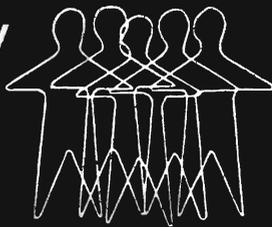


The New African



THE RADICAL REVIEW

VOLUME TWO NUMBER SIX

15c/1s. 6d. 13 July 1963

Now 24 Pages

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All political comment, unless otherwise stated, is by Neville Rubin, 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town.

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THE NEW AFRICAN P.O. BOX 2068 CAPE TOWN

A Call for Socialist Writing

THE NEW AFRICAN was criticised from many sides after the appearance in our December 1962 issue of an article called "Approach to African Socialism" by Mr. Joe Molefi.

Capitalists, democratic socialists, Marxists and even some of those who believe in the convergence of all these in Africa, poured scorn on Mr. Molefi and *The New African*.

Repeated requests to our critics to express their arguments in writing in these pages bore no fruit, though some agreed to do so. After six months, no reply to the December article has reached us.

Mr. Molefi has, however, been taken seriously by the editors of *Africa Report* (Washington, D.C.). In their current special issue on African socialism Mr. Molefi's article is quoted in a "selection of representative comments by African spokesmen on the nature and preoccupations of African socialism." Indeed, Mr. Molefi's comment is the sole quotation from a South African spokesman among the forty-five in the publication as a whole.

These facts are not stated here as a justification for our having printed Mr. Molefi's article, nor as evidence of its merit.

We regret as deeply as Mr. Molefi's critics must do that South African writers were found to have said nothing worth quoting in this subject, since many of us believe that, even under the present regime, South Africans can give ideas and skills to the free African states, and not merely take aid from them.

We regret also that, in the reading list on African socialism recommended by *Africa Report*, only one South African writer appears, and that writer, Mr. Colin Legum, is an exile.

Again, to our shame, in a list of eight "periodicals which regularly carry discussions on African socialism" neither *The New African* nor any other South African journal appears.

What can we do but appeal to South African writers, whether economists, politicians, of the left or right, provided that they accept the certainty that revolutionary change in South Africa will be accompanied by a demand for some form of socialism, to work hard at the formulation of theories of African socialism suited to the complex population and high degree of industrial development of our part of Africa?

We make this general appeal here, as we are making it to individuals, and we offer space for discussions and series on South African socialism in the expanded 24-page *New African*, of which this 13 July issue is the first to appear.

In our current issue, Messrs Green, Schleimann and Alexandre examine economic theories and developments in Africa from a Western standpoint and we welcome them and commend them to our readers. What we wish to see succeed them are similar expositions relating to South Africa from both an African and a universal standpoint.