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# SOUTH AFRICANS AWAKE!

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Our Country is  
in DANGER!

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# Call to Arms!

The war has come nearer to South Africa. Every man, woman and child, no matter of what race or colour, is in danger of being bombed, killed and exposed to the horrors of invasion.

Whilst there is no room for the alarmist and panic-monger, neither is there room for unfounded optimism and a complacent attitude of "alles sal reg kom".

## SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE OF THE VITAL CENTRES IN WORLD STRATEGY

The Union commands the only route that is open from Europe and America to the East and Australia.

It is in the interests of the Axis to cut this route.

Japanese victories in the East have brought them within striking distance of South Africa. Soon Japanese planes will be in a position to carry out lightning destructive raids on our ports and towns.

Colonel T. J. Clarke, Commanding Officer of the Cape Peninsula Civilian Guard, recently said: "As things are going the time will come when the Japanese will bomb Cape Town, as sure as the sun rises in the morning." (*Cape Argus*, 19/2/42.)

The occupation by Japan of the Portuguese-Dutch island of Timor is a sign and a warning.

Madagascar is controlled by the pro-Nazi Vichy Government of France, and Madagascar is a pistol levelled at the heart of South Africa. The Axis Powers will not scruple to seize and use that pistol when it suits their purpose.

Mozambique is a potential bridge-head for invading Axis forces. Portugal cannot be relied on to retain and defend her neutrality and keep the enemy out of Africa.

## MUST SOUTH AFRICA WAIT UNTIL IT IS CONVENIENT FOR THE ENEMY TO OCCUPY AND USE THESE TERRITORIES AS A JUMPING-OFF GROUND FOR AN ATTACK? OR MUST WE TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT THIS NOW?

The stronger we make ourselves, the less likely it is that our country will be attacked.

The more fully the whole population organises for defence, the less likelihood there is that our people will have to suffer the agonies of an invasion.

**SOUTH AFRICANS, AWAKE! THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE!**

For nearly two months Parliament has been sitting. The session is drawing to an end. For six weeks Parliament has been talking about the internal squabbles of the Malanite-Pirow-Ossewa factions and the "menace" of Communism.

**BUT PARLIAMENT HAS NOT FOUND TIME FOR ONE DEBATE ON THE MOST VITAL QUESTION FACING US: HOW CAN WE DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST THE COMING ATTACKS AND INVASION BY THE ENEMY?**

The people must act themselves. Only when they have shown their will for victory will the Government be put in a position to take a realistic view and enforce the measures that are essential for the security of the Union.

Let us in time take a lesson from the policy followed in Malaya and Singapore and the results of that policy.

## WHY DID SINGAPORE FALL? WHY HAVE THE JAPANESE TRIUMPHED?

There are many reasons, among them inadequate preparations, lack of men and material, poor leadership. But the greatest reason of all was the failure to gain the active and purposeful co-operation of the people of Malaya in the defence of their country. This is what a correspondent of the "London Times" wrote after the fall of Singapore:

"The Government had no roots in the life of the people. The bulk of the Asiatic population remained spectators from start to finish.

"Their inclination was to get as far as possible away from the scene of hostilities.

"After nearly 120 years of British rule, the vast majority of Asiatics were not sufficiently interested in the continuance of that rule to take any steps to ensure its continuance."

UNLESS A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IS MADE IN THE POLICIES APPLIED TO THE NINE MILLION AFRICANS, COLOURED, AND INDIANS, SOUTH AFRICA WILL FIND HERSELF AS POWERLESS AS MALAYA TO RESIST INVASION.

Like the people in Malaya, large sections of Non-Europeans are indifferent to the war. There is widespread sympathy among them for Japan, in whom they see a leader against hated White oppression.

They can only be won over to take part in the defence of their country by giving them rights and liberties to defend. The whole nation must be armed and trained to use arms.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR CLASS, RACIAL AND SECTIONAL PREJUDICES AND PRIVILEGES TO GOVERN POLICY.

## THE COMMUNIST PARTY CALLS ON THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO PUT THE COUNTRY IN A STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR ALL TRIALS AND DANGERS THAT LIE AHEAD.

Speed up the production of arms!

Labour and machinery must be transferred from non-essential production to the manufacture of guns and ammunition, food, clothing and all commodities that are needed for the defence of the Union.

Scrap the system of paying for defence orders on the basis of costs plus 10 per cent. It has been proved and found to give rise to a wasteful use of labour, material and plant.

The working of gold and diamond mines cannot be regarded as being essential for the war. But they absorb a tremendous amount of South Africa's productive effort. Labour, plant and material must be switched over from the gold and diamond industries for employment on the mining of iron, coal and other metals, on agriculture and on the production of essential goods.

Extend the schemes for training skilled workers to all sections of the population, irrespective of race or sex.

## DEMAND PROPER AIR RAID PROTECTION!

The danger of attack from the air is *real*. That is why Civilian Protection Services have been organised and why blackout trials are being held.

These precautions do not go far enough. Public bomb-proof shelters must be built. Without them the people will find themselves largely defenceless in air-raids.

Arrangements must be made for the evacuation of women, children and all others who cannot contribute to the defence system.

People of South Africa! Make the organisation of air raid defence *your* responsibility. Set up groups and committees in your streets and factories, locations and buildings, for fire-watching, first aid, rescue work and demolition.

Civilian protection services and air raid defence must be extended to draw in all sections of the people regardless of race.

## FOOD MUST BE STORED TO MEET THE THREAT OF POSSIBLE INVASION; FOOD MUST BE RATIONED TO ENSURE AN EQUAL DIVISION OF SUPPLIES.

A starving people cannot fight and win.

South Africa does not grow enough to feed the people. Mr. Rees Davies, of the Food Supply Board, has said that "it is evident that the Union does not produce the food necessary for adequate nutrition of its population. Food and more food is the key to the problem." (*Trek*, 13/2/42.)

Food is not plentiful in the Union; there is no "surplus" food. Therefore, food must be conserved, stored up, rationed. The production of foodstuffs must be increased, by better use of the land, extension of cultivation, and removal of all restrictions such as are imposed through control boards.

"The Union," writes Mr. Davies, "is at the stage where large numbers of Non-Europeans are starving and a large proportion of the Europeans suffer from malnutrition."

The existing supplies must be shared out so as to stop the rich from getting more food than they need while others starve. A more equitable division of supplies can be made only by a system of rationing and strict price control.

## MEASURES FOR DEFENCE CAN BE DEFEATED BY THE ENEMY IN OUR MIDST. SMASH THE FIFTH COLUMN! UPROOT THE FASCIST AGENTS AND SPIES!

This is a war not only of guns, but also of politics. Hitler fights with the Nazi Army and also with Nazi sympathisers among the peoples whose countries he occupies.

South Africa has its Fifth Column of Quislings and Nazis. Their leaders are found in high places, in Parliament, the Police, the Army and Civil Service. They are the people responsible for treasonable propaganda and sabotage.

Such are the men who will welcome an invading Axis army and assist it to defeat South Africa. They are disrupting the war effort. They are prepared to see South Africa a Nazi or Japanese colony.

Deal with the Pirows, Malans, Van Rensburgs and Eric Louws in a way that will prevent them from undermining the war effort and opening South Africa to the enemy. Smash the Fifth Column!

### Listen to the words of General Smuts:

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TO-DAY SOUTH AFRICA IS IN VERY DIRE PERIL. IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME AT WHICH OUR PEOPLE SHOULD BE UNITED, THIS IS IT. IF EVER IN OUR HISTORY WE HAVE TO SAFEGUARD OUR FUTURE SAFETY, THIS IS THE OCCASION. IMMEDIATE DANGER IS BEFORE US."

Arm the people! Demand a Ministry of Home Defence to give adequate attention to preparation against invasion. Demand conscription of all able-bodied persons and of all financial and productive resources of the country for national defence.

JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT FOR A UNITED FRONT OF ALL PEOPLE AGAINST FASCISM, AND WHICH TO-DAY PUTS FORWARD A REALISTIC PROGRAMME FOR THE DEFENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FASCIST ENEMIES.

The heroic and successful defence of the people of the Soviet Union has shown what can be done by a united and free people.

**Act now before it is too late—forward to victory!**