



Editorial Comment

VICTORY IS CALLING

This December 16, 1983, marks the twenty-second Anniversary of the founding of Umkhonto we Sizwe. Though the past twenty-two years of armed struggle have indeed been an uphill struggle, our People's Army has always emerged victorious. It has convincingly displayed its capability to engage and deliver devastating blows at the hated enemy. The heroic combat record set by our gallant army, from Komatipoort through Mkhuze to Sasol, Voortrekkerhoogte, Koeberg, Cape Town and Pretoria, Pietermaritzburg to Durban, has sown panic unprecedented in the ranks of the enemy. The cracks in the white laager are widening with every passing day.

It is no unwarranted pat-on-the-back to claim that the heroic mass struggles that characterise this decade have to a great extent been inspired by the daring record of our army. Umkhonto we Sizwe has shown not only its growing presence but has also demonstrated that the enemy bleeds and dies. This has filled the hearts of the oppressed millions of our land with hope of salvation and confidence in their ability and strength to fight back, thereby spurring them to more and more heroic actions.

The enemy, swallowing with pain its previous claims of having destroyed the back of the African National Congress, now sings a different tune. They openly admit that armed struggle is there to stay. *"South Africa must be prepared to accept certain levels of discomfort, disruption and even violence in their daily lives. It is imperative that they prepare themselves psychologically without becoming alarmist or dispirited,"* said the chief of the South African Defence Force (SADF). And they are employing all their energies to arrest this visible growth of armed struggle.

Hence the new constitution which has as one of its primary tasks the extension of conscription to Coloureds and Indians. Coupled with this is the growing recruitment drive for Blacks into the SADF. Already they account for more than fifteen percent of the enemy's armed forces. There is also the speeding up of granting 'independence' to the bantustans and, consequently, the creation, arming and deployment of their puppet armies. All because the regime now finds its resource of less than a million white male adults insufficient to meet their security needs.

DESTABILISATION

Inside the country repression has been stepped up to levels unequalled in the history of apartheid rule. And it has been exported to independent neighbouring African states. Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia none has been spared the ferocity of the cornered beast. The chief of the SADF defined (though partly) the goal of the destabilisation campaign against the Frontline States as follows:

"The possibility of further military action by the RSA against the ANC bases in neighbouring countries, along the lines of the recent attack after the Pretoria car-bomb blast, must not be ruled out.

"If the ANC were to be denied bases in neighbouring countries, they would not be capable of carrying out hit and run attacks on South African territory. They would, however, be unable to sustain high intensity operations for any period of time. Denied bases, they would have to infiltrate South Africa by air or by sea — which would make it virtually impossible for them, given the RSA's military might."

This exhorts and emphasises the simple fact that though the support of the Frontline States is vital, we must not and cannot rely on them to wage a victorious armed struggle but on the strength of the oppressed masses of our land. Let us draw lessons from the PLO's armed struggle. The task of the moment is to wage guerrilla warfare in the true meaning of the word.

Our assaults must be spread throughout the length and breadth of our country and they must be consistent and growing. The enemy must know no respite. And, lest we forget, ours is a people's war. Freedom is in sight but will only be within reach and ultimately claimed when the masses of the oppressed themselves are fighting with arms in hand. The successes MK has scored over the past years has made this all possible. Now is the time to build on them and march boldly to the victory is calling.



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