



Editorial Comment

## MAGNIFICENT SHOW OF UNITED ACTION

We reiterate our claim that if the heroic mass struggles of the fifties let that decade be known as the »roaring fifties«, the eighties will be known as the »fighting eighties«. The mass upsurge engulfing the racist laager spells victory in the most certain terms. This is indeed the decade of destiny.

A potentially »revolutionary situation«, is how the racist regime, in the words of one colonel Leon Mellet, described the anti-elections campaign we have just witnessed its close. Indeed, it is a campaign that has entered the annals of our history of resistance as one with few parallels.

The jackboot methods employed by the racists enemy to force the Indians and »Coloureds« to sanction apartheid rule can only characterise the elections as held at gunpoint. Over 40 leaders of the democratic movement were arrested on the eve of the elections, added to the repeated arrest of many UDF and other anti-elections organisations' leaders even long before the elections. Many UDF »Make

Your Mark Against Apartheid« forms were confiscated by the police during the UDF's million signatures campaign, while in areas like East London meetings of the UDF and its affiliates were banned.

In certain areas there were threats of eviction from state houses and the withdrawal of pensions for elderly residents if they did not vote, while in other constituencies people were conned into signing special voting forms.

### IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT

Despite such brutality, the enemy suffered an ignominious defeat. In a magnificent show of united action, our Indian and »Coloured « brothers have unequivocally declared:

- we won't vote for the perpetuation of the apartheid system,
- we refuse voting for continued domination of the Black people by the white minority,
- we shall not offer our sons and ourselves for military conscription into an

army whose principal task is to fight the oppressed in South Africa and terrorise the independent countries of Southern Africa,

— we won't help the enemy plant among us the seeds of disunity and prolonged bitterness.

The racist regime claims a 30% and less than 20% poll for the »Coloureds» and Indians respectively, based on the registered voters that went to the polls. This claim is far from true when considering that only 60% of the so-called Coloureds had registered, despite the fact that it's an offence not to register. In the Western Cape, an area with the largest concentration of »Coloureds», the poll was less than a mere 4%. In certain constituencies like Woodstock and Rylands hardly a single voter turned up.

We also need to acknowledge with special appreciation the action that accompanied the boycott campaign. People didn't just boycott and stay in their homes, folding their arms. It was an active boycott. There were demonstrations even on the day of the elections. The polling stations were grounds of a fierce combat between the people and the system, resulting in the arrest of over 150 people and the injuring of many by the police.

In certain areas quislings like the Labour Party were challenged to an open and public debate on the new constitution, and they couldn't appear, while in certain constituencies the puppet candidates resorted to mailing their election manifestos to the registered voters in their constituencies. »We daren't hold public meetings so this was the only avenue open to us to get our message across», said one Dinkie Pillay of the Solidarity Party. The ground was just too hot for the collaborators. Many had their houses and offices petrol-bombed.

### MASS MOBILISATION

We commend our people for the resounding rebuff given to the enemy's schemes. We urge them to keep up and

heighten the level of mass mobilisation so far attained. While the results of the August elections display a growing political consciousness, that the majority of »Coloureds» who voted are those resident in the rural areas underlines an important task whose accomplishment can no longer be postponed: the drawing of the rural masses into the revolutionary war that is unfolding.

The Commander-in-Chief of our people's army Umkhonto We Sizwe, Comrade O.R. Tambo, had called in June: »It is therefore essential that we engage in the widest and most intensive mobilisation possible. We should reach out to all those whom the racists and their collaborators seek as to drive or drag into their polling booths. In this connection we shall need to pay particular attention to those of our so-called Coloured people who reside in the rural areas, in small towns and in the Eastern Cape.»

We can only echo even louder the above call. For, despite our opposition to the new constitution, the Botha-Malan regime will proceed with its implementation, with even more viciousness. As we go to press, Piet Botha has already been sworn in as the new executive president. So as we consolidate this victory we have just scored and muster larger forces for the bitter struggles ahead, struggles against the new constitution and the entire system of apartheid, we need to step up the mobilisation of the rural masses. The majority of our people reside in the rural areas and without their conscious following and participation in the revolution, victory over the fascist enemy remains far-fetched.

We the death-defying soldiers of Umkhonto We Sizwe, as enjoined by our Commander-in-Chief, Comrade O.R. Tambo, have a duty to contribute massively to the build-up towards a determined, united, and nation-wide assault on the enemy's constitution and for the seizure of power in our country.