

CHILDREN OF THE STORM.

"Practice without theory is blind
Theory without practice is sterile".

The first issue of "Liberation" makes its appearance at a time of profound world crisis. The first half of the twentieth century has been marked by a dizzy acceleration in the rate of scientific discovery and technical advance. Man's stature has been raised, his horizons boundlessly expanded. Yet, for the most part, social and economic systems have not kept pace with man's ever-increasing conquests over nature.

The overwhelming majority of mankind still lives in grinding poverty, ignorance and disease, subject to the blind and uncontrollable hazards of unplanned economy. Over Africa and large parts of Asia and America, the wanton ravages of imperialism lay waste vast human and material resources.

Our times are marked by continuous wars and revolutions; conflicts between labour and capital; between colonisers and their victims; between rival imperial powers claiming the "right" to empire; between imperialism itself and Socialism. All these upheavals are symptoms of the modern crisis - the contradiction between advanced science and antiquated forms of social organisation.

The greatest single danger that today faces humanity is that these tensions should be allowed to explode into a cataclysmic world conflict; a vast and ~~terrible~~ intercontinental war in which the secrets man has wrested from nature will be used to destroy him, to bury his proudest achievements and his glorious hopes. That is the blunt alternative which the development and use of atomic, chemical and bacteriological means of war places before the peoples of the world. We must win peace or perish.

These truths hold for all nations and all parts of the world, without exception. Humanity is one. Today this statement is no longer merely a moral or scientific thesis

to be preached in churches or debated in the lecture room. The integration and interdependence of mankind has become a central and vital fact of modern life.

Nowhere is this development more strikingly confirmed than in Africa, whose age-old semi-isolation is vanishing like the morning mist. The so-called "Council of Europe" finds its sole unifying bond in the elaboration of plans for the mutual retention of economic and strategical mastery over African territories, resources and people. The United States of America plans greater stockpiles of atom bombs to be manufactured with uranium from the Congo, the Rand, the Orange Free State. The "King's African Rifles" are sent from Kenya to hunt guerillas in the jungles of Malaya, and Malan sends young Europeans to drop napalm bombs on Korean villages. And in north-west Africa, vast air, naval and army bases are being constructed by America for the projected invasion of the socialist states of eastern Europe.

But the days are past when the fate of Africa could be decided in Europe or America without reference to the aims and aspirations of the people in Africa itself. The challenging ideas of freedom and national independence that have swept through Asia have taken deep root in this continent of ours. From Cairo to the Cape, from East to West, Africa is awakening, to demand that her peoples shall take their part in the world community not as dependents, inferiors, or pawns in the diplomatic game, but as equals and full partners. Huggins and Malan are living in the past when they seek to drive a bargain with Churchill for the sale of Nyasaland or Bechuanaland: they are reckoning without the people, not only of Nyasaland and the "Protectorates" but also of Rhodesia and the Union.

Never before has there been such a powerful and widespread demand for freedom and equality for Africa, as exists today, expressed in movements for national liberation, against "Federation", for self-government, and against colonial rule. In the Union, this movement has found its most important reflection in the alliance of the African and Indian Congresses for the defiance campaign.

It is, however, not sufficient to be determined upon change, to be aware of the impossibility of the old order, be brave and ready to sacrifice for the future of the people

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It is necessary also to achieve widespread clarity on the aims of the struggle, the goal to be sought and the path to achieve it. Hence the need for political theory, for full and frank discussion of all the problems which arise in the course of the struggle, for the free exchange and clash of ideas, for the steady achievement of a common theoretical basis and understanding within the movement for freedom.

It is to help supply this need that "Liberation" has been established.

We are not so presumptuous as to imagine that this little magazine can in itself solve all the many and grave problems which face our people. That is a task that can only be accomplished in the course of the practical struggle, by those leaders and rank-and-filers who are participating in it. Our aim is to provide a medium and a vehicle for them to clarify their ideas and to make those generalisations from concrete experience which are vital if we are to learn and to go forward.

At the same time "Liberation" will not be a journal without a policy of its own: a formless and aimless debating forum.

We support the world-wide movement for peace and against imperialism.

We believe in a democratic South Africa which will implement the principle of the UNO Charter: for equality of rights, human dignity and full opportunity for all without distinction of race, sex, colour or creed.

We are opposed to all varieties of racialism or of hostility and contempt for any group based upon colour, or other biological distinctions.

We will give our unqualified support to all positive forward movements against oppression and injustice such as the Campaign of the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress.

Within the framework of these broad principles, "Liberation" invites contributions from democrats of all shades of opinion upon matters of political, economic, cultural and scientific interest.