

POLICE RESERVES ARE TRAPS

For generation after generation the Non-White people of this country have suffered humiliation and insults at the hands of the ruling class. For generations they have been removed from place to place under the Land and Group Areas Acts; denied decent work because of Job Reservation and imprisoned willy nilly through numerous laws passed against Non-Europeans only. For generations the Non-White oppressed have been tricked by the ruling class into assisting in their own oppression. Now, once again the oppressors are trying to dupe the Non-White oppressed into falling in the same trap.

Recently we have witnessed the most surprising spectacle of Cabinet Ministers and Heads of Police falling over each other in their eagerness to persuade the oppressed to join Police Reserves. We have heard these same people, from whose lips flowed such words as "Kafirs", "Coolies" and "Hotnots", suddenly exclaim with hypocritical piousness that the Indian and Coloured people are the natural allies of the rulers against African Nationalism, and that the Police Reserves are there to protect us.

What are these Police Reserves and why are they to be formed? The rulers with their glib tongues say that the Police Reserves are there to :

- (a) To protect South Africa from the danger of African Nationalism ;
- (b) To protect our homes and ourselves from hooligans ;
- (c) Because the more property we possess the more protection we need.

In view of the importance of this matter, APDUSA takes upon itself the task of examining these so-called reasons and exposing them to be the lies that they are.

In the first place the rulers of this country have been ranting and raving that African Nationalism (i.e. the movement of the people of Africa for Independence) is a danger to South Africa. But a danger to which South Africa? The South Africa of the oppressors who live in sunshine and luxury at the expense of the workers and peasants? Or the South Africa of the oppressed who live in fear and poverty? But we the oppressed South Africans are also fighting for National independence. Are we then to see a danger in ourselves?

We are also told that the Police Reserves will protect our homes and ourselves from hooliganism. While hooliganism has been one of the many unpleasant aspects of our lives we state that by far the greater cause of our suffering and misery comes from a Quarter completely different from hooliganism. We are forever thrown out of our homes. Are hooligans responsible for that? Or is it the Land and Group Areas Acts? Thousands are thrown into jails daily. Is that the work of hooligans? Or is it the Pass Laws? Figures of the number of people rendered unemployed have reached staggering proportions. Can we blame the hooligans for this? Or is it Job Reservation? Our people are shot, beaten and tortured in their many thousands. Do hooligans do this?

NO! A thousand times NO. The crimes committed by hooligans are child's play when compared with the daily brutality committed by the ruling class. Therefore, all this talk of hooliganism is nothing more than an eye wash calculated to turn the minds of the oppressed from the real dangers that face them.

We are finally told that in times of emergency the Police Reserves would release the Regular Police to perform more urgent tasks. Firstly what is meant by the word emergency? An emergency to the rulers simply means that period when the oppressed have decided that they no longer can bear the burden of oppression and attempt in some form or the other to overthrow White Supremacy. Yes, indeed to the rulers, that would be an emergency. In fact today we are placed under a state of emergency because the rulers have realised that their days are numbered. If this is the case, no Non-White person is going to shed tears over this emergency.

All of us were told in the most brutal manner during 1960 what more urgent tasks meant. The meaning of this phrase was explained in blood and bullets when hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were butchered at Sharpville, Langa and Durban. It has often been said that the rulers are mad, but they must be stark crazy if they expect us to assist their police to perform these more urgent tasks. Throughout the country orphans and widows will always remember their fathers and husbands who were targets of these more urgent tasks.

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Let us remember that if we join the Police Reserves we cannot resign in times of emergency for that would be desertion and the offender will be court martialled. If we join the Police Reserves we are obliged to obey orders - orders to arrest our fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, close friends or any other freedom fighter. And this we will have to do whether we like it or not. We will further be compelled to carry out orders more shameful than arresting people and that, too, we will have to do.

It needs a man without a soul; a man without a conscience; a man without feeling; in short, a man who is not a man but an unthinking stooge who will dare obey such orders.

Now, the real reason for the formation of Police Reserves is that the rulers of this country are a very frightened people. The whole world regards this ruling class as a polecat i.e. an animal which emits a stink. Wherever it goes, doors are slammed in its face. It is unceremoniously given the boot from world organisations e.g. The International Labour Organisation. To add to its increasing list of nightmares, the newly independent African States have pledged that they will not rest until white domination is wiped off the face of Africa.

At home the Non-White oppressed have no hesitation in showing their utter hatred and disgust for this system which maims, destroys and degrades a whole nation and therefore react with swift joy when the rulers are subjected to humiliation and ridicule overseas - a dose of their own medicine.

In desperation the rulers are resorting to all sorts of tricks to save their precious skin. Whilst on the one hand, they are arming themselves to the teeth with the latest weapons on the other they are claiming that the "Coolies" and "Hotnots" are their natural allies against the "Black Hordes". Their audacity renders us speechless. But they are gravely mistaken if they imagine for a moment that the Indian and the Coloured People, after being reduced to a position of slavery, would now simply rush into the arms of the ruling class at the latter's slightest beckoning. The days are past, those old, old days when Smuts and Co. were able to dupe the Indian and Coloured People into ganging up with the rulers against the Africans. To-day, the African, Indian and Coloured People stand as one and no amount of sweet talk by the Progressive and United Parties or the crude diplomacy of the Nationalists will disunite the oppressed people.

The police reserve is therefore one more attempt to deceive and split the unity of the oppressed. But this attempt has to fail because the people are no longer willing to assist in their own oppression.

Are we then not interested in the problems of our homes and personal safety? Most certainly we are interested in that plus a lot more. If hooliganism is a problem in our area, what is there to prevent us from forming Vigilance Associations elected and chosen by the people and therefore responsible to the people and not to the rulers?

But hooliganism is not our real problem as we have explained. Our real problem is to remove once and for all the exploitation and oppression of the Non-Whites, to remove once and for all the fear and poverty, all of which are a direct result of our total lack of political rights.

Thus if any organisation is to be formed, it will have to be an organisation which will fight for the entire nation and for a society where fear and poverty will be things of the past. This organisation, APDUSA, APDUSA has pledged itself to fight for the destruction of oppression and therefore calls upon all the oppressed to join it in the struggle for full freedom.

Thus when Cabinet Ministers and Heads of Police come to us with their false smiles and politeness and attempt to persuade us to form Police Reserves, we must be able to give them the answers they deserve!!

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