

THE SOWETO UPRISING: A SECOND ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION.

The Soweto uprising of June 16th, 1976 marks an important watershed in the political history of South Africa. It indicates and forms a continuous link with other political events in Southern African history which have assisted in the growth and development of African peoples resistance against the political hegemony of *apartheid system* imposed on them by *western imperialism, their local allies and the European ruling class.*

The Soweto uprising of 1976 imparted two profound political lessons to the people of South Africa: theoretically, that anything is possible given a correct revolutionary analysis and a correct revolutionary practice; historically, that it is imperative that the *African National Congress (A.N.C.), the Pan Africanist Congress (P.A.C.)* and the *Black Consciousness Movement (B.C.M.)* forge a unity to confront, militarily, politically, economically and culturally, the apartheid state and its articulated political system. The historical legacy of the Soweto uprising, in its immediacy, concreteness, and practicality, expresses the absolute necessity of this unity: a unity at whose vanguard will be the working class of South Africa articulating a *Marxist-Leninist* ideology; a unity whose task is to establish a *socialist state*; and lastly but not least, a unity that will re-establish the heroic greatness of the South African people. The nature of this unity indicates the fact that the heroic Soweto uprising was a product of the unity of the radical student movement led by the revolutionary democrat *Steve Biko*, and the working class led by the more conscious proletariat in the mines of South Africa.

The Soweto uprising was also a product of the intersecting point of internal and external contradictions in Southern Africa: internally, the fissure within the apartheid political system was due to the aggressive competition between the different fractions of capital, industrial capital, mining capital, and commercial capital, the class struggle waged by the working class and the political constraints imposed by the apartheid state because of apartheid ideology on the development and movement of skilled African labor to the different parts of the economic sector; externally, the heroic victory of the Vietnamese Revolution against American imperialism, the great victory of the Portugal people against fascism, the victory of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau against Portugal and American imperialism, and lastly, but not least, the heroic struggle of the Zimbabwean and Namibian people. Hence the Soweto uprising was partly the product of the impact of these national and international factors. The Soweto uprising is the will and power of South African people.

**Committee of South Africans in Los Angeles. June 8th, 1978*

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