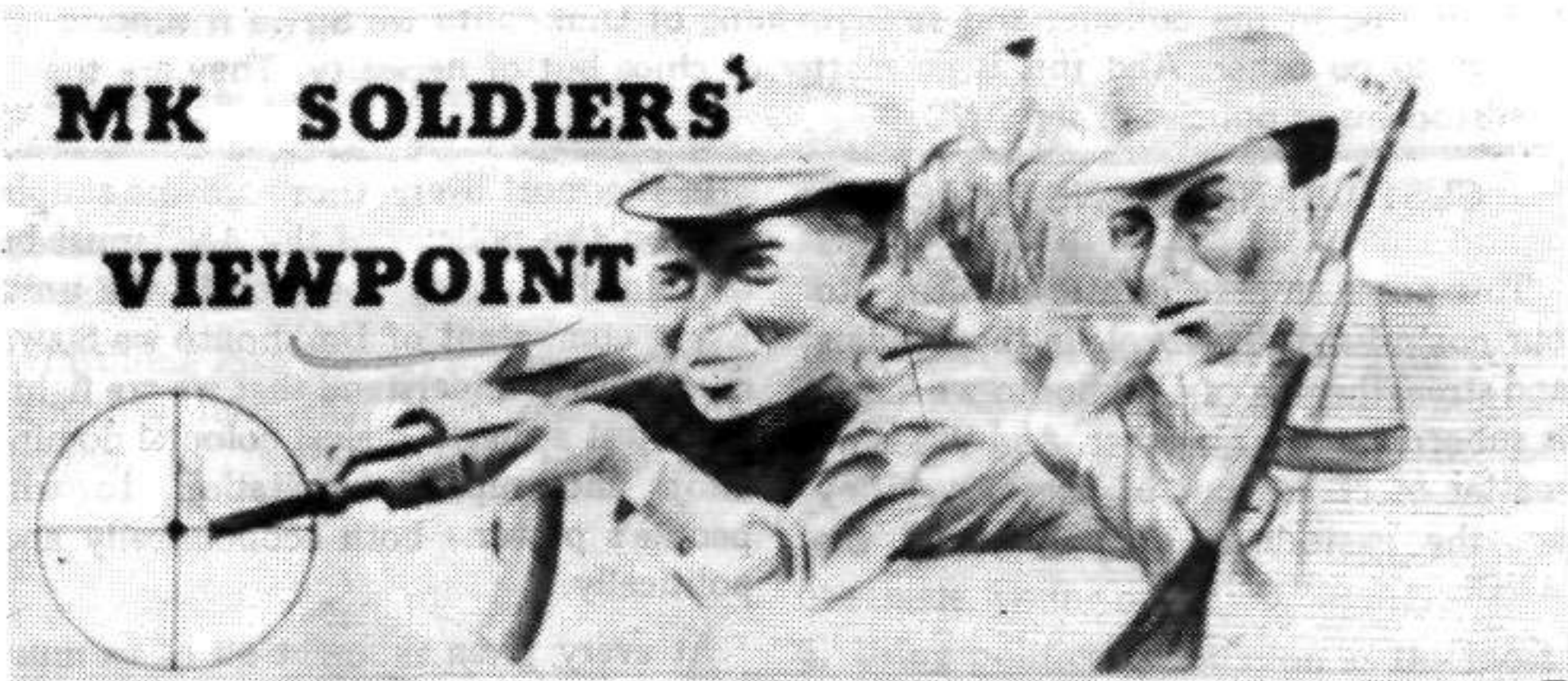


MK SOLDIERS'

VIEWPOINT



"For every Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Kathrada, Goldberg, for every Motsoaledi, Gwala, Nyembe or Hogan the enemy has captured, we must produce a thousand other."

PILLARS OF OUR ARMY

AMOS ALUKO



**Umkhonto
we Sizwe**

Presently we are faced with a situation in which we must fight till the last drop of blood, to win people's power over every inch of our soil. In this situation, Umkhonto we Sizwe the fighting arm of our people must produce cadres of a new type. Cadres who must be among the first to respond to the clarion call made to our people by our Commander-in-Chief, Comrade O.R. Tambo when he said, 'for every Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Kathrada, Goldberg, for every Motsoaledi, Gwala, Nyembe or Hogan the enemy has captured, we must produce a thousand others.'

'We have a duty to make our own sacrifice in the struggle to which they dedicated their lives. We must follow in their footsteps, learning from their experience, inspired by their courage and fired with the same love for the people and the same dedication to the cause which have made theirs to be household names not only in South Africa but throughout the world.'

Their role in the building and strengthening of Umkhonto we Sizwe is subordinate to no other. And this is no matter of choice but of necessity. They are the custodians of policies of the ANC.

CUSTODIANS OF ANC POLICY

This poses an even greater challenge to our commissars. Their role in the building and strengthening of Umkhonto we Sizwe is subordinate to no other. And this is no matter of choice but of necessity. They are the custodians of policies of the ANC!

It is the special task of commissars to ensure that the political line of the ANC becomes the essential component of the thinking of every member of MK and the unfailing guide to their actions.

Finally, all of us must be convinced that victory for our people is impossible without armed struggle and always be ready to fulfill all orders from our commanders aimed at the liberation of our people.

The fighting alliance between the ANC and the SACP must be defended by all of us on the basis of our knowledge and firm conviction that it is a guarantee to our victory.

Every soldier in the ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe must be able to correctly identify the enemy, namely, the colonial-fascist regime, the Oppenheimer class, the regime's puppets and world imperialism.

Instilling love for our organisation and leadership such that every one sees its victories and losses, strong points and shortcomings as his, and be ready to defend the organisation under all circumstances.

In the most lively, thorough and simple fashion the policies of the ANC must be explained to every comrade in the unit. Every combatant of Umkhonto we Sizwe must clearly understand that we are fighting a just struggle against colonial domination and super exploitation, to win people's power - both economically and politically.

At every given moment all of us must know, both in theory and practise, the different approaches to every section of our population including democratic whites with a view to involving all forces in a united and conscious struggle.

We must all know who our friends are internationally, and always strive to maintain close brotherly relations with them, including defending them.

Finally, all of us must be convinced that victory for our people is impossible without armed struggle and always be ready to fulfill all orders from our commanders aimed at the liberation of our people.

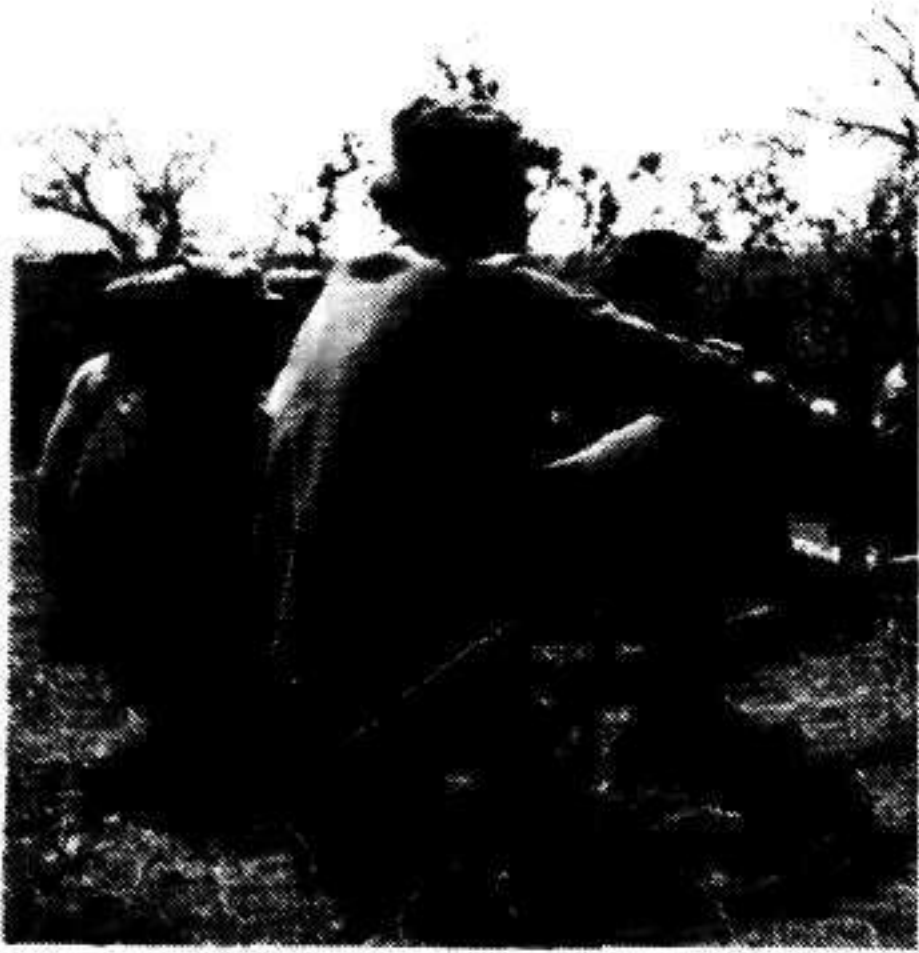
OUR EXPERIENCE

To achieve success in carrying out their vital tasks, our commissars need to always take their bearing on the experience of our People's Army. Drawing lessons from the twenty-two years of struggle which Umkhonto we Sizwe has gone through, they must always create such conditions as have been proved to be the ones which

shows that MK remains a people's army. These conditions are:

1. Being close to comrades to understand their problems including personal ones and help solve them. In the process commissars are able to explain our liberation struggle and impart optimism to them.

2. Instilling love for our organisation and leadership such that every one sees its victories and losses, strong points and



4. Encouragement of frank and comradely criticism with an aim of overcoming our shortcomings and ensure the further advance of our liberation struggle. This also raises a high sense of personal responsibility and respect for all that brings us together as comrades.

5. Maintenance and deepening of comradely relations based on love and mutual respect among all members of MK, regardless of whether one is a commander or a subordinate, trained or trainee, male or female, young or old.

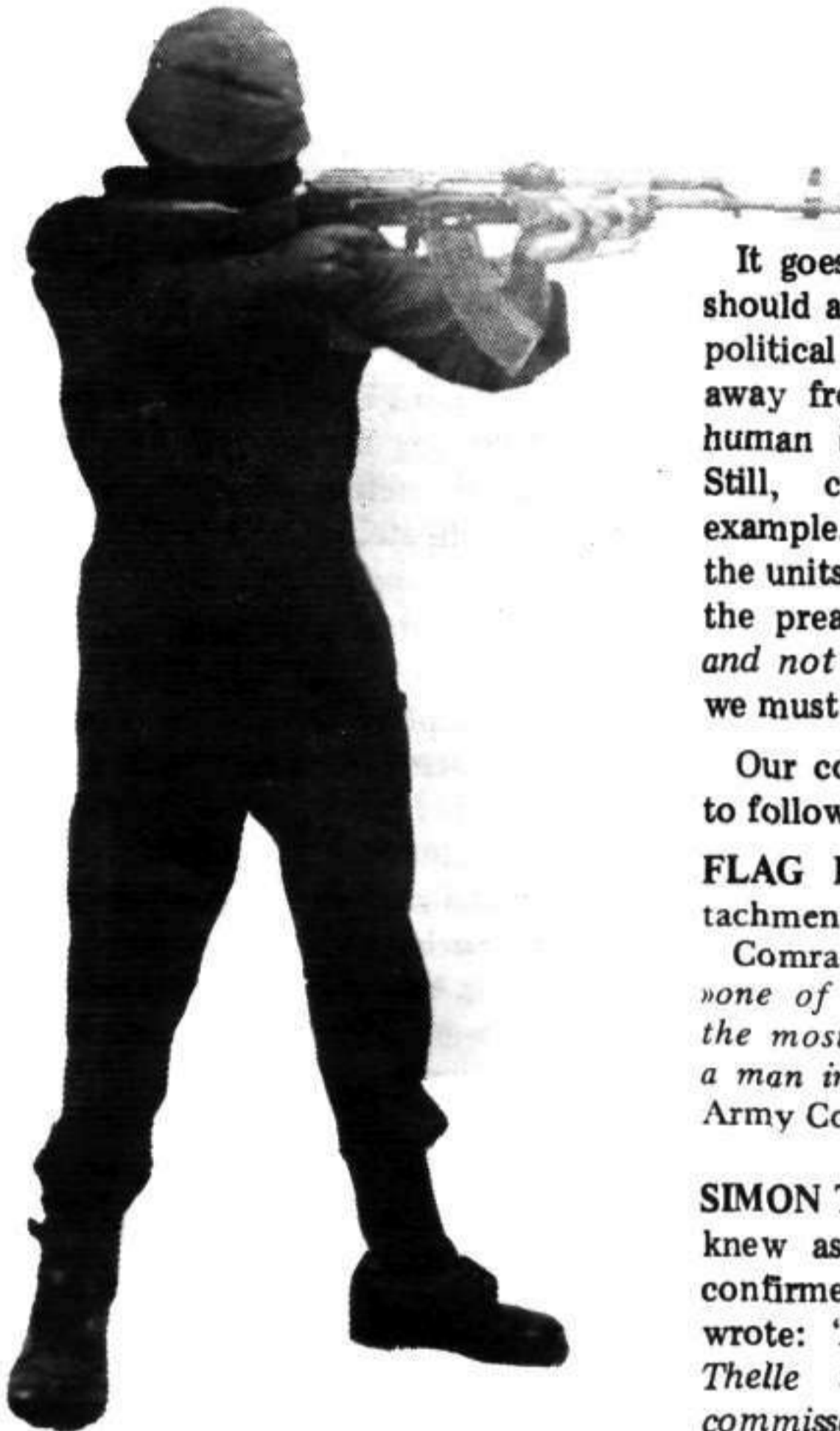
6. Using political persuasion as the most important method of solving problems of raising discipline within the units. The result of fascist practises in the SADF and all imperialist armies, where beatings, fatigues, humiliation and insults are daily used on the rank-and-file soldiers are well known. Such practises produce sadistic murderers, hatred among all and lead to desertions and mutiny. MK needs soldiers with conscious discipline based on one's conviction in the justness of our cause. Hence we must always rely on persuasion.

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shortcomings as his, and be ready to defend the organisation under all circumstances.

3. Encouragement of open discussions on all questions relating to our struggle. We must ensure that comrades feel that their opinions are respected and therefore learn from others. In this way every combatant is encouraged to appreciate the problems of our struggle and share in the common striving to find possible solutions. The task of each comrade becomes even clearer.





An M.K. cadre - A soldier and political worker

There is another aspect of the work of commissars which must never be viewed as being of less importance. This is the task of showing great concern in the improvement of the diet and health conditions of the units as much as our resources can allow.

It goes without saying that commissars should always display the highest level of political consciousness. We cannot run away from the fact that they, too, are human beings with their shortcomings. Still, commissars must educate by example. Through them the members of the units must see that we have no use for the preacher approach of 'Do as I say' and not 'Do as I do'. As revolutionaries, we must always stand by what we say.

Our commissars have shining examples to follow, set by MK Commissars like:

FLAG BOSHILO of the Luthuli detachment.

Comrade Joe Slovo described him as *»one of the best MK cadres and one of the most dedicated communists. He was a man in the JB mould»*. He became our Army Commissar in the later 60's.

SIMON THELLE MOGOERANE who we knew as a good comrade and this was confirmed by his commander when he wrote: *'From Moroka to Wonderboom, Thelle was the beloved indomitable commissar. Exemplary and highly disciplined ...'*. He never flinched as he marched to the gallows on the 9th June 1983.

It is such fighters for freedom like Boshielo and Mogoerane, who have shown, both with words and deeds, what it takes for our commissars to be real pillars of our army. This is what our commissars must always be.