



Editorial Comment

CALL TO THE WHITE YOUTH

RESISTANCE against the South African Death Force — SADF — is high and is daily gaining momentum. The SADF military police are on the streets trying to apprehend about eight thousand young men who never reported for duties in last year's January intake.

Close to a thousand conscripts applied for religious objector status, excusing themselves from active combat service, though not really opposing participation indirectly in supportive roles. Racist official sources claim that more than five hundred are in detention barracks for various 'political' and 'criminal' offences.

ARMED DETACHMENT

The racist generals are determined more than ever to turn each white family into an armed detachment, and each house into an arsenal of weapons. School kids are mobilised into cadets, university students

into campus military units, workers into industrial commandos, residents into area defence units, while farmers have also been fully integrated in the regime's security system. They are all poised to kill and murder.

Though the extent of militarisation among the whites leaves little or no distinction between military and civilian targets, we still believe that a substantial number of whites cherish a secure future in a unitary, non-racial and democratic South Africa. The racist government is also aware of this. That is why it would like to portray a future South Africa as totalitarian, undemocratic and anti-white.

FREEDOM CHARTER

The Freedom Charter guarantees the right of each and every South African to the country's citizenship, the right to vote, equality before the law and that *all shall enjoy equal human rights*. The preamble

to this document sums up:

"South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people".

This is the future that the white society has been armed to oppose. Bernard Smith, seeking asylum in the United States, made a startling revelation. At his age (27) he has killed about thirty innocent and unarmed Blacks during the current upheavals in the townships.

To all the white youth who are being educated in the craft of murder, those trained as professional killers and murderers, the late Moses Kotane addressed this call to you too when he said:

"To the youth of our country, at this hour of destiny, your country and your people need you. It will be what you make of it."

Refuse to participate in the criminal activities of the apartheid armed forces! Do not mortgage your future to a racist system that is doomed to destruction! This is the call from the Commander-in-Chief of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Comrade Oliver Tambo. He goes further to say:

"We call on you to win your place in the future democratic South Africa by joining the struggle to turn that future into reality... together, black and white, we will destroy the monstrous apartheid regime and, as equals, rebuild our country for the benefit of all its citizens."

Our struggle has set us new tasks and opened new avenues for the further escalation of our popular offensive. You cannot participate in the SADF murder squads in whatever form and expect to be embraced by those you kill.

AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

Our victory lies in the united action of all the patriotic and democratic forces. We have a historic duty, as patriots and comrades-in-arms, to frustrate and weaken the SADF in whatever form possible. A united stand against conscription is one way.

Substantial victories have been registered in this field. The racist generals are running from pillar to post, seeking ways of replenishing the ranks of the SADF, even with immigrants. They even add salt to our wounds, reasoning that the oppressed Blacks must be morally obliged to defend their enslavement.

We hail the stand taken by those patriots in detention barracks and those who did not report for duties. Their example will inspire thousands and as such will draw us closer to victory.

This year we are faced with the task of making our resistance more formidable and strong. We must mobilise and expand, remembering that Umkhonto we Sizwe is your army too. It is an army of our embattled people, an army of all our democratic and patriotic forces. Let us take our positions among our fighting people and destroy the racist monster now!

Refuse to die for Apartheid