

**AD9**

# United Democratic Front

(Natal Region)

Rev AD 90

P.O. Box 48060  
Qualbert 4078  
Telephones 32-7860  
63280

27th April 1984

Dear Affiliate,

The Evaluation workshop scheduled for the 14th April was not held as several affiliates were holding public meetings at the same time. The workshop will now be held on the 12/5/84 at 2.00 p.m. at the Ecumenical Centre (St Josephs).

Attendance at the last 3 General Council meetings has been poor, particularly the last one. Urgent matters will be discussed on the 12th.

A report from the Conscription sub-committee is enclosed. Affiliates are requested to discuss the report which will be tabled at the next G.C. meeting.

Only 6 affiliates have returned the questionnaire distributed by the Evaluation Committee - if you have not please return it to the UDF offices by the 7/5/84.

The M.S.C. is going very badly - please call at the offices to discuss how your area/ organisation can improve its contribution to this campaign.

Yours in Struggle

Mahomed

1. Insufficient <sup>too</sup> energy
2. Repetitive.
3. There should have been a <sup>greater</sup> <sup>qualitative</sup> approach
4. Too intellectual approach.
- 5.

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Michael

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT  
NATAL REGION  
MILITARY - SUB-COMMITTEE  
REPORT.

Introduction.

The purpose of this report is to give information to member organisations to enable their members to have a broader understanding of militarization in Southern Africa today. In many ways this report is introductory and further exploration is needed for a deeper understanding.

The following areas are covered.

- 1) Historical development of Militarisation 1950 - 1977.
- 2) The Present Crisis
- 3) The Marriage of Big Business and Military State
- 4) Armscor and Arms Production
- 5) Destabilization
- 6) The Role of Blacks in Military
- 7) The Battle for Control of Arms

1)

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARISATION 1950-77.  
INTERNAL RESISTANCE AND  
EXTERNAL FACTORS

STATES  
RESPONSE.

1950:

Consolidation of National Party Rule. The building of institutions. Apartheid based on economic and racial exploitation.

SWWE attempts to crush mass peaceful protest and resistance

1952 - The defiance campaign where 8000 volunteers jailed for defying unjust laws.

ANC membership 100 000  
1954 Federation of South African Women formed.  
1955 The Freedom Charter drawn up by the Congress of People in Kliptown  
1956 20 000 women march on Union Buildings

CONFLICT REACHES

ANTI-PASS LAW DEMONSTRATION  
SHARPVILLE

The shootings spark off a wave of resistance country-wide

16th December 1960 ANC launches first series of sabotage acts.  
- hundreds leave for guerrilla training  
June 61 - net outflow of capital R248m.

External situation  
Independence of African states hostile to South Africa. In Southern Africa the 60s saw liberation war being launched and progressing in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

1963 - UN imposed an arms embargo on South Africa.

by banings, banishments, detentions, budgets and bullock Police force was states major repressive tool  
Between 1945-1960 Police Force more than doubled  
Arms imported mainly from U.K & U.S.A.

CLIMATE 21 MARCH 1960

Police shoot Killing 67 wounding 196.

State declares a State of Emergency mobilizes army bans RAX & PAC  
over 2000 people arrested  
1960 Defence Expenditure R46 million

These events shook the Apartheid State and it realized that its survival depended on its military capability.

In 1961 it introduced a Ballot system of conscription. Jim Fouch called on White Mothers to "give up their sons in defence of their land."

1961 - intake of 9000 men.  
- SA landed its own arms industry  
1964 - intake of 16527 men  
1967 - ballot system abolished and free war universal conscription

67/68 The State sent its SAP para military units into the Rhodesia to aid Smith's Military forces.

Since 66 S.A. troops have been increasingly involved in conflict with SWAPO.

1970's

The early seventies saw an intensification of the efforts by liberation armies, MPLA in Angola, Swapo of Namibia, Frelimo of Mozambique. ANC and ZANU & ZAPU

The seventies saw the rise of the Black Consciousness Movement

1973 - Durban strikes shake the economy.

1975 - MPLA defeats S.A.D.F.

FRELIMO WINS ITS STRUGGLE.

Rose two victories resurged hope into all liberation movements in Southern Africa and helped raised consciousness through of many South Africans.

Educational Crisis Brewing

CONFLICT REACHES

Soviets and County-wide boycotts

The State under increasing pressure extended compulsory military training to an initial period 12 months and 14 days served annually for 5 years.

1973 - Defence Budget R422 million

1976 - S.A.D.F. 'withdraws' from Angola.

11 MAY 16th June 1976.

1000 shot and killed by State  
18 Organisations banned.

77 School boycotts continue  
Thousands leave country to join ANC.

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Conscription extended to 2 years.

### ① The Present Crisis

During the seventies and early eighties a number of factors contributed to our present crisis. These factors pushed the government to come up with the new constitution and the Koozloff Bills. The first set of factors are structural ones like the shortage of skilled labour, unemployment, inflation, foreign exchange problems, limited internal market mainly due to another structural problem, uneven <sup>income</sup> distribution, and the huge housing problem. The other set of factors are, the intensification of struggle and resistance. The growth of militant trade unions, the independence of Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, growing working class, student, struggles, the armed struggle and outside foreign pressure.

### ② Marriage of big business and State

The combination of structural and resistance factors have shaken the state. Torn by economic and political instability. Big business and the State needed a more pragmatic policy if capitalism was going to survive.

After 76 uprising we see a growing relationship between business and State. It is clear that both parties have taken this marriage vows very seriously. It is a matter of "kill death us do part." A re-structuring took place and central to that process was the military. It was called "total strategy" to combat 'total war' against South Africa.

Not members of parliament but also prominent, even non-nationalist businessmen and senior military officers. These committees fall directly under the Prime Minister's Office and are amenable to him.

The most influential decision making body in the country is the State Security Council. The former Advisory body is the main forum for planning and implementing Total Strategy. Senior military officers and businessmen sit on 15 interdepartmental committees. They are directly responsible to the Prime Minister's Office.

Since 76 we see:

- ① a closer relationship with business eg. Robson Foundation
- ② business and government trying to create a Black Middle class close to cities.
- ③ Commission for so-called reform
- ④ The New Constitution, Black Local Authorities Act and the Kooenhoff Bills
- ⑤ ~~The New Constitution and Kooenhoff Bills~~
- ⑥ Encouragement of free Enterprise and economic growth
- ⑦ Tightening up of Security legislation
- ⑧ Tightening up of Press laws
- ⑨ State controlled media used extensively for State Propaganda.
- ⑩
- ⑪

Peace essential to the whole process of survival. The State will in and will harness all resources to maintain white class and racial domination of South Africa. The number of prisons have pushed South African Whites to the limit with border service and training. No doubt with the constitution will be execution of Indians and Coloureds.

### ⑤ Armscor and Arms Production.

- 1961 - S.A. begins producing arms.  
1964 - the Armaments Board and the Armaments Development and Product Corporation were established. S.A. imported - the technology from Western countries to enable it to manufacture arms. The Western countries played an economic necessary role in helping South Africa.  
1974 - ARMSCOR was formed.

Today it ranks as a major industrial Giant with assets of over 12 billion rand. ARMSCOR spends R1500m per annum producing armaments including combat aircraft, guided missiles, heavy artillery, radar and communication systems.

- 2000 companies are involved as contractors and subcontractors employing 100,000 workers.

South Africa has become the 10 largest arms producer in the world and is developing a strong export market for its weaponry. It has exhibited its products at two international military exhibitions.

Top industrialists serve on a 13 member Defence Advisory Council which advises the Defence Ministry on the arms industry. This council includes Chris Saunders of Torgant Sugar.

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### 5) Destabilization

It has been alleged that South Africa is involved in attempts to destabilize countries like Lesotho, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Claims of destabilization programmes suggest that they are aimed at

- damaging the economies of frontier states
  - preventing ANC and SWAPO from using neighbouring states as bases
  - to try and install more sympathetic - pro West governments
- eg support for MNR in Mozambique and UNITA in ANGOLA.

The following allegations have been made

- 75 invasion of Angola attempting to stop APRA taking power and support of UNITA
- Reported raids into ANGOLA, MIBERU AND MOZAMBIQUE killing many people
- S.A. is alleged to be training 5000 ex-Rhodesian auxiliaries in Northern Transvaal.

### 6) Role of B.O.s in Defence Force.

- Cape Corps ("Colours") started in 1963 doing mainly admin tasks.

1973 2000 "coloureds" taken in on a permanent basis Battalion of Indians on Salisbury Island.

1972 Africans are serving in combat with whites in Namibia and then Rhodesia.

The establishment of Dentation Battalions.

The Trunkel Battalion being trained by notorious Selous Scouts.

Even before the constitution, blacks have been increasingly recruited so that today they constitute 5% of S.A.D.F. but well over 20% of operational force is black. The S.W.A.T.F. South West Africa Territory Force is 40% black. Are we being used as cannon fodder? Under the new constitution Indians and Coloureds will be called up.

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