

Comment

Botha is taking SA in civil war

THE United Democratic Front have just held an important national general council where they took major decisions and made changes to their leadership.

Some of these decisions were incorporated in resolutions on the cost of living, unemployment, black local authorities, tricameral parliament, repression, treason trial, education and the international year of the youth.

The message to the government from all these resolutions was the same: "Mr Botha, you are taking our country on the road to disaster. You are taking South Africa into a bloody civil war. Whatever time you have left, is very little."

ECONOMIC DISASTER

There is no doubt that these words are very accurate. That South Africa is in an economic disaster is clear from the way prices are rising almost daily, by the 12 per cent GST, by two rises in the petrol price in two months, by the millions of unemployed.

That South Africa is in a political mess is clear by the way people have rejected all the plans of the state — its three-chamber parliament, black local authorities, management committees and Black Forum.

That South Africa is in a state of civil war is clear by what is happening in the Eastern Cape, the Vaal Triangle and elsewhere. Police and army are moving in everywhere to crush the people's demands for a better life.

PRECONDITIONS

Mr Botha, the way to peace in South Africa is not through killing people who oppose apartheid or by putting our leaders up on trial.

At the UDF conference certain preconditions were reiterated. Let us state it here again.

Unban all political organisations, release all political prisoners, allow the return of exiles, lift all banning and banishment orders, disarm the SADF and police.

There can only be peace in South Africa if there is no apartheid. Let the people govern.

'SOMETHING IS WRONG IN SA'

Dear Grassroots

I want you to publish this letter of mine in Grassroots please!

Something is truly terribly wrong with South Africa. If only the government would listen to the black people's pleas and cries, then surely some agreement could be reached.

We don't like being treated as if we don't belong in this country. We are all South Africans (not whites only) and we belong here in South Africa.

Piet "Promises" Koorhof went overseas. He said that, as far as he is concerned, apartheid was dead in SA.

Who did he think he was kidding? The whole creation knows that apartheid is still alive and doing well in SA. Everyone must know that we are not blind: We've got eyes and we know what's going on around us.

It's about time the government did something for the sake of our beloved country.

We are still sick and

tired of promises. We want to see changes, a lot of changes. We want to be free so that the whole of SA (blacks and whites) can live in peace, understanding and harmony.

AWAY WITH APARTHEID! IN-KATHA = South Africa shall be free! Viva South Africa. White South Africa must change or die!

From Bruamo, Freddie the Lion of the Tribute of Juda.

Beaufort West.

I don't think the coloureds are being treated fair. Where jobs are concerned the coloureds work hard but still get a little amount of money. The whites just sit behind a chair and own a lot of money.

Some people in Steenberg and Retreat can't even afford to buy food for their children.

But I also believe, if the coloureds want to get what they want, they have to fight for it.

LINCOLN BREYER

'We all belong here'

Dear Grassroots

Capitalism and apartheid are the roots of our oppression. There are two forms of oppression — exploitation and colonisation.

All people in South Africa are exploited irrespective of race, colour or creed. White people are also exploited but on a very limited basis.

Colonisation is when a certain race is oppressed by an imperialist government such as Britain or America. We are being colonised by the imperialists and it is because of them that our people have to live in poverty, hunger and starvation.

The missionaries who came to our country to teach our people about christianity were criminals who fooled our people.

When the imperialists came to our continent Africa was rich with minerals. They robbed it of its wealth and left the poverty and suffering to the people.

They came to westernize Africa, turning it into a Third World continent. They are not superior but have learnt from the people how to make diamonds and gold.

Workers are directly exploited by the capitalists. They have to work in poor, unhealthy conditions far from their homes. In a capitalist system workers will also be retrenched in order for the hungry profit-seekers (capitalists) to gain a very huge profit. There will always be a high inflation figure, there will always be poverty, a high unemployment rate, homeless people, starvation and hundreds of children dying of malnutrition.

Workers no longer want to be exploited or underpaid. The workers have voiced strong opposition to the racist government because they want to share in the wealth of their country.

It is the production of the workers that make the capitalists rich.

It is because of our money that the racist and oppressive government are able to strengthen the SADF and to defend their apartheid policy.

C. Hans
Elsies River

'FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS'

Dear Grassroots,

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LINCOLN BREYER

Unity won post office

Dear Grassroots,
Referring to the statement printed in the Metro Burger on the 21st March 1985 to the effect that post offices are being built. We refer particularly to the post office being allocated to Lentegour.

We wish to thank the residents of Lentegour for all their support we received during May 1984 for our signature campaign for a post office.

It is the unity of the people that has brought about the building of the post office, and not the Tri-

cameral Parliament.
This is one of the basic facilities that should be built in any township. Before the Group Areas Act came into being, the people lived where they pleased and had access to all the basic facilities, post-offices, schools, hospitals, etc.

We appreciate the fact that the post-office is being built, but why should voteless people resort to signing petitions and holding meetings before their needs are seen to or recognised.

Further good news to the resi-

dents of Lentegour is that due to correspondence between the City Engineer and the Lentegour Steering Committee, we have confirmation from the department that Community Halls are being built and will be available for use in early September.

It just goes to show that when people unite things can and will be achieved.

"One Community — One Struggle."

A.Morton.

LETTERS

WRITE TO GRASSROOTS, AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH ALL OUR READERS!

To: Grassroots
P.O. Box 1167
Cape Town
8000

'SACTU SHOWED THE WAY'

Dear Grassroots

This year is the 30th anniversary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

The name Sactu has for many years been unknown to us.

During the sixties, the state tried to smash Sactu. But, as in so many other cases, these efforts have failed. Without banning the organisation, many of its leading activists were imprisoned, others were forced to flee the country.

The fruits of many years of hard work of those who were forced to flee has today become evident throughout the world. The present outcry against investment in this country and an end to apartheid has reached momentous proportions. The attacks against the working class in this country has been exposed by their activities.

And there were also those who remained behind inside the country, many of whom painstakingly helped to rebuild the broad pro-

Therefore, it rests equally on all of us, within and outside the progressive trade union movement, to find the ways and means to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by Sactu to the development of the working class movement inside the country.

Presently it is obvious that the state is fast losing its ability to assert its dominance over a large section of the oppressed. Their ability to govern us is decreasing and it does appear that the present crisis is going to worsen.

The crisis is being experienced at the economic level, at the political and at the ideological levels. The difficulties at the economic level are unprecedented. These internal economic progressive trade union movement which operates in the country today.

The tradition and legacy left by Sactu facilitated the reemergence of the progressive trade union movement within many sections of the working class.

lems are worsened by the disinvestment campaign initiated in many Western countries.

The attack on Dr Allan Boesak was a clear indication of the extent to which the state has become fearful of the ideological backslide it has suffered amongst the coloured community.

Community councils ofcourse have been completely discredited amongst the African masses. Traditional forms of control amongst the oppressed have broken down.

Generally our people are aware that the state is in confusion. It is imperative for us to intensify this crisis faced by the state.

Large numbers of our people are demonstrating their willingness to be guided by an alternative view to that imposed by the state for the last decades. It is imperative for us to provide that alternative view.

Concerned
Athlone