

No 15 – 20 May 1998

ANC vs. COSATU/SACP

Does Mandela and Mbeki agree with the policy positions of the SACP and COSATU, or are they only paying lip service to their alliance partners?

SOCIALISM

In an article in Leadership on "The Future of Socialism", Jeremy Cronin made statements such as:

- "My conversion to communism was, as it only could have been, intellectual and moral."
- "From within the ANC-led movement we are campaigning for a socialist perspective ... Our socialism is not some secret agenda. We intend to make socialism with, not against, the ANC ..."
- The democratisation of the labour market – through the new Labour Relations Act or the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, for instance – by empowering workers, helps to increase socialisation from the bottom up."

COSATU & GEAR

COSATU president, John Gomomo attacked the government's GEAR policy when stating that "COSATU and its leaders will not be blackmailed into toeing the line with which it has fundamental problems. While we are in the alliance ... we retain our independence and the right to articulate the concerns of our members without seeking permission from anybody" (SAPA, 27/03/1998).

COSATU Deputy Secretary General, Zwelinzima Vavi, recently stated that it is 'immoral' to support GEAR.

SAMWU official, Maria van Driel, stated: "Even tacit support for GEAR is a slap in the face for COSATU in the light of the federation's congress decision to reject the strategy" (SA Labour Bulletin, February 1998).

COSATU is going insists at the Presidential Job Summit that GEAR be revised and that socialist makro-economic principles be implemented. (Sake-Beeld, 15/04/1998).

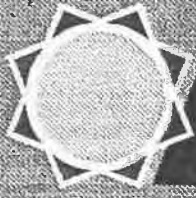
COSATU & SACP

The mouthpiece of the SACP, Umsebenzi: "Both the (Communist) party and COSATU acknowledge the need to build a communist party political presence at the work-place itself ... It is imperative, in this regard, that we resist the attempts of business to set a job creation agenda that centres around labour market 'flexibility'".

COSATU INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Sam Shilowa was cited in the SA Labour Bulletin in February 1998: "Overall, I would say that COSATU has been able to influence issues. Health Minister, Nkosazana Zuma and ourselves are one on health policy ... The areas of contention are marco-economic policy and privatisation".

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Stem President Mandela en Adjunk-president Mbeki saam met die SAKP en COSATU se beleidstandpunte of doen hulle net lippediens aan hulle alliansiegenote?

SOSIALISME

In 'n artikel oor die toekoms van sosialisme ('The future of Socialism') in Leadership, maak Jeremy Cronin stellings soos die volgende:

- My ommekeer na sosialisme was intellektueel en moreel, soos dit alleen maar kon wees.
- Ons voer 'n veldtog vir 'n sosialistiese perspektief vanuit die ANC-gerigte beweging... Ons sosialisme is geen geheime agenda nie. Ons beoog om sosialisme met die ANC, nie teen die ANC nie, te bedryf.
- Die demokratisering van die arbeidsmark - deur middel van die nuwe Wet op Arbeidsbetrokkinge of die Wet op Basiese Vereistes vir Indiensneming, byvoorbeeld - help om sosialisme deur die bemagtiging van die werkers van onder af op te bou.

COSATU & GEAR

John Gomomo, die COSATU-President, het die regering se GEAR-beleid aangeval deur te sê dat COSATU en sy leiers nie afgedreig sal word om in 'n rigting te beweeg waarmee hulle grondliggende probleme ondervind nie. Alhoewel ons in alliansie is, ... behou ons ons onafhanklikheid en die reg om die besorgdheid van ons lede te verwoord sonder om verlof daartoe van enigiemand te verkry (SAPA, 27/03/1998).

Zwelinzima Vavi, Adjunk Sekretaris-Generaal van COSATU, het onlangs gesê dat dit "immoreel" is

om GEAR te ondersteun.

Maria van Driel, 'n SAMWU-amptenaar, het gesê dat selfs onuitgesproke ondersteuning van GEAR, gesien in die verband van die besluit om die strategie te verwerp, wat op die federasie se kongres geneem is, vir COSATU 'n klap in die gesig is (SA Labour Bulletin, Februarie 1998).

COSATU gaan by die Presidensiële Werkskeppingsberaad daarop aandrang dat GEAR hersien moet word en dat sosialistiese makro-ekonomiese beginsels geïmplementeer word (Sake-Beeld, 15/04/1998).

COSATU & DIE SAKP

Umsebenzi, mondstuk van die SAKP: Beide die (Kommunistiese) party en COSATU erken die noodsaaklikheid om 'n politiese kommunistiese partyteenwoordigheid in die werkplek op te bou. ... Dit is, in dié verband, gebiedend noodsaaklik om teenstand te bied aan besigheid se pogings om 'n werkverskaffingsagenda wat om die "buigsamheid" van die arbeidsmark draai, in te stel.

COSATU SE INVLOED OP REGERINGSBELEID

Sam Shilowa is as volg in Februarie 1998 in die SA Labour Bulletin aangehaal: Ek sou sê dat COSATU, in geheel, in staat was om sake te beïnvloed. Ons en Gesondheidsminister Nkosazana Zuma is dit eens oor gesondheidsbeleid ... Makro-ekonomiese beleid en privatisering lewer die strydgebiede.