

STRAIGHT TALK...

ENTER THE SELLOUS SCOUT CHIEF...

In describing the purpose of Pretoria's Bantustanisation scheme, our national liberation movement, the ANC, never omitted to stress that it involved long-term strategic plans to create buffer zones that could act as shock absorbers in the wake of an escalating popular liberatory war. We have sounded the warning again when the announcement of the creation of the Bantustan puppet armies was made.

The Bantustan armies are but Pretoria's watchdogs. They are fed, trained and armed by the racist authorities - all for the purpose of shooting down their kith and kin. Behind the smokescreen of a fraudulent independence exercise they are presented as territorial defence forces with all the trappings of armies. If these have not as yet started with murderous campaigns of plunder and carnage, then it is only because the fascists are still grooming them into vicious human vampires.

The appointment of Colonel Ron Reid-Daley, a former commander of the Rhodesian Sellous Scouts completes the picture of what is by all means an ill-conceived ploy. The fascists aim to use their 'yes-baas-men' of the Bantustans in a bloody campaign comparable to the criminal acts the notorious Sellous Scouts perpetrated against the people of Zimbabwe at the height of their struggle for freedom and national independence. Reid-Daley is an experienced fascist murderer and cutthroat, the butcher of Chimoio and Nyazonia. The hordes he commanded hunted down people like game. They are notorious for their campaigns of genocide in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia where they raped, murdered, plundered and razed down villages and refugee settlements.

Having suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the armed masses of Zimbabwe, these hired killers ran helter-skelter. Not long thereafter, they were accorded a haven in South Africa. They were then sent to Namibia where they are continuing with the perpetration of untold crimes and atrocities against the oppressed masses of that country. These criminals who have lost their souls are now zombies of the Pretoria fascists, with which the racists illusion of ever

being able to stem the revolutionary tide becomes blown out of proportion.

In this light therefore, the appointment of Reid Daley as commander of the so-called 'Transkeian Defence Force' is no accident. It tallies exactly with the purpose of these puppet armies. And no amount of the Matanzimas' harangues is going to hide this from our people. In fact, Matanzima's very conduct at the moment lays bare the treacherous path which all Bantustan stooges have chosen to trod. In league with the racists they have become co-plotters of the crimes committed against our people. They are junior partners, they are even the last to opine where decisions are involved. Yet they are quick to dance to the whims of Pretoria and hurry up plans to transform our country into a hunting ground for the vultures that ran away from Zimbabwe.

The appointment of the arch-fascist Colonel Reid-Daley occurs against the background of a mounting politico-military offensive against the fascist regime. This happens alongside a counter-effort by the regime at decelerating the popular march forward. Within the interplay of these factors it is not difficult to discern the desperation of the racists in their bid to survive whatever the costs. The appointment of Reid-Daley falls into place as part indeed of a grand scheme whose purpose is to unleash a bloodbath within which - it is wishfully thought - our revolution can be drowned.

Though the repercussions of such beastly schemes are too ghastly to contemplate, we draw attention to the lessons of history: The United States imperialists tried the 'Bloodbath method' in Vietnam, fascist Portugal tried the same in Angola, the boer-fascists tried it also in Zimbabwe and in each of these cases the masses emerged victorious. But such victories are worked for and involve a lot of sacrifice. In our own country, the popular struggle is beginning to mellow. We urge our oppressed youth to resist the trinkets used as recruitment bait. Where possible the puppet armies should be rendered useless from within. The recruits should organise themselves into active units of struggle and choose the correct moment to rise up against the puppet officers and commanders. These puppet armies should be destroyed for they are instruments of our strangulation.

The African National Congress will lead in such struggle. And under its leadership the logical outcome of our effort can only be victory over the fascist butchers. We call on our people to fight on. And together with us in Umkhonto we Sizwe, we shall vanquish the enemy and his murderous hirelings.