

DEFEND OUR FUTURE

- MICKEY MODISANE

The racist regime of Pretoria is currently pursuing a policy of terrorism and brutality against the African National Congress and its allies, in a vain and desperate attempt to forestall the revolutionary seizure of power by our oppressed people. This bestial policy is an acknowledgement of the enemy's great concern and fear of the growing prestige and popularity of the African National Congress both inside and outside the borders of our usurped motherland, South Africa.

The current popular upsurge South Africa is witnessing is testimony to the invalidity of the racist regime's previous wishful claims that the ANC has been driven into oblivion, that it has dealt a crushing blow against us. Prior to 1976 the policy of the regime was characterised, among other things, by its ludicrous and indeed ridiculous attempts of inculcating within its electorate a spirit of false self-assurance and illegitimate pride, thus deceiving the white minority leading it to believe that white rule in South Africa is eternal.

It is easy to confuse and bluff the people during periods of relative calmness, as the pre-1976 period possibly was, but it is something else to lie to the people in times of mass upheaval, where it takes not years or months, but weeks or hours for the people to know the truth. Ironically, the boers are now swallowing their own lies and vice. After having claimed to have decimated the African National Congress their same spokesman - Jimmy Kruger in particular - were accusing the ANC of having planned and executed the 1976 Uprisings. Had it been decimated? The 1976 and subsequent events proved beyond doubt that lies and malicious propaganda cannot save the sinking boat of apartheid and exploitation. Reason has triumphed over evil.

Consequently, we should concede that the campaign the regime is unleashing against all opponents of its inhuman apartheid system is a last resort to uphold and defend the racist status quo. Like its past policies of unbridled terror the present campaign brings no solution, instead it continues unabatedly driving the whites to an abyss. We shall recall that the Portuguese colonialists at the height of the liberation struggles in the former Portuguese colonies of Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, in an attempt to frustrate and arrest the seizure of power by the peoples of these countries, resorted to a sinister conspiracy to rid these peoples of their revolutionary leaders. Amilcar Cabral was assassinated (1973) in Guinea-Conakry and E d u a r d o Mondlane (1969) killed by a parcel bomb in Tanzania. Contrary to the wishes of the Portuguese the banners of liberation were unfurled and hoisted in these countries. It is precisely the overwhelming support the African National Congress and its allies enjoy from the masses of our people that is driving our rulers into frenzy. The African National Congress is a nightmare which haunts and tortures the racist regime.

FEATURE

A striking feature of South African political scene today is the unbanning of the ANC by our oppressed but fighting people. According to a survey conducted and published by the influential and conservative Johannesburg "Star" newspaper on black opinion in the major urban areas revealed that if the blacks were allowed a vote the ANC would get 40% of the vote for Parliament, the PAC 10%, AZAPO 11% and the traitor Buthelezi's tribal-based Inkatha would get 21%. In a similar survey it was further revealed that Comrade Nelson Mandela, incarcerated in the notorious Pollsmoor prison, is the most popular leader inside South Africa; 76% of those interviewed unambiguously said they are overwhelmingly behind him. And mind you these surveys were not country-wide, and as such were not inclusive of all the black peoples' opinions. Moreover the poll was conducted by "The Star", an unreliable source of information. Nevertheless, this

information is indicative and reflective of the mood of our people in racist South Africa.

FREEDOM CHARTER

A no less significant event, rather development, is the popularity of our revolutionary document, the Freedom Charter. Addressing a packed anti-SAIC hall one delegate from the Natal Indian Congress in an impassioned speech noted: "We are pro-Freedom Charter. Our answer was given 20 years ago." This presaged the death of the SAIC. Today the South African Indian Council is no more, it is dead. Also during the Anti-Republic Campaign the ANC dominated. In a symbolic episode the racist flag was burned to ashes and the colours of Black, Green and Gold - colours of freedom and liberation - were unfurled and hoisted sky-high, inspiring millions of our people to rise to the occasion and claim their birth-right. Space does not allow me to enumerate all the political activities, which by their virtue are reviving the memory of the roaring and stormy 50s, like for instance the dynamic upsurge in the labour front.

Alongside these daring political battles the presence of Umkhonto we Sizwe is most glaring. According to the Johannesburg "Star" (7/1/82) Umkhonto we Sizwe was responsible for more than 50 major attacks and sabotage activities in the nine months preceeding December 1981; these include among others, the sophisticated attack of the SADF's headquarters, the Voortrekkerhoogte military base, in Pretoria in August 1981. An interesting feature of MK operations is the sophistication and coordination displayed. After all, our armed struggle is not taking place in a vacuum, it complements our political endeavours. Our military line grows from the political line of our political organisation, the African National Congress.

Undoubtedly, South Africa is now in a war state, we are striking very hard against the enemy, and to strike we shall. It is now the enemy in person that we want, and the regime is aware of this, that is why his response to our activities has been most typical. The enemy fears the might of the African National Congress. But our duty to our people, to the peoples of Angola and Mozambi-

que who are daily victims of racist South Africa's aggression, to Africa and indeed the whole of mankind, is to smash the rule of apartheid and exploitation in our country. "Towards this victory we shall fight to the bitter end," as declared by our President, Comrade O.R. Tambo.



MARTYR OF

MASERU

MASSACRE.

Quoting the NEC statement on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the formation of our people's organisation, the ANC, Comrade Alfred Nzo (our Secretary-General) pointed out in his impassioned address to the ANC Youth Conference in Morogoro, Tanzania:

"Throughout our sacrifices, and in the face of brutal enemy repression and persecution, we have stubbornly and persistently defended our great creation, the African National Congress, against frantic and desperate efforts by the enemy to blot it out. We have defended it because we knew that without it the prospects of capturing power would fade with the distant future. Twenty years after the oppressor regime declared it illegal, the ANC today, 70th Anniversary, is openly acclaimed as the leader of our people, thanks to the imposition by the masses of our people of a new popular concept of legality which the enemy guns cannot shoot out of existence, and which his courts cannot imprison. By lifting the ban in this manner we have asserted ourselves as the alternative power of our land, the only legitimate power, because we are the people, the democratic majority, whose will must triumph at the end."

To demonstrate the seriousness of the racist regime's killers squad here is our count-down:

* In 1980, bombs blew two of our residences in Swazi-

land, and as a result two people lost their lives, including a child of seven.

- * In January 1981, our residences in Mozambique were raided by racist commandos and thirteen of our patriots were butchered in their sleep.
- * In February of the same year Khati Sello's house was attacked by 'LLA' bandits, backed by the Pretoria hordes, the reason being that he is sympathetic to the ANC.
- * In 1981, Cde. Joe Gqabi, a member of the NEC of the ANC, was assassinated as he was leaving his Harare home.
- * In June 1982, in Swaziland Petrus and Jabu Nyaose, were killed by a bomb placed in their car.
- * A prominent revolutionary-writer and a leading member of the ANC and SACP, Cde. Ruth First, was killed in Maputo by a parcel bomb.
- * On December 9, 1982, the fascist commandos of Pretoria supported by five helicopters raided 12 of our residences in Maseru and cold-bloodedly massacred 30 South African refugees and 10 Lesotho nationals (seven women and three children).

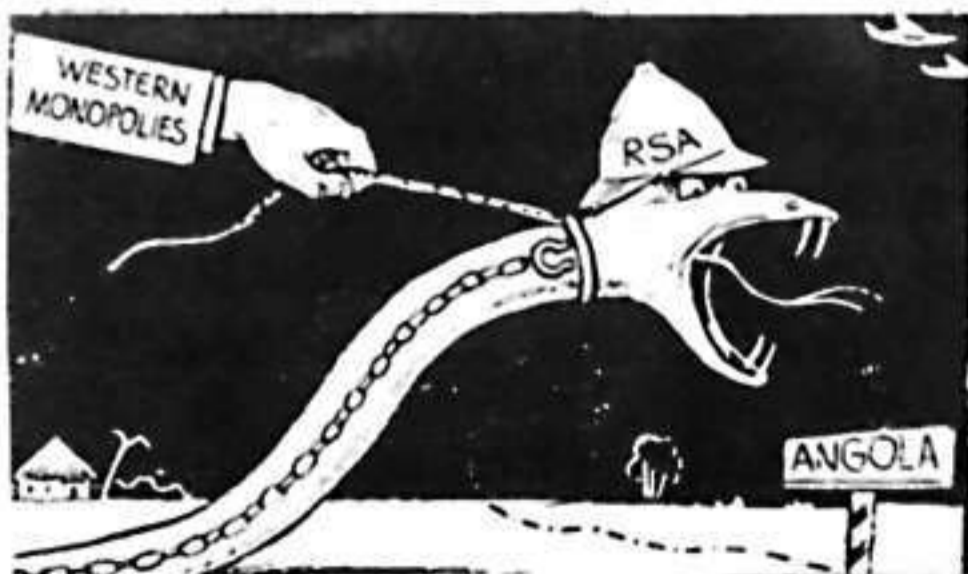
And the list is in no way next to complete. As the horizon draws nearer the more frantic the hated enemy becomes. All that this exhorts is that while attacking the enemy we should also be able to defend our organisation, like a boxer who whilst delivering a knock-out blow against his opponent always has his guards up in defence against a possible counter-punch from his rival.

In all these frantic efforts to blot us out of existence, the CIA features prominently. The Reagan Administration, defying and ignoring its people and the world public opinion, has openly aligned itself with the Pretoria boers. They are intimate class brothers. Typical of the bellicose nature of imperialism, in March last year, the Pentagon war-hawks set up a so-called US Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, which was headed by the notorious and infamous Denton, known for his crimes

against the Vietnamese people. This 'Sub-Committee' so says the Western mass media, 'revealed' sensational news related to the 'involvement' of the Soviet Union in the affairs of the peoples of Southern Africa, so as to further its 'expansionist' and 'hegemonistic' designs. We are further told that the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia receive 60% of their military aid and 90% of their overall aid from the USSR.

Nothing is sensational indeed about this news. The peoples of the world know that it was the resilience and fortitude of the Soviet people, their Communist Party and Government that rid the world of the scourge of fascism. The banner of victory was raised high above the Reichstag by the Soviet Army after having carried out a gruelling but glorious liberation mission of the Eastern and South-eastern European countries which were occupied by Hitler under the heel of fascist terror and tyranny. Was this abetting and aiding terror? The answer is a big No! It was proletarian internationalism in action. Conversely American soldiers were seen in Asia raping, looting and bombing villages and committing acts of genocide in Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

Presently, Pretoria's fascist troops are occupying the southern parts of Angola killing whatever has life. They are training and directing the bandits of the 'MNR' from the People's Republic of Mozambique to commit acts of sabotage and destabilisation, and in this manner frustrating the economic plans of the FRELIMO-Party and Mozambican government. Added to this are fresh prepara-



tions for a large scale invasion of the PRM. In fact South Africa has no respect whatsoever for Africa and the world. And this is international terrorism at its best. The ANC and the sole vanguard of the Namibian people, SWAPO, have never for a moment hidden that the Soviet Union supports all peoples struggling for national and social emancipa-

tion, nor has the USSR for that matter. Both to Reagan and Botha, in fact the whole imperialist system, all that stands for progress is terrorism. This is nothing but an attack against the peace-loving and revolutionary forces of the world.

Echoing the old fairy tale that the African National Congress is controlled by white communists who in turn pay their allegiance to the Kremlin, this Sub-Commission was trying desperately in a characteristic anti-Soviet fashion to prove that the ANC is not indigenous. However, we in the ANC are not new to such slander, through the ages we have proved them to be a conglomeration of lies and malicious propaganda masqueraded as the truth. Like-wise this attempt shall find no receptive ear. Here it is relevant to quote the words of our President, Comrade O.R. Tambo when addressing the celebration marking the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the South African Communist Party:

"It is often claimed by our detractors that the ANC's association with the SACP means that the ANC is being influenced by the SACP. That is not our experience. Our experience is that the two influence each other. The ANC is quite capable of influencing, and is liable to be influenced by others... the SACP has been an integral part of the struggle of the African people against oppression and exploitation in South Africa. We can all bear witness that in the context of the struggle against colonial structures, racism and the struggle for power by the people, the SACP has been fighting with the oppressed and exploited."

TRAITORS

Another sinister feature of this Sub-Committee was to attempt to prove that Hlapane (recently executed by our people), Nokonono and their likes are innocent witnesses who are supposed to have been frustrated by the ANC's association with the SACP. But who are they? Hlapane sold our leadership in Rivonia. He was an unscrupulous, despicable and rusty renegade, traitor long vomited

by our revolution. Nokonono, a young ambitious opportunist known for her lust for power and fame, is equally a willing agent of NIS. We can proudly say that the so-called findings of the US Senate Sub-Committee on 'Security' and 'Terrorism' were a non-starter and a still-born baby. All attempts to destroy the ANC and to weaken its alliance with the SACP have been thwarted. We are a strong majority.

Behind the racist regime's attempts to frustrate our revolution lurks the so-called honourable men of the CIA. The CIA has never been involved in our affairs as it is today. In fact the situation inside South Africa, as we have already pointed out, is a matter of great concern for the whole imperialist world, particularly the US. In South Africa we face not only the racist regime of Botha and Malan, but the combined forces of imperialism who are sustaining the racist monster. Imperialism is in deep crisis, unparalleled in its history, more and more people in the world have said enough is enough and "have started to move forward". After the Matola Massacre, the Mozambican government released incontrovertible evidence incriminating the CIA of having spied jointly with NIS on ANC officials and activities. The exposed CIA agents were subsequently expelled from the People's Republic of Mozambique. CIA's association with Pretoria's secret services is not a new phenomenon. Together in 1975 they planned, using the UNITA and FNLA bandits and the Zairean mercenaries to forestall the attainment of independence by the people of Angola through their legitimate revolutionary vanguard organisation, the MPLA.

STEADFAST

However, because of the steadfastness of the MPLA and the support from the socialist countries and some African states and organisations, the Angolan people were able to proclaim their national independence on the 11th of November, 1975, amidst Pretoria's invasion of the southern part. The scope and proportion of the involvement of the CIA and BOSS (now NIS) are well-documented in John Stockwell's "In Search of Enemies", exposing imperialism's

plan to bleed Angola. In fact from its inception in 1947, the CIA was envisaged not so much as an intelligence gathering service, but above all as a subversive organisation. On the 18th November, 1944, at the height of the Second World War, Bill Donovan, then head of the war-time Office of Strategic Services (OSS), in a memorandum submitted to President F. Roosevelt, forwarded a detailed scheme for the setting up of a central intelligence accountable to the President. According to Bill Donovan, the tasks of this central intelligence department were not to be merely those linked with intelligence gathering only, but equally to conduct subversive operations abroad, thus after the war in 1947, the CIA was formed. (See: N. Yakovlev - CIA Target - the USSR, p. 82). Apparently the victories that the Soviet Union was scoring against fascist Hitler were preoccupying the men in Washington. From the CIA to the Atom Bomb the objective was one: to nip socialism and other world revolutionary detachments in the bud. But, alas, what Hitler's "Operation Barbarosa" failed to achieve, Donovan's CIA also dismally failed to achieve. To scare and blackmail the USSR the Pentagon resorted even to the most extreme and bestial crime: it dropped the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Japan, killing and fatally wounding more than 200 thousand defenceless civilians.

A fundamental necessity therefore arises for all cadres of our movement and its allies both in the army and elsewhere to be always on the alert and vigilant. Pretoria and Washington want to see us destroyed. Let us ensure that in this "Year of United Action" our ranks remain closed and defended. The defence of our great organisation is precisely the defence of our people and future, of prosperity.

In conclusion, let us always bear in mind that the regime's campaign of terror and mass killing is part of imperialism's global strategy to bleed the world revolutionary movement. Imperialism is wounded, hence its lethal last kicks. Our duty to the people of Southern Africa, particularly those of Angola, Mozambique and Lesotho, and of the whole world is to expedite the speedy

overthrowal of the abhorred international crime against humanity, apartheid. Moreover, let us defend the honour and tradition of the African National Congress, we need it, we cannot do without it.

A Poem for the New Year

With stubborn reluctance
the year slips under our feet
Adamant to fade into history
Adamant to file our record
It has been battles by the score
And to battles we advance afore

The new year smiles at us
Upon our names comrades
Opens up a s t e e p road
We shall walk it obstinately
We shall blaze it triumphantly
This road to our future

Your h e r o i s m comrades
Challenges the eternity of time

- ELAN THUPAPEDI