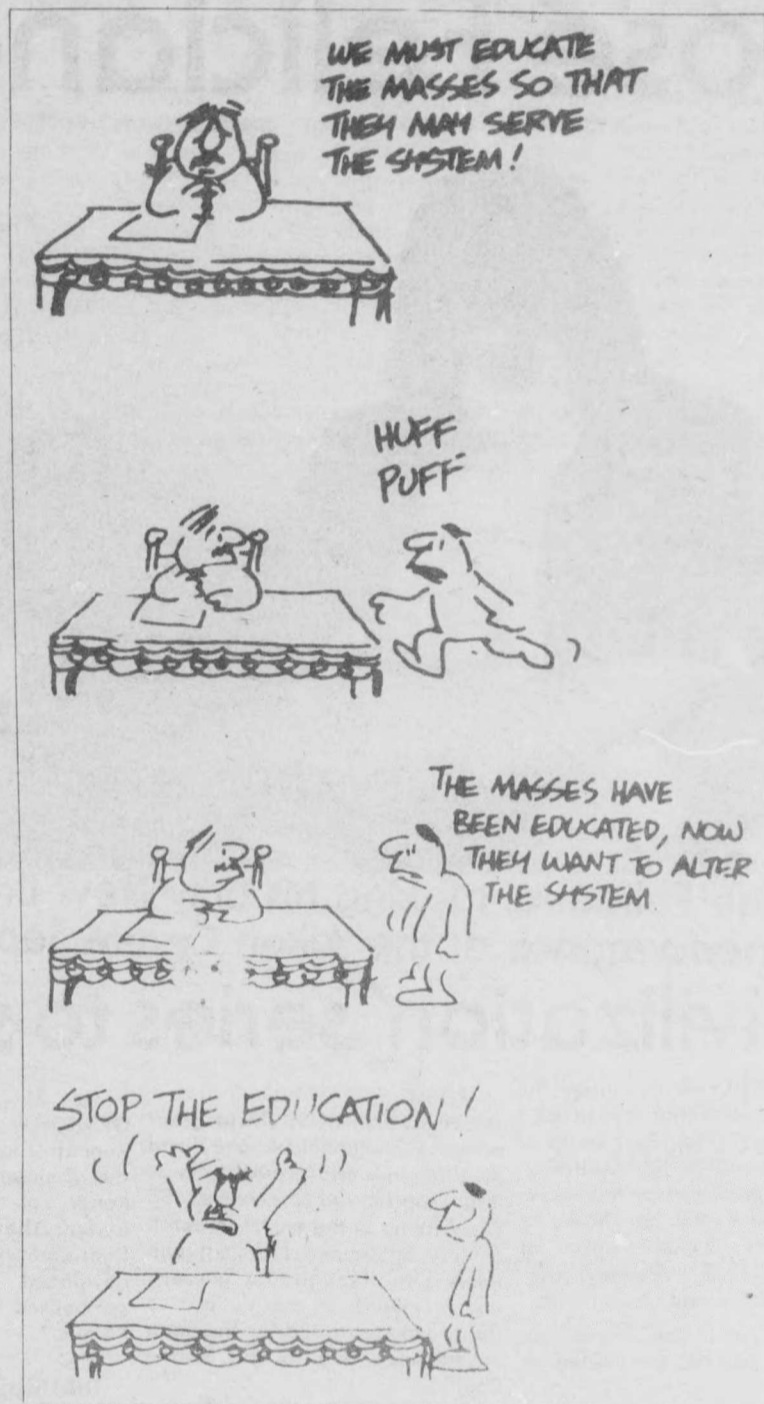
In the socialist countries a solid basis has been created for a democratic educational system which serves the needs of the students, the working people and society as a whole.

Based on numerous activities in which the National Union of Students from all over the world have participated, the IUS concludes that to achieve their goals of education requires: 1. a guarantee to all youth of the simple possibility of approval to education at all levels on the sole basis of their capacities without discrimination as to sex, skin, colour, race, religion or political convictions, social status or social origin; 2. that the financing of education at all levels from state resources must be guaranteed; that the provision of adequate grants to cover all necessary living and studying expenses must be ensured; 3. the creation of conditions permitting workers to study; 4. that a choice of specialized studies be made available, taking into account the capacities and desires of the students concerned; 5. that the program, content, and structure of educational establishments be closely linked to the imperatives of the development in the service of the peoples and against the economic and ideological penetration of imperialism; 6. an educational content based on the appreciation of and esteem for the national cultures; 7. the elimination from study centres of all ideas and theories of fascism and militarism; 8. that the educational system can be free, both in its financial and administrative aspects, from the control and influence of the monopoly of church and religious groups; 9. that the reform of education be applied in a systematic manner at all educational levels; 10. in universities, high schools, vocational schools, elementary schools, as part of the educational system as a whole; 11. that the educational system be adapted to the requirements of the country's social and economic development, in conformity with the interests of the people; 12. that one of the functions of education should be the training of specialists, while developing those capacities of students which are necessary for the satisfaction of the human needs of society; 13. that the budget for national education be sufficient to cover the needs of education in general and those of higher education in particular;

14. national economic planning in the service of the people and interdependence of social and economic planning and education; 15. the securing of graduating students for work in the field in which they have been studying in university; 16. the systematic development on the national level of a creative culture; 17. the participation of a democratically elected student's representatives in the administration and leading organs of the educational system on the local and national levels; 18. the cooperation of students with faculty members and employees and with the workers and their organizations in the common interest; 19. that higher education be placed in the service of the real interests of the people, the needs of society and the scientific, social and economic progress of humanity; 20. that students and their organizations as well as professors, university employees and higher educational establishments be guaranteed such basic democratic rights as freedom of thought, expression and association; 21. that freedom in instruction, research and ideas in all spheres of knowledge be guaranteed by virtue of the above mentioned ideas.

The IUS has decided to establish an International Student Research Centre which will compile educational data, carry out studies in comparative education, work on specific questions such as assessment, etc. The results of such research will be available to interested student organizations in their day-to-day activities.

Some of the main topics which could receive our special attention and which would enrich our understanding and appreciation of the problems that the student movement faces in its struggle for a democratic education are: the struggle of students for broad access to education and the guaranteeing of the rights of graduates; the participation of students and universities in the defence and rational exploitation of natural resources in the interest of the peoples; the participation of students and universities in the struggle to eradicate illiteracy; the role of students and universities in the protection of the environment; the role of higher education and of students and their organization in economic development and social progress; the task of guaranteeing jobs for graduates in accordance with their knowledge and qualifications; the need to ensure that science and technology are placed in the service of peace, international cooperation security



and social progress; the defence of the university against neo-colonial penetration into education, and the militarization of education. The experience of the NUS's in the struggle for increased financing for education and against cut-backs and restrictions.

