

A MESSAGE
TO

WESTERN EUROPE

from

African National Congress
South Africa

s

49 RATHBONE STREET LONDON W1A4NL

HELL BREAKS LOOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is not long ago that Vorster and his ministers and their friends abroad were confidently boasting to the world of the peace and security which his regime enjoyed in South Africa. Today, this myth, this dream, lies shattered like a broken reed.

Since the 16th June, when our students came out in Soweto onto the streets in their thousands, the struggle against the regime has escalated to a degree which has shaken the very roots of the regime, and the confidence of its imperialist backers. Our young people, unarmed, have marched, facing police dogs, batons, teargas, armoured cars and guns. They have boycotted schools and universities, have been joined by working people from the townships, the farms and factories in massive demonstrations and strikes throughout South Africa. In the face of callous police brutality the anger of the people mounted, and buildings and cars were smashed; farms and buildings burnt, and petrol bombs thrown at a number of targets. The streets of our townships and even of its city centres became battlegrounds between unarmed people and armed police.

The voteless people are flexing their muscles, and the clenched fist salute accompanies the cry "AMANDLA - POWER" echoing throughout the land. Our people, so long enslaved, humiliated, trampled underfoot, are rising once again to emphasize their challenge. The imposed poverty, disease, homelessness in this rich land of ours shall not be.

And despite all the apparent power of the regime, our people are determined to throw off their shackles, take their rightful place alongside the peoples of the new Mozambique and Angola. Despite the cold-blooded murder of hundreds of young and old on the streets, the call goes out, "Do not mourn - MOBILISE!"

THE ANSWER OF THE REGIME

In response to the demonstrations of the people, Vorster has reacted in the only way that a fascist knows:

â€¢ Hundreds have been mercilessly shot

â€¢ Thousands have been injured

â€¢ Unknown thousands have been thrown into jail without trial, without the knowledge of relatives and with no access to lawyers, friends or relations

â€¢ Thousands have been assaulted and tortured in the most bestial nazi fashion whilst in gaol.

â€¢ Young and old alike have been flogged, while deaths in detention mount.

Since the passing of the "Suppression of Communism Act" in 1950, and amendment to the "SS" Act, the Internal Security Act, our country has been placed under the strictest emergency control, and all the trappings of a police state are now there for all the world to see. In the process, the widest range of organisations and individuals have been affected:

The Black People's Convention
South African Students Organisation
South African Students Movement
Black Community Programme
Labour Party
Black Women's Federation
Black Parents' Association
Democratic Party
Black Church Organisation
journalists, actors, workers and intellectuals

- all are under attack.

Yet Vorster says that there is 'no crisis'. In the face of this massive uprising, he continues vainly to seek out the ANC and the communists. He remains unable and unprepared to provide a just political and economic solution to the bankruptcy and inhumanity of his regime.

Vorster's Bantustan solution must receive special mention. In the Transkei, the only area where so-called independence has been accepted by Chief Matanzima, elections could only be held and won under a State of Emergency in which hundreds of Matanzima's leading opponents (including election candidates) are slung into gaol. Meanwhile, the people throughout the country have given notice of their intention to smash the system of Balkanisation of our country. We say, 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it' and when we say this we mean the whole of South Africa! Bantustan is a FRAUD, and there should be no under-estimation of the people's understanding and total rejection of this system. Under no circumstances are enlightened people prepared to be willing tools in the furtherance of tribalism.

IMPERIALISM'S ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The imperialists of the world understand very clearly the extent to which the balance of forces is changing as the peoples of Southern Africa take their destiny into their own hands. They understand how crucial a role their partners - Vorster and his regime - play.

As a result of massive Western investment, South Africa has the most highly developed and sophisticated economy on the African continent. Combined with the most ruthless exploitation and fascist control of the

Black people and the skilful use of racialism, it has proved to be one of the most profitable in the world. Coupled with all this, South Africa is endowed with exceptionally rich natural resources.

In their attempts to impose their will over neighbouring Africa, and thereby ensure their own wealth and privilege, South Africa:

- Attempted to destroy the young state of Angola

- Continues to make incursions into Angola

- Made incursions into Zambia

- Continues to illegally occupy Namibia, and uses Namibia for incursions into neighbouring states

- Supports Smith economically and militarily

- Engages in BOSS activity in independent Africa

- Has massive investments in many neighbouring states

- By law now allows her troops to be sent anywhere south of the equator for so-called defence

Despite all this evidence of South Africa being a threat to peace, the West continues to invest, trade with and arm the regime with all the most modern weapons of war, even to the extent of an atomic energy plant. It refuses to cut off diplomatic ties, and vetoes any attempt at mandatory arms embargo when this is voted on at the UN. The west continues to be an accomplice in the murder and repression of our people. For this, the governments of Britain, France, USA, Belgium, Israel and Japan are especially guilty for their actual support of the SA racists.

Meanwhile, between Kissinger, Smith and Vorster, there is an attempt at various neo-colonialist solutions and subterfuges as an extension of the same process. As if we can trust the representative of the USA when

their hands are still fresh with the stains of Vietnamese blood; as if we can trust a Smith or a Vorster. And while some states may be reticent to display their diplomatic links with Vorster, Kissinger - despite the outcry of progressive mankind - gives special recognition and continues to have one meeting after another with Vorster.

It does not take much to realise that, according to the Kissinger assessment, it is necessary that Vorster, Smith and the West must realise the necessity to heed the warning signals that the people are no longer content with the old system. His strategy is therefore that a respectable image should be presented by the racists. He wants to modernise the system, so as to reform it into an effective instrument of the neo-colonialists, at the same time, if possible, providing a protective cordon of manageable states around SA.

Kissinger, and those who think like him, should realise that we, the peoples of Southern Africa, shall have the last say in determining our own destiny.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

With the development of the present struggle in South Africa, every true patriot is straining every nerve to develop maximum unity and understanding among the people of South Africa.

These mass struggles are building a confidence on a scale never seen before, and they are anxious now to extend the challenge. There is no turning back. In this process, large numbers are turning to the African National Congress and its allies, the National Liberation movement with the proudest history of struggle. We have a policy of non-racial democracy, based on the Freedom Charter; we have a rich experience in

all forms of struggle - legal and illegal - and a tried and trusted leadership. Under the leadership of the late Chief Albert Lutuli, many trails were blazed in the struggle and continued by men of the calibre of Sisulu, Tambo, Mandela, Dadoo, Fisher, Mbeki - to mention but a few. It is an organisation which has matched up to its requirements of representing the will of the people. Despite many attempts by the regime to crush the African National Congress and its allies, - treason trial, banishments, house arrests, Rivonia Trial, life imprisonments, hangings, and banning of the organisation - the regime has failed. Even Kruger, Minister for Police, has had to admit to the growing support for the African National Congress.

Many of the bravest and clear-thinking young people are today joining Umkhonto we sizwe, the guerilla wing of the African National Congress. They see armed struggle as an essential element in the struggle for change in South Africa, and it is clear that the ANC bears this responsibility. The basis is now being carefully and painstakingly laid, and the foundations prepared, for the challenge for power. It is understood that in addition to popular protest and strikes, sabotage, guerilla warfare and insurrection must be prepared for. Escalation of the conflict is inevitable.

THE FREEDOM CHARTER

In the struggle which lies ahead, it is as well for the world to know in very clear terms, the sort of South Africa for which we are pledged to fight. The Freedom Charter, adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, South Africa, on 26 June 1955, reads as follows:

THE FREEDOM

CHARTER

We, the People of South Africa,
declare for all our country
and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that
no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of
all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and
peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live
in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can
secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or
belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together

- equals, countrymen and brothers - adopt this Freedom Charter. And
we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor
courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a
candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the
country;

The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or
sex;

All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities
shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;

All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;

The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;

People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;
No one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;
The courts shall be representative of all the people;

Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;

The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;

All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;

Pass Laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;

The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;

Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;

There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;

All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all

children;

7

Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;

The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Unused housing space to be made available to the people;

Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;

A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;

Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;

Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation - not war;

Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;

The people of the protectorates - Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;

The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here;

"THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE,
THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY"

Will you stand by us?

A DIRECT APPEAL TO ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Whilst we, the people of South Africa, will have to bear the brunt of the struggle for a new way of life in our country, we must at the same time call upon you to make your position clear. We have enumerated the ways in which the South African regime relies on international support. We therefore regard it as being of top priority that every effort be exerted to bring all forms of cooperation between your government and the South African regime to an end.

â~... No arms should any longer be exported to the regime which only hangs onto power by force of arms. No licences or spare parts should be permitted to support them.

â~... Diplomatic exchanges and recognition must be seen as recognition of the validity of the illegally imposed regime.

â~... Trade and investment with the murderers of Soweto must be curbed and stopped NOW.

â~... Expose and stop any form of recognition being given to the Transkei, de jure or de facto.

k Stop every contact in the field of sport or culture.

k Insist that your government demand the release of all political detainees and prisoners, raise your voice in defence of the lives of our people who are being tortured and maimed and killed in Vorster's gaols. It is not only the immorality of this support which must be emphasised, but its sheer futility.

k We need active support wherever you can organise it. We greet the Police of the Netherlands, the Airport Workers of Rome, the workers of Australair, the workers of Leyland, to mention but a few examples of support which we salute on behalf of all our people.

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS NEEDS

MASSIVE DIRECT AID

The responsibility which the ANC bears is tremendous and complex:-

â€¢ We have to support political organisers and their families in South Africa.

â€¢ We have to organise education and train our functionaries inside and outside South Africa.

â€¢ We have to educate the population in underground illegal work.

â€¢ We have to distribute leaflets and work towards a regular distribution of news and views.

â€¢ We often have to provide assistance of a humanitarian nature on the spot.

â€¢ We have to provide transport for our people and goods.

â€¢ We have to provide for numerous young people who left South Africa, and are now our responsibility.

â€¢ We also have to maintain certain external offices, so as to help develop solidarity with our struggle.

â€¢ We have to collect money to maintain a number of our transit camps.

â€¢ We have to collect money for special projects.

WE NEED MASSIVE AID

Help us to match the tremendous sacrifices by our people inside South Africa. For example, why not undertake to pay for one of our organisers inside South Africa.

Arrange for us to meet your executive or your membership, and we shall send a representative of our organisation.

Send donations to:-

1. Giro Account 2. For smaller donations 3. For larger donations

ANC (South Africa)

National Giro
Bootle

Merseyside GIR OAA
A/c No: 51 560 4003 A/c No: 71022873

ANC (South Africa)
Midland Bank Ltd
52 Oxford Street
London W1A 1EG

ANC (South Africa)
External Account
Midland Bank Ltd
52 Oxford Street
London W1A 1EG

A/c No: 71022881