

# BREZHNEV - A GREAT REVOLUTIONARY AND FIGHTER FOR PEACE

The 10th of November 1982 was a long heavy day for the revolutionary and peace-loving forces of the world. On this day the sad news of the passing away of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and of the Council of Ministers was announced to the world. Comrade Brezhnev had for a long time suffered a stubborn heart condition which finally claimed his life at the age of 75.

The loss of this Titan, a principled revolutionary and fighter for peace, a dedicated continuator of the lofty course of Lenin and perpetuator of the gallant traditions of the International Communist Movement has deeply grieved the communists and non-communists alike the world over.

## LIFE

The life of Leonid Ilyich is highly instructive: Born on the 19th December 1906, his entire life was spent in the van of the struggle for the victory of Socialism in Russia and the former prisoner countries of Tzarist Russia. He was of working class background and himself has been a worker at a very early age. He has also been a land surveyor, and a qualified engineer in metallurgy. Like many young revolution-



naries of his country he was from the age of 15 a member and activist of the Communist Young Communist League) and finally became a full Communist Party member in 1931. His comrades and indeed the entire Soviet people will not forget his invaluable participation during the Great Patriotic War against the Nazi hordes.

After the Second World War Comrade Brezhnev served his country and people with edifying devotion first as second Secretary and later First Secretary of the Party in Kazakhstan. It was in 1960 that he was elected Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and four years later in

1964 he became First Secretary of the CPSU. His courage, determination and firm devotion to all assignments was so phenomenal that it makes it difficult to chronicle without understating his life and work.

As for us the struggling people of the world, we of the ANC included, especially feel the pain of loss at the passing away of this great friend and Comrade of the oppressed masses of the world. This is particularly so since this Soviet leader and great statesman and revolutionary of the world renown departs at a time when the adversaries of peace, freedom and progress have gone far beyond mere sabre-rattling and have for some time mounted and sustained an unprecedented aggressive campaign against the Socialist Community, countries of the Non-Aligned, the oppressed and in our region stand full square behind Pretoria and can be seen to be actively abetting and bolstering the regime in all respects. The passing away of such a giant of a fighter could have never been more untimely.

Yet we shall not dement ourselves with mourning. We shall mobilise all our strength with even more zeal and walk proudly into the thick of battle beyond which lies our cherished dream of freedom, the conquest and firm

defence of which shall constitute a worthy tribute to the memory of a man who deserves it: L.I. Brezhnev.

As we compose this solemn tribute we are aware of a terrible mud-slinging backgrounded by glee. The forces of reaction cannot conceal their excitement and their satisfied grunts through their world-wide effective propaganda media is more than evidence of their loathsome attitude - their masks of pretentious shock especially worn for effect notwithstanding. But the tears of the oppressed and exploited of the world have long filled oceans and each time we dip ourselves in there to wash off the smudges of their mud-cakes our anger and determination to fight to the ultimate multiplies a hundredfold.

LONG LIVE THE MEMORY OF L.I. BREZHNEV!

LONG LIVE THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY!

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT!

FORWARD TO FREEDOM!

## **OUR SONG**

Yesterday

Our song was a cry of sorrow

Yesterday

Our song floated with the moon

We hung to its echo

And beheld the firmament swallow its strains

We despaired each noon

And we gainsaid the devil.

Today

Our song teems with life

Today

Our song shines with the sun