

STRAIGHT TALK...

NO TURNING BACK

When a nation has been robbed of what is dearest to it - freedom and independence it must reach a point in its life when it sees no other reason to live except to fight resolutely to regain what is rightfully theirs. When that time has come people readily give out all, including life itself, as a necessary contribution towards the achievement of the common goal - liberation. Mothers whose eldest sons and daughters have already fallen during fierce confrontations with the much-hated enemy courageously bid the younger ones farewell, urging them to battle for the sake of victory. This is exactly the crucial moment on whose threshold the millions of our oppressed and exploited people now stand. There is no turning back!

In a world in which the boundaries of the domain of freedom, peace and progress are irreversibly widening, our glorious traditions of 250 years of relentless wars of resistance against colonial plunder and murder, five decades of organised non-violent but militant struggles which culminated in the forging of unbreakable bonds of national unity under the banner of the ANC, and the twenty years of irresistibly growing people's war could not have produced any other result. No doubt it was the magnetising effect of this spirit of 'victory or death' which prompted our mother Martha Mahlangu to sound the clarion call on the occasion of marking our Heroes' Day, December 16. "Let us stand up and follow our children because it is getting late."

The views expressed by our mothers on this historic occasion are unmistakably coming from the depths of the heart of the growing number of our mothers and fathers. What is more, this is a sincere expression of the great confidence our people have in us young fighters, we who are the hope and future of our country. What does this mean to the youth of our country? That as long as our people are not free we must have no peace with our consciences.

Those of us who have already advanced in mastering the line of march of our people's war whose mainstay is the total mobilization of all our people and other democratic forces in various forms of action and clearly understand the goals of our liberation struggle as outlined in our Freedom Charter - education acquired in the actual field of battle - have a great a n d

challenging responsibility on their shoulders. They must spare no effort in imparting this revolutionary knowledge to their colleagues who still remain in the dark and encourage those who are still hesitant. This calls for tireless organisers who will not only spread our message of freedom in schools and places of recreation, factories, mines and farms, buses and trains - everywhere - but who will also be in the front ranks of every campaign, painstakingly working for the broadest unity of all our forces, organised and unorganised in every corner of our land and rally them around our unshakeable pillar of unity, the ANC.

All this demands supreme sacrifice but that will never prevent us from fulfilling our task successfully. We are a product and an inseparable part of a people whose capacity for sacrifice is immeasurably great. The shining example of Solomon Mahlangu, our six colleagues, brothers and comrades who have chosen death rather than surrender, Naphtali Manana, David Moise, Anthony Tsotsobe, Petros Mashigo, Johnson Lubisi and Johannes Shabangu and all the young gallant sons and daughters of our soil in the ranks of the ANC and Umkhonto We Sizwe are no accident. They are characteristic of our generation.

Let us in this historic Year of Unity in Action rise with the greatest resolve to hasten the downfall of the apartheid regime and the dawn of a new day in our country when our entire people shall be masters of their destiny once and for all. Our battlecry is: UNITY IN ACTION IS OUR KEY TO VICTORY.

DAWN politiXword No.11Answers

ACROSS: 1. Umkhonto 6. Lethal 8. USSR
10. Oath 11. Ghetto 14. Strategy
16. Dawn 17. CIA

DOWN: 1. Upsurge 2. Kiss 3. Oil 4. TNI
5. Rolihlahla 7. Heat 9. Rat 12. Tito
13. Ago 15. Row