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This month's editorial consists of a statement issued by Comrade Alfred Nzo, ANC Secretary General, after the murder of Dr Neil Aggett in Security Police detention.

The apartheid regime is escalating its brutal repressive measures against the democratic forces in the country confronting its decaying despotic rule. A few days ago a leading trade union worker, Dr Aggett, died in detention under circumstances similar to those of trade unionists and political activists such as Lawrence Nzanga, Steve Biko and many others who were murdered in police detention cells.

As part and parcel of these fascist repressive measures are the brutalities that are being perpetrated by the Venda bantustan puppets who are vainly hoping to curb the growing resistance of the masses in opposition to the hated separate development policies of the apartheid regime.

In the Venda bantustan, following an attack on the Sibasa police station by a unit of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the bantustan administration resorted to indiscriminate arrests of innocent people subjecting them to brutal torture. Recently, the Venda bantustan regime, on instructions from Pretoria, has decided to prefer murder charges against three Ministers of the Lutheran Church, Rev. A.M. Mahamba, Rev. P.M. Mphosiwa and Rev. N. Farisani and the fourth to be accused under the same charge is R. Tahikororo. The murder charges arise from the attack on the Sibasa police station. Reverend Farisani is at the moment fighting for his life suffering from serious injuries he sustained during...
interrogation and torture whilst in detention after the attack on the Sibasa police station.

These insane acts of brutality, have further inflamed the anger of the vast majority of the South African population against the apartheid regime. On Thursday, 11th February, thousands of workers in almost all the principal industrial areas of South Africa stopped work for a brief period in answer to a protest call by a united trade union movement of the oppressed and super-exploited workers following the murder of Dr Aggett. This mighty demonstration of solidarity was joined also by the youth, the Christian community and other democratic sections of the South African population. The masses of the people, acting in revolutionary unity, are calling a halt to the trail of fascist barbarism which has already accounted for the brutal assassination of revolutionaries such as Griffiths Mxenge, including Joe Gqabi and many other South African revolutionary fighters murdered by the agents of the apartheid regime on the territories of independent African states.

The African National Congress in paying tribute to the martyrs of our struggle, calls upon the international democratic community to act in solidarity with the masses of the people of South Africa by intensifying world-wide actions aimed at the all-round total isolation of the apartheid regime in the economic, trade and diplomatic fields, including implementation of the oil and arms embargoes.

In a spirit of revolutionary working class solidarity, the Australian workers are planning a series of actions against the apartheid regime to show solidarity with the South African workers in the aftermath of the murder of Dr Aggett. This revolutionary initiative should snow-ball throughout the world as a fitting response of organised labour to the brutalities of the fascist apartheid regime.

We call upon the international Christian community in particular the world Lutheran Christian community to demand the immediate release of the three persecuted Lutheran Ministers in the Venda bantustan.

The demand for the release of all political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia should also be raised with renewed vigour.
Professor Dr. Sc. L. Rathman made the opening remarks and he was followed by comrade Kruger, Secretary of the GDR Solidarity Committee, then comrade Scholz from the Central Committee of the S.E.D. Professor Brehme dealt with aspects of apartheid. In the context of international law and comrade F. Meil, editor of Sechaba, traced the history of the ANC and told the audience about the tasks of the ANC today — 70 years after its formation. Comrade Emvula, SWAPO Chief Representative in the GDR, dealt with aspects of ANC-SWAP0 relations in their common confrontation with the forces of racism in the southern tip of Africa.

On January 8, Comrade Anthony Mongalo, Chief Representative of the ANC in the GDR organised a reception for the ambassadors accredited to the GDR. It was like a mini-United Nations. Also GDR Party and Government officials as well as representatives of mass organisations and trade unions attended. Comrade Herman Axen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SED and Secretary for International Relations on the Central Committee attended. The Deputy Foreign Minister Comrade Neugebauer and his assistant comrade Willercing were also there.

Comrade Kurt Seibt, President of the GDR Solidarity Committee presented the ANC with a book, Fasal am Kap written by Alfred Babing and Hans-Dieter Bruser. The book is the first ever to be written in the GDR on the history of the ANC.

In Austria, the Anti-Apartheid Movement organised a week of solidarity under the theme “70 Years of the ANC”. Meetings were held in various towns and a speaking tour of Graz, Innsbrook, Salzburg, Linz and Vienna was organised. Meetings and discussion groups were addressed by comrade Tony Seedat, Chief Representative of the ANC in the FRG and Comrade Ruth Mompali.

The Delegation took the opportunity to meet with aid-giving organisations which resulted in the donation of aid for the
Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College as well as other projects.

During the week, the delegation was informed about the honour bestowed on comrade Nelson Mandela by the Dr Bruno Kreisky Stiftung für Menschenrechte and met with those responsible for this tribute to Nelson Mandela. In depth discussions were also held with functionaries of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

In Sweden the celebrations started on December 19 and concluded on January 16. But for the purposes of this report we shall concentrate on the events around January 8.

Through thorough preparations by the Swedish Preparatory Committee, comprising various local parties and solidarity groups (Swedish Africa Groups) and a well conducted publicity campaign by the mass media it was possible to ensure successful commemorations.

On January 7, at a well attended press conference comrade T.T. Nkobi, ANC Treasurer General highlighted the long and arduous but principled history of the ANC. The questions and response of the journalists and the fact that this press conference was relayed on television the same day, further publicised the ANC in general and also the coming events of the celebrations.

On Saturday January 9, during the peak shopping hours, six Swedish organisations - Communist Youth, Centre Party Youth, Danish Aid from People to People, Swedish Communist Youth, Isolate South Africa Committee and Swedish Social Democratic Youth - conducted street meetings around Stockholm culminating in a long procession to deliver a petition to the racist South African ligation. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Gertrude Shope, member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC. The racist ligation, besieged by hundreds of Swedish people and having been previously informed by the Foreign Ministry, was compelled to receive the petition which demanded amongst other things, the release of all political prisoners, in particular leaders like Nelson Mandela and the treatment of captured freedom fighters as prisoners of war, the unbanning of the ANC (which the masses at home are unbanning) and an end to military incursions and invasion of independent Africa, particularly Angola.

On the evening of January 8, an impressive political rally, attended by approximately 500 people with 8 ANC flags flying majestically above the entrance of Folkets Hus, was addressed by:
1. Hadino Hishongwa, SWAPO Representative to Scandinavian countries, FRG and Austria;
4. Sture Korpas, Centre Party Rep. Member of Parliament and member of the SIDA Board;
5. Lars Werner, Chairman of the Left Communist Party of Sweden (VFK);
6. His Excellency M. Elamin Abdel Latif Elamin, Ambassador of the Sudan representing the African diplomatic corps;
7. His Excellency Pino Quintin Machado, Ambassador of Cuba who spoke on behalf of Cuba which is a socialist country and a member of the non-aligned movement;
8. Comrade Nkobi addressed the gathering on behalf of the ANC.

The chairperson of the meeting was Per Wastberg, foreign editor of Dagens Nyheter (Daily News), a writer and literary critic. Dagens Nyheter is the widest circulating daily in Sweden.

It was on January 9 that a solidarity festival with a turnout of no less than 1500 people was entertained by a number of popular Swedish artists and our own Abdullah Ibrahim. Abdullah Ibrahim dedicated his performance to the heroes of Umkhonto we Sizwe. His opening song dedicated to Solomon Mahlangu kept the audience spell bound. There were many other
solidarity meetings with freedom songs and South African instrumental music provided by the Uppsala Solidarity Groups and South African artists and addressed by Comrade G. Shope.

One has to mention another form of solidarity witnessed in Sweden on January 16—a solidarity dinner with refreshments, drinks and African dishes donated by the African Diplomatic Corps and other friendly embassies. Entertainment was provided by an Afro-Swedish dancing troupe while the South African artists rendered South African music and freedom songs.

During this whole period comrades Nkobi and Shope had interviews with almost all major newspapers. Indeed no major paper did not feature the ANC celebrations.

The magnitude of the ANC’s 70th anniversary celebrations in Sweden was aptly described by one ANC supporter: They are like dress rehearsal celebrations of the ANC’s Day of Victory over apartheid!

This brings us to old London. A long tradition of anti-apartheid struggle—since the days of Solomon Plaatje—as well as concerted work by the ANC and its supporters ensured that January 8, 1982 was celebrated in a fitting manner in London. More than 700 people made their way, despite snow blizzards and appalling weather conditions, to the Central Hall Westminster to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the ANC. The hall decorated with banners and posters, reverberated with the theme: UNITY IN ACTION!

The Secretary General of the ANC, comrade Alfred Nzo delivered the statement of the National Executive Committee (see SECHABA, February, 1982) to the meeting. He added a special call to the British people to intensify their efforts in effecting the isolation of South Africa and paid tribute to the efforts of the Anti-Apartheid Movement whose "outstanding work...has not only had repercussions in Britain. It has inspired and guided the growth of a world-wide solidarity front."

Chairing the meeting comrades Ruth Mompatti, ANC Chief Representative in Great Britain, called on speakers who reflected the broad sweep of support for our liberation movement. They included representatives of our sister organisations—SWAPO and the PLO, Congressman Savage representing the black lobby in the USA; Frank Dobson, M.P., member of the Executive Committee of the A.A.M.; Bernt Carlsson, Secretary General of the Socialist International; and (making a keynote speech), Dr. O. Muntasser, OAU representative at the U.N. in Geneva who spoke on behalf of the OAU Secretary General.

The strength of our liberation alliance, headed by the ANC, was given emphasis by the presence of comrade Yusuf Dadoo, National Chairman of the South African Communist Party and Comrade John Gaetsewe, Secretary General of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, on the platform.

MESSAGES

Besides these numerous and perhaps innumerable meetings, the ANC received many messages of congratulations on this occasion—which tended to take a form of a national birthday party. We should mention a few of these messages.

The President of AAPSO wrote that "January 8, 1912 is a significant date in Africa’s freedom calendar as it marks the birthday of a great political organisation and national liberation movement" and the MPJ, the Pan African Youth Movement based in Algiers, took the opportunity of this occasion to "extend our revolutionary salutations to the heroic people of South Africa under the dynamic leadership of the ANC" while the Uruguayan Association Against Racism and Apartheid through its President Carlos Reverdito, wished that 1982 may lead to "progress towards eradication of apartheid, a shared goal of all peoples..."
striving against colonialism, fascism and war.

Ibrahim Zakaria, Acting General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions sent his greetings "on behalf of 206 million organised workers in all continents" and the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches assured us of their "cooperation, moral and humanitarian support, and prayers in your continued struggle against the inhuman, barbaric and unchristian apartheid system". The National Women's Organisation of Grenada sent its congratulations and saluted "especially Winnie Mandela and the many women of South Africa" while Cheddi Jagan, leader of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana sent his fraternal greetings. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador stated:

"The ANC which has the honour of being the oldest liberation movement of the African continent, is today leading an impressive, political-military struggle. Its armed fist, Umkhonto we Sizwe, is striking the apartheid regime in actions that demonstrate their growing strength. The struggle of the ANC, in which thousands of patriots are heroically engaged, has won the respect and solidarity of progressive and democratic forces throughout the world...

"The Salvadorans, revolutionaries are in militant solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and with their vanguard organisations the ANC and SWAPO, in our common struggle against imperialism."

And the message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba read as follows:

"... we would like to express ... the fraternal greetings from the communists and all the Cuban people.

"The heroic struggle and the tenacity of the South African masses against the brutal apartheid regime and against white exploitation and neofascist minority which is in power in Pretoria and supported by the United States Government and other capitalist countries has gained the admiration and support of all revolutionary and progressive forces in the world.

"On the occasion of the ANC reaching 70 years of tenacious fighting, the Communist Party of Cuba reiterates its firm solidarity with your just cause and the certainty that the South African people will win."

And Mr Ola Ulsten, Foreign Minister of Sweden, stated that "Sweden's moral, political and humanitarian assistance to this struggle and to the ANC will continue until the unique and abhorrent system of apartheid ceases to exist."

Nicolaes Casescu, Secretary General of the Romanian Communist Party expressed the conviction that the relations of friendship and solidarity established will continue to develop in the spirit of mutual esteem and respect. Similar sentiments were expressed by Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) and L. Brezhneu, General Secretary of the CPSU.

The Communist Party of Great Britain stated that: "Important campaigns have developed in support of the demand, emphasised once again by the United Nations, for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa."

"Because of Britain's investment and involvement in South Africa, this demand is of particular importance for the British people. We share a common interest in ridding South Africa of the apartheid regime..."

"An important aspect of this struggle is the fight to free Namibia from the illegal South African occupation, and we express our full support for SWAPO. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that 1982 is the year of victory for the people of Namibia. Another urgent need is to support the campaign against the South African war on Angola and Mozambique..."

On this occasion, when we celebrate your 70th anniversary, our thoughts go..."
out to the comrades fighting in many different ways in South Africa itself: the trades unionists, the students, those active in Umkhonto we Sizwe and all others. Our thoughts go to those held in jails of South Africa and who continue there to defy the apartheid regime. We think in particular of Nelson Mandela.

"The demand for his release and for that of all other prisoners will be stepped up in your anniversary year".

The General Secretariat of the International Organisation of Journalists stated:

"The Journalists of the African National Congress (have) proved (to be) competent and faithful servants of the cause of (their) people. There is no doubt that they will continue their cause in the future as well and they they will use all their strengths and capabilities in fight for (the interests of) the people. In this fight we are on your side and we extend our assistance to you".

The Progressive Party of Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) in Great Britain assured us of their full support in the Year of Mobilisation for Sanctions Against South Africa - as the U.N. has declared 1982.

Canon L. John Collins, President of the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa reminisced:

"It has also been a privilege and a pleasure for me to have been so closely associated with the African National Congress since my visit to South Africa in 1964. At that time I met Chief Lutuli, Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Annie Silinga and many others for whom I have the greatest regard...

"When in 1960, the African National Congress decided that the only way to achieve freedom was through an armed struggle, I must confess that it created difficulties for me as a Christian pacifist. However, I realised that it was not for me to tell the African National Congress or any of the people suffering under Apartheid how to achieve freedom, but that my role and that of my organisation should be to ensure, as far as possible, that those brought to Court should have independent and trustworthy lawyers and that their families and dependents should be cared for. This has been the basis of our association which has been a happy one, with mutual respect. We shall continue as best as we can our humanitarian assistance for all who suffer for their opposition to Apartheid. We shall also, through our publications, try to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake...

"Let us hope that you will achieve freedom in the very near future, that the prison doors will open, and that Apartheid, which I believe to be wholly evil, will become only a word in the history books."

The Holland Committee on Southern Africa acknowledged our modest successes:

"In these seventy years the ANC has succeeded in uniting the majority of South Africa's people. It has given the liberation struggle a deeply progressive content and it has advanced the struggle to the point where the apartheid regime is now fundamentally threatened in its continued maintenance of power". The Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement expressed itself in the same vein.

The West German Anti-Apartheid Movement expressed itself in the same vein.

"The Country that Does Not Need Any Special Virtues:

"A country that is administered by the people itself does not need any specially brilliant leadership.

A country where oppression is not possible does not need any special love for freedom.

If war is not necessary, bravery is not necessary either.

If the institutions are good, man must not be extra-ordinarily good.

However, he then finds the possibility to be so.

He can be free, just and brave without him or others suffering."
OAU supports your struggle – Muntasser

Below we publish the speech by Dr. O. Muntasser, on behalf of the OAU Secretary General on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the ANC.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity, H.E. Edem Kodjo, I wish to express my deep and profound appreciation for the invitation which the African National Congress has extended to the Organisation of African Unity and for the opportunity therefore afforded to me to take part in this important ceremony today, which is the Seventieth Anniversary of the Founding of the African National Congress. On this important occasion I convey to the President, Secretary General, members of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and all other members of the organisation the fraternal and brotherly greetings of the OAU Secretary-General.

This ceremony which marks the 70th Anniversary testifies to the continuity of the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa against the forces of domination, oppression, exploitation, racial discrimination and apartheid to which the people of South Africa have been subjected for a very long period of time. The heroic and valiant people of South Africa have over the years continued to struggle against racist minority domination in their country.

One of the fundamental aims and objectives of the Organisation of African Unity enshrined in its Charter is the total eradication of all forms of colonialism from Africa, and since its inception in May 1963, the Organisation has worked relentlessly towards Freedom and National Independence of the African continent. The Organisation of African Unity and Member States of the OAU will not rest until South Africa and Namibia are free from colonialism and racial domination. Consequently, the Organisation of African Unity is seriously concerned about the explosive situation in Southern Africa.

In fact, since its establishment the OAU drew the attention of the international community to the fact that the evil policies of apartheid of South Africa constitute a grave threat to international peace and security, and on many occasions strong resolutions on apartheid and racial discrimination have been adopted, which among other things, supported the idea of organising international campaigns to explain the inhuman nature and terrible effects of the policy of apartheid.

We know that apartheid has sought throughout its infamous history to consolidate itself through the institution of repressive laws enforced with ruthlessness and the establishment of so-called "Bantustans". All this has resulted in the human degradation of the people of South Africa and has condemned them to conditions of servitude, exploitation and oppression. The repressive laws and regulations and the establishment of the so-called "Bantustans" are designed to strengthen the pernicious institutions of apartheid under whose protection the national and human resources of the country are plundered by the racist regime.

Throughout the years the OAU has called upon the international community not to accord recognition to the so-called homelands.

Despite the resolutions of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the OAU and world public opinion, South Africa continues in its defiance and persists in violating the very fundamental principles and aspirations upon which the United Nations is founded.

The OAU is of the view that the continu-
ing political, economic and military collaboration of certain Western States and transnational corporations with South Africa encourages its determined intransigence and defiance of international community and constitutes a major obstacle to the elimination of the inhuman and criminal system of apartheid in South Africa and the attainment of self-determination, freedom and national independence by the people of South Africa.

By increasing its military build-up and by acquiring nuclear weapon capability, South Africa constitutes a danger to humanity because of its desperate efforts to perpetuate and consolidate racist domination in South Africa as well as hegemony over the whole of Southern Africa. On various occasions the OAU has called on all those countries which have economic and trade relations with South Africa to withdraw their investments.

Because of its aggressive policy, South Africa continues its illegal occupation of Namibia and denies the Namibian people their inalienable right to self-determination, independence and dignity. The South African regime continues to commit numerous acts of aggression and subversion against the Frontline States, especially against the People’s Republic of Angola, the Republic of Zambia and the People’s Republic of Mozambique as well as other OAU Members in the area, namely: the Republic of Seychelles, which was invaded recently by mercenaries organised by South Africa. The international community should condemn all these acts of aggression, which threaten peace and security in Africa.

During the last conference of the OAU in Nairobi, Kenya, July 1981, the OAU Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government considered the situation in Southern Africa. In the resolutions adopted on the situation in South Africa, the OAU condemned the South African racist regime for the continued pursuit of its apartheid policies, its acts of repression and brutality, including the shooting of unarmed school children as well as South Africa’s unprovoked acts of aggression against independent African states. In the same resolution the OAU called for world-wide actions by all opponents of apartheid aimed at exerting pressure on the apartheid regime, for the immediate release of leader Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners convicted under the apartheid laws. It commended the National Liberation Movements, and I quote: “particularly the ANC as well as the
Namibia to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and national independence.

The OAU has since its foundation, emphasized the desirability of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The OAU expressed its appreciation to all states which have broken off or refrained from any relations with the apartheid regime as a demonstration of their solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa and their respect for the principles of the United Nations. The UN Conference on Sanctions held in Paris last year defined the purposes of sanctions against South Africa, and it is high time that all states apply comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

Let me, Mr Chairman, reiterate and reaffirm the unflinching support of the OAU to the people of South Africa in their legitimate struggle to self-determination, independence and dignity. In spite of the conspiracy against them however, the oppressed people of South Africa have risen heroically to defend their honour and dignity. The OAU has on many occasions appealed to the world community to increase moral, material and political assistance to the liberation movements in order to realize the objectives of complete liberation of South Africa and Namibia.

The OAU is not against South Africa as some people tend to believe, because it is rich or because it is more developed than any of its Member States. Africa as I said is by nature generous and the Lusaka Manifesto and the Dar es Salaam Declaration show that we do not deny even the existence of South Africa. The OAU is against South Africa because the OAU believes and fights for the principle of equality of all peoples or each without distinction of race or the colour of their skin. Well the apartheid regime is the negation of all of these very principles. Let me say it again — racial discrimination — which is the negation of the fundamental principle of equality among men is felt nowhere more than in South Africa where millions of human beings are considered legally inferior on account of the colour of their skin. Nowhere as in South Africa is the scourge of racial discrimination so deeply felt, so wounding to the soul and dignity of men, women and children.

The OAU stands for peace, is against acts of war and has a genuine desire for permanent and fruitful reconciliation. The OAU works for partnership and collaboration among its member states for the sake of social and economic progress.

A delay in the solution of the problems of the African black man in South Africa and the continuing denial of his rights by South Africa is not only bringing untold sufferings to our brothers and sisters but will remain an affront to the human conscience of the international public opinion as long as the apartheid system continues to pursues its policies despite the relentless efforts of the UN and other international organisations. We say that we condemn apartheid and shall continue so until justice, freedom and social equality reign in South Africa and, that we condemn and will continue to do so the evil doctrine of apartheid practised by the white minority in South Africa and that we shall continue to draw the attention of the international community to the fact that apartheid poses a grave threat to international peace and security. Let me recall that the General Assembly of the UN, after considering the policies of apartheid of the government of South Africa strongly condemned the illegitimate minority racist regime and in the same resolution, while reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa appealed to all member states to provide all necessary assistance to the National Liberation Movements of South Africa in this crucial stage of their struggle.

We know that because of their negative attitude to the African and Arab peoples, collusion exists between Israel and South Africa. Israel has not only disregarded international public opinion but has continued to commit acts of aggression, acts of repression against the Palestinian people and other countries in the region. Only recently, because of their contempt for
Venda – The reality of Bantustan “independence”

"The South African Government does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries."

These are the words of Mr Donald Sole, South African ambassador to the United States of America, and one would like to think that he was expressing a change of heart on the part of the South African regime in its relations with Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho or the Seychelles. Unfortunately not.

He was in fact talking about the South African regime’s relations with a place called Venda, a place which is an ‘other country’ in no one’s eyes except the myopic eyes which blink out from Pretoria.

We, and many others less partisan about the South African situation than ourselves, have spent many words on explaining and condemning the bantustan farce. Yet the Matanzimas, Mangopes, Sebes and Mphephus of this world consistently feel it necessary to give us their unsolicited assistance in accordance with the old adage that action speaks louder than words.
As the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei raised in turn their Pretoria-sewn flags (in the case of the Ciskei, with considerable difficulty) these fledgling 'other countries' have shown by their deeds that they are nothing but ghastly mirror-images of the monster which created them.

Venda, this tiny little territory tucked away unobtrusively in the north-eastern corner of South Africa, is no exception. According to newspaper reports, in November of last year, the Venda 'authorities suddenly went crazy. They poured the greater portion of their tiny 'National Force' into the streets of their towns, stopping just about anyone courageous enough to walk around; set up roadblocks on the few roads the South African regime graciously bequeathed them; and subsequently detained anyone vaguely thought to entertain political views left of fascist.

Among those detained, and still held, were church leaders, former student leaders and civil servants. One of these was Nhlanhla Isaac Muofhe, a member of the Bold Evangelical Christian Organisation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venda.

Two days after being dragged away from his wife and six-month old child, Nhlanhla Muofhe was dead. After two post mortems, (at least one of which revealed multiple bruising and internal bleeding,) and much pressure from many sources, the Venda 'authorities' have not yet produced their promised report on Muofhe's death.

The Very Reverend T.S. Farisani, Dean of the Lutheran Church in Sibasa, despite his esteemed position in the community, did not escape the 'craziness' of Mphephu's hunting dogs. He too was detained. Some days later patients in the Tshilidzi Hospital near Sibasa saw Rev. Farisani dragging himself through the hospital corridors under police escort with a badly mauled face.

Yet another church leader, Reverend Faure Louw of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, soon after helping to arrange the funeral of Nhlanhla Muofhe, was 'deported' from Venda.

The handwriting in which these acts are written is unmistakable. It was meticulously learnt in the schoolrooms of Pretoria. Brigadier Malaudzi, Commander of Venda's 'National Force', is a former South African security policeman. He must have been a star pupil. He even parries newspaper reporters in the inimitable style of the Pretoria 'diplomats'. He told one reporter:

"Why come to Venda to ask questions? Go to Mozambique, go to Zaire. There they throw detainees into concentration camps. Here in Venda we only put them in police cells."

Yes, indeed. In Venda they 'only put them in police cells'. Like Ahmed Timol was 'only put in a police cell'; like Steve Biko, like Neil Aggett, like Nhlanhla Muofhe. 'All 'only put in police cells'.

What is perhaps particularly interesting about this recent paroxysm of repression in Venda is the fact that it was preceded by an event which tore the hearts from the chests of Mphephu and his braggarts. At least, if one is to believe the South African press. It all started on a night in October last year.

On the night of October 26th 1981 a heavily bandaged man entered the police station at Sibasa — heart of the Venda 'empire', and not many hundreds of metres away from Mphephu's palace — and proceeded to lay a charge. By way of introduction he extracted a handgrenade from his clothing and lobbed it at the attending policemen and then made good his escape. His little introduction was followed by an avalanche of rocket and rifle fire which devastated the police station and left two policemen dead and one wounded. Umkhonto we Sizwe had struck.

According to reports it was not only the police station that was devastated on that night, the Venda establishment was struck dumb. After some time of absolute paralysis they did the first thing which came into their numbed minds. They called in the racist South Africans. Unfortunately the racists, despite their own many experiences in this field, failed to find the culprits. So they 'withdrew', leaving behind instructions to round up and question all possible suspects.

As they partially recovered from their shock, Mphephu and co. did just that,
probably with a little relish at being able
to put the relatively best organised part
of their 'state' machinery — the 'National
Force' — into operation — just like little
boys playing with a new set of toy guns.
And judging by the ensuing events, which
we have already described, they worked
on the principle that anyone who had ever
so much as mouthed an anti-Mphephu
word as good as fired the rockets which
disintegrated their precious police station.

Umkhonto we Sizwe's attack on the
Sibasa police station did many things. It
demonstrated the combat capability of MK.
It forcefully reiterated the ANC's rejection
of the whole bantustan fiasco. It clearly
demonstrated that the puppet army headed
by Brigadier Malandzi is no match for the
better-motivated, trained and equipped
army of the people. It devastated the morale
of the Mphephu clan.

But by no means did it precipitate or
cause repression in Venda. At most it
can be said that the flares that consumed
Sibasa police station lit up in stark relief
the deathly face that the Venda
collaborators, that all collaborators, that
the whole bantustan system, has worn since
the whole thing began decades, if not
centuries, ago.

Venda occupies about 6,500 square
kilometres in the North-Eastern Transvaal.
When it received its license to repres from
Pretoria in September 1979 a thin strip
of its northern territory bordering on
Zimbabwe was taken back by Pretoria,
an obvious move which revealed at once
both Pretoria's strategic conception of the
bantustan scheme and its lack of confidence
in its own carefully nurtured buffer states.
Venda claims a population of 500,000,
though a third of these people live and work
outside the territory. Yet more are forced
to commute to 'white South Africa' to
earn a living.

Economically Venda lays claim to 'vast
potential'. Yet apart from subsistence
farming in which the vast majority of the
population are involved, Venda can claim
no real exploitation of its 'vast potential'
other than a few farms, tiny factories and
the odd attempt to tap its mineral resources
—and, of course, a luxury hotel (every
room of which is reported to be bugged)
and the inevitable casino. But literally
just down the road from Venda are the
lush farmlands of the northern Transvaal
and the industrial heartland of the
Witwatersrand which could feed, clothe,
house and employ the entire Venda
population a thousand times over.

Just a few months after Venda got its
'Independence' newspapers revealed that
the few people who managed to find
employment in Venda were being paid
atrocious wages. In December 1979 the
'Post' newspaper revealed that workers on
a coffee plantation partly owned by the
Venda 'government' were being paid less
that 1c for each metre-deep pit they dug
— giving them a maximum possible income
of R23 a month for men and R16 for
women.

Meanwhile, back at the casino, Venda
'government' officials are reputed to be
making a tidy profit on top of their huge
salaries. This accusation comes, of all places,
from the ultra-right newspaper 'Die
Vaderland' which claims that those Venda
officials who are not siphoning profits
from the casino into their own pockets
are becoming so indebted financially to the
casino management (i.e. a certain Jacobus
Justus de Villiers) that there is deep concern
that they have made themselves open to
manipulation.

Who are these 'officials' of Venda?
They are a clique of reactionary, corrupt
and totally inept puppets, who were so
desperate to serve their masters in Pretoria
as diligently as possible, that they had to
rig those 'elections' that did take place in
order to do so.

As far back as 1973 Mphethu's party
was defeated in elections by 13 seats to 5.
Mphethu (undoubtedly under the expert
advice of his masters) took the nominated
chiefs in the 'Legislative Assembly' on a
four-day holiday. As a result, in spite of his
failure in the election, he was re-elected
'Chief Minister'.

Despite this ploy, when the 'Legislative
Assembly' met in 1974 a large number of
chiefs deserted Mphethu leaving him with a
slim majority. Mphethu quickly closed the
assembly.

In elections in 1978 the Venda
opposition won 70% of the vote and 31
of the 42 elected seats. Mphethu used
emergency powers given him by Pretoria
to detain 11 of the successful opposition
candidates and many of their supporters.
He was re-elected Chief Minister.

To forestall any further problems
Mphethu invented an unassailble post for
himself — Paramount Chief — and so put
an end to the obvious dangers which even
token democracy posed to him and his
masters.

This is Venda. The latest wave of
repression is certainly not a result of
Unkhonto's strike against the Sibasa police
station. It is a continuation and intensifica­
tion of the repression in which Venda was
conceived, born and bred.

When Pretoria's ambassadors parry inter­
national condemnation by refusing to
interfere in the 'internal affairs of another
country' we can only laugh bitterly. Venda's
'internal affairs' were conceived, created,
distorted and manipulated by Pretoria
from day one.

Venda (they say) is a beautiful country.
The whole of South Africa (we say) is a
beautiful country. Its beauty, its human
and material resources have been squandered
and pillaged. Mphethu and his ilk have
cooperated with Botha and his ilk in
turning a beautiful and rich country into
a wasteland of poverty, oppression and
destruction.

Unkhonto's strike against Sibasa is only
a start. In accordance with the directives
laid down by the leadership of the African
National Congress our efforts to mobilise
the people under the yoke of the bantustan
puppets are being daily intensified.

The people of Venda, Bophuthatswana,
Transkei and Ciskei are our people. The
Mphethus, Mangopes, Matanzimas and Sebes
are our enemy. They will again and again
face our wrath until they are but a curiosity
of history talked about by a new generation
in the schools of a totally liberated South
Africa.
Angola's just cause

Below we publish an article on the situation facing the People's Republic of Angola by Maiga Holnes of the Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Information Centre.

As the ANC steps up its struggle in South Africa — showing an impressive degree of organisation and selection of targets — the apartheid regime is doing all it can to push back the frontiers of independent Africa. Putting innumerable delays and pretexts in the way of plans for Namibia's independence, it is defying resolutions and decisions of the highest international bodies. The intransigence and procrastination of Pretoria — as well as its increased aggressiveness towards independent African states — has long been a factor to be contended with. However, an entirely new and dangerous dimension has been added to the problem with the coming to power of the Reagan administration in the United States.

More and more, we see Pretoria serving as the armed wing of Washington policy. And more and more we see the issue of Namibia's independence — next in line on Africa's decolonisation agenda — confused with what the US regards as its strategic interests in the area. As a result, the issues of Namibia are made to appear very complex.

They are simple, however. Namibia is illegally occupied by South Africa, and its independence is a matter of urgency. Years of negotiations involving the so-called western Contact Group (the US, France, Britain, Federal Germany and Canada), the African Front Line States, SWAPO and South Africa itself resulted in Security Council resolution 435/78, the UN plan providing for a ceasefire, the phased withdrawal of South African troops, a UN peace-keeping force and free elections supervised by the UN.

Now we see the US administration seeking to link the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. This makes nonsense of the decolonisation process. It is Namibia that needs to be decolonised, whereas Angola is a sovereign state. Any attempt to link these two entirely separate questions is gross interference in the internal affairs of Angola.

Moreover, Angola is being made to bear the brunt of South African aggression in Southern Africa. Thousands of Angolans have been killed, wounded or made homeless as a result of South African armed operations inside the country. The losses and destruction in Angola are greater than in Namibia itself, where SWAPO is conducting armed struggle against the South African occupation forces.

Angola has had to allocate more than half its national budget to defence, and national reconstruction programmes in that newly-independent country have been seriously set back as a result of the war. In a statement last month, the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Workers' Party stressed the need for austerity and full involvement in development tasks.

The enormous sacrifices the Angolan people are having to make are the price they are paying for their support for the Namibian people, led by SWAPO. It just so happens that Angola shares a border with Namibia. Indeed Africa supports SWAPO. The UN and the OAU support SWAPO. Angola is simply fulfilling its international obligations in respect of Namibian independence. Angola has no border with South Africa. Angolan troops are not fighting in Namibia. They are simply defending their country against the illegal invasions of South African forces from illegally occupied Namibia.

The situation has worsened since the massive armed invasion started in August last year, involving more than 11,000 racist troops and large quantities of heavy Centurion tanks, armoured cars, heavy artillery, massive overflying by jet fighter
bombers and the use of poisonous gas and napalm. Angola's southern Kunene Province, bordering on Namibia, has been devastated and administrative, economic and social structures destroyed. FAPLA; the Angolan armed forces, have fought heroically, succeeding in taking back occupied towns and making it impossible for South Africa to secure the buffer zone it has been trying to create in southern Angola. All eye-witnesses are agreed that the South African army is no match for the Angolan troops. Their sole strength is their powerful air force, the planes that swoop down from great heights and make their deadly lightning attacks on everything seen moving on the ground. So although the Angolan armed forces have developed enormously since independence in 1975, acquiring a powerful defence capacity and modern technology, South Africa's blitzkrieg has had devastating effects.

There is little doubt that the massiveness of this invasion was related to the change of administration in the United States. Just as Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State in the Ford administration, gave the go-ahead for South Africa's invasion of Angola on the eve of independence in October 1975 — as leading South African officials themselves have stated — there is every indication that a similar green light was given by Washington this time.

It is not only that the US was the only country to veto the Security Council resolution condemning the invasion. The US has been increasing its political, economic and military support for South Africa, as well as for the South African-backed Unita puppets. Perhaps most significantly, they appear to be obsessed about the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Those troops are not threatening South Africa in any way. They are not fighting with SWAPO in Namibia. They are not even fighting in Angola. Indeed, the Angolan armed forces have been able, on their own, to contain the racist advance in Kunene Province. In addition to training the Angolan armed forces for purposes of defending their country, the Cuban troops in Angola serve as a kind of reserve force, in the event that Angola were to feel the threat to its sovereignty so great that it would invoke Article 51 of the UN Charter, allowing for 'individual and collective self-defence' when under attack.

Yet the US administration is trying to make the presence of Cuban troops in Angola appear to be an obstacle to Namibian independence. This cannot be because the United States, in principle, is against all foreign troops in countries. There are American troops all over the world, even in Cuba itself where they are still stationed at Guantanamo base, against the will of the Cuban government. It may, of course, be that the US administration simply fears little Cuba for becoming the first socialist country in the Americas and foiling every US plot to thwart its independence.

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By supporting South Africa as a 'bastion against communism' and trying to present the Angolan people as mere pawns in some kind of giant international East-West chess game, the Americans are showing total contempt for African aspirations to independence, peace and progress. They forget too that in the eyes of Africa and the world, South Africa is precisely a bastion against independence, peace and social progress. In a joint statement signed in Luanda on 5 February this year, the Foreign Ministers of Cuba and Angola, Isidora Malmierca and Paulo Jorge — referring to 1975/76, when Cuba's armed forces helped the Angolan armed forces to drive out the South African invaders — said: 'South Africa's invasion of Angola would have been a serious danger to states in the region and, in fact, to all of independent Africa. Cuba's internationalist help to the Angolan people in resisting the South African invaders was therefore a valuable