

FIGHT FROM WHERE YOU ARE

An extract from "Zimbabwe People's Voice"
interview with Comrade President O.R. Tambo.

"...for some time now the African National Congress has been calling on people, first of all to fight wherever they are, on the issues that immediately confront them, to link up that fight with the overall struggle for liberation. This is a constant basis of organisation and mobilisation of the people. We have addressed ourselves to the youth, to the workers in particular, churches and to people of all social groupings insisting that it is time to fight and fight from where you are with what you have. There is one enemy which presents itself in different forms. Oppose rents; fight for higher wages; resist the removal of people; pray about the struggle if you believe in Christianity; stand up and be counted among those who seek to ensure justice in the country

"But for some time there have been these actions except that they were not sufficiently co-ordinated, they were not sufficiently simultaneous to assume the character of a general mass offensive by the people. You had the guerrilla actions from time to time, but there are many instances where these were directly related to actions by the masses of the people.

"It is actions of a solidarity character. People realise that they must fight together at the same time against the same enemy. When harassed they must attack together not in isolated groupings at different places and at different times. As far as possible if action starts in one area it spreads throughout, and this has been the character. And everybody comes in again with their own theme.

"Churches will stand up in solidarity, they will not want to see Botha or somebody as churches or necessarily as leaders of the people, but simply because they are churchmen, they have got a role to play, they are involved. So, first of all, it is an expression of the unity of the people, it is an expression of their united determination to ensure victory for the struggle. And the defiant posture towards the forces of the repression and common readiness to sacrifice together in unity, as one people, fighting for the cause to secure the realisation of a new South Africa that is governed in accordance with the will of the black majority. The black majority has come to understand that they carry the responsibility for liberation both black and white in South Africa..."