



Editorial Comment

THE SPEAR LIVES

On December 16 this year, our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary as the striking arm of our struggling masses. This is indeed a proud moment for all of us. A moment when we glance in retrospect over a brief yet so glorious a record of struggle. It has been a hectic history with numerous obstacles which posed as it were, great challenges which could only be surmounted through sacrifice, courage and undying determination to terminate our national ordeal - centuries of domination and oppression by an incorrigible minority of white supremacists.

For twenty years, the armed militants of Umkhonto, wading through a rude sea of struggle, held aloof the banner of popular freedom refusing to submit. In this manner adding lofty landmarks and winning the confidence of the oppressed. The courageous trail of our army leads from the momentous Sabotage Campaign of 1961/62, the world-shaking "Rivonia Trial" of 1964, the pace-setting "Wankie-Sipolile Campaigns" - events which in themselves accelerated the pace of our liberatory struggle tremendously. This heroic record has helped to establish a firm foundation upon which rests the mounting offensive of today.

As we celebrate this historic Anniversary we pledge to use it as a stepping stone for the escalation of our

revolutionary war. We pledge ourselves to sharpen our peoples spear, the MK, through the intensification of programmes of rigorous political and military training that will help elevate our fighting efficiency to majestic heights. By so doing we hope not only to hasten the process to bring closer the realisation of the lofty aspirations of our people enshrined in the Freedom Charter, but also to meet the expectation of our leadership and people, to enable them to say with full satisfaction, "Here at last is an army of our dreams."

Ours is an army fortified and bestowed with great traditions which are in fact the collective heritage of all our people. For that matter we cannot afford to let our spear rest. The spear lives and must live as the custodian of the heroic tradition of fighting established through more than 250 years of armed resistance to colonial conquest; as the continuator of the spirit of Mangaung that inspired the birth of our African National Congress in 1912.

Our quest for the seizure of power and for national freedom is no easy matter. We acknowledge its difficult nature and therefore both our strategic approach and perspectives are based on the recognition of the storms we have to grow through. In this connection, sober assessment and revolutionary perspicacity that is founded on firm conviction in the inevitability of popular victory, becomes one of the indispensable parts of our arsenal.

The recent history of our fight, particularly the Post-Soweto period, has seen a speedy progression towards a more formidable offensive - thanks to the daring fighting record established by Umkhonto during this period. MK is actually beginning to fulfill its role of giving a cutting edge to the people's thrust forward. This is the fruit of the gallantry and example of daring and sacrifice set by militants of the calibre of Vuyisile Mini, Joseph Mdluli, Solomon Mahlangu, the Silverton Trio (Wilfred Madela, Fanie Mafoko and Thami Makhubo) and many others.

On the occasion of this historic Anniversary we reiterate our call to the youth, workers, rural masses, the intelligentsia, the religious people and every conscious and patriotically-motivated individual or collective to lift higher the banner of struggle on all fronts. We invite them to rally behind their true representative and vanguard, the African National Congress and our armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe. Furthermore we invite all able-bodied men and women from all

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and preparation that goes into their cultural performances pay tribute to the character and talent of an MK cadre. Their determination to produce the best can be testified by those who had the pleasure of attending their shows during their tour of Western Europe and also of Southern Africa.

The poetry and articles that appear in the monthly journal of Umkhonto we Sizwe, **D A W N**, bear testimony to the cultural and literary abilities of an MK soldier. The posters, art-works produced by the MK art group is a clear indication of the creativity of the cadres of our People's Army.

Is it possible for anybody to call such a soldier a terrorist? If anybody does, then we must suspect his ability to understand and appreciate the fruits of human heritage called civilisation.

To you the people of **S o u t h A f r i c a** such is your army, the creator of a future based on the provisions of the Freedom Charter. It is 20 years old, yet **a c t s** as a mature, civilised and determined adult.

FORWARD TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY!

FORWARD TO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANC!

FORWARD TO THE YEAR OF UNITY IN ACTION!

FORWARD TO A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT!

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sections of our population to swell the ranks of our army. For, as the Vietnamese people say: "Every citizen a soldier and when the bandits come even the women fight."

During this proud moment, we remember all our patriots who have laid down their lives in the fight for freedom, to them we say: **Eternal Glory!** We salute our heroic leaders and comrades incarcerated in boer-fascist dungeons and pledge to indefatigably fight for their release. We salute our fellow combatants and comrades, the "Pretoria Six", who despite the threatening hand of the fascist hangman still carry their heads high as true patriots do.

To the Pretoria **m o n s t e r s** and all their henchmen and proxies we say: The hour of reckoning is fast approaching and there can be no turning back. We are uncompromisingly committed to a protracted war of liberation. Victory will be ours and the enemy will be brought to justice.

LONG LIVE THE SPEAR OF THE NATION!

FORWARD TO VICTORY!