



"AMANDLA NGAWETHU"
(POWER TO THE PEOPLE)

"MAATLA KE ARONA"

spotlight

ON

SOUTH AFRICA

news digest

compiled by the
african national congress
of south africa

P.O. BOX 1791 - PHONE 74768
LUSAKA - ZAMBIA

S P O T L I G H T O N S O U T H A F R I C A

Volume 7 No. 5

March 5, 1969

editorial:

FURTHER RUMBLINGS IN THE FRONT RANKS

Developments in Smith's Rhodesia during the last two months added support to our arguments that the ranks of the oppressors are not solid in their support of Smith.

On the 12th February, Smith took to the radio and television. He reacted very sharply and angrily to press comments - especially in the Rhodesia Herald - on his latest constitutional gimmick which consists of two tiers of racially-segregated representation. It is a rare sight indeed for a Head of Government to denounce, supposedly a busy man, devoting his precious time to countering press attacks. This is particularly startling in this case; for the Herald is by no stretch of the imagination a supporter of African majority rule. Ian Smith's angry reaction merely demonstrate his insecurity, his fears, and his current trouble from inside and outside the party. He finds himself criticised incessantly from all sides.

Business circles are particularly vociferous in their attacks. They are feeling the pinch of the unending quarrel with Britain. The UN sanctions are proving a nuisance; outside capital is hesitant; and South Africa's economic aid to the rebels deprives Rhodesian businessmen of profits. These go to South Africa. Recently, Harry Oppenheimer told the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce with disarming and cruel frankness that UDI affair had continued "much too long for the good of race relations in this country." He further showed that Rhodesia's economy was in bad shape. Here he disproved Government propaganda that sanctions were stimulating economic growth.

Apart from the Herald, Smith has had trouble with other sections of the Press. His Government aroused some grumbling by its deportation of the journalist John Worrel, a critic of the Front, but certainly no supporter of African nationalist demands. But what caused a public outcry was the suspension of the television personality John Bishop from the popular programme Tenth Hour. Bishop staged a TV discussion on "Rhodesians : Who are we? Where are we going? Where should we be going?" Representatives of all shades of opinion -

except the African.....2/

except the African nationalists - expressed their views. Many disagreed with the Government. For giving them publicity on the Government-controlled RTV, Bishop was suspended. But the Government had a big surprise in store for them. So great was the public furore, even from the Front's members that after ten days, the Government shipshily reinstated Bishop.

No wonder that in the face of this criticism, Smith should decide to visit his mentor, Balthazar Vorster. Like Welensky who went on a fishing trip with Verwoerd in 1963 when the Federation was moribund - a situation which caused him deep agony - Smith now finds himself in a quandary. From Vorster he needs more tips, reassurances, and further pledges of moral and material help. For the ruling settlers, these are "testing" and "trying" times where experience is no guide, and where, for once, they find themselves on common ground - in their opposition to Smith - with the vast majority of the people of Zimbabwe.

It should be emphasized that the rumblings of "discont" within the Rhodesia Front reflects a hardening of White reactionary forces who are bent to see Zimbabwe becoming another province of the fascist Republic of South Africa. A true and genuine change in Zimbabwe will only be brought about by the determined and dedicated efforts of the oppressed people who are engaged in a national war of liberation.

= = = = =
= = = = =

SITHOLE'S TIMIDITY CRITICISED

SALISBURY: The "timidity" shown by the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, president of the Zimbabwe African National Union, during his recent trial here has been criticised by the Roman Catholic monthly, Moto.

Under the headline "Was This The Real Sithole On Trial," an article in the March issue of the paper says:

"Those following the trial, whether in the parked court-room or in the national and world press gallery who expected Mr. Sithole to turn the trial into a scathing indictment of white domination, in the defined manner of Nelson Mandela during the famous Rivonia Trial in South Africa, must have been disappointed.

The leader of ZANU neither challenged the legality of the court nor delivered long political attacks against the Smith regime. In fact on several occasions he emphasised that he would work for his party's ends only within the confines of the "constitution,"

COURT SHOWN WEAPONS

PIETERMATZBURG: International attention and strict security centred on Pietermaritzburg for the first "terrorist" trial held in the city.

Twelve Africans, mostly from Natal, appeared before Mr. Justice Henning. A 16-page indictment accused them of offences under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

Before the court was an assortment of Russian, Chinese, Czechoslovak guns and other arms which included machine-guns, hand grenades, an anti-tank rocket and launcher and other weapons.

Allegations against the accused are that they "wrongfully and unlawfully and with intent endangered the maintenance of law and order in South Africa and conspired to commit acts to encourage discontent, violence, and revolution and to overthrow the order in the country by means of subversion, terrorism, violent revolution and warfare."

The accused are: Bifana Matthews Ngcobo, Lungepi Amos Lengisi, Themba Linus Dhlamini, Lawrence Madimetje Phokanoka, Patrick Sindili Mantanyana, Daluxolo Wordsworth Luthuli, Gaboikangwe Johannes Seleka, Silas Mogotsi, Esra Mvuyisa Sigwela, Twalimfene Joyi, Sisa Allen Dukada and Dorothy Nomzansi Nyembe, the only woman among the accused.

Evidence was led for three days on the recruiting, exit routes and training of terrorists from South Africa. A confessed accomplice also described his instruction by various foreign officers while accompanied by one of the accused, Bifana Matthews Ngcobo.

They received instruction in the use of rifles, B.A.R. rifles, bazookas, mine bombs, jerrycan Molotov cocktails and other weapons, he alleged.

The trial continues.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE (Durban).
16/2/69.

= = =

LONDON CASH FOR 12 ACCUSED

PIETERMARITZBURG: An anonymous "wealthy client" of a London firm of attorneys is paying between R10,000 and R15,000 to senior counsel in South Africa to defend 12 alleged "terrorists" appearing in the Supreme Court.

"Money has.....4/

-4 inside the police state

"Money has dropped from Heaven," said Mr. W.O.H. Menge, pro deo counsel for the defence.

A Durban attorney, Mr. R. Bugwandoen, who has often "assisted with monetary matters" between South Africa and other countries for political detainees, told me he had been instructed by letter to organise "proper defence" for the 12 accused.

"I have already approached Mr. George Muller, SC, and Mr. Andrew Wilson to act as his junior," he said.

"Mr. Bugwandoen showed me the letter which started the wheels turning for the defence of the 12 accused. It was from a London firm of attorneys who stated that the case of the 12 had come to the attention of a wealthy client, through a Cape Town newspaper.

The client was concerned that "due to a lack of funds, the accused will not have a proper defence."

Mr. Bugwandoen said he did not know if Defence and Aid were not involved. "You can see for yourself in the letter; that is all I know as far as the provision of the money is concerned," he said.

The trial involving the Africans, one of whom is a woman, took an unexpected turn when it was revealed that money for defence had become available. Mr. Menge then applied for an adjournment until senior counsel could take over from him.

The trial is now expected to last longer than the two weeks expected by counsel for the State.

Mr. Bugwandoen said he expected the trial would now take anything from two to three months.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE (Durban).
16/2/69

= = = = =

CIVIL ACTION AGAINST POLICE

VEREENIGING: "The policemen shot me in the head after they had knocked

loudly at...../5

loudly at the door of my home while I was trying to get help from neighbours," said Benjamin Sekemane in the Vereeniging civil court.

Mr. Sekemane, of Sharpville, is instituting civil action against the Minister of Police and he is claiming R1,000 as damages for the injuries he suffered when he was shot in the head by policemen when they raided his house on the night of July 19, 1966. The Minister is defending the action.

Mr. Sekemane told the court that on July 19, he was sleeping at his home when people knocked at the door of his house and shone torches through the windows.

"I peeped through the window and saw people standing next to the house.

"They were dressed in plain clothes. Later, a White man jumped through a window which was not properly closed and touched me with his right hand outstretched as if feeling for something.

"I jumped through the bedroom window and outside, I found people standing next to the window," said Mr. Sekemane.

"I ran for a few paces and when I was about to jump the fence I heard two loud bangs. A White man was chasing me and I felt pain at the back of my head. I was bleeding profusely from the wound.

"The two men caught up with with me before I could jump the fence and brought be back to the house. In the house, I recognised them as policemen when I saw Constable Thomas Mayepo whom I know very well.

"In the house, the men told me they had shot me and they would take me to the hospital. They alleged that they had come to the wrong house.

"I was then taken to hospital by police car.

"At the hospital the police told the nurses that after treating me they should phone the Sharpville police to come and collect me.

"I stayed at the casualty ward overnight. The following morning I was X-rayed and the wound was stitched."

Mr. Sekemane alleged that his health had suffered a great deal and he was suffering from a nervous break-down. Mrs Sekemane said after her husband had jumped through the window, Thomas Mayepo ordered her to get out from under the bed.

"After a while I heard two large bangs outside the house. I saw two White men coming into the house with my husband.

"I jumped.....6/

"I jumped through the dining room window, to ask for help from the opposite house as I was frightened that these people were killers. When I got there I fainted."

THE WORLD (Johannesburg).
12/2/69.

= = = = =

MAN TIED TO TRUCK AND DRAGGED

JOHANNESBURG: An African man, Whittington Maja, told the Johannesburg Regional Court that in October last year he was handcuffed to the side of a light truck and dragged up and down a street in Meadowlands. The driver accelerated hard until he, running along side was unable to keep up and then the driver braked. This happened five or six times and on each occasion he crashed into the front part of the truck, Mr. Maja said.

Three policemen, Constable Desmond Richard Cooper, Johan Louis de Jager and Phineas Nkwangane were appearing before Mr. P.J.T. Nel, charged with assaulting Mr. Maja with intent to murder him.

They are also charged with assaulting John Thekesi.

All three men pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Mr. Maja said that on October 1 he was travelling through Meadowlands with a passenger, known to him as John, sleeping on the back seat of the car.

A light truck passed him and then slowed down and he passed the truck. Just after that he heard shots being fired and saw the window next to him shatter.

He switched off the ignition and fell flat on the front seat of the car which crashed off the road and landed in a hole on its side.

An African pulled him from the car and told a White man with him to "shoot this man."

Mr. Maja said the men kept asking him: "Where are the fire-arms?"

The light truck and another car parked nearby. He was handcuffed to the truck and a second White man drove it dragging him behind.

They went up the street and then returned. The driver braked five or

six times. On the.....7/

six times. On the last occasion after colliding with the truck he found that he was free of the handcuffs.

This was at the point where his car had crashed. The African caught him, held his hands behind his back and struck him on the side of the face.

"They told me they had killed my passenger and if I did not hand over the firearm they would shoot me too," Mr. Maja said.

He said they showed him his passenger at the bottom of a pit and said they had shot him. They then threw him into the pit and he heard two shots.

He heard the African man say that they were both dead and would have to be taken to the mortuary.

Mr. Maja told the magistrate that at this stage he believed that he must have been shot and was in the process of dying.

A little later he and the passenger looked out of the pit and saw that the other two cars had gone. They then went to the police station at Meadowlands.

THE WORLD (Johannesburg).
11/2/69.

= = = = =

2 MEN ALLEGE TORTURE BY POLICE

SASOLBURG: Two men of Sasolburg who were facing charges of house-breaking and theft, alleged in the Sasolburg Regional Court that they were tortured with electric wires and assaulted with fists by policemen after their arrest. The men are Isaac Moretsele (28), and Jeremiah Mangane (26), both of Sasolburg Hostel, who are charged with four counts of housebreaking and theft.

The allegations is that the accused broke into four houses in Sasolburg and stole goods worth R800 during May last year.

They pleaded not guilty on all charges.

The men were found not guilty and discharged.

"The police tortured us with electric wires and assaulted us with

fists during.....8/

-8 inside the police state

fists during the interrogation after our arrest." alleged the accused.

THE WORLD (Johannesburg)
6/2/69.

= = = = =

TUCSA DEAD NOW, SAYS UNIONIST

The decision to bar African trade unions from the Trade Union Council of South Africa had been put forward as a desperate attempt to "save" TucsA, in fact, it meant the death of TucsA as it was known, said Mr. Eric Tyacke, secretary of the Johannesburg branch of the National Union of Laundering, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers' Union.

Mr. Tyacke was the only delegate to speak against the resolution to bar African trade unions from TucsA when it was adopted at the annual conference in Johannesburg.

After the conference, Mr. Tyacke, who pleaded that the resolution should not be adopted, said: "The TucsA that had become internationally-known and respected was the TucsA which represented all workers, regardless of race, colour or creed.

"There is one principle which cannot be compromised by a trade union body because it is fundamental to trade unionism throughout the free world. This is the principle of the brotherhood of man."

Mr. Tyacke told the conference that the rejection of African workers meant, in truth, the end of TucsA.

"I must remind you of the hurt and injury that this move has done to African workers," he told the packed audience.

He reminded delegates that two-thirds of TucsA's affiliated members were Indian and Coloured - "and yet this very membership is preparing to exclude African affiliation."

"This move was obviously taken to appease the Right-wing elements who had either left TucsA or else were preparing to do so over the question of African membership," Mr. Tyacke told me.

"But is it not possible in the future that, with the return and strengthening of Right-wing elements in TucsA, the demand will one day be to exclude other non-White groups as well?"

There was also the possibility that the policies of the Right-wing

element might.....9/

element might have the effect of antagonising and driving out non-White members.

THE WORLD (Johannesburg).
23/2/69.

MP HITS OUT AT RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

CAPE TOWN: Limehill was only one small part of a huge resettlement scheme to satisfy the Government's "Germanic obsession for tidiness, its determination to turn the multi-racial reality of South Africa into a neat dream world of Black areas and White areas", Mrs Helen Suzman, M.P., said in Cape Town.

In an interview Mrs. Suzman said that much attention had been focussed on Limehill, the nearby resettlement projects in Natal and African resettlement in general.

Limehill, in particular, had attracted much controversy - even though it was only a small part of a huge scheme of resettlement.

Hundreds of thousands - maybe millions - of Africans were still to be uprooted if the Government went ahead with its announced intentions.

"If the object of this vast experience was the economic resettlement of the poverty-stricken rural Africans and the creation of productive employment for them and the urban removees, one would not object to the principle but only the method.

"But the object of this whole vast **exercice** is to satisfy the Government's Germanic obsession for tidiness, its determination to turn the multi-racial reality of South Africa into a neat dream world of Black areas and White areas.

"The uncertainty, misery, dislocation and inconvenience caused as a result of these wholesale removals are of little concern."

"This is the age of computers, planning, accurate assessments and anticipation.....I remember when African communities had to be uprooted in the Federation for Kariba, the planning for the operation took nearly two years.

"Every single aspect of the effects of the removals was studied in detail before the removals took place.

"Why not in South Africa, where these vast schemes involving hundreds of thousands, indeed even millions of people, are concerned? Months

and years of.....10/

and years of planning should be carried out before one single person is moved."

Mrs. Suzman called on the Government to call an immediate halt to schemes that resulted in "such misery until it was familiar with every aspect of the effects of removals and it knew how to implement the scheme with the minimum of hardship to the people involved."

THE WORLD (Johannesburg).
11/2/69.

'BATTLEFRONT SCENES' IN PRETORIA HOSPITAL

JOHANNESBURG:

After heated exchanges in Transvaal Provincial Council debates about waste, inefficiency and muddled planning in the Transvaal's hospital services programme, an eye-witness gave account of "hair-raising" conditions in the non-European section of the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria.

"I witnessed scenes that reminded me of casualty clearing posts and field dressing stations close behind the battle front in World War 11," the eye-witness said.

"It was a normal day and the hospital was running according to its normal routine," he said.

"I made an unannounced visit to a number of wards in the orthopaedic section and what I saw sickened me.

"African men, women and children suffering from many kinds of bone fracture occupied beds in wards which were obviously designed to accommodate only half as many patients. I counted 35 beds to a ward, every one of them occupied by what appeared to be a seriously injured patient and as many as 20 beds on the stoep outside.

"The area was also crowded by walking patients who sat around on benches and on the ground.

"In fine weather some of the walking patients spend part of their day on the slope of the hill above the hospital. They come down for meals, and sleep on the stoep at night - two to a bed or on the ground.

"When it rains and the temperature drops, I was informed, they simply move into the ward and lie in the passage between the two rows of beds. Some even crawl beneath beds to enable the night staff to attend to patients who need nursing.

"Conditions in the non-European Hospital, which forms part of the sprawling.....11/

sprawling H.F. Verwoerd complex - the Transvaal's principal prestige hospital - can fairly be described as primitive.

"Plans were drawn up and approved 30 years ago for amenities - but have since been provided in outlying areas in the Bantustans, the plans for Pretoria are still lying in pigeon-holes in Pretoria.

"Urgently needed buildings, including operating theatres, X-ray units and plaster rooms have simply not been constructed.

"I walked down a passage cluttered by stretchers with patients waiting to be operated on, while members of the hospital staff were mopping the floor or carrying utensils, linen and other materials.

"At a sliding door which gives access to an operating theatre I paused to watch an operation in progress.

"The doctors and staff in the theatre were all masked and shrouded in conventional clothing and footwear. But even though this part of the operation-room ritual was being observed, the fact that the door was ajar made me wonder whether the atmosphere in the operating theatre was as fully aseptic and germ-free as one might expect.

"The equipment for sterilisation of surgical equipment and the methods used to make floors and furniture in the non-European blocks operating theatres germ-free do not appear to be modern."

SUNDAY TIMES (Johannesburg).
23/2/69.

= = = = =
= = = = =
= = =

SOUTH AFRICA'S POPULATION

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa had a total population of all races of 19,167,000 at the end of June last year, according to mid-year estimates of population published by the Bureau of Statistics in Pretoria.

The figures published show a population increase of 434,000 compared with June 1967. The total African population increased from June 1967 to June last year by 292,000 to an estimated 13,042,000, while Whites increased by 76,000 to 3,639,000 and Coloureds by 53,000 to 1,912,000.

The Asian population increased by 13,000 to 574,000. From 1961 to 1968 the African population increased by 1,910,000 while that of the Whites increased by 522,000 in the same time, and Coloureds by 363,000.

THE WORLD (Johannesburg)
11/2/69.