

Workers Solidarity and Racism

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Comrades, a classical Marxist-Leninist is bound to pose the question: if in Zimbabwe, as in South Africa, there is so much industrialisation which survives on exploiting the African workers, why are the African workers not engaged in strikes and continual disruption of industries? Why are the white workers not combining with the African workers to march in common revolution against their employers? We also throw back the question and say, did Lenin not envisage a change of tactics by the oppressor in the face of continuous challenge?

Indeed this is the situation. The factor of racism used by the European oppressors in Africa, against the African, precludes any common position between the African and European worker. The only response that the oppressors make to the African worker for any action to assert his rights is the *gun* — hence the heavy military build-ups. It is on this basis that the revolutionary struggle in Southern Africa must not be conceived on any other basis except the armed struggle. We have taken up arms, and once again, thanks to the assistance of socialist countries. The ZAPU-ANC guerrillas are on the battlefield in Zimbabwe in anticipation of the inevitable general Southern African confrontation.

Comrades, I have used our situation to expose and demonstrate the subjective and objective conditions prevailing on the present revolutionary front against colonialism and imperialism. Meeting here as Marxist-Leninists, in honour of the tremendous contribution of Lenin, we cannot come out with praises of ourselves only. The oppressors are far from vanquished, in fact they are showing signs of resurgence. They have what is called counterinsurgency training centres, like the one in Portugal, for the training of mercenaries and all kinds of dirty work against the revolution. The imbalance in material and financial strength between armed revolutionary movements and the oppressors is too big to console ourselves; the economic and military strength of countries that serve as bases for the armed struggle is dangerously fragile. We cannot allow the revolutionary legacy of Lenin to collapse in the hands of our generation — we must fight.