

The World Greets the SACP

Contents

Introduction

Southern Africa

OR Tambo (ANC), John Nkadimeng (SACTU), Jay Naidoo (COSATU), Sam Nujoma (SWAPO), Govan Mbeki, Jack Simons, a CC candidate on trial

Africa

Algeria, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan

Socialist Countries

Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union

Europe

Austria, Belgium, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, West Berlin

Central and South America

Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana

North America

Canada, U.S.A.

Far East

Japan, New Zealand, Philippines

Middle East

Cyprus, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria

Caribbean

Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique

Introduction

7th Congress of the South African Communist Party

The Seventh Congress of the South African Communist Party (SACP) was held recently, attended by a record number of delegates from the external mission of the SACP and the underground in South Africa. After a discussion spread over several days, resolutions were passed setting out the perspectives of the SACP relating to the future conduct of the national liberation struggle and the advance to socialism, and the improvement of the work of the various organs of the Party.

The Congress adopted a new programme entitled 'The Path to Power' after widespread discussion at all levels, and also made some minor amendments to the Party constitution.

At the 7th Congress the General Secretary, Joe Slovo, the National Chairman, Dan Tloome, and a new Central Committee were elected. The new Central Committee met and elected its Political Bureau. Greetings to the Congress were sent by organisations and individuals connected with the liberation movement in Southern Africa as well as Communist and Workers' Parties throughout the world. This brochure contains an edited selection from these messages of solidarity, which are acknowledged with gratitude by the SACP.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

From President OR Tambo

I am honoured today, on behalf of the leadership of the African National Congress, inside and outside of our country, on behalf of its entire membership, and in particular, the heroic cadres-in-arms of the people's Army, Umkhonto We Sizwe, and our militant youth wherever they may be, as well as on my own behalf, to convey our revolutionary greetings to the historic 7th Congress of the South African Communist Party and to you personally Comrade General Secretary Joe Slovo.

The South African Communist Party has a proud record of firmness and resolution in struggle. Its history is replete with sterling examples of commitment to the cause of the oppressed and exploited and to the building of a just socio-economic system in our country. The spirit of selflessness and dedication that has coloured its performance is a hallmark of its calibre. Those of us who have traversed the arduous path of struggle for many difficult years recall with great admiration the calm and vision of many departed stalwarts of the Party, who even when condemned, bell, book and candle, refused to forsake their past and to shirk their

responsibilities. We are speaking here of the leaders of rare stature like Albert Nzula, JB Marks, Malume Moses Kotane, Bram Fischer, Moses Mabhida. We continue to be inspired by the fond memories we share of the gallant MK combatants who were also members of the Party such as the late Oubadie, Lucas Njongwe and others. With such a heritage behind it, the Party must deservedly stand tall.

Your Congress, the 7th in the history of the South African Communist Party, is an event of great moment, not only as being yet another beacon on the relentless road to a future South Africa, but also in terms of its timing. Taking place this year, which the ANC declared the Year of Mass Action for People's Power, the Congress constitutes an indispensable factor and a sure mainstay in its execution of our tasks for advance towards the goal of people's power.

The indefatigable spirit of our working people is heightening with each passing day, bearing the masses into great transports of elation and expectation. Victory for the people is no longer a remote desire but an unfolding reality.

There is forward movement in our region. But the Pretoria regime remains true to its unreliable character. April 1st 1989, far from being the day the United Nations has waited for since SWAPO launched the armed struggle in 1966, may yet prove to have been international fools' day. But even if the Pretoria regime should honour the letter and spirit of Resolution 435 in every detail, which is inconceivable, its strategy remains orientated to the survival of the apartheid system of domination and exploitation. Central to this strategy is the regime's determination to get out of its isolation and move out to the outer world, to the Frontline States, Africa and beyond, moves designed and calculated to soften international attitudes towards the regime and its criminal apartheid system and thus put our struggle into isolation.

The thrust of Margaret Thatcher's current offensive in South Africa and the region is to discourage international pressures and liberate South Africa. The New York Accords which had propelled her into action have given rise to the general belief that if the South African regime can negotiate an end to the conflict in Angola and Namibia it should be ready and willing to negotiate an end to the conflict in South Africa. There is therefore a new climate of hope. Our friends will see in this climate the possibility of a compromise solution. Our enemies will see in it the opportunity of denying our people the victory they deserve. Both will press for negotiations. The regime will encourage them without any intention to engage in serious and genuine negotiations.

What all this means is that our people, our movement, and especially our alliance, can expect to be subjected to immense and unprecedented pressure, pressure that could put a severe strain on our cohesion, unless we react correctly. From our point of view, when the historic moment for negotiations comes in our situation as it most probably will, we shall welcome negotiations. In a proper case they shorten

rather than extend the route to victory. But we dare not allow our cause to be distorted and our objectives deflected by the assumption that the conditions which compel the Pretoria regime to negotiate, sign and honour the New York Accords also exist in South Africa today, or that they will in the immediate future.

There can be no doubt, however, that correctly channelled and directed by us here more pressures, precisely because of their immensity, can bring our victory nearer. We therefore need to rally together in defence of our struggle and our ideals. But as always the best form of defence is the offensive. It is always in the attack that victory is to be found.

As never before we need to move, arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder, with all our allies, friends and supporters. Within our own movement we need to close ranks now as never before and wage intensive struggle with reinforced vigour, including the intensification of our armed struggle. For it is our own struggle that will give clarity and direction to the international support, and it is our own struggle, more than any other force, that will defeat the enemy and bring about a new order in our country and region.

And we have reached a victorious phase in the struggle of the peoples of Southern Africa. The defeat of the bellicose South African Army in Angola has turned the tide irreversibly against the Pretoria fascists. FAPLA, the Cuban internationalist forces and SWAPO of Namibia have done Africa very proud indeed. To paraphrase comrade Fidel Castro?after Cuito Cuanavale the history of Africa will have to be written anew.

We are happy to reiterate this truth with all the hope that the military victory, which was complemented by international political and economic, as well as by internal pressures within our country and Namibia, will produce durable peace for the People's Republic of Angola and spell the imminent demise of the UNITA bandits.

Comrades, our liberation alliance has a duty to take full advantage of the crisis facing the ruling clique in our country. We must transform the divisions among the enemy into yawning congas and fill those congas with the rudiments of united popular power so as to begin to give meaning to our aspiration to win a non-racial democracy in a united South Africa. We all have a duty to our country and people for a future of hope where every one of us will live in peace, progress and prosperity.

Our message to this 7th Congress, therefore is: let us consolidate and strengthen the alliance and advance in concert. Let us remain vigilant and watch out for those forces who never leave the boardrooms where they studiously plot our own undoing. Our victories are many and significant, but now more than ever before we need to defeat them in order to secure our offensive and ensure our advance to the

victory of our revolution. We wish your 7th Congress every success.

ALL POWER!!

MAATLA!!!

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (SACTU)

From General Secretary John Nkadimeng

The South African Congress of Trade Unions sends its warmest revolutionary greetings to the SACP on this historical occasion of your 7th Congress.

SACTU and the SACP, united together in our liberation and revolutionary alliance, have deep historical and ongoing bonds. We are both charged with complementary, vanguard tasks in regard to the millions-strong South African working class, the leading class force in our liberation struggle.

SACTU is the vanguard trade union force, working to strengthen and develop the progressive trade union movement within our country, and to deepen international anti-apartheid trade union solidarity.

The SACP is the political vanguard of our working class, representing the all round interests of the proletariat, both in the immediate national liberation struggle, and in the longer-term struggle for socialism as a stage towards communism.

Looking back over the past decade, considering our common struggle and our complementary tasks, SACTU and the SACP have reason for considerable pride. Working class organisation has re-emerged, more powerful than ever before in recent years. In particular, the over 1 million-strong COSATU is an enormous achievement.

But it is not only on the trade union front that the working-class has re-emerged powerfully. Within the broader mass democratic movement, it is workers who are more and more taking on their role as the leading class force. This is being achieved not just through sheer force of numbers, but by virtue of their organisational: experience and increasing political confidence.

Of course there are many important tasks ahead that will require careful planning, and close co-operation between our two organisations. It would be wrong, for instance, to imagine that the growing and rightful presence of our working class in the forefront of struggle is occurring evenly and everywhere. There are still sectors of our struggle in which our commitment to working class leadership has not been fully achieved.

We also need to ensure that, as organisations with complementary vanguard tasks, we are really able to fulfil these roles, working, closely with the impressive leadership that has emerged in the front line of struggle within our country.

Comrades,

This Congress is occurring in a period that is rich with revolutionary potential. The apartheid regime is caught within a chronic, all-round crisis. Although the regime may limp on in crisis for some time we are undoubtedly witnessing its final years.

Rich in potential, the immediate period is also one that is full of challenges. The imperialist powers are working overtime, often with considerable tactical skill, to bring about a resolution to the South African and southern African situation favourable to the long-term survival of capitalist exploitation in our sub-continent.

Within the southern African region the defeat of the apartheid war machine in southern Angola, and the resulting Namibian independence process mark a new milestone in the liberation of our continent. As organisations upholding the principles of proletarian internationalism, the developing Namibian situation presents us with a very important task. We need to deepen the unity between Namibian workers and South African workers. And we need to ensure that the achievement of Namibian independence, an event so fiercely resisted by Pretoria, echoes through the ranks of our own working class.

In South Africa, after the most recent high-point of semi-insurrectionary mass struggle in 1984-86, the regime has gone on the offensive. For the moment it has suppressed but failed to reverse our revolutionary advances. The inevitable, changing pace of mass action requires a rock-steady vanguard leadership to ensure that a relative lull is not turned into demoralisation and retreat. We need to remind ourselves of Lenin's observation: '... the revolution itself must not by any means be regarded as a single act... but as a series of more or less powerful outbreaks rapidly alternating with periods of more or less complete calm.' (*What Is to be done? Selected Works, Vol, p 230*)

As part of its attempt at suppressing our struggle, the apartheid regime has recently introduced the Labour Relations Amendment Act. This is a most serious threat to the entire progressive trade union movement in our country.

It is not the mass trade union movement and SACTU, alone, but all revolutionary and progressive forces who have a duty to unite in their efforts to ensure that this vicious Act is made unworkable. Bosses who use its reactionary clauses must be targeted for an all-round offensive?let workers hit such bosses with industrial action, let the townships strike out with consumer boycotts, let the international community ensure their maximum isolation, and let Umkhonto we Sizwe, our People's Army, make them feel the full weight of our wrath.

Despite nearly 40 years in the underground, the prestige and popularity of the South African Communist Party is now greater than at any time in its history. But prestige and popularity also confer revolutionary duties.

You can be certain that the programmatic, strategic and tactical positions that emerge publicly from this 7th Congress will be closely studied by our friends and enemies alike. But above all, and more importantly, the impact of this Congress will surely echo powerfully among the working masses of our country.

Let the 7th Congress of the SACP sharpen the spear and strengthen the shield of our national liberation struggle.

Let the 7th Congress be a springboard to the speediest achievement of our national democratic revolution.

Long live our Revolutionary Alliance!

An Injury to One? Is an Injury to All

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS (COSATU)

From General Secretary Jay Naidoo

We have received your letter inviting us to send a fraternal message to your Seventh Party Congress.

We salute the outstanding contribution the Party has made to both working class theory and the actual task of building and consolidating working class organisation.

The labour movement which today has emerged as an important weapon of working class struggle has been inspired by the contribution made by leading Party comrades such as JB Marks, Moses Mabhida and Harry Gwala, amongst others.

You meet at an exciting time? a time in which the racist regime is clearly floundering under the weight of united mass resistance. The regime's growing inability to give a coherent lead to its traditional social base is clear for all to see. The whole country is engulfed in an ever-deepening political and economic crisis. Even its erstwhile imperialist allies who have underpinned it in the past, are finding it increasingly difficult to justify it any longer. The crisis is irreversible.

Our historic duty remains to strengthen mass organisation on the ground so as to develop the capacity to surge forward. In doing so the democratic movement has to forge a programme that overcomes our subjective weaknesses and takes along with it as wide a range of forces for change as is possible, into a future in which they have an objective interest.

We are confident that your deliberations and conclusions will add to the momentum which brings us closer to our strategic objective of total liberation.

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

From President Sam Nujama

I would like to convey to you and through you to all the leaders and ardent participants in the Congress warm and militant salutations from the rank and file of our Movement on that splendid occasion. We wish to express our full solidarity and support with you, comrades-in-arms, as people with whom we are fighting against the common enemy.

We are convinced that decisions and resolutions to be taken by the 7th Congress will have some political influence on the development of events in South Africa in particular and our region in general.

We wish you renewed strength, excellent health and many more successes in the just struggle for the establishment of a democratic and non-racial South Africa and the complete eradication of apartheid.

From Govan Mbeki

PARTY VETERAN

About a fortnight ago I received the Draft Programme. I wish to say. I was overjoyed to read, after a quarter of a century, a document of its nature.

I wish to convey my very warm greetings to all comrades at the Congress and elsewhere. I would like to assure them of the great spirit and determination of the comrades I left behind on Robben Island and at the other places where our fighters are continuing the struggle under other conditions than the ones we're experiencing.

I am sending these greetings not only from me but also on their behalf.

Long live the 7th Congress!

Jack Simons

PARTY VETERAN

Our Party is deeply rooted in the minds and hearts of the oppressed. They continue to show their confidence in many ways, defying the racist state's harsh penalties, and keeping faith in us, even though the Party, outlawed and tabooed, has spent

more than half its lifespan in the murky political underground or hardships of exile, preparing and planning for the homeward journey.

Our close ties with the working people and rural masses date from the beginning of the century. Socialists and militant trade unionists, drawn to South Africa by the mining of diamonds and gold, the beginnings of an industrial revolution, and the Anglo Boer war, prepared the ground. Individually and together, they planted the seed from which the great trade unions of today have emerged. There is a direct continuity between their pioneering efforts and the mainstream of the revolution for People's Power.

The Party's association with the African National Congress is truly unique, the only one of its kind in Africa or, for that matter, in any other continent. I'm referring, of course, to the Party's willing acceptance of the ANC as the undisputed leader of the revolution for the overthrow of despotic racism, the destruction of apartheid, and the creation of a people's state founded on the principles of social justice, equality of rights and opportunities, universal franchise, and participation by all citizens in the decision-making and administration at every level of government.

Sixty years of patient, plodding work under severe repression have borne fruit. The slogan of 1928 has become the keynote of the entire mass democratic movement in all its parts: the grand alliance of the ANC, SACTU, and the SACP, together with the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, their affiliates, and a host of radical groups representing churches, women, youth and students, banded together for the creation of a new order.

Long live the South African Revolution!

Long live the Revolutionary Working Class!

Long live the South African Communist Party and its Allies!

A TRIALIST

From an internal candidate member of the CC of the SACP (At Present on Trial)

We want to convey our militant and revolutionary greetings to the Indaba and to wish it all the success in its important and difficult task. We will await the outcome of the Indaba with keen interest. We refuse to be grounded and be cut off from the mainstream of our struggle.

We are preparing ourselves for the impending battles which will be starting in the Supreme Court.

Yours in struggle

AFRICA

ALGERIA

From the Central Committee of the Socialist Vanguard Party of Algeria

Together with the other national liberation forces, and under the guidance of the African National Congress of which it is an integral part, your party has played an active role in the widespread mobilisation and organisation of the South African people fighting for freedom. The great attention paid to your struggle internationally reflects the extent of sympathy and support for it. In this regard, we can assure you of the fraternal solidarity of the Algerian workers and people who, in common with so many other peoples, demand the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and the outlawing of the apartheid regime.

CONGO

From General D'arc Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Congolese Peoples' Republic and Chairman of the Congolese Party of Labour

I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the active solidarity of the Congolese people with our brothers, the South African people, in their heroic struggle for the creation of a democratic non-racial society in South Africa.

The Congolese People, who have always condemned the apartheid policy of South Africa's racist government, are convinced that your Congress will give a new impetus to the just struggle of your people and to the struggle of the other people in Southern Africa who are victims of the aggressive acts by the racist minority Pretoria regime.

EGYPT

From the Central Committee of the Egyptian Communist Party

The Egyptian communists follow with admiration the heroic struggle of the South African communists against apartheid and the racist regime of South Africa. We express our complete support with this struggle which corresponds with the real feelings of all the Egyptian people.

We wish your Seventh Congress new successes in your struggle. We know that you are an integral part of the liberation forces fighting to bring freedom to the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress.

ETHIOPIA

From the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia

Your struggle in South Africa has, to a remarkable degree, proved to the enemy its invulnerability and irreversibility.

However, we believe that the 7th congress will enable you to reflect on and assess your past achievements and map out your future plan of action.

For its part, the workers' party of Ethiopia will continue, along with the world progressive forces, its principled support to the struggling people of South Africa until the last bastion of apartheid is totally uprooted.

LESOTHO

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lesotho

The achievements accomplished by the SACP in both ideological and political struggle help strengthen our Party's positions in our social base. This due to the known fact that the overwhelming majority of workers from our country toil in the capitalist enterprises in South Africa. Hence the immense hardships experienced by the working class of your country are also encountered by the workers from Lesotho; and successes scored by your Party and the whole National Liberation Movement led by the African National Congress benefit our people as well. The strong historical links that exist between the CPL and SACP have let us acquire immense experience, and our Party continues to attain invaluable lessons from your revolutionary struggle.

MOZAMBIQUE

From the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party

A correct analysis of the present situation and its future perspective will influence the attitudes and the global action of progressive forces and the international community in the struggle towards the elimination of apartheid.

We wish success to the 7th Congress of the SACP and once again we reiterate the Solidarity of the people of Mozambique and the Frelimo Party to the just struggle of the South African People united around the Communist Party, the ANC and other genuinely democratic forces.

As in the past the people of Mozambique and the people of South Africa will continue to march together in the paths of struggle against oppression and humiliation, laying together stone by stone the premises of liberation and progress

of the countries, for peace and friendship between the peoples of Southern Africa and the entire World.

A Luta Continua!

NIGERIA

From the General Secretary of the Socialist Working People's Party of Nigeria

We note with immense satisfaction that your Party is one for the glorious future of your country. Your Party's 68 glorious years of struggle are in themselves beacons of hope to many other oppressed peoples everywhere.

We recall with pride the contributions of the proud sons and daughters of the SACP whose names have come to symbolise resistance to oppression and exploitation not only in South Africa but everywhere that man is exploited by man.

We are also very deeply touched and hold the SACP-ANC alliance as a great lesson for all communists fighting and struggling for the freedom of peoples.

SUDAN

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Sudan

Our Party highly appreciates the role played by your Party in the struggle against the Apartheid regime and the selfless struggle waged by the members of your Party and the heroic South African peoples under the leadership of the ANC for an independent, free and democratic South Africa. We also appreciate very highly the role played by your Party in solidarity with the African and international liberation movement and for consolidating world peace.

It goes without saying that the fraternal Marxist-Leninist African Parties feel indebted to you for your great efforts to promote and develop the unity of action among our Parties and to strengthen their relations with the other revolutionary and democratic African forces. We are quite confident that the African revolutionary and democratic forces look with great respect on the role played by your Party in supporting and defending the Frontline African states in their fight against the apartheid regime.

Long Live Proletarian Internationalism!

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

BULGARIA

From the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party

The new age needs a fundamental change in the substance and character of international relations. It implies complete and final repudiation of the confrontational methods for the settlement of controversial global and regional issues. In this respect, mainly due to the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, significant results have already been achieved in the nuclear disarmament and in affirming international confidence in the settlement of regional conflicts, the conflict in the South of Africa included. We have every reason to believe that at its seventh congress the South African Communist Party will pay special attention to the new philosophy for the promotion of enlightened international relations and will contribute to its consolidation. The restructuring which will raise the socialism in our country to a qualitatively higher stage creates new opportunities and perspectives for the expanding relations between our two brotherly parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism and in the best interests of peace and progress the world over.

CHINA

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

For more than half a century the South African Communist Party has fought a valiant struggle against racist rule in South Africa and for the freedom, equality and liberation of the South African People, with great sacrifices and active contribution. In recent years, the struggle of the South African people against apartheid has developed continuously and dealt heavy blows at the South African regime.

The Chinese Communist Party and people will, as always, sympathise with and support your just struggle against racism and vehemently condemn the ruthless persecution and suppression of your party and the South African people by the South Africa authorities. We are sure you will win final victory in the struggle so long as you unite closely with all races and strata of the South African people and adopt various forms of struggle in accordance with the concrete conditions and development of the situation.

CUBA

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba

In the midst of the continuous struggle waged by your heroic Party, you are holding this meeting to discuss the strategic projection and the correct tactics to be followed in pursuance of the struggle against the racist regime of South Africa, at a crucial time for Southern Africa, when the last colonial link is being broken and the abominable regime of apartheid has entered into an irreversible crisis. Still fresh on the air is the smell of the gunpowder that made Pretoria's army and its puppets bite the dust of defeat in Cuito Cuanavale, thus ending a page and starting another one on which the end of the illegal occupation of Namibia and the

independence for its people are written. As internationalists, we feel satisfied that our presence in the Southern part of the African continent has also contributed to a certain extent to the self-sacrificing struggle of Nelson Mandela's people, whose victor, will be the beautiful fruit of the sacrifice and the blood of its best sons among whom the South African Communists, with their great intelligence and resolution, are playing a decisive role from their forded anonymity.

Some day history will make them known to Africa and to the world in their true dimension as consistent revolutionaries. In the face of the difficult tasks that still lie ahead of you in achieving the full freedom of your people, it is with high regard and respect that the Cuban Communists wish to express to you once again our militant solidarity and our certainty of your final victory and in the emergence of a new, united, democratic and non-racial South Africa. In this struggle you will always be able to count on the support and internationalist assistance of the Cuban people.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

From the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party

Your Congress takes place at the time when further victory of the national liberation forces approaches, at the time of important decisions concerning their further progress in southern Africa. We are convinced that the resolutions of this Congress shall contribute to further activation and mobilisation of the whole of your Party, and of all democratic and patriotic forces of your country in the interests of freeing the people of South Africa from national, racial and social oppression.

We want to assure you, Dear Comrades, of the continued staunch support of the Czechoslovak people in your heroic struggle.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

From E. Honecker, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany

It is a great historic achievement of the South African Communist Party that as the vanguard of the South African proletariat it has always fought in close alliance with the African National Congress in the front line of the decades-long and costly struggle against the inhuman system of apartheid, and thus has gained the confidence of the oppressed South African people.

Linked by the common principles of Marxism-Leninism, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the South African Communist Party have for many years maintained close and trusting relations of co-operation in the world wide struggle for peace and progress.

Committed to the spirit of solidarity, it will continue to stand firmly side by side with the South African Communists and all opponents of apartheid in the endeavour to create a free, democratic and peace loving South Africa.

MONGOLIA

From the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party

The Central Committee of the MPRP extends its sincere greetings to delegates of the 7th Congress and all members of your Party and expresses once again its international solidarity with your just struggle for the freedom and social progress of the South African people against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid.

POLAND

From the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party

With deepest respect we approach your difficult struggle led in conditions of conspiracy and repression for the national and social rights of the people of South Africa against the apartheid regime. We highly appreciate your consistent and tireless struggle for freedom, social justice, national independence, progress and socialism which enjoy the respect of all Communist and Workers' Parties in the world.

ROMANIA

From the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party

The Romanian Communists are aware of and appreciate the sustained ~ I activity of the South African Communist Party, carried on in difficult conditions of illegality, for safeguarding and promoting the vital interests of the working people, for the cause and ideals of socialism. We express our solidarity with your consequent struggle, alongside the African National Congress and the other progressive and patriotic forces in South Africa, against the racist apartheid policy, for the democratic development of the country on its path of progress and affirming the fundamental rights of the majority population, for freedom, equality and social justice, for co-operation, understanding and peace on the African continent and in the whole world.

SOVIET UNION

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union wands cordial Greetings to the delegates to the 7th Congress of the South African Communist Party.

Your Congress takes place at a time of favourable changes in the world. Against this background the racist policy of the government of the RSA looks all the more

anachronistic. Despite the repression and terror by the authorities, Communists of your country continue the courageous struggle for the dismantling of the apartheid regimes for the vital interests of the working people. You are an integral part of the democratic liberation forces, led by the African National Congress of South Africa. Reaffirming our fraternal solidarity with the South African Communist Party, we wish for your Congress to succeed.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

From Frans Muhri, Party Chairman for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria

We regard with great admiration your struggle and the struggle of the ANC against the racist regime of South Africa and for the political and social emancipation in the interest of the large majority of the people of South Africa. We and the democratic public of our country feel attached most deeply to this struggle. We wish your Congress successful work and decisions that will enable you to lead an even more effective struggle against the apartheid regime. In the spirit of proletarian internationalism and solidarity we feel one with you.

BELGIUM

From Louis Van Gent, National Chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium

We would like to express our full support for your struggle against 'apartheid' and racism, to free the South African people, under the leadership of the African National Congress. As in the past, we will continue our efforts to isolate the South African regime in Belgium and the E.E.C.

FINLAND

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland

Highly appreciating the consequent struggle of the South African Communist Party for freedom and justice in South Africa, for a socialist society, the Communist Party of Finland confirms its deep solidarity with your struggle. In this historical situation, solidarity needs deeds the inhuman apartheid system in South Africa can be abolished only by a hard struggle by democratic and progressive forces all over the world. Despite the positive developments in Southern Africa, we know that the racist South African regime will still rule by its brutal means. The South African people are still oppressed, struggling for their freedom, for their right as a people. In this struggle, the South African Communists play a decisive role, organising their work in the Party and in the ANC and other democratic mass organisations.

GERMANY

From Herbert Mies, Chairman of the German Communist Party

With great respect and support we witness your hard struggle under the leadership of the ANC. We wish to assure you that we will not cease our assistance until the shameful apartheid regime is abolished and a prosperous, democratic South Africa can be built up in accordance with the will of the overwhelming majority of people. The great ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin as well as the concepts of proletarian internationalism form the basis of our friendship and will continue to do so in future. In this spirit please accept once again our revolutionary greetings linked with the sincere desire that your Party Congress may be a successful one.

GREAT BRITAIN

From the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain

We renew our commitment of solidarity with the struggle of the anti-apartheid forces in South Africa, of which the party is an integral and indispensable part. We are well aware of the significance of the struggle being waged by the liberation forces under the leadership of the ANC. The recent agreement on Namibia, achieved as the result of determined struggle, opens up new prospects for further defeats for the apartheid regime and its supporters.

Here in Britain, the campaign of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, of which our party is an active supporter, achieved new successes in 1988, in intensifying efforts to force a change in the policies of the Thatcher government. This government is the main international supporter of the apartheid regime. Of key importance in this coming period will be the bringing together of the diverse anti-apartheid forces in Britain around the demand for sanctions.

GREECE

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece

Greek communists especially respect the SACP as a Party faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, which is struggling with the other liberation forces in the framework of the African National Congress, against the racist regime of apartheid and the forces of imperialism which support it, for freedom, democracy, free united, non-racial South Africa of peace and progress. The CP of Greece respects your struggle to advance democratic transformation and the vision of a socialist society.

We greet all the strugglers of the SACP who are fighting in deep illegality with determination and self-sacrifice, and with all those held in the racist prisons. We pay tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives in the course of your hard struggle.

Dear Comrades, Greek Communists express their solidarity with the struggle of the working class with the communists in the vanguard, against bitter exploitation and the repression of the racist regime, and for their just demands and to strengthen working class unity. We greet the growing role of the working class in the mass struggle.

Long Live Marxism-Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism!

IRELAND

From the Executive Committee of the Party of Ireland

The plenary meeting of the NEC of the CPI, held on January 29, 1989 considered it an honour to send warmest fraternal greetings from all the members of our Party to the delegates of the 7th Congress of the heroic and steadfast South African Communist Party on the sound basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. These principles are not empty, outdated fine-sounding slogans. They are in reality the description of the revolutionary scientific socialist theory and movement which are essential to all the peoples of our planet in their struggle- for world peace, social emancipation and national liberation.

In Ireland, we see support for your struggle as an integral part of the Irish working people's struggle for national liberation, the unity of our country, democratic rights, peace and socialism. Imperialism, Capitalism, racism, have not abandoned their aggressive, anti-democratic exploitative natures. But in this latter part of the 20th century, the peace initiatives of the USSR under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have led to a lessening of world tension and have forced the United States and other imperialist powers to moderate their Cold War attitudes. We welcome this development in the realisation that the peace movements in Africa Asia, Europe and the Americas must maintain their pressure on those who wish to revert to the nuclear threat diplomacy of the imperialist camp. Governments by themselves will not bring an end to nuclear weapons?only the will of the common people throughout our world can win that objective.

AMANDLA!

NETHERLANDS

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Netherlands

The CPN attaches much value to the success of your struggle as an integral part of the united freedom-forces of South Africa, the ANC. The South African people who are thirsting for freedom, deserves the greatest possible international solidarity, in order that justice and freedom will triumph in a non-racial and democratic South Africa. You fight for your rights, but the outcome of your struggle also serves the whole international struggle against fascism, racism and

the danger of war. We think that liberation movements, such as those in South Africa with their own detailed objectives of action for now and the future, can profit by a new international climate.

PORTUGAL

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Portugal

The PCP follows with a spirit of solidarity the SACP's struggle to defend the workers' interests and against the policies of exploitation, oppression and racial segregation, for an end to apartheid and racism and for freedom, democracy, peace and socialism. The South African People's growing struggle, led by the ANC of which the SACP is an integral part and of which the major mass uprisings are an expression, show that apartheid will eventually be defeated and are cause for profound confidence in South Africa's democratic and progressive future. The PCP views its patriotic tasks and its internationalist duties as inseparable. The latter includes an active solidarity with the South African people's struggle and with all peoples who fight for their national and social liberation. The PCP carries out its activity with a view to ensuring the unity of the world communist movement, which is a fundamental factor for the unity of all forces that stand for democracy, peace and social progress. Internationally, the PCP considers that the innovative and active peace policy of the Soviet Union, together with the people's and workers' struggle for their liberation and the vast people's movement for peace open un new and favourable prospects for d?tente and disarmament.

SPAIN

From Julio Anguita, General secretary, and Dolores Ibarruri, President of the Communist Party of Spain (PEE)

We reaffirm our full solidarity with the tenacious and brave struggle of the South African people against the disgusting system of apartheid, branded by the United Nations as a crime against humanity. We also renew our firm commitment to solidarity with the organisations representing the people and the workers of South Africa, especially the African National Congress (ANC) and the SACP. We promise you that we shall continue our work towards securing a stronger and more decisive stand by Western countries, including Spain, in condemning apartheid; a condemnation which ought to go hand in hand with the adoption of effective world wide boycott measures in the political, economic, trade, cultural and shorting fields.

From Juan Ramos, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain (PCPE)

We wish you great success in the work of your Congress which, we are sure, will give valuable guidance in the struggle of the South African people against apartheid, for freedom and socialism. You are fighting under very difficult conditions against one of the most reactionary forms of imperialist power. You know that you can count on the solidarity and sympathy of the great mass of humanity. The PCPE, which has always placed its internationalist solidarity duties at the top of its agenda, will continue its wholehearted support for the people of South Africa, their representative the ANC, and the SACP, a solid battalion of the international communist movement.

SWEDEN

From Lars Werner, Chairman of the Left Party - Communists (VPK:)

VPK demands a total boycott of racist South Africa as the most forceful means for the international community to weaken it economically and politically. The new Swedish legislation banning trade with South Africa and Namibia was a great achievement, which the anti-apartheid movement won after many years of untiring campaigning. We are determined to stop all company attempts to circumvent the law. All Swedish companies shall leave South Africa. We shall not rest until apartheid is abolished and the South African people are free, until the Namibian people can freely choose their own government and the frontline state can live in peace.

SWITZERLAND

From Jean Spielmann, General Secretary of the Swiss Party of Labour

From one of the Beast's many bellies we are sending you our Greetings of solidarity and sympathy. Swiss Capital is among the main supporters of Apartheid. Therefore our solidarity with the liberation process of the South African People under the leadership of the African National Congress has to be a concrete one: fighting the supporters of apartheid in our own country. The Anti-Apartheid Movement in Switzerland is very large, we assure you that we will also in future contribute to its further development.

WEST BERLIN

From Horst Schmitt, Chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin

Your Party Congress takes place at a moment when the policy of detente and disarmament, mainly put forward by the socialist states, is expanding ever more fully and the first steps have been taken for the realisation of the reduction of nuclear weapons. There is also progress regarding the solution of regional conflicts

in South Africa. All the same we are quite aware of the complicated situation prevailing there.

Our Party emphatically condemns the reactionary, racist policy of the Botha regime obviously seeing its model in Hitler fascism. Such a criminal policy cannot and must not have a future in the world of today, even though supported by the ruling imperialist forces who violate the UN Charter and decisions, especially those in the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The SUP of West Berlin expresses its unswerving support for the heroic efforts of the South African people to build a broad, democratic and anti-racist front to overcome the disgraceful apartheid regime. We can declare with satisfaction that the friendly relations between our two parties have developed well on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and we underline our willingness to continue our co-operation.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

From Athos Fava, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Argentina

The Argentine Communists and all the anti-imperialist and popular strata in our country admire and hold in high esteem your party's struggle, on every battle-front, against the apartheid regime, for national liberation and socialism. Likewise, all the democratic forces in Argentina fiercely condemn the Botha government and apartheid, and are in solidarity with the working-class and popular forces of South Africa. In sending you our combative greetings, we reaffirm our strong solidarity with the freedom struggle led by the South African Communists, and undertake to develop ever more vigorously the movement against apartheid and in favour of your people's emancipation.

COLOMBIA

From Gilberto Vicira, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Colombia

We Colombian Communists admire the heroic struggle which your party, an integral part of the African National Congress which is symbolised by Nelson Mandela, has been conducting for decades against the state policy of apartheid, enforced since 1913 by South African reactionaries with the decisive backing of imperialism and towards the development of the United Democratic Front, created in 1983 to bring together the opposition to the ruling regime. We are certain that this struggle, part of our own people's struggle against North American imperialism and the militarist ultra-right, who have carried in a cruel 'dirty war' against the Communists and democratic forces in our country in an effort to drown in bloodshed the dearest aspirations of our homeland, will culminate sooner rather than later in final victory for the South African people.

EL SALVADOR

From Jaime Barrios, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of El Salvador and Delegate to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

The PCS has carefully followed the development of the heroic struggle of the liberation forces which, without ever faltering, have fought for the freedom of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress, and also pays tribute to the inestimable contribution which your party makes to this struggle against the hateful racist regime - a fight which shall, undoubtedly, achieve its goals in full.

Our party finds itself, in its own context, in the same quest for national and social liberation, being a component of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). The Front, given the constant strengthening of the unity amongst the five revolutionary political organisations which it comprises, is moving steadily towards the formation of a new party - the Party of the Salvadorian Revolution - which, sooner or later, will become a weighty factor in our country's history.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

GUYANA

From Cheddi Jagan, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party

Your Congress is meeting at an important juncture in the history of your people's struggle, You, together with the democratic forces in South Africa, have dealt severe blows to the racist apartheid regime. So powerful is the resistance that today the regime is in the grip of a grave crisis, one from which it cannot extricate itself. The ANC-led alliance, of which your Party is an integral part, has emerged as the only democratic force which is capable of leading the Black masses to freedom and to take the country out of the crisis. We are convinced that victory would have been won long ago had it not been for the great support extended to the racist regime by many imperialist powers, mainly the United States and Britain. Recognising this, we fin the PPP join with all progressive and democratic forces throughout the world in expressing our total support for you in the difficult Struggles you have to wage. Your victory, which is certain, will dive a tremendous impetus to peoples throughout the world who are fighting for independence from the chains of imperialism's neo-colonial policies.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada

Your Party has been compelled to work under the most diverse and difficult circumstances and in the course of so doing has become a principal force under the leadership of the African National Congress in uniting the forces of liberation and freedom in South Africa. The self-sacrificing activities of members of your party in the underground struggle, in exile, in prison have been a source of inspiration to parties and revolutionaries everywhere and added new pages to the unparalleled struggle against man-hating apartheid in your country.

U.S.A.

From Gus Hall, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.A.

The SACP is working under conditions of illegality as an integral part of the liberation forces struggling to bring freedom to the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress. The heroism, courage and steadfastness of those involved in this struggle, including the South African Communists, have won the admiration and the solidarity of all progressive and democratic forces in the world, giving us absolute confidence that, working together, our victory is certain.

The CPUSA, an important force in the U.S. left, organised labour and democratic movement in general, pledges to intensify its continuing efforts to mobilise support for ending apartheid and winning a free South Africa through: 1) stepping up U.S. sanctions, 2) voting in the United Nations for comprehensive, mandatory sanctions, 3) direct U.S. government talks with the ANC on the future South Africa, with ending of all U.S. restrictions on the ANC, 4) backing of all actions by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, 5) official U.S. support for the demand that all members of Umkhonto we Sizwe held by the [apartheid regime be treated as prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions, 6) demanding an end to all executions and release of all political prisoners, first and foremost Nelson Mandela, 7) bringing enough pressure to bear on the South African regime to force it to concede that apartheid cannot be reformed but must be [eradicated, and impelling the regime toward talks on the peaceful "transfer of power.

FAR EAST

JAPAN

From the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party

The South African Communist Party has been under extremely difficult conditions for many years fighting consistently for genuine liberation of the people of South Africa, actively contributing at home and abroad to the movement against apartheid waged mainly by the African National Congress. We expect that this Congress will be a big springboard of new advance in your cause of abolishment of apartheid and building a democratic South Africa.

Despite growing international condemnation of apartheid, the Japanese government, while seeming to accept the United Nations criticism of South Africa, is covertly strengthening its economic ties with South Africa. By revealing the role of backing up the apartheid system being played by Japanese monopoly capital, our Party is intensifying support to and solidarity with the South African people fighting for the abolition of apartheid.

Today there appear among the world democratic forces arguments for 'superiority of universal human values', insisting that peoples struggle in each country should be curbed. These arguments should not be overlooked. Fighting for peace and social progress cannot be carried out by means of 'dialogue and co-ordination' with imperialism and reactionary ruling circles. People's struggle is of decisive importance.

We wish that the co-operation you and between the JCP will be developed on the common tasks, such as elimination of nuclear weapons, defence of every nation's right to self-determination and abolishment of apartheid, on the basis of principles of independence, equality and non-interference with others' internal affairs.

NEW ZEALAND

From Marilyn Tucker, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of New Zealand

Your party is held in the highest esteem around the world for the quality of its leadership, and the close relationship it has forged with the masses in the very difficult conditions that make up your everyday life in apartheid South Africa. Together with the ANC with whom you ~ share such a close relationship, your Party is embedded in the heart of the liberation struggle, whose breadth and depth is expanding. The rest of the world has a stake in your success. As long as the apartheid regime continues, it is a threat to world peace. The sooner your Victory is secured, therefore, the safer our precious planet is. This makes it more essential for solidarity movements throughout the world No work in close co-operation with the liberation forces within your Country.

PHILIPPINES

From Felicisimo Macapagal, Chairman of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (Philippine Communist Party)

We know the stirring nature of such a Congress as yours, where leading comrades assemble from far-flung battle-fields and fronts of sharp struggle, carrying the pride of victories, the inspiring example of those who have fallen or have been imprisoned, and the enthusiasm of the irrepressible masses whom they have helped to organise.

The South African Communist Party has chosen well the time for holding its 7th Congress. In general, the world has arrived at a major turning point in the basic contest between the socialist and capitalist systems, between the forces of national liberation and the forces of imperialism, between the movements for peace and democracy and those who want war and repression.

One of the most impressive features of the freedom struggle in South Africa that is led by the African National Congress in alliance with the SACP is the tremendous international support that you have gained from the democratic peoples in the socialist countries, in the third world, and, particularly, in the capitalist countries where the reactionary allies of apartheid have been thrown on the defensive or isolated.

That this kind of support has been generated indicates that your international allies can have a major effect on the outcome of your struggle, that the final stages of the overthrow of apartheid could possibly be made less bloody and destructive than in some instances of the ending of colonialism elsewhere, that the apartheid rulers could be able to rely less on an aggressive imperialism emboldened up to now by a Cold War outlook, and that the forces of peace and democracy can be in a position to assist in a relatively peaceful establishment of a free South African.

The Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas has consistently supported the anti-apartheid struggle and has mobilised the mass organisations it influences in successful campaigns to stop Philippine trade and other relations with South Africa. Our Party members have been kept well informed of the fighting role of the South African Communist Party and of its much-admired strategy and tactics of unity with the African National Congress and in building a united front of all anti-apartheid forces, black, white, coloured and Indian. We have learned much from the struggles you have conducted and from the way you have conducted them.

MIDDLE EAST

CYPRUS

From the Central Committee of the Progressive Party of Working People (ABEL)

Our firm conviction is that your 7th Congress will mark a turning point in the fight against the inhuman, hated system of apartheid, of racial oppression and continued plunder which is a source of war against the people of the country and the peoples of Africa.

Expressing the feeling of solidarity and support of the Cypriot working class, who suffer from the Turkish occupation of 37% of the territory of Cyprus, the AKEL CC is confident that your 7th underground Congress will be a milestone in your just struggle marking victories in the liberation of all your heroic political

prisoners, starting with Nelson Mandela, and final victory and implementation of the noble aspirations of your heroic people.

IRAQ

From the Central Committee of the Iraq Communist Party

The originality (uniqueness) of the Communist movement in South Africa, the rich revolutionary experience which it has accumulated in the course of its long struggle, the creative approach to the living reality with all its complexities, the boldness in employing all forms of struggle and grasping the Leninist teachings in the field of class and political alliances, have enabled the CPSA not only to confront the blatant racist terror, but also to achieve big victories against the apartheid regime. The racists are today losing one stronghold after the other, and they are becoming more isolated on both internal and external levels thanks to the heroic struggle being waged by the people of South Africa under the leadership of the ANC, and the mounting support it enjoys among all peoples of the world. Your Party has enriched, with its thoughts and practices in combining the means of revolutionary struggle, legal and clandestine, the theoretical heritage of the internationalist Communist movement .. Allow us, dear Comrades, to express our appreciation for this contribution.

ISRAEL

From the Central Committee of the Communist Party Israel

We highly esteem the heroic struggle of the South African Communists in the framework of the African National Congress against the white racist dictatorship, for freedom, equality and national liberation.

Despite the barbaric acts of repression on the part of the racist apartheid regime in Pretoria, despite the mass arrests tortures and killings and despite the difficult conditions of illegality, the South African communists and their allies in the ANC were never brought down to their knees; on the contrary with greater vigour and more success they continue their just struggle against apartheid and for freedom, thus gaining the admiration and support of all people of good will, as expressed in the world-wide campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela. The Israeli communists, Jews and Arabs together with their allies in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are waging a relentless struggle for putting an end to the unholy alliance between the rulers of Israel and Pretoria.

JORDAN

From the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party

We are happy to convey our fraternal greetings to the 7th Congress of your Party, and to all your brave comrades, who are fighting for the freedom of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress. Our people

are becoming more and more impressed with your heroic struggle against apartheid, which converges with the struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionism and for national independence and with the main struggle of nations against imperialism and for peace, democracy and social progress.

SYRIA

From the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party

In the name of the CC and all our Party members we take this occasion to send you our best wishes and hope for success for your Congress's work, expressing to you, to your Congress members and all your Party members and fighters our deep respect for the martyrs of your Party, our solidarity with you and our support for your struggle for the freedom of the people of African National Congress. The safeguarding prevention of nuclear war require more than ever the liquidation of, the hotbeds in the World by eliminating their reasons embodied in the aggressive policy of imperialism, and racist or fascist regimes in South Africa, Israel and elsewhere.

CARIBBEAN

GUADELOUPE

From Christian Celeste, General Secretary Of the Communist Parts of Guadeloupe

The Central Committee of our Party sends all members of the South African Communist Party warm and fraternal greetings. Communists of Guadeloupe, aware of the hard-fought and self-sacrificing struggle your party leads side by side with the ANC for the freedom of the South African People, pledge total solidarity and wish you the fullest success in your work.

JAMAICA

From the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Jamaica

Our Party highly appreciates the South African Communists and their consistent struggle against racist and imperialist domination of not only your country but the entire Southern African region.

Particularly noteworthy is the scope of your Party's co-operation with other internal revolutionary, democratic and progressive forces such as the African National Congress, the Umkhonto we Sizwe army, the South African Congress of Trade Unions and others.

Your Party has made an invaluable contribution to the theory and practice of national liberation and national democracy. We cannot but emphasise in this regard

your theoretical programmatic definition of apartheid as 'colonialism of a special type'.

In this period of the most recent defeats, isolation and weakening of Pretoria's ruling circles, we are confident that while recognising the complicated nature of your struggle, the 7th Congress of your Party will be a milestone to ultimate victory.

MARTINIQUE

From the Martinique Communist Party

You, the South African Communist Party, outlawed in your homeland but surviving daily through all the repression, the exile, the murders and the misery of your people, may be assured of the relentless support of the Martinique Communist Party. We condemn the cynicism of the sinister Botha and likewise the two-faced stance of American imperialism and the Western bourgeoisie, who carry on intertwining their own interests with those of South Africa. We assure the ANC and its leader Nelson Mandela of our wholehearted solidarity.

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