

tion and lack of patriotism had led to the collapse of bourgeois parliamentarism, but also such a party as the Socialist Workers' and Farmers' Party, whose unquestioned devotion to the interests of the common people held the key to a united, progressive and free Nigeria.

No African patriot can be in favour of the continuation of the divisive concepts of the imperialists, who would like to see our continent still further fragmented into mutually hostile states, none economically viable, all dependent on outside assistance, a fertile field for the intrigues and rivalries of the anti-African imperialist powers, among whom must now be included the Republic of South Africa, as Nkosi demonstrates in his article in the present issue of our journal. We are for African unity and for Nigerian unity.

At the same time, unity must be based upon consent, not force. It must be built on the foundations of equality, self-determination and democracy. Whatever the immediate outcome of the present conflict—in which oil and British interests therein plays a far greater part than either side is prepared to admit—one thing is sure: no genuine solution, unitary or secessionist, can be achieved by mutual slaughter of Africans by Africans. In the long run the unity of Nigeria, as of Africa as a whole, can only be found in common resistance to the main enemy—imperialism. And in the leadership as an independent force of the organised masses of peasants and workers, overriding the vested interests of the tribal, feudal, capitalist and military castes.

Again the Congo

President Mobutu declares that he is faced by an insurrection spearheaded by the Belgian, South African and other white mercenaries who have been the curse of the Congo (Kinshasa) ever since the first attempt to split off Katanga. No doubt the supporters of the traitor Tshombe (at the time of writing, a prisoner in Algiers, following the daring diversion of his private charter plane) are hoping to make a comeback. And clearly there is a serious threat to the Kinshasa government, spearheaded by the mercenaries who not long ago were given their long-overdue notice to quit the country, and backed by powerful Belgian and other imperialist interests behind the scenes.

But who does Mobutu speak for, and on which forces is he relying to maintain his government in power? The image he is striving to build up, as a revolutionary African patriot, defending Congo independence against foreign imperialism, is sadly tarnished by the news that the U.S. government is supplying him with aircraft and that he has

requested—and been given—military assistance from the counter-revolutionary regime in Ghana.

What about his apparently militant action in ‘nationalising’ the great Belgian mining monopolies, whose underhand manoeuvres have for so long been the bane of Congo independence? The carefully documented survey by J. Jabulani, in this issue, must cause one to have second thoughts about this, too.

Such factors cannot but strengthen suspicions that this is no straight issue as between African independence and foreign intervention. Behind the ‘patriotic’ stance of Mobutu, we sense the phoney accents of the C.I.A., donning yet another mask.

Of course, everyone in Africa will be delighted to see, at last, the departure of the savage mercenaries from the heartland of Africa, together with their Belgian and other foreign backers. We agree, it is high time Tshombe was punished for his innumerable crimes. We shall be even more pleased when we see an end to U.S. and other intriguers using our African territory of the Congo for their rivalries and dirty deals, and the country and its wealth restored to the rightful owners: the Congolese peasants and workers.

A Worthy Laureate

All fighters for the freedom of South Africa will rejoice at the award of the International Lenin Prize (reported elsewhere in this issue) to that great son of our country, Abram Fischer. There could be no more worthy recipient of this honour. We consider the award as a tribute to the Congress alliance and the South African Communist Party, with both of which Bram Fischer was so closely connected, and to the South African people as a whole.

It is saddening to note that this great South African is reported, according to a recent account by Paul Trewhela, himself recently released from a prison sentence for committing ‘Communism’, to be treated most abominably by prison staff during his serving of a life sentence, and subjected to various crude indignities including being forced to clean out a lavatory with his bare hands.

Efforts must be redoubled to speed the release of Fischer, Mandela, Sisulu and all other South African political prisoners—this is an urgent task before the conscience of the whole world.