

A CALL FOR UNITY

by

THE UNITY MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

The success of the armed struggle in the Portuguese colonies in Africa which led to the collapse of the Salazar/Caetano dictatorship in Portugal and the liberation of Mozambique and Angola in Southern Africa threw both the British and American imperialists and their racist client states in Southern Africa into a frenzied panic. They were shocked by the sudden and unexpected opening of the floodgates of the liberatory struggle which the momentous events seemed to herald, in an area which, moreover, had all along been a haven for investors while the rest of the capitalist world was bedevilled by endless economic crises.

This not only imperilled their vested interests but also created a situation fraught with many dangerous possibilities. President Barre, for instance, in his opening address to the OAU Conference called for the establishment of a special armed OAU force because, as he said, with the prospect of independence for Portugal's African territories, "... the noose is closing round the neck of the white minority regimes in Southern Africa. The inevitable confrontation between them and Independent Africa has now become stark naked. We have to face up to this confrontation".

In the United Nations, for instance, Black Africa precipitated the fight against the imperialists and the white racists by demanding the immediate expulsion of South Africa from the World Body and it was only by the misuse of the veto that America, Britain and France managed to save South Africa from expulsion, if not from the humiliation of being forced to vacate her seat at the current session. Thereupon her imperialist saviours demanded from South Africa prompt payment for their life-saving action in the form of quick and dramatic concessions for the Blacks in South Africa. When Pik Botha, South Africa's ambassador to the United Nations, promised that South Africa would do away with discriminatory legislation, he was merely carrying out the condition demanded by his benefactors for their intervention. Vorster then made a plea for six month's grace to put this into effect.

Those who took Vorster at his word, must now realise their mistake. Vorster has himself made it perfectly clear that he has no intention of

/abandoning his

abandoning his apartheid policy. Even the New York Times has published articles demolishing the prospect of any meaningful change in South Africa; that laws to preserve white supremacy are still being passed in South Africa in spite of Pik Botha's promises and that in fact, things have been getting worse for the non-Whites. Those well-meaning people in Independent Africa who take Vorster at face value must seriously consider the grave consequences of their actions upon the people of Southern Africa who are laying down their lives in the cause of freedom.

Internally among the white groups, the official opposition and the liberals have warned that radical changes would have to be made in its discriminatory laws to maintain the support of Britain, America and France who saved South Africa's membership in the United Nations. The churches while applauding the move towards a detente, stress that "much more is needed in the way of far-reaching and urgent changes in the life and structure of our society if the problems we now face are to find a permanent solution". Vorster's Government is however, impervious to these pleas. As far as they are concerned apartheid and white domination are there to stay. Dr. Mulder, Minister of Interior said recently that accomodation with the rest of Africa is possible within the framework of separate development. The racists firmly believe that they can convince the outside world that their policy of "parallel but equal institutions" and "consultation on matters of common interest" is more than adequate to meet the universal demands for justice to the Blacks. In trying to fob off the Coloured section of the population with a toothless "consultative Cabinet", Vorster proclaims a new political doctrine namely that, "representation in Parliament is not the only way in which political and other aspirations can be fulfilled". In this way the Government seeks to have its cake and eat it.

In the six months vouchsafed to him, Vorster has laboured and brought forth a mouse. The consequence is even greater disarray among the Whites and the liberals, and the beginnings of disintegration in the main opposition party, which truly represents the interests of imperialism in South Africa. Western imperialism would gladly unseat Vorster because his intransigence is a clear invitation to revolution in South Africa, but in the light of the disarray and disintegration of the United Party, imperialism is obliged to support Vorster.

It must not be thought that the discomfiture and panic of the imperialists and racists derives from fear of external attack. On the contrary,

/there is an

there is an acute internal crisis, as witness the multiplicity of strikes and labour riots which are no longer confined to industry and commerce but have penetrated to the gold mines, the most sensitive area in the national economy.

As a result of these strikes there has been a serious drop in production. Even more serious is the continuing drop in mine labour. African mine workers from Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, who make up almost half the mine labour are streaming home. Ironically, white mine-workers are consequently being dismissed because of inability to work without black labour. It is true that the Chamber of Mines still has the sweated labour of 100,000 Mozambiqueans "recruited" each year to work in South African mines, from whom \$120 million is stolen annually from their wages and sent to Lisbon in gold. ^{with} The collapse of Portuguese imperialism in Africa as the direct result of the intensification of the armed struggle, South Africa's flank has been thrown wide open to guerilla infiltration.

The South African oppressed were quick to demonstrate their joy at this prospect. In their alarm, the racists arrested hundreds of them and detained them under the Terrorism Act. But detentions and trials of militants are no longer capable of stemming the tide of revolution in South Africa. This became apparent when hundreds of U.M.S.A. fighters were arrested, detained and 13 of them brought to trial 3 - 4 years ago. The protest movement that flowed from these events was generalised and not limited to organizations affiliated to the Unity Movement of South Africa (U.M.S.A.). Students, both Black and White were the first barometer of this protest movement, their attacks being directed mainly against the inferior system of Bantu Education as part of the effort to bring about a radical political change. The torture and prosecution of the UMSA fighters only served to fan the fires of revolt which soon engulfed all strata of society, including the peasantry and the workers. A climate was thereby created in which spontaneous, generalised and continuing strikes became the order of the day. This proves beyond the shadow of a doubt the deep-going ferment in the country, that the population is united and ready for an armed struggle.

Side by side with the emancipation of Mozambique and Angola is the determined fight of the Africans in Zimbabwe for freedom against the Smith tyranny which is propped up by South African military forces. The total elimination of all buffer states which must result from the inevitable and

/and imminent triumph

and imminent triumph of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe and the intervention of the United Nations in Namibia resulting in the withdrawal of South African troops, will leave the South African fascist regime exposed to infiltration by guerrilla fighters on all sides. This prospect has raised more than apprehension among the racists and their press is busy conjuring up the horrors which will result from such an eventuality. Meanwhile the Vorster regime is frantically stepping up its arms expansion and war preparations on the one hand, while on the other hand, with the willing assistance of his Bantustan puppets, escalating its diplomatic offensive for a detente designed not only to buy time for a rapprochement with Western imperialism but to lull and hoodwink independent Africa into a false sense of security. In seeking a detente, South Africa, in her dire need, is in effect asking Independent Africa (to which alone she can turn) to rescue her both economically and politically, to provide her with export markets for her goods and the acceptance of her policy of apartheid.

All South Africans know that the economy of South Africa is built and can only be maintained on the basis of apartheid. This means that whatever Vorster may say, or imperialism may utter, it is impossible for all of them to offer a solution that implies the total abolition of apartheid or segregation or the policy of "parallel development" etc. In short, they cannot afford to abolish racial exploitation of the Blacks in the interests of finance capital.

In the circumstances described above, it is imperative for all South African organizations to form a UNITED FRONT to express, reinforce and lead a united struggle of the oppressed Blacks of South Africa against the forces of oppression and exploitation ranged against them and to mobilise the whole population on the basis of the armed struggle.

We propose therefore that the liberation movements abroad should not only declare their willingness to come together for a concerted struggle, but should formalise their declaration by entering into a United Front on the basis of the acceptance of the following principles:

Political

1. Full democratic rights for all, irrespective of colour race, sex or creed. This means the total rejection of APARTHEID or

/segregatory laws

segregatory laws and institutions created for an inferior race. It means the total rejection of Bantustans, Colouredstans and Indianstans. In short, the oppressed people of South Africa stake their claim to every inch of the soil of South Africa, their motherland.

2. Restructuring of the economic, political and social life of South Africa. This means equal rights and responsibilities and equal pay for equal work for all workers irrespective of colour or race.
3. Rights of the peasantry to acquire land anywhere in South Africa. This means the redistribution of land in accordance with their status as citizens of South Africa.

The Unity Movement of South Africa thereupon calls upon the leaderships abroad of the three South African Liberation Movements, the A.N.C., P.A.C. and U.M.S.A., to convene immediately, at a date and venue to be mutually agreed upon, a joint meeting of representatives to discuss the concrete form which the proposed United Front should take.

(Issued by the Unity Movement of South Africa.
P. O. Box 1850,
Lusaka, Zambia , on the 14th February, 1975)