

We must support every act of resistance and draw it into the mainstream of revolt.

WITH OUR UNITED STRENGTH:

Let us in 1980, the 25th year of the Freedom Charter, build the broadest front of all patriotic and anti-racist forces under the banner of the ANC.

Let us fight the regime's labour policy; make 1980 the year of the worker; build genuine trade unions under the leadership of SACTU.

Let us isolate the enemy and its collaborators.

Let us fight for the release of all political prisoners; stand by the detained, the banned and banished; demonstrate our solidarity with those facing political trials.

Oppressed African, Coloured and Indian people unite in action.

Democratic whites, join in the struggle.

Mobilise for People's War! Support the struggle of Umkhonto we Sizwe and its combatants!

Unity and Organisation mean Victory!

Long live the SACP!

Long live the unity of the patriotic forces of our country! Death to racism and fascism – Forward to People's Power! Victory is certain!

DOCUMENT 136:

'The Situation in Afghanistan', statement issued by the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party, January 1980.

The Central Committee of the South African Communist Party expresses its full solidarity with the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party and the people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in their determined and all out efforts to defend the gains of the April 1978 Revolution for the elimination of feudalism, for national independence and social progress on the road to socialism.

The events in Afghanistan must be seen against the background of the frantic campaign by imperialism to shore up the remaining bastions of capitalism throughout the world and to hold back the forces of change. Now they talk of 'Soviet aggression against a neighbouring country'. But the truth of the matter is that on December 28, 1979, Radio Kabul transmitted the following message:

'The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, taking into account the continuing and broadening interference and provocations of external enemies of Afghanistan, and with a view to defending the gains of the April Revolution, territorial integrity, national independence and maintaining peace and security, proceeding from the treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and co-operation of December 5, 1978, approached the USSR with the insistent request that it give urgent political, moral and economic aid, including military aid.'

To us it comes as no surprise that the Soviet Union has met the request of the Afghan side.

For years now the imperialists have been concentrating their strategy for a counter-revolutionary revival, leading to increasing confrontation with the Soviet Union and ultimately the threat of nuclear war. When the Soviet Union has taken the lead in proposing measures of detente and disarmament, the imperialists have resorted to delaying tactics and both secret and open rearmament. The ratification of SALT 2 has been repeatedly deferred, and now once again the Carter regime has used the excuse of Afghanistan to withdraw it from the consideration of the Senate. When the Soviet Union unilaterally withdrew 20,000 men and 1,000 tanks from the German Democratic Republic, the imperialist response was a NATO decision to deploy hundreds of new atomic weapons throughout Western Europe and threats of nuclear war against the Soviet Union from Mrs Thatcher and her allies.

The Iranian revolution was followed by the dispatch of American naval forces to the Persian Gulf and the threat of military action to secure the oil wells of the Middle East for the West. Hatred of the Soviet Union has united China with the imperialists and opened the way to massive military and economic aid to China as an ally of imperialism against the world revolutionary movement.

Step by step hatred of the Soviet Union is being deliberately fanned by the Governments and media in the imperialist countries, whose people are being brainwashed to regard the Soviet Union as an enemy, and conditioned to accept that war against the Soviet Union is inevitable and intervention to stop the spread of socialism desirable.

The hypocrisy of the imperialists is exposed by the fact that aggression perpetrated by themselves or their allies against the forces of progress and democracy throughout the world are passed over in silence. China's brazen invasion of Vietnam was accompanied, not by the threat of sanctions, but by a frenzied rush of Western businessmen to negotiate trade deals with Peking. French invasions in Africa and continued occupation of African territories are ignored.

Imperialism's global strategy is of particular concern to us in South Africa. We have already witnessed the collusion of Britain with the racists of South Africa and Rhodesia in a bid to impose a neo-colonialist settlement on Zimbabwe, and similar attempts are being made to frustrate the liberation movement in Namibia. Mrs Thatcher herself has confirmed that the aim of these exercises is 'to make progress towards an ending of the isolation of South Africa in world affairs.' The alliance between Israel and South Africa as the main bastions of imperialism in the Middle East and Africa is being cemented ever more strongly.

The present tactic of the industrial-military complex in the imperialist countries is to keep the economy going by massive expenditure on armaments, and the vicious anti-Soviet campaign is designed to make this acceptable to the masses at a time when their social services are being cut to the bone. The danger, inevitably, is that preparations for war can so easily spill over into open conflict – a conflict from which the human race is unlikely to survive.

It is in this context that we interpret the events in Afghanistan. We appreciate that it is for the people of Afghanistan to decide for themselves the nature of their

social system, but ever since the April 1978 Revolution the imperialists have refused to leave them to settle their own affairs and have strained every nerve to turn the clock back. In the dangerous situation which has developed in the region, with both American and China threatening, and indeed either directly or indirectly or through surrogates, actually waging war, the Soviet Union had every right to respond to the appeal of the Afghan Government to help defend their revolution.

The South African Communist Party declares its full understanding of and support for the Soviet action, and calls upon progressive forces throughout the world to resist all anti-Soviet pressures and consolidate the ranks of the anti-imperialist forces in the struggle for the new and better world order for which we are all fighting.

We appeal to our people at home to demonstrate their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan; we appeal to the international communist movement and progressive forces to defend the Afghan Revolution, to expose imperialist machinations and to support the fraternal act of solidarity which the Soviet Union renders to the Afghan people.