

# STOP ALL MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

On 28 August, nine Royal Navy warships arrived in South Africa for joint naval exercises with the South African fleet. The visit, described by the Times as the biggest demonstration of British sea power in the area for years can only be a real source of encouragement for Mr Vorster and his fellow white supremacists.

The decision of the Labour Government not only to continue but to increase its military cooperation with the apartheid regime devalues its previous actions in re-imposing the arms ban and cancelling certain naval visits. Not only is it a sad blow to all those in Britain, independent Africa and the United Nations who were hopeful of a reversal of earlier policies of collaboration with apartheid, but it flies in the face of both Labour Party policies and the Labour Manifesto on which the Government was elected, which pledged support for the liberation movements of Southern Africa.

The naval exercises, involving use of South African weapon training facilities, provide for the South Africans precisely the experience they need to improve their expertise as well as confirming Britain's strategic support for South Africa. The Commander of the exercises, Rear-Admiral Clayton, although a little more discreet on this occasion, last year in Cape Town spoke confidently of the Navy's will and capability to increase its presence in the area. Nor are these exercises simply a one-off affair, but part of the growing military cooperation between South Africa, Britain, the United States and other NATO powers.

Their significance becomes even more sinister when viewed in the context of the new commitment of the Portuguese Government to decolonisation. Already, the South Africans have responded by doubling their naval expenditure.

If a Labour Government is willing to increase its military cooperation with South Africa, despite its commitment in Labour's Programme 1973 - which declared: "The next Labour Government will withdraw from all relationships resulting from the Simonstown 'Agreements' and all military exchanges, visits and technical arrangements will be terminated" - what hope is there that it will honour its promise in Labour's election manifesto of "a disengagement from Britain's unhealthy involvement with apartheid"?

Nor should the British people ignore the implications of their military forces training with fascists and racists.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement calls for a massive response from the labour movement and the British public for pressure on the Government to:

- \* END ALL MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA
- \* TERMINATE THE SIMONSTOWN 'AGREEMENT'
- \* PREVENT NATO SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA
- \* STOP ALL JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

South African overall military expenditure  
in 1974 ... .. R629 million (55% increase since 1973)  
South African naval expenditure in 1974... R56 million (100% increase since 1973)

### Recent military developments:

- In March 1973 - a £7 million subterranean computerised maritime defence headquarters opened at Silvermine, Westlake, near Cape Town.
- In May 1974 - it is revealed that the Supreme Allied Commander (Atlantic) of NATO has been ordered to draw up contingency plans for the military defence of the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
- In May 1974 - Admiral Biermann, Chief of the South African Defence Forces visited USA for 'a private visit'.

### Links with Britain:

- March 1971 Mission of South African consultants to Britain to inspect maritime defence equipment.
- July 1971 The Commandant-General of South Africa's armed forces visits Britain.
- November 1972 The Commander-in-Chief of the British Navy visits South Africa.
- November 1972 NATO Parliamentary committee recommends South African participation in defence arrangements in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans and closer military communications between Britain and South Africa.
- July 1973 Six British naval vessels participate in joint exercises with South Africa, 'honouring' for the first time certain undertakings in the 1955 Simonstown 'Agreements'.
- November 1973 Further joint naval exercises also involving the RAF and SAAF.
- July 1974 British Government admits regular cooperation between South African and British navies in conducting surveillance of Soviet warships.
- August 1974 Frigates HMS Mermaid and Llandaff visit Simonstown.
- August 1974 Nine Royal Navy vessels arrive at Cape Town for joint exercises.

We call on the Government to implement Labour's policy as agreed at Conference and as stated in Labour's Programme.

Help us to fight for it.

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