

THE ANC SACP ALLIANCE

THE ANC was founded on the rock of unity. This has become a principle that has guided us down the years as we feel our way forward. The nature of unity and alliances that the ANC has been involved in has grown, developed and matured in the last seventy four years of bitter struggle against racial and national subjugation. It has become principled unity of all democratic forces ranged against the forces of exploitation and oppression in our country.

Obviously international reaction and the Pretoria racist regime are enraged by the unity in action achieved by the patriotic forces of our country. They try desperately hard to break this unity and to divide the forces of liberation and set them against each other.

But above all the enemy would like to drive a wedge between the African National Congress and The South African Communist Party. It has tried various schemes to destroy the living alliance of these two organisations of our people, which is the product of our own history of struggle. For several decades the enemy has accused the ANC of being a front, pawn or surrogate of the SACP. The Freedom Charter, the revolutionary programme of the ANC, has been labelled a socialist blue print. Even the racist court during the 1956-61 Treason Trial could not agree with this enemy's assertion. Recently the Pretoria regime has published a pamphlet titled "*Talking with the ANC*" aimed at discrediting the fighting alliance between the ANC and SACP.

There can be nothing far from truth than these racist assertions. The correct explanation to the unique and brotherly relationship between the ANC and SACP was clearly spelt out by the late member of the NEC of the ANC General Secretary of the SACP, Moses

Mabhida when he said: *'Our party's relationship with the ANC is based on mutual trust, reciprocity, comradeship in battle and a common struggle for national liberation. Our unity of aims and methods of struggle are a rare instance of positive alignment between the forces of class struggle and national liberation.'*

The nature of this alliance was further emphasised by Comrade President O.R. Tambo during the funeral of Moses Mabhida when he said:

"Moses Mabhida knew that the durability of the alliance between the ANC, the Communist Party and the trade union movement lay in strengthening each as an independent formation and in securing their cooperation on an entirely voluntary basis. He therefore always worked to ensure that these formations respected one another and developed among them a deep-seated feeling of revolutionary unity and interdependence . . . None among us was more conscious than he that the African National Congress could only carry out its historic mission if it maintained the character it had come to assume that of a parliament of all the people of our country, the representative of our future, the negation of the divisions and conflicts that racial arrogance and capitalist greed have imposed on our people."

NATIONAL QUESTION

The SACP is the political vanguard of the working class of South Africa which forms the majority of our oppressed and exploited masses. It champions the struggle of workers in alliance with all other oppressed classes. While it fights for the power of the working class, it bases its strategy and programme on the fact that the national question has not

been solved in South Africa. Hence national liberation is at the top in its agenda and agrees with the programme of the national liberation movement headed by the ANC. It has become an inseparable component of the national liberation movement.

On the other hand the ANC is not a class organisation championing the interests of one class. It is a representative of all the patriotic force of our country. It is a true parliament of all our people. It is recognised by all the elements of the national liberation movement including the SACP, as the leader of this alliance.

The membership of the ANC is composed of Christians, Hindus, Muslims, atheists, communists and non-communists, bound together by their resolve to sacrifice all for the liberation of South Africa. In our meetings and work we do not look at one another as communists or non-communists. Hindus or Christians, believers or non-believers. We regard ourselves as members of the great and noble family of national liberation.

Communists in the ANC follow the spirit and the letter of the policy of the ANC which is democratically evolved and formulated by the entire membership of our organisation. They do not form a conspiratorial clique to defer and promote each other or try to impose their ideas on the ANC. Those among communists who have been entrusted with high responsibilities in the ANC have achieved that not because they are communists but because of their hard work in pursuit of the aims of the ANC. This goes for all other members of our organisation. This is our experience of working with communists.

While the ANC and the SACP have been in alliance for several

decades, each of them maintains the ideological and organisational independence. This has resulted in no conflicts between the two organisations. Instead this has led to the strengthening of each other as the main two pillars of our struggle. There is absolute respect, confidence and non interference in the affairs of each.

We are not worried about the distortions of the enemy on the question of this alliance. The Botha regime wants to tell us with whom to form alliances What racist arrogance!

The majority of our people have understood and accepted our alliance with the SACP. This is evidenced by the hoisting of the flags of the ANC and the Party at mass funerals in all corners of our land. No racist arrogance will divorce these two pillars of our struggle from each other. It is an alliance that has been forged under difficult conditions of struggle. Many patriots have lost their lives to achieve this. We cannot betray them.

Comrade President O.R. Tambo fittingly described the alliance when he said:

"The relation between the ANC and SACP is based on a natural and an inevitable development. Our alliance is a living organism that has grown out of the struggle. We have built out of our separate and common experiences. It has been fertilised by the blood of the countless heroes, many of them unnamed and unsung. It has been reinforced by common determination to destroy the enemy and by our shared belief in the certainty of victory."

South African Communist's do not come from anywhere else, neither do they originate from Moscow. They come from amongst us, they are a product of our people's



President O.R. Tambo and Secretary General Joe Slovo symbols of the never-dying ANC-SACP alliance

struggles for freedom. The South African Communist Party too is a product of those struggles and our people's will and determination to be free.

Communists are simple, yet dedicated people of unquestionable loyalty to the ANC and the liberation of their motherland. The late President Aghostino Neto, the father of the Angolan revolution said:

"What is important is to solve the problems of the people and this is what communists stand for. They are selfless, they serve no personal interests . . . Their interests are subjected to those of the people . . . they are the servants of the working people. This is what communists stand for."

It is against this background that we must guard jealously against

the attempts of the fascist regime to sow confusion among our people about the so-called threat of communism.

The alliance between the ANC/SACP is very clear, its goal is the establishment of a national democratic, non-racial state, a popular government of the people based on the Freedom Charter. The South African Communist Party is committed to this goal as much as the ANC is. Communists have always been found with the people, leading them, in the heat of the struggle against the apartheid regime.

We must always remember that we are at this stage of our struggle, so near to victory, because of this alliance that Botha and the imperialists want so badly to destroy.