

the exorbitant school fees will ensure that the present high standard of equipment and facilities is maintained.

The majority - the oppressed - will go on attending the overcrowded schools in the townships and rural areas and will have to contend with poor facilities, book shortages and inadequately qualified teachers.

We in Apdusa have always maintained that only fundamental political and economic changes will produce real changes in education. *Our demand is contained in Point 3 of the Ten Point Programme of the New Unity Movement which states: "Compulsory, free and uniform education for all children up to matriculation, with free meals, free books and school equipment."*

ANOTHER SACP SHOCKER

In February 1990 FW de Klerk announced to his tricameral circus the unbanning of the ANC, SACP and PAC and the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. On his release Mandela in his first public statement annointed De Klerk with the now notorious title of "man of integrity".

February 1990 is significant because since then the negotiations fraud - the greatest betrayal of the oppressed people this century - between the ANC/SACP and the NATS has moved up a gear. And one of its direct consequences has been the spiralling "political" violence.

Many among the oppressed met the news of the unbanning of organisations and Mandela's release with jubilation. They reasoned, naively, that a solution to their many problems would soon be in sight. Whatever hopes were raised were soon cruelly crushed. By June 1990 forces carefully nurtured by the Nat state machinery were unleashed upon the people in the PWV area. The war of terror that had been conducted against an unarmed populace in Natal since 1985 was extended here in a more intense and just as barbaric form. The method was brutal in the extreme: to bludgeon the oppressed with an unrelenting series of massacres. The purpose was direct: to strip the ANC bare in front of the oppressed; to show the oppressed in no uncertain terms that the ANC was the weaker of the two main negotiating partners. So it is that since February 1990 more than SEVEN THOUSAND (7000) people have been killed in what is cynically called "political violence".

Against this background the SACP wrote in July 1992 that Hernus Kriel, the NAT Minister of Law and Order, was heard "in the corridors of CODESA " referring to this violence as "just the Sixth Kaffir War". Such sentiments from a Hernus Kriel would not surprise us. The ruling class in South Africa, of which the NATS are a dominant part, stand dripping with the blood of the oppressed in this country. Upon the sweat, blood and tears of the oppressed they have built their life-styles of luxury and decadence. The forces of freedom can stand only in direct and irreconcilable contradiction to them.

Yet it was within the very same CODESA that the SACP met with none other than Hernus Kriel to look into "political violence and intimidation". In one such session the SACP representative Ronnie Kasrils found himself in a debate with Hernus Kriel which the SACP describes as having had "its amusing side".

Having clasped the hands of the ruling class and jumped into bed with De Klerk as its negotiating partner, the SACP stands condemned by the company it wishes to keep. To be reduced to scoring debating points, amusing or otherwise, with an individual who the SACP themselves say describes the butchery of unarmed people in language reminiscent of the Nazis, shows where the betrayal politics of negotiations has led the SACP. And for the SACP, despite all this, to still declare : " We are serious about negotiations. We want negotiations to work " confirms their political bankruptcy.

ZIMBABWE, THE DROUGHT AND THE IMF/WORLD BANK

Southern Africa is in the grip of a devastating drought. North of the Limpopo, Zimbabwe is also being devastated. That the drought is severe there is no doubt. Currently South African experts are in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city, to determine how much underground water is available. Water must be found because, as the Town Clerk of Bulawayo states, "the city must not die".

In this context the 1992 harvest has been a failure. As a consequence whole populations are under threat. Children, as is often the case, are hardest hit. Already, by the beginning of this year, before the full devastation of the current drought was felt, there were reports of children fainting in class and