

"SOCIALISM" IS DEAD! LONG LIVE SOCIALISM!

According to the Editorial of the "Natal Witness" of the 14 November 1989, "... Communism or scientific Socialism as an economic system is an unmitigated disaster".

The Editor of the "Natal Witness" is doing no more than echoing what the imperialist mass media has been trumpeting throughout the world. Who knows, over zealous agents may have even attempted to broadcast this message to outer space in the hope of passing on to intelligent life there the best news capitalism has had after the publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848!

That there are serious political and economic problems in countries like the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc. is no lie. But to attribute these problems to communism or a revolutionary socialist system is a **DOWNRIGHT LIE!**

The intellectual servants of imperialism know full well that the cause of the present turmoil in these countries is **NOT** socialism but **STALINISM**. They are also aware that chief amongst the causes of the economic crises in the East European countries is the fact that due to historical peculiarities, socialist governments were set up in countries which were least equipped economically for a socialist system.

From the second half of the 19th century until the immediate past, capitalism suffered massive losses at the hands of the forces of revolutionary socialism. The fight between these two social systems was a continuous one. Notwithstanding the irreparable harm done to the cause of socialism by the crimes of Stalinism, the ideological and moral victory belonged to socialism. People in the third world regarded their liberation and socialism as being synonymous. The same attitude prevails among the youth of the oppressed. To them oppression and capitalism was the one and same thing.

Socialism, even though not fully understood by the oppressed, has a very powerful attraction for them. They are able to grasp that those who produce the wealth in society must have a say in what is to be done to that wealth. All this has given imperialism and the local capitalists many sleepless nights.

To counter the moral supremacy of socialism, Mozambique was held out as an example of the failure of socialism. We will recall endless speeches and articles on that subject. The people were not fooled. They knew that Mozambique's troubles stemmed from the South African herrenvolk's policy of destabilization; they knew with hatred the murderous role of **RENAMO** and they also realized that Mozambique was let down by her then greatest ally — the Soviet Union. So that trick did not work. Therefore, when the tumultuous events in the Soviet Union, People's China and Eastern Europe took place, Imperialism and the local capitalists went into ecstasies. This was their long awaited opportunity. And they did not waste time. This time there was no South Africa to blame; **RENAMO** does not operate in Europe. The enemies of socialism believed that they had an easy downhill run with their propaganda. They were not going to be picky about the differences between Stalinism and Socialism. For their purposes, no distinctions were to be drawn. They had to be presented as being the same thing so as to facilitate the denigration of Socialism.

This, then, is the strategy of imperialism and their agents and pen pushers. We must tell the people the truth. We must tell them of the difference between Socialism and Stalinism; we must tell them of the international conspiracy of the capitalists to discredit Socialism and we must tell them of the dishonesty of intellectuals who are in the habit of making pious statements on all types of

issues but who will not hesitate to hide or distort the truth when it serves their class interests. The workers on the other hand regard Socialism as their ultimate Salvation. Hence their slogan: "*Long Live Socialism!*".

PRIVATISATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ISCOR

INTRODUCTION

Privatisation of state-controlled industry is a step further in the growth of capitalism. States the world over, have transferred industries and services previously controlled by them to the private sector. In 1988, the value of state assets thus transferred, was forty billion dollars around the world.

With an unreal sense of urgency, the South African government too, has embarked on privatisation of some industries. These include **SASOL, ESCOM, ISCOR, SATS** and **SAA**. A special parliamentary portfolio, i.e. Ministry of Privatisation, has been created. The Minister — Dawie de Villiers — said at a press conference recently, "Privatisation has become urgent, if the country was to prosper".

WHY IS STATE INDUSTRY NECESSARY FOR CAPITALISM?

Many present-day western styled private industries owe their lucrative present existence to government initiative — early risks are carried by public funds and then sold at prices so low as to attract eagle-eyed buyers from the cartels. State funds are used to boost an industry merely to hand it over at a song to private capitalists institutions.

In the Iscor issue:

- (a) "Institution" is defined as "life assurance companies, mining houses, trust companies and banks . . . The list is tightly restricted". (Business Times, 8-10-89).
- (b) A minimum of R1,2 billion worth of shares is reserved for such institutions. The low price of the Iscor shares is illustrated by the fact the applications for shares have already been over-subscribed by between 5-7 times (Daily News 20-10-89).

ECONOMIC CONTROLS OF STATE-RUN INDUSTRY

State industry is essentially capitalist. It does not abolish but tends to strengthen capitalism. At the head, the captains are from private industry earning fat salaries, and dictating policies executed at state expense.

The state, with taxpayers' money, nurtures an industry, ensures profitable productions, and only then hands over to the private sector. In anticipation of the handing over to the private sector, Iscor, over the last few years, invested between 300 million and 500 million rand per year on machinery and equipment, resulting in an increase of profits by 40% each year.

STATE INDUSTRY FOR WORKER BENEFIT

The only instances in which nationalisation need not be capitalist are when:

- (a) Representatives of private capital are not placed in management;
- (b) Worker participation in management is assured;
- (c) The industry is used to achieve community objectives like health, employment, etc.