

Crisis In South Africa

Over the past twelve months South Africa has been the scene of unabated strikes and demonstrations which have cost over 700 lives. As a result of this sustained defiance by the oppressed black majority of the South African population, the regime in Pretoria has been announcing some "reforms" which have however been rejected by the very people they are intended to appease. The people are demanding the complete eradication of apartheid as a state policy and an equal share of political power.

The mounting resistance has of late focussed on the institutions and personnel who make apartheid to function. Thus, police agents, puppet councillors and army personnel have been the immediate target of people's anger.

The regime then attempted to divert the attention of the world as well as the white electorate by launching unwarranted attacks on neighbouring states who, acting within their sovereign rights, have given refuge to the victims of apartheid.

The declaration of the State of Emergency by the Botha regime on Sunday 21st of July is a desperate and dangerous act which highlights three important factors:-

- that the Pretoria regime, despite its brutal acts of violence & murder against defenceless people, has completely failed to intimidate the people into an acceptance of its oppressive policies;
- that the liberation struggle which is led by the ANC is not external but rooted in the oppressed people inside South Africa;
- that Botha and his henchmen have no serious intentions to remove apartheid but ~~to~~ seek to entrench it under a new guise,

The heroic suffering people of South Africa, in spite of attempts to prove the contrary, have welcomed the positive steps taken by various governments to impose selective sanctions against the white minority regime in South Africa. The stand taken by the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate; the actions by ~~the~~ Australia, New Zealand and the Scandinavian countries; the decisions of the European Parliament and individual countries of the European Community; - all these actions give hope that the scourge of apartheid is about to be removed from the face of this earth.

It is however crucial that the world acts now to avert a disaster which can be unleashed by the desperate followers of Hitler in Pretoria. World opinion must, through sanctions and support for the liberation forces, reduce the agony and suffering of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and the states neighbouring South Africa.

A decision by the Security Council for prompt, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the apartheid regime can prevent an imminent racial conflagration and bring about a speedy installation of a democratic South Africa, and peace to Southern Africa.

This would be an invaluable contribution to world peace.