



Editorial Comment

UDF—AN INVALUABLE WEAPON

Gerrit Viljoen, the racist Minister of Education and Sport expressed the determination of the apartheid regime to go ahead with the implementation of the 'new dispensation' for Coloureds and Indians in spite of our resolute opposition and rejection of this sham deal. In April he said that the proposed new constitution is a point of departure into a future in which there could be no absolute guarantees and it should be approached in the pioneering spirit of the voortrekkers. As of this writing the constitution bill has been pushed through parliament with satanic haste. Out of 102 clauses, (of the bill) only 34 were debated. With the bill now approved by parliament the only step left before the bill becomes law is the all-white referendum scheduled for November 2.

It is beyond question that the constitutional proposals are not going to introduce even an iota of change to the status quo but are designed to entrench racist discrimination. It (racial discrimination) is still enshrined in the constitution; mass removals and resettlement (today the number of people facing the threat of mass removals and relocation is the highest compared to any period since the National Party assumed power in 1948), bantustans, group areas, influx control, job reservation, etc., the cornerstones of apartheid will remain untouched.

The enormous power that the new constitution concentrates in the hands of the executive president turns him into a dictator. According to the *Rand Daily Mail* (2/8/83): "There are some astonishing provisions in the constitutional proposals. When all three houses of parliament have no confidence in the president or his cabinet, they can pass resolutions accordingly. But what happens? Parliament is dissolved and the president and his cabinet remain in office". Given that the members of the cabinet will not be elected or necessarily be members of parliament but will be appointed by the president himself, and in majority cases they will undoubtedly be from the army,

the implications thereof are clear. South Africa has been and continues tactically moving towards military rule. Seen in this light, the constitutional proposals are designed to place it firmly on this road, a process initiated by Botha's ascendancy to power and the consequent rise of the generals to prominence in the South African state's apparatus and government.

MILESTONE

The birth of the United Democratic Front (UDF) on August 20-21 at Mitchell's Plain in Cape Town, marked a milestone in the struggle of our people against apartheid tyranny. The moment could not have been more opportune in the face of such a determined offensive by the enemy as revealed by the 'new dispensation' and the Koornhof bills. These are attempts by the enemy to make further inroads on Black unity by falsely broadening its laager to co-opt Coloureds and Indians as junior partners of apartheid and to enhance the apartheid division of Africans into permanent urban residents and migrants.

These are attacks not only on one or the other community, class or racial group but on all the oppressed of our country. This is why our opposition can and will only be meaningful if we are united. We have seen the power of *United Action* in the recent battles of Lamontville people, where for the first time in the history of the National Party's rule, racist Piet Koornhof was forced to meet with the real leaders of the people. It is therefore the duty of all genuine patriots and revolutionaries to throw all their weight behind the UDF, an invaluable weapon to frustrate the enemy's offensive.

The same applies to the trade union movement. The President's Council proposals and the Koornhof bills are an affront not to workers in one industry or union, but to the entire working class. Likewise the trade union movement can only offer serious opposition to these apartheid schemes if united under a single federation. Hence the urgency of the call for "*one country, one federation*".

Our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, is conscious of this powerful campaign that is building up against the President's Council and Koornhof genocidal bills and the duty that its fighting ranks are charged with. We are called upon to sharpen our spears and intensify the war against the racist regime. Only by so doing shall we create a favourable climate for the flourishing of the UDF and the overall advance to the seizure of power. Herein lies to a large extent the success of the fight against the constitutional proposals and the Koornhof bills.

FORWARD TO VICTORY!

TELL MORE LIES!

Today, four newspapers including the *Sowetan* are facing prosecution for reporting the evidence of racist brutality in Namibia as witnessed by archbishop Dennis Hurley. We are not saying that papers like the *Citizen* and the *Rand Daily Mail* which are also facing prosecution are reliable. We know that they report lies, having the interest of white South Africans and the criminal system of apartheid at heart. But what we are saying is that even these papers are not telling enough lies as it is, for Botha and Malan they have to tell more.

Radio Freedom - Luanda