

CODESA – DECEPTION CONTINUED

It was with much jubilation and acclaim that the ruling class staged the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) in December 1991.

An examination of the twenty organisations that attended show, that apart from the Nationalist Party and the Government (who were separately represented) the majority who attended were the Bantustan leaders, puppets from the homelands, the thoroughly discredited coterie from the Tricameral farce and an assortment of quislings and collaborators – these organisations are the creation of the very ruling class that oppresses us – these unholy creatures are funded, defended and protected by the ruling class.

The Capitalist class (which includes powerful businessmen who control 80 percent of South Africa's economy) were represented by the Democratic Party. Further, to emphasise and underscore the point that the Capitalists (who are, in fact, the agents of the Imperialist powers) were calling the shots at CODESA, Zach de Beer, leader of the Democratic Party played an important and pivotal role.

In addition the SACP-COSATU and ANC (and NIC and TIC) sought to give credence and respectability to CODESA by their presence at this motley gathering. These organisations, which are described as part of the liberatory movement, felt very much at home in the company of representatives of the Capitalists, a thoroughly discredited government and contemptible assortment of sellouts.

No matter what fancy terms are used to describe CODESA, APDUSA is firmly of the view that CODESA was nothing more than an extension of the negotiation process which commenced in secret and in private sometimes in 1986.

Those organisations which are serious about Liberation have, amongst other criteria, a simple yardstick to measure the nature of any convention or conference. If such a conference is praised by the ruling class and the imperialists, then it is an indication that a deal is being struck between the various parties where that interests and aspirations of the masses are being sold out. History has taught us, that no ruling class voluntarily gives up power. When a ruling class feels threatened and comes to the realisation (like South Africa) that it cannot continue to

rule by adopting jackboot tactics, it takes stock and re-emerges under another disguise. The imperialists had warned the South African ruling class that it cannot continue to rule like in yester year. After much soul searching, the ruling class came to the conclusion that they must embark on a reform programme. Fundamental changes were not considered.

There is nothing more dishonest than to present CODESA as a mechanism to eliminate oppression and exploitation. It would be extremely naive to believe that the oppressors and their hirelings would be concerned genuinely to uplift the lot of the masses. What matters most for the ruling class is the improvement of the economic situation and preservation of their assets and investments without endangering their power. Throughout history this is now the dominant classes have always acted.

We in APDUSA have rejected CODESA as nothing more than a continuation of the negotiation process – as a sellout and as a betrayal of the hopes, aspirations and expectations of the working class and rural poor.

We must continue independently our struggle for Liberation – for a single Democratic South Africa free of oppression, discrimination and exploitation, where the interests of the rural poor and the working class will be paramount.

MANDELA'S MOMENT OF TRUTH AT CODESA

CODESA (Convention for a Democratic South Africa – even the name belies its function) has come to pass; and for the oppressed the only truthful statement made throughout those two days was, unbelievably, that from Nelson Mandela. Not his sugary opening statements nor his conciliatory closing remarks, but that which lay in between.

F.W. de Klerk, after asking for permission to address CODESA last on the opening day, launched an attack on the ANC, saying: “. . . an organisation which remains committed to the armed struggle cannot be completely trusted when it also commits itself to peacefully negotiated solutions.”