



Editorial Comment

Living Monuments to our Future

These two days, June 16 and 26, are living monuments to our future, a new society in which our people shall govern and enjoy the fruits of their labour, living in peace with all mankind. What gives such great significance to these days is that they are not just days always to be remembered as part of our rich history of resistance but that they mark events which are very much part of our living history, today characterised by the heroic battles of our people to overthrow the colonial fascist tyranny of the Pretoria rulers and the entire class of capitalist blood-suckers and tomorrow by the actual fulfilment of our historic mission of creating a new society along the lines of the Freedom Charter.

June 26 is *South Africa Freedom Day* which has been marked by our people since 1950 when the African National Congress called the first national political strike as an act of national mourning and protest at the killing of 18 Africans during May Day demonstrations. The historic Campaign of Defiance of Unjust Laws was launched on this day by the ANC and the South African Indian Congress in 1952. So too the Congress of the People at which 3 000 delegates representing our people from every corner of our land met on this day in 1955 at Kliptown to draft the Freedom Charter. It was this last event which gave the fullest meaning to South Africa Freedom Day when the delegates of our people declared to all our country and the whole world exactly what freedom we are fighting for and pledged that *"These freedoms we will fight for, side by side throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty."*

June 16, the day of the Soweto Uprisings and Massacre, takes us seven years back when about 1 000 school children were killed by the police in

Soweto alone and hundreds in other parts of the country during the ensuing months of nation-wide resistance. This merciless slaughter of innocent and unarmed school children who were demanding an education free from enslavement exposed more than ever before the true nature of the apartheid system - brutal national domination and super-exploitation of the indigenous African majority defended through genocidal policies; it closed the debate about the legitimacy of our people's resolve to fight the oppressor bullet for bullet to win freedom. What is more, the event showed the heroism of our youth, the custodians of our future.

Two decades of fierce resistance separate these two days. Yet they both symbolise the unity of all generations of our people in a common struggle for common basic goals. The continuity of growth and militancy which they so strikingly reflect in our resistance is a guarantee that the apex of all our sacrifices is victory for all our people.

This truth is convincingly borne out by the growing unity in action between the militant students and the battle-steeled workers which finds expression in campaigns against Kilson-Rowntree, racist republic celebrations, the puppet South African Indian Council, etc. The current efforts of our people to forge unity through the creation of a United Democratic Front in which both workers and the students are taking their positions alongside the entire oppressed masses to wage relentless battles against the enemy's dangerous divide-and-rule schemes like the Presidential Council, Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill, the bantustan system are the greatest step forward in our struggle in recent years. The unbeatable combination of mass action spearheaded by the working class and the pounding blows of the armed militants of the ANC who constitute Umkhonto we Sizwe and most of whom like Mosololi, Mogoerane and Motaung were baptised in the fires of June 16 will ensure that our united action is crowned with victory over the murderous regime of Botha.

All this poses great challenges on all South Africans whose future is guaranteed only by the Freedom Charter. We owe it to all our fallen patriots, our selfless friends throughout the world, future generations and ourselves to prepare ourselves for the final battles in which our future will be decided. This can be done through united action and to be successful we must:

- join the African National Congress underground;
- swell the ranks of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe;
- create mass organisations both in urban and rural areas;
- Implement the slogan of "*one industry one union, one country one federation:*" and
- put all our strength behind the emerging United Democratic front.