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MEMORANDUM ON THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (NUSAS)
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PART ONE
NUSAS THE TRADE UNION

By far the **greater** part of NUSAS's financial turnover and administration resources is spent on providing benefits to its students. This aspect of the national union's activity of course receives little publicity in the press media and consequently is not at all widely known among members of the public. The rationale for this type of activity is based on the consideration of mutual co-operation amongst student leaders and representative organisations for the material benefit of students at the centres represented within NUSAS.

The major benefit provider for students is the large Educational Aid scheme. This scheme is financed both by fundraising efforts on the constituent campuses and by donations from overseas. The scheme is administered by NUSED, the educational affiliate of NUSAS.

Medical scholarships

In 1971, 30 medical scholarships were awarded valued at R5300 to needy students. These scholarships are available (by resolution taken at 1971 congress) to students at any University in the country, including black and afrikaans language universities). This year it is estimated that at least 60 such scholarships will be awarded.

Loan Fund

Since 1949 when the fund was first established over R50,000 has been awarded to students in the form of interest free loans. Last year approximately R3000 was awarded in this manner.

Prison Education Fund

In addition to the above a fund is operated by NUSAS to assist prisoners with their studies. During 1971 an estimated R6000 was spent on this project.

Overseas scholarships agency

While NUSAS does not itself award any loans or scholarships for the purposes of overseas study, it does act as an agent for several universities and other bodies which award scholarships for overseas study to South African students.

Tutorial scheme

On the major campuses affiliated to NUSAS over 1000 school pupils receive free tuition from students to aid them in their studies. This tuition covers every aspect of school education.

TRAVEL

For over 40 years the NUSAS travel department has been organising overseas tours at cheap rates for its students. Over the past few years this department has been expanded considerably to provide the largest operating travel service for students in the country besides cheap-rate overseas tours NUSAS now provides overseas charter flights at low price to Great Britain, Western Europe and Israel. These are supplemented by cheap tour arrangements in the overseas countries concerned.

NUSAS enjoys associate membership of the International Student Travel Conference which allows NUSAS to distribute the International Students Identity Card. The benefits of this card overseas are considerable. This card is the most widely used benefit of all those that NUSAS provides.

This year, in order to maximise efficiency in coping with extended travel operations an independently operating organisation is in the process of being set up. It has been called the South African Students Travel Service. At the beginning of 1971 a full time paid travel manager was appointed to administer travel operations.

INSURANCE

Towards the end of last year a need was seen to co-ordinate the various insurance schemes operating for students on the campuses. It was felt that a national insurance scheme would provide premiums at a far lower rate than is offered at present. Negotiations for the establishment of this service to students are still under way.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS AND CO-OPERATION

A regular feature of the contact and co-operation between student leaders is the frequent occurrence of meetings or events of mutual benefit to those concerned. In the past NUSAS has brought together newspaper editors and provided venues and expert speakers on topics such as layout, reporting, newspaper administration and finance etc. Similar meetings have been arranged for student representative council treasurers. In addition such communication has served to alleviate many administrative problems experienced on the campuses. For example, one problem that has been tackled in this was has been that of text books sold at prices out of the reach of the average student.

This aspect of NUSAS activities has been expanded and a drama festival for student drama groups was held recently. An arts festival for students has been planned, and all other benefits will not only be continued but expanded.

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