

STRAIGHT TALK...

Racist Terror Unmasked

Does it surprise anybody to see the guardians of 'law and order' in the payroll of the Pretoria regime dragging their feet when they have to deal with an obvious case of mercenaries who committed acts of terrorism against an independent state? We must pose this question especially when it is so easy for these very preachers of justice to condemn people who are fighting for a just cause of freedom and social justice to death or to a life of imprisonment. From this point we must go a little further and pose another question: is there any link between this condoning of mercenarism by the Pretoria rulers in full view of the whole world, on the one hand, and the slanderous campaign of fabrications, distortions and lies waged by the Reagan administration against the struggles of the oppressed peoples for national liberation and those people who are rendering brotherly support to these just struggles?

Let us look at facts. On the 25th of November, 1981, 45 mercenaries arrived on Mahe airport in Seychelles with a clearly defined mission: to take the airport, the military barracks and the State House. The objective? One of the mercenaries who turned state witness, a certain de Jager explained further that the objective was to bring down the government of the Seychelles! The reason? Mercenary state-witness de Jager continues to state what he was told by one Tullio Moneta who briefed him, that is, that the coup "might be in the interests of the country. The situation was changing as People in Mauritius were moving to the left. It was thus important to get an alternative. The alternative could be to place a well-disposed power in the Seychelles."

The coup attempt failed and the mercenaries hijacked an Air India Boeing 707 which takes them to Durban. The South African government let most of the mercenaries go free, charging only five of them instead of strictly applying its anti-hijacking laws. Later on this move is reversed and a mock trial began presumably on the basis of the hijack charge. The central issue, however, sticks out in spite of the govern-

ment's attempts to divert attention from it. It did not succeed even when the judge imposed a ban on the publication of certain evidence on the ground that it was 'in the interests of the security of the state'.

What conclusion can be drawn from these pieces of evidence? The South African government was certainly behind the coup plot. After all, the Pretoria fascist regime has become notorious for its total disregard of the African states' territorial integrity and independence especially in Southern Africa. Right now the Pretoria regime is committing acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, it is training, maintaining and directing the bandits which are engaged in distabilizing activities against the Mozambican people and their government. In Lesotho Pretoria is employing Ntsu Mokgetle's bandits. The peoples of Botswana and Swaziland are also victims of Pretoria's unprovoked aggression.

It is clear, therefore, that the apartheid fascist regime is waging a full-scale campaign against Southern African states. Its aim is to force these countries under its subjugation. Besides, these expansionist activities of the Pretoria regime encouraged by the forces of world imperialism led by the United States monopolies which constantly supply the Pretoria regime with arms including nuclear know-how, are an intergral part of imperialism's strategy for world domination - to gain control of the world's sources of mineral wealth and oil. The slanderous campaign against national liberation movements and those who support these just struggles is used by the Reagan administration to hide its mercenary activities the world over.

Yet, this abortive coup by Pretoria-hired mercenaries against the Seychelles completely unmaskes the terrorist nature of the Botha-Malan clique which is called South African government and its imperialist backers. To those who have allowed themselves to be fooled by Pretoria's flimsy and groundless explanation of its continuing aggression against Southern African independent states, Pretoria's attempt to topple the government of Seychelles should serve as an eye-opener. Apartheid, like its twin fascism, means terror and that is why the campaign for the all-round isolation of the apartheid regime is so important. It is a campaign aimed not only at contributing to the victory of the oppressed people of South Africa but to save mankind from yet another monster of the nazi-mould.