

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS STATEMENT  
ON THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF  
COMRADE PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO

TO:  
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
MPLA PARTY OF LABOUR,  
L U A N D A.

We have learnt with great chock and grief of the passing away of that outstanding African Patriot, revolutionary and internationalist, comrade Agostinho Neto, President of the MPLA-Party of Labour and the People's Republic of Angola.

To the African National Congress, our people's army Umkhonto we Sizwe, and the vast majority of our people, President Neto was a fellow-combatant and a leading cadre among the forces that are locked in battle against the fascist apartheid regime for the liberation of South Africa.

For almost two decades, President Neto has stood side by side with the African National Congress. Coming to our aid when need arose and always unwavering in his commitment to the strengthening of the combat ties between the ANC and the MPLA-Party of Labour and our respective peoples for the revolutionary renewal of our two countries.

President Neto will live for ever in the hearts and minds of our people as the fighter who tamed the arrogant and aggressive South African apartheid regime in the battlefield of Angola and led the Angolan people in their victorious struggle to expel the South African forces of colonial occupation and expansionism. That historic victory served as the guarantee of the success of our own struggle as well as those of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe, under the leadership of SWAPO and the Patriotic Front and defeated the offensive of international imperialism which aimed to recolonise Africa.

We are at one with President Kaunda of the Republic of Zambia in acknowledging that the death of President Neto has robbed our continent of one

of the few key leaders of the new revolutionary age of Black Africa.

In conveying our condolences to the Central Committee and the entire membership of the MPLA-

Party of Labour, the government and people of the People's Republic of Angola, the heroic FAPLA, comrade Maria Eugenia Neto and the rest of the family, the African National Congress of South Africa pledges that our people will always remain loyal to the revolutionary course that Comrade Agostinho Neto set both for the Angolan and the South African people.

Following his example, his teachings, we shall remain firm in our commitment to the unity of our parties and peoples on the basis of principle and not expediency, and firm in our commitment to the eradication of fascist power in South Africa which even now is poised for more criminal acts of aggression against our brother Angolan people. We shall continue to intensify the struggle for the birth of People's Power in South Africa and will never abandon the ranks of the world anti-imperialist movement.

Farewell dear Comrade, soldier and leader of all peoples fighting for national and social emancipation!

WHILE ANGOLA HOLDS YOUR GRAVE, AFRICA UNFREE  
SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE!

A LUTA CONTINUA!

A VICTORIA E CERTA!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

THOMAS T. NKOBI

TREASURER-GENERAL (National Executive Committee).

Lusaka - 12th September, 1979.