

STRAIGHT TALK...

The spirit of United Action

"WE WANT ALL OUR RIGHTS, WE WANT THEM HERE AND WE WANT THEM NOW".

The line cited above is extracted from the key-note address delivered by Dr A. Boesak at the inauguration of the United Democratic Front (UDF). Therein is captured the seriousness and resolve of the down-trodden masses of our people (to crown the long struggle for liberation with victory). A victory for which over a period spanning centuries so many lives have been lost and yet so many sacrifices are being made.

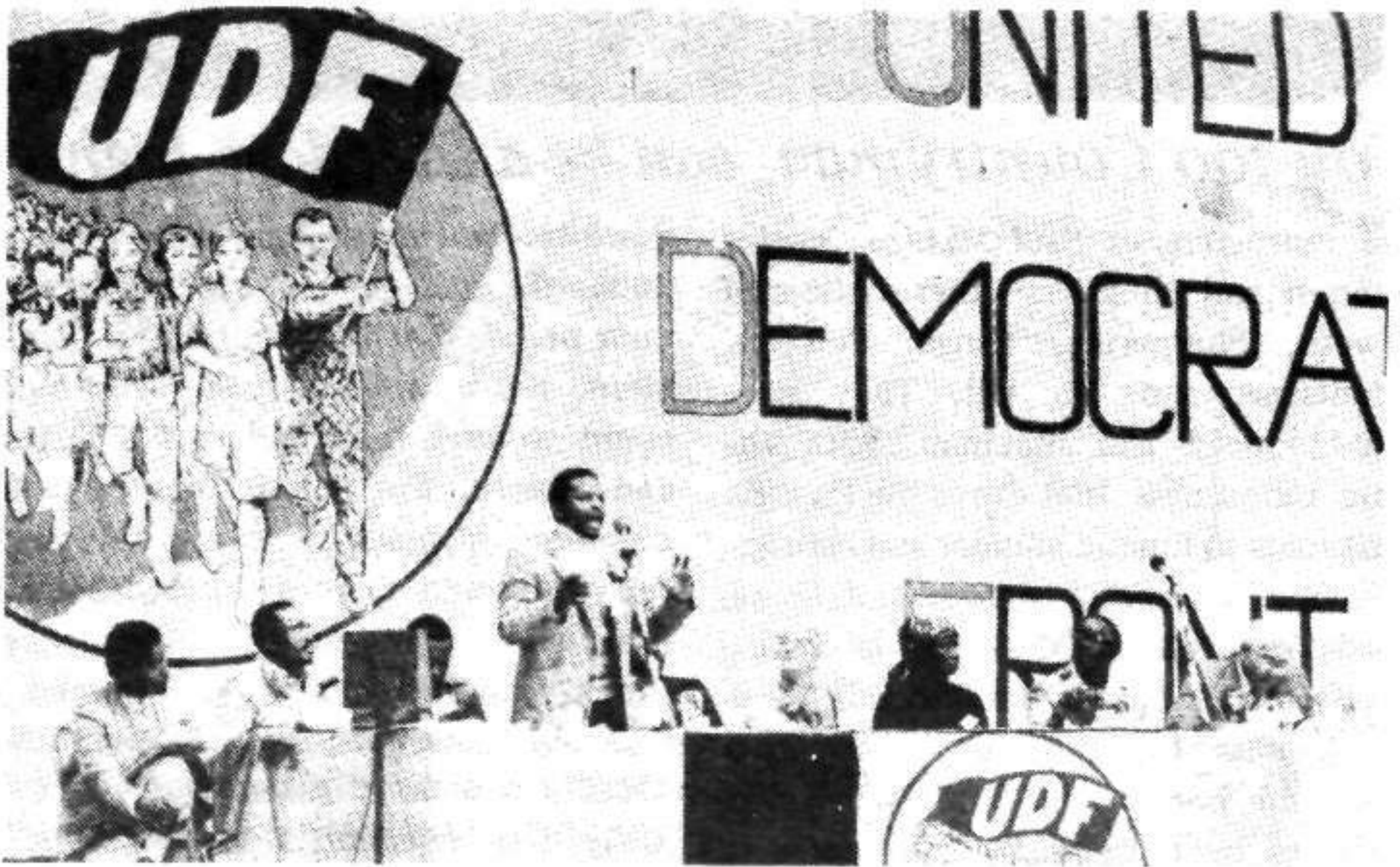
It is not so much the magic of the 'little words' underscored in the citation that motivates this **Straight Talk** but the fact that they put into capsule the irrepressible courage and determination of our people and indeed a fearlessness that rises with danger. Would Luthuli was nigh to see with his very eyes the blooming of the flower of Kliptown. For in many ways than one the UDF launch and the Congress of the People of 1955 are monumental episodes whose very occurrence fuels the fires of popular revolution and inspires all of us even to greater heights - towards the majestic summit of the establishment of a South Africa which shall belong to all who live in it on the basis of freedom and democracy.

The oppressed have once again delivered a resounding rebuff to the system of apartheid with all its trappings and schemes. They have correctly condemned the Presidential Council proposals and the Koornhof Bills to where they belong: into the dustbin of history where the yawning abyss of time waits to serve them right. The black deprived masses have come to understand the urgency of moving in the spirit of united action towards mobilising the broad masses into conscious political involvement for an all-round offensive against the obnoxious apartheid system of race rule and capitalist exploitation.

This has not come of its own; it is the result of a prolonged principled struggle that has gone through peaceful and stormy periods, but thanks to the selflessness of our leadership and organisations at the hub of this historical process all along, now we are fully astride the mighty crest of revolutionary ferment and are determining as we do, the rate and direction of march. We have captured the initiative under the steadfast guidance of the revolutionary movement as headed by the African National Congress.

Within the context of this year's campaign for United Action the launching of the UDF constitutes a phenomenal stride towards the consolidation of our politic-

al arsenal. Yet we must be warned against overstating our people's victories, thus running the risk of getting stuck in our own glee, at the expense of greater vigilance in the face of a wounded beast - the Pretoria regime. The August 20 event, therefore, was a historic milepost which brings with it new and greater challenges.



It brings to mind the instructive dictum: the challenge mounts with each advance. Already the UDF has the backing of more than 400 popular organisations and the support of close to a million people. *Yet for victory we need the conscious support of the millions of the oppressed.* The crying need for an unabating drive for drawing more people into the UDF fold, for mobilisation and recruitment into the ranks of revolutionary vanguard and its fighting arm, Umkhonto we Sizwe, remains.

We must also never fail to deliver our prodigals who are wandering towards if not into the gates of Black revanchism. We must pull them to line and knock sense and sound logic into those who seek to poison the popular cause with inverted race hatred, who pursue a struggle based on the skin strategy under the slogan of an anti-racist future, which is unfathomable.

We, militants of the African National Congress and its allies, organised into the fighting ranks of Mk vow to improve our combativeness. In the words of our Mk Manifesto we shall continue to "*be in the front line of the people's defence*", sparing neither strength nor effort. As the struggle continues, so shall we continue to spearhead the popular offensive, cutting deeper into the heart of boer-fascism and bleed it to death.

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FORWARD TO WAR!