

hand-grenades, AK-47 automatic rifles and the much-feared RPG-7 rocket launcher (bazooka).

12th November 1981: Four transformers were destroyed at an electric power station in Pretoria north. Industrial Pretoria (Roslynn) was left without electricity for several hours.

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# REALITY SHATTERS THE RACIST MYTH

- JOYCE MBKONG

The impact of our struggle for national independence and freedom is growing tremendously. As could be expected, the imperialist powers led by the United States monopolies are becoming more concerned about the future of their multimillion dollar investments in Apartheid South Africa and of the whole Southern African region which in terms of their expansionist designs forms part of their 'sphere of interest' and over which the Pretoria fascist regime serves as their policeman. It is against this background that in addition to their increasing and covert support for their racist allies in Pretoria in defiance of the world's public opinion, imperialist propaganda directed against our just liberation struggles is assuming more hysterical tones. This can be seen in the wide coverage given to the 'findings' of the CIA-directed research groups in the employ of imperialism.

## AN OLD MYTH

Recently two 'experts' - otherwise shady characters of distorted intellect - L.H. Gann and Peter Duignan who have long been working for the US-based Hoover Institute which is notorious for its subversive activities against national liberation movements in Southern Africa and forces of freedom, peace and progress the world over, have published a book. Its title is "Why South Africa will Survive - an Historical Analysis" and one South African revolutionary has most appropriately described it as a 'bible' on Southern Africa for the American new right and especially for the Reagan Administration say: "We do not believe that a South African revolution will come during our life-time; we are convinced that change will come from within the ruling white oligarchy rather than by liberation movements. We believe therefore that American sup-



port should go to the Verligtes; the reformers within the ruling National Party..."

Furthermore they claim that the apartheid regime is so strong, economically and militarily, that our mass political action combined with armed activities and supported by sanctions against the Apartheid regime cannot bring about its downfall. While these defenders of imperialism and racist colonial domination are passing off their false argument as "an historical analysis" to give it an appearance of credibility, it is very clear that one of its aims is to revive the old myth of the invincibility of the Pretoria fascist regime. On their part the Pretoria racists have not only failed to instil fear and hesitation among our fighting people and the independent African states who support our just struggle, while reassuring their racist ignorant followers by preaching this myth but have been witnessing with horror how the reality of the South African situation which is very much influenced by our unfolding people's war, completely shatters their myth.

### VICTORIOUS PEOPLE'S WAR

To start with, the international climate within which our liberation struggle is occurring leaves no room for such myths. Previously imperialism could have a sway in the whole world. The world situation is completely different today. The Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 in Russia which saw the workers led by their Bolshevik Party founded by Lenin and in alliance with the poor peasants rising to power, to be masters of their destiny, ushered in the new dawn of world history. More nations rose to the socialist plane of man's development and socialism became a world system. Imperialism was forced to retreat.

At the same time many nations which had hitherto been victims of colonial domination rose to national independence in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In some of these countries the oppressed masses had to resort to arms in order to achieve their national emancipation as the colonial powers had barred all means of non-violent struggle, e.g. Cuba, Vietnam, Algeria, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and for this reason we shall focus our attention on some of these victorious peoples' wars to throw more light on our own situation.

It is significant to note that the advocates of imperialism and apartheid colonial domination would hasten to argue that in the examples mentioned above the oppressed were fighting against regimes which were weaker compared to racist South Africa or that the wars were waged outside the strongholds of the colonial powers. But the basic truth is that in all these

countries the oppressed people, united around their national liberation organisations, using every means of struggle at their disposal and supported by the world democratic forces, were confronted with the combined forces of the specific colonial powers and their imperialist allies, NATO especially.

For example the small Vietnamese nation had to go through a series of bloody wars waged against her by different imperialist powers: the French colonialists who were later aided by the Japanese fascists (1940-1945); the French for the 2nd time (1945-1954) and the most bitter war was unleashed by the United States interventionist forces and their local puppets. Acting on the advice of General Goldwater whose strategy for the brutal suppression of Vietnam's just struggle for liberation entailed the bombing of North Vietnam and the sending of ground forces en masse to the South, US President, Lyndon Johnson sent over two million troops to fight in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) with Vietnam as the main target. That was only during the four years of Johnson's term of office. According to the CBS news the United States dropped more than 14-billion pounds of bombs on North and South Vietnam. Kennedy's military strategist, Maxwell Taylor, unshamedly declared that the United States was in Vietnam to show to the world that wars of national liberation (Taylor described them 'so-called') would not work against determined imperialism armed with the most destructive weapons. The irreversible victory won by the heroic Vietnamese people proved them wrong.

Similarly the intervention of the Pretoria fascist regime backed by United States after the defeat of the Portuguese colonialists in Angola and the ganging up of the colonialist forces of racist Smith, British imperialism and Pretoria against the patriotic forces in Zimbabwe could not halt the people's march to national independence. (It is interesting to remember that hardly five years earlier, if not less, Smith was boasting of "no majority rule in a thousand years".) Can the Apartheid regime be an exception, will it follow a course which is different from that of the already overthrown colonial regimes? N o t a t a l l !

### **THE ENEMY'S WEAKNESS**

Our liberation movement is acting on the basis of a sober assessment of the South African situation and this was reaffirmed and clearly formulated in our document "Strategy and Tactics" adopted at the historic 1969 Morogoro Conference. In this document our movement acknowledges the economic and military strength of the racist enemy and that he can always count on the support of the major imperialist powers such as



the United States, Britain, France, FRG and Japan. At the same time our liberation movement notes, and this is very significant, that this is a case of 'soft underbelly'.

Strong as it is, the Pretoria regime has certain serious weaknesses which in the long run will favour our liberation forces. Our "Strategy and Tactics" states:

- \* "The ready to hand resources including food production depend overwhelmingly on non-white labour which, with the growing intensity of the struggle, will not remain docile and cooperate.
- \* The white manpower resources may seem adequate initially but must become dangerously stretched as guerrilla warfare develops. Already extremely short of skilled labour - the monopoly of the whites - the mobilisation of a large force for a protracted struggle will place a further burden on the workings of the economy.
- \* In contrast to many other major guerrilla struggles, the enemy's economic and manpower resources are all situated within the theatre of war and there is no secure external pool (other than direct intervention by a foreign state) safe from sabotage mass action on which the enemy can draw.
- \* The very sophistication of the economy with its well-developed system of communications makes it much more vulnerable... In a highly sensitive modern structure of the South African type, the successful harassment or transport to any major industrial complex inevitably inflicts immense damage to the economy as a whole and to the morale of the enemy."

In addition to this, in a preceding passage the "Strategy and Tactics" shows the mighty weapon which our fighting people have at their disposal, guerrilla warfare, "the weapon of the materially weak against the materially strong," and continues: "Given its popular character and given a population which increasingly sides with and shields the guerrilla whilst at the same time opposing and exposing the enemy, the survival and growth of a people's army is assured by the skillful exercise of tactics. Surprise, mobility and tactical retreat should make it difficult for the enemy to bring into play its superior fire-power in any decisive battles. No individual battle is fought in circumstances favourable to the enemy. Superior forces can thus be harassed, weakened and in the end, destroyed!"

## NEW ADVANCES

The correctness of the assessment and the necessary action mentioned above is more vividly confirmed and strengthened by the current political situation inside South Africa.

On the one hand it is clear that the Apartheid regime is finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the situation. The massive strike wave that has gripped the country in recent years is threatening the future of Apartheid's economic base. The war-resistance movement within the racist army by patriotically-minded young whites who are refusing to fight in defence of the inhuman Apartheid system is growing. Having completely failed to appease our discontented and fighting people with meaningless 'reforms' and empty promises, the racists are resorting to stepping up their repressive measures and this evokes more hatred and determined resistance from our people.

On the other hand, our entire forces of liberation; the workers and rural masses, the women and youth, Christian and Muslims, democratic whites and all other freedom-loving South Africans are rising to more resolute action. Our people have become conscious of the power they possess and are consciously confronting the enemy not only on matters of immediate concern but on the very fundamental question of power. A very important role in this heightened mass upsurge is played by the pounding blows delivered by the units of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, against the enemy's strategic economic and military installations, actions which are rising with the tempo of our mass political actions.

These developments and other related ones emphasise once more the fact that the inherent basic contradictions within the Apartheid system, namely, the extraction of super-profits from the labour of our people by a handful of capitalists and their imperialist partners while our people live under conditions of abject poverty and starvation; the monopoly of all political power by the racist clique and their privileged supporters while this is totally denied to our nationally oppressed people, are growing more acute and are fast approaching an explosion point. These contradictions are such that they cannot be resolved by any means other than by the overthrow of the apartheid regime and the seizure of power by the majority of our people and the implementation of our demands in the Freedom Charter which has already practically become the basis of our people's mass action. With our people having become fed up with the entire apartheid system and resorted to militant action, it is clear that the ongoing

conflict between our people and the Apartheid regime aided by the imperialist powers can only be stopped by the victory of our people.

In other words, what we are witnessing is the maturing of the main ingredients of victory. In fact one of them, namely a dedicated leadership armed with correct revolutionary ideas, and which is visibly among the people has already reached a high degree of maturity.

The other ingredients are our political and moral superiority derived from the justness of our cause and which finds expression in the uncompromising opposition of our people to all Apartheid policies; the growing unity and determination among our people to win a common victory and our invincible art of people's war. Added to these internal factors is the no less important support enjoyed by our struggling people from the peace and freedom-loving peoples of the world led by the socialist community.

### C O N C L U S I O N

If the myth about the invincibility of the Pretoria fascist regime were anything to go by, all these advances made by our people in actual battles for freedom would not have been possible. But for obvious reasons the Pretoria rulers will never admit that they are fighting a losing battle. In spite of this the pressure exerted by our liberatory actions forces them to blurt out certain revealing utterances. Very often the racist chief of police has been heard admitting that our armed actions are gaining ground and that the Pretoria regime cannot stop them. Some of the farsighted go even further. According to the "Citizen" the former news editor and Progressive Federal Party's leading member, Joel Mervis, stated that Umkhonto we Sizwe is "able to switch areas of operation and attack with great ease... and could be assumed to be operating from within the country with a degree of impunity" and concludes by pointing out that the repressive measures of the Apartheid regime will only lead it to a "Vietnam style no-win morass." Van Zyl Slabbert has admitted that to maintain racist domination "is going to become increasingly difficult and eventually quite impossible." This opinion was also expressed by one Western writer who was prompted by the 1976 June 16 Upheavals, Wilfred Burchett. His assessment shows an even more balanced grasp of the situation. In his book "Southern Africa Stands Up", in a chapter headed "The South African Volcano" he wrote: "South Africa will be liberated from its racist regime... one can come to this conclusion by an analysis of political, military, psychological factors and by

comparing them with similar factors that have played the decisive role in other liberation struggles."

Therefore, while the imperialist powers especially the United States are conveniently underplaying the irresistible might of our popular mass action as the vital force in our all-round drive to bring down the fascist Pretoria regime and deliberately disregarding the international balance of forces which favours us, their sinister intentions are obvious. As soon as their allies in Pretoria are on the verge of collapse these forces of plunder and aggression will move from support to direct intervention. But this will never stop us from achieving our goal of national liberation. All indications point to the complete confirmation of the prediction made by Comrade President O.R. Tambo when he said in 1968:

"We in the African National Congress do not imagine that the defeat of imperialism in Southern Africa will be quick or easy. We realise it will be longdrawn and bloody. But we are confident of the final outcome. As our forces drive deeper into the South, we have no doubt that they will be joined not by some, but by the whole African nation; by the oppressed minorities, the Indian and Coloured people; and by an increasing number of White democrats.

"The battle lines have been drawn up. There can be but one result: victory over the fascist oppressors and the establishment of a democratic state in South Africa!"

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**CORRECTION:** The cover caption (Vol. 5 No. 7 - July 1981), fourth line reads: ... of the SACP and the latter was its General-Secretary, instead of Chairman.