



Editorial Comment

SHOVE KOORNHOF BILLS DOWN HIS THROAT

SOUTH AFRICA belongs to all who live in it, not just to the minority of 4 million whites, but to the overwhelming majority of 27 million blacks as well. Similarly it is one territory.

Yet to the colonialist regime and its followers, as was the case with its predecessors, South Africa belongs to the whites only. To realise this dream the racist rulers continue to herd millions of the African people into the tiny dry, barren and disease-ridden patches of land called the bantustans. Of the total surface area of South African territory these make up only 13 percent.

Life in the remaining 87 percent of the land is the privilege of the whites. There you find vast expanses of fertile farming land, large deposits of mineral wealth and modern industrial centres. In this paradise the black man has no place except as a slave who must ensure a luxurious life for the white masters.

In the face of the people's growing resistance against this blatant robbery and enslavement the Pretoria rulers have and continue to promulgate a network of fascist laws backed with batons and bullets. The latest of such laws is the so-called Aliens and Immigrants Laws Amendment Bill. It was read for the first time in the racist parliament during the first week of March.

The terms of this fascist bill are briefly as follows: Africans from the bantustans who are forced to seek work in the industrial centres or mothers and children who must join the breadwinner will be treated as foreigners. As such they will have to be issued with an entry permit by a racist official. Before getting such a permit one will have to deposit a certain amount of money or a bank guarantee with the racist official. This money or guarantee will be handed back when one leaves the industrial area.

If for whatever reason the Internal Affairs Minister's Director General feels that one has not complied with the conditions of the permit one loses the money. Failure to obtain or produce such a permit 'then and there' carries the heavy penalty of R600 or six months in jail.

While mention of a provision for exemption from the terms of this bill is made, it is clearly stated that the Minister of Internal Affairs is empowered to exclude anyone from such exemption. In addition to 'white South Africa' or and permanent residence will be lost should one remain outside the urban areas for a continuous period of three years or more. The same applies to any person whom the minister decides to deport.

The aims of the Botha-Malan regime are obvious: to speed up the process of forcing Africans into the bantustans, to ensure that the unemployed and homeless African workers are locked out, to further restrict the movement of the African people into the industrial centres of the country, and to increase the robbery of the African people of their money so as to finance the oppressive state machinery. Extremely restricted movement of the Africans will certainly disrupt the people's efforts to organise and unite for liberation. For example workers or trade unionists who stay in Mdantsane and want to attend a meeting in East London will not only have to pay but will also have to go through humiliation and provocation by racists officials who will deliberately

delay the process of issuing permits.

In other words the Pretoria racists are further intensifying the pass and influx control system. The much-hated fascist Orderly Movement and of Black Persons Bill is being introduced through the back door with a new but equally repulsive name of Aliens and Immigration Laws Amendment Bill. The regime hopes that it shall thereby evade the people's demand that Koornhof's Bills be scrapped. This is a clear demonstration of racist arrogance and sadism, deriving wealth and pleasure from the people's poverty and suffering.

This poses a greater challenge to the oppressed. The democratic trade union movement, community and youth organisations, church groups and organisations of women and the United Democratic Front are called upon to rally the people for a powerful offensive against the racist regime. The struggle against the Koornhof Bills must be extended to oppose the so-called Aliens and Immigration Laws Amendment Bill.

The need to organise the rural masses and draw them into active struggle is even more urgent. The resistance against the inhuman bantustan system and the demand for land must be raised to new heights.

All these actions must be combined with the struggle for the seizure of power by the oppressed. To guarantee victory over the enemy we must take up the gun to multiply and deepen the armed offensive spearheaded by Umkhonto we Sizwe.

... THROUGH A POLICY OF MILITARY TERROR AND ECONOMIC STRANGULATION, THE RACISTS SEEK TO COMPEL INDEPENDENT STATES OF OUR REGION TO SURRENDER THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND, AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT SURRENDER, TO HELP EVICT THE ANC FROM THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. NEVER WAS THERE A CLEARER ILLUSTRATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVERIGNTY OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PEOPLES OF OUR REGION SHARE ONE COMMON DESTINY. CERTAINLY, THAT CAN NEVER BE A DESTINY OF SUBSERVIENCE TO THE CRIMINAL REGIME OF PRETORIA.
