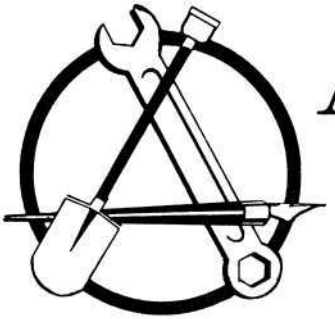

APDUSA VIEWS

Special Issue January 1987

LET THE CHARACTER ASSASSINS REVEAL THEMSELVES!!!

Introduction:

Towards the end of 1986 photostat copies of a document entitled:

"APDUSA AND THE ROLE OF KADER HASSIM, SONNY VENKETHRENAM* and GABBY PILLAY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION."

made an appearance in Durban. Although the document claims that its authors, ZWELINYE MAWETHU and IQBAL HUSSAIN are members of APDUSA and UMSA, its hawkers in Durban turned out to be Ex-Unity Movement members and those who spare nothing to malign and undermine the Unity Movement. Such is the strange manner of appearance of the document in Durban.

*Correct spelling is VENKATRATHNAM.

Nature of the Document.

A reading of the document soon reveals that the real purpose of the authors is an orgy of character assassination of the individuals named in the title. Also attacked are the President of the New Unity Movement, Cde Dudley, the last President of the Non European Unity Movement, Cde Leo Sihlali, and Cdes Enver Hassim (Treasurer of the All African Convention), Livingston Mqotsi (Joint Secretary of the Non European Unity Movement), Don Kali (Vice-President of the New Unity Movement) and Justice Poswa (Joint Treasurer of the New Unity Movement). The New Unity Movement itself came in for nasty slander.

Preceding the orgy is an analysis of the political situation leading up to the early 1960's. The analysis itself is as out of place as would be a Florence Nightingale outfit on a hangman. The purpose of presenting that analysis is not to enlighten or to educate, but rather to establish a credibility for the authors so as to facilitate acceptance of the assassination.

The document itself is of such a nature that one would be hard pressed to find anything resembling it in the annals of the liberatory movement. The contents ooze with malevolence and an insane hatred for the individuals mentioned. It is scurrilous to the point of obscenity. It is riddled with lies — lies which are so blatant that any person who knows the victims would reject the document as a product of sick and depraved minds.

Who are the Authors?

The published names of ZWELINYE MAWETHU and IQBAL HUSSAIN are completely unknown to members of the Unity Movement. Not even veterans of over 30 years have heard of them. Inquiries abroad have drawn a blank. We therefore conclude that the names are a fiction.

In trying to ascertain the true authorship of the document several possibilities presented themselves. One was that the document was the work of the direct agents of the ruling class trying to sow mischief. The second was that it was published by cranks or persons with deranged minds. The third was that the document was written by persons who have political differences with us and who now seek to smear the individuals through slander.

The reader of the document will no doubt have noticed that apart from claiming mere membership of APDUSA and UMSA, the authors

do not disclose what their official position, if any, are. We are not told whether the organisations they claim membership to, have sanctioned the document. The document carries no logo nor an address, residential or postal, to which inquiries can be directed.

Working on the assumption that the document was written by persons who regard themselves as serious politicos and who have political differences with us, then the whole question of anonymity in written polemics must be examined.

ANONYMITY AND POLEMICS

Charity and the need to establish a code in written polemics makes us concede that the document is a piece of written polemic. There can be no objection in the employment of anonymity in polemic when the purpose is to escape detection by the authorities or to avoid victimisation by the ruling class. Otherwise the polemist is expected to reveal his or her identity — more so when the gist of the polemic is to assail the standing or reputation of a member of the liberatory movement. What we have said about anonymity applies with equal force to the use of **Nom de Plumes**, pseudonyms, **Nom de Guerres**, pen names and the like.

Concerning the document in question, we do not believe for a moment that the authors have used fictitious names to escape police detection. On the contrary, the attack on the individuals and the New Unity Movement would, decidedly, not displease the police. We are forced to conclude that the authors believe that by the use of fictitious names they have bought insurance against a counter-attack from those whom they have slandered. But why fear a counter-attack if what they have written is true? We can think of several reasons. The document is a scandalous piece of writing with which no reputable freedom fighter can associate or be associated with. Further, if the authors used their true names, it can be shown that they have **deliberately** falsified facts and that the truth was known to them. Finally, it can be revealed that their own role and actions are such that they would be damned by the entire liberatory movement.

In short, the authors want to attack without being attacked in turn. Here we are dealing with moral cowards!

OUR ATTITUDE

We have given careful thought whether to reply to the document and to deal with those whom we suspect might be the real authors. The

temptation was there but we had to consider the cost in time, energy and money and the high probability that the true authors would deny authorship. We have, therefore, decided to **suspend** a reply until we have ascertained who the true authors are. If we are wrong in our suspicions and the authors turn out to be agents of the ruling class, cranks or frontmen, we would have engaged in a non-profitable exercise. We need to know the identity of the authors. We are not inclined to rush to print each time a crank or coward attacks us. We leave that sort of thing to the Buthelezis and Rajbansis.

A CHALLENGE

We call on the true authors of the document to have the honesty to come out into the open so that we can see who they are. If they are politicos who are or have been in the struggle, then we undertake to make a full reply. In doing so we will not write as they have done. We will reply objectively - allegations will be substantiated and arguments fully reasoned out.

CONCLUSION

The authors believed that by publishing the document they would be delivering a **coup de grace** to the New Unity Movement and the individuals named. Quite the contrary has happened. The document has sent a wave of revulsion through those members and supporters who have had the misfortune to come across it. The only persons who have benefitted from the document are the ruling class, the enemies and opponents of the Unity Movement. The latter are, no doubt, having a whale of a time gossiping about and mocking the Unity Movement. For that the authors must be given full credit.

In attacking the New Unity Movement, the authors have attacked the **only** organisation which is carrying on the work of and upholding the traditions of the Unity Movement of the past. They can lie to themselves and try to deceive the world of the existence of another Unity Movement outside the **New Unity Movement.** But the people of South Africa know only of the New Unity Movement as the heir and successor of the Non European Unity Movement. There is no other Unity Movement.

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