



Editorial Comment

DAYS OF BATTLE

The racist rulers of our country should be finding it extremely difficult and absurd to convince their followers that all is normal and under control in South Africa. Waking up in the morning of the 3rd June in a small town of Paulpietersburg one would definitely think he had been caught up in the centre of the third world war as hundreds of policemen, soldiers and commandos, supported by the South African Air Force were roaming around the town in a wild-goose chase for – no doubt – a *few* MK combatants who had blasted to ashes a Total fuel depot; a loading installation at Kemps List coal mine and a signal box at the railway station. This could not have been a show force, no matter how far we stretch our imagination, but of great weakness.

As we prepare to celebrate two landmarks in the history of our glorious fight against apartheid tyranny – the sixth anniversary of Soweto Uprisings and the 30th anniversary of the Defiance Campaign – white rule is staggering in the face of highly dramatic and professional blows delivered by our army, Umkhonto We Sizwe. The frequency – let alone the skill – with which these operations are carried out spells Pretoria's imminent downfall in the most clear terms. *In Natal alone, the blast that damaged a grain elevator on June 5 is said – or rather estimated – to be the ninth sabotage attack in less than a month! Add to this a fuel depot and an Escom transformer at Hectorspruit; the powerlines along the New Canada-

Dube railway line in Soweto – and the list is in no way next to complete.

The choice of targets is on its own enough reason for the racists to be alarmed. Our combatants are striking right at the very nerve-centre of the abhorrent system. Added to the Port Natal Administration Boards' offices in Pinetown and the Directorate of Coloured Affairs regional headquarters in Durban, the President's Council could not be spared. Notwithstanding the supposedly tight security network, the Presidents Council had its share of MK's firepower when a heavy explosion shattered lift foyers in the building housing it up to the 6th floor. If the farcical Presidents Council cannot bow to mass pressure, it still remains to be seen whether it can absorb more fire before it is relegated to the dustbins of history like its sister institutions, the SAIC, CRC and the Community Councils.

June 26th 1952 ushered in the historic Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws. By the end of the campaign many sons and daughters of our soil had lost their lives, murdered in cold blood. June 16th 1976 is fresh in our memories as if it were only yesterday when thousands of young children were callously murdered in Soweto, Gugulethu, Bontheuwel, Mamelodi and elsewhere. If then the massacres of our people were a source of joy, delight and a morale booster for the hated enemy in that it was a display of force and a constant reminder of their invincibility, today the opposite is true. Whenever any of our anniversaries draws near, the enemy, fear-stricken, spends sleepless nights wondering when and where our dauntless fighters will strike next.

"The campaign has obviously been built for these two dates", commented the racist Lt. Gen. Coetzee. The guess is not at all a wild one. The peaceful demonstration by the Soweto students was drowned in blood. The fires of freedom, so thought the enemy, had been put down. But the embers of Soweto still and will smoulder on for years and decades to come. This is the reason why the enemy takes our national days with utmost seriousness, for, indeed, to us they are not days of festivity but of battle. On these days we address ourselves anew to the legitimacy of the apartheid regime and vow to fight to the last drop of blood as long as the white marauder is boss over our land.

As the enemy flinches, the onus is on us to make all our anniversaries; January 8th, March 5 and 21st, June 16 and 26, July 31st, August 9 and December 16 refresh the enemy's memory to his inevitable defeat by, in this Year of Unity in Action, intensifying the war on all fronts and let this year be, in the words of Comrade President O.R. Tambo, "The year of the greatest leap forward to the threshold of victory."