



Editorial Comment

THE DYNAMO OF OUR STRUGGLE

January the 8th will go down in the annals of our history as a milestone in the struggle; a day of national awakening, a day which gives weight to the black people's quest for liberation and an equitable stake in the wealth of our beloved motherland. For on this day in 1912, the ANC was formed.

This year January the 8th marks the 69th anniversary of the ANC, the authentic vanguard of our struggling people. These 69 years that have elapsed have been years of difficult struggle during which the ANC has acquired a wealth of experience, gathered new strength and ascended from summit to much higher summit. This is the period that saw the development of the ANC into a completely revolutionary organisation, unflinching in its commitment to fight tooth and nail for the genuine national liberation of our people. It remains to this day the custodian of the loftiest of ideals & objectives for a just and democratic South Africa. This is the foundation upon which rests the present inspiring developments that favour the liberation struggle at home and abroad.

The undaunted students of our country whose nation-wide upsurges have sent the Bantu Education 'maintenance team' under Hartzenberg reeling to the trenches, as is the tradition

with all fascists, continue to march proudly. All the sabre-rattling and intimidatory bloodshed by the racists will not cow our people down. Our offensive is like an irresistible sweep of a hurricane. It is this conviction in the inevitable victory of the oppressed that motivates thousands of the youth to be dauntless and daring. It is the self-same spirit that underlies the feats performed by the militants of Umkhonto we Sizwe. The SASOLS speak for themselves!

In the van of the life and death struggles that are presently raging inside the country, is to be found the youth, who are indeed the dynamo of this process that is unfolding. It is with this view in mind that we of the ANC look forward to this as the Year of the Youth. With this, the youth from all sections of our population are being called upon to respond to a national duty. And that duty is for them to take their rightful places in the forefront of the struggle; to more than ever before unleash their efforts sparing no strength in the confrontation of the usurpers, who for centuries now, have ridden on our parents' backs and reduced our next-of-kin and everyone else of our people to a position of drawers of water and hewers of wood. This is the time for the youth of our country to rally behind the slogan; Death to the racist tyrants!

We do not imagine that the enemy will take this lightly. We expect him to unleash intimidatory action, launch ploys and machinations aimed at defeating this patriotic endeavour. Our watch-word is to be vigilant and to beat the enemy by a skillful exercise of tactics. In this way victory will be ensured.

The victories scored by our people during the Year of the Charter & of the South African Worker have demonstrated beyond any doubt that our national liberation movement is directing the struggle in accordance with sound revolutionary principles.

The indomittable spirit of our people, reminiscent of the "roaring fifties" has been amply demonstrated. The enemy was denied peace. Long live our mighty working class whose heroic industrial actions have cast into the doldrums the diabolic designs of the Wiehahn and Riekert Commissions! In this year, which also marks the 60th Anniversary of the South African Communist Party, the rightful vanguard of our working class, we are looking forward to much more incessant struggles by the workers. We are looking forward to the revival of the spirit of the Nkosis, the Kotanes, the Bram Fischers and other towering names within the working class. A situation where the workers will be able to say: "Here at last is a Party of our dreams". "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains". Come enemy slander and distortion, we have a world to win!