

ZIMBABWE:

the Time for Negotiations is Over

In their first year and a half of armed struggle, the ZAPU-ANC combined forces have developed, despite the fact that they were passing through the most difficult stage of the revolution in Zimbabwe.

This initial phase has seen important victories in the North-West, North and South-East. The liberation forces inflicted many casualties on the fascist mercenaries of Smith and Vorster. In this period, the guerrillas displayed a high degree of skill in laying ambushes, covering their tracks when pursued, concealing their camps and entrenching their men.

The armed struggle is producing deep transformations in the so-called Rhodesian situation. Guerrilla operations have forced the enemy to evacuate white residents and African farmers from the war zones. This is not solely a result of the danger in military operations, but part of Smith's policy of isolating the whites politically from the liberation forces. The fact that several white farmers have already been imprisoned for actively aiding the guerrillas is proof that this is no irrational fear on Smith's part. On the other hand the mass support in the African population has been consolidated. The peasants, workers and intellectuals readily supply the guerrillas with food and hiding places. This joint participation of the masses with the liberation forces has forced the armies of so-called Rhodesia and of South Africa to fight unceasingly.

The Smith regime has replied with indiscriminate bombings of rural areas. At the same time, defenseless peasants are being arrested, tortured and murdered. But the people are not disconcerted by these atrocities because for years the white oppressors have maintained their brutal domination.

The people have become strong in the face of the repression attendant to the State of Emergency which has immersed the country in a climate of suppression and war since its introduction, in 1964. The masses have realized that reasoning with the enemy has failed, and their hope now lies in taking up arms to regain their freedom and independence. The racist regime knows this and is accordingly taking the strictest measures to control and repress the people.

Zimbabwe is today the centre of international confrontation between the revolutionary forces and the NATO-backed racist regimes of Smith and Vorster. The libe-



ration movement has entered a more advanced stage along the road towards the destruction of the white settler minority rule in Zimbabwe, and there can be but one result: complete freedom and independence for the people of Zimbabwe.

The British Government has indirectly intervened in so-called Rhodesia to maintain the colonialist regime, by allowing South African troops to be used against the liberation forces and hypocritically channelling its economic, political and military aid to so-called Rhodesia via Portugal and South Africa. Through the United Nations it has put into practice the fraud of selective sanctions in an attempt to legalize the minority racist rule, thus trampling on the legitimate rights of the four and a half million African people of Zimbabwe.

As far as the African people of Zimbabwe are concerned, the time has passed for negotiations and appeals to pressure the British to settle the Rhodesian crisis. The people clearly regard all the so-called constitutional settlements hooted Wilson and Smith as a conspiracy against the autochthonous population. The mere existence of a minority privileged class of people is a direct impediment to the establishment of a majority rule and as long as there is no majority rule in Zimbabwe there will be no peace in the country. The people are determined to undertake the armed struggle to achieve the total destruction of the settler system however long that may take.

In the face of this situation, the Executive Secretariat of OSPAAAL condemns the imperialist governments of the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Portugal, France and of the rest of the NATO countries for their direct or indirect support to the Rhodesian colonial regime created by the white minority to oppress the people of Zimbabwe. It likewise denounces and condemns the regimes of Malawi and Botswana for their collaboration with the fascists Vorster and Smith by imprisoning ZAPU-ANC combatants and confiscating the materials sent for the liberation struggle of both peoples.