

regime is not a reformist regime...On the contrary, it has gone further than any previous regime in South Africa's history in an advance towards the implementation of the essentials of apartheid...The least important reforms (which sometimes attract the most attention) such as allowing a Black to actually share your park bench, your restaurant, your football field, and perhaps even your bed, are part of a larger package deal...designed to imprint race domination finally and irreversibly into South Africa's social fabric

«Botha has proved to be the most efficient sales representative of this package deal...What is actually being sold is the South African version of the Hitlerian final solution...Over half of the African population have already been proclaimed foreigners in the land of their birth...Botha the reformer has put new energy into the resettlement program which, in the last two decades, has uprooted, transported and dumped into the veld over four million African souls...The very foundation of apartheid - the Bantustan creations and the fragmentation of South Africa (with one of the fragments, covering 87% of its area and 99% of its riches, going to the Whites) - has been pursued by the Botha regime with more vigour than by any of their predecessors. It is under Botha that the door of access by Africans to central state power has been slammed with deadening finality. It is through the duet of Botha and Malan that every surrounding country has felt the blows of military intervention...It is during their time that the Black political opposition has felt a heightened level of brutality.

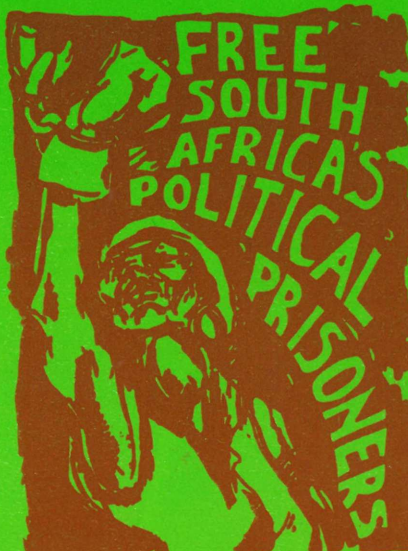
«Before fragmentation had reached such an advanced level with the creation of the Bantustans, the defense of White cohesion had to be carried out in communities which, although segregated, were sharing common urban and rural territory. (Thus the need for laws against interracial sex and marriage, etc.) These mechanisms no longer play the same important role as they previously did in perpetuating White exclusiveness.» (Sechaba, February 1985)

In short, the aspects of apartheid which the regime contemplates removing are no longer necessary, for White domination and the exploitation of cheap Black labor are now structurally implanted. Developments have proved the validity of Slovo's thesis with martial law being the culmination of Botha's purported reform moves. What apartheid now needs is brute force to keep down

the swelling tide of the majority's opposition.

«Call to the Nation»

The size and sustained nature of the protests show that an increasing number of Black South Africans have no illusion that their freedom will come through reform. Other features of the



past year's mass movement also reveal its potential for challenging apartheid: Militant mass action has so polarized the situation that few Blacks remain willing to cooperate with the regime. Almost all the local councils created by the regime in Black townships are out of function due to the resignation of the councillors. Leaders who advocate peaceful change are running short of arguments in the face of the regime's terrorism and Botha's refusal to speak even with Black leaders who are involved in civil disobedience alone. Workers' strikes have increased the past year; for the first time political strikes have been launched by major Black unions.

The mass upsurge was the basis for the ANC issuing its «Call to the Nation» in May, focusing on concrete means for consolidating the people's power in struggle: making it impossible for the regime's agents to enter Black townships; forming popular committees to replace the puppet administrations; expanding covert structures and armed struggle; and preparing for an extended general strike and possibly an armed uprising. While the ANC sees the struggle as a protracted liberation war, it views insurrection as a means of making 1985 a real turning point in the battle to defeat the apartheid regime.

Ensuing events confirm this possibility. Even the state of emergency has so far failed to quell the mass upsurge. Funerals as political manifestations continue despite the ban imposed on such gatherings on August 1st. Protests and clashes with the police are ongoing despite widely imposed curfews.

Palestine and Southern Africa - same enemy, same struggle

The mass advance in South Africa provides an example for all people struggling against injustice. The Palestinian revolution feels a special affinity with the struggling masses in South Africa, for the enemies we face are much the same. Despite differences in the modalities of implementation, both 'Israel' and South Africa are colonial settler states, built on the dispossession of the native population and institutionalized racism. Both exercise state terrorism - shooting down demonstrators in the streets, arresting and torturing those who fight for their rights. This official repression is supplemented by settler violence, similar to Latin American death



squads. In early August a prominent Black woman lawyer was assassinated at her home. She was to defend 16 United Democratic Front activists facing treason charges. The statement issued by the «unknown assassins» reminds of the threats of ultraright Zionists to rid the land of 'Israel' of Arabs. In South Africa, the assassins' slogan was: «Those who ▶