

People's Pamphlet No. 3

ARM THE PEOPLE!

ALL the ten million people of South Africa are vitally concerned with the outcome of the war which to-day has spread over the whole world. The aim of the Fascist alliance of Germany, Japan and Italy is to conquer and enslave the world. The Fascists are the sworn enemies of human freedom and the people's rights. They wish to destroy the Socialist Soviet Union, which for 23 years has stood as a beacon-light of hope and inspiration to the workers and oppressed peoples of the world_a living symbol of the ability of the common people to build freedom and a better life for themselves. Just as the Fascists, representing the brutal finance-capitalists of Germany, Italy and Japan have enslaved, terrorised and degraded the workers of their own countries, so they aim to oppress the peoples of the whole world, to suppress their organisations, and to smash down their struggles and aspirations for Freedom and Socialism.

The Peoples Alliance, led by the Soviet Union, Britain, China and the U.S.A. includes all the forces that stand on the side of freedom. In the thick of the battle in Europe stands the Soviet Union, the country that has fearlessly stood for freedom ever since the great Socialist revolution that liberated its own people, whose leaders oppose to the savage racial doctrines of the Fascists the great principles of internationalism, of human unity and the brotherhood of all workers. In the Far East the great Chinese people have shown the whole world how an armed and free European race can fight Fascism. And in America and Britain, in spite of imperialist and capitalist domination, the workers and progressive forces are steadily assuming leadership as the most uncompromising and consistent fighters against the Fascists.

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These factors, together with the increasing strength and awareness of the workers and peoples' movements in all countries, are the signs that an allied victory will be a people's victory, that the crushing of Nazism and Fascism will lead to the advance of the people towards freedom and Socialism all over the world.

To-day the development of the war has brought the Fascist danger closer than ever to our own shores.

This little pamphlet is to show the concrete, practical measures that must be taken here and 'now to protect the people and to mobilise South Africa to the full in the world-wide front for Freedom.

THE THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA

LOOK at the map opposite this page.

Japan, Hitler's Fascist ally, has struck treacherously in the Far East. In Malaya, Singapore and Java, the Imperialist governments failed to prepare, to arm and free the people. To-day, it is the people who suffer under the cruel blows of Japanese Fascism.

What about South Africa? The Mediterranean is closed to British and Allied shipping. Supplies to the East must go through Union Ports—Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban.

Look at Madagascar. It is controlled by the Vichy government—the men who handed over France to Hitler. They handed over Indo-China to Japan. They handed over Dakar to Hitler. They will not hesitate to allow the enemy to use Madagascar as a jumping-off ground to invade South Africa.

Our country is in danger. The war is coming closer, bringing with it a threat to the whole people of South Africa, of all races and colours.

All of us, men, women and children, face the horrors of modern warfare as practised by the Fascist barbarians of Germany, Italy and Japan.

In the Nazi-occupied territories of Europe, in China, Java, Malaya, wherever the Fascists have gone, they have behaved with the most terrible cruelty and barbarity. They destroy by bombing and burning, the people's homes and cities. They murder and rape, they rob and enslave the people

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Everywhere the Fascists have gone they have been like a swarm of locusts, stripping the countries they have occupied of wealth, leaving behind them death, pain and starvation.

The Nazis and their allies, Italy and Japan, are out to conquer and enslave the world. They are out to crush the people's rights and the people fight for freedom everywhere. They want to smash the workers' unions and political parties to close the door to Democracy, Socialism and national independence for all the peoples of the world.

THE LESSONS OF THE WAR

Although the greatest powers in the world, Britain, America, the Soviet Union and China, supported by the freedom-loving people of all countries, have united to destroy the Fascist danger to humanity, the tremendous forces of wealth and manpower which they represent have not been brought into full use. The Fascists have been checked in the Soviet Union, in China and by Chinese troops in Burma. But we must learn from the failures of the Allies elsewhere, the weaknesses which led to the Nazi conquest of Europe and to the successes of Japan in the Far East.

The Soviet Union has shown that a free people can stop Fascism.

After conquering the whole of Europe, the Nazis had great initial advantages in their attack upon the Soviet Union. They had the whole of the war industry of Europe, the steel, iron, coal and food production, and the electricity supplies of the Continent working for them. General Smuts has said:

No one would have dreamed that the Russian Army and the Russian people would have made such a glorious comeback after their great losses and untold suffering. After losing millions of men, a great mass of war material and the richest part of their country, they have made a grand recovery. It all reads like a miracle."

But it was no miracle. It was the courage, the unity and determination of a free and enlightened Socialist people which checked the Nazi hordes in Russia and today, gradually in the face of bitter and desperate resistance, is driving them out of the Soviet Union.

China is a nation of 400,000,000 people. They lacked heavy industry and a modern disciplined army. Yet for four and a half years, General Chiang Kai-Shek, supported by all political parties including the great Chinese Communist Party, has succeeded in uniting the Chinese people in .

a magnificent resistance and is holding at bay the highly motorised and mechanised forces of Imperialist Japan.

It is only if all the Allied nations. setting aside class and imperialist interests which hamper their war efforts. learn from the lessons of China and the Soviet Union. mobilise their own resources and people, and arm. liberate and arouse the people in the Colonial countries for an all-in war against Fascism, that the Axis menace to the world will be speedily destroyed and the peoples everywhere will advance towards democracy. independence and a better life.

DEFEND SOUTH AFRICA

To-day With the Fascist peril approaching ever closer to our shores, is the time for all South Africans, Whatever their class, their colour or their race, to come together in a fighting unity for the defence of our country and the destruction of Fascism. But let there be no mistake. The only way to secure South Africa against invasion and to mobilise the full resources and manpower of our country is to follow out a positive programme of realistic measures to equip South Africa for this (tall-inll war. There can be no compromise. There can be no half-measures in fighting Fascism.

Unfortunately our Government is following just such a policy of compromises and haif-measures. General Smuts said on March 11, 1949 :_ ltBeforc the Japanese take this country I will see to it that every Coloured man and every Native who can be armed will be armed."

But no move is made. If the people are to be armed, full training must commence immediately. The idea of waiting until the enemy is already upon us is obvious folly. The people must be given full training in the use of arms, not to-morrow when it may be too late, but to-day! Vested interests, colour prejudice, fear, ignorance and apathy, even amongst those Who support the war, obstruct the war effort. Government spokesmen are continually decrying the tlapathyll of the people. But it is the Government itself which, by its lackadaisieal policy, is encouraging this apathy. The Government, for the sake of the great mining interests, sidetracks enormous productive resources and the labour power of 400,000 men for the production of a commodity like gold, which is practically valueless in the present war emergency. Open Nazi organisations are allowed unrestrained to continue their fifth column activities. On all Edge Five

sides the people see the rich class sabotaging production, profiteering, maintaining their useless lives in luxury and corruption, while the poor are called upon to make increasing sacrifices for the war. This policy causes the apathy. While the Government permits these things, it can never awaken the people to the seriousness of the war situation and arouse them for victory.

PASSES MUST GO .

In the Senate, Col. Reitz, Union Minister for Native Affairs, drew attention to some of the suffering and misery caused by the Pass Laws.

He said that-

there was nothing which created so much bad feeling and disturbed race relations so much as the Pass Laws . . . During 1939-41 there were 207,695 arrests in the Transvaal . . . it is safe to assume that five times that number (ie. 1,500,000 men!) were stopped by police. H 9 proposed to take the matter up and see whether the public could

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THE PASS. This IS the badge of shame. and oppression to millions of freedom-loving South Africans. Hundreds are hounded daily by policemen for passes.

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not be convinced that the present state of affairs was wholly unjust and illogical.

The overwhelming majority of the public (i.e. the Africans Who are daily arrested, humiliated and insulted by the police) is deeply convinced of the injustice of Pass Laws. If this wretched law were abolished at once there would be few to mourn it, millions who would rejoice.

Here again we dare not ignore the lessons that can be learnt from the tragic fate of other countries. A people oppressed, humiliated and demoralised cannot throw their full vigour into the fight. A country torn and divided by internal dissension cannot resist total Fascist aggression. The time to end pass laws and all other laws which oppress and divide South Africans, is now!

The eight million Non-European people of South Africa must be liberated. They must share fully the rights of all citizens if South Africa is to be united for defence and victory.

IL POLICY FOR STORY

The Communist'Party, the most determined and uncompromising fighter against Fascism, and for the peoples rights, calls upon all South Africans to combine their lforccs new and to strengthen the Government for the carrying out of the following policy as the only realistic basis for the defence of our country, our iives and our homes and for the advancement of all peoples of South Africa towards freedom and unity:

1 The people must be armed. European and Non-European alike are menaced by the invader. The Africans, and other Non-European soldiers, have already proved in the field that they are magnificent soldiers. African troops from British, French and Belgian colonies in the North have borne arms against the enemy with great distinction. To-day, When South Africa is faced with a desperate struggle for its _ existence, there can be no further hesitation. N on-European soldiers must be armed at once, trained fully in every branch Of & niodern warfare, and enlisted on an equal basis With Europeans.

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2 We must have a mass army. The wretched pay, family allowances and pensions debar thousands from joining up. The pay and conditions of all soldiers must be improved, and the Governor-Generals Fund, Which makes our fighting men dependent on charity, should be abolished and replaced by adequate State provision, through taxation of the rich.

3 All-out production for victory. War industry and other essential production must be organised on an all-in war basis, irrespective of profits and vested interests. The cost plus 10% system of payment for war contracts, Which leads to endless sabotage, inefficiency and corruption, must be done away with. Workers production committees must be set up in all factories and workshops, to increase output, safeguard the workers, interests and prevent sabotage. Unessential production must stop. New industries and untapped resources must be developed to the full.

4 Decent wages and conditions for workers. Poor living standards only help to swell the capitalists' profits, while they undermine the health, the morale and efficiency of the workers. Colour-bar and craft barriers prevent the best utilisation of manpower in skilled jobs. The only guarantee of the workers' rights and of workers' vigilance to secure fuller production is 100% Trade Unionism and the recognition of African Trade Unions.

5 A free people to fight for Freedom. To arouse the full enthusiasm and determination of the mass of South African people for Victory, oppressive and discriminatory laws and measures which restrain the Non-European people must be abolished. The Pass Law, With its accompanying police persecution, must go. The Liquor laws must be amended so as to release the Africans from the endless round of police raids and terrorism. There should be no right of search or of entry into private houses without a warrant. General Smuts has said that the policy of segregation is doomed. We must see the immediate application of this

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"end segregation" policy, by the abolition of all legislation and regulations preventing trading or the acquiring of property or land to any section of the people. Immediate measures of democracy, security and civil liberties must be extended towards the Non-Europeans.

6 Adequate social services. The strength of a people depends upon the way it is housed, cared for and educated South Africa must have a population of skilled and trained soldiers, workers and farmers, able to handle complicated machines of war and production, people able to develop themselves and their country.

7 Protection from Air Raids: We have read of the agonies suffered by the people of other countries When enemy planes flew over their cities, dropping death and destruction from the skies. And now, when the danger is coming ever closer to our homes, no effort or expense must be spared to protect our homes and our people.

8 Safeguard the People,s food: Large numbers of South Africans do not get enough food. The rich hoard supplies, and the poor, especially in the countryside, are faced With starvation. Invasion threatens an acute famine, in addition to the existing shortage. ttControPt boards, which have been set up for mealies, fruit, etc., are used in the interests of rich farmers. Production is kept down and prices rise. Quantities of food are deliberately destroyed. Food supplies must be checked, guarded and falrly rationed. Food production must be increased by agricultural planning and control, the utilisation of unused land and the granting of land to landless people in the countryside. Small farmers, European and African, must be assisted by provision of modern agricultural machinery and fertilisers free of charge, general education and agricultural education for small farmers must be thoroughly carried Oiit, and the native agricultural labourer, the poorest section of the

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population, must be given a minimum wage, cost of living allowance and the right to organise trade unions. Only by means of such a policy can the full energies and resources of the 10,000,000 people of South Africa be mobilised. This is the way to victory and to the successful defence of our shores. It is the only way. Such a policy would be the means of uniting and advancing our whole population not only for the winning of the war but as a basis for the future happiness and prosperity of our country. Only the direct and indirect enemies of the South African people will stand in the way of its realisation.

THE FIFTH COLUMN

It is the weakness of the Government, more than any other factor, which bolsters up the influence of Fascist sympathisers and fifth columnists in South Africa. When General Smuts promised to arm the Non-European people, Dr. Malan issued a "Black Manifesto" in which a violent attack was made upon the Non-European people. Supported by the Ossewa Brandwag, the Pirowites and the Hertzogites, these wretched supporters of Hitler have launched the most desperate and vicious racial campaign to stir up hatred between Europeans and Non-Europeans and to prevent the arming of the South African masses for the defence of their country. The reason for this is clear. It is in line with the policy pursued by Quislings of all countries-the policy of surrender to Fascism abroad; the destruction of peoples rights and the introduction of Fascism at home.

THE NAZI NEW ORDER

These men have always been the most extreme opponents of freedom for the workers and the Non-Europeans. That is why they sympathise with Hitler, that is why they seek to betray the people of South Africa, to German and Japanese imperialism, to play the role of Quisling, Petain and Franco. What their policy means was clearly expressed in Parliament by the Rev. Naude, a supporter of the Nazi Pirow group. Speaking about Non-European children who, usually through poverty and ignorance, have broken the law, he said:

"The best way to drive the devil from Non-European juvenile delinquents is to give them a taste of the sjambok . . . These delinquents should be handed over to the farmers who would help to save their souls by making them work from sunrise to sundown."

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This is the voice of Fascism in South Africa. This is the fate which the Fascists have in store for the muse of our people. European and Non-European alike.

These Fascist elements within South Africa must be rooted out before they can play the shameful part of their fellow-traitors overseas. Their organisations must be dissolved. their press silencedl their leader. arrested.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM

The fate of the peoples of all countries depends upon the outcome of this world war. Victory for the People is Alliance led by China, America, the Soviet Union and Britain Will dwstroy the evil Fascist forces which threaten to drag the world back to the Dark Ages. Victory Will open up new perspectives for the working people of all countriw, of liberty, independence and the advance towards a new, Socialist society. ' South Africa is a beautiful country. It is wealthy enough to provide a decent life for all its people of all races and colours. But to-day, because of a handful of rich capitalists, it is a land of jails, slums, poverty and oppression. Ten million South Africans have a future to build in our country, a future of justice, happiness and socialism. That is why our whole population has an interest in defending South Africa. from the Fascist enslavers, in marching together with the freedom-loving peoples of all lands for the destruction of Hitlerism.

' That is why the Communist Party. the Party that fights the world ovhr for Socialism, tor the rights land the advancement of all working and oppressed peoples, throws its full efforts into the struggle ior victory. It Calls upon the workers and all progressive and advanced people. he aid in this fight by pressing forward in a united movement of the South African people for the carrying out of a clearcut people's programme for defence and victory. We Communists pledge that we will not spare ourselves nor test, we will set an inspiring. practical example in industry, on the home (font and in the military and civil defence services. The Communist Party needs the support of every intelligent worker to educate organise and unite the people for victory and freedom. To be a Communist is not easy. It requires determination, courage and an unshakeable devotion to Socialism and to the working-elas. 1.3m every worker who is intelligent and class-conscious, Who hates Fascxsm
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and oppression, and Who believes in the strength of the common people to overcome their enemies and to build a new and a better life should take his place in the ranks of the Communist Party. In the words of Lenin, the great follower of Karl Marx and the founder of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :_

itMaWs dearest possession is life. And since it is given to him to live but once he must so live as to feel no torturing regrets for years without purpose, so live as not to be seared with the shame of a cowardly and trivial past, 30 live, that dying, he can say tAll my life and all my strength were given to the finest cause in the world,

THE LIBERATION OF MANKIND'W

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I want to join the Communist Party.

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This pamphlet is published by the Communist Party of South Africa. If you agree With our principles and policy, you cannot stand aside from our great struggle to Win Victory for the people over Fascism, and to lead the way forward to a Socialist South Africa Make up your mind to join the Communist Party. If you want to help the Party, to join or to learn more about it, write to your nearest District Secretary:
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