

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CALLS ON ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA:

ISOLATE BOTHA AND HIS MURDEROUS CLIQUE! UNITE IN ACTION FOR PEOPLE'S POWER!

OPPOSE AND BOYCOTT THE OCTOBER LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS!

FIGHT AND DEFEAT THE LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL!

USE ALL MEANS TO SUSTAIN THE MASS OFFENSIVE AGAINST APARTHEID!

THE BOTHA REGIME IS ON THE RAMPAGE. IT IS STRIKING OUT BECAUSE OF THE CRISIS OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM. IT IS FIGHTING FOR ITS SURVIVAL. THE TARGET OF ITS COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IS ALL THE FORCES THAT FIGHT FOR A NON-RACIAL DEMOCRACY. IT BROOKS NO OPPOSITION OF ANY KIND. NO ONE IS EXCLUDED FROM ITS CAMPAIGN OF REPRESSION.

Compatriots:

The evidence of the gruesome acts of terror of the apartheid regime inside and outside our country stares us all in the face.

»Dulcie September, Sicelo Dlomo,

Mazizi Masekela and Johannes Nkomo have all been brutally murdered on Pretoria's orders by hired assassins.

»Albie Sachs is maimed permanently by decision of the Botha regime.

»Political activists have been hanged and are being hanged in Pretoria in a veritable massacre on the gallows.

»To accomplish their regional designs, the racists have butchered and starved to death hundreds in Namibia, Angola and Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa.

Africa.

Now, in a continuing effort to intimidate everybody and paralyse the struggle, the same murderers have further extended the provisions of the state of emergency to make all democratic political struggle illegal - a crime for which all those who dare to raise the banner of freedom can be victimised by the apartheid courts.

»The UDF and other democratic organisations have been banned. banned.

»COSATU is prohibited from engaging in political struggle. struggle.

»Pretoria is preparing to declare strikes virtually illegal.

»Pretoria is preparing to prohibit international assistance.

The Botha regime is desperate because its guns and its prisons have not affected our will and determination to fight for freedom and justice. It has failed to make South Africa governable.

» The racists have failed to create their National Council thanks to its complete rejection by the oppressed.

» The mass democratic movement has withstood enemy repression and further increased its strength by drawing in new forces.

» The black workers have scored major victories against their oppressors and the exploiters and further increased their fighting potential by strengthening the trade union movement.

» Patriotic sections within the bantustan structures have, in action, rocked these apartheid institutions and expanded the frontiers of the democratic struggle.

» The combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe have delivered telling blows against the enemy while the people's army continues to grow in strength within our country.

» The new repressive measures imposed on February 24 have themselves drawn even greater numbers of people into struggle.

All this frightens the enemy of humanity and drives it to further acts of desperation. Through its actions, it continues to drag our country ever closer to the bloodiest confrontation that our continent has ever experienced. The death squads, the vigilante gangs and the kitskonstables, the police, the armed bandits and the enormous war machine are all being reinforced to increase their

capacity to inflict more death and destruction and to protect the iniquitous, illegitimate and oppressive structures of the apartheid system.

NO MAN OR WOMAN OF CONSCIENCE CAN STAND ASIDE AND WATCH AS A CLIQUE OF POWER HUNGRY MEN PREPARE TO TURN OUR COUNTRY INTO A WASTELAND. LET ALL WHO ARE OPPOSED TO APARTHEID UNITE NOW INTO A MIGHTY MOVEMENT OF STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. ONLY THROUGH OUR UNITED ACTION CAN WE RESCUE OURSELVES AND OUR COUNTRY FROM OUR PRESENT SUFFERING AND FROM THE TERRIBLE FATE TO WHICH THE BOTHA REGIME SEEKS TO CONDEMN US.

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS THEREFORE:

CALLS on all forces opposed to apartheid to isolate the die-hard racists and militarists through struggle. Let us all unite in action for the eradication of the criminal apartheid system and the emergence of a united, democratic and non-racial society.

CALLS on all our people to mount a concerted campaign for the boycott of the October local authority apartheid elections. Let us all refuse to serve the interests of the Botha regime. Let us refuse to participate in these elections in any way. In the build-up to October, let us continue to intensify the struggle on all fronts.

CALLS on all our people and workers in particular, to oppose and stop

the passage of the repressive Labour Relations Amendment Bill. Through our united action, let us achieve this vitally important objective, draw more workers into action, reinforce the Living Wage Campaign and cement the unity of the democratic movement in general and the trade union movement in particular. As part of this offensive we have observed May Day in a fitting Manner.

CALLS on all activists and formations of the democratic movement to work for the highest organisation and mobilisation of the people into action around both local and national issues. Let us act bodily together with the people to take the battle to the enemy and, at the same time, to strengthen the ranks of our revolutionary movement by drawing in dedicated and disciplined fighters for liberation.

CALLS on all our people in the Bantustans, including the chiefs and patriots who serve in dummy parliaments, to intensify the offensive against these apartheid creations as part of our assault on the racist regime. Let the democratic movement raise its organised strength within these areas and work to unite the people around the perspective of a free and united South Africa.

CALLS on all the people to intensify the campaign for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees. Let this call continue to resound throughout the length and breadth of our country, accompanied by other specific demands :

» Observe Mandela's 70th Birthday on July 18!

Free Harry Gwala who is gravely ill in Pietermaritzburg!

»Let Govan Mbeki and all our leaders speak!

»Stop the hanging of patriots!

»Free our children who suffer torture in apartheid dungeons!

CALLS on the black soldiers and police to abandon those who are using them as a killing machine against innocent people. Turn your gun against the common enemy for your own liberation and the emancipation of the country of your birth.

CALLS on our white compatriots to make their due contributions to the attainment of the goals of freedom, justice and peace. Do not allow yourselves to be used for evil purposes by the Pretoria regime. Your fathers, brothers and sons must refuse to do Botha's dirty work in the neighbouring countries and our townships. The business community must break ranks with the racist regime and stop deceiving itself that its interests are best served by these killers. It too must oppose the Anti-Labour Relations Bill.

LET ALL WHO TRULY VALUE FREEDOM, YOUNG AND OLD, BLACK AND WHITE, BELIEVER AND NON-BELIEVER, MEN AND WOMEN, WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS, RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENTS, UNITE IN ACTION AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY - THE BOTHA REGIME. LET US ALL COMBINE OUR EFFORTS IN A MANY-SIDED OFFENSIVE TO END REPRESSION, FREE OUR COUNTRY OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID AND TRANSFORM IT INTO ONE IN WHICH ALL OUR PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP IN A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOCIETY.