

unspecified charges, possible conviction and years of imprisonment, is a tribute not only to the man who did not flinch from doing his duty, but also to the cause which in the first place attracted a man of his calibre and idealism.

Though arrest and trial have come as no surprise to Bram, they will undoubtedly constitute for him, no longer in the best of health, a grievous strain. Life has already dealt harshly with him—he has lost his dear wife and comrade Molly, his home and career have been broken up, his youngest son Paul lies ill in hospital, he himself, once a successful lawyer, is penniless. Like thousands of others of all races in South Africa, he who has given everything to the cause, now stands in need of every support it can offer him. His trial, just as his whole life, is not a personal matter, but something which must be shared by all his comrades. We have no doubt that Bram will turn the tables on his accusers, and place in the dock the hateful regime which has dared to indict him—a man regarded and described even by his enemies as ‘a saint’. He will regard his trial merely as another field of battle where he can still continue the relentless struggle against his adversaries.

Now is the time for the South African liberation movement and its allies in every country to come to the assistance of Bram Fischer and the cause to which he has devoted his life. Every effort must be made to demonstrate the solidarity of the whole civilized world with a man who personifies all that is humane, noble and dignified in human relations as against the beastliness and barbarism of those who rule South Africa today. We can expect the Nationalist regime and its army of paid spies, thugs, informers and prosecutors to heap every possible infamy on the head of this man and his associates in what promises to be a ‘show’ trial. The prosecution will press for the harshest possible sentence. Only the pressure of public opinion inside and outside South Africa can save Bram Fischer from the worst injury his enemies will try to inflict on him.

### **THE SUDANESE COMMUNISTS**

As now in Nigeria, so four years ago the corruption, disunity and failure to provide for the needs of the masses in the Sudan of the reactionary Parliamentary parties paved the way for the Aboud military dictatorship to seize power. It proved even more incompetent to solve the country's problems, following neo-colonialist policies at home and abroad and stifling the freedom of speech, organization and the press.

After a hard struggle, in which a leading part was played by the urban working class and students of Khartoum and other cities, the Aboud

dictatorship was overthrown. At the head of the revolutionary forces stood the Sudanese Communist Party, which had bravely resisted the dictatorship and defended the people's rights all along.

Naturally the Party gained greatly in popularity because of its heroic stand. Its members were respected everywhere, and its newspaper *Al Maidan* had the third largest circulation of any in the country. This popularity greatly alarmed the reactionary classes and parties, which though they had done nothing to oppose the dictatorship emerged after the fall of Aboud. They therefore began to take serious measures to try to destroy the Communist Party, the trade unions and other revolutionary, anti-imperialist organizations. The Umma Party and the National Unionist Party, which had all along been at loggerheads, joined forces not against imperialism but against the 'communist danger.' They whipped up Moslem fanaticism (making use of a false report that the C.P. was opposed to Islam) and regional prejudice against the Southern tribes. They made much use of the British royal visit immediately after the revolution to rally right-wing forces. They went in for wide-scale rigging of the elections to the Constituent Assembly.

Finally they railroaded a law through the Assembly outlawing the Communist Party and other progressive organizations, and banning *Al Maidan* and other journals.

The Sudanese Communist Party secretary, Comrade Abdul Halek Madjoub, has declared that these measures are unconstitutional and that the Party will defy and resist them. All African democrats and opponents of imperialism and neo-colonialism will stand with him and his comrades in their new round of struggle.

### UNITY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

With Sol Dubula's second article in the present issue, we end the re-examination of the present activities of leaders of the Pan-Africanist Congress abroad. This examination was occasioned by the continued virulence of their attacks on all who have fought and continue to fight for freedom in South Africa. Now that the record has been put straight it is hoped that it will not be necessary again to return to this theme.

At the same time, the problem remains of broadening as much as possible the united front of South African liberation, whose kernel is the African National Congress and its allies, to include all who are ready to fight against apartheid and for a free South Africa. There must surely be a place within the concept of unity for everyone who is genuinely interested in this struggle and not in slanders and recriminations. If, as seems apparent, certain self-appointed PAC representatives are obsessed with their habit of splitting and regurgitating old quarrels, we should not forget either that a number of young African