

I did not know much about the armed struggle raging in Namibia then, except what I got through racist-controlled mass media, which is most often than not permeated with pernicious lies. Nevertheless, I have since come to know that the people of Namibia, led by their vanguard movement, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO of Namibia) are engaged in a life and death struggle against the very regime which is oppressing us.

Mama, do you remember the tumultuous situation which prevailed in our country in 1974? I mean the pro-FRELIMO rallies. I met a friend who vividly recalled these events to me. The victory of the heroic people of Mozambique against Portuguese colonialism inspired me greatly. It became very clear to my friends and myself that no force on earth, however heavily armed and brutal it might be, can withstand the wrath of a united and determined people fighting for justice and freedom.

Thus, when the time came, I did not hesitate. I joined my friends, who, like myself, were prepared to join the forces of liberation. It pains me a lot mama, but I couldn't bid you goodbye. Time was against me.

The architects of apartheid are sweating profusely at their drawing boards and a campaign of slander is in progress. Our vanguard movement, the ANC, is called a 'marxist-infested' and 'communist-inspired' organisation. Freedom fighters are referred to as 'terrorists' who commit horrible crimes against 'innocent civilians'. To crown it all, they also claim to be a 'God-chosen nation' to lead us, Africans, from bondage, barbarism and backwardness. As if these insults were not enough, Africans according to these self-styled 'pioneers of civilisation' are not developed and capable of ruling.

Mama, all these are frantic attempts aimed at discrediting the forces of freedom. The racist regime cannot stem the revolutionary tide sweeping across our country and is thus resorting to "every method in the book" to save their crumbling house, like a person applying first aid to a patient who needs a major operation. All these attempts are doomed to failure.

You may be asking yourself, what then is the ANC? The African National Congress is a people's movement representing the aspirations of the down-trodden masses for a free and democratic South Africa, free from racist tyranny and exploitation of man by man, a South Africa of the future based on the people's revolutionary document — the

RENDERING ENEMY SCHEMES UNWORKABLE

In December angry residents of Soweto threw petrol bombs at the Emdeni house of a Soweto councillor, puppet Patrick Gaboutloele, while stooge Joseph Mahushu, the 'mayor' of the Diep-Meadow Town Council, had his house gutted by

fire, causing damage to the tune of R320 000.

Gaboutloele is an incorrigible sell-out. He continued being a councillor, notwithstanding the wrath of the people. His house was petrol bombed again on Janua-

Freedom Charter.

Freedom fighters are patriots boundlessly devoted to the noble cause of freedom enshrined in the Freedom Charter. You need not be apprehensive, the ANC is my home, my educator. I am in excellent health and in good spirits. We are a big and happy family, united by our community of goals and interests. We value each other's lives. Even though I am not long here, I am now definitely a new man.

Mama, the knowledge that you are still chained to a vicious monster, apartheid, strengthens my courage and determination to execute my tasks with high morale and unswerving dedication. Your memories are a great inspiration to me. The task that lies ahead is indeed difficult. Have faith and courage. Our revolutionary struggle is not an isolated event. On the contrary, it is part of the international revolutionary movement, aimed at liberating mankind from the yoke of tyrannical regimes, colonialism and exploitation of man by man, for a better world free from national antagonisms, economic subjugation and war.

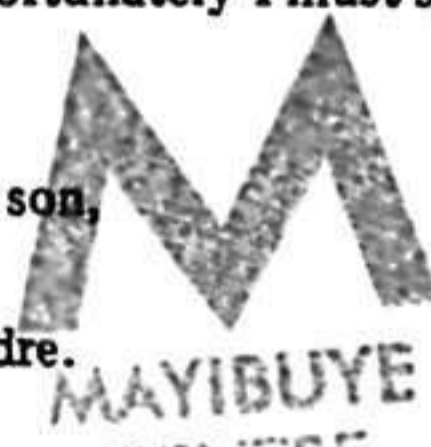
I have but only one request to make to you. I will be more than grateful if you could also join in the fight against apartheid. In the struggle such as ours there is a part and a role for all of us, young and old alike. Maybe you have already. Well, if that is the case, how wonderful it is to have a parent like you.

My fate is in the hands of the revolution. I hope I will be able to join the family in a liberated and democratic South Africa. If not, please weep not for I shall have laid my life for a cause so majestic. I don't regret. My life is with the revolution. Time is on our side and the world is with us. Think not about me. Surely our victory is in sight.

Do write to me but please take care. This letter is for your eyes only. Once more, please give my kind regards to all at home. Unfortunately I must say good-bye for time is really flying. Till we meet again.

From your son,

M.K. Cadre.



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ry 18, added, during the same week, to the houses of Soweto 'mayor', stooge Ephraim Tshabalala, and puppet Mashao of Dobsonville, which had suffered a similar fate.

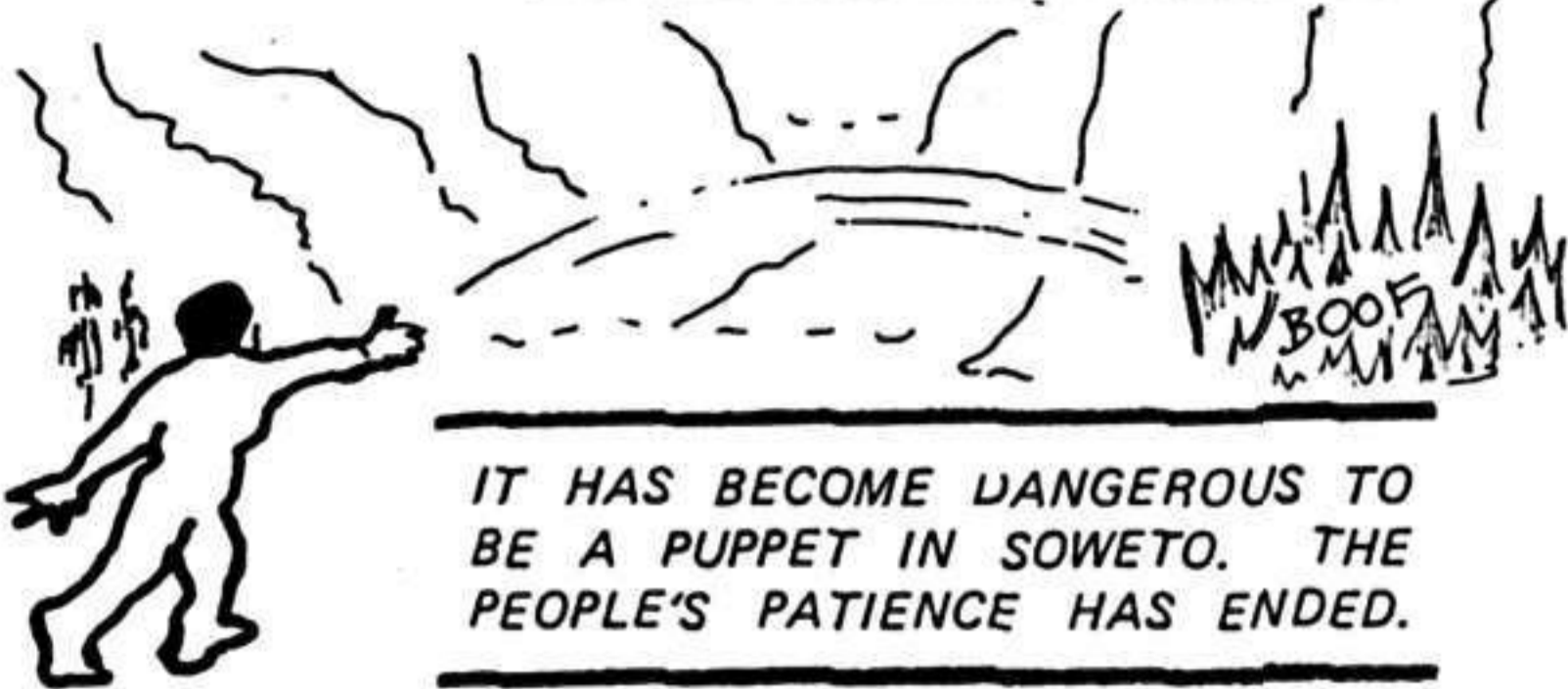
What has driven the people of Soweto to use violence against the councillors? After all, some people may argue, these councillors were elected by the people. What can they have done, so soon, to arouse the people's anger and hatred? The answer is to be found in the manner in which the elections were conducted,

and the results of those elections.

Elections for community councils under the new Local Government Authorities Act took place on December 3 1983 in Soweto. Pretoria had not asked the people whether they accepted these authorities or not. Despite that, the people of Soweto, through their organisations like the Soweto Civic Association, the UDF, etc, had repeatedly voiced their opposition to the local authorities.

According to Pretoria's reports, 80 per cent of the eligible voters boycotted the

Petrol bomb



*IT HAS BECOME DANGEROUS TO
BE A PUPPET IN SOWETO. THE
PEOPLE'S PATIENCE HAS ENDED.*



cannon fodder in defence of apartheid. All because Pretoria knows that its policies are opposed by the overwhelming majority. It is this awareness that makes Pretoria's schemes a deliberate and cold-blooded design to trample on all norms of civilised behaviour, democracy and international law, thereby giving the racist regime the character of a criminal one.

But the voice of the majority cannot be stifled. On the weekend of December 16 and 17, the annual conference of the United Democratic Front held in Port Elizabeth discussed the necessity of calling for a national referendum, irrespective of race. In the proposed referendum, people will be asked to choose between the racist regime's constitutional proposals and the UDF's proposal for the holding of a national convention in which South Africans of all races will decide on a type of government they want.

CAMPAIGN

In mid-January a campaign to collect signatures from all over the country was initiated by the UDF. It is a foregone conclusion that Pretoria will not only lose in such a democratic process, but will also oppose a referendum and a national convention — specifically because there is no greater enemy to racist discrimina-

tion than democracy. It is therefore the duty of all South Africans who love their country to rally behind the call of the UDF.

As we mobilise ourselves for a national convention, we must not forget that whenever we push for our demands strongly enough to threaten racist supremacy, the boers never hesitate to use violence against us. Therefore let us at the same time prepare for war in defence of our demands, ourselves and our country as we mobilise and march forward to people's power.



*Adapted from a Radio Freedom
Luanda, broadcast — 23/1/84*