

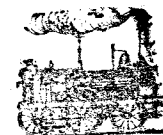
THE RIGHT TO BE INTELLIGENT

One progressive country has undertaken an impressive program to implement recent discoveries in the area of intelligence. Venezuela, under the direction of Minister of Intelligence Luis Machado, has mounted an ambitious program to increase the intelligence of that country's entire population of 16 million people. The program has been operating for over five years and it is attracting international attention. Testing Machado's fundamental belief that intelligence is learned, not bred, may become one of the most important social experiments of this century.

Machado has incorporated the best programs from thinkers and educators around the world. The Venezuelan program consists of sensori-motor exercises for infant development, visual education for 3-year-olds, a chess program for children from 7 to 9 years old, a program designed to help students achieve rapid proficiency in playing musical instruments, and a series of programs designed by educator Edward de Bono titled Learn To Think. This program, which stresses creativity, is being presented to 1.2 million children ages 9 to 14 as well as to adults.

Minister Machado (who is also a poet) speaks articulately and eloquently on the importance of intelligence. The following piece is taken from his book titled, The Right To Be Intelligent.

THE RIGHT TO BE INTELLIGENT



Everyone has, simply by existing, a right to be intelligent.

And to be provided with a way to become consistently more intelligent.

This is a right that must be recognized and held sacred.

Above all, the necessary conditions for the exercise of this right must be available.

* * *

This is society's mission and the primary obligation of its leaders. All of them.

The task of building a new society cannot be completed according to a single ideological current.

It is too transcendent to be partial.

Political leaders are therefore the first who must shake off indifference.

History will not forgive them lost time.

* * *

Until now intelligence has been a privilege.

The last stronghold of privilege.

The most ill-distributed wealth on Earth.

The cause and foundation of the remaining privileges.

Intelligence is a synonym of power.

Meditation on intelligence is meditation on power.

* * *

The education we know mechanizes.

It destroys originality.

It ages.

The affirmation, "Every child is a genius," and the fact that so few adults really are, makes the search to widen the case against the present system unnecessary.

There is its unescapable condemnation.

* * *

In any circumstance, "stupidity" is a curable "disease."

It is not a situation to be endured with resignation; it is a social problem that can be combatted.

No one can become Einstein.

It is absurd to even try.

But anyone can become himself.

And there is no reason why a person should be anything less than Einstein.

* * *

Genius is rare because the means of becoming one has not been made commonly available.

A "genius" ought not be seen as one endowed with extraordinary faculties.

A genius is not a superman.

But a normal man or woman.

The rest of us are infranormal.

We are called to reach the genius level.

And, in the future, to surpass it.

Today's exception will be tomorrow's rule.

Intelligence is only natural.

Stupidity requires explanation.

* * *

The revolution of intelligence will happen without fail in all countries of the world.

It will begin in the arms of all mothers.

The day mothers realize that they are the wellsprings of their children's intelligence, that day and for that reason alone, the world will be changed forever.

* * *

Ideas change the conditions of people's lives.

Behind every event is an idea.

A truth sown in the minds of human beings sooner or later bears fruit.

Only revolutions in ideas are true revolutions.

Every historical confrontation has an ideological substratum.

First, ideologies change.

Then, realities.

* * *

Today a society of and for intelligence can be consciously and humanly planned.

This is not a theory; it is a reality that transforms.

It is as if the ground beneath our feet were opening out onto one of the great paths of history, the one leading to the integral development of human reason. In possession of more developed minds, people will be able to find within themselves the elements needed to build a new society.

What they construct will be their own work.

The change will not be based on a previously determined goal; it will be the natural and necessary fruit of a radical change in the nerve center of society - the intelligence of man.

Everyone has the right to be free.
And the right to be freer.
Respect for people's freedom means that they are
permitted
to exercise the freedom they possess.
That is not sufficient.
Freedom has to be augmented.
The human being can be freer by the perfection of his own
being, which is gained in the progressive actualization of
all his faculties.
Freedom is all that is necessary
Everything is ours if freedom is left to us.

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Reprinted with permission from:

Luis Alberto Machado
The Right To Be Intelligent
Pergamon Press Ltd. 1980