

they do not only occur at a crucial moment in the history of the oppressed people's principled challenge to the status quo, but on the other hand are a reflection of the ferocity of the struggle between the forces of real change against those of empty reforms and conservation. They reflect as much might in the ideas of peace, freedom and equality as they do the emptiness and fallacy of apartheid propaganda.

Finally, as matters get to a boiling point we expect the two trends in white politics represented by the N.P. split to assume their positions behind either of the two camps in the church. This will not be the alleviation of a problem, but rather the intensification of a fierce conflict. It is for us to provide the booster charge to this imminent explosion in order to ensure that the patriotic movement of our country will benefit out of this. In this way, we shall have understood the real meaning of the year's campaign and its crucial significance to the destiny of our struggle.

FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER!

A LIFE DEDICATED TO A JUST CAUSE

-Refilwe Monama

Ruth First is the descendant of the parents who sowed the seed of Marxist thought in our country as early as 1915. Her parents who were Jewish immigrants from the Baltic states, shared their rich experience of the labour movement with the workers in South Africa. This culminated in them being members of the International Socialist League which was to be the founding ground of the Communist Party of South Africa.

Comrade Ruth, born in 1925, was to continue the proud history of her parents. She joined the Communist Party of South Africa as it was then called, while she was still a student in Witwatersrand. She served as a secretary of both the Young Communist League and the Progressive Youth Council. Comrade Ruth joined the Party at a time when it was deeply involved in mass mobilisation, thus

her energy and genius of mind found fullest expression in the work of the Party for which she dedicated all her life.

DEVOTION

This devotion to the Party work saw her assuming the position of a secretary of the Johannesburg Party office in 1946 at the crucial time, when the leadership of the Party was being harassed because of the historic black miners' strike.

Afterwards Comrade Ruth became the Johannesburg editor of the Guardian and later the monthly magazine - Fighting Talk.

While Comrade Ruth could not see the end result of her struggle due to the cowardly attack on her life, she still had something to be proud of.

The racists have only eliminated her physically, but she will continue to oppose their fascist policies through her numerous works which have lived to be a lasting indictment against the Pretoria regime.

A few of such works is the book, South West Africa in which she illustrated the conditions of farm workers in Bethal in 1947. 117 Days, a book in which she gives a petrifying account of her life in fascist South African prisons.

ANC

Ruth First like all the members of the South African Communist Party threw all her weight behind the work of the ANC. She worked as a journalist with Comrade Govan Mbeki of the New Age and the Spark. Through Comrade Mbeki she came to know more about the plight of rural masses. This enabled her to do the polishing to the book: South Africa - The Peasants Revolt by Govan Mbeki.

During the Treason Trial her house was a gathering point for many members of the ANC and they assessed the political situation. Today all the world, with exception of muted states rulers and other reactionary imperialist

circles, has turned against racist South Africa, due to the unceasing efforts of the ANC to which Comrade Ruth First made a noble contribution popularising the cause of the oppressed millions of South Africa.

Comrade Ruth was to be among those people who fell victim of the 90 day detention law and was held in solitary confinement. In 1964 she joined the rest of our leadership in exile and has since then continued to devotedly

We Are
Sure Of



Final Victory

Interview with Hodipo Hamutenya, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of SWAPO and Secretary for Information and Publicity.

Q: In the past few weeks, the Western mass-media has been making a lot of noise about the possibilities of the settlement of the Namibian independence question, what do you think are the reasons behind this great optimism as a member of the delegation that had gone to New York?