

OUR PARTY MUST ANSWER THE ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE.

In its assault on the liberation movement the enemy has selected the South African Communist Party as one of its most important targets. Not a day passes without an attempt by the enemy to smear the name of our Party, to spread the slander that it controls and manipulates the ANC, to accuse communists of being "mere appendages of Moscow", and to attribute special powers to non-African Communists.

Why do they hate us and fear us so much? It is because, in the first place our Party is a historically vital component of the revolutionary alliance for national liberation headed by the ANC. Our Party has won a place in this alliance precisely because it has always respected the integrity and independence of the national movement. The enemy and its allies are fully aware that our Party constitutes a powerful organisational and ideological force against the kind of "national liberation" which will allow a few black exploiters to join the boardrooms of the white ruling class. As the struggle intensifies so will the enemy's efforts to find solutions which will prevent the destruction of the capitalist system of exploitation which, in South Africa, is the very foundation of racism. They want to destroy our Party because it stands in the front rank of those who will never accept such a "solution".

They fear us too because they know that we are part of the great international working class movement and that we support and defend the achievements of workers and peasants who have taken power in their own lands and who are continuously threatened by imperialism. We have never hidden our admiration for the great October Socialist Revolution which created the Soviet State. This state has not only become the main citadel for the expansion of the socialist world system but it has also been one of the vital factors in the massive de-colonisation process which gained momentum in the period since the end of the 2nd World War. Communists believe that there is no conflict between proletarian internationalism and revolutionary patriotism. Throughout our history we have never deviated from the historic interests of our own working people. It is precisely because of our international outlook that we are regarded as the chief enemy of narrow and backward nationalism and racism.

They hate us also because we are the pioneers of non-racism in South

Africa and we were the first to spread the perspective of revolutionary black consciousness. It is a matter of pride that our Party has always had within its ranks members and leaders from all national groups. Those from the minority groups who have made common cause with the struggle for liberation and socialism and who are among the Party's leaders have won their positions through an unflinching commitment to the revolutionary cause and through a readiness, ~~if necessary~~, if necessary, to die for it. The racists live in a world in which every level of social intercourse implies the domination and "superiority" of whites. It is part of their racist sickness that they cannot understand the possibility of black and white working together in complete equality and without the arrogance of baaskaap. The very history of our Party is a glowing example of this higher proletarian ethic which ^{we} will never abandon.

We must answer the enemy's offensive against our Party by devoting even greater efforts to strengthen it organisationally and to re-inforce its independent role not only as a constituent part of the liberation alliance but also as the political vanguard of our proletariat. The task of spreading the liberating ideas of Marxism-Leninism, especially amongst the workers and youth, has assumed greater urgency than ever before. The ranks of our underground must be strengthened through the recruitment of advanced activists especially from among the proletariat. Imbued with proletarian internationalism we must continuously sharpen our ideological weapons to combat backward nationalism and chauvinism in all its forms and spread an understanding of the connection between social oppression and capitalist exploitation. The perspective of a future socialist society in South Africa must be spread with greater vigour. Above all as a Party we face the challenge of providing effective political leadership to the working class and to ensure its mass organisations do not become instruments of reformist collaborators.

A UNITED PEOPLE WILL DEFEAT THE ENEMY.

More than ever before in our history the people are looking to the ANC and its allies to lead them in an intensified political and military struggle towards the achievement of peoples power. Among the various strata of our people there are continuing signs of defiance and upsurge. Every attempt by the authorities to impose increased rent and bus fares leads to spirited resistance from those affected. The waves of illegal strikes continue in all parts of the country. Among the student youth there are again significant signs of stirrings at the universities and the schools.

The Ciskei terror against the working population has not succeeded in preventing outbreaks of organised opposition and demonstration. The number of postponements of projected elections for the community councils is a recognition by the regime that the overwhelming mass of urban dwellers reject this apartheid institution.

The sell-out decision by the Labour Party on the new constitutional proposals has been met by overwhelming opposition from the Coloured people; the tour of Labour Party leaders to gain national support for their decision could hardly find an audience prepared to listen to them. So far the regime has been unable to find an organised force amongst the Indian community to attempt to engage it in a similar sell out. Instead, the rejuvenation and resurgence of Indian Congress Organisation has everywhere been met with enthusiastic support.

The heroic and increasingly effective actions of MK combatants is greeted everywhere amongst the people with acclaim. Despite the most savage repression against the underground activists of our liberation movement there are continuous open demonstrations (during funerals, trials of our cadres, important anniversaries, etc) of support for the ANC and the Freedom Charter. The scale of this defiance has created moments in which the people themselves have legalised the ANC despite the threatening presence of armed police contingents.

We have referred to only some of the signs which point to the growing peoples anger and militancy. But we know that the road to peoples power requires not only regional responses to unpopular measures but also a united national offensive, involving the mass of the people in town and countryside, uniting all the black oppressed and mobilising the support of all classes and strata who reject the rule of the racist autocracy. The very foundations of race rule ~~can~~ be made to crumble by such an offensive together with the escalation of armed struggle.

Thus, ~~as~~ never before in our history, unity is the key to the future. We must defeat the enemy's manoeuvres to drive wedges between the African, Coloured and Indian communities and to fragment the African people into mere tribal entities. We believe that there is a basis for uniting the overwhelming majority of our people - irrespective of class and strata -

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around the policy of one united democratic South Africa) which will be based on the broad principles enunciated in the Freedom Charter. ? ?

The creation of the United Democratic Front constitutes an inspiring step in the direction of uniting all our people. The August Assembly in Cape Town attracted the biggest gathering of individuals and organisations witnessed in the last quarter of a century and laid an effective foundation to defeat the government's major constitutional manoeuvres. The fundamental immediate task facing our movement and all genuine revolutionaries and patriots is to build upon this achievement and not to allow petty differences to stand in the way of creating the broadest possible democratic opposition and resistance to race rule in all its forms.

Racism must be destroyed! Racism can be destroyed! Peoples power will be won through peoples unity!!!!