

EDITORIAL

The imposition of the state of emergency and the state's relative success in dampening down popular struggles has shifted political interest towards international pressure on South Africa. Opening up the international dimension to political debate is of considerable importance as South African social scientists and political activists often tend to assume uncritically that international pressure is the key to eliminating apartheid, while failing to assess South Africa's economic and political place in the international division of labour.

Three of the contributions in TRANSFORMATION 3 add to our understanding of the international dimension. Vishnu Padayachee tackles an area that has been ignored by local radical economists, but is of major importance to most students of imperialism in the modern world economy - the role of the International Monetary Fund. He addresses the issue of South Africa's dependent relationship to the IMF both historically and currently. Padayachee makes it clear that the IMF are apt to have their own agenda for South Africa and certainly their own criteria for doing business with it. Such an agenda threatens to shape transformations in the region as well as to react upon them.

The latest US Congress report on the influence of the South African Communist Party in our document section, by providing us with another facet of imperialism and the world order, explores a major strand in the political perspective of the United States. The USA desires to play a central role in any significant political shifts in South Africa. A variety of pressures are operating to tilt the American government away from friendship with Pretoria and towards a more accommodating relationship with the ANC as well as black politics in general. This document suggests one way in which powerful voices in the USA assess what may be the greatest dilemma for them, the historic role of the SACP as ally to the ANC.

Rob Davies deals with South Africa's dominant role in the region. His careful and detailed analysis focuses on the Nkomati Accord and the destabilisation of Mozambique. Revealing in its analysis of unity and division within the South African state as the article is, it may be argued that the perspective of the Mozambican state needs equally careful scrutiny.

Another focus of current interest is the relevance of the coming elections on 6 May and how mass organisations should react to them. Attracting an apparently unprecedented level of registration amongst white voters, the election campaign invites considerable analytical interest as well. South African English language papers have concentrated mainly on the hopes of

the PFP-NRP alliance as well as the Nat breakaways, especially Denis Worrall, and their impact in turn on the 'New Nats' remaining within the party. The document from the Centro de Estudos Africanos takes up the other side of the spectrum, the right-wing danger and its significance.

Steve Friedman discusses the relative strengths and weaknesses of popular and working class organisation and the ongoing struggles over different strategies within such organisations. He makes some very interesting comparative remarks looking at resistance before 1960 and in the most recent period and provocatively suggests the merits of an organisational as opposed to a protest strategy.

CONTRIBUTORS

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