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PRESS STATEMENT BY NEW UNITY MOVEMENT ON THE DEATH OF SAMORA MACHEL

"The New Unity Movement joins all sectors of the democratic movement in South Africa in mourning the death in tragic circumstances of President Samora Machel, one of the founders of the independent Peoples' Republic of Mozambique. We extend to his widow and her family, to the families of other crash victims and to the people of Mozambique our very sincere condolences in their shattering loss.

We recall with respect Samora Machel's messages in 1974 and 1975 to the newly independent Mozambique. The aggression heaped upon Mozambique by militarists in Southern Africa, their armed support for the MNR (Renamo) political gangsters bent on destroying the Mozambique Peoples' Republic and the betrayal of Samora Machel's abiding good faith by those who concluded with him the "Nkomati Accord" have deepened the tragic circumstances of President Machel's death.

The democratic world community must still satisfy itself that Samora Machel's death does not follow the trail that led to the sudden deaths of liberation fighters Patrice Lumumba, Eduardo Mondlane, Abram Tiro, Ruth First, Rick Turner, Matthew Goniwe and others.

The history of the struggles of the people of Mozambique and the contribution of Samora Machel to that struggle will always form a source of inspiration and insights for those committed to the struggle to free Southern Africa from the yoke of oppression and exploitation by foreign powers."

The New Unity Movement has sent to the government of Mozambique the following cable: "Untimely death of President Machel a shocking tragedy. New Unity Movement extends sincere condolences to Mrs Machel and family and Mozambique people. A Luta Continua."

R.O. Dudley

**PRESIDENT
20/10/86**

The Festival of Joy and Death

With the oppressed people in South Africa, we mourn the death of the 177 miners at the Kinross Gold Mine. And with them also, we condemn those responsible for their deaths i.e. the MINE OWNERS.

This disaster struck amidst the feverish preparations by the ruling class (the mine owners, in particular) for the celebration of one hundred years of the discovery of gold and the founding of Johannesburg. **THE COINCIDENCE IS HIGHLY DRAMATIC!!**

GOLD, which brought undreamt of wealth to the oppressors, is a great devourer of human beings. Since 1910, over 50 000 miners (mostly Africans) were killed in the gold mines. Hundreds of thousands more have been maimed, crippled and afflicted with fatal lung diseases. The glitter and riches of Johannesburg is drenched in the blood of the African miner.

In itself, gold is an almost useless metal, which, according to Lenin, was fit to adorn lavatories. Yet in the mad quest for gold, the African mine-worker was sacrificed at the altar of greed and profit.

For the mine owner, the industrialist, the white mine worker and the government, the 100th year of the discovery of gold is truly an occasion for great celebration. The mine owners amassed vast fortunes; the capitalists were able to purchase their machinery and equipment through the export of gold; the government received a large slice by way of taxation and the white mine worker, who has been and still is a dead loss to the mining industry received a wage far in excess to his contribution to the profit. Indeed, gold and Johannesburg was **GOOD** to them.

For the African miner who was compelled to seek work in the gold mines, initially to earn cash to pay the numerous taxes, and presently, because of starvation, the gold industry was and is a dreaded source of death, misery and untold suffering. Until recently, his wages were about **TWENTY** times less than that of the white miner.

That great contradiction in our society – between exploiter and exploited, oppressor and oppressed – is powerfully demonstrated by the attitude of the two segments towards the Johannesburg Festival. Though they live in the same country and work in the same industry the one segment regards the festival as an occasion for joy and gratitude. For the other, that same occasion is a **FESTIVAL OF DEATH**.

For the African miners the Kinross Disaster is a grim reminder to them of the real meaning of the gold mining industry in Johannesburg.

THE TWO FACES OF THE P.F.P.

We have always held that the P.F.P. has two faces – one face firmly turned towards the racist and exploitative ruling class (where it really belongs) and the other towards the oppressed people. The face it shows the oppressed is the one which speaks up for detainees rights, civil liberties and the police and army atrocities in the townships. While the liberatory movement is not permitted in the townships the P.F.P. members are allowed to walk in and out as they please.

The Klip River elections held recently shows quite dramatically the real face of the P.F.P. The English Press sounded the clarion of the right-wing danger and a possible take-over of a formerly “safe” Nat seat. The Nats in turn, whom the Conservative Party and the H.N.P. have labelled the “New Progs”, had to appeal to the P.F.P. and the N.R.P. to bail them out. Without the help of these two bodies the Nats faced defeat. When the election was held, the P.F.P. was not found wanting. They voted NAT. That their help was appreciated is borne out by the public “Thank You” by none other than Stoffel Botha, the Natal leader of the Nationalist Party. (Daily News)– 18/9/86.)

That section of the liberatory movement which has no qualms about sharing platforms with the P.F.P. and thereby giving its credibility should remember Klip River and think again.

SEIZE THE DAY, SEIZE THE HOUR!

So many deeds cry out to be done,
And always urgently;
The world rolls on,
Time presses.

Ten thousand years are too long,
Seize the day, seize the hour!

The Four Seas are rising, clouds and waters raging,
The Five Continents are rocking, wind and thunder roaring.

by Mao Tse Tung

WE SALUTE

SAMORA MACHEL!

On 28th October, 1986, Africa buried one of its most illustrious sons, Samora Machel. He was the President of the first proclaimed workers and peasants state in Africa.

Samora Machel's death in an air crash in South Africa was the culmination of a long series of trials and tribulations this man underwent as leader of Mozambique. From its very birth the new Mozambique was a target for destruction by powerful and sinister forces. Though a mere fledgling state, Mozambique under Machel posed a grave threat to its neighbour, White South Africa and the imperialists. Mozambique set out to build a society in which the wealth produced there would be for the benefit of all its citizens; where want, ignorance and violence would be eradicated and where the colour of a person mattered not a jot.

At all costs that society had to be killed at birth. For were it to succeed, the whole region of Southern Africa would look to that society as an example and model to improve on.

The international machinery of imperialism set to work. South Africa was given the task of destabilizing and of supporting its running dog — Renamo. The imperialists saw to it that Mozambique was given no real economic aid. As if these were not problems enough, there was the crippling and prolonged drought which caused the present famine.

It was to extricate his country from the stranglehold of these forces that Samora Machel signed the Nkomati Accord. A humiliating experience for a proud freedom fighter. But then Machel never placed his personal consideration before the urgent needs of his country. The fact that South Africa double-crossed Mozambique is not Machel's fault. He tried!

Samora Machel was a true internationalist. In fulfilling his duty as such, he provided a base for ZANU(PF) and the A.N.C. For this Mozambique paid a fearful price by way of devastating raids from the Smith and Botha regimes.

Samora Machel was a brave fighter and a fearless man. He had a vision of a new and just society. That he took on this enormous task which

would have daunted any lesser man, is another aspect of his courage. If he has failed and Mozambique today lies in ruins and people are dying from famine, we must lay the blame squarely on the lap of imperialism and its bully-boy, South Africa. They had the most to lose if Mozambique succeeded.

And what of the international community which passes stirring resolutions about the struggle against imperialism and solidarity and support for sister socialist countries? Where are they in the hour of Mozambique's need? Those who are the most powerful and the richest, have done little to assist. It is smaller countries which have little to give but which give the most. Zimbabwe, herself the next most vulnerable, has sent men and equipment to Mozambique's aid, showing that it is not enough to pay lip-service to ideals, but that it is absolutely necessary that words must be accompanied by deeds. For that the M.N.R. has declared war on Zimbabwe. We know that it is S.A. talking through the M.N.R. Hopefully, Zimbabwe will not be thrown to the wolves the way Mozambique was.

Many heads of state, or their representatives flocked to Maputo to pay their last respects to Samora Machel. Many of them were less interested in him and the plight of his beleaguered country in his lifetime. They turned away when he needed them most, and aided and abetted his enemies. They were the knowing and willing agents of imperialism. On their shoulders lies equal blame for the tragedy of Mozambique.

Finally, we salute Samora Machel, brave warrior in defence of the poor, the oppressed, and the exploited. His legacy and his memory will live on in the hearts of freedom lovers the world over. They will blot out the sad memory of his apparent failure, and will take up his ideal of a new society and will make it come true. The slogan, that Mozambique made famous — "Aluta continua" — The struggle continues — will once again take on meaning.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED!

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE ! !

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I am alarmed at the sinister and repugnant setting up of secret "re-orientation" camps for young people in detention. These "secret" camps have been highlighted in the Press. Psychological techniques are being used on these young detainees. I believe that they are being programmed and indoctrinated.

The children sent to these camps were given the "choice" of remaining in detention or being "released" on condition that they attend the "reorientation camp".

It takes a sick mind to detain children, and it is perverse to call detention and indoctrination being "released".

I am not at all impressed with Mrs. Helen Suzman's assurances that "the children were well treated and were free to leave although the farmhouse is miles from anywhere". The Daily News in an editorial on the 14.9.86 describes the camps as making "sound humanitarian sense". I beg to differ. If white children from Houghton were first detained and then sent off for indoctrination would Mrs. Suzman have the audacity to describe them as being "well treated"? Detention and indoctrination of children must be condemned. We must not allow ourselves to be pacified by the liberals on this matter.

A "reorientation camp" is a fancy word for brain-washing.

Yours in the struggle

"L.R."

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