



## **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

# **METHOD IN THE BUTCHERY**

Towards the end of last year (1987) Magnus Malan in typical toughminded fashion repeated threats of violence against Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola for what he elected to term "the dire consequences of supporting the ANC". Hawkish Malan who is effectively the political boss of the SADF and able henchman to racist president P.W Botha almost always betrays the murderous stratagems of the Pretoria regime in all his "iron fist" ravings. Even as he made this threat which has become a near trade mark with him it was evident that the floundering N.P leadership hemmed in by intra-party rifts on the one hand and an unabating mass democratic upsurge and the growing strength of the ANC at home on another, was once again opening the arsenals and posting its sick murderers abroad.

The Botha-Malan campaign against the people of SA and their leaders over the last few years has been modelled on

the basis of three satanic factors: 1) is an unbridled reign of terror and repression against the forces of progress at home; 2) cross border raids into neighbouring states to kill, maim and destroy ( employing mainly elements of the SADF); 3) undercover but equally callous operations abroad - the targets of which are ANC leaders and membership. Taken as a totality the ultimate objective of such a scheme of deliberate butchery cannot only be the physical elimination of the ANC - a task which is as ominous as it is impossible - but at another level to antagonise the people and governments of those countries which host the ANC in general. Such business because it is cowardly and ignominious even for had cases like the Botha-Malan types, has always been done in cloak and dagger fashion.

### **COVERT COLLUSION.**

It is most sorry that where these attempts against the ANC have succeeded in the past they did so not because of the



ingenuity of Pretoria's hit and kidnap teams, but because of covert collusion between the racists and some of their allies in the western world. Cases in point in this respect are:

1) the attempted kidnap of ANC leaders in London last year. It emerged during the trial of some of the culprits that top class British citizens and some members of British security institutions were implicated in one way or another in the plot.

2) It has now come to light that even with the callous murder of ANC Chief Representative Dulcie September in Paris on the 29th February a Frenchman Jean Taousson, an associate of a close collaborator of the French interior minister might have taken part in the preparation of attacks against ANC members. Attempts have also been made on the ANC Chief Representative to Belgium and Comrade Albie Sachs was latterly maimed by a car bomb blast in Maputo. There is a definite method in the campaign of butchery that the boers have now embarked upon.

Bedevilled by right-wing competition represented by the CP and the AWB maniacs and a failure to work out a comprehensive recipe to appease the white voting public and at the same time mollifying the Black majority, the NP regime has fallen back on the old dirty subterfuge of masquerading as omnipotent thus purporting to be inassailable and in

control of the situation. Yet this Hitlerite method cannot produce the desired results as it must harden the attitude of the oppressed and even consolidate the ranks of the conscious opponents of apartheid at large.

Pretoria is bent on keeping the conflict between the people's movement and white minority greed dirty and bloody. And it is doing so with despicable impunity and complete disregard of the dire repercussions in foreign lands. The moment has come when the world must once again be reminded of the lengths to which Apartheid has devalued human life. We must repeat here that to strike a moral balance with men who relish carnage will call for an equitable punishment which must be delivered soonest by the people of SA themselves. If there are still doubting Thomases' as to the justness of the armed struggle in SA, then this calculated butchery unleashed by the Botha-Malan clique must serve as a leveller and a call to militant action on all fronts.

A similar message must go to the international community which through the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions and related measures should contribute towards the overdue overthrow of the criminal apartheid system. For to defend the just struggle of the people of our land is to support the cause of world peace.

I cherish my own freedom dearly, but I care even more for your freedom. Too many have died since I went to prison. Too many have suffered for the love of freedom. I owe it to their widows, to their orphans, to their mothers and to their fathers who have grieved and wept for them. Not only I have suffered during these long, lonely, wasted years. I am not less life-loving than you are. But I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people to be free. I am in prison as the representative of the people and of your organisation, the African National Congress, which was banned. — Nelson Mandela