



Our Commitment To Peace

-Steve Dliwayo

The fate of mankind today rests upon the pillars of peace against the forces of evil which are trying all in their power to throw the world into a holocaust.

The decade of the 80s calls for more effort to ensure peace in our mother earth. This challenge stems from the objective concrete situation existing in the world today. Whereas progressive mankind has scored substantial victories in this field over the past decades, imperialism's threat to peace is far from being eradicated, on the contrary it still has its poisonous teeth to bite. The South African liberation movement headed by the African National Congress has fully taken upon itself this difficult task and has been an active participant to strive for the attainment of peace. The struggle for peace is regarded by our movement as being exceptionally important for all the peoples of the world. We are proud to state that our leadership are the pivots of peace. Comrade C.R. Rambo, Mr. Yussuf Dadoo and Comrade Alfred Nzo are all members of the World Peace Council. The late Uncle John Beaver Marks was also a member of the World Peace Council. The African National Congress is the pillar of peace in our country.

Cause of Tension

An intensive, concentrated propaganda campaign with echoes throughout the world has been unleashed by the most reactionary circles in the West, in the form of the so-called 'Soviet threat'. This increasingly acquires the form of the Cold War of the 50s and it ascends to reach alarming peaks particularly in the face of taking over of power by the extreme rightist reactionaries of Reagan's and Thatcher's mould. The treacherous Maoist ruling clique of China has joined hands with the impe-

rials to further aggravate the international situation, thus putting at stake the lives of millions of people. Fabrications about 'Soviet threat' and similar slanders on the Soviet Union are, from the point of view of the African National Congress, not only false but also posing a direct danger to peace efforts, and they need to be fought against. The defence of the socialist community primarily the Soviet Union, it should be emphasised, is the criterion to the commitment to peace.

It is no secret that the Soviet Union has been in the forefront in struggle for peace since its birth starting with the declaration of the Decree on Peace under the leadership of the great Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Fresh in our memories are the supreme sacrifices made by the Soviet people in routing German Nazism, that arch-enemy of humanity. Under our very eyes the Soviet Union is spearheading the fight for disarmament. The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2) testifies to this end. The people fighting against imperialism's colonial policy have found a true friend in the Soviet Union. The cries about 'Soviet menace' are aimed at weakening the striking power of the world revolutionary movement, and to isolate our people and all peoples fighting for their freedom from their true ally.

At this juncture it will be necessary to cast our eyes over the events in Afghanistan. The US imperialists are shouting loud about 'Soviet intervention' in that region. What is obvious, however, is that there is no Soviet intervention in that region of the world. What occurred there is that the revolutionary forces headed by Babrak Karmal have taken the responsibility of continuing the April 27, 1978 revolution sabotaged by US imperialism, to ensure the freedom of the Afghan people and to raise high the banner of peace by contributing in doing away with the US military bases which are aimed at aggression against the people around that territory including the Soviet Union. In full conformity with Article 51 of the UN Charter and Soviet-Afghan treaty, the revolutionary Afghan government requested Soviet help which the Soviet Union, honest to its Leninist principles, granted. On the other hand imperialism has been employing Afghan bandits based in countries like Pakistan to sabotage the people's revolution. This action forms part of imperialist aggressive neo-colonialist policy and must be combated.

The main forces which are pursuing the policy of war and aggression have long exposed themselves. They are the monopolies, particularly those attached to the military industrial complex. At the helm of this brass in the Western bloc is of

course the US. In a mad pursuit after super profits these forces have tried and are trying to hinder any progress whatsoever in the achievement of peace everywhere in the world. They have unleashed innumerable wars costing a high toll of human lives for the sake of gaining profit from the arms production. Perhaps Vietnam could relate the matter most perfectly today. Today the neutron bomb has been made, threatening the whole of mankind. Despite the Soviet initiative in withdrawing 20,000 of its troops and 1,000 tanks from the German Democratic Republic, the West has deployed new weaponry in the form of Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Imperialism has spread its tentacles in all the regions of the world. In South-east Asia repeated acts of aggression are perpetrated by Maoist China against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, directly aiding imperialism. Warships are flocked

into the Persian Gulf in a bid to intimidate Iran and other oil producing countries. Alliance with the Zionist Israel against the Palestinian people has been established. Bases are continually being established in the Indian Ocean. Presently new military bases are constructed in Somali while US troops are conducting joint exercises with Egyptian forces in order to enable the US warmongers to carry on its subversive activities against the Arab people, revolutionary Ethiopia and all other anti-imperialist forces around that region.



In Latin America, the United States is continuing to intimidate people fighting against Yankee imperialism. Cuba in particular has been the subject of slanderous propaganda, subversive activities including economic blockades.

Threat to Peace in Southern Africa

Imperialism is trying by every means to have Southern Africa acting as its satellite in pursuing its aggressive policies. In defiance of UN resolutions to impose economic sanctions and arms embargo against the racist South African regime, the NATO countries have boosted up racist South Africa to a self-sufficient arms producing state. The Western powers headed by the Pentagon, support the apartheid regime, whose existence has been declared a crime against humanity, for the sole purpose of super exploitation of the black people and preserving that notorious regime for its global strategic role against the African continent. They have gone to the extent of enabling the fascists to build nuclear power stations which pose an immediate threat to the neighbouring countries in our continent and the world as a whole, moreso that they are not signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In an attempt to bring the neighbouring countries under its economic bondage it has introduced concepts such as the 'Constellation of Southern African States', a move which has met with bitter rebuff it deserves. Acts of aggression are being unleashed against neighbouring countries such as People's Republics of Angola and Mozambique, Republic of Zambia, Lesotho and other countries to stop them from supporting the national liberation movements. Hundreds of civilians and innocent people in neighbouring states are massacred day in and day out. Factories, hospitals and schools are destroyed by the apartheid war machine.

The Freedom Charter and Peace

The struggle for national and social liberation is organically connected with the struggle for peace. The winning of Nobel Peace Prize by the late President-General of the African National Congress, the great Chief Albert John Lutuli, suffices to show this simple truth. Our people's aspirations, their commitment to peace and the internationalist policy of their vanguard organisation, the ANC, are clearly stated in the most democratic document in the history of our country, the Freedom Charter, particularly in the clause dealing with **Peace and Friendship**. Here it is clearly pointed out that in contrast to the policies of the racist government presently

ruling our country, the future free democratic state will strive for maintaining close friendship and co-operation among all neighbouring countries. It will respect the sovereignty and independence of countries such as Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The democratic South Africa will seek to solve all inter-state problems through peaceful means, thus negating the very existence of military bases of the imperialists in our country. The policy of peaceful co-existence is our ideal aim. Our internationalist policy is also expressed in our declaration of our obligation to help other colonised and struggling people. In short, with the implementation of the Freedom Charter, international bodies responsible for ensuring peace will be strengthened.

Already many patriots in our country have sacrificed for the triumph of peace, democracy and justice. Our people led by the African National Congress and Umkhonto we Sizwe are hitting hard on the enemy. All stratas of our society led by the black working class are fighting back against the multi-nationals, the breeders of war. The campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela, other leaders of our people and all political prisoners without whom any talk about peace is an absurdity is growing by each passing day. The vehicle towards our goal is the revolutionary armed struggle which is raging on today thanks to the people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe and its political umbrella, the ANC. The support of the liberation movement and the isolation of the enemy are therefore a substantial contribution to the effort of establishing peace both in our country and the whole world.

DAWN politiXword No.9 Answers

Across: 1. Attack 4. NEC 6. Prague 7. Bat
8. Beggar 10. Ernesto 13. Sat 14. Granma

Down: 1. Amphibious 2. Trap 3. Clue 4. Nkobi
5. Culture 9. Great 11. Ten 12. Ma