

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The National Executive Committee of the African National Congress recently met to examine:

- a) The situation in Southern Africa, and
- b) The conduct of armed struggle within South Africa in the past six months.

The National executive Committee welcomed the progress made in the negotiations aimed at securing the withdrawal of South African troops from the People's Republic of Angola and the achievement of independence for Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council. The agreement reached thus far is a victory for the peoples of Angola and the rest of Southern Africa, and for progressive mankind. It is a product of the struggles and sacrifices of the peoples of the subcontinent and their international supporters. Similarly, the prospect for a just resolution of the conflict in South Western depends on the efforts of all progressive forces to ensure that the Pretoria regime does not renege on the agreement reached or place obstacles in the path of future progress. In this regard, the African National Congress concurs with the positions of the Frontline states as reflected in the resolutions adopted at their most recent summit in Luanda, People's Republic of Angola.

The National Executive Committee further reaffirmed the centrality of the armed struggle in the National democratic revolution and the need to further escalate armed actions and transform our offensive into a generalised people's war. It notes that there has been a significant and welcome escalation of this offensive in keeping with our perspectives.

However, the National Executive Committee also expressed concern at the recent spate of attacks on civilian targets. Some of these attacks have been carried out by cadres of the people's army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, inspired by anger at the regime's campaign of terror against the oppressed and democratic forces both within and outside South Africa. In certain instances, operational circumstances resulted in unintended casualties.

Yet it has come to our notice that agents of the Pretoria regime have been detailed to carry out a number of bomb attacks deliberately to sow confusion among the people of South Africa and the international community, and to discredit the African National Congress..

The ANC hereby underscores that it is contrary to our policy to select targets whose sole objective is to strike at civilians. Our morality as revolutionaries dictates that we respect the values underpinning the humane conduct of war. Any other course of action would also play into the hands of the enemy.

The National Executive Committee also welcomed the decision by scores of young white South Africans to refuse to serve in the racist South African army. This courageous action further underlines the cries facing the militarist ruling clique and reinforces the efforts of all peace-loving South Africans for a future free of racism, oppression and war.

The National Executive Committee accordingly calls on all the people of our country to intensify the revolutionary offensive in accordance with our Movement's perspectives as enshrined in the Freedom Charter. We call on the international community to intensify the campaign for the all-round isolation of apartheid South Africa and further to muster increased support for the struggling people of South Africa, Namibia and the sub-continent.

August, 1988

Lusaka

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