



## Editorial Comment

# APARTHEID IN CRISIS

**APARTHEID** cannot be reformed. It must just be destroyed! No other conclusion can be drawn from Botha's speech when he opened parliament on January 31st.

As the New Year Message of the NEC of the ANC pointed out, Botha is completely unable to deal with the enormous general crisis he has plunged our country into. Even the ideology of apartheid is in a deep crisis. He can no longer advance anything in its defence. The hollow dreams of a tyrant appear to him to be the very essence of policy. He relies on bombast and bluster to hide the fact that he is no more than a fleeting shadow on the world stage.

His declaration: "*We have outgrown t h e outdated... concept of apartheid*", means just the opposite. To us the African majority the Botha regime can unchallengeably claim to have gone furthest than all its predecessors in perfecting the evil system of apartheid.

The past seven years under Botha's jackboot have been the bloodiest in the history of our country. Only in the last 18 months outside a thousand Africans have been murdered by the regime's army and police. Many leaders of the democratic

movement have faced trumped up charges of treason. Last year alone more than ten thousand people were detained.

A few days after Botha's declaration, the racist minister of national education and Transvaal leader of the National Party, F.W. de Klerk, defended racially segregated education and residential areas. An eight-year-old, Amos Kubheka, was refused bail when, with a huge bruise on his forehead, appeared on a charge of intimidation in the Middelburg magistrate court. Alexandra was added to the endless list of massacres when the township was invaded by the regime's death squads following a funeral. More than 80 people were murdered. And the house of UDF Transvaal Treasurer, Titus Mofolo, was fired at.

A racist removals squad moved into the tiny village of Uitvlucht in Moutse, demolishing houses and shipping many families to a resettlement camp at Immerpan. The families were the first removal victims of the recent incorporation of Moutse into KwaNdebele. This patch of barren land called KwaNdebele is to be independent as planned in December according to KwaNdebele's commissioner general, van der Merwe.

Why continue fragmenting our country if Botha's promise to pass legislation "restoring South African citizenship to Black persons who permanently reside in the republic of South Africa but had lost their citizenship as a result of the conditions for independence of Transkei, Venda, Bophuthatswana and Ciskei" is anything more than duplicity?

Botha's introduction of a 'uniform identity document' and "removal of existing influx control measures" and replace it with "measures that will facilitate orderly urbanisation" is a manoeuvre to nip in the bud the campaign we are to launch this year against the hated passes. He intends changing only the form of the document, whilst the content, influx control, will remain.

Replacing 'influx control' with 'orderly urbanisation' is a mere change of name, as meaningless as changing 'justice' to 'law and order', 'bantu education' to 'education and training' or 'bantu administration' to 'separate development' and 'plural relations'. This is a game the racist rulers of our country are excelling at. Botha intends nothing more than pulling wool over our eyes.

The proposed national statutory council is nothing new but the disguised resurrection of the NRC (Native Representative Council). This move deserves to be met with the same anger we vented on the tri-racial parliament. We are not fight-

ing and dying to have a few round-bellied stooges in the administration of apartheid. Till all share in the country's wealth and the land is distributed among the tillers, our march to freedom cannot be arrested.

The offer to exchange Nelson Mandela for a racist captain du Toit and Chakarov, a Soviet dissident, is racist arrogance at its best. Absolutely nothing connects Mandela and the Soviet dissident. Nothing more than being South African is common between Mandela and du Toit. The latter is a racist commando who was arrested while on a mission of destabilisation against an independent African state, the People's Republic of Angola. He has also participated in the destruction of a bridge in the southern part of that country, and the bombing of an ANC office in Maputo. His only claim to fame, rather notoriety, is the commitment with which he has served the moribund system of apartheid. He is therefore where he rightfully belongs, in prison.

Mandela is a household name among the oppressed in our land. He is the leader of the ANC and all peace and freedom loving South Africans. He is also the first Commander-in-Chief of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. More streets in history are named after him. No one in the world has received the same number of awards. In short even if du Toit had been our captive, where in history was a simple soldier exchanged for a general?

**THE ENEMY IS RETREATING,**

**LET US INTENSIFY!**