

AS FOR PEACE

Since negotiations began, killings increased to such an extent that the years 1990 and 1991 have been the bloodiest in South Africa in this century.

DOES THIS EQUATION MAKE SENSE?

The leader of the most racist-inspired, violent system in the world and the leader of the compromisers being given an award sponsored by a den of thieves for a non-existent peace in the name of a despot-lackey!

A VERY UNPATRIOTIC FRONT

The last weekend of October marked yet another shameful chapter in the history of political opportunism in South Africa. Under the combined auspices of the ANC and PAC, a mixed bag of organisations formed themselves into what is cynically called a "Patriotic Front".

This Front may be many things, what it is not, is patriotic!

A patriot is a person who has a deep love and loyalty to one's country, including its people. In the South African context, true patriotism can only flow from a commitment to struggle for the freedom of the vast majority from oppression and exploitation. It also means a respect for the people, their views and aspirations.

The idea of a "Patriotic Front" was hatched in Harare as part and parcel of the contemptible strategy to suck the oppressed people into the abyss of negotiations. And negotiations, as we have so often explained, is a betrayal of the struggle for liberation.

The main actors from the ranks of the oppressed in negotiation politics are the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the ANC. The PAC, which had been playing the game of "hard-to-get", used the occasion of the "Patriotic" Front to say: "I do" publicly to its joining the process of betrayal through negotiations.

The attitude of the ANC and the PAC in their conflict with AZAPO in their run-up to the "Patriotic" Front demonstrates the extent of their political degeneracy. Let us explain.

AZAPO joined the ANC and PAC at some stage as co-convenor of the "Patriotic" Front*. Invitees to the Front included:

1. The hated puppets and quislings from the tricameral circus
2. The same breed of persons from the Bantustans
3. The Democratic Party.

In the days immediately preceding the Conference, AZAPO sent out a letter to all those bodies participating in the apartheid structures, demanding their withdrawal from these structures as a pre-condition to their admission to the conference of the "Patriotic" Front. The Democratic Party reacted with the arrogance typical of the baaskap. It demanded that AZAPO be made to withdraw the letter and apologise for its contents, failing which, it (the Democratic Party) would not attend the Conference. AZAPO very correctly refused. This infuriated the ANC and PAC who thereupon expelled AZAPO from the convening committee. The meaning of this act is incapable of misinterpretation! When a segment of the liberatory movement demands the exclusion of organisations belonging to the ruling class or its stooges, the ANC/SACP/PAC spring to the defence of the latter. It does not end there. Punishment also awaits those who insult the likes of the Democratic Party and the discredited Labour Party.

By what reasoning or logic do the SACP/ANC/PAC regard the Labour Party as PATRIOTIC? Remember a patriot loves his country and its people. What love and loyalty has the Labour Party shown to the people who have, since 1963, consistently rejected the dummy elections of the Coloured Representative Council and later of the Tri-cameral Circus? And just how "patriotic" has the Labour Party been by taking part in each and every one of those elections, often using thuggery and violence against those campaigning for the boycott?

By what logic and reasoning have the SACP/ANC/PAC come to regard the Democratic Party as patriotic? The Democratic Party is known to be the representative of capitalism and imperialism. So dear is the

*AZAPO ought to have known better than to have itself involved with this publicity stunt. "We were betrayed," exclaimed Dr Mosala, then president of AZAPO. He was commenting on the Conference for a Democratic Future held in 1989 and convened by the SACP/ANC elements, where AZAPO was shabbily treated at the hands of those elements. In truth, AZAPO had no business agreeing to accept the invitation to participate and act as convener of a conference which they knew would be attended by Sellouts and a section of the ruling class.

Development Minister in the De Klerk government), to act for them in the All/Multi-Party Conference.

This is an embarrassing smack in the face for the SACP/ANC who placed the mantle of "Patriotic" on those government stooges. The SACP/ANC strategy on these stooges is:

"All potential allies, including people working in the apartheid political system, should be drawn into the fold of the liberation movement. (POST (Natal) 6-9 November).

This approach was rejected by the ordinary people who were angered by the friendship shown by the ANC for persons who have been branded as their enemy. The people's reaction flowed from an honest, earthy and uncomplicated attitude towards known traitors. In contrast, the SACP/ANC with all their university and prison graduates and professors fail to see the truth when it stares at them in the face.

When you abandon the path of honest and principled politics and choose the winding road of opportunism, you will not be able to distinguish friend from foe.

ON PATRIOTISM

1. We support a broad, progressive patriotism, i.e., loving one's country and the people living in it. The expression of that love is to be found in dedication and sacrifice for the defence and happiness of the country and the people.
2. We reject chauvinism or jingoism which are expressions of advancing the interests of one's country regardless of the rights and wrongs of the matter. In other words, it is a position of "my country right or wrong".
3. Our concept of patriotism is not in opposition to our belief in internationalism. Our position will always be governed by principles. If, therefore, South Africa wages an unjust and unprovoked war against an innocent neighbour, our duty would lie in the defence of that neighbour.
4. It makes no sense to offer service to people of distant lands without first doing it in your country.
5. When principles guide our actions, there will be no conflict between our internationalist and patriotic duties.