

DR. DADOO'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

- A.N.C. Khumalo

On September 5th, the 70th birthday of an outstanding fighter for the liberation of our people was celebrated. Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, Chairman of the South African Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the African National Congress' Revolutionary Council, was born in Krugersdorp, Transvaal, in 1909. From the time of his early youth comrade Dadoo has been in the thick of the fight against the vicious racist and class system that oppresses, exploits and humiliates our people.

Wherever our people were locked in bitter struggle against the enemy, there you would find Dadoo. From his early youth to the prime of his life, he has always been an active and tireless fighter for national and social liberation of our people. He has never spared his courage nor his strength; he has always displayed the firmest qualities of determination and dedication; he has never shirked from the great battle, and has always shown contempt for personal hardships, arrest and imprisonment.

During his whole life, Comrade Dadoo has been prepared to sacrifice his personal interests in the service of the people. At the grand age of 70, he remains as active, committed and devoted as ever. It is such qualities that characterise a great leader. A true leader is not imposed on the people, but emerges out of the struggle itself. Dadoo stands in the ranks of the Luthulis, Tambo, Mandelas and Fischers... outstanding leaders honoured both nationally and internationally, loved and respected by our people, and democratic mankind.

All these leaders of the ANC and the Communist Party, have loyally served our people, have been great teachers and organisers of our people, and in true modesty have always been prepared to learn from the people and the struggle. These leaders are true products of our struggle, accumulating years of collective experience, developing the correct theory, the body of strategy and tactics, that is so essential in guiding our people and

liberation organisations step by step along the thorny road to freedom.

If we are to sum up the essential qualities of a people's leader, we should emphasise:

- (a) They must be active and loyal fighters for the working people.
- (b) Modest and honest - to teach the people, but at the same time learning from the people.

Dr. Dadoo's life, his active and loyal service for the cause of our people, his great modesty and integrity point him out, as one of the true leaders of our people. A leader worthy of the name, in whom all sections of our struggling people have great trust, confidence and love. Not a self-proclaimed leader; not a self-styled leader elevated overnight by dubious forces aiming to confuse and mesmerise the masses with false promises, bombast and demagoguery! Not a so-called leader thirsty for personal position, who wishes to use the masses as a staircase to power; but a revolutionary leader whom the enemy cannot buy for a handful of gold; a leader who has become known to the people through many, many years of self-sacrifice, steadfastness, firmness of principle, correctness of leadership and iron devotion to duty. A leader whom the masses come to love and whom the enemy come to fear and hate.

Yes, Dadoo is a true leader of our people! Leader of the Communist Party; of the national liberation movement headed by our African National Congress, and the people of South Africa. Not a corrupt and loathsome leader representing nothing but a small greedy clique, such as the Vorsters and Bothas, but a man of honesty and integrity representing the vast democratic and freedom-loving forces of our country.

Let us look at some of the important landmarks in his distinguished life: In 1938 - after qualifying in Britain as a doctor - he became one of the founding members of the Non-European United Front in Johannesburg - a fighting organisation that united all black people and played a signifi-

cant role in mobilising the people in many struggles.

From 1939 he began to play a leading role within the Transvaal Indian Congress to oust the conservative leadership and radicalise the movement's policies. In that same year he joined the Communist Party of South Africa. In 1940 he was arrested for the first time for printing and distributing a leaflet of the Non-European United Front against the then imperialist nature of the war. In 1941 he was arrested for the so-called offense of 'inciting' Africans in Benoni and sentenced to four months imprisonment.

During the war years mass activity, strikes and general resistance was increasing. The African National Congress, Indian Congress and Communist Party were busy mobilising the people and unity was the order of the day. Out of the common struggle against racial oppression and class exploitation the African, Indian and Coloured people were forging closer ties. Dadoo, the leader of the Indian people and Dadoo, the communist, was becoming an acknowledged leader of the African masses too. In 1945 at a conference attended by over 500 delegates, a national Anti-Pass council was formed. Dr. Xuma, President of the ANC, was elected chairman with Dadoo as Vice-Chairman.

1946 was a historic year. Dadoo was imprisoned in the Passive Resistance campaign against the government's Anti-Indian laws. Later in the year he was again arrested with other communist leaders on a charge of sedition arising out of the African mineworkers' strike. 1947 saw the further development of African-Indian unity in common struggle with the signing of the historic Xuma-Naicker-Dadoo Pact. This Pact helped to lay the basis for further unity in the future which would involve all sections of our people.

1947 saw Dadoo visiting India with Dr. G.M. (Monty) Naicker of the Natal Indian Congress, where they campaigned for support for the struggle in South Africa. This, the first of many important trips abroad, by Dadoo and our leaders, helped to create the basis for developing the international

campaign for solidarity with our struggle, which isolates the apartheid regime and which is so effective today. In 1948 he was once more imprisoned with Dr. Naicker in connection with the passive Resistance Campaign. By 1950 he was elected President of the South African Indian Congress. The same year the Communist Party was banned by the Nationalist government.

As is well known the oppression of our people intensified greatly at this time as the Pretoria Boers began to launch a vicious campaign to smash our organisations and intimidate our people. Under the leadership of the Sisulus, Mandelas and Tambos, the Luthulis and Dadoos, the African National Congress and its allies refused to submit and instead sought to raise the level and tempo of the struggle through mass mobilisation and more active and militant forms of struggle.

Dadoo played a prominent part in planning the historic Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws that rocked South Africa during the whole of 1952. He himself was a leading volunteer in the campaign and was imprisoned for defying his banning order. In 1953 he was a delegate to the first conference of the South African Communist Party held illegally in Johannesburg. Moses Kotane was elected General-Secretary and Dadoo a member of the Central Committee.

Banned from public speaking and from attending meetings he continued to play a leading role in directing the struggle. This meant constantly taking risks which could lead to arrest and imprisonment. He became skillful in clandestine activities. Despite the bannings on those such as J.B. Marks, Dadoo, Luthuli, Mandela - the liberation movement under the leadership of our African National Congress went from strength to strength.

June 26, 1955 was the historic Congress of the People which adopted the Freedom Charter. At this great meeting Dr. Dadoo, who was not present because of his ban, received what he regards as one of the greatest tributes of his life; the traditional African decoration - Isithwalandwe.

The fighting unity that emerged out of the Defiance Campaign, Congress of the People and many

national strikes and demonstrations of the fifties, to climax in the head-on confrontation with the government which gave rise to the Sharpeville massacre and banning of the African National Congress in 1960. Dadoo was sent out of the country, at the same time as Comrade Tambo.

Comrade Dadoo was entrusted with the task of representing the South African Communist Party abroad and organising solidarity work internationally. He has carried out his duties in an exemplary and devoted fashion and in his energy and zeal is an example, despite his seventy years, to our young generation of freedom fighters. In 1969 he was elected Vice-Chairman of the ANC's Revolutionary Council, maintaining close contact with the situation at home and our efforts to prepare for armed struggle. Comrade Dadoo regards the role of MK as essential; stressing the need to develop people's war, the skillful combination of mass struggles and armed actions. In 1972 after the death of J.B. Marks, Dadoo was elected Chairman of the South African Communist Party and occupies a most respected position at meetings of the international communist movement.

Acclaimed and accepted as a leader of the entire fighting people of South Africa, regardless of race, colour or creed, Dr. Dadoo is an outstanding internationalist who sees the fundamental necessity for the firm alliance of the socialist countries with the national liberation movements and the revolutionary working class. A principled and militant advocate of proletarian internationalism and the significant role of the Soviet Union, he has spared no effort to unite all the great forces of the South African revolution in which he stresses that the working class must play the leading role.

Dadoo, like his Party, sees no contradiction between the socialist aims of the Communist Party, and the national liberation programme of the ANC. The South African Communist Party sees the immediate objective of the struggle as being the overthrow of the hated system of white domination and replacing the apartheid state with a revolutionary demo-

cratic state based on the Freedom Charter.

The South African Communist Party of Dadoo is a firm ally of the African National Congress in the historic struggle to achieve the Freedom Charter. It is the teachings of Marxist-Leninists such as Dadoo, and the other communist leaders such as Kotane, Marks and Fischer, that a revolutionary democratic South Africa can open the way towards a scientific socialist society which will totally eliminate the exploitation of man by man, and benefit all the people of our land.

Dadoo's deep understanding of the national aspects of our struggle, the urgent and immediate need to free the black masses and particularly the African majority, from all the loathsome forms of national, class and race oppression, has enabled him and the SACP to play a full and necessary role in the struggle for national liberation.

It is for this and all the other historic reasons mentioned, that Dr. Yusuf Dadoo's 70th birthday is a great occasion for all members of our liberation movement, for all the people of South Africa, and for progressives throughout the world.

We join comrade Dadoo in celebrating his 70th birthday on September 5th. We wish him many more active years of struggle. We pledge to follow in his footsteps and hold ever high the banner of national liberation and internationalism.

"THERE ARE THOSE WHO STRUGGLE FOR A DAY
AND THAT IS GOOD; 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
LIVES AND THEY ARE THE ONES WE CANNOT
DO WITHOUT"

- BERTHOLD BRECHT -



Comrade Dadoo and "Uncle" J.B. Marks.



Comrade Dadoo addressing the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union - Moscow, 1976.