

# FORTIFYING DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY

From July 9th to 10th Luanda, the capital of the People's Republic of Angola hosted the ninth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission of the Frontline States. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Defence and Security of the Frontline States: Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. Also invited were the two liberation movements in the region: the ANC and SWAPO. The ANC was represented by Chris Hani, a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and Army Commissar of Umkhonto We Sizwe. Comrade President Sam Nujoma and Comrade Kapelwa, SWAPO's acting Secretary for Defence represented SWAPO of Namibia.

The Frontline States met, as with similar meetings in the past, to study the best ways of strengthening their security so as to effectively combat the destabilisation threat posed by the racist South African regime. This meeting of the Defence and Security Ministers of the Frontline States could not have been more timely. Despite the make-up of a peacemaker the Botha-Malan regime is wearing, its campaign to undermine the independence of the neighbouring independent and sovereign African states is assuming growing intensity.

In Mozambique the operational capacity of the MNR has grown, with its strikes gradually approaching the capi-



tal. Of interest to note is the fact that these are bandits not injected into Mozambique years back. According to the U.K. newspaper, the Guardian (5.6.84.), up to 1,000 MNR bandits were hastily put into Mozambique just days before the signing of the treacherous accord of Nkomati. While Mozambique respects the accord to the letter, the opposite is true





Shaking hands after signing Nkomati. No peace in sight for Mozambique.

with South Africa. Even the Mozambicans admit that most of the recently captured bandits were pumped into Mozambique after the signing.

This illustrates vividly the point we have made repeatedly that the Nkomati Accord, far from seeking to restore peace and stability in Mozambique, is a new weapon in the arsenal of the racists to undermine and destroy the Mozambican state. It goes further to strengthen what President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania exhorted at the 25th session of the United Nations General Assembly: «An African Munich would no more bring peace than did that of Europe in 1938. It would be a betrayal, and as such it would weaken the struggle for justice everywhere».

#### **STRONG PRESSURES**

The racist regime is heavily bent

on inducing Lesotho and Botswana to sign pacts similar to Nkomati. Pressures on Lesotho are particularly strong. In May the regime was reported to be holding back customs revenue due to Lesotho, and spare helicopter parts in transit to the mountain kingdom. Lesotho is a member of the South African Customs Union together with Botswana, Swaziland, and racist South Africa. It is subjected to such pressure because of its refusal to accept South Africa's «independent bantustans» as members of the Customs Union.

Added to numerous sanctions the fascist regime has imposed against Lesotho, it now threatens to withdraw from the multi-million rand dam project undertaken jointly with Lesotho, if the latter still refuses to conclude a «peace pact». Signing a «pact» with the regime will principally, among other



things, grant South Africa dictatorial power as to who may find sanctuary in Lesotho as is the case with Mozambique. Effectively that would mean banning the ANC in Lesotho.

### RELUCTANT WITHDRAWAL

Angola gave a comprehensive report about the reluctance of South Africa to completely withdraw its troops from the

tions of the JMC (Joint Monitoring Commission) to Kuando Kubango province, where a corridor still exists for UNITA supplies to filter through from South Africa. The racist republic finds itself in a dilemma. If it withdraws completely from Angola then the subsequent step would be, logically, UN Resolution 435, leading to the independence of Namibia.



Flashback: remains of a hospital in Cahama after the South African bombing, 1981.

Angolan soil. Though originally the pull-out was set to be completed by March 31st, racist troops continue occupying parts of the People's republic. It is becoming clear that South Africa does not intend disengaging itself from Angola before it is convinced that UNITA retains an operational capacity competent enough to replace and play the role of the SADF.

This fact is also evidenced in South Africa's reluctance to extend the opera-

The meeting expressed concern at the help given to puppet groups by the racist South African army with the aim of destabilising the countries of Southern Africa, and therefore considered best ways of strengthening the defence capacity of the Frontline States. This is a clear realisation by these countries that South Africa has not abandoned its aggressive designs. The Frontline States are quite disturbed by the soaring defence budget of racist South Africa.



The ANC and SWAPO had the occasion to address one of the ministerial sessions. They were called upon to inform the Frontline States about progress so far made, and the problems encountered. The two movements reaffirmed their total commitment to armed struggle, and reported on the military operations carried out. »The enemy had gleefully hoped that the campaign of trying to isolate the ANC will reduce our military capacity to strike.



President O. R. Tambo: The actions of the enemy have increased our determination.

In the words of our President, Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo, the actions of the enemy on the contrary have increased our determination to build and consolidate self-reliance. Despite the viciousness of the enemy against us, we continue to create conditions of survival, strengthening and training of units inside South Africa.

Within the first six months of this year we engaged the enemy in many parts of South Africa, hitting at personnel and installations. Within a period of three months we launched two car-bomb attacks, causing immense damage to enemy personnel. We have also destroyed power installations, blew up railway lines, pylons, fuel

depots, and refineries. We have also ambushed police vehicles right inside the cities of South Africa.»

The ANC went further to declare that as long as the South African regime of terror is still in power in our country, peaceful co-existence will always remain an illusion in the region. Therefore the ANC needs the unflagging support of the Frontline States to destroy the regime. We have always said and wish to repeat that the campaign to reduce the capacity of that regime to destabilise Southern Africa can never be effective if the striking capacity of the ANC is not constantly improved and strengthened.

It is in the nature of the regime to carve for itself the position of dominance and bullying in the region. The essence of this position can never change, only the tactics can change. We see this position of the colonial regime in its refusal to get out of Angola....

We want to point out that we are a colonial people. And the fact that colonialism is internationalised does not alter the fact that the majority of our people suffer exactly as though they were under classical colonialism.»

From the rostrum of the Frontline States meeting on Defence and Security, the ANC appealed to our comrades in Southern Africa »to remember that the single course of insecurity, economic sabotage, aggression, training, financing and equipping of all kinds of mercenary and traitorous groups is the racist South African colonial regime. Therefore conditions for peace, for economic development in the interest of eradicating legacies of colonialism like poverty, ignorance, diseases, and illiteracy can only materialise when that regime is destroyed».

The ANC and SWAPO were also called upon by the Defence Committee to make concrete suggestions as to the form of assistance they require to advance the political and military struggle.





*The upper storeys of the Sanlam building, Roodepoort, in flames. The building houses the Divisional Headquarters of the South African Police.*

In the communique issued at the end of the meeting, the Frontline States agreed on the need to increase and strengthen cooperation in the fields of security and defence, pledging to work together to liquidate banditry. The communique further condemned the destabilisation policy pursued by the racist South African regime and demanded the withdrawal of the South African troops from the People's Republic of Angola, the unconditional withdrawal of boer troops from Namibia, and the subsequent implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Of special significance was the appreciation of the victories scored by the ANC and SWAPO, and the reaffirma-

tion of the Frontline States' continued political, diplomatic, and material support for the two movements.

Despite the different approaches of the countries constituting the Frontline States to Pretoria's bullying tactics, we are greatly encouraged when such meetings take place, especially at this time in the history of the sub-continent, a time when the regime is bent on rolling back the wheel of history and build around itself, using the neighbouring independent states, a cordon sanitaire similar to the one it enjoyed during the days of Portuguese and British rule in the sub-continent. We are indeed fortified by such declarations of support and solidarity.

