



**UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!**

UDF Press Statement 19/11/87

## UDF CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

The United Democratic Front is sickened and appalled by the full scale invasion of Angola by the SADF. The army that is threatening Soweto and East Rand residents with evictions in early morning raids is the very same army reaping death and destruction in Angola.

The saying "the first casualty of war is truth" has been highlighted in recent days by what the people of South Africa are being informed about the war situation by government and military spokespeople and the jingoism of the commercial press. The UDF believes that it is high time some questions were asked about the role of the SADF in Angola.

Firstly, has the South African government declared war on Angola? SADF statements about pitched battles with so-called Russians and Cubans are attempts to obscure the fact that the SADF is fighting against the army of Angola in an attempt to bring down the government of that country. There is no disguising that it is chiefly the people of Angola who are on the receiving end of SADF fire. Further, the SADF invasion is a direct contravention of the 1984 Lusaka agreement whereby the South African government undertook to withdraw its troops from Angola. P W Botha's midnight visit to the war zone was a rude and highly provocative display, and underlines the contempt in which the SA government holds the sovereignty and independence of all its neighbours.

Secondly, where would UNITA be without SADF and American support? In the last few years we have seen Jamba built up by the SADF, and UNITA equipped with weaponry and resources transforming it from a small bandit group terrorising villages to a South African surrogate force posing a serious threat to the elected and democratic government of Angola. But no-one is fooled that UNITA is an indigenous Angolan freedom movement, or would be anywhere without massive support from the apartheid regime.

Thirdly, what about Namibia? SADF statements justifying involvement because of Swapo show once again the South African government has little intention of seeking peaceful resolution in Namibia. It has also gone back

on its agreement to implement the United Nations resolution 435.

A fourth question that must be asked is how many troops has the SADF sent into Angola? The situation is not one of South Africa fighting Angola but of the war-mongering of the Botha/Malan clique - a tiny minority. The majority of South Africans want nothing but peace with Angola. White conscriptees and their parents have a right to know where the SADF will be fighting and in defence of what.

Finally, is the South African government intending to lay the entire sub-continent to waste in its defence of apartheid? The South African government has a long history of destabilisation and intervention in the internal affairs of the neighbouring states. The actions of the regime in Angola once again clearly indicate its lack of desire to begin meeting the demands of the people of South Africa. The only solution this government has to offer is an escalation of conflict.

The UDF condemns SADF intervention in neighbouring countries. We call on the people of South Africa to demand the immediate withdrawal of all South African troops from Angola, and to totally reject the war-mongering of the Botha/Malan minority.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UDF