



Editorial Comment

FORWARD TO HIGHER SUMMITS!

Since the inauguration of the fascist Republic of South Africa - an exclusively whites-only affair - two decades ago, a rising tide of r e p r e s s i o n has rippled over the black millions without let-up, the aim of which was to silence the voice of protest. Pretending to let bygones pass, the Pretoria nazis sought to drag us to an ignominious celebration of racist Republic day through festivities during which our blood was to fuel the lights. They wanted us to glee over our degradation and exult with them on republic day - a day which to our oppressed people is but yet another huge nail driven home to lock us out in the cold. For the umpteenth time the united rejection of white minority rule by our people has taught the fascists that we are not rabbits to be amused with carrots.

The t r e m e n d o u s success of the campaign to boycott the May 31st fascist festivities was a powerful blow against racist arrogance and yet a giant stride towards perfecting the dreaded weapon of the oppressed; Unity in action.

The patriotic organisations of our country, representing people from different walks of life that actively responded with unparalleled zeal to the anti-republic day call, in their deeds, re-affirmed the resolve of the people to fight for the democratisation of social life in South Africa. They refused to be cowed down by the massive mobilisation of fascist forces; they defied arrests and bannings; they refused to be enticed with bribes and other trinkets. This goes to show the extent to which our people are now prepared to "shoulder responsibilities and to sacrifice."

Great was also the contribution of the gallant Umkhonto combatants whose lightning operations were perfectly in step with the mood of the campaign. Our comrades, the People's soldiers, once more demonstrated their superiority at skillful exercise of tactics. They defied all security safeguards and undermined the spy networks of the fascists to carry out these most successful strikes against symbols of oppression. This is but the beginning of great things to come!

Our heroic people have demonstrated the tremendous effectiveness of united militancy. Racist republic day was deservedly reduced to a guarded military parade to the accompaniment of empty harangues on the future of white domination. Our oppressed have conquered one summit. Let us mobilise our energy to conquer much higher summits. The initiative is ours and we should use it to build upon the victories scored.

Shame unto the Bantustan stooges who crawled to the republic festivities in response to the white-man baas' snap of the finger. Let us refuse to be toyed with by these care-taker oppressors who are dragging us to the don-gas. With our own hands we must fight for the realisation of the freedom demands enshrined in the Freedom Charter. The time has come when we should rise up as one man to build a new social order that will rid our country and people of all woes and sufferings.

"But," as Comrade President Oliver Tambo once pointed out, "before that new order shall be born, many lives will be lost. We are ready to meet the challenge. The ANC and its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, and all revolutionary opponents of the political system (of Apartheid - Ed) represent the unbreakable will and determination of the African people of South Africa to spare no effort or life in order to attain our goal - the total liberation of South Africa from white racist domination and imperialist exploitation. To achieve such a noble goal; to fight for the realisation of such a lofty ideal - no sacrifice could be too great."