

THE BREAKING OF CHAINS AND THE DROPPING OF SHACKLES

The strong will to be free now outweighs the crippling fears formerly harbored by the Africans for the oppressors. This is being sanguinely demonstrated in the Republic of South Africa and its playgrounds, the Bantustans -- the barren reservations called homelands, set aside by coercion by the so-called Christian and Democratic government of Whites only, to divide the people. This is also done to expose what the government calls "redundant appendages" -- people not employed to strengthen the economy -- to the hardships of nature without tools to combat them in this modern and changing world. Moreover, through centuries of intermingling with the Western and Asian people, the Africans are also susceptible to diseases brought to Africa by these people, but they do not have a cure for them. This is naked, undisguised genocide. It exists and continues to exist because of the billions of dollars it generates for multinational corporations and Racism.

Bent on destroying all forms of oppression and exploitation without compensation, the African people of South Africa have sanctioned the elimination of all those Africans who collaborate with the regime that denies them human rights. The public hacking and burning of the corpse of Sam Dlamini, a so-called deputy mayor, but in actuality an African government stooge whose job it was to snitch on people in the all-African neighborhood of Sharpville in the city of Vereneging which has its white mayor, white deputy mayor and an all-white Board of Supervisors, is evidence of the people's anger and unwillingness to accept any more oppression. Africans in their segregated neighborhoods are given these titles to make them feel important and bounce their weight among their own oppressed for money from the government. These are traitors. Even in the highly developed nations, death is the legitimate sentence for treason. Approval from the African people all over the country and friends of the oppressed abroad legitimizes it and is indicative of a planned, disciplined and calculated move in the long struggle ahead for freedom, justice and democracy.

For the South African regime, intimidation has ceased to be an effective way of stifling protest: while 16 years of inaction separated the 1960 Sharpville uprising from Soweto in 1976, it was only half that time, eight years, that elapsed between Soweto and the 1984 mass rebellion. The forces of adversity for the Africans have been a burden since 1652 when the white man landed in what is now known as Cape Town. For 332 years, the white man has dominated the Africans in their own country. The year 1985 will usher in the 333rd year of the dehumanization of the Africans, ironically by the same people who are supposed to have brought light, Christ and humanity to savage Africa. "They hunt and kill the savages in the name of Christ." If there is any value in white man's superstition that the number 666 has some ominous effects in nature, 1985 is liable to bring half the bloodshed of the 666th year. Like Caesar's soothsayer I say: South Africa, beware 1985! The people have woken up and have seen through deception and exploitation.

For over twenty years, the people's leaders have asked the international

community to isolate South Africa so that she would be forced by a paralyzed economy to scrap Apartheid, but the international community turned a deaf ear because South Africa is literally a gold mine for the multinationals. The killings of the Africans do not mean anything as long as the white man's money is secure. Moreover, when the movement against banking in South Africa gathered momentum, the price of gold skyrocketed to allure those to whom money is more important than the lives of the oppressed people of South Africa. These are the money mongers, the multinational corporations of Great Britain, America, Germany, France and Japan, who invested in South Africa and carried on business with South Africa as if nothing had happened.

To say that the African people are "rioting" in South Africa instead of rising up for their human, political and economic rights, is to be either biased or to have limited knowledge of what is happening or what is at issue in South Africa. In South Africa, all Africans who live in urban areas as pillars of the work force pay rent to the municipal branch of the national government. Even those who believe they have bought or are buying homes, have only 99-year leases from the government on the houses only, not the land on which the houses are built. The government can revoke these leases at will. In raising rents, the government was directly forcing the African people to pay more money to support the machinery that creates their oppression. The situation, therefore, is quite different from the picture painted by the news media of a rent strike, with tenants striking against landlords who were independently raising rents on their individual properties. It is, in fact, a struggle against Apartheid. In 1983, Msizi Harrison Dube who urged people to impose economic sanctions against South Africa by not paying rent, was assassinated in Lamontville, Durban, by one of the government stooges the people are now trying to eliminate.

No matter how much the mass media down-play the seriousness of the situation in South Africa, the anger against oppression and the determination to be free of the more than 23 million unarmed African population are nearing the boiling point. The people of South Africa who are oppressed by the racist regime, heavily armed with the most sophisticated weapons and even with nuclear armaments, will keep on struggling until they get what they want. And they know what they want. The days of weeping are over. The "children" of Africa are no longer crying for their country, they are fighting for their country.

From a South African Exile

A handwritten signature, possibly 'JR', in dark ink.