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PERSONAL

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"IF WE HAVE CHOSEN A POSITION IN LIFE IN WHICH WE CAN MOST OF ALL WORK FOR THE PROGRESS OF MANKIND, THEN NO BURDENS CAN BOW US DOWN, BECAUSE THEY ARE SACRIFICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL".

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EDITORIAL

THE LESSONS OF 1982.

As 1982 comes to an end and 1983 rolls in, let us look back and review the last year and also say a few things about the coming year. What has 1982 meant for the poor masses of Nigerian people?

The working class, this year experienced more hardship and suffering than ever before. There were the mass retrenchments, the Police harrassments, the sellout by our so-called labour leaders, the increasing difficulty of feeding our families, etc. At least, one million workers lost their jobs this year!

The peasants also suffered more or less the same experience. Most of the farmlands have been seized and the farmers have been left with small plots which have been overburdened with work that they are no longer fertile. The best lands, which were seized by the ruling class have been shared amongst absentee telephone farmers. The real farmers have found it difficult, almost impossible, to get seedlings to plant, and those who are able to produce something could only do so at very high cost such that the prices offered in the market usually cover only part of the cost. The green revolution of imported foodstuff has also gone a long way to increase the hardship of the peasantry. The govt., instead of encouraging farmers, decided to import rice from other countries while our own locally produced rice is not bought.

Farmers who have attempted to form co-operations and to demand certain things from the govt. have been discouraged. In most rural areas, the roads have not been repaired since 1950; thus making transportation of farm products very difficult.

What about our Youth? The year 1982 has shown us clearly that the ruling class ~~does~~ not care for the Nigerian Youths. The future of this country is not the concern of our leaders. This year, the young ones have also shared in the suffering. Thousands of young school leavers roamed the streets from one factory gate to another without success. Thousands who served the govt. for one year under N.Y.S.C. have not secured employment many months after the service. The students, at all levels of