

the many acts of solidarity and practical help shown by the British Party towards the struggle in South Africa. The special measures of support which the British Party provided following the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, and the practical forms of assistance now being rendered have been warmly welcomed. The South African delegation emphasized the importance which their Party attaches to the political activity carried out in Britain by the British Party to win the people and their organizations to take a principled stand against apartheid. In this connection, the South African delegation stressed the valuable role played by the Party press and the *Daily Worker* in helping to expose the character of the South African regime and in making known the struggle and demands of the national liberation movement and democratic forces in South Africa.

South African Situation

The South African delegation gave a detailed review of the situation in their country and explained the conditions of their struggle which formed the basis for the conclusions expressed by their Central Committee in its recent statement *The South African People Will Win Their Freedom*. The international solidarity movement against apartheid was of the utmost value and significance in striving to isolate the Verwoerd regime from the financial, political and military backing of the imperialist countries which sustained it. But the decisive battlefield was in South Africa itself; the key to victory was the national liberation struggles of the oppressed people. Ruthless terror and police state measures unleashed by the Verwoerd regime has inflicted heavy losses on the movement, which had to be taken into account in a realistic and sober assessment of the situation. But despite temporary setbacks, the apparently flourishing economy, and the widespread diffusion of racialistic and fascist ideas among the white population, the regime was fundamentally unstable and insecure. The harsh conditions of life and oppression among the majority of the people aroused their revolutionary determination and resistance. The decision of the liberation movement to prepare for the armed overthrow of the white supremacy state remained basically correct, irrespective of the success or failure of any particular plan or operation. Such preparation had to be accompanied by intensified political work, whatever the difficulties, to rally and organize the people. Fascist terror called for new methods of work, but the basic task was still the strengthening and cohesion of the united front of national liberation in the form which it had achieved in many years of struggle, the Congress alliance. The Party was pledged to work with devotion, seriousness of purpose and confidence in victory

for these aims, for the overthrow of apartheid and the winning of their freedom by the South African people.

The British delegation opened a general discussion on the current imperialist counter-offensive against the national liberation movements throughout the world, exemplified in the U.S. aggression against Vietnam in Asia, the Dominican Republic in Latin America, and the Congo in Africa. This counter-offensive was taking many forms in Africa—military aggression, conspiracies and coups, assassination of national leaders, intrigues with local reactionaries, economic pressures, and the spreading of ideological confusion. Special emphasis was placed on the strategy of the imperialists in Africa, aimed at maintaining their open grip on southern Africa both for the sake of the wealth and rich investments in this region, and for the purpose of using it as a base for intrigue and aggression against the independent states in the rest of the continent. It was considered that the most advanced states in Africa were particularly menaced by these new threats.

Britain's Responsibility

The South African delegation stressed Britain's special responsibility for the dependent status of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, and pointed out the danger that British Government policy was paving the way to the economic absorption and domination of these states by the Verwoerd regime.

Both delegations expressed complete opposition to the continued rule of Southern Rhodesia by the white settler minority, and expressed their complete solidarity with the struggle of the four million African people and their demands for the suspension of the existing Constitution, the release of the political prisoners, and the drawing up of a new constitution based on majority rule.

They discussed the need for still greater political activity among the British working class and general public in order to expose the shameful role being played by British imperialism as the principal supporter of the Verwoerd regime. It was agreed that vigorous support should continue to be given to the Anti-Apartheid Movement and other progressive organizations in Britain campaigning on the issue of South Africa.

Representatives of each Party explained their Party's attitude to the situation in the international Communist movement, and their views as to the steps that should be taken to overcome the present disunity.

This fruitful and practical discussion, which was conducted throughout with the greatest warmth and frankness, ended with a unanimous decision of both delegations for the two Parties to continue regular consultations and co-operation on matters of common concern.