

SOUTH AFRICAN AND FRENCH COMMUNISTS MEET

DURING FEBRUARY 1965, a meeting took place between representatives of the French Communist Party and the South African Communist Party. There was a fruitful exchange of views and information.

The South African delegation highly appreciated the work of the French Communist Party in defence of the interests of the working class, the restoration of democracy and the maintenance of peace; as well as its support for the national liberation struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism.

The South African delegation presented a detailed analysis of the abominable racist system which prevails in South Africa. They showed that it constituted a special type of colonialism based on the oppression of the African majority and other non-whites. Verwoerd, Vorster and the other leaders, unrepentant admirers of Hitler, resorted to savage methods of fascist violence.

The French delegation paid tribute to the South African resistance movement, uniting Communists and non-Communists in a heroic struggle for freedom and equal rights and opportunities for all. Both delegations welcomed the solidarity movement which has developed all over the world. They consider that the racist regime of Verwoerd would find it hard to maintain itself in power, without the political support, the arms and the capital provided by the imperialist countries, including France. In defiance of solemn United Nations decisions, the French government continues to supply arms to South Africa to repress the liberation forces. French investments in South Africa, and trade between the two countries, are on the increase.

The French delegation considers that this policy is not only injurious to good relations between France and the countries of Africa and Asia; it is also contrary to the national interests of the French people. Both delegations considered the struggle against apartheid a question of world importance, not only for the defence

of fundamental human rights but also for the defence of peace. The government of South Africa constitutes a menace to world peace and to the independence and security of every African country. The South African state, the most industrialised in Africa, is mobilising for war. With the aid of firms in Britain, France (such as Panhard) and elsewhere it is actually building a self-contained armaments industry. There is a secret agreement between the Bonn and Pretoria governments for the joint production in South Africa of nuclear weapons, missiles and poison gases. The Pretoria regime has close military ties with Salazar Portugal and the racist government of Rhodesia.

The representatives of the French Communist Party undertake to do all in their power to develop a broad and powerful movement in France against apartheid. The French Communist Party, together with all other democratic forces, will intensify the struggle to end the French government's support for the racist and aggressive regime in South Africa. In particular, the Party will campaign:

- for the freeing of all political prisoners in South Africa ;
- for observance by France of the Security Council call for an embargo on arms destined for South Africa ;
- for the French government to break off all diplomatic, commercial, cultural, sporting and other relations with the apartheid regime ; and
- for effective United Nations action against the illegal annexation of South-West Africa by South Africa.

The talks were held in a spirit of great cordiality and comradeship, and both delegations were convinced of the need to develop further contacts and fraternal co-operation between the two Parties.