

A RUINED ECONOMY

Zambia, a richly endowed country and once a land of promise, today, has her economy in ruins. Graft and corruption is rampant in every circle, beginning with the government and the civil service. There are many rackets originating in South Africa or Zimbabwe but have Zambia as their destination. Crime and lawlessness is endemic. Between the imperialists, the local capitalists, the civil service and the racketeers, Zambia has been milked dry. Instead of making the exploiters and racketeers pay for this terrible crime, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have instructed Kaunda to make the people pay! And Kaunda, the butler of imperialism, dutifully obliges. When the people resist, Kaunda kills them.

CONCLUSION

We, together with all the freedom loving people of the world, condemn the Zambian Government for the massacre of people who did no more than protest against the unconscionable increase in the price of a staple food. We take this stand because a vile crime has been committed against the poor of Zambia. We regard the poor of Zambia as the allies of the oppressed of this country and of the rest of the Third World in the global fight against imperialism and exploitation.

We, of the New Unity Movement, are Internationalists. We identify ourselves with the struggles and aspirations of oppressed and exploited people wherever they may be. Their struggle is our struggle; their victory is our victory and their defeats are our defeats. When they get killed, we "are diminished" and their mourning becomes our grief.

TWO SIDES OF A LEAF

The Daily News of 19 October 1990 carried two articles that throw into stark relief the disparate conditions of existence between the rich and the the poor.

The first article is headlined:

"Hospital's cash jab: King Edward VIII to get half of R50-m."

The health services as a whole in Natal are to receive R50 million rand of which King Edward VIII Hospital will receive R24 million. Of this R15 million will be used to pay off existing debts.

The government does not grant King Edward VIII the annual minimum of R200 million required to maintain an academic hospital. Last year it was granted only R600 000 for equipment while Groote Schuur was granted R34,7 million. And King Edward is a referral centre for a population of more than 8 million!

Overleaf is an article titled:

"Inflation Psychology must go."

It deals with the Anglo American Corporation's Quarterly (1-7-90-30-9-90) profits on 5 of its gold mines and its 1 gold recovery plant. The type of figures reported were a R139,2 million profit at Freegold, the world's largest gold mining complex; R151,7 million profit at Vaal Reefs and R83,4 million at Western Deep Levels.

Workers were killed recently in a rockfall at Western Deep Levels mine. How much was spent to ensure their safety and what compensation can their family expect?

The combined profits reported in *The Daily News* for just 3 months amounts to R429,6 million. In other words from 5 mines and 1 extraction plant in July, August and September of this year Anglo American made more than R400 million profit. This perspective reveals how paltry, in reality, is the R50 million set aside by the government to 'assist' a collapsing health service which serves one quarter of South Africa's population.

Anglo American and its partners in big business are busy drawing up blueprints for a 'post-apartheid economy'. Anglo and De Klerk's government (with or without its 'integrity') need to be stripped of their finery and exposed for the robbers they are.

