

WHITE SOUTH AFRICA — NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Growing contradictions within the white community are daily emerging:

- A white police reservist joins a mass defiance campaign march in Johannesburg, waving a placard against police abuse.
- The ANC flag hangs from the mayoral balcony in Cape Town during a mass rally in protest against the police killings of anti-election demonstrators.
- The Conservative Party accuses the government of failing to enforce the law by allowing open support for the ANC and SACP. Vlok is forced to proclaim that the ANC flag is not banned!
- De Klerk and Viljoen contradict one another on whether the ANC must renounce violence before it can be part of negotiations.

The core of escalating resistance has been militant action by the organised working class, which has destabilised the system of super-profits apartheid used to guarantee. Growing mass resistance has been accompanied by intensified international isolation, with sanctions deepening apartheid's economic troubles.

Pretoria can no longer assure its constituency of a tranquil 'white' life of luxury. The turmoil of the struggle is no longer confined to the black townships, but is marching into the centres of all the major cities. White standards of living are declining and for the first time in many decades, white unemployment is assuming major proportions. The resulting confusion and division in white South Africa yield enormous opportunities for our revolutionary struggle.

We must win over growing numbers of whites to the side of democracy, draw whites into non-racial mass democratic organisations, the ANC, MK and the SACP, and build the broadest front of anti-apartheid forces. Popularising the Freedom Charter, the ANC Constitutional Guidelines and the Harare Declaration on negotiations will play an important role in this process.

White workers must be specially targeted. Experience shows that a growing number realise that the regime has dumped them and that they have more to gain by joining Cosatu unions than supporting the National Party. Those drawn to the Conservative Party, the AWB and the Wit Wolwe can be neutralised if shown that a return to Verwoerdian baaskap is simply no longer practically achievable.

White-owned big business has mainly sided with the regime against the oppressed, especially against the working class. But we must work to isolate the regime from that support. As our victory comes closer, big business will want to befriend the future government. Let them prove themselves now by cancelling military and police contracts, acting against the LRAA, recognising democratic trade unions and practically

supporting the campaigns of the Mass Democratic Movement. Continued organised resistance by workers, strategically directed MK attacks and industrial sabotage will convince them of the cost of bolstering apartheid.

Counter the Enemy's Distortions

Many whites still have fears about the future. They are daily fed with the regime's propaganda that we shall do unto them as they have done unto us.

Our stand was clearly described by Mandela when he told the court which sentenced him: *'All my life I have fought against white domination and I will equally dedicate myself to fight against black domination.'* He spoke as a leader of an organisation which not only preached this message of non-racialism but which always practised it.

The liberation movement's Constitutional Guidelines must be spread as widely as possible. They make absolutely clear that there will be constitutional safeguards to protect language, culture, political freedom, press freedom, judicial independence, and so on. But majority rule and group political rights are absolutely non-negotiable.

No one can doubt our position that those whites who are genuinely prepared to contribute their talents and skills will have a place in a post-apartheid society. And their reward will be commensurate with their contribution. But we have to remember that even at the expense of a degree of social dislocation a people's government will have to take affirmative action to provide skills and opportunities to those who, because of race alone, have been kept out of most of the managing echelons of the socio-economic structures.

We are convinced that the achievement of our political objectives will be in the best interests of all South Africans, black and white. We must, more than ever, get this across to a white community which is divided and confused.