



**MK SOLDIERS'**

**VIEWPOINT**

# CADRE OF A NEW TYPE

— MUNTU KHOZA

EXPERIENCE of revolutionary armed struggles by oppressed peoples insistently dictates that we should attach special importance to the shaping of the character and personality of our cadres. The urgency of this task in our case becomes vivid when one notes the acceleration of political and military changes in Southern Africa and South Africa in particular.

These are challenging factors which increasingly urge our army to face the task of helping our cadres to find their bearing and provide them with the correct knowledge to face this challenge. History teaches that profound military education in a people's army is a pre-condition for victory. It may seem strange that this elementary and indisputable truth can at times be ignored.

## TWO VIEWS

Often two views prevail on the question of political and military preparation of a soldier. One tends to lay emphasis on military education at the expense of political

education, while the other overemphasises the latter, undermining military skills.

Both views are erroneous. They aim to separate the two aspects in the growth and development of our army. It should not be forgotten that man plays a decisive role in war, and that military skills can only achieve good results if a soldier is thoroughly prepared politically and psychologically. That is if complete readiness to surmount all obstacles and difficulties in the battlefield is instilled.

The second position is also unrealistic, divorced from the actual demands of a combat situation. We must never forget that though political consciousness is a force capable of motivating a soldier into action, the success of the soldier in action is not assured when he does not possess the skills to carry out his combat tasks efficiently.

*Victory is certain* is a common slogan, but what should dominate our minds must not be the certainty of victory only, which is indisputable, but how and when

this victory can be achieved. We must look for means and methods of achieving its realisation.

In this regard, political superiority over the enemy is one of the decisive factors. Politics is an overall force that exerts its influence in all our activities, especially in:

- cultivating the ideological maturity necessary to guide our cadres in the intricate structures of the existing political and military relations in our country and the sub-continent;
- developing the flexible thinking which will enable our cadres to take correct decisions independently; and
- in inculcating in our forces political conviction and devotion to the struggle. These are necessary to overcome the harsh ordeals of a combat situation.

History will not forgive us if we underestimate the enemy's ability to influence and mislead the masses. Our *Strategy and Tactics* states that:

*"It is naive to believe that oppressed and beleaguered people cannot temporarily, even in large numbers, be won over by fear, terror, lies, indoctrination and provocation to treat liberators as enemies."*

Consequently, we must draw the fundamental conclusion that our army must have fighters who are ideologically matured to understand our revolution, fighters who are able to make correct assessments and take proper decisions and actions as demanded by the situation at a given time. Are we having such fighters?

### HEROIC EXPLOITS

The cadres of our army have shown their constant readiness to act heroically and selflessly in the course of our struggle. This has been illustrated by the experiences of the Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns where our comrades displayed an indomitable will to move forward and carry out

the instructions of our army against all odds. The cadres of our army of the post June 16 era have lifted this banner and tradition of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, even higher.

In his book *'Little Land'*, L.I. Brezhnev says on heroism:

*"An act of heroism is not an unaccountable deed, but springs from firm conviction in the rightness and greatness of the cause for which a person consciously lays down his life."*

This underlines quite clearly the role of ideological conviction. It is necessary therefore that in our political education our cadres should be instilled with profound love for our people and our country, unwavering loyalty to the ideals of the Freedom Charter and a great sense of responsibility in the execution of our tasks.

It is Umkhonto we Sizwe, the gallant fighters of our army, being the core of our people's army, that is charged with the task of bringing into play their revolutionary heroism and lead our people in surmounting all difficulties on the path to victory. And they can only be able to fulfill this task if they realise that necessity out of political conviction.

### COMBAT EFFICIENCY

*"If we are to pour a large army into the country, we must be sure we are pouring in a seasoned army which will withstand the enemy"*. When saying this, it is clear that our Commander-in-Chief, Oliver Tambo, proceeded from the understanding of the enemy's strength. South Africa has one of the largest and well-trained armies on our continent. It relies heavily on the effectiveness of its murderous squads to keep itself in power.

Certainly, to defeat such an army requires more than merely the ability to shoot, as Comrade President Tambo once stated. We need to have a community of valiant fighters, capable of using cleverly our small forces and less sophisticated weapons against the large army; capable



*Combat efficiency can be ensured by proper military education.*

of applying the most appropriate methods of combat at an appropriate time, and of acting with great skill, organisation and precision to wipe out the racist army, he said.

Our soldiers have displayed their capability to act with great skill and initiative. It is necessary therefore that this ability to outwit the enemy in combat is developed to meet the heightened demands of our revolution.

*"The yardstick to measure the fighting capabilities of an army is the combat efficiency of its units"*, writes General Giap. The combat efficiency of our units can be ensured by proper military education of our cadres in accordance with the re-

quirements of our struggle.

In our efforts to prepare our army both politically and militarily, constant attention must be paid to the rapidly developing and changing situation in our sub-continent to ensure that our orientation and training meets the new and ever-changing conditions.

History has proved that however powerful an enemy can be, it cannot defeat an army that draws its strength from the oppressed masses, armed with the correct revolutionary theory and applying correctly the art of people's war. The racist regime and its large army will be wiped out by the gallant forces of our People's Army and victory shall be won.