

out Congress called upon the people to rise up and challenge all apartheid laws and practices. More important and indeed a concretisation of the the unflinching determination of our people to be free, was the adoption of the Freedom Charter at the Congress of the People on June 26 1955. "The Freedom Charter," Comrade Nelson Mandela said, "is a beacon to the Congress Movement and an inspiration to the people of South Africa!"

In the years that followed, each passing June 26 contributed most tremendously to the weakening of pillars of white minority rule in our country. Whereas to our oppressed people it is a day of rededication, it is more still an occasion commemorated internationally by friends and sympathisers with the national liberation movement of our country. In this connection it symbolises the cementing of bonds of solidarity and unity between our people and the entire democratic forces of the world. This makes it a hoodoo day for the Pretoria fascists.

In this Year of the fighting Youth of South Africa, the last generation to be oppressed in our country, we vow on this occasion of June 26 to renew our dedication and loyalty to our struggle. We must hit the enemy wherever he is. A great task rests on our shoulders. Our struggle must be advanced to new levels. We owe it to our friends who give us all the material and moral support and we owe it to all those who fell, all those who are imprisoned. History leaves us no choice. The Year of the Youth should end with our people better organised and prepared to meet the enemy in all fronts.

## **FACING THE FUTURE CONFIDENTLY**

**EMIL MONDE**

This month marks the 31st Anniversary of South Africa's Freedom Day, a day that has borne so many historical events in the struggle for freedom and independence by the people of South Africa. This is a day that also and most importantly saw the adoption of the Freedom Charter whose 26th Anniversary we also celebrate this month. We mark this occasion at a time when, on the one side, there exists positive proof of the inevitability of victory of the democratic forces in our country, whilst on the other, the reactionary camp is frantically mobilising its energies to undermine peace and social progress in the world in general, Africa and Southern

Africa in particular.

Southern Africa has recently seen new attempts by the recently sworn in administration of Ronald Reagan supported by the Thatcher government and other partners in the so-called Western Contact group, to try to roll back the wheel of history. The US Administration is now planning to modify the UN Resolution Number 435 on the independence plan of Namibia. It has also come out in support of the fascist Botha-Malan boer regime in South Africa and last but not least, it has openly vowed to subvert the Angolan Revolution by arming the rebel and counter-revolutionary bandits of UNITA.

Today Southern Africa is becoming the battleground where the fiercest conflict between the oppressed and the oppressor is raging, where the fascist oppressors are teaming up with their international masters, the Reagans and the Thatchers with the aim of maintaining the status quo in our region.

### **M Y T H**

It is important to note that profound changes characterising the alignment of forces today have taken place. The resounding victories of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and recently Zimbabwe have buried for all the time the myth so assiduously cultivated by the imperialists that superior military power is a decisive force in the making of history even when confronted by a determined people fighting for a just cause. The impetus of these on our own freedom struggle cannot be over-emphasised. This is being demonstrated by the ever increasing victories scored by the people of Namibia led by SWAPO and its people's army, PLAN. Despite all the frantic efforts by the fascist occupationist regime of Pretoria to project the Turnhalle puppets as the leaders of the people of that territory, SWAPO has continued to be the authentic leader of the Namibian people.

This myth has also been well buried in South Africa itself where our people proved beyond any shadow of doubt to both the racists and their reactionary international allies that nothing can stop them in their march to a free and democratic South Africa as enshrined in the Freedom Charter. The anti-republic campaign which was a resounding victory for the liberation movement of our country as led by our people's vanguard movement, the African National Congress and its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, should be appreciated in this context.

### **M I L I T A R I S A T I O N**

It is also noteworthy here that we are marking this day

when the fascists are trying desperately to complete their militarisation of our country, encouraged by the Reagan Administration to form military and naval pacts with other reactionary countries of Latin America that include Argentina and Brazil, under the name South Atlantic Treaty Organisation (SATO), whose first exploratory talks have recently been held in Buenos Aires. The sole purpose of this is strengthening of their military machine aimed at carrying out more acts of aggression against the peoples of the Front-Line States, particularly the People's Republics of Angola and Mozambique.

It is a known reality that the fascists conquered our country by force and they still continue to rule it by force even today. It should therefore not be surprising that these racists will always resort to the gun whenever we stand up to demand our freedom and independence. The Matola Massacre is a clear testimony to this. Though the fascists sought to re-assure the white electorate of their capability to 'crush' any opposition, the response of our people and the People's Spear, the Nation's Spear demonstrated without any shadow of doubt with their co-ordinated actions marking the anti-republic activities, our ability to bring the fascist beast to his knees. Our calm and cool resolve, showed its strength to prove that "violence is a two-way street."

### **WE RE-AFFIRM OUR CONVICTION**

It is at this moment in time therefore, that we re-affirm our commitment to the eradication of Apartheid, a world-widely condemned policy of genocide, humiliation and above of all an international crime against humanity. It is at this moment in time that we should close ranks more than ever before in our unity and resolve in fighting this cancerous system.

On this day, we think of our fallen heroes and martyrs who have laid down their dearest possessions, their lives, in pursuit of a goal so just and noble - the liberation of our Motherland and thus contributing to the establishment of peace in our region and the world as a whole.

It is also at this moment that we look forward to a true and democratic South Africa of the Freedom Charter. As our imprisoned leader, Comrade Nelson Mandela puts it: "We face the future with confidence. For the guns that serve Apartheid cannot render it unconquerable, for those who live by the gun shall perish by the gun." Ours is to unite, mobilise and fight on, for the struggle continues and victory is certain!