The trial of Nelson Mandela is yet another landmark in the struggle of the Africans in South Africa for liberty. The greater the tyranny and persecution the greater becomes the will to resist. And this resistance, stretching back now for more than 50 years, is highlighted by the outstanding leadership of a succession of Africans whose calm courage, dignity and wisdom has inspired confidence and endurance among the victims of racial oppression. Nelson Mandela, "on the run" since the Emergency in 1960, as one of the younger leaders in the now banned African National Congress, is a shining example among that company of devoted and committed workers for African political, economic and social freedom in this struggle with white South Africa for equality of rights and responsibilities among all South African citizens.

Nelson Mandela turned his trial into an accusation of African people against white domination. If the Government of South Africa hoped to use it as a means of crushing resistance they have failed. For despite all the difficulties of communication as a result of hostile and unjust legislation and of police harrying and brutality, the people of South Africa are learning how Nelson Mandela turned the tables against his accusers. And this pamphlet, which sets out his magnificent defence speech before the judge who tried him, is one of the means whereby, we hope, not only Africans in South Africa, but also fairminded people the world over may learn something more of the truth of what is at present going on in that beautiful but unhappy land.

21st January 1963