

# STRAIGHT TALK...

## LUCIFER FOR PEACE?

Our ears have been sufficiently pricked by Pretoria's dubious sermons on 'non-aggression pacts' and military disengagement. The sane cannot help but wonder: has Lucifer's angel suddenly become the high-minded preacher of peace and conciliation; has the decimator of life presently transformed into a sower of love and understanding? These questions have to be asked sharply even though the answers to them are daily screaming at all of us.

Let all those who have ears hear once again that, the boer-fascists have rejoiced over what they termed a diplomatic breakthrough and a positive manifestation of Pretoria's 'good neighbourliness' following an agreement with officials of the People's Republic of Angola on the withdrawal of South African troops illegally occupying parts of that country. And this happens at the height of the apartheid regime's biggest invasion of that sovereign African state.

### IMPLICATIONS

The implications reflected by the withdrawal (which according to reports is underway as we go to press) are various. The keen observer will however be struck by the basic — the political and military implications. Considering the extent to which the regime's fascist policies have earned its condemnation by the conscious world, and the fact that such condemna-

tion has correctly transformed South Africa into a pariah and the skunk of the continent, it dawns that the boer fascists must be thirsty for a foreign policy face-lift. Needless to say, Pretoria's war-time ally Ronald Reagan, has plunged his hand deep into the matter for obvious reasons: Reagan is currently faced with an election campaign to determine the next oarsman of the American White House. He therefore seeks a little make-up to put to rights his discredited foreign policy — just for style, just to bemuse the skeptical American voter. Thus he sent Chester Crocker on a dog-faming mission to remind his watchdogs neither to bite too deep nor bark too loud during this season. The result has been that Botha took the stage to do his non-aggression and disengagement debut. It pains this talker's heart to recall that some well-meaning folks have been taken for a ride and are now embracing the vicious beast, and making suicidal promises under the guise of so-called pacts.

### REASON

It is imperative that we note the reason for the haste in which the boers conceded to a withdrawal from Angolan territory. The occupation of southern parts of Angola by Botha's wild-geese types has been quite a costly affair — draining the regime's coffers an estimated 500 million dollars per year when including the SADF

operational expenditures in Namibia. Against the backdrop of a staggering internal economy the boer government was definitely feeling the crunch. They needed respite, and fast too.

The political calculation stated above dovetails well with the economic factor, camouflaging it with a heavy smoke-screen of false benevolence, a pretence at changing heart.

On the other hand there is also the element of delayed acceptance of the severe reality that the invasion of Angola by South Africa was a no-win situation. It has to be repeated here that the heroism of the Angolan people, the staunchness of its revolutionary government and the determination of the popular armed forces has convincingly frustrated the greater objectives of Pretoria in league with international reaction. So they are pulling back, like you retreat a few paces after trying unsuccessfully to scale a high wall ...

### REVOLUTIONARY WAVE

The internal political situation in South Africa fanned as it is by the reactionary policies of the regime has brought about a tidal revolutionary wave. The ANC and its allies, the responsible vanguard of the oppressed black millions has managed to this day to rally the greatest support for a principled offensive against the regime and its obnoxious practices. It is this offensive coupled with growing armed actions by Umkhonto we Sizwe which has driven fear into the hearts of the boer-fascists. Gripped by fear the enemy is adjusting his attitudes, he is making peaceful gestures here, re-organising his forces and withdrawing some there — for example from Angola. The underlying motive however is to re-fashion its internal defence in order to defend the laager

with even greater viciousness. The designs of Pretoria must therefore fool no one, they remain hateful and ill-conceived.

That the racists are withdrawing from Angola will never impress us as being anything significant, it is not even an initiative — they need not have been in that country in the first place. That they are signing '*non-aggression pacts*' should equally not delude us. The essence of the apartheid system is criminal, vicious and oppressive. It is its nature to be aggressive and therefore cannot be trusted to stick by even this one accord.

The yearning of the countries of Southern Africa for peace should be one of a desire to eliminate the generator of war and destruction in the sub-continent — racist South Africa. We take the cue from heroic Angola, which has played an exemplary role quite in-keeping with the spirit of commitment to a truly free and independent Africa.

In the context of the politics of the sub-continent freedom and independence will be concomitant to a realisation of the need to pull down the house of apartheid and condemn it to ashes. We the oppressed but fighting people of South Africa, led by the ANC, alongside the embattled sister people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO have to fight to the bitter end. For this is our sole option, for survival and is in defence of our just struggle and for peace and progress.

Peace in our countries will prevail following our inevitable victory. Only through struggle can peace be won. Our people are determined to win, and their will to peace is a force '*strong enough to blunt the edge of the imperialists' bellicose policy*'. And let no one tell us otherwise, no one.

FORWARD TO GENUINE PEACE!  
DOWN WITH APARTHEID!