

would be extended to make it compulsory for 'all male citizens' (the word 'citizen' automatically excludes non-whites) and the period of training prolonged. This follows some wild boasting that the government would defy the United Nations decision ordering it to quit South West Africa, that it was prepared to take on the whole world to hold on to its illegally annexed territory, and was confident of the ability of its army to defeat any United Nations invading force 'before breakfast'. Such boasts are made with confidence simply because Vorster and his co-conspirators are sure their friends in the imperialist countries which dominate the United Nations will see to it that there never are realistic measures to establish independence and self-determination for South West, or do anything else practical to endanger the apartheid regime.

When it comes to the impending confrontation with the masses of oppressed people, however, spearheaded by determined, trained and armed freedom-fighters, it is a very different matter. Here is the fatal weakness of the racist regime, and they know it. That is why White Southern Africa is in a state of chronic crisis and instability, feverishly preparing for war, ruled by terror, arbitrary mass detentions, torture and murder.

Unconquerable Vietnam

THE UNITED STATES of America, the world's biggest and most powerful imperialist state, is conducting a war of extermination—the most savage in human history, not excluding Hitler's war—against the relatively small and economically undeveloped nation of Vietnam. There are at the time of writing over 400,000 American troops in the area, together with the troops of the puppet Ky regime and those of United States satellites such as Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, comprising an army of more than one million men, backed up by the most terrible weapons advanced technology can devise. Daily, on the villages of the South and the industries and populated areas of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, in the north, American aircraft are dropping a higher tonnage of bombs and explosives than those dropped by both sides in Europe at the height of the Second World War.

In this most atrocious of campaigns of planned mass murder, Johnson and the other American war criminals have not hesitated to make use of methods of indiscriminate destruction long outlawed and condemned by international conventions, including the use of

poisonous chemicals and gases against civilians and their food supplies, they have dropped napalm and phosphorus bombs to burn people alive, they have tortured prisoners and herded countless peasant families into concentration camps after burning their villages to the ground. In the words of the American scientist, Professor Rosebury:

We have sprayed their ricefields with plant poisons, and destroyed their food stores. We have burnt their homes and destroyed their villages, towns and cities as wantonly as our means permit short of nuclear war. We have tortured and killed both prisoners and civilians and there is evidence that we have burned hospitals.

Under the inspired leadership of the National Liberation Front in the South and President Ho Chi Minh and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the North, the unconquerable Vietnamese have maintained unflagging resistance. They will never surrender or become the colonial slaves of the United States or any other imperialists.

Africans throughout our continent regard the Vietnamese people with admiration, confidence and love. They are our brothers. Like all victims of imperialism we know that they are fighting not only for their own freedom and future, but ours as well.

An Insulting Statement

FOLLOWING THE RECENT Seminar in Cairo, of which we are glad to publish an extensive report in this issue, a statement was issued by the Pan-Africanist Congress and several other Southern African exile splinter-groups, slandering the Seminar and insulting all who participated in the most unmeasured terms. From the type of language used it is obvious that they merely appended their signatures to a document prepared elsewhere, for it is full of the hackneyed formulas and swear-words used as a substitute for argument by the Mao-ist faction which is today wreaking such tragic damage in China itself and throughout the Communist and anti-imperialist movement. The character of this foolish and disgraceful statement is ample proof, if any were needed, of the wisdom of excluding these provocators from the seminar.

Had they been allowed to participate, the high and serious tone of the exchanges would inevitably have been lowered by the introduction of the kind of abuse and phrasemongering which have so sadly disfigured innumerable international gatherings of the peace, youth, women's, trade union and other movements during the past few years.