



Editorial Comment

## PUTTING ON MAKE-UP

Since its ascendancy to power in 1948, the Nationalist Party has moved along fixed paths with satanic determination, the thought of constitutional accommodation for the oppressed hardly ever crossing their imagination - not even when the tide of militant popular action threatened the very foundations of the apartheid castle. When the Union became a Republic, the people in their millions rose up in opposition and demanded a non-racial National Convention to which the boer-fascists replied with sten guns and saracens. It is almost unnecessary to stress that this has always been and by all means continues to be the main plank of N.P. policy *vis-a-vis* all sections of the oppressed.

The years of the fascist Republic have seen the National Liberation drive steadily gaining a new impetus and conquering new summits as it does. The unmistakable victories of the forces of revolution at home and, abroad have in the recent period compelled official Pretoria to start considering a peripheral facelift of the non-essential features of apartheid. The Botha-Malan clique believes amongst other things in the juggling of political rhetoric - which is but the replacement of old racist clichés with new no less racist synonyms - and meaningless deals aimed at splitting the patriotic forces of our country.

Of late there is talk of a new constitutional deal that is allegedly under consideration by the top brass of the Pretoria cut-throats. And it is spoken of in such tones as if it is the long-awaited magic solution to the so-called problem of political accommodation and 'power sharing'. But the oppressed do not want this type of accommodation; they want a stake in the political and economic processes of the country; we do not want 'power sharing' - that smacks of racism! We have loudly declared that in South Africa "no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people", thus we still demand: All Power to the People!

The April 4th issue of the Sunday Tribune carried reports on current 'confidential constitutional planning' aimed at a 'new white-Coloured-Asian dispensation', Whilst the farcical President's Council, the modern toy telephone is expected to present constitutional reports 'which will deal with all three levels of government from local authority up to national level', to reach parliament's table in mid-May.

The tone of this report is doubtlessly and deliberately creating an impression that something unprecedented is in the offing; that Botha is voluntarily bending policy. What a farce! We spit on it! What is actually happening is that the racists are putting on new make-up in the face of mounting internal and international anti-apartheid pressure. But no matter how thick they apply it nobody will be fooled for beneath the beast is still baring its teeth with eyes burning with insatiable lust for the blood of the oppressed millions.

This new drive at mesmerizing some sections of the oppressed with old carrots is such an obvious tactic of broadening the Nat power base that it is definitely (if ever it is to be carried through) destined to a similar fate as the SAIC. No black man in his correct senses can look upon this as a plausible time-table for constitutional reform in South Africa, nay it is a dangerous tranquiliser to those ignorant enough to think it workable.

Though obviously a meaningless and dangerous gesture, it remains doubtful whether such a programme will meet the support of certain Nationalist Party members, particularly when viewed against the backdrop of inner NP squabbles and wranglings over matters of policy which led to the recent Treurnicht-led split.

As for the oppressed, our duty is to intensify the fight against the Pretoria regime, unsparing of our strength and energy in pursuit of the popular democratic aspirations enshrined in our revolutionary statement of aims, the Freedom Charter.