

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN  
SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

SACP DELEGATION TOURS SCANDINAVIA:

An SACP delegation comprising two members of the Central Committee toured Scandinavia last November on the invitation of the Communist Parties of the host countries. The tour opened in Helsinki with a discussion with representatives of the Communist Party of Finland including chairman Jarmo Wahlstrom and PB member Pekka Peltola, followed by a discussion over lunch with representatives of the Parliamentary Group of the Finnish People's Democratic League hosted by the chairman Mr Esko Helle in the House of Parliament. Interviews with members of our delegation were published in the Party press and theoretical organs and also broadcast over the network of the Finnish Broadcasting Company.

The delegation participated in an ideological seminar on the theme of "Power and Language" conducted by the Finnish Communist Party in the town of Savonlinna some hundreds of kilometres north east of Helsinki. One session of the seminar was devoted exclusively to the problems of Southern Africa, introduced by the SACP delegates. The delegation was entertained to lunch by the town council of Savonlinna.

In Stockholm the SACP delegation held discussions with members of the Swedish Left Party - Communists, including national secretary Kenneth Kvist and international secretary Maud Sundqvist, and spent an evening discussing developments in South Africa in the company of anti-apartheid activists from a number of organisations, Communist and non-Communist.

In Oslo the SACP delegation had discussions with leaders of the Norwegian Communist Party headed by chairman Kare Andre Nilsen, and also with representatives of the Social Democratic Youth and members of the solidarity movement with Southern Africa. The short visit concluded with addresses to a public meeting attended by members of the Communist Party and the solidarity movement. An interview with a member of the SACP delegation was published in the Party paper.

In Copenhagen the SACP delegation had discussions with PB members of the Danish Communist Party, and addressed meetings of solidarity activists and university students. Interviews were published in the Party paper Land og Volk and in the non-Communist press. A visit to the House of Parliament was arranged for discussions with Christian Kelm Hansen, Social Democrat MP, and Soren Riishoh, Socialist People's Party MP.

In all capitals the SACP delegation had discussions with the local ANC representative and in Copenhagen also with representatives of the recently opened SACTU office.

Anti-Apartheid activity is well-developed in all the Scandinavian countries, whose governments have banned all trade with South Africa. The SACP delegation advanced a number of proposals for further joint government action to monitor the implementation of sanctions and promote the sanctions campaign in the EEC (of which Denmark is a member) and internationally (at the United Nations and elsewhere).

Discussions were also held with all the Communist Parties on the implications of the current Soviet campaign of perestroika and glasnost which, it is clear, is having a profound impact on the international communist movement. Scandinavian Communists do not have a common approach to this question, though all indicate support for it in principle.

Overall, the SACP delegation felt the Scandinavian tour had been of much benefit, not only towards the improvement of Inter-party relations and

understanding, but also to providing further stimulus for the anti-apartheid movement.

#### THE PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

The following letter was sent to the Israeli authorities in protest against their repression of the intifada or popular uprising in the occupied territories:

The CC of the SACP wishes to express its emphatic condemnation of the repressive methods employed by the Israel government, military and police to crush the opposition of the Palestinian people to the occupied territories.

Like any other people, the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and to establish their own state in the territory they have occupied since time immemorial. Israel's refusal to concede this right, and its illegal occupation of Palestinian territory are the source of the present conflict and unrest in the region.

The whole world has watched with horror as the regime in Israel has systematically and brutally set about smashing the resistance of the Palestinian people. We have seen and read of atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinian people which remind us irresistibly of the crimes committed against the South African people by the Botha regime and which have their roots in the same soil - master-racism and imperialism.

The SACP calls for an end to the present campaign of violence conducted by the Israel forces against the Palestinian people, and the convocation of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations where all concerned parties can achieve a just settlement which will bring peace and stability to the region.

In particular we, together with all democratic forces world-wide, demand from the government of Israel:

- \* an immediate halt to all violence, torture, atrocities against the people of Palestine;
- \* the immediate release of all political prisoners and detainees;
- \* the ending of the policy of deportation of political opponents and the arbitrary destruction of homes;

Let not Israel inflict upon others the same sort of suffering the Jewish people endured at the hands of the Nazis, with consequences in bloodshed and hatred too awful to be contemplated. No people can enjoy freedom at the expense of another.

#### MEIR VILNER 70

The following letter was sent to comrade Meir Vilner, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, who turned 70 on October 23, 1988.

The CC of the SACP sends warmest congratulations to you on your 70th birthday and wishes you many more years of continued struggle in the Communist movement which you joined in 1940 - firstly in the Communist Party of Palestine in that year and then, after the establishment of Israel in 1948, in the Communist Party of Israel.

Almost 50 of your 70 years have been devoted to the promotion of the struggle for socialism, for peace and against racism. We have followed with admiration your valiant efforts in the Knesset as a representative of the Communist Party of Israel since 1948. Indeed, your name is inextricably linked with the proud history of the Communist Party of Israel and we send our warm thanks for the contribution you have made, not only to your Party, but also to the international communist movement and to our struggle inside South Africa.

Many happy returns of October 23rd!

DEATH PENALTY IN SAUDI ARABIA

The following letter was sent to the Saudi Arabian authorities on December 9, 1988:

The CC of the SACP has directed me to convey to you the protest of our Party against the decree of the High Council of Ulema calling for the enforcement of the death penalty against all "corrupters of this earth".

According to a statement of an "Authorised Source" published in the press on September 1, this decree means that "all who preach their ideas, beliefs, ideologies", all those who promote thoughts and ideas contrary to official opinion, who form political parties or organisations, will become liable to the death penalty.

The SACP condemns this decree as a violation of the democratic rights of the people of Saudi Arabia, as well as of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and calls upon the Saudi Arabian authorities to withdraw this decree at the earliest possible opportunity.

SACP MESSAGES TO FRATERNAL PARTIES

The following are extracts:

WORKERS' PARTY OF JAMAICA, 4th Congress, September 8-11, 1988:

Although your Party was formed only 10 years ago, you have already emerged as a powerful advocate of the interests of the poor and exploited. The WPJ has consistently exposed the total inability of the present political and economic system to meet the aspirations of the people for greater democracy, genuine national independence and social progress.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE, on its 70th anniversary, November 17, 1988:

Your Party was formed barely a year after the Great October Revolution and has struggled against great odds to make Greece a more democratic and peaceful society for all its people. Over the 70 years you have had to contend with local reactionaries supported by repeated interventions, political and military, by the British and American imperialists.

Although we have our own peculiar difficulties in our struggle for a national democratic revolution against our apartheid regime, there are many similarities in our history of struggle which give us an added insight into your difficulties. We are certain that our efforts will succeed, not only in establishing true democracy, but that they will inevitably lead towards socialism in both our countries.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST), 13th Congress December 27, 1988 to January 1, 1989:

It is our common responsibility to promote the prospects for world peace and the reduction in international tension. The peace policies of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have made a great contribution to lessening international tension and reducing the risk of nuclear catastrophe.

India was the first country in the world to impose sanctions on the South African regime. Since independence the people and government of India have proved to be one of the most constant and treasured allies of our people and the revolutionary alliance led by the ANC. We call upon all our friends and allies to renew the demand for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions by the UN Security Council. Apartheid must go! It must go now!

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND, 8th National Conference, October 21 to October 24, 1988:

Your Party has been, and we know it will continue to be, built around people's

needs. Your message has always been that unemployment, social violence, poverty, drug abuse, crime, family break-ups, child abuse and other social problems are not natural but are part and parcel of the capitalist system.

We South African communists believe that the heart and soul of the unity of the anti-imperialist forces, both on an international scale and within each country, is the working class movement. We are vitally concerned with the world unity of our movement.

PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, 12th Congress December 1-4, 1988:

The Congress took place in Oporto and was attended by 2,000 delegates and over 70 fraternal organisations. Prior to the Congress discussions were held throughout the ranks of the PCP on a new Party Programme, changes in the Party Constitution and on the political resolution. The new programme emphasises that the April revolution is an unfinished revolution which is under a severe counter-revolutionary attack from the right, including from elements of the Socialist Party. Thus the PCP will do all it can to defend the gains of the April revolution. It now proposes that the road to socialism is the road to deepening economic, political, social and cultural democracy. The changes in the Party constitution are designed to enhance inner-Party democracy, a collective style of work, decentralisation of tasks and members' rights and accountability.

Prior to the Congress a small group within the Party - which included at least 2 CC members - had made public their dissatisfaction with inner-Party democracy. This group, consisting mainly of intellectuals, appeared on Portuguese radio and television to make public their grievances. They had no support at Congress where only 6 votes were recorded against the main thesis.

A new CC was elected in which a large number of veterans were replaced. This is in line with their policy of "profound renewal" of their leading structures. Comrade Alvaro Cunhal was re-elected General Secretary. There is no doubt that the PCP is a united and highly disciplined Party which is indispensable to Portuguese society.

The atmosphere at Congress was both stimulating and moving. It is a wonderful sight to behold 2,000 delegates chant in unison "P.C.P., P.C.P., P.C.P." whilst giving the clenched fist salute.

Our delegate spoke at the main Congress hall. His speech, punctuated by standing ovations, was given a very warm reception. This is a reflection of the support and solidarity given to our struggle by the PCP.