

SOVIET UNION CONTINUED

the Soviet Union. The labour camps is a powerful but distant memory for most Soviet people. Leaders after Stalin like Krushchev have condemned some of the excesses of Stalin.

Besides these positive changes, we see that the Soviet Union still put pressure on the Polish state to crack-down on workers there. Soviet society remains undemocratic and continues to be ruled by a bureaucratic elite which jealously safeguards its power and privileges. As far as democracy is concerned, the Soviet Union has not returned to the stage which existed during Lenin's lifetime.

LESSONS FOR US

The Russian Revolution and its aftermath provides us in South Africa with many rich lessons. Among the most important are:

1) Democracy

Democracy is inseparable from socialism. What happened in the

Soviet Union is something we must avoid. The dangers of Stalinism is always present. Even now we see that democratic debate is not tolerated in some quarters of the liberation movement. The most extreme example of this is the use of the necklace method against some comrades involved in the liberation struggle. Different points of view on the road forward is healthy and differences must be debated and solved in a democratic, comradely way.

Decisions must not be taken from the top down. The leadership must be accountable to its members. Trade unions and community organisations must not become transmission belts for carrying out directives from elsewhere

2) Two-stage Struggle/National Democratic Struggle

The debates between the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks before the revolution is relevant for us. We remember that the Mensheviks argued for a 2-stage struggle: first the struggle

for national democracy and then for socialism. The Bolshevik answer to this is also true for our situation. It is dangerous to separate the struggle into two. The question that can be asked is: What would prevent a group of people coming into power in the first phase from preventing the next phase occurring?

We remember also that Stalin argued for a Popular Front alliance in China and other countries, like Spain. This kind of alliance resulted in disastrous consequences for workers in those countries.

3) Level of Development of Productive Forces

Many of the problems in the Soviet Union resulted because of the small number of workers and the small number of industries at the time of the revolution. In South Africa, on the other hand, the majority of the people are the working class. The level of production is also high. We have an abundance of goods and resources. **Therefore genuine socialism is a real possibility.**

INTERNECINE VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Political killings have become an everyday occurrence in our society. Activists are being killed daily by reactionary groups and organisations. Tragically, there are also numerous instances in which political activists within the liberation movement are being killed in the *name of our struggle!*

Over the past few months, the majority of attacks have been made on members of the Azanian People's Organisation, the Azanian Youth Organisation, the Azanian Students Movement and the Azanian National Youth Unity. The homes of these comrades have been petrol-bombed and various other attacks have been made on their lives. On the 3/5/87, Sandile Leeuw, an Azayo member, was on his way home in Soweto. He was accosted by so-called 'Comrades', who stoned him, stabbed him with a garden fork, shot him and then

'necklaced' him for no reason other than that he was a member of Azayo. This barbarism, together with many other such horrifying atrocities committed, is a clear statement that the broad liberation movement in our country has failed to control, discipline and give clear direction to the youth.

The Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea (Cambodia) are an example of youth who had fought and achieved liberation, but who were misdirected and went on to inflict mass murder on their own people. This was a direct result of a lack of accountability and internal democracy under the control of the working class and peasants. The youth are a powerful force for change, but they have to be guided and disciplined by political organisation totally committed to the principle of democracy and socialist practice under the leadership of the working class.

The way in which we see our struggle, the different strategies and tactics which we employ, are difficult questions which all of us have to address. Solutions are not easy, and can only be achieved through democratic debate and socialist practice. With this in mind, no one organisation can hold that they are the sole bearers of truth. All political organisations within the broad liberation movement have a right to exist.

If these crimes are being committed now, one dreads to consider what would happen once the revolution takes place. The leadership of all political organisations in the liberation movement must take a public stance as well as practical steps to end this internecine violence. Failure to do this will assist the repressive machinery of the state, and will sow the seeds of a future civil war.