

MK SOLDIERS'

VIEWPOINT



There must be a change

— SANDILE ka SANDILE

"There must be a difference!" These words were uttered by Comrade President O.R. Tambo as he accepted another term of office, following his unanimous re-election as President of the African National Congress. There was never a doubt at any stage prior to and at the recent National Consultative Conference that he would lose this position.

"There has to be a difference," he repeated to emphasise the beginning of what he called *"a new phase; a new era"* in the struggle of our people, led by the ANC, to rid our Motherland of the cancer of apartheid, the trade mark of the racists who continue to arrogate to themselves the right to rule by force our country.

Indeed, the ANC graduated into a new phase and, once more, June became the springboard for our new effort. Our struggling masses have chosen June on many an occasion to launch some of the most memorable offensives against racism in our Motherland. And when our students demonstrated their hatred of bantu education, it had to be in June.

"There has to be a difference!" Supporting the President's words were our cadres at home, together with our fight-

ing masses whose activities kept the enemy pinned against the wall, completely confused.

MK combatants set Transkei alight with an operation at Umtata. A few days before this operation, President Oliver Tambo had told the Consultative Conference:

"The darkness that has shrouded our country for so long is now lit by flames that are consuming the accumulated refuse of centuries of colonialism and racism. For us, those flames are like beacons which draw us faster towards our goal".

Our people have shown that puppets have long outlived their welcome among us and must be dealt with accordingly. Many policemen have died as a result. Everyone at home has a choice: either come in with us and fight the common enemy or face the anger of the people as part of the enemy.

The bourgeois press started throwing a question at us: *Will you hit soft targets?* In many newspapers headlines have screamed: *The ANC will hit soft targets.*

I shall attempt to define "soft targets"

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President O.R. Tambo addressing the National Consultative Conference.

for those who may not know what these are.

Soft targets are the old people, ill with old age, who are forcibly removed and dumped on remote, barren areas in our country. They are the small children who die on these barren lots, many miles away from medical assistance.

Soft targets are people who are forced into squatter camps and murdered there by police and soldiers. Crossroads people are a glaring example of such targets. Of course, I know of no "softer" target like the person who is detained and is murdered by police while in their custody.

Our people have been shot dead for burning the hated pass and our children have been shot dead for burning the hated text books of bantu education, while their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers have been shot dead for refusing to board buses.

Who has been hitting all these soft targets? The fascist regime in our country helped by the racist police and soldiers

who execute e v e r y command of the fascists.

The question the press should be asking, therefore, is: *Will the ANC avenge these deaths?*

Of course, we will, and anyone who attempts to stop us will suffer the consequences: "hard target" or "soft target", it will not make any difference.

To launch the new phase, Comrade President Tambo spoke about, the Consultative Conference ended by showing in action that:

"These freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty."

And, side by side on the Conference stage with President Tambo and the other "Africans" (as defined by the Morogoro Conference in 1969) were Comrade Joe Slovo, Mac Maharaj, Aziz Pahad, Reggie September and James Stuart. A welcome departure from Morogoro, a sign that we are marching faster to the South Africa of the Freedom Charter!

"There must be a difference! There has GOT to be a difference!"