

COMRADE CHAIRMAN,  
COMRADE MWALIMU NYERERE, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI PARTY,  
COMRADE OLIVER TAMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE ANC,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS TO THE CONFERENCE,  
PARTICIPANTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
COMRADES,

It is my honour and privilege to address this august Conference on behalf of the Central Committee of SWAPO and in the name of the struggling people of Namibia, and to seize this opportunity to actively participate in the deliberations of this important gathering devoted to expressing international solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa and the observance of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ANC. I am very much impressed by the keynote address by Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, Chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi, a great Freedom Fighter for Africa and one of the outstanding statesmen of our time.

We are gratified by the invaluable contribution Chairman Mwalimu has made to the ongoing struggle for the liberation of Africa. Indeed, it is our privilege to be here in the United Republic of Tanzania, whose Party and people have championed the cause of independence, particularly in the southern part of Africa. We are confident that Mwalimu and the people of Tanzania's unwavering determination and commitment to Africa's total independence will bear fruits sooner than later. We are equally grateful to the Government and people of Tanzania for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival here. I hope that the keynote address will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Comrade Chairman, the struggling people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, are happy to be part and parcel of this Conference and to support and extend solidarity to our comrades-in-arms of the ANC who have been leading the struggle for the total elimination of apartheid and to free the people still suffering under the yoke of oppression, imperialist domination and economic suffocation.

This Conference is taking place at a very crucial stage in the history of the decolonisation of Africa and, indeed, in the history of the struggle for freedom and independence in Southern Africa. At this juncture, we would like to reiterate and re-affirm our total support for and firm solidarity with the struggle for freedom and national independence being waged by our brothers and sisters in South Africa, under the banner of the ANC. We feel honoured to be among the statesmen who are examining ways and means of finding a solution to the critical situation prevailing in Southern Africa. We are gratified in witnessing your efforts in organising this Conference and your commitment to the abolition of apartheid in South Africa. The independence of Namibia and the overall elimination of apartheid are inevitable. It is our conviction that this meeting will produce far-reaching resolutions which will be beneficial to the struggle of South African and Namibian people.

We are aware of and vigilant about the forces of colonialism and imperialist oppression which are trying to strangle the genuine and just struggle for freedom and independence, especially in South Africa and Namibia. Those forces are

diametrically opposed to national liberation struggle. However, we are encouraged by those forces who identify themselves with our just struggle and who are giving active support and assistance to the sons and daughters of Namibia and South Africa, who are forging ahead with the intensification of the struggle for genuine freedom in Namibia and South Africa.

The imperialist forces which work hand-in-glove with the racist regime of South Africa, in particular the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and others, in order to delay the complete destruction of apartheid in South Africa and genuine freedom and independence in occupied Namibia, are equally guilty of the massacre of our people. We, however, are cemented in our knowledge and conviction that our cause is a just one, which enjoys the support of the progressive and peace-loving forces the world over. We are confident that this Conference will seriously analyse the situation, and come up with recommendations about measures to be taken by the international community to force the Botha regime to agree to the demands of the overwhelming majority of the South African and Namibian people, the Frontline States as well as those by the international community as a whole.

Needless to say, Comrade Chairman, this Conference is taking place just after the ANC has properly celebrated the 75th anniversary of its existence. Throughout all these years of struggle, the ANC has demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt its ability to lead the South African people's liberation struggle which gains momental intensity continuously with every passing of the hour. During those glorious years, the ANC

has been ever making new decisive and distinctive advances in its just struggle. Especially, the military actions by Umkhonto We Sizwe have inflicted devastating blows on the racist regime's military, economic and commercial nerves and the enemy has suffered heavily in men and material.

Comrade Chairman, we in SWAPO have always regarded the struggle of the South African people as intractably linked with our own. It is intrinsically intertwined and, indeed, supplementary to ours in the sense that we are fighting the same enemy, although from different battle fronts. Therefore, your combat victory is a victory for both of us.

It is against this background that I, at this juncture, would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the ANC comrades for the impressive achievements in making South Africa ungovernable and apartheid unworkable. I congratulate you for the extensive political mass mobilisation inside South Africa itself -- the workers, the women, the youth and students, and, indeed, for having caused a split and permanent schism among the Afrikaners. Your struggle has made impressive advances and your people are resolute in their commitment, despite oppression and repression.

It is in fact, the tacit recognition of the explosiveness of the situation and dynamism of the struggle being waged by the South African people, under the banner of the ANC which prompted the Reagan Administration to arrange a meeting between Comrade President Oliver Tambo and the United States Secretary of State, George Shultz, and also the meeting between the ANC and several prominent South African

people in Dakar, and the recent meeting in London between the South African government officials and members of the ANC leadership. Indeed, SWAPO has undergone similar experiences, both with Shultz and with the white section of our population.

We congratulate you for the effective political mobilisation inside South Africa and for the political achievements gained with the release of Comrade Govan Mbeki and for the diplomatic work you have done internationally and victories in that field. Indeed, we also congratulate the international community's pressure on the racist regime and the systematic campaign by anti-apartheid movements and progressive forces the world over. We are convinced that Comrade Mbeki will continue with the struggle and will immensely contribute to the ongoing march to the complete elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a free and democratic government for all the South Africans in accordance with the principles, letter and spirit of the Freedom Charter. We, together with the progressive forces demand the immediate and unconditional release of Comrade Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners in South Africa.

We vehemently condemn the Botha regime's arbitrary mass arrest of teenagers, in the regime's vain efforts to drive a wedge between father and son, mother and daughter, with a clear purpose of turning the children into police informers or spies against their parents and thereby divide family members. SWAPO is firmly convinced that the racist repression will never force the South African people into submission. On the contrary, it will fortify their resolve to intensify the struggle for

national independence and to completely get rid of the last vestiges of apartheid in South Africa. The long and bitter struggle waged by the ANC will definitely be crowned with victory. The forcibly displaced people and the vain attempt to brainwash children will bounce back against the enemy in reinforcing the ranks of those who are fighting justice.

With regard to Namibia the situation is becoming deterioratingly worse and more explosive with each passing day. Innocent civilians of our population including children and the aged are being killed in cold blood, tortured, detained indefinitely without trial and abducted and disappear without a trace. Churches, schools, houses and property are being destroyed wantonly and with impunity by the racist troops.

Unlike in some places where one has many foreign journalists and TV crews and with the effective news black-out which has been in effect in Namibia since 1975, considerable amounts of information and atrocities are not reported. These atrocities being committed by the racist troops of occupation in Namibia are so disgusting to an extent that even if those responsible were to be identified and brought before the court of law they would find refuge in P. W. Botha's protection who has arrogated to himself the power to order any legal proceedings to be stopped!

In Namibia today it is a common practice that people are roasted alive shot at random women raped; property livestock and crops in cultivated fields are being destroyed by the racist troops of occupation

The Namibian people are victimised without any recourse to protection. Their only recourse is to give support to the combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) the military wing of SWAPO. The regime is preparing for a UDI in Namibia. A so-called constitution has already been drawn up for Pretoria to impose on the Namibian people against their expressed opposition. But as in the past this futile exercise by the regime will be rejected by the Namibian people. The puppet show in Windhoek will die a natural death like the Turnhalle Alliance, the National Executive and the like. Equally the linkage issue has been rejected by the Namibian people. Even some whites in Namibia have formed a Namibia Peace Plan geared at speeding up the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

Furthermore apart from being a huge military barracks with the racist army everywhere, Namibia is being extensively used as a launching pad of military aggression by the racist regime against the independent African States in the region especially against the People's Republic of Angola. The regime has stepped up its aggression against the Frontline States, which has resulted in considerable loss of life and property, with the intention of cowing those States and peoples into abandoning their support to the National Liberation Movements. ANC and SWAPO

We, therefore, call upon the international community to take positive action now in order to eliminate apartheid, force the racist regime to give up its illegal occupation of Namibia, through the speedy implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). Comprehensive economic sanctions should be applied against the regime in order to speed up the independence of Namibia and the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and, indeed, thereby eliminating the racists' military aggression in the region. There is no doubt, sanctions are very effective if applied objectively, with the view to supplementing the armed liberation struggle and diplomatic pressure. We are convinced that this will bring the Boers to their senses to negotiate seriously with the representatives of the oppressed masses.

Only those who support the apartheid system will hide behind the smoke screen of claiming that sanctions will not work.

I wish this conference great success.

**The struggle Continues, Victory is Certain!**