

# Worker and Peasant Revolution

## ZAPU

*A statement of ZAPU published in Zimbabwe Review  
(Lusaka), II, 5/6, May/June 1970.*

It is a very common thing to hear people say workers are more useful in an armed struggle against exploiters than peasants. Other people tend to hold the opposite view.

In a situation like that obtaining in Zimbabwe, one would find it rather difficult to support one stand against the other. This is because the history of the workers is so short that the process of urbanisation is still incomplete. It would be correct to say that workers in Zimbabwe are in fact still basically peasants who rely to quite a large extent for their livelihood on the land to which they go occasionally yearly.

Under such circumstances, therefore, the worker becomes the peasant, depending on the season of the year. Having established this basic fact, we can then try to see whether or not these people are more useful to the armed struggle when they are in the urban areas working in the factories, hotels, residential houses or toiling in fields out in the rural areas.

In a guerrilla struggle like the one ZAPU has embarked upon, it is vitally important to have roots all over the country. It is necessary to operate in the urban as well as in the rural areas.

Firstly, in the urban areas we find the majority of the enemy forces and most of their means of livelihood and defence. In order to render the enemy impotent, it is, therefore, important to attack his means of production and defence. Hence the urban worker is duty bound to look into the effect of actions like going on strike, sabotaging the enemy's means of production and defence so as to tie him down to the urban areas where more is at stake for him than in the rural areas.

Evidently, workers' organisations and underground machinery to sabotage the enemy's power in the towns will thus depend upon the worker. Without his violent actions and participation, the enemy in the urban areas would be utterly safe. This would be bad for the struggle.

When this worker goes to the rural areas, he needs must become the armed guerrilla fighter whose violent actions against the enemy at night must be worse than those of a lion while his actions during the day must be as unsuspecting as a humble dove.

The most successful worker-peasant revolutionary struggle depends solely on how well organised the worker operates in the urban areas and how

**violently the enemy is routed at night by the peasants in the rural areas.**

**We must be sheep to our friends but vicious tigers to our enemies wherever we are, if we really wish to win back our freedom and country. The basic aim of every worker in Zimbabwe today must be how best to destroy the enemy's means of livelihood because it is on this that he depends for power. An exploiter without means of production is as helpless as a fish out of water. The worker and peasant is the basis for success.**