

NATIONALISATION

In dealing with the question of the economy the commission felt very strongly that the struggle for political emancipation cannot be separated from the struggle of the working people of South Africa to gain control of the commanding heights of the economy. Our struggle to do away with inequality and injustice of race rule cannot stop short of economic emancipation. Our drive for national emancipation and economic liberation form a single process. The liberation struggle in South Africa is directed both at political emancipation as it is at the control of the economy by democratic organs of popular power. No neo-colonial solution can be contemplated for our revolution. Because of the deep penetration of the South African economy by international capitalism and by international monopolies our revolution in order to have any meaningful answers and solutions to the demands of our struggling people will have to take a very deep going anti-imperialist direction and content.

In its economic policy an ANC government in a liberated South Africa will have to base itself on the Freedom Charter and restore the wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans to the people as a whole. The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry and trusts will have to be transferred to the ownership of the people. This can only be done through nationalisation.

The present situation existing today in apartheid South Africa whereby vast monopolies, whose existence affects the livelihood of large members of our people and which are owned by a small group of capitalists will have to be terminated and the interest of the working class protected in a way which will not lower production and efficiency. Big monopolies especially those which affect the lives and well-being of millions of our people, such as the mines, the sugar and wine industries, etc. should be transferred to public ownership so that they can be used to uplift the lives of all the people.

The commission noted that the present apartheid state plays a very influential role in the running of the economy and that some of the



industries are already nationalised as state monopoly capital. The state has made many inroads in the private sector and the existence of parastatal like ISCOR, ESCOM, SALTS, SASOL, etc. are gleaming proof of this. As such nationalisation will not be a new phenomena in South Africa's economic history. The only difference would be that Nationalisation would be in the interest of the broad majority and would be directed towards ensuring the sharing by the working people in the wealth of the country. In spite of all this the commission warned that the creation of state monopolies would not be necessarily the best way and solution to the problem and as such should be guarded against.

All other industry and trade which is not monopolistic, the commission advised, should not be interfered with but controls should be set up to assist its development towards the well-being of the people as a whole. All restrictions on the right of people to trade, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions should be abolished. In conclusion the committee would like the NEC to give guidelines whether this could be incorporated in the constitution and if so, how it should be reflected. The commission noted finally the question which needs further and deeper research and wonders whether the economic unit is doing anything about it.

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L U S A K A.