

REVOLUTIONARIES OF UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT



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NELSON MANDELA:
An appeal to the people of South Africa smuggled out of Robben Island.

Unite! Mobilise! Fight On!

Introduction by Oliver Tambo, President, African National Congress of South Africa.

"This message by Nelson Mandela addressed to the struggling masses of our country was written to deal with the present crisis gripping our country and in the aftermath of the Soweto Uprisings. It was smuggled out of Robben Island under very difficult conditions, and has taken over two years to reach us. Nonetheless we believe the message remains fresh and valid and should be presented to our people. His call to unity and mass action is of particular importance in this Year of the Charter - the Charter - the 25th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter. The ANC urges you to respond to this call and make 1980 a year of united mass struggle".

MANDELA'S CALL

"... From our ruler we can expect nothing. They are the ones who give orders to the soldier crouching over his rifle; theirs is the spirit that moves the finger that caresses the trigger... Apartheid has failed. Our people remain unequivocal in its rejection. The young and the old, parent and child, all reject it... The soil of our country is destined to be the scene of the fiercest fight and the sharpest battles to rid our continent of the last vestiges of white minority rule... Even as we bow at their graves we remember this: The dead live on as martyrs in our hearts and minds, a reproach to our inactivity and the host of shortcomings that accompany divisions among the oppressed, a spur to our efforts to close ranks, and a reminder that the freedom of our people is yet to be won... We face the future with confidence. For the guns that serve apartheid cannot render it unconquerable. Those who live by the gun shall perish by the gun!"

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