

### SMASH THE FIFTH COLUMN

■ A country engaged in a struggle against Nazism cannot afford to tolerate the treacherous activities of enemy agents. The men responsible for this campaign have given ample proof of their active hostility and obstruction to every war measure of the Government. They have demonstrated their sympathies with the foul racial and political doctrines of Fascism.

In no other country would their treachery and subversive activities be tolerated. They are a menace, they are doing Hitler's work in South Africa.

The Communist Party calls on the whole Labour movement and all who stand for the defeat of Nazism to unite against the Fascist menace in South Africa and abroad.

We call upon the Government to strengthen its relations with the Soviet Union, and to send a diplomatic representative to the U.S.S.R. as a symbol of our confidence in and unity with this great fighting ally.

We call upon the people of South Africa as a whole to reject and expose the "Anti-Communist Campaign" as a cunning Fifth Column attempt to undermine the war effort of our country.

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ONE PENNY

## What is behind THE "ANTI-COMMUNIST" CAMPAIGN?

A Statement by the Central Committee, Communist Party of South Africa

■ The leaders of the Nationalist Party, the Ossewabrandwag and Pirow's New Order Group have launched a vicious campaign of slanders and incitement against "Communism".

It is no accident that this attack comes at the same time, and is made up of the same sort of fantastic lies as the German Nazi "anti-Bolshevist crusade".

Nazi Germany has been placed in a desperate position by the magnificent fight of the Red Army. Hitler is faced with the threat of a defeat in North Africa and of a joint Anglo-American Second Front in Western Europe. In the countries which he has enslaved the tide of rebellion is rising, while starvation and exhaustion is rapidly increasing in Germany. For the first time, Germany is seriously menaced by defeat.

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■ *The unity of purpose of Britain, the Soviet Union and America threatens Nazism with destruction. Hitler's last hope is to disrupt this unity, to create hostility and suspicion between the countries of the United Nations. That is the aim of the present propaganda blitz.*

Whoever supports or accepts this propaganda commits an act of disloyalty to the United Nations and weakens the people's fight against Nazi slavery.

In South Africa, the leaders of the Opposition do not want to see an Allied victory. They want a Nazi victory. To-day, by attacking Communism and the Soviet Union, they hope to weaken further South Africa's contribution to the war. They are attacking not only the Communist Party, but the cause of victory itself.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNISTS AND RUSSIA

Prominent in this Fifth Column campaign is the accusation that the South African Communists are "agents of Moscow", that they receive "instructions" and even money from Russia. These allegations are completely groundless and false. General Smuts was correct when he said in Parliament:

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Recently, the offices of the Communist Party in Johannesburg were set on fire. It is but a short step from acts of this kind to attacks upon the lives and property of trade unionists and labour leaders—whether or not they are Communists.

Mr. A. A. Moore, President of the South African Trades and Labour Council, is falsely described by the Dutch Reformed Churches as a Communist. Dr. Ross, a Nationalist leader, has threatened the suppression of trades unions if his Party comes to power.

This country is now engaged in a life and death battle against the evil menace of Nazism. To win this war, many of our brave countrymen have sacrificed their lives on the battlefields, or their liberty as prisoners of war. If we are to win the war, if all our sacrifices are not to be in vain, then our full attention and efforts must be concentrated on victory.

The whole baseless campaign of lies and slander against Russia and against the Communist Party is deliberately planned to distract the attention of the people from this task; to weaken and defeat the Government in its prosecution of the war, and to frustrate efforts to secure the total mobilisation of South Africa.

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■ *The Communist Party believes that though the achievements of the workers in the Soviet Union and elsewhere may be an example and an inspiration, the future of our country lies in the hands of its own ten million inhabitants.*

The Communist Party of South Africa is a democratic organisation. Its policy is determined by elected delegates at its national conferences, and it is led by a democratically elected Committee.

The Party is entirely financed by subscriptions, and by donations from workers and other supporters.

The assertion that the Communist Party of South Africa receives orders or money from Moscow or anywhere else is a deliberate lie, put forward by the enemies of the South African people, the leaders of reaction and the agents of foreign Fascism.

#### THREAT TO LABOUR

The Fifth Column attack on Communism is a threat to the entire labour movement in South Africa. In no country where Fascism has come to power have the labour leaders and active members of trade unions escaped persecution and death.

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"Here in this country, in a most irresponsible manner, a spirit of hostility is being preached against Russia. I cannot conceive of anything more dangerous in our own interests than to stir up feeling of this kind. . . ."

"If there is Communism in our country, it is something that has sprung up here, something which has developed here; it is due to conditions existing in our own country. We are told that Russia is behind the movement in this country. But there is not the slightest evidence of such being the case."

The Communist movement has existed for nearly a hundred years. The great pioneers of labour who founded it, men like Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, died long before the Socialist Soviet Union was founded in Russia.

■ *The Communist Party of South Africa is a South African political party whose members are South African working men and women of all races and nationalities.*

Originally called the International Socialist League, our Party was founded in 1915—at a time when the Socialist Russia of to-day was only a bold vision in the minds of men like

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Lenin and Stalin, then in exile, or in the jails of the Russian Czar.

At the same time, it is true that the Communist Party has the most sincere and profound admiration for the people of the Soviet Union. In the course of twenty years, they have transformed their country from a land of oppression, ignorance, economic backwardness and starvation, into the home of freedom and culture. They have built a great modern industrial civilisation.

■ *They could never have done these things without their Socialist economic system; without the brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.*

Were it not for that system and that leadership, they could never have withstood the furious attack of Hitler's armies and saved South Africa and the whole world from the barbarous enslavement of Nazism. Our Party sees in the Soviet Union the carrying out in practice of the Communist principles for which we also stand.

#### THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

The Communist Parties of all countries are affiliated to the Communist International (the Comintern). There is

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nothing extraordinary about such a fact. Just as the capitalists are organised internationally, the labour movement has always striven towards world unity of the workers. The British Labour Party is affiliated to the Labour and Socialist International, and the Trade Union Congress to the International Federation of Trade Unions.

Recognising the need for organised unity between workers of all nations, our Party affiliated to the Communist International in 1919. We are proud of our bond with the Communist Parties of other countries. Communists are fighting against the Axis in every army of the United Nations. In the countries dominated by Nazism and Fascism, they are risking their lives daily in underground struggles for liberation. In the Soviet Union the Communist Party is the leader of the greatest battle of liberation in human history—a battle which has shown the whole world how a people made free, strong and united by Socialism, can stop and break the Nazi military machine.

But the idea that the Comintern gives "orders" to the various Communist Parties is fantastic.

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**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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