

THE BATTLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA IS ON!

Recently, P.W. Botha told the world that South Africa was already in the midst of the Third World War. Whether or not that is the case remains to be seen. We are not war-mongers. We do not want to involve the world in a major war. We are not fighting to protect privileges or to show off our might. We are fighting a just war of liberation. Nevertheless, Botha's statement underlines the fact that that liberation war is on.

More and more frequently, the racists are forced to admit to the intensifying activity of the African National Congress and Umkhonto we Sizwe inside the country. They have stopped boasting that they have "broken the back of the ANC".

Since Umkhonto we Sizwe was formed in 1961, we have had to work our way through many years of adverse conditions and setbacks. But gradually and irrevocably we are entering a period of sustained assault on the apartheid regime. Particularly since 1976, the activities of MK inside the country have escalated dramatically.

In this month in which we celebrate the anniversary of the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe in this Year of the Spear, we publish a list of armed actions that have occurred inside the country since 1976. The list is incomplete because not all incidents are reported. Those that are made public are reported according to the regime's version of them, and the regime is always keen to place our movement in a bad light no matter how successful the operation.

Nevertheless, we publish this list as an indication of the development of our armed struggle. It shows clearly that the Battle for South Africa is undoubtedly on.

19 March 1976: Hundreds of ANC pamphlets were scattered outside the offices of the Rand Daily Mail in Main Street, Johannesburg, when a pamphlet bomb exploded next to the building.

9 July 1976: Two pamphlet bombs exploded in the midst of rush-hour crowds at Johannesburg Station.

October 1976: A bomb exploded at Jabulani police station in Soweto.

30 November 1976: Two policemen were injured when four combatants of the African National Congress they had apprehended in the Eastern Transvaal escaped by throwing a hand-grenade into the cab of a police vehicle.

- 14 December 1976: Pamphlet bombs exploded in the centre of Cape Town scattering hundreds of ANC leaflets. The bombs exploded in Greenmarket Square and on the Parade.
- 15 December 1976: A pamphlet bomb exploded during the evening rush hour at the Mowbray bus terminal in Cape Town.
- 7 January 1977: A bomb exploded on a railway line near Soweto.
- 15 June 1977: A clash occurred in Goch Street, Johannesburg in which two whites were killed after three MK combatants were accosted during a routine police check.
- 15 June 1977: Two bombs exploded on railway lines in Soweto.
- 15 June 1977: A bomb blasted the Durban-Umlazi railway line, disrupting rail traffic for seven hours.
- 7 August 1977: Two pamphlet bombs exploded in the centre of Cape Town during lunch hour. The bombs went off in the Greenmarket Square and at the corner of Burg and Strand streets. Lunch hour shoppers and traffic stopped as the leaflets fell to the ground. At the same time a banner reading "The ANC Lives" was seen hanging from the top storey of the Parkade in Strand street. It was left hanging in full view of hundreds of passers-by for about 25 minutes before the metal clasp holding it fast to an iron railing was sawn by police.
- 26 September 1977: Two security policemen - a major and a sergeant - were wounded in a gun battle with a guerrilla in Dobsonville.
- November 1977: A clash took place between guerrillas and police near Pongola.
- 6 December 1977: A bomb explosion took place at the Germiston police station in the early hours of the morning. Extensive damage costing thousands of rands was caused to the station and to vehicles parked in the area. The explosion was heard 16 kilometres away.
- February 1978: Police and guerrillas clashed near the Swaziland border. Two policemen were killed. Police Minister, Kruger, says there have been other undisclosed battles like this in the Eastern Transvaal.
- 18 February 1978: A 2,5 kg bomb was found and defused fifteen minutes before it was due to explode in the basement of the 22-storey Bosman building in central Johannesburg.

21 February 1978: A BOSS agent - Bhekithemba Ma. - was found shot dead in his car at Umlazi.

22 February 1978: A bomb exploded at the Daveyton police station near Benoni.

10 March 1978: A bomb exploded outside the Port Elizabeth Bantu Affairs Administration Board.

April 1978: Abel Mthembu, former member of the African National Congress, who gave evidence in many ANC trials, starting from the Rivonia trial of 1964 up to the Pretoria 12 trial of 1977/78, was gunned down at his Dube home in Soweto.

26 June 1978: Orphan "Hlubi" Chapi, a black police sergeant who took part in the shooting of schoolchildren in Soweto during the 1976 uprisings, was gunned down in the yard of his Rockville home in Soweto.

August 1978: An MK unit was forced into action against the regime's 'Elite Task Force' and counter insurgency units assisted by units of the Bophuthatswana National Guard. The battle took place near Rustenburg, 75 miles from Pretoria. It lasted for many hours during which the enemy used planes and helicopters and saturated the area with gunfire, napalm, defoliants and teargas. It was reported that 10 members of the Task Force were killed and that the MK unit took successful evasive action, losing one cadre captured.

10 September 1978: Leonard Mkosi, former member of the ANC who turned his back on his people and joined the ranks of the enemy, giving evidence against many combatants of MK, was gunned down whilst in bed at his Kwa-Mashu home near Durban.

October 1978: A major clash between guerrillas and police took place in an area between Vryburg and Mafeking, about 300 kilometres from Johannesburg.

27 October 1978: 3 guerrillas clashed with security forces in Bophuthatswana.

30 October 1978: In a clash between three guerrillas and police about 50 km west of Louis Trichardt, a police sergeant was seriously wounded, while the guerrillas escaped.

November 1978: A police patrol despatched to investigate the presence of "terrorists" in the Mara district of Northern Transvaal was taken by complete surprise in a successful ambush.

- 22 November 1978: A farm in the Tshipise area was attacked by an armed man, and the owner of the farm wounded.
- 30 November 1978: There was an explosion in the guards van of a train near Pretoria. The bomb was believed to be in a mail-bag, and it destroyed mail and damaged the van.
- 7 December 1978: The house of a security policeman in Sebokeng was petrol-bombed.
- 7 December 1978: A bomb blasted the old Urban Bantu Council Chambers in Soweto, which currently houses the Soweto Community Council.
- 16 December 1978: The railway line between Berlin and Fort Jackson in the Eastern Cape was sabotaged by a bomb blast.
- 13 January 1979: A gun battle took place between police and guerrillas in the Derdepoort area.
- 18 January 1979: Two guerrillas escaped from prison cells in Johannesburg abducting a black police constable.
- 20 January 1979: A bomb exploded near New Canada station on the rail route to Johannesburg.
- 22 January 1979: An explosion occurred on the Johannesburg-Soweto railway line.
- 24 January 1979: An unexploded bomb was found near Pierie Station in the Eastern Cape.
- 29 January 1979: Three men approached an employee of the Bureau of State Security as he sat in his car in Umlazi and shot him dead.
- 21 March 1979: A Vereeniging security policeman was shot in Sebokeng. He was shot three times in the arm, face and stomach by three people who escaped afterwards.
- 24 February 1979: A black police sergeant stationed at John Vorster Square was killed.
- 4 March 1979: A land-mine exploded on the SA/Mozambique border.
- 23 April 1979: An unexploded bomb was found on the railway line between Vereeniging and Johannesburg.
- 23 April 1979: 3 kilograms of explosives were found on the railway line between Nancefield and Kliptown stations, near Soweto. The rail was closed between 7,30 am and 10,00 am

while the explosives were being removed.

1 May 1979: Hundreds of South African Communist Party pamphlets were distributed at different points around the centre of Johannesburg. The pamphlets were also distributed at a crowded bus stop near Faraday station, Westgate station, on the corner of Bree and Sauer streets and in Diagonal and Hoek streets. All these areas were crowded with commuters.

1 May 1979: SACP pamphlets entitled "Why they hate the Communists", printed in English and Afrikaans, were distributed in various parts of Durban including the Warwick Avenue Indian business area, at the busy African railway commuter station at Dalton and in strategic places in the Kwa-Mashu and Umlazi African townships.

5 May 1979: Three combatants of MK attacked the Moroka police station, killing one policeman, injuring two and destroying the police records.

May 1979: A bomb exploded at the Daveyton police station near Benoni which blasted a hole in the station, caused the death of a black police constable and destroyed police records stored there.

15 May 1979: A fuel tanker was derailed between Durban and Stanger. Three of the derailed trucks caught fire, destroying 80,000 litres of petrol.

15 May 1979: A powerful briefcase bomb exploded in an office in the Supreme Court in Cape Town at lunch time.

22 July 1979: Two forestry officials were wounded in a shoot-out in the Drakensberg. The incident occurred in the Mdedema Gorge, near Cathedral Peak after five forestry officials encountered two men in the area.

5 August 1979: A petrol bomb was thrown at a patrol car at a speed trap near Apies river. The inspectors manning the trap were amazed to see a bottle of petrol burning next to the car after hearing a bump on the roof. A man was seen disappearing into the bush.

5 September 1979: Hundreds of pamphlets, which consisted of at least four varieties and with quotes of South African leaders [redacted] were spread shortly before lunch time on the corners of Hoek and Noord streets near the Johannesburg railway station.

5 September 1979: More than a thousand pamphlets were dropped in Sauer Street. The pamphlets showed pictures of the President of Cuba, comrade Fidel Castro as well as of President Agostinho Neto and Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, Chairman of the South African Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the ANC's Revolutionary Council, shaking hands in Luanda. The pamphlets were distributed to commemorate Dr. Dadoo's 70th birthday. People in the streets below scrambled to pick up the pamphlets as they fluttered down. Many people gave them to passing motorists.

2 November 1979: Orlando police station in Soweto was attacked by a group of guerrillas. Two black policemen were killed and one wounded. The police station was extensively damaged. The guerrillas escaped despite an intensive police search.

"WE IN THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS DO NOT IMAGINE THAT THE DEFEAT OF IMPERIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL BE QUICK OR EASY. WE REALISE IT WILL BE LONG-DRAWN AND BLOODY. BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT OF THE FINAL OUTCOME. AS OUR FORCES DRIVE DEEPER INTO THE SOUTH, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL BE JOINED NOT BY SOME, BUT BY THE WHOLE AFRICAN NATION; BY THE OPPRESSED MINORITIES, THE INDIAN AND COLOURED PEOPLE; AND BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF WHITE DEMOCRATS.

"TOWARDS THIS VICTORY WE WILL FIGHT TO THE BITTER END".

- COMRADE PRESIDENT O.R. TANBO -