

Our Country

SA is in a state of war. The military budget reached a new record high of R1550m in 1978/79. This represents about 19% of the budget and is an increase of almost 5000% since 1961- the year of the banning of the ANC and our preparation for the armed struggle. Today the ^{building of the} military machine has become one ^{regimes} of SA's biggest employers. Nearly 60,000 white civilians were called up for military duty in 1977. ^{Major pre-occupation} Applications to join the permanent force leapt by 80% in the last three years, and for the first time Blacks are being fully incorporated into the military machine.

White schools are also being incorporated into the war machinery and there has been a marked increase in the so-called civil defence units. All this has become necessary because of the upsurge of resistance inside South Africa. Today, more than at any time in our history the revolutionary situation has matured. The struggle of our people, under the tried and tested leadership of the ANC continues to grow, involving ever increasing numbers of people throughout the country. We are making preparations for the final confrontation and seizure of peoples power.

In the last two years there have been repeated waves of industrial action and strikes by the black working class, the leading force in the South African revolution. It is conservatively estimated that in 1977 there were 90 strikes involving over 14,000 black workers. In 1978, despite intensified repression, this process has continued. The youth and students throughout the country continue to resist the system and thousands continue to boycott the racist educational system. They are finding new methods of ^{Organisation} resistance and many are joining the ANC.

People in the urban and rural areas are ^{fighting} resisting their forced removals and confrontation with the state apparatus is taking place at all levels. The resistance of our people at Crossroads, Unibell, Vendaland etc. is a reflection of this.

Significantly ~~indications are that~~ the strength and combat capacity of the ANC and its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe is steadily being consolidated and strengthened. Today ^{we} have reached a situation where we are not only able to withstand the onslaughts of the regime but we are able to hit back politically and militarily. In various parts of the country, underground units of the ANC have carried out an increasing number of revolutionary activities, the majority of which ^{are} have not been reported. The regime ^{understandably} is trying to hide the true situation but the extent and nature of the confrontations have forced them to make some admissions. The police have admitted publically that they have been unable to destroy the ANC and that they are working 'around the clock' to uncover ANC units that are carrying out attacks against enemy installations and personnel. White South Africans have been warned that they will have to learn to 'live with terrorists'.

In June 1978, Zietsman (head of the Security Police) announced that an 'estimated 4,000 Blacks (mostly members of the ANC) are currently undergoing military training', admitting that South Africa is in a 'state of war'. Reports indicate that the special police units deployed along vast stretches of the borders are 'battling to contain a concentrated infiltration by the ANC military wing, MK'. He also revealed that several clashes had taken place between the security forces and freedom fighters in the eastern Transvaal and other border areas, and that a number of trained and equipped ANC cadres were returning to South Africa.

During this year, we have witnessed an increasing number of clashes with enemy forces. In February a police patrol was ambushed and two policemen gunned down; in August an MK unit was forced into confrontation with the regime's elite Task Force and counter-insurgency unit assisted by the Bophuthatswana police. This

battle took place near Rustenburg, only 75 miles away from Pretoria. It lasted for many hours during which the enemy, using airoplanes and helicopters, sprayed the area with gunfire, napalm, defoliants and teargas. It is estimated that at least ten enemy personell were killed; in October a major clask took place in an area between Vryburg and Mafeking, about 300 km from Johannesburg; during November of this year a patrol sent out to investigate the presence of 'terrorists' was ambushed in the Mara district of the Northern Transvaal.

There has also been a series of sabotage attacks. According to reports our freedom fighters are showing 'a high level of training and sophistication'. A Rand Daily Mail report stated there have been 20 'known bombing attacks since November 1977' Amongst others, the following incidents took place:

- 1) On the 24th of November 1977 a bomb exploded at the Carlton Centre.
- 2) In December 1977 two more bombs exploded at the centre and a third was defused.
- 3) On the 30th of November 77' there was an explosion on a train near Pretoria.
- 4) On December 6 a bomb outside the Germiston police station caused extensive damage.
- 5) On December 8 a bomb exploded in the Benoni railway station car park.
- 6) In March 1978 a bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the Bantu Administration Board in Port Elizabeth.
- 7) Tragically in the same month a great revolutionary and patriot Makwezi Mtulu (a former medical student and SASO leader) was killed while on a mission.

There have been several other incidents, some have been reported but many have not.

The growing capacity of the ANC is also reflected in the action taken against informers and traitors. Abel Mthembu and L. Nkosi, both former ANC members who became state witnesses in many trial were shot dead. A third traitor was seriously wounded at his home near Durban. Two BOSS agents, Lloyd Ndaba and Orphan Hlubi Chapi have been eliminated.

The intensified resistance of our people at all levels has resulted in many trials. From reports of these, it is clear that ANC cadres are carrying out their work through out the length and breadth of our country.

Our underground propaganda units continue to develop and grow, and pamphlets, posters and other literature of the movement are increasingly being distributed.

We are at a very decisive stage of our struggle. The peoples regimes of Angola and Mozambique are being consolidated and SWAPO and the Patriotic Front are advancing to victory. The ANC has had a strong and principled alliance with all these forces, and is strengthened by the knowledge that they will receive all-round support from their allies. Despite the apparent invincibility of the enemy and the support it receives from the USA, Britain, France, West Germany, Israel etc., our struggle must succeed.

The actions mentioned are a reflection of the intensification and development of our people's resistance. We must however guard against illusions of quick and easy victories. Revolution is a process and is determind by various objective and subjective factors. We have to realistically face the problems of maintaining an underground organisation under conditions of fascism and permanent martial law and to grapple with a powerful enemy supported by imperialism. However the masses have seized the initiative. Undoubtedly there will setbacks and losses but the inevitability of our victory is assured - our cause is just and we are engeaged in a Peoples War. The cadres of M^K are not 'foreign terrorists' but are our sons and daughters who are fighting and sacrificing their lives to establish a new South Africa free of racism and exploitation.

The struggle takes various forms, armed and non-armed, legal and illegal. Everybody can and must make a contribution to this noble cause. We call on all our people to rally to the liberation movement, headed by the ANC.

Join the struggle and let us advance to victory.