

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT AND THE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN STRUGGLE

END ALL MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

THE LABOUR PARTY'S PROMISE

"The next Labour Government will withdraw from all relationships resulting from the Simonstown 'Agreements', and all military exchanges, visits and technical arrangements will be terminated."

THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

In 1974, in the course of three months (August-October) two joint exercises took place between the Royal Navy and the South African Navy - each successive exercise outstripping all others as the largest, most extensive joint operation. This is clearly not only a continuation but an increase in military collaboration with the apartheid regime.

After massive protest from within the Labour Movement, the Anti-Apartheid Movement and other supporters of the freedom struggle in Southern Africa, press reports suggest that the Simonstown agreements will be terminated after consultation with the South African government.

BUT Mr Callaghan has stated that if the agreement is ended, "there is no reason...why a British ship should not call at Simonstown in the future ..." - thus it is clear that this and other forms of military collaboration are intended to continue.

This continued collaboration with apartheid flies in the face of both Labour Party policy and the Labour Manifesto on which the Government was elected. It is a sad blow to all those in Britain, independent Africa and the United Nations who were hopeful of a reversal of earlier policies of collaboration with apartheid. In particular it devalues Labour's policy which pledges support for the liberation movements of Southern Africa.

"Nothing does more to create cynicism about our democratic institutions than a failure of a Government to carry out the pledges it gave to the people when seeking a mandate from the people," said Harold Wilson (House of Commons, 29 October 1974).

Labour's commitments must be met.

At a time when South Africa is under increasing pressure - at the United Nations, in the new situation in Southern Africa following the collapse of Portuguese colonialism, and her continuing isolation in the fields of sport and culture, and in educational and other professional bodies - a Labour Government cannot ignore its responsibility to the freedom struggle in Southern Africa.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement calls for a massive response from the Labour Movement for pressure on the government to END ALL MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA.

PRESS FOR A DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AT CONFERENCE.

SIGN THE DECLARATION OPPOSING ALL MILITARY COLLABORATION (to be presented to a member of the Government on the evening of Thursday 28 November).

The Labour Party Manifesto of October 1974 states:

"We will continue to support the liberation movements of Southern Africa. We will seek to end the unlawful South African occupation of Namibia. The policy of sanctions against Rhodesia has been intensified and we will agree to no settlement which does not have the agreement of the African people of that country."

This pledge is denied by the continuing military collaboration with South Africa and by Britain's action in the Security Council in using its veto, in collaboration with France and the USA, to prevent South Africa's expulsion from the United Nations. The Government must be aware that South African Prime Minister Vorster's recent promises of change within six months are nothing more than an attempt to hoodwink the international community and to gain time for the consolidation of his plans for Southern Africa. At the same time as he was making his 'promises', his security police were arresting, detaining and torturing opponents of apartheid, and his troops fighting the liberation movements of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The Government has promised a Foreign Office review of policy towards Southern Africa. The Labour Movement must demand that this review implement policies already agreed upon at past conferences.

The Government must accept the 1971 majority opinion of the World Court that South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal and that all foreign trading with the territory is illegal. The Government must be pressed to put a ban on all British capital involvement in Namibia and end trade links with the territory until it has achieved independence as one nation. South Africa's attempts to deceive world opinion by forging ahead with its plans to implement its Bantustan policy in Namibia must be exposed. The people of Namibia, who have rejected these plans to divide their country, need support in their struggle for liberation.

In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) the policy of sanctions will not be successful while South Africa has the full support of Western powers in spite of being the chief sanctions buster and supporter of the illegal Smith regime. The British Government must insist on an immediate withdrawal of South African police and troops from Zimbabwe, and must recognise its continued responsibility to ensure that no negotiations for a settlement take place without the full involvement of all the representatives of the people of Zimbabwe.

The illegal Smith regime continues to imprison African leaders and will go to any length to silence them - including kidnapping in neighbouring Botswana. Hundreds of thousands of Africans are forcibly moved away from their homes, and illegal hangings continue - at least 24 freedom fighters, including many teenagers, have been hanged in the past year. The Government must take all measures to bring an end to Smith's terrorism.

At a time when great changes have taken place in Africa following the success of the liberation struggles in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola and the collapse of the Caetano regime, we cannot afford to give Vorster and Smith time to consolidate their position. The Government must act now.

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE & SOUTH AFRICA.
END COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA.
JOIN THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT.