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"SOCIALISM" IS DEAD!

LONG LIVE SOCIALISM!

According to the Editorial of the "Natal Witness" of the 14 November 1989,

" . . . Communism or scientific Socialism as an economic system is an unmitigated disaster".

The Editor of the "Natal Witness" is doing no more than echoing what the imperialist mass media has been trumpeting throughout the world. Who knows, over zealous agents may have even attempted to broadcast this message to outer space in the hope of passing on to intelligent life there the best news capitalism has had after the publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848! That there are serious political and economic problems in countries like the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc. is no lie. But to attribute these problems to communism or a revolutionary socialist system is a DOWNRIGHT LIE!

The intellectual servants of imperialism know full well that the cause of the present turmoil in these countries is NOT socialism but STALINISM. They are also aware that chief amongst the causes of the economic crises in the East European countries is the fact that due to historical peculiarities, socialist governments were set up in countries which were least equipped economically for a socialist system.

From the second half of the 19th century until the immediate past, capitalism suffered massive losses at the hands of the forces of revolutionary socialism. The fight between these two social systems was a continuous one. Notwithstanding the irreparable harm done to the cause of socialism by the crimes of Stalinism, the ideological and moral victory belonged to socialism. People in the third world regarded their liberation and socialism as being synonymous. The same attitude prevails among the youth of the oppressed. To them oppression and capitalism was the one and same thing.

Socialism, even though not fully understood by the oppressed, has a very powerful attraction for them. They are able to grasp that those who produce the wealth in society must have a say in what is to be done to that wealth. All this has given imperialism and the local capitalists many sleepless nights.

To counter the moral supremacy of socialism, Mozambique was held out as an example of the failure of socialism. We will recall endless speeches and articles on that subject. The people were not fooled. They knew that Mozambique's troubles stemmed from the South African herrenvolk's policy of destabilization; they knew with hatred the murderous role of RENAMO and they also realized that Mozambique was let down by her then greatest ally

-the Soviet Union. So that trick did not work. Therefore, when the tumultuous events in the Soviet Union, People's China and Eastern Europe took place, Imperialism and the local capitalists went into ecstasies. This was their long awaited opportunity. And they did not waste time. This time there was no South Africa to blame. RENAMO does not operate in Europe. The enemies of socialism believed that they had an easy downhill run with their propaganda. They were not going to be picky about the differences between Stalinism and Socialism. For their purposes, no distinctions were to be drawn. They had to be presented as being the same thing so as to facilitate the denigration of Socialism.

This, then, is the strategy of imperialism and their agents and pen pushers. We must tell the people the truth. We must tell them of the difference between Socialism and Stalinism; we must tell them of the international conspiracy of the capitalists to discredit Socialism and we must tell them of the dishonesty of intellectuals who are in the habit of making pious statements on all types of issues but who will not hesitate to hide or distort the truth when it serves their class interests. The workers on the other hand regard Socialism as their ultimate Salvation. Hence their slogan: **"Long Live Socialism!"**

PRIVATISATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ISCOR

INTRODUCTION

Privatisation of state-controlled industry is a step further in the growth of capitalism. States the world over have transferred industries and services previously controlled by them to the private sector. In 1988, the value of state assets thus transferred, was forty billion dollars around the world.

With an unreal sense of urgency, the South African government too, has embarked on privatisation of some industries. These include SASOL, ESCOM, ISCOR, SATS and SAA. A special parliamentary portfolio, i.e. Ministry of Privatisation, has been created. The Minister - Dawie de Villiers - said at a press conference recently, "Privatisation has become urgent, if the country was to prosper".

WHY IS STATE INDUSTRY NECESSARY FOR CAPITALISM?

Many present-day western styled private industries owe their lucrative present existence to government initiative - early risks are carried by public funds and then sold at prices so low as to attract eagle-eyed buyers from the cartels. State funds are used to boost an industry merely to hand it over at a song to private capitalists institutions.

In the Iscor issue:

(a) "Institution" is defined as "life assurance companies, mining houses, trust companies and banks. . . The list is tightly restricted". (Business Times, 8.10.89).

(b) A minimum of R1,2 billion worth of shares is reserved for such institutions. The low price of the Iscor shares is illustrated by the fact the applications for shares have already been oversubscribed by between 5-7 times (Daily News 20,10,89).

ECONOMIC CONTROLS OF STATE-RUN INDUSTRY

State industry is essentially capitalist. It does not abolish but tends to strengthen capitalism. At the head, the captains are from private industry earning fat salaries, and dictating policies executed at state expense. The state, with taxpayers' money, nurtures an industry, ensures profitable productions, and only then hands over to the private sector. In anticipation of the handing over to the private sector, Iscor, over the last few years, invested between 300 million and 500 million rand per year on machinery and equipment, resulting in an increase of profits by 40% each year.

STATE INDUSTRY FOR WORKER BENEFIT

The only instances in which nationalisation need not be capitalist are when:

- (a) Representatives of private capital are not placed in management;
- (b) Worker participation in management is assured;
- (c) The industry is used to achieve community objectives like health, employment, etc.

This is only possible in a society striving for socialist objectives. In this situation, the basic theory of surplus value applies. The surplus value of the workers' labour is for the benefit of the people and is converted to health services, employment, etc. With private enterprise, the profit (surplus value) is pocketed by the Directors and Shareholders. In the South African situation, the practice of racism diverts the profits from state industry to the propping up of about thirteen different "governments".

WHEN DOES THE STATE SELL UP?

Economic and political considerations dictate the timing of privatisation. Economic: Although experts say, and this is in keeping with the concept of state industry, that R2.00 per share is a low price - the revenue to the government will be enormous. It is expected that 3 billion rand will be the total proceeds. This will help the government to:

- (a) reduce South Africa's foreign debt;
- (b) meet the crisis caused by sanctions and by the withdrawal of foreign capital from South Africa.

Political: An important rationale for privatisation in South Africa is political across the globe, liberatory organisations have visions of a socialist society. South Africa is no exception.

The ruling class must ensure that when change comes, the system prevailing is capitalism. Free enterprise, with a "laissez faire" attitude, must be the order of the day: free trading; free hours of trading; toll roads. In short, capitalism must be rampant.

As many industries as possible must be privatised by the time any take-over takes place.

CONCLUSION

Privatisation as a strategy is not for the benefit of the workers. The rich will get richer; the workers poorer. It cannot convert workers into capitalists.

COLIN BUNDY DOES IT AGAIN

Earlier this year, COLIN BUNDY (Professor of History at the University of Cape Town and the University of the WESTERN CAPE), addressed the annual conference of the Natal Teachers' Society. He focussed on South African history, extensive extracts of which were printed in the Natal Mercury (21/06/89). The distorted message that emerges has one of two sources: either the Natal Mercury omitted significant sections of his speech or, Bundy falsifies history by omission *once again*.

In this particular address, he meanders on at length about "*Black History*", "*peoples history*" and "*radical history*" making their appearance "*over the past 15 to 20 years*". The continuing emergence of THE MOST CORRECT AND RADICAL ANALYSIS of South African history by the Unity Movement for more that **FORTY FIVE YEARS** is ignored, **DELIBERATELY**. Literature including; "*Three Hundred Years*" "*The Role of the Missionaries in Conquest*"; "*The Contribution of the Non-European Peoples to World Civilisation*"; "*Education for Barbarism*"; "*The Awakening of a People*"; "*The Nature of South African Society and the Nature of our Struggle*" , vital to the understanding of the nature of oppression and exploitation in this country, are conveniently omitted.

The liberal academics have always denied the contribution of the Unity Movement towards the analysis of South African society. In addition, the never ebbing flood of indigenous and foreign literature on South African society has always dismissed the gigantic political strides of the Unity Movement in a few lines. **BUNDY** merely follows this tradition.

BUNDY and the slippery liberal grouping he represents may publicly ignore the existence of the Unity Movement but the continuing opposition it mounts to the invasion by him and his ilk into the ranks of the broad liberatory movement is an anathema to them. The Unity Movement asserts that the **LIBERATORY MOVEMENT IS NOT BROAD ENOUGH TO INCLUDE THEM. (FOR "THEM" READ IDASA, FIVE FREEDOMS FORUM, NUSAS, BLACK SASH, ETC.)**. The organisation exposes in no uncertain terms the class interests that this opportunistic bunch represent.

In this speech, BUNDY said, "**TO DENY PEOPLE THEIR HISTORY IS TO CRIPPLE THEM INTELLECTUALLY AND TO MAIM THEM PSYCHOLOGICALLY**". What would you call denying us the revolutionary aspects of our history and an omission of the role of the liberals and clergy in attempting to emasculate us?

GHOST OF ANDREW ZONDO RESTLESS

For as long as there is racism, oppression and exploitation, for so long will the ghost of Andrew Zondo NOT be laid to rest. How can it be otherwise. For if it were, then Andrew Zondo would have died in vain. The problems which caused his death and those which have been caused by his death, have resurfaced in the improbable person of Barend Strydom, Boksburg's mass killer. He is presently living out his last days on earth under the shadow of the gallows - that legalized killing machine used by the oppressors.

Both Andrew Zondo and Barend Strydom are different sides of the same coin. viz. the South African system. Andrew Zondo killed because he wanted liberation for the oppressed. Barend Strydom killed for the opposite reason. He opposed all change which appeared favourable to the black people. He killed because he wanted the retention of the racist ridden exploitative society.

Barend Strydom's actions were so outrageous, so horrendous and so meaningless. They are completely indefensible. Yet we cannot agree to his murder, legalized or otherwise. He is after all a sick child of a sick society. He was fed with racism since childhood. All his life he was taught to hate black people. He is the end product of a sustained campaign of brain washing through lies, fallacies and senseless hatred. He is the monster in whom this racist society finds its fullest embodiment. He is the Golden Boy of Herrenvolkism, the super hero who can kill so calmly, almost politely. He slaughtered with a smile!

Now, the rulers want him out of the way, although he is their handiwork. He is now to become their scapegoat, so that the real culprits, the true criminals, can get off the hook. The real culprits are those theoreticians who preached and justified racism; those politicians who won votes on a racist ticket and those priests, dominees and theologians who gave religious sanction to racism.

Barend Strydom is their product. They must therefore take full responsibility.

That much ought to be obvious to any judge with integrity and imagination. But where will we find such a judge in SA?

Flowing from the above, it is our considered view that:

1. Nothing will be gained by hanging Barend Strydom. His death will not eradicate racism in this country.
 2. He is nonetheless a menace to society especially to those of its members with dark skins. He should be kept away from society until such time that he is completely cured of the disease of Master-racism.
 3. He should be subjected to intensive psychiatric treatment in the meantime.
 4. He should be kept alive so as to be a living example of how dehumanizing racism can become.
- He should be available to social scientists and medico-psychological experts for observation and study so that our understanding of the human mind becomes a little better.

5. The government which upholds this sick society and is therefore responsible for its sick products MUST FULLY COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF BAR END STRYDOM.

THE NSC - TROUBLEMAKER PAR EXCELLENCE

The arrogance with which the National Sports Congress (NSC) poses as a contender for the South African Council on Sport (SACOS) position as the authentic sports organisation among the oppressed is beyond belief. In recent newspaper reports it (the NSC):

1. calls for a referendum amongst the affiliates of SACOS (New Nation - 29.09.89 to 05.10.89);
2. challenges SACOS to demonstrate its bona fides in the sports struggle (New Nation 29.09.89 to 05.10.89);
3. hints that it will split SACOS (City Press - 01.10.89);
4. attacks the slogan of "No Normal Sport in an Abnormal Society" (The New African 02.10.89);
5. indirectly accuses SACOS of being a non-democratic organisation. (The New African 02.10.89).

The list is endless.

Apart from these organisational threats, it has simultaneously launched an attack on the cornerstone of SACOS policy, that of NON-COLLABORATION. This policy has been a rallying point of the oppressed for the last 45 years. During this period, it has weathered constant and unrelenting attack from Imperialism, the State and the Liberals. To our dismay, it is now being eroded by a segment of the liberatory movement bent on negotiation politics.

Non-collaboration has served to sharpen the distinction between oppressor and oppressed and has been invaluable in projecting the struggle onto a principled basis. The total onslaught that it now faces must be fought by the people at all costs. In the sports arena of the oppressed it rears its ugly head as the NSC. The people in SACOS must unite to fend off this deviant.

In order to place it in context, however, we need to pose certain questions regarding the NSC.

1. What constitutes the NSC?

It is an 'interim structure that is not even launched': many members of whom are in SACOS.

There is no sports organisation officially claiming affiliation to it. (Minutes of SACOS - NSC meeting 16.9.89).

2. When was it formed?

According to reports it is to be launched sometime in the nebulous future, (City Press -1,10.89).

Is it just waiting to poach codes away from SACOS, one wonders?

3. What are its policies that it may now ideologically threaten SACOS? None can be found. What is fairly evident is that they are ANTI-NON-COLLABORATION.

4. Why was it formed and what are its aims?

Through their various spokespersons they purport to transform sports organisations into ones that are "mass based": One tries to reconcile why many of them being members of SACOS were "unable" to accomplish this as part of SACOS? But their treachery is evident. It was formed with the aim of either destroying SACOS or taking it into the collaborationist fold. As has occurred with a number of other organisations it hopes to water-down non-collaboration and coerce SACOS to be party to the ultimate political betrayal.

The consequences of the damage that the NSC seeks to wreak should it gain hegemony must not be understated:

1. It will be party to a new form of multinational sport.
2. The corruption and bankruptcy that comes with non-discerning acceptance of Imperialist funding will be catastrophic.
3. The organisational and ideological gains made by SACOS over more than 16 years will be destroyed with one fell swoop.

Sport is an important arena in which we conduct the struggle against exploitation and national oppression. To blunt the militancy of the people here is an attempt to negate the effectiveness of non-collaboration in the entire political struggle.

OPEN LETTER TO HASSIM SEEDAT

I daren't call you "Comrade" since your new associates are what the Comrades from the townships would call "Impimpis".

I was sickened when I saw the photograph in the POST where you pose with sell-outs like Baldeo Dookie and J.N. Reddy. You did not even look embarrassed. You were all smiling. I wonder what you were smiling about. If it was a joke perhaps you could share it with the oppressed.

You seem to have forgotten that in September this year, racist elections for the "Indian, Coloured and White people" were held. An intensive campaign was conducted by the Liberatory movement, including the Natal Indian Congress, to have the elections boycotted. The ruling class and the sellouts used every dirty trick in the trade to dragoon people to vote. People like Baldeo Dookie, J.N. Reddy, Rajbansi and others took part in the elections in open defiance of the clear wishes of the people. Under 20% of the oppressed people took part in the elections. Once again the rejection of the tricameral circus and the sellouts was unmistakable. Yet you seek to give them credibility!

You have also seemed to have forgotten that the day of the elections triggered off protests from the oppressed which resulted in some 35 people being killed. They died so that the Dookies and the Reddys do not use the name of the oppressed in their filthy work. How can you reconcile what you have done with your membership with the Natal Indian Congress and Nadel? Or can you?

Mr Seedat, there is a very simple but profound truth:
"Either you are with the People and against the Sellouts, OR you are with the Sellouts and against the People".
It looks as if you have made your choice.
SHAME ON YOU!
"Principled"

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