

## E D I T O R I A L

### HEROIC GUERRILLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

We celebrate the DAY OF THE HEROIC GUERRILLA, October 9, at a time when the tasks and duties of our combatants are becoming more demanding. The armed and political struggles of our people have changed the map of Southern Africa. The liberation of Angola and Mozambique have had the most revolutionising impact. The people's forces in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa are posing insurmountable problems for the rulers. The PATRIOTIC FRONT is poised to sweep away the reactionaries. Pretoria's army is straining every fibre to contain SWAPO's guerrillas in Namibia. In South Africa the contradictions of Apartheid, the militancy of our people and MK's developing capacity to strike, are building-up for a tremendous explosion.

As the forces of revolution grow stronger so the enemy becomes more vicious. At this crucial stage the liberation movements and the Front Line States face a dual offensive from the racists and their imperialist big brothers. On the one hand we see the escalation of military aggression by the racists; on the other hand we see the devious neo-colonial manoeuvres of the imperialists. These are the twin tactics of a single strategy; namely the destabilisation of the Front Line States, liquidation of the liberation movements and the installation of neo-colonial regimes. The aim is to preserve Southern Africa as a zone for imperialist exploitation and super-profits.

Having failed to stem the armed struggle in Zimbabwe the British are seeking to impose a 'peaceful settlement' on their terms at the negotiating table, whilst the criminal bombing of Mozambique and Zambia increases in the hope that these heroic states will comply with imperialist plans. Similarly with Angola, the bombing of civilian targets and cities like Lobango is designed to pressurise that country to comply with Pretoria's plans for Namibia. This strategy is

doomed to failure. Whether at Sharpeville or Soweto, or anywhere in Southern Africa, the racists have never succeeded in cowering the people by force. The bombing of the Front Line States is arousing a wave of hatred from the people. The struggle to liberate Southern Africa is increasingly seen to be indivisible. We have the people of Africa, the socialist states and progressive mankind on our side.

Our blue sky is thick with the plots of reaction. Britain is manoeuvring for its monstrous sell-out in Zimbabwe. Botha has warned that he will intervene militarily if the PATRIOTIC FRONT comes to power. The mounting aggression against Angola shows that the racists, despite the previous thrashing they received, are again toying with the idea of invading that heroic country.

For the guerrilla combatants, for all activists, the challenge is clear. We must steel ourselves to smash the fascist offensive. We will follow in the footsteps of 'THE HEROIC GUERRILLA', of Che, Neto, Mahlangu, of the warriors of Wankie and Isandlwana. We must emulate their shining qualities of dedication, iron discipline and determination; of fearlessness and audacity in battle; of high morale and political consciousness. It is these qualities that have made the guerrilla fighters of Africa, Asia and Latin America such an unstoppable force. It is these qualities that enabled the Soviet Red Armymen and partisans to crush the Nazis. Comrade Mandela said 'There is no easy walk to freedom'. A mammoth task is before us. Reaction will not give up its power and profits without a ferocious struggle. The bullets, bombs and battle-cries can be heard throughout Southern Africa. The message is clear: **SHOULDER YOUR ARMS COMRADES, THE TIME FOR BATTLE IS NIGH!** We march forward to mobilise our people in mass political struggle, and to reinforce that struggle with mighty armed blows!

**OUR BATTLE-CRY IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE -  
VICTORY OR DEATH WE SHALL WIN!**