

## *What Our Readers Write*

### **AN AFRICAN IN CHINA**

From far-away China, an African reader Haroub Ungujanian has written a heart-warming letter to our magazine. He writes that he has found the articles in *The African Communist* have "not only raised my political consciousness but also, in many ways, have helped me in rousing my feelings and giving me inspiration and encouragement . . . Throughout the time I have been searching for Marxist literature on mother Africa, especially written by African sons themselves . . . It may take pages and pages if I have to express fully the benefits that "your" (but actually it is "our") magazine has given to me and many other friends here in Peking.

"Your party, though South African in name, has quite a good role to play in the rest of mother Africa, and especially south of Sahara. We find that most of our parts in Africa, and particularly in East and Central, have no Marxist-Leninist parties. That is because imperialism has built, and is building an 'iron curtain' in those parts of our world, making our people ignorant of the Marxist doctrine. As a result we have leaders with no progressive world outlook, cherishing illusions with the 'benevolence' of U.S. imperialism, regarding the sending of 'peace corps' to their countries as a great 'favour' done to them by multi-millionaire President Kennedy and see the USA, where millions of their brothers and sisters are denied the basic fundamental rights of a human being, as the 'heaven' on earth. Such leaders outwardly pose as the 'opponents' of Apartheid but in actual fact they deny protection to those who run away from that neo-fascism, neo-nazism, the barbarous apartheid. All these are caused by short-sightedness, one-sided outlook. Brother! You can see for yourself then that we, as the freedom-fighters and as Marxists upholding the banner of Marxism-Leninism, have a great task ahead of us."

### **AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION**

Comrade Ungujanian makes an important proposal. He refers to a suggestion in our issue No. 6 from a Guinea correspondent, asking us to consider publishing the magazine in French as well as English.

"This is a very good idea," he says, "and it has pleased me to note that you have been considering it for a time now. I hope

that the day is not far off when this will be realised. But that should not be the end of the thing! If it has to be read by the broad masses of the people, then doubtlessly it has to be put in the language which those people will understand. If we publish only in English and French, that means a very tiny section of our people will understand while the masses will be deprived of this noble opportunity. Our aim, after all, is to arouse the consciousness of the people and to make the working class understand that it has an important role to play. How can we then ask the working class to embark on its role without first arousing its class consciousness? And we can't do that except by propagating to the people in the language that they understand. Brother! I therefore ask you to consider putting into circulation also publications in Swahili, Hausa, Zulu and Arabic. I am quite aware that the task is great but we should also not underestimate the benefits that will be achieved. I also see through it that we can accelerate the speed for the realisation of our cause."

**We are sure that this correspondent, whom we thank very much for his letter and also the donation which he enclosed with it, will be glad to know that some steps have already been taken in the direction he suggests. Our first French-language edition of *The African Communist* has already appeared. It consists of translations of many of the best articles that have appeared in earlier issues of our magazine. We have also taken the first step towards African-language editions of the magazine by issuing a Sesotho version of the article "Marxism and National Liberation" by N. Numadé. True, only one step—but in the right direction!**

### **NIGERIA, MALI, GHANA, ZANZIBAR . . .**

Many interesting and enthusiastic letters and reports continue to reach *The African Communist*. A correspondent in *N. Rhodesia* declares: "I don't believe in replacing white capitalism by black capitalism—the evils are the same whether committed by a white man or a black man." He reports that he is forming a study group for socialist education and that despite his many difficulties, "I am determined as ever to go ahead with the formation of this movement . . . so that the spirit of communism is kept burning in every determined soul." This reader also sends an interesting article on conditions in his country, newspaper cuttings and other written material. Unfortunately lack of space does not permit us to publish this information now. However, we will hold these for future use in *The African Communist*.

From *Nigeria* a reader tells us that "I am personally against capitalism in all its forms. I am one of those in this part of the world who want its total and permanent extirpation from the surface of this earth. In April, last year, a copy of *The African Communist* was sent to me. I carefully went through it. It stimulated my ideas." Another Nigerian reader writes about the formation of a socialist club in his town and of its plans and asks for more copies of *The African Communist*: "Please send me 50 copies instead of 12. Even 50 will not be enough for my members. State clearly how much the total copies will cost me." Readers who in the past have experienced difficulty in obtaining our journal should now approach locally appointed distribution agents and book shops. We would welcome suggestions from readers in those areas of Nigeria where *The African Communist* cannot be locally purchased.

We are also receiving letters from other parts of West Africa. A correspondent in *Ghana* writes that *The African Communist* is "the most wanted publication in our age here in Ghana among enlightened readers. Down with exploitation in Africa! Long live peace in Africa! Long live friendship among workers in all countries!" Comrade Tidiany Baidy, the representative of the African Independence Party of Senegal writes to us from *Mali* about the continued suppression of his Marxist party by the Senegal Government. He reports that "our first secretary Majmont Diop has been sentenced again, but the government does not know where he is. They are searching the whole of Senegal. Many of our militants (teachers, engineers, technicians and so on) have lost their jobs in August because the government is fighting our party." Despite these persecutions the African Independence Party continues fearlessly to struggle for the unity of the Senegalese workers and peasants on a programme of Marxism-Leninism, for the liquidation of the remains of French colonialism in Senegal and for complete independence.

Across to East Africa we have received enthusiastic letters from many readers. A correspondent in Dar es Salaam, *Tanganyika*, writes: ". . . Needless to say, I find the contents of the magazine both encouraging and extremely useful. Keep up the good work!" A student from the *Somali Republic* expresses his "high praise for your first, true and daring publication." From *Zanzibar* comes a letter: "Africa needs a teaching, a guide to advance its economic resources and ultimately become economically independent. We have seen capitalism at work. It is a rotten economic system. It does not fit Africa. What we in Africa need is the guidance and

teaching of Marxism-Leninism. Your journal is doing a great deal of good in giving the African masses the right type of teaching. Africa must be developed on the basis of Socialism. Down with colonialism, imperialism—and their rotten economic system—capitalism!”

We thank all readers who have written to us. We are always glad to hear from them. We welcome comments and suggestions—all this helps and encourages us.

## THE AFRICAN COMMUNIST

Our journal is being published under conditions of great difficulty. The Verwoerd regime of South Africa continues to hound and persecute democrats and Communists. Despite this, we are determined as ever to go on advocating the great liberating ideas of Marxism-Leninism and to continue publishing *The African Communist*.

### OUR READERS CAN HELP

However, there is one difficulty which directly concerns our readers: our financial position no longer permits us to continue with the practice of distributing complimentary or free copies. Here, our readers can help us and themselves (by ensuring that they receive the journal regularly)—

- ★ By paying for the copies of the journal they receive
- ★ By entering a yearly subscription—fill in the form below
- ★ By encouraging others to subscribe
- ★ By sending us a donation (no matter how small).

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