

THE HEROES

OF AFRICA

by Mangaliso Sobukwe

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| In the P.A.C. political
| Calender, July 31, is the
| African Heroes' Day. On that
| day, in 1959, the PAC President
| delivered the following oration.
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"We are gathered here to commemorate our National Heroes Day. We are, today, going down the corridors of time to renew our acquaintance with the heroes of Africa's past--those men and woman who nourished the tree of African freedom and independence with their blood; those great sons and daughters of Africa who died that we may be free in the land of our birth.

"We are met here today to rededicate our lives to the cause of Africa; to establish contact, beyond the grave, with the great African heroes and to assure them that their struggle was not in vain.

"We are met here, sons and daughters of our beloved land, to drink from the fountain of African achievement; to remember the men and women who begot us; to remind ourselves of where we come from and to re-state our goals.

"We are here to draw inspiration from the heroes of Thaba Bosiu; Isandlwana; Sandile's Kop; Keiskama Hoek; Blood River and numerous other battlefields where our forefathers fell before the bullets of the foreign invader.

"We are here to draw inspiration from the sons and daughters of Africa who gave their all to the cause and were physically broken in the struggle. We are met here, sons and daughters of Africa, to take a trowel in our right hands, and a shield and sword in our left hands, to commence the tremendous task of rebuilding the walls of Africa.

"We are gathered here, today, to reiterate our resolve to declare total war against the demi-god of white supremacy. We are here to serve an ultimatum on the forces of oppression. We are here to make an appeal to African intellectuals and businessmen, African urban and rural proletariat, to join forces in a determined, ruthless, relentless and total war against white supremacy.

"We say to waverers and fence-sitters, choose now, for tomorrow may be too late; choose now, because very soon we shall be saying, with biblical simplicity, 'that he who is not with us is against us'

"The decks are cleared; the battle must be joined. The issues are clear-cut. In the arena of South African politics there are today only two adversaries: the oppressor and the oppressed; the master and the slave.

"We are on the eve of a continental showdown between the forces of evil and the forces of righteousness; the champions of oppression and the champions of freedom. Realising this, the oppressor is panic stricken and is making feverish preparations for a last ditch-stand in defence of his white supremacy. On the otherhand, the forces of freedom are gathering strength from day to day, disciplining, nerving and steeling themselves for the imminent struggle.

"The oppressor will not take this lying down. We are aware of the nature and size of our task. There is plenty of suffering ahead. But we are ready. We will not go back; We will not look back; We will not deviate; Come what may! Join us in the march to freedom! To independence now! Tomorrow the United States of Africa!! IZWE LETHU!!".

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HEART-TRANSPLANTS OR LEGALISED BUTCHERY

It has been known to us for a number of years that South African medical science has made an appreciable number of firsts because of its endless reservoir of human guinea-pigs -- the African people.

A few years ago South African researchers (white, of course) announced that Africans have a very low incidence of coronary thrombosis, relative to Europeans, because of the low fat content of their foodstuffs. This led to a few suitable /Africans arrested, under some of the multiple racial laws, for medical research. One halve of the group was fed on fatty foods whilst the other halve was made to keep its fat in-take to the barest minimum. /bein

This hypothesis was was later used by Verwoerdian politicians as a point for not raising the salaries of Africans. The argument used was that should Africans start eating butter and cheese with their breakfast the incidence of heart-diseases amongst them would be raised. In effect, they meant, starvation wages were meant for the continued good health of the Africans.

These disease free African hearts have now inspired one of the worst surgical gambles since Rasputin. Borrowing from the argument of one of the world's outstanding physicians, the reknown Russian surgeon of dog-to-dog head-graft fame, until the question of the incompatibility of cells is solved heart-transplants are a gamble with human life.

From the latest eye-witness reports on Blaaiberg, one of the thus far surviving recipients of transplanted hearts in South Africa, this question has yet not been solved in that country. Blaaiberg is a perpetual invalid. He can neither walk an appreciable distance nor do the slightest exercise for fear that his heart will come off its moorings.

But that is neither here nor there.

What is there is that Mrs. Haupt, the coloured so-called "donor's" wife, wants her husbands heart back. Recent reports are that she categorically and very vehemently states that she was steam-rollered into what she did not approve of. She now wants to bury the heart of her husband with his body as soon as Blaaiberg dies. She contacted the hospital authorities as soon

(Continued overleaf)

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The Motherland will feel for a long time the bitter humiliation it experienced at that critical period as a result of the imperialists making light of its struggle, a derogation that was beyond human endurance. To revolt against imperialism is the natural right of all colonised peoples.

THE CHARTER (1962)

--President Gamal A. Nasser

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