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THE INTERNAL SITUATION.

The year 1977 has seen an intensification of the struggle of the people of South Africa against the South African fascist and racist regime. This struggle has continued into 1978, which is the international year against apartheid.

RESISTANCE AGAINST BANTU EDUCATION :

Background : The Bantu Education Act was passed in 1953, designed, in the words of a government spokesman " to fit the Bantu more effectively for their future occupations", namely to be unskilled labourers for the Apartheid system which provides such high profits for the multi-national corporations that invest there.

In 1954, the African National Congress organised the people to withdraw their children from the primary schools in protest against discriminatory education. In many areas the ANC organised "cultural clubs", which conducted education under cover of cultural activities, but this was patently illegal and the government forced these institutions to close down.

The struggle against Bantu education which flared up in 1976 is a manifestation that a new generation has taken up the matter in a sharper form. In Soweto last year 27,000 pupils boycotted classes, and not many of them registered this year. The Secretary for Bantu Education estimated that 300,000 children throughout the country boycotted schools for varying periods last year, some staying away for many months. What is beyond doubt is that although the boycotts started in Soweto, they spread rapidly to other areas, both urban and rural, including schools for Coloured children at the Cape. (This latter was a demonstration of solidarity as education for the Coloured people is not governed by the Bantu Education Act.)

In Bophuthatswana all schools were closed because of unrest; in Pietersburg 5 were shut; on the East Rand post-primary schools were boycotted; in Pretoria there were no less than 33 boycotts in Atteridgeville alone, that is one township.

Port Elizabeth was almost as good as Soweto. All 39,000 children at primary and secondary schools stayed away. The Bantustans were not immune. In Venda in the Northern Transvaal, 357 schools were shut and 100,000 pupils sent home. In the Ciskei pupils boycotted schools but returned after Chief Sebe appealed to parents. Despite this, Uitenhage had an almost total boycott of higher primary schools as well as secondary schools, while attendance at Kingwilliams-town was down to 7% at one stage. Craddock and Grahamstown had attendances described as "very poor".

We therefore see that Bantu Education is facing a crisis. Seven hundred Soweto teachers have joined the pupils in their struggle against this evil education system, by resigning from their posts.

Faced with this crisis, the fascist regime changed the Minister and the name to the Department of Education and Training. In spite of this gimmick, as late as last month it was reported in the press that "more than 120 school children are being held in connection with a flash riot in which a teacher was stabbed to death and another seriously injured at St. Augustine's High School in Dundee. Damage to school buildings, including a girls' hostel, where windows were smashed and doors broken, is estimated at hundreds of rands ... Two other schools have also been disrupted recently. The principal of the Nthembeni High School near Melmoth, said he received an anonymous letter from Soweto demanding the expulsion of all Soweto pupils. This letter had spread alarm ... and the Mlokothwa High School closed last week after a student/staff disagreement" (Rand Daily Mail 25.4.1978)

There are many...p/2



There are many more incidents of this nature in the country. It is clear the authorities are unable to restore the situation in the educational field to what they term "normal".

#### POLICE ATROCITIES AND CLASHES WITH THE PEOPLE.

As a result of our peoples unrelenting resistance the police have continued harassing them and murdering them in the streets and in detention. The Minister of Justice, Jimmy Kruger, is reported to have said that there are 600 trials pending under the Terrorism Act. This means that there will be 600 trials of activists in the country.

The police in camouflage uniform used teargas to disperse hundreds of students in Diepkloof, Soweto, on 2nd May, 1978.

It is reported that "a giant cordon was drawn around Soweto, Alexandra and Reef townships on the night of 31st March, 1978, in a joint operation by the police and the army. Road blocks were set up in an effort to seek out stolen cars, property and explosives. Soldiers armed with rifles and with bayonets drawn, surrounded and stopped cars. Troops stood with weapons pointing at occupants. In some cases occupants - searched by police - were made to lean against the vehicles with their arms in the air. The sweep, described by Col. Gert Slabbert, head of the Johannesburg Riot Squad, as a 'routine operation' was also designed to pioneer combined operations between army, police and traffic officers. 'The army will be called in on future operations to assist the police in combating many offences', a police spokesman said last night. Hundreds of vehicles were stopped on all seven roads leading to Soweto. Military trucks, some drawing canvas-covered trailers, were parked alongside the roadblocks. Troops, policemen and traffic cops worked together as they searched the cars". "A total of 128 people, other than those detained under security laws, died in detention in South Africa last year, the Minister of Police, Mr Kruger said." (Rand Daily Mail 25.4.1978)

In another statement reported by the Star on 21.2.78, the Minister of Justice said "The police shot and killed 149 people last year, most trying to escape arrest." All those shot were Africans, Coloured or Indians. The reported incidents of police brutality show beyond doubt that the South African government is fascist and will not listen to reason. The South African fascists are not prepared to permit any organisation which is likely to revive the resistance of the people. This was clearly shown by their clamping down on the new organisation AZAPO by arresting its leader hardly a week after it was formed.

#### THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANC INSIDE THE COUNTRY.

That the ANC has stepped up activity inside the country in spite of the difficulties that it faces, is testified to by the enemy. The Minister of Justice, Jimmy Kruger, has stated that he had crushed the ANC. Later he was quoted as saying: "The ANC has come to stay with the people, what we can do is just to contain it."

There are so many trials involving ANC cadres, that one almost loses count. It is common knowledge that nearly all of them where sabotage or gun battle with the enemy are involved, are cases where members of Umkhonto We Sizwe are involved.

The African National Congress is saddened by these arrests, but this indicates the level of its involvement against the enemy in the country. One of our gallant comrades, Solomon Mahlangu, has been sentenced to death for his activity in the city against police reservists who tried to apprehend him when he was evading arrest.

The Rand Daily Mail, 16.2.78 and Citizen 17.2.78, report "Thousands of pamphlets urging violence and describing the making of home-made bombs, are being distributed...p/3"



...being distributed by the banned ANC throughout the country.

Security police, said that the police recovered a large number of pamphlets and were tracking down those responsible for their distribution. One of the pamphlets was in the form of a comic strip depicting a love story which urged violence and described how to make home-made bombs. A second two paged pamphlet distributed called for acts of violence throughout the country.

Brig. Coetzee said they were distributed in most black townships near the cities. Last year, the ANC also distributed pamphlets in Cape Town by explosions in buckets.

Another report of the Daily Despatch, 24.2.78, states: "Five pamphlet bombs exploded in Cape Town scattering Christmas shoppers and bringing the Security police out in full force. No one was injured in the blasts. The first bomb exploded at 4.15 p.m. in Adderly Street, near the O.K. Bazaars, the second went off between two motor cycles parked at the corner of Lower Plein and Darling Streets. Another bomb exploded on the Cape Town railway station. (No information was given about the other two bombs)

A CID officer said "this is simply an ordinary battery bomb. It consists of hundreds of pamphlets, but cannot cause serious injury".

The blasts scattered leaflets issued by the ANC. Similar bombs exploded in Greemarket Square before Christmas last year and in various city streets this year.

On 3rd May, 1978, The Star and Rand Daily Mail reported "Several terrorists, some heavily armed with Russian AK 47 assault rifles and explosives, have been captured by Durban Security Police. Large quantities of ammunition, arms, explosives and some documents were also seized. Much of this material was found hidden in the City suburbs. The police have also uncovered secret hiding places elsewhere in the Province where arms and explosives were hidden. Col. Herman Stadler declined to disclose how many terrorists had been arrested.

Brig. Zietsman, Head of S.A. Security Police, said that there were clashes with ANC guerrillas along the borders of the Eastern Transvaal and that there were casualties on both sides.

Many incidents of the activities of Mkhonto We Sizwe have not been reported and in this account we have not cited all the activities which were reported in the press.

In desperation about the activities of the ANC the fascist police have not refrained from violating the sovereignty of the neighbouring African states. South African police ambushed two ANC men in a car. One of them survived with bullet wounds and the other has not been found. The incident took place between Swaziland and Mozambique. The South African police booby-trapped the post office box used by the ANC in Manzini, Swaziland. Comrade Duma, who opened the box lost an arm in the explosion.

The fascist have time and again kidnapped members of the ANC from neighbouring Swaziland and Botswana.

Since the Soweto uprising there has been a continued offensive against the system by the mass of the people in all sorts of ways.

The political crisis for the Vorster regime has deepened, the military activities of the ANC have become an important factor. There have been many more sabotage attacks than those reported in the press and several Special Branch officers have been executed. The regime has reacted to all this by hitting out at everyone who opposed Apartheid. There is not going to be a lull in the struggle. 1978, as it has already been shown, will again be an important year. No one is going to terrorise the people into submission. The ANC is determined to continue the armed struggle. We are challenging the bastion of reaction in South Africa.

The fascist regime...p/4...



The fascist regime is being assisted by a number of imperialist countries. It is on this basis that we call on the Liberation Committee to give more financial and material help. The Liberation Committee must realise the imperative need of assisting the ANC in pinning down the enemy and in this way the armed struggle of Zimbabwe and Namibia will be helped to win freedom for their peoples.