

124

POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO MILITARISM  
IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY.

f2(3)

Rev "124"

THE CRISIS

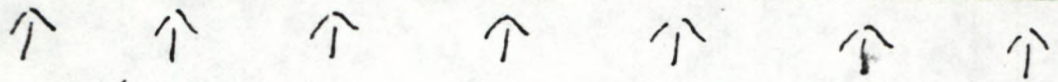
Structural/economic factors:

- growth of monopoly capitalism
- recession
- increased unemployment
- rising inflation
- price hikes in basic foodstuffs
- war economy
- skills shortage
- role of insurance to rest of economy  
+ 1000 private businesses in other
- skilled + unskilled unemployed  
looking to SADF for employment
- housing - e.g. K.T.C.
- drought

Ideological factors:

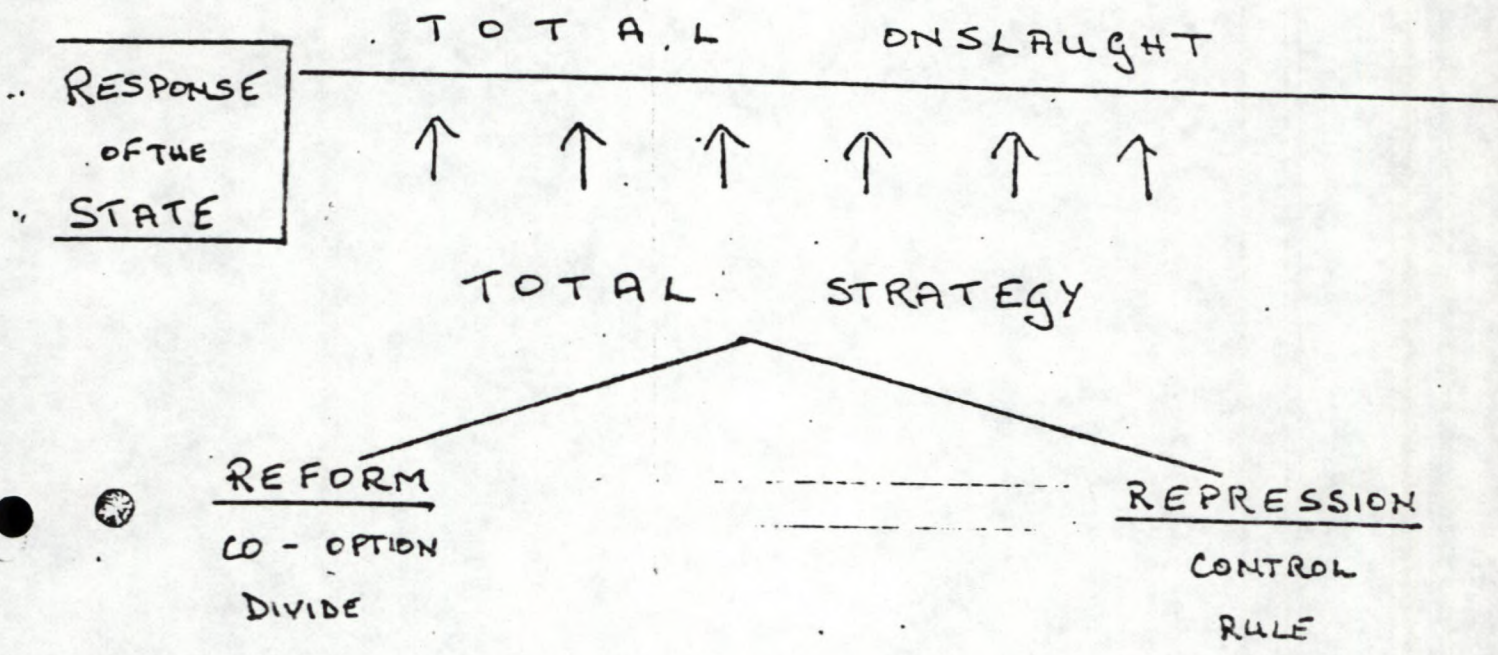
- media - threat to end of media
- myth of communist threat
- myth that the war can be won
- myth that army can be used as shield  
while reform happens (PFP)
- T.V.
- bonus bonds
- army making "he-men"
- use of language - e.g.  
terrorist - freedom fighter
- use of army in adverts
- apartheid - struggle of ideas
- education for perpetuation of  
the system.



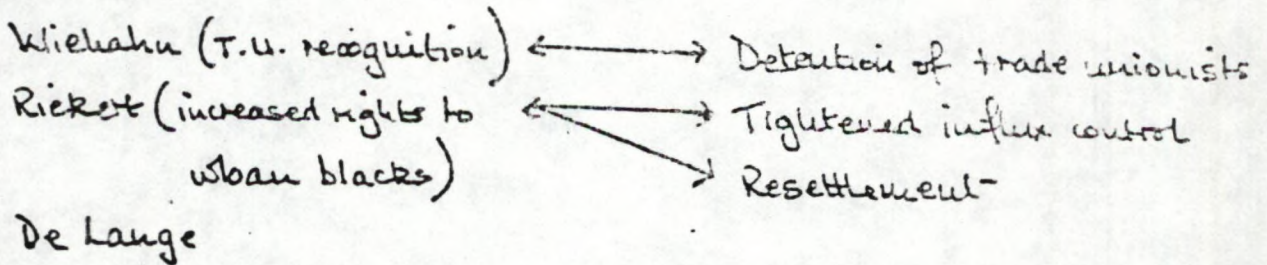


Political resistance factors:

- worker action grows
- worker-supportive action on increase
- rise of schools, youth, student, worker community, sports organisations
- growth of exiles (white) resisting SWDF call-up
- re-emergence of ANC presence in W. Cape + in general
- relatively outspoken + unbiased news reports on independent radio 604



→ Commissions:



institutional proposals:

- 'Power sharing' ↔ Concentration of power
- 'Inclusion' of 'Coloureds' ↔ Apartheid  
+ Indians  
(extend laager)

> Rikhotso judgement

↔ Bantustans implementation

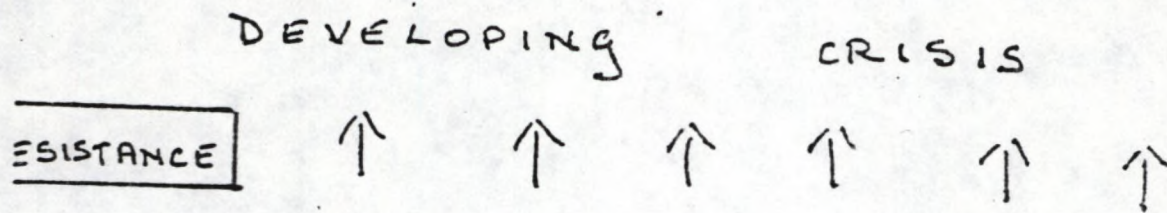
KTC

Khayelitsha

Koorhof Bills

- quota bill
- tightening up of security legislation
- police empowered to search cars anywhere
- Commission of Enquiry into S.A.C.C.
- Army used for repression not defence & in civil issues
- atrocities in Namibia :-
  - economic / political used for war there
- increasing role & extent of military in society
- destabilization of frontline states for economic & political reasons:
  - Keep them economically dependant on S.A.
  - e.g. MMR, UNTA, ZLA, Zimbabwe resistance troops
- raiding of ANC + SWAPO offices abroad
- homeland armies:
  - Transkei: 17% budget on development
    - rest on salaries, mostly police + army
  - sophisticated recruiting propaganda
- foreign support:
  - embargos & sanctions not enforced
  - new set of international relations
    - e.g. Israel, Taiwan, Chile, etc
  - military technology & knowledge exchange

- UK + USA involvement:
  - training centre on interrogation methods
  - "co-operation" with 3rd world governments
- international militarization + violence
- massive IMF loan of R. 1240 million
- admittance of SADF to international military trade fair in Greece
- purchase of arms in Britain thru private sales
- upward spiral of arms trade
- business involvement in military
- influence of Army in Government:
  - National Security Council, Cabinet
- "hearts + minds" policy: 80% political, 20% military
- extended call-up



- Right-wing backlash:
- political storm in Dubsane leader
  - "battle of the Borge"
  - Broederbond / SADF controversy
  - general resistance to new constitution

Big business pressure

Foreign pressure:-

- negative coverage of SADF in Namibia at U.N.
- increase in anti-SADF reporting from journalists in neighbouring countries

- Internal resistance:-
- changing as economic crisis continues
  - T.U. activity
  - community resistance
    - e.g. Driefontein, KTC, Lamontville, Clusterville, Clairwood
  - COSAS + AZASO
  - growth & reemergence of democratic organisations
  - Charterists  $\longleftrightarrow$  National Forum
  - non-racial struggle

- Position of resisting whites:-
- increasingly isolated from white community
  - scope of operations narrowing

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑  
 DEVELOPING REPRESSION

RESPONSE

- media:
  - more severe clamp-down on reporting of military affairs
  - counter-propaganda
  - detentions and prosecutions
- likely call-up of "Coloured" & Indian men
- development of more sophisticated weaponry

THE FUTURE

Economy:

- promoting war economy to prop up sagging economy will ultimately unbalance it further

## Politicization / education

- need for united strategy in resisting co-optation
- need to plan ahead at a community level, to be creative, take initiatives
- way of approaching people is important
  - need to show why rather than play on fears
- spreading information:
  - e.g. business involvement in military needs to be exposed in S.A.
- possibilities of e.g. Bophuthatwana T.O.
- vigorous reporting in alternative community + student press.

## Militarization

- create awareness of civil war

## Conscription

- deal with doubts + fears

## Role of the Church

- ?

Report to N.E.C on events in Cradock

The Cradock Residents Association (Cradora) exploded on to the civic scene with a big bang on the 4 October 1983. The actual formation of CRADORA was the culmination of a relentless struggle by the residents of the township, which started when a meeting was called on the 25 August 1983 to protest the high rentals in the township.

The struggle initially manifested itself as a loose formation of people who were brought together by a common problem, the rent problem. Under the determined and resolute leadership of an interim committee, the unfolding of the struggle went beyond the confines of a specific problem. The particular civic issues were seen to be interwoven with, in fact to be emanating from the general problem of exploitation in our country.

The phenomenal growth of CRADORA went far beyond the expectations of those who oppose people's struggles. Clearly, the enemy underestimated the strength of the residents. When all indications were that the organisation was gathering strength from day to day, the establishment unleashed an all-out campaign to destroy it. The leadership, particularly the chairman, comrade Goniwe, became the targets of the security police. Activists received visits at their homes and places of employment. Many people reported the attempts of the security police to use them as informers. But harassment by the security police only served to give the organisation credibility, most particularly in the eyes of the youth.

When harassment by the security police did not achieve the required results, thousands of pamphlets were strewn all over the township on two different occasions. Even this venture was counter-productive. The anonymous smear pamphlets served to unite the residents against a common enemy. The authors of the smear pamphlets inadvertently helped to advertise the movement.

The growth of the movement necessitated the decentralisation of meetings to various church halls. The security police responded by approaching the church authorities of the churches in question. Consequently, one church after another denied us use of their halls. The minister of the only church hall open to us, the Church of Ascension, tried to deny us the hall and escape with his dignity unscathed. Where all along we were allowed to use the hall gratis, he demanded that we pay R2 a day retrospectively to our first meeting. As if this was not enough, we were subsequently told that the Church Council, which boasts a security policeman and a councillor in its membership, had decided that we would never use the hall again until we pay R15 a night and R7,50 a day retrospectively to our first meeting. We were told we owe R165. The person responsible for the hall, an active member of Cradora and a member of the Church Council, was kicked out of his duty for maintaining that there was absolutely no reason why we should be expected to pay for the hall.

On the 29 November 1983, our chairman comrade Goniwe, who was at the time acting principal of Sam Khallie Secondary School, received a letter from the circuit office at Graaff Reinet transferring him to Nweba High School at Graaff Reinet as acting Head of Department, with effect from the 1st January 1984. The news of the transfer was received with great shock by the community. Meetings were held to discuss the transfer. Letters were written and deputations led to various departmental authorities.

The situation is so emotion-charged, the youth association, CRADOYA, has resolved to call for a school boycott if all attempts to reason with those responsible fail. Presently, a combined effort is being made by Cradora and Cradoya to circulate a petition which will be sent to the department.

There is only one aim in transferring comrade Goniwe, to wit, to frustrate the growth of Cradora. Since all other means exploded in the face of the enemy, the transfer of comrade Goniwe, who the enemy sees as the power behind the awakening in Cradock, was the only option left. Comrade Goniwe has, correctly, decided to ~~stick~~ defy the transfer. He didn't report for duty on the opening. In fact, he has decided to stay in Cradock and continue to organise the people. This is another victory for the people. Comrade Goniwe has effectively demonstrated the need to subordinate personal aggrandizement to national issues.

From last Friday, the 13 January, the security police embarked on another form of harassment and intimidation. On that Friday, the organiser of Cradora, comrade Goniwe (Jnr), was taken by security police from his place of employment. He was interrogated and released after a specimen of his writing and photographs were taken. The following morning at 4 O'Clock, the secretary of the organisation, comrade Ngikasho, and two members of Cradoya, comrades Frans and Jacobs were detained. They were also released after an interrogation which was accompanied by their writings and photographs being taken.

Cradora fervently wishes to ask the UDF for whatever kind of assistance it can offer in its efforts to have the transfer rescinded. We further wish to ask for a loan of R1000 which we promise to repay before the end of March. Following a decision which was taken at our first rent meeting on the 25 August, contributions of R5 per household were collected towards meeting the costs of taking the matter to court. We managed to collect a sum of R2,500. Whilst we enjoy the overwhelming support of the community, we feel that it will be impolitic to ask for money from the people until the court case is resolved one way or the other. The required loan will be used as capital which will be used to, amongst others, buy Cradora skippers which will be sold to generate interest for the organisation.

Compiled by:

..... (organiser)



**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

**©2012**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.