

5. OUR YOUTH NEEDS A.N.C. REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP

The current developments in Southern Africa have undoubtedly enhanced the readiness and determination of the youth to take part in the liberation of the oppressed Blacks in SA. Arrests and detentions have failed to dampen that spirit. Indeed, the present upsurge of the youth is reminiscent of the mood after the defeat of Nazism, when the then youth-amongst them Mandela, Sisulu & Tambo formed the ANC Youth League which radically transformed the NC into the present-day revolutionary vanguard and authentic voice of the oppressed and suffering people in our country.

Unlike the then youth, present-day youth lack a sound political direction and leadership. The temporary vacuum after the banning of the ANC and the imprisonment of many of its cadres and leaders contributed a great deal to the country. Whilst this historic event was hailed by the liberation movement. Black Consciousness Movement overlooked the laying down of a firm basis of principle on which it will co-operate with all other anti-racist groups, irrespective of colour.

The ANC correctly defines the enemy as White Domination and its imperialist backers; and hence every revolutionary, black or white, ought to take part in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow white domination. Thus the youth should discard the 'go it alone' policy and strive to build a broad front of all White Domination, anti-colonialist forces. The correctness of such a revolutionary approach of unifying all progressive forces has been vindicated in Mozambique, ANGOLA ETC. The liberation movements in these former Portuguese colonies consistently defined their enemy as Portuguese Colonialism and NOT the White Portuguese people. As a result many white Angolan and Mozambican patriots of Portuguese origin fought side by side with MPLA and FRELIMO militants.

Unlike splinter movements which exploit the extremely racial character of our situation when appealing to the youth, the ANC gives the youth a clear political direction as in the Freedom Charter. So that now is the time for the youth to seek revolutionary leadership in the ANC. Organising themselves into disciplined underground units, the youth must discuss and equip them selves with revolutionary theory. They must study why for instance, apartheid, racism, anti-communist ideas, colonialism, imperialism vigorously oppose scorn and slander (as in Angola for example) the liberation struggle, real freedom, socialism and justice for all.

Above all, our youth must be ready to transform that revolutionary theory into revolutionary practice by joining umkhonto we Sizwe and take part in the armed overthrow of white domination. The only way is militant confrontation with the enemy at every corner. No reforms as preached by White ruling class; no window dressing will bring about majority rule. We also equally oppose such efforts as the building of clinics, work camps and home industries no matter how well meant. That energy and enthusiasm of the youth must be directed in efforts to destroy the one and only source of our misery and oppression, namely, white domination.

The immediate task, therefore, are for the youth to organise and reach wherever youth are-in the factories, mines, townships & villages, in schools, universities a& professional societies, in sport, church & other cultural bodies in order to mould all youth into a fortress of fearless resistance to white oppression. That youth, organised, must now be activated and taken out into the streets in demand of their day to day needs like higher wages, an end to victimization, subsidies in bus fares, free, compulsory & proper education, integrated sports at lowest levels, etc. Small-scale actions (whether downing of tools, picketing, demonstrations, protest meetings, go-slows, work to rule, sit down strikes, boycotts, stay at homes, defiance etc.) are important and lead to higher revolutionary activities (sabotage, guerilla action & seizure of power.) Forward!