



Editorial Comment

MERCENARIES OF APARTHEID INDUSTRY.

Without economic, political, cultural and military support from the Western countries, apartheid South Africa would not survive a single day. These Western countries help maintain the status quo and are therefore party to our oppression and exploitation. They, together with the racists, reap super-profits from the brutal exploitation of the African masses.

We have identified sportsmen and artists who visit South Africa despite our opposition and protest as veritable mercenaries. We need to reiterate our position that emigrants to South Africa are no less mercenaries. To the racist regime they lend skills that keep the apartheid economy going, an economy designed to finance the oppression and exploitation of the indigenous majority, and the unprovoked wars of aggression against the Frontline States.

COLLABORATION

In this field of collaboration with apartheid, it is Britain again which is leading. According to the Central office of Statistics, South Africa attracted 36 036 immigrants during the first nine months of 1982. Forty five percent (16 371) of whom came from Britain. Every white immigrant deprives an African of potential job. Racist South Africa can afford to offer so many jobs to foreigners while millions of Africans are starving to death in the ghettos and bantustans, as a result of unemployment which exceeds the two million mark by far.

Immigration is a cheap way for obtaining skilled labour for the apartheid economy. Some fifteen years ago it used to cost South Africa 77 pounds to recruit one immigrant. The then Deputy Secretary of Immigration, racist Piet Wiedman, disclosed that South Africa was gaining 90 million pounds worth of professional and technical skills from the labour of immigrants. That would be the cost of training the annual intake of 10 000 professional people. Meanwhile, the Black oppressed are denied opportunities of higher learning. Last year and the year before, the matric pass rate was 50,02 and 50,04 with only 10,04 and 11,02 respectively obtaining university entrance. As a consequence of this Verwoedian policy of producing "*hewers of wood and drawers of water*", the majority of African workers are uneducated and unskilled, and they provide a pool of cheap labour.

Together with white South Africans, immigrants (white they are, necessarily) are beneficiaries to our super-exploitation. At our expense South Africa offers whites one of the highest standards of living in the world. Immigrants enjoy privileges unimaginable in their countries. Wages are high, taxes low, and there is also abundant cheap servant labour. "*I enjoy privileges and a life-style that my family could not enjoy in Europe,*" bragged one immigrant (RDM 18/01/84).

CITIZENSHIP ACT

Now these immigrants are called upon to defend these luxuries. The regime is proposing an amendment to the South African Citizenship Act of 1978, to come before parliament this year. This amendment will require all male immigrants between the ages of 15 and 25 who have been living in the country for five years to automatically obtain South African citizenship. By becoming South African citizens they will be liable for call-up.

Immigrants will now shoot innocent and unarmed students in Soweto, Bontheuwel and Mamelodi for demanding better education. They will kill infants with teargas in Lamontville and butcher South African refugees in their sleep in Matola and Maseru. They are called to murder unarmed women and children in Cassinga, and hunt peaceful Angolan villages like game. They will be the tools for implementing the racist regime's policy of undermining African independence through destabilisation, and will spread death and carnage throughout the sub-continent, even as far as the Seychelles.

The reasons behind this move are obvious. The growing level of armed struggle inside the country, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and the unprovoked war of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, are having telling effects on the regime's manpower resources. Its defence and security forces are overstretched. Immigrants are to fill this widening gap and pose one more obstacle along our path to victory.

Umkhonto we Sizwe, our people's army, is enjoined to raise the level of our armed struggle and increase the prospects of death for those immigrants who might still feel undeterred even at this hour. We must make every form of collaboration with apartheid completely unprofitable. We are committed to the liberation of our land and people, and on our way to that goal we shall not only negotiate obstacles, but also destroy them.