

A one-day event to alert public opinion to the threat of the 'apartheid bomb', to mobilise opposition to all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa and to stop the importing of uranium from Namibia and South Africa

# Saturday 31st October'81 University of London Union Malet St, London WC1

10-45-5-30



Organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and sponsored by CND as a contribution to 'Steps for Survival' and the United Nations Disarmament Week



# 'South Africans now able to produce a bomb' (*The Times,* London, 30 April 1981)

# Poes South Africa have the bomb?

It has the scientific capability — the technology, 'know-how' and personnel. It has the resources — it mines large quantities of uranium in Namibia and South Africa, and has a secret enrichment plant. And it persistently refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Most experts believe South Africa already has a small arsenal of nuclear weapons.

### Can South Africa deliver the bomb?

It has advanced military aircraft and missile It is also developing an artillery system for firing low-yield nuclear shells.

#### What is the evidence?

In August 1977 US and USSR satellites detected a nuclear test site in the Kalahari desert. Western leaders appealed to South Africa not to explode its nuclear device, and no explosion was reported then. However, in September 1979 a US satellite detected a double flash off the South African coast — the unmistakeable evidence of a nuclear explosion. The CIA also reported a South African naval operation in that area at the same time.

## Is there a real danger of a nuclear holocaust? Yes.

The South African Deputy Defence Minister himself stated in September 1980 that 'it would be very stupid not to use it if nuclear weapons were needed as the last resort to defend oneself'.

The apartheid system by its nature does not respect black lives — it has been designated a 'crime against humanity'. South Africa is already involved in a series of 'secret wars' against neighbouring African states which culminated in the invasion and occupation of southern Angola in August 1981. It has 100,000 troops illegally occupying the international territory of Namibia.

Daily, as the resistance of the South African and Namibian people grows, the Pretoria regime becomes more desperate and increases its reliance on the use of force in order to threaten and terrorise all opponents of apartheid. Many leaders of the ruling Nationalist Party were interned during the war for pro-Nazi activities and the apartheid regime has repeatedly warned independent African states that continued resistance to apartheid will create 'a catastrophe too ghastly to contemplate'.

The regime is determined to uphold apartheid, even if it involves the use of a nuclear bomb; it is not difficult to believe that it would, in desperation and 'as a last resort', unleash a nuclear holocaust.

#### What can we do to help stop a nuclear holocaust in Southern Africa?

Britain has played a critical role in enabling South Africa to secure its nuclear capability — and continues to do so. It is vital that anti-apartheid, anti-racist and peace activists combine their resources to put an end to all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa and stop the importing of Namibian and South African uranium.

#### Some examples of the British Connection

- \*successive governments, Tory and Labour, have vetoed proposals in the UN Security Council to impose a mandatory ban on all forms of nuclear collaboration with South Africa
- \*two recruitment offices in London openly entice nuclear scientists and engineers to work in South Africa for its Atomic Energy Board and its nuclear reactor programme. National and local press carry recruitment advertisements
- South African government sponsored students are being trained at Imperial College on a nuclear fuel technology course with UK Atomic Energy Authority lecturers this was discovered by a tip-off from South Africa there may be other universities and colleges where similar arrangements exist
- \*Trafalgar House (owners of Cunard Liners and Express Newspapers); Barclays; RTZ

   are amongst the companies directly and indirectly contributing to South Africa's nuclear programme: they must be exposed and their collaboration halted
- \*cover 50 per cent of Britain's uranium requirements come from Namibia alone under a contract which is breaking international law
- there is a cooperation agreement between the UK Atomic Energy Authority and the South African Atomic Energy Board.

What can we do?

Inform: A nationwide campaign is required to arouse concern

Mobilise: We can hinder and undermine South Africa's nuclear weapons programme by organising effective campaigns.

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# Anti-Apartheid Movement for freedom in southern africa

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