



Editorial Comment

FRESH HORIZONS

If the racist rulers of our country failed to read the writing on the wall on that memorable August 9th 1956 when 20 000 women converged upon the Union Buildings protesting against the extension of the degrading and abominable pass laws to them, then it is easier today as the writing is bold: APARTHEID RULE IS ON THE WAY.

Today South Africa is reeling under heavy blows delivered by our people under the leadership of their time-tested vanguard, the ANC, and its military arm, Umkhonto We Sizwe. In all these battles that are convincingly determining and shaping the future of our country: the ceaseless and ever-expanding strike movement among our heroic working class, the unforgettable and pace-setting Anti-Republic and Anti-SAIC campaigns, the Soweto march to the Community Councils in protest against rent increases, the selfless campaigns waged by the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) and many other battles, too many to enumerate, the women of our country are always at the forefront, displaying insatiable determination.

To contain this growing mass upsurge the Pretoria racists have stepped up with added determination the campaign to eliminate physically all its opponents wherever they can be found,

with satanic emphasis on the leadership of the national liberation movement, the ANC and its allies. In fact a study of the history of the ruling Nationalist Party since its ascendancy to power in 1948 - three years after the rout and defeat of fascism and its trial and condemnation by mankind at Nuremberg - would leave one under a vivid impression that the South African racists have vowed to relive the lives of Hitler, Goebbels, Goering and their cronies with utmost competence, making up for whatever they failed to achieve. They seem to be locked up in a bitter competition with their Zionist allies, with each putting his best foot forward in spreading death and carnage.

BOOBY TRAP

Winnie Mandela escaped death by inches when a booby-trap in her car was discovered a few minutes before it went off; added to serving 17 years of banning orders, arbitrary detentions have become a permanent factor of Albertina Sisulu's life; Jabu Nyaose and her husband, Nzima, were callously and in a cowardly manner murdered when a heavy explosion ripped their car in Swaziland; and yesterday a parcel bomb put to an abrupt and untimely end the noble and heroic life of Ruth First at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. That the US administration subscribes to these vile apartheid murders elicits no shock and would be a gross understatement. There's evidence in abundance that the Reagan administration knew of South Africa's plans to eliminate ANC leaders well before the repugnant murder of Joe Gqabi. We are steadily being led to believe that they not only know but are the master-minds. The parcel bomb that killed Ruth First was mailed from the American embassy!

FEDSAW

However there's one truth the Pretoria fascists play not to be reckoning with. No amount of oppressive legislation, police terror, deaths in detention and murder can quell to submission an oppressed people bent on putting an immediate end to fascist oppression. In the face of all these torrents of repression, our people, in all their formations are stubbornly refusing to be cowed. The Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) has emerged invincible from the deadly blows

of the 60's and is fast assuming its position in our battle formation. And to harness the ever-rising anger of our heroic women numerous other women's organisations through the length and breadth of our country and drawing all sections of our population are sprouting. The formation of the NUSAS Women's League and the AZASO Women's league are developments that augur well for the future.

CALL

All these developments mean that the women of our country are glued to the call of the 70th Anniversary statement of the ANC's National Executive Committee:

We call upon our womenfolk to raise the cry for vengeance against those who are murdering, maiming and torturing our sons and daughters for their participation in our struggle".

This is the legacy of heroism the heroes of August 9th 1956, a day that went down in the annals as South Africa's Women's Day, bequeth us. New and fresh horizons along our epic journey to a South Africa of the Freedom Charter have been illumined, charging us to summon all our strength and speed up to reach them.