

WHEN WE STRIKE THEY SHRINK

- Vusi Africa

As the struggle for our birthrights gains momentum, and our telling blows leave visible scars on the face of ugly apartheid, panic unfolds itself in the Boer fascist laager. For the whole of July and part of August, 1979, the fascist Prime Minister Piet Botha, has been touring the bantustans seeing his stooges and puppets and promising them all the impossibles.

He tells them that they will have more land and thus more power, they will be like him and roam around the 'stans' talking about the necessity of preventing the 'terrorists' from coming into our 'peaceful' South Africa and suburbs to sow havoc and death. He also warns them that if they abandon the path he has shown them, that of hating freedom and loving baasskap, he will freeze their cheques. He also promises them that some great firms from abroad are going to bring stability by erecting gigantic factories in the bantuhomelands and border areas so everybody will be employed and taxation will be higher thus making the economy viable, that is domestic economy for the families of the Chief Minister. And the poor lost souls listen very attentively to their lord telling them all the possible fibs this earth can produce.

They do not stop to think why Botha all of a sudden has become such a benevolent friend in need, paradoxically. Botha is visiting them to woo them to agree to help him in his war with the nation, Umkhonto we Sizwe. Botha is aware that he cannot win this war, so he wants the puppets to supply him with fighting material, which is black soldiers, to fight the black nation.

Unfortunately these puppet thugs are clever when it comes to massacring their own people. They do not hesitate, the affirmative comes out as a bullet from their mouths: "Ja Baas", they all echo, "these terrorists are dangerous, they have just shot Nkosi dead in his bedroom and they are still at large".

On the other side one of them seems to think we are bloody fools: he says, "ANC exiles are welcome here provided they do not continue with their politics". ANC is politics, that is just why it was formed in 1912, and we do not need asylum in the reserves, we belong to South Africa, the whole of it, not bits and pieces of semi-desert land called labour homeland.

Amongst the myriad of reasons that have caused Botha all this pain to tour the barren lands is to cool the hot air that was blown by his minister of co-operatives, Koornhof, abroad and in the homelands. Koornhof went around the homelands forming committees without Botha's knowledge and he promised the puppets that these committees were pathfinders for real freedom, not the one prescribed by Verwoerd the architect of balkanisation of our land. Many were taken in and thought that here was some Messiah come from Nazareth to save the children of South Africa from bondage. Abroad, Koornhof declared for the world to know that apartheid was unworkable and was doomed to failure, because it was not acceptable to all the people of South Africa.

Now some of the chosen members that had previously agreed to serve in Mr Koornhof's committees are resigning. They are now afraid that the people might turn their wrath against them because right from the beginning the people told both the Boers and their puppets in the then reserves that they do not want bantustans, they want their whole land as it is - it belongs to them. But these stooges felt that half a loaf is better than no bread. And we really do not want half loaves when we know the whole loaf is ours. That is where the clock is at this time. The Boers and half loaf stooges on one side and the nation with its army - Umkhonto we Sizwe on the other; the lines are drawn.

Botha sees that he seems to be carrying the burden alone, the puppets are not forthcoming with soldiers and behind him his soldiers are deserting the barracks and the front. Those who have run away from conscription and are now living abroad have formed themselves into an anti-war organisa-

tion encouraging others to resist call ups, enrolment and being sent to the front. They must desert and join the resisters from the Boer army. So Botha has to find substitutes since he is the Minister of Defence and he started the war not only inside South Africa, he is spreading it to neighbouring countries, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola.

Black puppet soldiers would be ideal for the war which this fascist intends intensifying, especially since his own soldiers are deserting him and some are murdering each other in his military camps. Under the gag law newspapers are not supposed to report the events taking place in the Boer laager but some daring journalists come out with reports of the sacred secret and they all indicate that all is not well behind the apartheid wall. The notorious hangmen, Jimmy Kruger, had to be removed from that great seat where he dispensed with murder, hanging freedom fighters at random and murdering others in police cells only to tell the world and our people that the detainees have committed suicide.

It is unfortunate for the puppets in Botha's payroll that when the names of all wrong and evil-doers are called for retribution, theirs will be amongst the Boers' names and they shall be swept into the river of oblivion together with them and their sham armies. To the poor souls, we say please look a little ahead of your nose, and to Botha we say, you will not turn the entire nation into Leonard Nkosis or Mthembus - even your puppets do not trust you - they simply fear you and your purse deceives them but they are yours, have them, you will help each other on burial day which is nigh. We will certainly co-operate with you in destroying your rotten system, apartheid once and for all with guns in our hands, at that time the length and breadth of our country shall be a battle field and the whole unarmed nation will be armed with guns and courage. Be sure we are winning now.