

organisations that espouse the will of the people. Instead the spirit of resistance continues.

Repeatedly the racist rulers have tried to convince us that they have destroyed our organisation, the ANC and our army Umkhonto we Sizwe. Instead during the funeral of our leader, Lilian Ngoyi, we demonstrated our support for our organisation by hoisting the people's flag - Black for us the black people of this country, Green for the agricultural wealth and Gold for the mineral wealth. We have seen the courage and determination of our heroes in the persons of Solomon Mahlangu, the Silverton group and the Maritzburg Twelve which included James Mange. The superiority of our army in tactics has been demonstrated in the attack of the symbols of oppression and repression - the police stations. We have in mind Moroka, Orlando, Soekmekaar and Booysens police stations. It is better that the racist regime take heed of what their then Minister of Justice, Jimmy Kruger, said when he stated that: "It is not possible to destroy the ANC but to contain it". Although even to contain it will become more difficult because the people will see to it that our instrument of change and freedom should never be contained. Our organisation, the African National Congress, is the main generator of the crisis of the Pretoria regime.

We are clear that the solutions to the problems of our country will be solved by the ANC led by our authentic leaders like Tambo, Mandela, Sisulu and Mbeki. That is why we are demanding and will continue to demand the release of our leaders from Robben Island. That is why we are prepared to support the Free Mandela Campaign and call on more of our people to express themselves. In this way we are clearly demonstrating who are our true leaders and which is our organisation.

Document / CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, 1955.

CALL TO THE CONGRESS

Leaflet issued by the National Action Council of the Congress of the People. The idea for the Congress of the people had been proposed by the venerable ANC leader Prof. Z.K. Matthews and sponsored by the ANC, SAIC, COD and Coloured People's Organisation. The National Action Council was composed of eight members from each organisation and was responsible for producing and distributing this call in several languages.

WE CALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA BLACK AND WHITE. LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM!

WE CALL THE FARMERS OF THE RESERVES AND TRUSTLANDS.

Let us speak of the wide land, and the narrow strips on which we toil.

Let us speak of brothers without land, and of children without schooling.

Let us speak of taxes and of cattle, and of famine.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM

WE CALL THE MINERS OF COAL, GOLD AND DIAMONDS

Let us speak of the dark shafts, and the cold compounds far from our families.

Let us speak of heavy labour and long hours, and of men sent home to die.

Let us speak of rich masters and poor wages.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FARMS AND FORESTS

Let us speak of the rich foods we grow, and the laws that keep us poor.

Let us speak of harsh treatment and of children and women forced to work.

Let us speak of private prisons, and beatings and of passes.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE WORKERS OF FACTORIES AND SHOPS

Let us speak of the good things we make, and the bad conditions of our work.

Let us speak of the many passes and the few jobs.

Let us speak of foremen and of transport and of trade unions; of holidays and of houses.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND THE PREACHERS

Let us speak of the light that comes with learning, and the ways we are kept in darkness.

Let us speak of great services we can render, and of the narrow ways that are open to us.

Let us speak of laws, and government, and rights.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL THE HOUSEWIVES AND THE MOTHERS

Let us speak of the fine children that we bear, and of their stunted lives.

Let us speak of the many illnesses and deaths, and of the few clinics and schools.

Let us speak of high prices and of shanty towns.

LET US SPEAK OF FREEDOM.

ALL OF US TOGETHER - African and European, Indian and Coloured, Voter and voteless. Privileged and rightless. The happy and the homeless. All the people of South Africa; of the towns and of the countryside.

LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM. And of the happiness that can come to men and women if they live in a land that is free.

LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM. And of how to get it for ourselves, and for our children.

LET THE VOICE OF ALL THE PEOPLE BE HEARD, AND LET THE DEMANDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE FOR THE THINGS THAT WILL MAKE US FREE BE RECORDED. LET THE DEMANDS BE GATHERED TOGETHER IN A GREAT CHARTER OF FREEDOM.

WE CALL ON ALL GOOD MEN AND TRUE, to speak now of freedom, and to write their own demands into the Charter of Freedom.

WE CALL ALL WHO LOVE LIBERTY to pledge their lives from here on to win the Freedoms set out in the Charter.

WE CALL ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO PREPARE FOR:

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE - Where representatives of the people, everywhere in the land, will meet together in a great assembly, to discuss and adopt the Charter of Freedom.

Let us organise together for the Congress of the People.

Let us speak together of Freedom.

Let us work together for the Freedom Charter.

LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER TO FREEDOM!