



SNP/011/0026/10

23.8.68

"AMANDLA NGAWETHU"
(POWER TO THE PEOPLE)
"MAATLA KE ARONA"

spotlight

ON

SOUTH AFRICA

news digest

compiled by the
african national congress
of south africa

P.O. BOX 2239

PHONE 22789

DAR ES SALAAM

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTH AFRICA

Volume 6 No. 32

23rd August, 1968

editorial:

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

A rebel Rhodesian Judge, Mr. Justice John Lewis passed heavy sentences on twenty-one (21) of the ZAPU-ANC militants captured in the war in Zimbabwe. Apart from these 21 brave men who bore "weapons of war" in pursuit of their inalienable birthrights, there are thirty-two (32) other ZAPU-ANC militants who were sentenced to death by another White Judge in the service of the Smith rebel regime.

The fate of our men captured in the field of battle is a sore point worth discussing. The ideals to which our liberatory organisations are committed are above what is loosely described as "terrorism". Indeed, in contemporary political phraseology and in the vocabulary of sensible men our declarations on the subject of freedom, national sovereignty, social justice, and the means for attaining these objectives could never even remotely fall within the wildest meaning of "terrorism". In our era and in our conditions which are governed by fascist violent repression of the African majority by the White minority - there is no other alternative but to fight back force by force. Guerrilla warfare is not "terrorism"; by its nature it is unconventional and relies entirely on the mass support of the oppressed people.

What we find a thought-provoking development in the present stage of the guerrilla war in Zimbabwe is that the White oppressors are desperately attempting to justify their brutal deeds against the African majority by invoking anti-Communist sympathy. There are more than 1,700 South African troops fighting side by side with the Rhodesian Territorial Army. The recent military exercise in Sibasa by 5,000 S.A. troops is yet another demonstration of the readiness of the White racists to extend the war across the Zambesi. There can be no doubt that there is a fully-fledged war going on in Zimbabwe in which the enemy has called out over a period of one year the whole of the Defence Forces of Rhodesia supported by contingents of the S.A. Army. There can also be no equivocation on the fact that the S.A. military and police troops are committing naked aggression against the African people in Zimbabwe. Both the S.A. Prime Minister, Mr. B.J. Vorster, and his Defence Minister, Mr. P.W. Botha have stated that they do not need formal treaties to enable their army to act as a roving and ubiquitous policeman in the whole of Southern Africa.

The aggression which South Africa continues to commit against the legitimate struggle for national sovereignty of the people of Zimbabwe has not raised a single word of protest from any of the Governments of Western

Europe.... /2

Europe and North America. Indeed, Britain is at pains to prevent the world community from putting South Africa within the ambit of the U.N. sanctions campaign against Rhodesia.

The defenceless African majority in Zimbabwe, to take but one instance, is openly attacked by South Africa fighting in league with the fascist troops of the rebel Smith regime. But there is not a murmur from some States who are now suddenly the loudest commentators on the subject of Freedom in Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia is still a Communist country. It is still a member of the Warsaw Pact. It is still a member of Comecon. And it still owes its liberation to millions of Soviet soldiers who lost their lives fighting to expel the Nazi - occupation troops from Czechoslovakia.

In the mad rush to murder African prisoners of war captured in the guerilla war in Zimbabwe, the fascist White Judges and their rebel regimes in one breath condemn communism and in the other protest in sympathy with one side in a Communist dispute. Their watchword is "freedom". They ignore the fascist aggression of South Africa and Rhodesia against the freedom of our people.

These schizophrenic moral attitudes on aggression, Communism, and Freedom evinced by South Africa and her satellites clearly underline the depth of the crisis confronting the whole of Southern Africa. The fascist repression of our people and the naked aggression committed against them make the enemy protestations for "freedom" in Czechoslovakia very strange and incompatible bedfellows. There can be no marriage between fascism in Southern Africa and freedom in Czechoslovakia unless by freedom is meant the liberty of the fascists to re-establish their domination over a land where tremendous sacrifices have already been paid to transfer power to the people; to rout imperialism. When the enemy shouts "freedom", "terrorism", "communism", we know these slogans could not bring comfort to the oppressed people.

= = = = =

NEWS FLASH:

P.A.C. BANNED IN ZAMBIA

LUSAKA. - The Zambian Government has withdrawn its recognition of the exiled Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa and it will no longer be allowed to operate in the country, a Government spokesman announced in Lusaka.

Instead of concentrating attention and efforts as a united front against enemies of freedom, P.A.C. members had engaged in futile activities, which dissipated the total effort of the party and thereby rendered it impotent.

ZAMBIA NEWS (Lusaka)
August 25, 1968.

press release:

-3

issued by the Zimbabwe African People's Union
and African National Congress of South Africa

Engagements between advancing ZAPU-ANC guerrilla units and the combined Rhodesian and South African troops have taken place in several fronts inside Rhodesia during the last 10 days.

On August 6, in a brief but fierce engagement 20 miles north-east of Mtoko, a ZAPU-ANC guerrilla unit broke through an enemy cordon leaving in the process nine enemy troops dead.

Guerrilla attacks on enemy positions South of the Kariba Dam are continuing, particularly around the Nyamumba area. A combined Rhodesian and South African force of about 2,000 men was sent to re-inforce the whole Kariba area last Sunday.

On August 11 an enemy tracking team ran into a mine and an ambush set by a ZAPU-ANC guerrilla unit about 30 miles North of Lupani. Five enemy troops were killed in the attack.

Enemy casualties continue to pour into hospitals at Bulawayo and Salisbury. Fighting rages on in various places stretching from Nyamandlovu in the South to Mtoko in the North of Rhodesia.

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA.

August 18, 1968.

= = = = =

s o u t h e r n a f r i c a a n d t h e w o r l d

FREEDOM FIGHTERS SING AS DEATH SENTENCE PASSED

SALISBURY. - Thirty-two African "terrorists", including four members of South Africa's African National Congress, were sentenced to death in the Salisbury High Court.

They were all convicted under a mandatory hanging clause for bringing "weapons of war" into Rhodesia.

As soon as Mr. Justice Davies had left the court the men sang freedom songs and chanted African nationalist slogans. They were still singing loudly as they shuffled barefooted down the steps handcuffed in pairs, to the cells below the courtroom. Many of the men addressed the court before the death sentences were passed.

Unafraid. Some were defiant, some made political speeches but all appeared unafraid.

"As we/....

"As we stand here the people are fighting so everyone can enjoy life in Rhodesia," one said.

Another said with a smile: "I welcome the death sentence. I am prepared to sacrifice my life for Zimbabwe. I think the hangman's noose has been made especially for me."

The Rhodesian soldiers were "cowards," he said, because they used air cover in the "terrorist" war.

"Why can't they face us gun to gun?" he said. "Let them make no mistake, we are going to wipe them out."

The "terrorist" had only one arm. The other was amputated after a bullet wound.

Another told the judge bitterly: "You don't want to listen to the African, you don't want to listen to the Privy Council, who are you going to listen to?....when you go to Heaven you will find us there and we will continue asking you these same questions."

Speaking from notes written on the back of his indictment, another "terrorist" told the judge that he would be committing murder if he sentenced them to death.

Illegal

"The judge is going to stand trial in future for assisting the illegal regime in trying us," he said.

Another said it was "Smith and his terrorist government" who should have been on trial. "There is nothing in this world that will change my decision to fight the fascist regime in this country with everything at my disposal," he said.

One "terrorist" accused the court of trying to exterminate the Black man. "It's exactly like your brother Hitler said, that the Black man shall not be left in this world, except his statue," he said.

Objections

Earlier Mr. Justice Davies dismissed defence counsels' objection to the indictment.

They had challenged the legality of the law under which the "terrorists" were charged, in view of the Privy Counsel ruling that all post-U.D.I. legislation of the Smith Government was illegal. But

Mr. Justice Davies reserved the point of law for an appeal court ruling.

RAND DAILY MAIL (Johannesburg)
August 8, 1968.

= = = = =

THE STANDARD (Dar-es-Salaam) of Aug., 10, 1968 under the heading "JUDGE BACKS SMITH LAWS" reports:

A Rhodesian High Court judge endorsed the legality of the rebel Ian Smith Government and the laws it has made since it stole independence from Britain in 1965.

Mr. Justice H.E. Davies, ruling against a defence submission in the trial of 32 Africans on "terrorist" charges, said the Rhodesian High Court was not bound by a judgement of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London that the Rhodesian Government and its laws were illegal.

All 32 were found guilty on charges of possessing arms of war.

Council's Order

The men were sentenced to death. The charges carry a mandatory death sentence, but Mr. Justice Davies said he would make a report to the Rhodesian Executive drawing their attention to features in the case which would justify the exercise of mercy.

The men, sitting in two rows behind the dock in the heavily guarded court, started chanting after the sentence was passed. In statements before sentence was passed, some of the accused said they were Freedom Fighters for a government of the people, by the people in Rhodesia.

Several condemned the "illegal fascist regime," and one said he was going to die for a just cause.

THE STANDARD (Dar-es-Salaam)
10 August, 1968.

= = = = =

ANOTHER 21 MORE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO DIE

SALISBURY. - Twenty-one men rounded up by Rhodesian anti-guerrilla security forces were found guilty in the High Court here on charges of receiving "terrorist" training abroad.

One other who had also faced trial before Mr. Justice John Lewis was discharged.

The/6

The Africans, charged under Rhodesia's emergency Law and Order maintenance Act and captured in anti-guerrilla operations earlier this year, were alleged to have left Rhodesia to receive "terrorist" training in the Soviet Union, China and North Korea.

They are to be sentenced later, but the offence carries a mandatory death sentence under the emergency laws.

The men declined to enter any plea and a formal plea of not guilty was entered for them. They refused to give evidence or to be cross-examined.

TIMES OF ZAMBIA

August 23, 1968.

= = = = =

GUERRILLA TELLS OF MOSCOW TRIP

Bulawayo. - Walter Mbambo, a 27-year-old African guerrilla fighter, has been committed for trial at the High Court for undergoing military training in a country outside Rhodesia - an offence under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act. He is charged under Section 23 (a) of the Act' which does not carry the death penalty.

Mbambo may not have fired a single shot at the enemy since his crossing of the Zambesi by canoe with four others in about mid-June, 1965. But he has probably caused more alarm to Rhodesian security authorities than any other guerrilla.

He was arrested this year in the Midlands town of Gwelo, three years after entering the country and working for a dry cleaning firm in the town. Two blank rounds of ammunition, political literature and notes written in code were found in his possession.

Handcuffed to a constable, Mbambo told of his journey to Moscow when he appeared at a preliminary inquiry before senior magistrate H.A.N. Stidolph. He withstood vigorous cross-examination by a rebel prosecutor and testified for five hours.

"Yes, I did go to Russia for military training," he admitted. "I believe the present Government in this country must be forced out because it continues with oppression, torture and propaganda. When I was asked by ZAPU to go for training, I found it a good thing to do because I had been troubled and tortured by Rhodesian police."

In April, 1964, he left Rhodesia for USSR. Enroute, he joined five others chosen for guerrilla training in the Soviet Union.

The prosecutor asked: "You received this training in order to 'terrorise' the inhabitants of this country?"

Disobedience

"No, you cannot win in a country by just 'terrorising' people", he replied.

Prosecutor: "You want to create civil disobedience here and spread alarm and despondency among the voters of this country" - "I don't know what you mean by 'voter', I have never seen a voter in this country. All we want was to get this country."

In 1965, he returned to Rhodesia with four others. Mbambo said they entered the colony unarmed. He got a job later at a dry cleaning business in Gwelo.

The magistrate: "Do you still have the same views about the Rhodesian Government as you had when you went to Moscow?" - "I think it is a very bad government, and I don't want it to remain in office."

Mbambo was committed for trial. ZAMBIA MAIL (Lusaka)
August 20, 1968.

= = = = =

S.A. FORCES PREPARE FOR ATTACK

Johannesburg: Five thousand South African soldiers are preparing for manoeuvres which are seen here as a preparation against possible infiltration by African nationalist Freedom Fighters.

The exercise will involve soldiers from regular army, national service and citizen force units, employing 1,000 trucks, and scout cars, and seven squadrons of strike planes, transports and helicopters. Other details are at the moment secret.

The complex nature of the exercise reflects the seriousness with which the South African government takes the mounting tide of infiltrations into the territories of its northern allies of Rhodesia and Mozambique.

Prime Target

The government is convinced that South Africa is the prime target of African Freedom Fighters.

Already South African police have been helping Rhodesian security forces to fight back incursions across the Zambesi river.

Politicians have also called for South Africans to support Portuguese troops fighting sometimes fierce and protracted campaigns in Angola and especially in neighbouring Mozambique.

THE STANDARD (Dar-es-Salaam)
August 6, 1968.

= = = = =

RISING TIDE OF FREEDOM WAR SCARES VORSTER

South Africa starts major "guerrilla war" manoeuvres using as base this small dusty town (Sibasa), 70 miles from the Rhodesian border.

This is the first time the annual manoeuvres have been devoted to guerrilla warfare, and the complexity of the exercises reflect the gravity with which the government is thought to view the rising tide of African nationalist freedom struggle into the territories of her northern allies, Rhodesia and Mozambique.

The 5,000 soldiers, including assault troops and specialists, backed by six squadrons of supersonic mirage strike aircraft, helicopters and transports, will be engaged in the make-believe war.

THE NATIONALIST (Dar-es-Salaam)
August 12, 1968.

= = = = =

In leading articles both Dar-es-Salaam dailies - THE NATIONALIST and THE STANDARD - make the following observations:

THE NATIONALIST (6.8.1968) Editorial Comments:

Those who know the history of fascism understand only too well that fascism is both aggressive and expansionist by nature. The real meaning behind the large scale military fanfare by the South African fascists (involving 5,000 troops) is that the fascists are preparing war against African countries. Not that African countries will have necessarily to invade South Africa but that South Africa will attempt to invade African countries in a bid to expand her fascist empire.

It is therefore not fake theories about "self-defence" that must be taken seriously but rather the real war preparations that are going on in South Africa that must be taken into account.

The actions of the South African White fascists are clearly analogous to those.../9

to those of all fascists that have come and gone into oblivion. During the early days of Nazi Germany for example, Nazi fascism was thought to be merely a type of nationalism aimed at building and defending the German "motherland". But because fascism is by nature aggressive and expansionist, Hitler and his fellow fascists unleashed a terrible war in a bid to expand their empire.

South Africa cannot be any different from her fascist forerunners. The fascists are bound to push that country into aggression and expansionist actions. This is already taking the form of military preparations as well as directed acquisition of some of the weakest parts of independent Africa. Thus for example South Africa now spends Shs.4,000,000,000/- every year on defence alone!

South Africa is also busy bringing, through blackmail and intimidation, all those independent African countries nearest to her into the orbit of her empire. Indeed it can be said that when the consolidation of fascist influence in those countries is done beyond any doubt, the movement northward will begin.

An element of this fascist thinking can be detected even now when the fascists intimidate and threaten to bomb some independent African countries where "terrorists are harboured". The number of intrusions and incursions into independent African countries by military aircraft from fascist quarters has also in recent weeks been on the increase.

= = = = =

THE STANDARD (6.8.1968) leader observes:

The significance of the massive manoeuvres by South African forces will not be lost on the outside world or Africa in particular.

The fact that they are to take place a mere 70 miles from the Rhodesian border confirms the growing uneasiness with which the Pretoria regime is viewing the increasing infiltration of nationalist guerrillas. For some time it has been known that they have been building up their stockpiles of arms and strategic materials including oil. They have been steadily putting their nation on a war footing.

Now, we are to have an exhibition of sabre-rattling with the edge to five thousand troops provided by supersonic Mirage fighter-bombers. But, the manoeuvres have a more practical side for observers are to assess the degree of success or failure of the overall operation which could well decide the future pattern of South Africa's military tactics.

= = = = =

BONN WILL NOT ASSIST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

DAR ES SALAAM. - Hopes that West Germany would assist African liberation movements in their justified struggles against colonialism and foreign domination were dispelled by the Federal Republic Minister for Refugees, Mr. K.U. von Hassel at a Press conference he called in Dar es Salaam.

Mr. Hassel, who was at one time a Federal Defence Minister, stated explicitly that his country would not give any support to the oppressed and suppressed African peoples in Mozambique, Angola, Rhodesia and South Africa so that they could liberate themselves from the colonial grip.

THE NATIONALIST (Dar es Salaam)
August 10, 1968.

=====

i n s i d e t h e p o l i c e s t a t e
NAME STRUCK OFF ROLL

PRETORIA. - The South African Nursing Council has struck off the nurses' roll the name of Sister Zebia Mpendu. She had been imprisoned for belonging to the banned African National Congress of South Africa.

This decision of the S.A.N.C. will take effect as from September 1968. It is reported that she could continue working as a nursing sister until that time.

INVO ZABANTSUNDU (KING WILLIAMS TOWN)
August 3, 1968.

=====

BLACK SASH PETITION

NAIROBI. - The Black Sash, a liberal South African women's organisation, is to organise a nation-wide petition to the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, requesting the Government to stop moving non-Europeans from one community to another.

A statement released by the Black Sash said that the organisation intended calling a committee of citizens to handle the petition. The committee will inform the public of the facts of removals under the Group Areas and influx control regulations. It would also organise public protests against these actions, it said.

The statement said that 171,000 non-European men and 47,000 women were "endorsed out" of a few of the main urban centres between January, 1959, and December, 1965.

"Since/.../11

"Since 1965 figures in answer to questions in Parliament have been refused", it said.

"About 203,000 Bantu from White urban areas have been settled in centres in the tribal 'homelands' and 9,377 people removed under police surveillance from Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban in six months from November, 1967 to April 1968".

There were 1,000 group areas - areas where only one racial group is permitted to live - in 291 different places declared up to May, 1967, the statement claimed.

Up to the end of 1963, 51,000 Africans have been moved from "Black spots" (the unofficial name for small Bantu areas which have been declared White areas and from where Africans are evacuated), 21,000 people were moved between 1963 and 1967, and between January and August this year 9,250 people were moved from "Black spots" in Natal.

EAST AFRICAN STANDARD (Nairobi)
July 11, 1968.

= = = = =

WINNIE MANDELA JAILED

JOHANNESBURG. - Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, the "African National Congress" leader jailed for life reported to the police in Johannesburg African township to serve a four days imprisonment sentence.

The four days are part of a suspended twelve months sentence after her conviction for breaking the conditions of her banning orders last year.

A dozen African women, clad in the banned A.N.C. green and black colours, staged a demonstration in front of the police chanting ANC slogans, as Mrs Mandela arrived.

THE NATIONALIST (Dar-Es-Salaam)
August 15, 1968.

= = = = =

EAST LONDON. - After 10 years of preliminaries, the Department of Community Development and Planning has finally defined the area within the municipal boundaries of King William's Town which is reserved for Whites under the Group Areas Act. The official proclamation making this law has been gazetted.

SUNDAY EXPRESS (Johannesburg)
August 11, 1968.

= = = = =

VA



2

AIR MAIL



38 Highbury Place
London

N.5

Miss Sylvia Neame,
~~Lady Margaret Hall,~~
OXFORD, England.