

themselves. If they are not to be at the mercy of every demagogue, careerist and would-be Napoleon, our people must master the science of social progress and revolution: Marxism-Leninism.

JOHANNESBURG CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR

ABOUT HALF A MILLION people live in the segregated complex of African townships south-west of Johannesburg—Soweto. The South African police chose to celebrate the new year in a manner which is symbolic of South Africa, by conducting a vast military-style blitz on these working people. Over 2,500 policemen, mainly whites and of course officered and commanded exclusively by whites, and backed up by the men and armoured cars of the East Rand Com-mando, descended on Soweto in the early hours of the morning, before most people were up. In three successive nights every house-hold was rudely awakened, entered and searched.

On the first night, over sixteen hundred people were arrested and flung into prison—the police phrase is ‘detained for screening’. Over 900 of them were subsequently charged with ‘criminal offences’—the great majority under the pass laws. This operation symbolizes not only the callous attitude of the Verwoerd regime towards the African majority in South Africa, but also the permanent martial law and civil-war type of situation of South Africa. No country which observed civil liberties, or where there is not a terrorist dictatorship, would for a moment tolerate such a furious attack on peaceful citizens. Try to think what it means. In London, for example, this would be the equivalent of an attacking force of over 30,000—that is to say, about the strength of three army divisions. The number arrested—if London was subjected to an assault on this scale—would be some 20,000, and the number charged with crimes apprehended in two hours would be over 12,000. That is if one takes the *total* population of Johannesburg in comparison with London. But in fact this punitive raid was not against the *total* Johannesburg population, but against approxi-mately half of it, the African half, confined involuntarily to Soweto. When this is considered, raiding on this scale in London would result in a night’s haul of 40,000 arrested, 24,000 charged.

This massive military operation takes place without a whimper from allegedly ‘democratic’ opinion in South Africa. The best the *Rand Daily Mail* can offer—now that editor Lawrence Gandar has been ‘kicked upstairs’—is to ask whether this is the answer to crime. ‘Police raids on this scale must never be allowed to become a permanent part of our social policy.’ Pious, cool and curiously

unangry. And of course like so much pious South African liberalism—too late.

Raids like this have been a permanent part of South African social policy ever since Africans started asserting themselves and their rights to be treated as human beings. And will remain so; for without such massive intimidation and terrorization apartheid cannot be maintained. In the end there is no just or humanitarian way to maintain white supremacy—as Smith's Rhodesia shows just as clearly as Verwoerd's South Africa. In the end, it can only be maintained by naked terror, because it is minority power held in the teeth of mass opposition, from the majority.

Brigadier Steyn, the policeman in charge of Johannesburg's police, described these particular raids as 'part of my campaign to clean up the city of all criminal elements and "won't works".' The joining of those two categories—criminals and workless—is another typical piece of white South Africanism. An African's duty—in white South African eyes—is to work, where the boss tells him, in the jobs the boss reserves for black men only, at the wages the boss lays down. Anything else is criminal. So the numbers arrested were mainly—if not entirely—a special South African type of criminal—a 'won't work', which means an unemployed man; a 'possessor of dangerous weapons', which means any blade over three inches long, be it hatchet, chopper or carving knife; a 'vagrant', which means a man without a pass properly stamped by the correct authority authorizing him to be in the city at all; or a tax offender, who cannot produce a current receipt for the year's tax.

We will not speak of how the raiding is done. This is old-hat stuff in South Africa, where doors are broken in if not opened quickly enough, men and women roughly thrown out of bed, furniture overthrown or broken. Brigadier Steyn thinks that the debt for this type of thing can be wiped out by a few words of apology. He was sorry, he said, to disturb law-abiding inhabitants. 'But it was necessary for their own good.' One day the people of Soweto will find a way to speak for themselves. And when they do, they will no doubt find a way to throw Brigadier Steyn's words back in his teeth. May we suggest that summary arrest, screening and trial of all criminal elements who ordered and took part in these raids will then be very much in order?

STARVATION AMIDST PLENTY

While the authorities in South Africa were busying themselves with this type of massive exercise—reminiscent of nothing so much as