

McN91-31-1-18

WORKERS' RIGHTS; PLACE AND ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

- (a) It is a considered opinion of the Constitution Committee that in any future constitution there be a special provision dealing with the workers' rights, the place and role of trade unions.

This is in recognition of the leading role of the workers in our revolutionary struggle. Further there is bound to be a preponderance of workers to other classes in the new state. Black workers are in the majority and suffer double oppression as a nation and class.

Finally we can say with confidence that workers in South Africa are relatively more class conscious than others in the rest of Africa.

- (b) The questions which are raised for the consideration of the NEC are the following:-

- 1) Since the working class shall not yet be the collective owner and master of all national wealth what will be the nature and extent of their rights, i.e.

- (1) their right to form trade unions.

- How autonomous shall these trade unions be, taking into consideration ideological differences within the trade union movement at present;

- (2) what will be the relationship between ANC as the ruling party and trade unions.

- (3) What will be the nature and content of the right of workers or trade unions to strike.

- (c) NEC is required to give further guidelines as regards worker participation in management of enterprises; right of workers or trade unions to initiate legislation and their overall participation in the governance of the country.

LAND AND RURAL POLICY

Our land and rural policy as spelt out in the fundamental documents of the movement (the Freedom Charter and the Road to South African Freedom) involves confiscation, redivision and redistribution of the land amongst those who work it, and this implies the extention of private ownership of the land, though, of course, this was qualified in 1969 by the phrase ".....those who do not exploit the labour of others."

In the light of the current set up in South Africa, where the monopoly giants like Anglo-American, Balow Rand and Rembrandt, to mention just a few, have made significant inroads into agriculture, and also in the light of our desire to blunt petit-bourgeois and bourgeois aspirations among our people, particularly in the rural areas, a mechanical approach to and application of this policy would not be appropriate. In the 1984 and 1986 statements of January the 8th we have as the movement used the slogan "seize the land" and expressed the need for the movement to address the central task of the landless masses seizing the land which rightfully belongs to them.

Our commission has looked at how this question was addressed in other jurisdictions. Land was confiscated and the erstwhile owners expropriated, with or without compensation. Then the land was allocated to the state, to co-operatives and to individual citizens who will indulge in personal, private farming without using and exploiting the labour of others. We believe that in South Africa a national basis already exists for the creation of ~~and~~ and co-operate farms, with the proviso that those small farms who do not use and exploit the labour of others, shall be allowed ~~ed~~ to work. We are requesting and expecting proper instructions from the NEC in this regard.