

*Burst Pollsmoon
 For you are a sand castle
 Go you hear the roar of the Black ocean*

*Burst Pollsmoon
 For the spears of Mandela
 Strike at Koeberg, SASOL, Pretoria*

*Just go burst Pollsmoon
 And save yourself the rout.*

- EDWIN MABITSE

A SOBER ASSESSMENT

EXTRACT FROM THE RIVONIA TRIAL STATEMENT

(20, APRIL, 1964).

"I do not... deny that I planned sabotage. I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the political situation that had risen after many years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by the whites.

I admit immediately that I was one of the persons who helped to form Umkhonto we Sizwe, and that I played a prominent role in its affairs until I was arrested in August 1962.

... I and the others who started the organisation did so for two reasons. Firstly, we believed that as a result of Government policy, violence by the African people had become inevitable, and that unless responsible leadership was given to canalise and control the feelings of our people, there would be outbreaks of terrorism which would produce an intensity of bitterness and hostility between the various races of this country which is not produced even by war. Secondly, we felt that without violence there would be no way open to the African people to succeed in their struggle against the principle of white supremacy...

But the violence which we chose to adopt was not terrorism. We who formed Umkhonto were all members of the African National Congress, and had behind us the ANC tradition of non-violence and negotiation as a means of solving political disputes. We believed that South Africa belonged to all the people who lived in it, and not to one group, be it black or white. We did not want an inter-racial war, and tried to avoid it to the last minute."

- NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA -