

THE POLITICS OF THE MAN IS DECISIVE

- Joseph Vuki

The bourgeoisie and their propagandists have always asserted that the superiority of weaponry plays a decisive role in so far as the outcome of war is concerned. These assertions are always coupled with the politico-military propaganda apparatus of imperialist states. The aim has always been to belittle the role of the masses in history and in war and to extol the blind power of military hardware and to turn their personnel into murderers who will blindly serve to further the aims of imperialism as has been the case with the US army's role in Vietnam and later to be followed by the Chinese hordes. They also aim at concealing the class nature of wars as much as they try to conceal the class divisions between officers and rank-and-file soldiers. Without underestimating the destructive role played by weapons in general and those of mass destruction (nuclear weapons) in particular, we need to examine this question very closely. But at the same time we do not agree that man is an appendage of the very weapons he is using whether with the purpose of liberating or of subjugating the vast majority of the exploited and oppressed masses.

MORALE

We in the African National Congress and its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, like our allies in the socialist countries and all other revolutionary forces are firmly convinced that the weapons, no matter how good they may be, can be rendered ineffective when they are in the hands of an apolitical soldier. That is to say it is only men with excellent morale who can accomplish any task no matter how difficult it might be.

Let us take the experience of the Great Patriotic war to illustrate this. On the one hand the aggressor, that is, the Nazi forces, backed by the rest of imperialist camp, were large and heavily equipped with the most sophisticated weapons. The fascists had been preparing for this war for a number of years during which their soldiers had been systematically indoctrinated with the most chauvinist and inhuman



ideas, turning them into automatons who killed without the slightest doubt, for a cause unknown to them. The atrocities they had committed in Germany itself and other European countries are beyond description. In spite of all this, these hardened criminals who lacked conviction were successfully rebuffed by the Red Army.

The astounding victory of the Red Army men was made possible by the fact that they, unlike the Nazi army whose function was to commit genocide in the interests of the exploiters, were convinced of the justness of their cause and knew that they were defending the peaceful labour of their people, and that they enjoy the full support not only of the Soviet people but of all the peace-loving people throughout the world.

EDUCATION

This was also possible because of the correct political education of the Red Army soldiers under the guidance of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a party of a new type created by V.I. Lenin. Our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, under the leadership of the ANC believes that the decisive factors in war have been and continues to be the moral, political, psychological and fighting qualities which not even the most sophisticated weapon can replace. We have also come to understand that even the most subtle ideological indoctrination cannot guarantee high morale among the soldiers, since morale itself is not a product of outside influences nor of the propaganda aimed at 'winning the hearts and minds of the soldiers'. But on the contrary, it is indissolubly bound up with and reflects the morale of the people. Our morale has its source and basis in the great wars of resistance waged by our greats like Makanda, Moshoechoe, Sekhukhuni, Ceterwayo and many other leaders of our people and also in the fact that our liberation war has as its aim the implementation of a democratic society as reflected in the people's document - the Freedom Charter.

Our morale, inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm are gene-



ated by the fact that our war is just and serves to further our people's cause against the Botsa-Malan regime. It is these lofty ideals that inspired the combatants of our army like Solomon Mahlangu, James Mange and many others who are bravely facing the hazards of a war situation both inside and outside the country. The racist regime, like all other ruling circles in the West, has resorted to cynically exploiting the ignorance of the white section of our population to the extent of misleading them to fight a war that is not theirs by offering fat pay, turning them into killers and therefore accomplices to the atrocities committed by the racist army internally against the majority of the population who are fighting for their liberation. Externally, they are conducting their war of aggression against the Front-Line States, particularly the People's Republics of Mozambique and Angola because of the road they have chosen - support for the liberation movements of Southern Africa.

Despite all the indoctrination carried out on the white population and the racist army, the number of soldiers who absent themselves without leave and those who desert, has increased dramatically whilst thousands are defying call-ups to go and serve in the 'operational areas' where the gallant forces of Umkhonto we Sizwe and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia are uprooting the rotten foundation of racism in their steady but confident march to genuine freedom. This is in spite of the brutalities perpetrated by the regime by way of torture and long term imprisonment with an aim of intimidating our people and to isolate us people's soldiers from our parents, friends and beloved ones.

Ours is a just struggle for the liberation of our people, a cause behind which our entire people rally. Our people's militancy and the combat ability of Umkhonto we Sizwe has shattered the myth of the invincibility of the racists. We are further strengthened by the brotherly support we receive from the socialist community led by the Soviet Union. Our superiority over the racist army is unquestionable.