Emergency: South Africa, 1985
(for Victoria Mxenge)

History rises from ashes.
Neither bullets nor intern
Ments can halt movement.
There are no ghosts marching.
Only simple women and
Men ready NOW. Amandla NOW.
Their freedom NOW. Democracy NO
NOW. One man one vote NOW. Free
Mandela NOW. No conditions
NOW. There are no ghosts
Marching. Only the people
Speaking NOW. The people
Acting NOW. For the end
Of Apartheid NOW. For freedom
And democracy NOW. Voices
Rising YES. Tutu YES. Boesak
YES. UDF YES. Xhosa YES.
Pedi YES. Zulu YES. Tswana YES.
White YES. Tsonga YES. Coloureds
YES. Jews YES. Indians YES.
Sotho YES. Swazis YES. Democratic
Voices YES. One man one vote YES.
Divestment YES. Economic
Sanctions YES. Worldwide support
YES. For democracy YES. One
Man one vote YES. One woman
One vote YES. End Apartheid
Now YES. No more passes YES.
No more bannings YES. No more
Sharpevilles YES. No more
Sowetos YES. No more slayings
YES. Of children YES. Of
Women YES. Of men YES. Of
The innocent YES. No more
Bantustans or homelands YES.
One land YES. One nation YES.

One woman one vote YES. One
Man one vote YES. No more
Townships YES. No more hostels
YES. One land one people YES.
The people speak YES. The
People act YES. History rises
YES. The people act YES. No
Bullets or funerals can stop
Them YES. The time is now YES.
Their time is now YES. Our
Time is now YES. One woman
One vote YES. One man one
Vote YES. Common Hands speak
YES. Common hands act YES.
Our time is now YES For
Liberation YES For democracy
YES For peace YES Our time
Is now YES Common hands rise
YES They speak justice YES
They die daily YES And keep
Going YES They grow stronger
YES Our time is now YES
Common Hands rise YES From
Compromises YES From miseducation
YES They rise YES From the
People YES Common Hands shall win
Shall win YES Democracy YES
One woman one vote YES One
Man one Vote YES Liberation
YES Common Hands shall win
YES One nation many races YES
Common Hands shall win YES
Our time is now
YES

Our time is now
YES

Sterling D. Plumpp

August 30, 1985