

A PROFILE

HE LIVED

A FULL LIFE

To say Doctor Dadoo was one of the most outstanding among those who struggled all their life is no praise. It is a simple statement of fact, the fact of the full life that he lived.

He was born on the 5th of September, 1909, in Krugersdorp. His father, Mohamed, came to South Africa in the 1880's along with other hundreds of Indian people brought to the Natal sugarcane fields as indentured labourers by the British imperialists. Thus Yusuf Dadoo grew up in the oppressive environment of colonial domination to which the Indian community, like their African and so-called Coloured brothers, were subjected to. Yet it was the liberation struggle of the Indian people and of his countrymen in South Africa and especially the working class, that was to shape his life.

He was still a schoolboy when, together with his contemporaries like Molvi A.J. Cachalia, he attended meetings held by Ghandi. He also took part in the All-Indian Congress campaigns to mobilise support against British colonialism. In 1929 after matriculating in Aligarh, India, he went to study medicine in England. There, too he participated in a variety of political activities. Within months he was among six people arrested for demonstrating against the imperialist Simons Commission. With his parents' insistence he had to change to Edingurgh. But nothing could dissuade the young Yusuf from political action; it was already becoming part of his life.



"There are those who struggle for a day and that is good; and there are those who struggle for a year and that is better; there are those who struggle for twenty years and that is better still; and there are those who struggle all their life and they are the ones we cannot do without." — BERTOLT BRECHT —

This was when he read for the first time in his life Karl Marx and Frederick Engels' Communist Manifesto, the death-certificate of capitalism.

WAR YEARS

In 1936, after qualifying as a medical doctor in Edinburgh, Yusuf Dadoo returned to practice his profession among his down-trodden countrymen. As soon as he returned to South Africa, Dr. Dadoo decided to throw himself heart and soul into the liberation struggle instead of concentrating on his profession. The first battle he got involved in was that of transforming the Transvaal Indian Congress from a toothless body controlled by conciliatory businessmen into a militant people's organisation. The battle was won.

In 1939 he joined the Communist Party of South Africa. This was an event of great historic significance in his life. Not only did it mean even more testing responsibilities on his shoulders but also being best armed, with Marxist-Leninist theory, to grapple with them. At this moment our people were engaged in anti-fascist mass campaigns of the war years. With other leaders of our people like Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, Alpheus Maliba and many others he was in the front ranks of these battles, speaking at meetings, preparing and publishing articles, pamphlets and leaflets. In 1940, two years after the formation of the Non-European Front which he was also a founder-member of, Dr. Dadoo was arrested for issuing its (NEUF's) anti-war pamphlets which called on our people to demand:

"The right to live as human beings, the right to work in skilled trades, recognition of African trade unions, the abolition of white labour policy, the abolition of all anti-

colour legislation, full citizenship rights" and concluded, *"Don't support this war, where the rich get richer and the poor get killed"*.

TIES OF UNITY

The racist regime of Smuts declared Dr. Dadoo 'Public Enemy No. 1' But this did not deter him. With the formation of the National Anti-Pass Council in 1941 he was elected its vice-Chairman while Dr. Xuma, then the President of the ANC was elected the chairman. During the 1944 Alexandra bus boycott Dr. Dadoo could be seen marching from the township alongside the residents.

Together with Dr. Naicker he was among the first group to be arrested on 27 June 1946 in the wake of Massive Passive resistance of the Indian community supported by the Africans and so-called Coloureds against Smuts' Ghetto Bill. In the same year Dr. Dadoo was arrested with other Communist Party leaders following the great African mineworkers' strike.

The year 1947 saw the laying of the historic steppingstone to forge unbreakable ties of unity between the Africans and Indians. Years of tireless efforts by our people's leaders like Yusuf Dadoo to forge the greatest unity of all the oppressed was beginning to bear fruit with the Dadoo-Xuma-Naicker Pact.

In 1948 he (Dadoo) was once more arrested in connection with the passive resistance campaign. Two years later he was elected the President of the South African Indian Congress.

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These were the years of the full-scale launching of the Hitler-style campaign to crush all militant opposition to brutal domination and exploitation. The Communist Party of South Africa was the first target of the hurriedly passed Suppression of Communism Act of 1950. The Party was forced to continue the struggle underground.

A conference was held in 1953 to mark the reconstitution of the CPSA as the South African Communist Party (SACP). Yusuf Dadoo was one of the delegates to this conference and was elected to the Central Committee. Moses Kotane was elected General-Secretary. This was no isolated event but a vital link in the chain of events which marked this decade as the fighting fifties. Its highlights, in which Dr. Dadoo featured prominently as a leader and activist were, among others: the 1950 May Day demonstration; the June 26, 1950 demonstration against state repression as manifested in the murder of 18 workers on May 1 and the banning of the CPSA. the 1952 Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws; the setting up of the Congress Alliance which brought together the ANC, South African Coloured People's Congress, South African Indian Congress, Congress of Democrats (and SACTU joined in 1955) into united action against oppression; the historic Congress of the people which adopted the Freedom Charter on June 26, 1955. It was not by chance that the Congress of the People awarded Dr. Dadoo together with Chief Albert Luthuli and Trevor Huddleston the order of *Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe*. Our people recognised and honoured the heroic contribution he had already made in our liberation struggle.

HAMBA KAHLE

ISITWALANDWE SEAPARANKOE

1909-1983



THE



»LET NO QUARTER BE GIVEN. WE MUST CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE TO THE BITTER END. VICTORY IS OURS!

THE ENEMY WILL BE CRUSHED».

In 1960 the SACP assigned Dr. Dadoo the task of creating an external apparatus and representing our struggling people internationally. By then the Pretoria fascist regime had also banned the ANC. Almost the entire leadership of our movement who also constituted the National High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe, were arrested at Rivonia and sentenced to life imprisonment. Scores of other cadres were served with long prison terms.

Our movement was forced into a painful retreat. It was stalwarts like Bram Fischer, J.B. Marks, Moses Kotane, O.R. Tambo, Duma Nokwe and Yusuf Dadoo who continued to show the way forward and inspire our movement and people to fight on even during the dark moments.

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DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN



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The 1962 Programme of the SACP which was adopted at an underground conference held in Johannesburg bears the imprint of Dr. Dadoo's valuable contribution. This programme is a giant step in the development and understanding of our liberation struggle and a reliable guide to action for all genuine patriots. It states in part:

"As its immediate and foremost task, the South African Communist Party works for a united front of national liberation. It strives to unite all sections and classes of oppressed and exploited people for a national democratic revolution to destroy white domination.



Dr. Dadoo

»THIS IS THE WAY...»

— OSBOURNE MALELE

(MONCADA DETACHMENT)

Our people's heroic leader has shown us through his life-struggle what it means to combine revolutionary ideas with practice. He gave himself heart and soul to the cause of his people and of the freedom and peace-loving mankind the world over. As a leader and fighter he was respected not only by the struggling people of South Africa but also by the international working class movement and the whole of progressive mankind.

We the youth in the fighting ranks of the African National Congress and Umkhonto we Sizwe are fortunate to have the opportunity of receiving comradely and fatherly guidance produced by the rich historical experience of the struggle of our people at home from such great leaders and heroes like Doctor Dadoo.

As we bid farewell to Doctor Dadoo, a big question confronts us: *How much advantage are we taking of the presence and nearness of our leadership?*

This is no question to be answered with good speeches. It is now high time that we account individually as to how far we are practically turning the teachings we receive from our leadership into action to ensure the liberation of our people. This is the way to pay tribute to our leader, Comrade Yusuf Dadoo.

**AMANDLA! MAATLA!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**

The main content of this Revolution will be the national liberation of the African people. Carried to its fulfilment, this revolution will at the same time put an end to every sort of race discrimination and privilege. The revolution will restore the land and the wealth of the country to the people and guarantee democracy, freedom and equality of rights and opportunities to all."

At the historic 1969 Morogoro Conference of the ANC which, among other vital tasks, formulated and adopted our basic document, Strategy and Tactics of the ANC, adopted a comprehensive ana-

lysis of the Freedom Charter, decided upon the intergration of revolutionaries from the Indian, so-called Coloureds and white communities into the external mission of the ANC and reorganised the ANC. Dr. Dadoo was elected the Vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the ANC. The main task of this council was to plan, organise and direct the intensification of our liberation struggle inside South Africa. In this sphere, too, Yusuf Dadoo selflessly served the cause of his people. This has become particularly clear in the post-Soweto period.

The SACP in its assessment of the situation following this great event pointed out that:

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»... IS NOT DEAD AND WILL NEVER DIE».

(JUNE 16 DETACHMENT)

— MINUS KGOSILE

I wish I had the fitting words to clearly express my feelings about the meaning of the life of Doctor Dadoo to the struggling millions of our people and their vanguard movement, the African National Congress, its allies and our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. He was an honest, simple and modest man who was not only our leader but also a loving father and friend. He was a great son of our people and internationalist, a true revolutionary who tirelessly fought all his life for the victory of the cause of the liberation of mankind.

At this moment one is inspired to repeat the touching words of one revolutionary character in Maxim Gorky's celebrated novel, *Mother*, who upon realising the death of a great comrade, the hero of the novel said:

"He is dead! What does it mean — 'dead'? What is dead? Is my respect for Yegor dead, or my love for him as a comrade, or my understanding of his ideas? Is the feeling he rouses in my heart disappeared, or my knowledge of him as an honest, courageous man? Is all that dead? For me it can never die".

Likewise all that Doctor Dadoo said and in the name of our cause of freedom is not dead and will never die. It will always inspire us all to battle till victory.

We in Umkhonto we Sizwe vow never to forget what Doctor Dadoo taught us throughout his life: "You must never give up, you must fight to the end".

DON'T MOURN, MOBILISE, ORGANISE, FIGHT BACK!



AGAINST IMPERIALISM

An undeviating communist, Dr. Dadoo was a true internationalist. As his political activities show, he was a convinced fighter for a world free from all forms of exploitation of man by man, a new world of peace and prosperity for the whole of mankind.

As far back as the grim days of Nazi-Germany atrocities, represented in South Africa by degenerates like Malan and Oswald Pirow, Dr. Dadoo worked hand in hand with other leaders of our people to mobilise support for the Ethiopians who were attacked by the fascist Mussolini. They also rallied support for the Soviet Union which spear-headed the world progressive forces against the imperialist-bred Nazi barbarism. They organised strikes, demonstrations, protest meetings and wrote articles through fighting papers like the Guardian.

“Failure on the part of our liberation movement to respond effectively during the coming period will put at risk the high mood of militancy and lead to a demoralisation which will make it easier for the imperialist alliance to implement its plans for Southern Africa and for Vorster to successfully divert the formidable pressures which have built up inside our country.”

Our liberation front clearly faces a historic challenge, and our Party, as part of this front, is called upon — as never before — to mobilise all its strength to help meet it.”

The heightened fighting mood of our people and their tremendously growing level of political consciousness is to a certain extent, a measure of success made by our liberation movement both in the political and military fields of our struggle. This is also a testimony of the inexhaustible capacity of fighters for freedom like Dr. Dadoo to lead our people in action.

With the recent restructuring of the ANC to ensure the raising of the pace of our struggle, Yusuf Dadoo was elected one of the vice-chairmen of the politico-Military Council of the ANC.



Dr. Dadoo has also contributed in the gigantic effort to unite the world democratic forces in the struggle against imperialist domination. Some of these instances were during the Zionist imperialist aggression; the French colonial war against the people of Algeria; the CIA inspired murder of Patrice Lumumba; the massacres committed by Portuguese

colonialists against the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde; the genocidal war waged by the US against the Vietnamese people and the fight for world peace and disarmament.

In the process of such solidarity actions, leaders like Dadoo, Kotane, Marks, Mandela, Mbeki, Fischer, Tambo and many others helped to cultivate and develop a broad anti-imperialist outlook in our national liberation movement.



In the course of fulfilling his political tasks in the international arena, Dr. Dadoo has met and discussed with world acclaimed leaders such as Nheru, Nkrumah, Nasser, Marian Ngouabi, Mondlane, Cabral, Neto and Machel.

AN INTERNATIONALIST

He played an active role in the crucial activities of the international communist movement in which world peace occupies a special place. He visited a number of socialist countries, met and discussed with Party and State leaders including Georgi Dimitrov, Fidel Castro, Todor Zhivkov and Vo Nguyen Giap. On behalf of the SACP, he has also attended the Congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, the Vietnam Workers' Party and other socialist countries.



These lines are only a glimpse of the life struggle of Dr. Dadoo. But they certainly show us what a rich and inspiring life he led. He now lies buried at the Highgate cemetery, a few metres from the greatest revolutionary thinker and politician of all times, Karl Marx, whose ideas inspired and guided Dr. Dadoo's life. Yet the story of his life continues to be told by the struggle of millions of the peace and freedom-loving people of our country.

Dadoo and Mandela in the Defiance Campaign.

Dadoo with the late Angolan President, Dr. Agostinho Neto.

Dadoo with the late Indian leader, Nehru.

Carrying a wreath with J.B. Marks in the Soviet Union

**DISCIPLINE IS
THE MOTHER
OF VICTORY**
