

CRISIS IN THE CITADEL OF AFRIKANERDOM

-Klaus Maphepha

It is not in the habit of the Nationalist government to use carrot and stick policy. But in the recent past one has noticed some developments, though not changes, towards the tendency to use some carrot in trying to keep the simmering volcano under control.

This, however, is only a facade behind which there is a fierce intra-Afrikaner struggle for power and a sinister move towards putting Afrikaner strongmen, especially military men at the helm of the Nationalist Party policy. This struggle has occasionally surfaced in very acrimonious and shameful notes with the racist Premier, Piet "Wapen" Botha going to the extent of pointing some of his men in the nose and even chucking some out of his office. These are clear illustrations that there are serious crises in the citadel of Afrikanerdom.

STRUGGLE

The struggle within the Nationalist Party, which itself should not be seen in terms of Botha versus Treurnicht, is fast shifting White racist power into the hands of a clique of selected common-minded brand of Afrikaners whose characteristic feature is prominence in fascist secret organisations like Broederbond and Military Academies. It is only regrettable that the fracas within the Nationalist Party has been divided in terms of the 'verkrampte' and the 'verligte'. But it is incorrect, for example, to call Botha a 'verligte', but you had rather call him a far-sighted verkrampte. So, building from Botha's recent slogan of "Whites must adapt or die" it becomes clear that his cosmetic exercises are only designed to ward off the bigger danger.

Georgi Dimitrov in his "United Front Against Fascism" graphically pointed out that Fascism is not merely a result of some ego or conspiracy within the ruling clique but a direct product of imperialist finance capital. It is not only the product of the struggle against the oppressed and exploited majority but also of one group of finance capital against the other.

The Botha group has become convinced that Apartheid cannot survive without the buttress of imperialism. So to woo this

support Botha must do as the master says in the words of Henry Kissinger: "Blatant Apartheid makes Africans see Communism as an alternative, and it becomes difficult for us to defend that system". On the other hand the Treurnicht group sees no survival outside the frame-work of hard-core Afrikanerdom, "One concession leads to another until you are left with nothing", he recently 'admonished' Botha.

Whilst Botha is trying to harmonise the co-existence of foreign monopoly and Afrikaner capital, Treurnicht on the other hand wants the latter to triumph at the expense of the former.

The departure point really is what has come to be known as the Information Scandal, though it is by no means the starting point. The Scandal helped the Botha group to immediately consolidate its position and Botha then easily embarked on his current 'managerial politics' which has culminated in recent government reshuffles.

The apartheid military's top generals - the faces behind Botha.



Lt Gen M Muller
Chief of Air Force



General M Malan
Defence Minister

Lt Gen CL Viljoen
Chief of Army



Maj Gen
PW van der Westhuizen
Chief of Staff,
Intelligence



The very reshuffle is a clear revelation of the sinister forces at play. Gerrit Viljoen who has been recalled from his genocidal expedition in Namibia, is the chairman and an outspoken Broederbond fanatic. Dawie de Villiers is the one time captain of the notorious Springbok and the former South African ambassador to Britain. Britain most probably has the largest

BOSS (now NIS) overseas network. Political trials in South Africa are evident of this. Alexandra Mombarris, as an example, had his flat burgled by a BOSS agent in London. But the most interesting of all these portfolio shake-ups is the appointment of Magnus Malan as the Defence Minister. The rise of a soldier in Malan to power is perhaps rare in the South African history. Both he himself only entered the military for a time before going back to civilian life. If ever it is sometimes true that in politics power begets power, then it is likely to be true with Malan who is already seen as the future Prime Minister.

Malan has been dubbed as Botha's yes-man, especially in 'reform' policies. But this is debatable. It might be through his own experience that Malan has come to realise that military arsenals alone are no answer to South African problems. It is perhaps at the military headquarters in Pretoria's Potgieter Street where he presided over staff studies where he became convinced of this fact. Malan also studied with the American Army; Regular Command and General Staff Officers' Course in 1962 just before Vietnam. But perhaps the real period that left a dent in his mind was during his attachment to the French Army in the early sixties where he saw how the Algerian war ripped French society itself.

IDEOLOGUE

Malan has proved to be a prolific ideologue of the racist regime. He deems it very necessary and has worked hard in trying to create a monolith of the Defence and private industry. He has personally chaired the co-ordinating committee of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Armscor. The racist regime's recent shift towards closer conspiracy with Military Academies in Israel and Taiwan is no surprise as Malan is a keen student of the military and political strategies of these academies and in fact maintains close contact. It is partly through this unholy hobnobbing that Malan has coined the acronym Diplomatic, Psychological, Semantic, Cultural, Economic, Military, Political and Intelligence (DPSKEMPI) by which he hopes to renovate South African defence strategy. The military constitutes only 20% of the whole strategy.

The whole strategy further illustrates a further fascist militarisation of all institutions of power. Clearly the scope of DPSKEMPI is beyond the range of any army that does not itself, as a matter of fact, constitute a military government. The appointment of Malan as Defence Minister satisfies this condition. No other soldier of career has ever enjoyed as much

power as Malan in South Africa.

Malan's so-called 'defence strategy' is now working at full throttle in South Africa. The press has been gagged from reporting about military manoeuvres. Competent teachers are being replaced by soldiers with holsters on their sides especially in places considered as 'hot spots' by the regime. In the rural areas soldiers are 'offering' Aspro tablets and sweets and every classroom has a picture of the SADF with a caption aimed at wooing students to join the boer army. Needless to say, all this display of military extravagance goes with astronomical budgets whose brunt lies on the shoulders of the oppressed majority.

OPPONENTS

Botha has temporarily succeeded in ostracizing his opponents in the Nationalist Party and already Mulder and Vorster are contemplating a new right-wing Afrikaner party. Botha further consolidated his position by giving himself the political leverage of appointing twenty Cabinet members. This has enabled him, among other things, to be able to doggedly push forward the President's Council headed by Schlebusch against all odds.

This division in the Nationalist Party is however, not at all permanent. We are still to witness many divisions and attempts at cobbling. History has it that as the struggle intensifies the enemies are likely to shelve their differences and run into the same laager only to come out and scatter around in times of decisive victory. The revolutionary struggle of the masses of our people, with their most organised vanguard force, the African National Congress, are surely the very power that has effected the first divisions and they are geared towards ensuring the decisive victory.

"AT THE MOMENT THE WHITE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE BELIEVES THAT IT CAN MAINTAIN ITS MONOPOLY OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRIVILEGES IF IT STANDS UNITED. WHEN THE PRESSURES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS CANNOT BE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE VERY SAME FACTORS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN THE SOURCE OF GREATER UNITY WILL BECOME THE SOURCE OF A MUCH BIGGER DIVISION AND FRAGMENTATION THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED".

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