



## Editorial Comment

# A PROUD MOMENT FOR ALL

January 8th, 1982, falls upon us against the background of resounding victories scored by the millions of our oppressed during the recent history of our struggle. It has not been a very smooth history. It was full of many sharp turns and dangerous pitfalls. Thanks to the revolutionary perspicacity and sound leadership of the ANC, we were able to surge forth in spite of the maze of enemy counter-plans aimed at strangulating our liberatory drive, we have had to wade through.

Today, scanning in retrospect the past three years in the life of the ANC - years which have gone down in our annals as the "Year of the Spear", the "Year of the Freedom Charter and of the South African Worker" and the "Year of the Youth" - we cannot but marvel at the remarkable progression our popular struggle has registered under the guidance of our ANC. Throughout this entire period, in the spirit in many ways reminiscent of the "roaring fifties", our entire people: professionals, students, workers, the rural masses, the religious community, the young and old of our country, mounted a powerful offensive which not only elevated our struggle to new heights, but also boosted the morale of the fighting ranks, imbuing them with confidence in their own ability to defeat the oppressor.

Umkhonto We Sizwe has visibly become the striking arm of the people, giving a "cutting edge" to all their militant campaigns. The MK, as it is popularly known has become a household name in our country, thus proving itself to be of the people. During the said period it has not only wrecked several joints in the apartheid machine, but it has also successfully liberated our people from the fear of white minority administration and police terror. As a result the mass militant actions inside our country are ever on the upgrade.

These are the fruits of the 70 years resilience and determination of the ANC under its farsighted and tested leadership. As we proceed with the marking of the 70th Anniversary of the ANC and the 'Year of Unity in Action' we look back over 7 decades of a glorious record of struggle. It is this record that constitute the bedrock upon which the current offensive that is building up and intensifying has been pitched. We share the glory of these achievements with the progressive communities of the world.

On marking this great occasion we proceed to invite all our allies, friends and supporters everywhere to join us in a concerted campaign to make 1982 a year of intensifying the international political, economic and cultural isolation of the Pretoria fascists by doing all within the range of possibility to realize the wish of the UN to make 1982 the 'Year of Sanctions against the racist South Africa'.

Above all, we invite the battle-stepped multiformations of our bold masses to unleash their energies, unsparing of themselves in an unremitting offensive for the razing down of the citadel of apartheid. Our tasks this year are very clear: We are to "act in unity and unite in action". At the close of this year, the smoke eddying from our revolutionary fire should have reached and engulfed a cross section of our population and thus uniting them under the revolutionary banner of the ANC. This will mark an important milestone towards realizing this as a decade of liberation.

**FORWARD TO UNITY IN ACTION!**

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