



Bew 'C21'

Our movement has come through difficult times - days and years often thought we shall not again see the open political organisation of our people until the eve of liberation. For a time the tremendous struggles waged seemed to be crushed by the oppressive regime and with the greater part of our leadership, restricted, harassed, banned, banished, detained, jailed and even murdered here and beyond our borders.

In small gatherings and comradely meetings as we are attending tonight the flames of liberation were kept burning in our hearts. It is people like Anne + Jossy, and of course many others, that gatherings such as these have helped kindle those flames of freedom to burn more brightly.

Tonight we are thankful to them, that after a difficult year they have once more brought some of us together in their home. It is in gatherings like these of the old guard and of the youth - a gathering of those who were active in the workmen's clubs, the trade unions, the Communist Party and the Congress Movement and of those active today in JODAC, DPSC, Black Sash and Affiliates of the UDF - that our tradition of struggle and total commitment shall live forward and sustain all who cherish the dream of a just and democratic South Africa.

2. After the long night we have been through we are justly proud of the organisations we have created and particularly of the UDF. We have tremendous admiration for our people who against great odds are waging a valiant struggle against oppression. We are witness that struggle sweeping through the factories, the township, in the schools and universities in the mines and rural areas, but we are also very conscious of the struggle being waged in the so-called suburbs against ~~oppression~~ repression and conscription to man the oppressive army, as well as the education and skills which are being brought to all our people. We are very proud of these achievements. But we must also remember these are achievements that have grown from seeds sown by the old guard and that we can jointly prepare the ground for greater achievements tomorrow.

3. We value this gathering also to help us cement our comradeship across the generation to build rivalries into comradesly bonds; to build wider and wider circles of comradeship knowing that our country can not be liberated until we have built ourselves into strong comradesly chain across our country.

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At this particular time as we enter the new year we are reminded of the harassment and persecution of our comrades and of the many who have been banned, restricted, bashed in detention, in prison and those who have been maimed and killed. We remember particularly our leaders, Mandela, Sisulu, Mcheli, Kethrada, Goldberg and others imprisoned for so many long years, but we also remember our young people Babara Horgan, Rob Adam, Mandla Mtenben, Karl, Totsobe and so many others who are languishing in the oppressors prisons. We remember particularly those who have been robbed of life. There are so many but I would like to repeat remarks I made at the burial of Jabulani Ngebo, who was gunned down in Manzini by the Swaziland Police and branded an ANC dog whose body could not be treated with the customary respect for the dead. ~~I repeat that those who want to repeat:~~ We say to those who want to see that this country is at war; a war waged by the oppressors against the oppressed. Let the rulers, ~~and those~~ and those who have sided with our enemy, that there is not going to be peace in this country until we are all free. This land is the land of our birth. It is the land of our forefathers. It has absorbed the sweat, tears and blood of our loved ones, just as our soil will take Jabulani. Its every blade of grass, its

every drop of water and its every grain of sand is a precious part of our very being. The death of Jabulani is proof that there is not going to be peace until we have claimed our heritage and liberated our country from racial oppression and exploitation. His death like those of Solomon Mahlangu, Mogoerane Mabolli, Mtshali and those murdered in Maputo, Maseru, Carnage, Harare, Luanda, Gaborone, Manzini, Mbalane or here in the Vaal, Swakop, Guguletu, Durban or so many other places is testimony that the rulers have set this country firmly on the road to violence and conflict. But we shall not be deterred from struggling for a free and democratic South Africa.

We are clear that the year ahead demands great commitment from us all. As we go our various ways during the year I trust we shall derive great strength that each one of us here shall spare neither effort nor courage until we have liberated our country. I wish you strength and courage and that you will go well.

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