

and their successes are sure to bring about the end of the connection between Central America, Caribbean and Latin America as a whole with racist South Africa.

And for this reason, obviously we of the ANC pledge to do what we can on the one hand to overthrow the regime inside our country, are confident, that the people of Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean are with us. For example with relation to the mobilisation of sanctions against the racist regime on the week-end of March 8 which was the International Womens Day, the democratic women of Jamaica for instance called conference and mass rally around the theme of sanctions against the South African regime so that these activities continue in that area in spite of the fact that we are geographically divided. But we believe that our South African people, people of Namibia, the people of Angola will in the end see victory, progress, stability and independence with the aid the brothers and sisters in the Caribbean, Central and Southern America.

HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION

P.J. HODGSON (1910~1977)

-Juba Mfene

When the ANC marks the 70 years of revolutionary undauntedness, steeled in the heroic struggle of the oppressed but fighting people of South Africa. we take pride in the heroism that our people have displayed throughout the centuries from the ancestral past to the Wars of Resistance to the present day struggle. The count of moments of heroism is infinite: from the Gonemas of Core, the Makanas and Sekhukhunis, the Moshoesoes and Cetshwayos to the Bram Fischers, the Basil Februaries and the Solomon Mahlangu who have blazed a trail of unsurpassed selflessness across South Africa.

We can't help being inspired and strongly motivated by the feats of heroism whose unrivalled efficacy is a source of high morale for the nation's drive towards the destruction of the apartheid order and the establishment of People's Democracy in South Africa. When the ANC calls upon the people to unite in action and act in unity, it is befitting to look through the pages of history and derive inspiration from one of our gallant fighters, Comrade Jack Hodgson.



"WHAT JACK GAVE IN SERVICE TO OUR PEOPLE, TO OUR MOVEMENT AND STRUGGLE, TO ALL SOUTH AFRICA, NEITHER DEATH NOR TIME CAN TAKE AWAY, FOR IT HAS ALREADY GONE INTO THE MAKING OF OUR HISTORY, THE DEFINITION OF OUR CURRENT ACTIVITY, AND THE SHAPING OF OUR FUTURE."

Jack Hodgson

CONDOLENCE

The above quotation is from a message of condolence sent by our President O.R. Tambo to the family of Jack on the occasion of the Memorial Service marking the death of the outstanding revolutionary produced by the cause of the struggling majority of our people. These eloquent words are a stirring explanation of the noble contribution Jack made to the cause of freedom, democracy and national liberation. Today, when we remember Comrade Jack, when the morale of the oppressed people inside South Africa - notwithstanding our leadership incarcerated in the Pretoria dungeons is ever so high, our people are asserting their will to be free with proud heroism.

In the vast majority of our people we have some white people who denounce the criminal regime of apartheid and identify themselves with the oppressed in the ranks of the revolution. Jack was one of those who could not bend to the bribe of white privileges in apartheid South Africa.

MINER

Born in August 1910 in South Africa, Jack Hodgson started work as a miner at an early age. He later worked in the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia.

The young Jack, as a miner, had joined the ranks of the most revolutionary class, the working class. His political consciousness was to be marked by the participation in the white miners' strike of 1938 and political evolution ushered him into the labour movement. He became a Socialist and later joined the then legal Communist Party of South Africa. His staunch, unflinching revolutionary thinking is expressed in the poem he wrote:

*I am a Communist
I say it without shame
On pride or thought of
Notoriety or fame.
Yes, I did choose this
Stormy path I have to tread,
As did the others, the
Millions who are dead
And all the Communists
Who in every clime
Rot in prisons
We are a product of time.*

Like all true revolutionaries, Jack had chosen the path of revolution with the full understanding of the fact that the step he had taken was fraught with perilous ramifications. His devotion to the communist ideals put him in the front of the anti-fascist struggle both abroad and on the home front.

After fighting as a 'Desert Rat' in North Africa, he came back from the war against Hitler's Nazism, Mussolini's fascism, and Japan's militarism to a South Africa where the disciples of Hitler were organising themselves to usurp power. With many of his comrades in the Communist Party, he was a victim of arrests, torture, bannings and house arrests for his belief in the cause of the liberation struggle.

Highly cognizant of the situation in South Africa, Jack realised that the solution to the complex political situation obtaining in South Africa was to be found in the alignment of the class question with the national liberation of the majority of black masses.

It then becomes clear, the reason for the consistent role of the communists as opponents of racism, apartheid, white domination and the exploitation of the black man. This thoroughly unique approach of being an opponent of all retrograde systems has consolidated the strength of the forces of

liberation, spearheaded by the African National Congress. It is now more formidable.

The tenacity of this persistence can be no less expressed by the struggles of the 'Roaring Fifties'; the Defiance Campaign, the Congress of the People and the historic and marathon Treason Trial. The treason trialists, a hundred-and-fifty-six in all were a conglomeration of communists and non-communists; their primary concern was the strengthening of unity between all the peoples of South Africa for the establishment of a new democratic society.

'DESERT RAT'

Jack, the 'Desert Rat', as his comrades called him, was one of those charged with high treason, a charge that only served to enhance the bond of brotherhood and gain political respectability for the ANC and its allies. Jack was not dumbfounded by the course of the trial which lasted four gruelling years. Jack moved with the times and changed with the strategic objectives and became more determined with more vigour.

Apart from being a fighter, Jack was a poet of consummate skill as the lines from his poem - 'I AM A COMMUNIST' - attest.

*I am a Communist
The people know my face
For they have seen it often
In the market place,
And wherever embattled
Workers demonstrate,
Ever the vanguard of
The fight for liberty
Up on the barricades
And the gallows tree.
Freedom fighter yet
Struggling to undo the knot
That binds the people to
A Slave's unhappy lot
All know my face, for I
Am ever to be found
Where colonial needs for
Freedom clarion sound
The trumpets that shake
From some tyrant's head*

*A crown to bring the
Crumbling walls of
Empire trumbling down.*

Where a new turn of events favoured a new form of struggle, the objective situation was welcomed by the people. The army of the oppressed was born of the people in the struggle. Jack Hodgson, a military man, an expert in the usage of explosives and sabotage, was among the leaders of our people who laid the basis of the foundation of the People's Army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, whose acts of heroism and valour, are the roots that are giving rise to the tree of liberty.

In the words of our National Executive Committee, characterising the advance of the struggle: "We are better placed to move forward because our people are engaged in mass organized action at a level and with a tenacity unsurpassed over the last seven decades. We are better placed to break new ground in our assault on the enemy because these risen masses recognise clearly, from practical experience that the revolutionary struggle in which they are engaged, has one leader and one perspective, the ANC and the Freedom Charter respectively. We are better placed to move in on the enemy because today we have a popular army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, capable of speaking to the enemy in the language he understands best."

MK is relentlessly pursuing the war of liberation. No doubt the devastating blows of our mighty People's Army are the haunting spirits hovering over the chambers of the racist minority regime. The Treurnichts, the Bothas and the Malans are panic-stricken; they seek revenge on the poor congregation of Venda and Crossroads. They dip their burnt fingers in the poor, innocent people of the People's Republic of Angola.

Comrade Jack was a great teacher, an invaluable contributor to the nucleus around which MK units were established.

He fell, like a revolutionary, on the path of struggle in December 1977.

LONG LIVE HIS MEMORY !