

Our Students

PAIGC

*Text appearing in Libertacao, No. 22, September 1962,
the organ of the PAIGC. Translated from Portuguese.*

Our Party, as the vanguard Party of our people's struggle, is not only concerned with the present and the near future, but also with the more distant future. Thus, it considers the situation which will obtain after independence and the difficulties which we will have to face. All African countries, due to the process of colonization, are backward countries, suffering economic and cultural underdevelopment. Our country is no exception. Our task is all the greater since we will have to overcome in very little time many difficulties which inhibit the progress of our country: illiteracy, sickness, infant mortality, a colonially structured economy, etc.

Thus, our Party, realistically, has decided to prepare those people who will in a few years contribute to the making of progress in our country. Through its external activity, it has secured a few dozen scholarships which have benefited some of the members of the Party. We have students in several European countries who have generally done very well. Many of them, the large majority of them, are among the top-ranking students in those countries. It is with great satisfaction that the Party realizes the high level of revolutionary awareness and the clear vision of perspectives and future responsibilities which are shared by our students who look at their studies as part of the struggle for liberation. The Party trusts them because they trust the Party. Our comrades study mainly medicine, nursing, economics, agronomy, and technical sciences.

They will be, in a very near future, a precious aid in the tasks required in the construction of a society free from the colonialist yoke. And in the near future, after liberation has taken place, we will create the necessary conditions which will permit education for the whole people; and we will finally end the burden of illiteracy and lack of education, and thus allow progress in our country.

But today the main task is the political struggle. This struggle, by raising our awareness and human dignity, is also an agent of education.

Each one of us must, as far as possible, aim at increasing his experience and his knowledge in the present circumstances. Those who know how to read must read a great deal and try to obtain information on the problems which interest the men of today. And as much as possible he should also help his fellows, either by sharing with them his knowledge or by teaching them how to read. The revolution which will free us is a great school, our best school!

Some of our students have come back from the countries where they are carrying out their studies in order to spend their vacation with their comrades. During this short period of time they have greatly helped those in most need. This is a correct path. Keep in mind that our students are from

the people; they are poor and simple boys from the most humble houses of our people.