

Report

We met 3 friends. Had a number of sessions, one on 6th Feb. went on from 12noon to 9pm with just breaks for lunch and supper. We discussed ANC, UWO, Youth, trade unions and the general situation.

- I The ANC leadership's presence is felt in the W.P. Very noticeable in UWO, literacy campaign, T.U. and general campaigns launched such as against high bus fares, nass removal and rent increases. Good work on a grass root level amongst the Coloured Communities. Some of the leaders in these Coloured Communities would like to establish a working relationship with the ANC.
Correct united front Unity in Action demonstrated by the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC) which works to unite all those which the regime by the Group Areas Act and Pass laws attempts to divide people.
- II Work amongst the Youth: Many were politicised during the 1980 school boycott and protests against discrimination in education. Students in the Cape Western Univ. are much more politically motivated than those of UCT. At the UCT 40% of the students are now Black.
But no youth organisation has been formed to unite the youth on a common platform and provide an ideological guidance. This weakness of the work among the young is not only confined to the W.P. but in the rest of the country.
We have the Guguletu Young, the young people in the universities and the established bodies as the church brigades, boy scouts and girl guides. The development of youth organisation needs long-term planning and mobilisation of resources on a provincial and national basis.
- III Nev. Alexander has penetrated a number of local community organisation students. It is amongst them that he is building the 3rd Force.
- IV UWO is developing, it attracts young people of all colours and arouses sympathy amongst women who were otherwise negative towards political action. UWO has more support ie. more organisation amongst the Coloured than amongst the African women. The leadership realises this and is concentrating on the African women. The split amongst the women ie. the formation of the Fed. of SA Women in CT is a big obstacle. Now they have not only to fight against Women's Movement for Peace which with an abundance of money has started all sorts of projects - home libraries for

promoting small self-help production groups amongst squatter women, classes in oral English etc. There seems collaboration between FSAW and ~~WML~~

V Re Labour Rel. Act and TU

When asked to explain the removal of the colour bars from the IC Act, they said:

"the NP gov. no longer needed the support of the white workers to remain in power. Afrikaaner capital had the same interests as international capital in removing obstacles to employment of Black workers in skilled jobs for which there was a scarcity of whites."

The Polish immigrants have shown hostility to Africans and of course, to socialism. They were quoted as saying: "SA is the only country in which white workers receive protection." The scarcity of skilled workers might be less acute as the rate of economic growth declines.

International firms are undertaking the training of Africans eg. Anglo-Am. Co. laid on a 9 month training for Africans in computer programming at a high cost. This caused hostility amongst white workers who fear competition. They support the HNP and other racist-fascist groups some of which use violence against opponents of apartheid.

The Lab. Rel. Act of 1981 would not bring about big changes in the structure and relationship between workers, employers and the State. Nothing much will happen for some years to come. If the amendments to the IC Act are put into operation these will have to be faced. At present however, unions continue to reject registration, industrial council system and the statutory system of collective bargaining. We should watch and see developments. The general feeling among trade union leaders (white) 'that white workers are unlikely to change their racist attitudes'. Where the number of qualified Black workers is small, a white tu. may be prepared to amend their constitution and admit Africans to their ranks - because such integration will not upset their white dominant position. They did not think that an inter-racial class approach would work for the present - the gaps are too big. To narrow the gap big structural changes are necessary. - democratic rights, education and training.

VI New Treason Trial

These informants think that the enemy is planning a sensational Treason Trial. People in detention are being cross-examined about their links with the ANC, SACTU, MK and their activities and the Brixton Tower Group.

An attempt will be made that the ANC was connected through the detainees with military operations and strikes. The murder of Dr. Neil Aggett is a pointer to the regime's desperate attempt to this scheme of linking TU student leaders to ANC conspiracy.

Detainees have been cross-examined about the successful boycott of the Indian Council elections. The outcome of the campaign took the security by surprise and they are trying to find an explanation. The security are convinced that all activities come from outside, the result of an external input. They are anxious to show that the ANC is responsible for all the actions in any area against the gov. Much importance is therefore given to an alleged discovery correspondence by 'Box delivery'.

This includes instructions to Barbara Hogan to 'penetrate FOSATU', her reports to Botswana ~~to~~ contacts made in FOSATU, other trade unions and on her other activities amongst students.

The names of Marius and Jeannette Schoon were mentioned as the correspondents with Barbara. These two were also responsible for the exposure of Burger Pillay charged for belonging to ANC. Activists at home are reluctant to visit or communicate with Botswana. Seven young Coloureds who visited Zimbabwe in Dec, on their return were detained. Activists at home are very worried about the infiltrations in the external organisations in the forward areas and in Lusaka, Maputo, London, Tanzania.

White draft dodgers in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and London should be checked.

VII

Leadership

Dr. John Meyers is the driving force behind the labour activists (not JF). He is working in medical sociology, did research on Asbestos mining in North Western Cape. Received a grant to further his studies in this field in Scandanavian countries and has a great deal of authority. He works with *Gata*, is said to be a Marxist of standing and supports the NLM.

But the Marxism of this group is influenced by the theories of Althusser and Polanters and tends to be critical of ~~the~~ Leninism and the Soviet Union.

VIII

Coloured attitudes to political alliances varied, one of the variables being socio-economic status. The better-educated and affluent coloured rejected the term Coloured, Kleurlinge or Bruinmease and insisted on being called South Africans. This means identifying with the white minority.

Most people in the working and middle class are satisfied with the label Coloured. Among Coloured workers one could detect a distinct racist attitude towards Black workers.

The impression is that radicals and militants in the labour movement and local communities want to bring about unity between Africans and Coloureds. They meet with resistance on the part of the Coloured workers.

IX Afrikaaner attitude

M. Barnard, Prigg. Party MP and Christopher went to Poland and Rumania in June July 1980 and operated on children. They are critical of the poor quality of material in hospitals - surgical instruments, drugs, dressings in contrast with the high standard of buildings and lay-out.

Barnard no longer works for the Prov. Health Services, he had to give it up when he was elected to Parliament - the PFP found for him a safer seat in Johannesburg. He is very anxious about the growth of fascist racism among sections of the Afrikaaner people such as those in the HNP. Mineworkers Union.

These racists interpret trends in the govt. policy such as abolition of petty apartheid and discrimination in labour laws as a warning that the Afrikaaner establishment betrayed the white worker and the cause of racial purity. They give ~~us~~ examples of this tendency - the decline of prosecution under the Immorality-Mixed Marriages Act. Persons break the law in large numbers but are not taken to court.

Africans and Coloureds are now moving into jobs formerly reserved for whites such as banking, distributive trade as a result restaurants and cafes now cater for all colour groups. In spite of this restriction under the Public Amendments Act class distinctions co-incide with race discrimination and in some cases, take its place.

Nico Malan Theatre is open to Coloureds but only a few members of this group attend. The majority are discouraged by high cost of seats and the long distances they have to travel. People living in Coloured townships refrain from going out by the prevalency of crime, assaults and break-ins.

X Group Areas Act

The most powerful obstacle to integration is the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act. The regime has sorted out the population according to colour, classified people and separated them in segregated racial communities. As a result colour consciousness grows. There is no more interaction between white and coloured workers in areas such as District Six, Salt River and Observatory. The Coloureds are turning in on themselves and outside the workplace

-5-

form a largely self-sufficient community. Even crime tends to be committed within Black communities, whereas the whites are largely immune.

J&R. 12.2.82

The person I was to meet - had to be cancelled owing to the situation. We discussed it and considered it most inadvisable and securitywise.