

The Only Answer to Oppression is Struggle

by Janet Jagan

A white South African journalist, Mr. Paul Trewhela, who was jailed in South Africa for his political activities left his country for England after three years imprisonment. In England he told of the appalling conditions in the South African jails and also of the treatment meted out to the distinguished barrister, Mr. Bram Fischer who is now serving life imprisonment.

Mr. Trewhela told the press that he and his fellow political prisoners, found that continued struggle, continual protests and continual indignation did eventually in small ways bring results.

"Before I left jail," he said "my colleagues there asked me to tell the world: 'Please don't think that protests have no effect. Every protest, however small, helps.

Don't worry about the effect of protests upon the people who are in jail. The only thing that really hurts them is apathy."

This is a very fundamental truth that can guide us here in Guyana. Defeatists might say that conditions are so hopeless in South Africa that it is best to sit quiet and protest one's life or that for those who are in jail and suffering awful conditions it is best not to exacerbate the situation by agitation.

Not so! These men have learned by exper-

ience that struggle is the best weapon. Without struggle, without protests, without hate against injustice, the authors of injustice, those who misuse power, take even harsher methods. They feel that they can do anything they want and then they use the steam roller, crushing everyone beneath the machine of power.

Here in Guyana we have those who know quite clearly the right from the wrong, who are dismayed at some of the horrible injustices taking place, but who think it is best to sit quietly and not risk the pressures that arise from protests. Others, motivated by self interest only, seek compromise with injustice and sell their bodies and souls for what they can get. There are others who think that struggle is a waste of time that it brings no results and that it encourages more injustice and oppression.

All are very, very wrong. The man who fears that struggle brings no results is as weak as the man who sells out or

as we say here — puts his mouth where the soup is dropping.

Struggle is the basic means the people must use to resist the growing trend of the puppet government to abolish all democratic freedoms, to limit the power of Parliament and to deny the working class their inherent rights.

Struggle is the only way to stop the fascist-minded government which is de-

termined to fulfil the desires of its sponsors to crush the march to socialism in our country. Struggle requires the determination of the masses to withstand the pressure which will arise out of struggle. It also requires the knowledge and determination that with struggle important gains are made. Mr. Trewhela learned this very clearly in one of the most repressive countries in the world.

The more persistent the struggle of the oppressed peoples against their exploiters, the more successful their resistance to their oppressors, the more rapid is the progress made in all spheres of the life of society.

O Fighting Men

(FROM FRONT PAGE)

We grind oppression in the dust,

O workers, stand fast in the line

O Comrades, give the fighting sign.

The people's only flag is Red.

We'll keep the Red Flag flying.

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The People's army marches on

The people work and march as one

For every woman, every man,

Works for our better

future.

glt

PPP

To keep the Red Flag flying.

Quotes to Note

(FROM FRONT PAGE)

Government's labour placing policy is 'fraught with disregard for service and is a cold, calculating act of retrenching workers with years of service and experience.'

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