

N A T I O N A L E X E C U T I V E C O M M I T T E E

The National Executive Committee of the African National Congress has met to consider the current situation in Southern Africa. The meeting resolved to issue the following statement.

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Over the last few weeks, the racist and colonial regime of South Africa has been involved in a frantic diplomatic, political and propaganda counter-offensive in Southern Africa

Some of the principal objectives of this offensive are:

- to isolate the ANC throughout Southern Africa and to compel the independent countries of our region to act as Pretoria's agents, emasculating the ANC, the vanguard movement of the South African struggle for national emancipation
- to liquidate the armed struggle for the liberation of South Africa;
- to gain new bridgeheads for the Pretoria regime in its efforts to undermine the unity of the frontline states, destroy the SADCC and replace it with a so-called constellation of states and thus to transform the independent countries of Southern Africa into its client states; and
- to use the prestige of the frontline states in the campaign of the white minority regime to reduce the international isolation of apartheid South Africa and to lend legitimacy to itself and its colonial and fascist state.

In pursuit of these aims, the Botha regime has sought to reduce the independent countries of our region to the level of its Bantustan creations by forcing them to join the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei Bantustans in entering into so-called non-aggression pacts with Pretoria.

Such accords, concluded as they are with a regime which has no moral or legal right to govern our country, cannot but help to perpetuate the illegitimate rule of the South African white settler minority. It is exactly for this reason that this minority has, over the years, sought to bind independent Africa to such agreements.

The African National Congress is profoundly conscious of the enormous political, economic and security problems that confront many of the peoples of our region. The blame for many of these problems must be laid squarely on the Pretoria regime which has sought to define the limit of independence of the countries of our region through a policy of aggression and destabilisation.

We are convinced that this regime, which is dripping from head to foot with the blood of thousands of people it has murdered throughout Southern Africa, cannot be an architect of justice and peace in our region.

Neither can the ally of this regime, the Reagan Administration of the United States, with its pro-apartheid policy of "constructive engagement", be an architect of justice and peace in this region, while it is an angel of war, reaction and repression in other regions of the world, including the United States itself.

A just and lasting peace in our region is not possible while the fountainhead of war and instability in this area, the apartheid regime and the oppressive system it maintains in South Africa and Namibia, continue to exist. The Botha regime knows that no peace has broken out: rather, it has resorted to other means to continue its war for the domination of Southern Africa.

The situation in our region continues to point to the correctness of the decisions of the Maputo Frontline States Summit held in March 1982. That Summit observed that:

"Under the leadership of the ANC, the people, through strikes and armed action, are vigorously rising against apartheid". It went on to commit the front line states "to intensify their material and diplomatic support for the liberation movements SWAPO and ANC of South Africa, so that they can intensify the armed struggle for the attainment of the national independence of their peoples".

That statement was made in full recognition of the fact that the destruction of the apartheid regime and the liberation of South Africa and Namibia constituted the fundamental prerequisites for stability and uninterrupted progress in our region.

That commonly agreed position reaffirmed the obligation of the people of South Africa, under the leadership of the ANC, to escalate their offensive, using all means, including armed action, for the overthrow of the criminal apartheid regime and the transfer of power to the masses. We remain and shall remain loyal to this perspective.

The Pretoria regime is acting in the manner that

it is, to try to extricate itself out of the crisis that confronts its racist and colonial system of apartheid. It hopes that after it has "pacified" our neighbours and driven the ANC out of our region, it will then have a free hand to suppress the mass democratic movement of our country and thus create the conditions for it to spin out its intricate web of measures for the refinement and entrenchment of the apartheid system.

Our principal task at this moment therefore is, and must be, to intensify our political and military offensive inside South Africa. This is the urgent call that we make to the masses of our people, to all democratic formations and to all members and units of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe. Relying on our own strength, through action, we will frustrate the schemes of the enemy of the peoples of Africa and continue our forward march to the destruction of the system of white minority colonial domination in our country.

The central and immediate question of South African politics is the overthrow of the white minority regime, the seizure of power by the people and the uprooting by these victorious masses of the entire apartheid system of colonial and racist domination, fascist tyranny, the superexploitation of the black majority and imperialist aggression and expansionism.

This question will be and is being, <sup>settled,</sup> in the struggle, <sup>se</sup> within the borders of our country and nowhere else. We are entitled to expect that all those, anywhere in the world, who count themselves among the anti-colonial and anti-racist forces, will join hands with us to bring about this noble outcome.

The peoples of Southern Africa know from their own experience that there can be <sup>so</sup> peaceful coexistence between freedom and independence on the one hand and colonialism and racism on the other. We are confident that these masses, their parties and governments which have, over the years, demonstrated their commitment to the cause ~~of the total liberation~~ of the total liberation of Africa, will themselves remain loyal to this cause and firm in their resolve to stand with our people until victory is won.

- We are equally certain that the rest of Africa and the world progressive community will continue to deny the Botha regime the legitimacy it craves so desparately adopt new measures to isolate it and increase thier political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the ANC.

The struggle for the liberation of South Afric , under the leadership of the ANC, will continue and grow in scope and effectiveness until we have won our victory. Forward to a people's government!

ALFRED NZU  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
For the National Executive Committee.  
March 16, 1984.