

STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA ON
THE OCCASSION OF THE 26th CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF
THE SOVIET UNION-

Dear Comrades and Friends,

We the representatives of the African National Congress (SA), on behalf of our movement and the oppressed peoples of our country, wish in the first place to express our sincere thanks for the opportunity given us to be present in this great occasion of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This is particularly a joyous moment for us, Comrades and Friends, because within a few months, our trusted ally, the South African Communist Party will celebrate its 60th anniversary ^{having been} formed in 1921, only a few years after the formation of ~~the~~ our own national liberation movement, the African National Congress in 1912. There has always been a close fraternal relationship between the forces of national liberation and the proletariat party, which bases its philosophy, organisation and methods of struggle on the teachings of the founders of international communism, Marx, Engels and Lenin.

We ourselves, being the oldest liberation movement in Africa, have much reason to welcome the enormous achievements and progress made by the workers, peasants and intellectuals of the Soviet Union under the inspired and dedicated leadership of your party. We recognise that ~~our struggle for liberation~~ and the struggles of the oppressed peoples of the former colonial world succeeded in throwing off the yoke of colonialism, imperialist exploitation and racism only by reason of the achievements of the Great October Socialist Revolution and inspired Leninist leadership of the

~~of the~~ Bolsheviki Party which from its inception and at all times correctly identified the struggles of the world proletariat and all progressive mankind with a determination of millions of peoples enslaved in the colonies to free themselves from racist ^{domination} ~~determination~~ and imperialist exploitation.

The revolution of 1917 changed the balance of forces and the nature of the international community beyond recognition. For the first time in history a government of workers, peasants and intellectuals came into being with the clear and expressed aim of abolishing exploitation of man, establishing working class rule, developing a planned economy, ensuring equality in all spheres, and eliminating the age-old curse of poverty, disease and ignorance. Within a few years of existence and in spite of a devastating civil war imposed by imperialist powers, the infant socialist state demonstrated beyond any doubt the superiority of scientific socialism over the anarchy and corruption of monopoly capitalism; the anarchy of unplanned markets and the violation of human rights on the altar of maximum profit.

In addition to the enormous task of creating a new type of social formation on the foundation of the outworn archaic autocracy, your party, dear Comrades and Friends, gave a helping arm to the downtrodden masses of the colonial world.

Already in November 1919, in an address to a Congress of Communist and Muslim representatives of the Far East, the great Lenin, a brilliant ^{theoretician} ~~theorist~~ and far-sighted strategist, stated that the proletariat of the advanced industrial countries "will not be victorious without the aid of the toiling masses of all the oppressed colonial peoples in the first place". That has been the guiding principle of your party since its formation in its relation

with the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and wherever else imperialism established itself by violent bloodshed and treachery. In the following year, in a report to the second Congress of the Socialist International, Lenin explained that it was the task of Communist Parties to support the national revolutionary movements, which are genuinely revolutionary. It was on the basis of these principles that an alliance was formed between the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party; an alliance which has stood the test of vicious repression, illegality and ruthless attempt to crush the opposition to the monstrous regime which enslaves the great majority of the ^{people for the} purpose of exploiting their labour power with the active consent and assistance of the imperialist countries. ~~of USA, Western Europe and Japan.~~

It was undoubtedly the establishment of the socialist world order after the defeat of the ~~the Nazi~~ fascist axis powers in the Great Patriotic War that hastened the era of decolonisation and brought political emancipation to hundreds of millions of peoples in the former colonies. Comrades, this task of liberation will ~~not~~ not be completed until peoples have emancipated themselves also from the straight-jacket of capitalist exploitation. But that step too is being taken slowly and certainly with the aid of the Soviet Union and its allies.

Having in mind the great debt to the proletariat fatherland, we look with pride and joy at its mighty achievements in the fields of economic growth, social welfare, science, technology, literature and arts. A new civilization has been born as was recognised by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, authors of "The Soviet Union and the New Civilisation" and leading members of British socialist movement. It is a civilizati

civilisation characterised by the generation of enormous productive capacities, the employment of these forces with adequate regard for the preservation of natural environment, elimination of man-made inequalities between man and woman, between ethnic communities and nationalities, between town and country-side. It is this civilisation that embodies the hopes and dreams of progressive peoples throughout the ages. It is our privilege to be alive in this age of the new civilization to witness its progress and to take part in the glorious mission of building in our own country a social order that will open the way to the emergence of a new civilisation of our own making.

The guiding lines of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's policy on the national question was laid down on the resolutions adopted in 1917 and again in 1921 wherein it was stated that the Fundamental Law will be enacted "nullifying all privileges enjoyed by all nations whatever, and all violations of the rights of ~~the~~ national minorities". Further more it was stated that the tasks of the Party was "to help the toiling masses of the 'Non-great Russian Peoples' to ~~xxx~~ catch up with/central Russia' which is ahead of them" and for this purpose to develop an advanced industrial economy with a balanced agrarian policy. ~~in~~

Comrades and Friends, I cannot forego the opportunity for drawing a parallel between the backward border regions of tsarist Russia and the Bantustans imposed upon the African people of our country by the rapacious, racist, totalitarian regime of white South Africa. We in the African National Congress together with the whole of progressive mankind recognise and applaud the tremendous progress in such formerly backward areas such as Uzbekistan, Turkestan and ~~above~~ above all the Soviet Far East where progress of an unprecedented kind is being ^{made} with world shattering speed.

The experience of the Mongolian People, the first independent state to go over to socialism by the non-capitalist path, demonstrated the correctness of Lenin's thesis that countries with precapitalist economic structures could advance to socialism provided they establish a close fraternal alliance with the proletarian state. It is with this principle in mind that we of the African National Congress look forward with hope and eagerness with the prospect of building a new society after we have emancipated ourselves from the tyranny of apartheid.

A necessary condition for human progress everywhere is the preservation of peace by eliminating the danger of war involving the catastrophic prospect of a nuclear holocaust. Here too we acknowledge with respect and gratitude the enormous contribution of your party and government to the cause of world peace. Who of us fails to marvel at the strength and calm at which the Soviet leadership resists the monstrous militarism that is being deliberately engineered by the imperialist powers under the leadership of the United States of America? In the words of Comrade ~~xxx~~ Leonid Brezhnev at an election meeting in Moscow in February 1980, "the present leadership of the United States of America is pursuing the line of undermining detente and aggravating the international situation. It is trying to dictate its will to the Socialist States and the other countries". In contrast to the flood of military hysteria and the frantic arms race, the USSR poses the philosophy of a consistent struggle for peace and security, for strengthening detente, for reducing armaments, for rapprochement and understanding between peoples.

For these reasons Comrades and Friends, we of the African National Congress are proud to take our place with parties and movements

which represent the vanguard of progressive mankind in paying tribute to our host and to this great assembly here congregated. We pledge ourselves to to carry on an unrelenting struggle against the twin forces of imperialist aggression and colonial oppression.

Long live the Communist Party of the Soviet Union!

Long live the struggle for Peace!