

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Reactions to Nkomati accord

In response to recent developments in southern Africa the African National Congress has said that "there can be no peaceful co-existence between freedom and independence on the one hand and colonialism on the other". On the same day as Mozambique and South Africa signed their non-aggression pact (see report on page 648), the ANC issued a statement in Lusaka on behalf of the National Executive Committee calling for an intensification of the offensive against the South African regime. The statement came after the committee met to discuss the latest events in the region.

It noted that South Africa has been involved in "a frantic diplomatic, political and propaganda counter-offensive" designed to isolate the ANC. Other principal objectives are said to be the undermining of the frontline states, the destruction of SADCC — the economic organisation of southern African states designed to reduce dependence on South Africa and a reduction in the international isolation of *apartheid* South Africa. It added that Pretoria is facing internal crisis and is anxious to neutralise opposition at its borders in order to give full attention to the crushing of the internal demands for democracy.

In an obvious reference to the Mozambique/South Africa agreement, the statement accused the Botha regime of reducing the status of independent states in the region to that of the Bantustans by forcing through similar "so-called non-aggression pacts" to those signed by Bophutatswana and Ciskei. Such accords "cannot but help to perpetuate the illegitimate rule of the South African white settler minority".

Although recognising the great pressure that the peoples of the southern region were under, the ANC stressed that the responsibility for regional insecurity and economic difficulty rests with Pretoria. As they have always done, they emphasised that so long as *apartheid* and its oppression in South Africa and Namibia continues to exist there will be no "just and lasting peace".

The statement recalled that at the important frontline states summit in Maputo, 1982, member states affirmed the correctness of ANC strategy against Pretoria, a strategy which rested simultaneously on organised labour's action and armed struggle. They further committed intensified "material and diplomatic support" for the armed struggle. Clearly feeling that this jointly reached position is becoming obscured, the national committee says, "we remain and shall remain loyal to this perspective".

Stressing that the struggle is being waged inside the border and will be settled there, the statement demands that those in support of the South African people's struggle "who count themselves among the anti-colonialist and anti-racist forces" continue to show their support. "Relying on our own strength, through action, we will frustrate the schemes of the enemy of the peoples of Africa. "We are confident that the peoples of southern Africa will themselves remain loyal to this cause and firm in resolve to stand with our people until victory is won".

A joint communique issued at the end of a visit to Cape Verde by President Vieira of Guinea-Bissau said that the two countries expressed their total support for Angola and Mozambique in their contacts with South Africa. The two were making a "valuable contribution to search for a peaceful solution to the problems of Southern Africa".

Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Simeon Ake, quoted on Radio France International said "if Angola and Mozambique have come as far as negotiating and entering into dialogue with South Africa, it is the realities of the area which have imposed themselves on them".

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