

Lies Will Not Save The Racist Criminals

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH COMRADE
PRESIDENT O.R. TAMBO PUBLISHED BY MAYI-
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QUESTION: After the attack on Voortrekkerhoogte, the racists did all they could to try and conceal the losses Umkhonto we Sizwe inflicted on them. What is the extent of the losses and how would you relate this 'official communique' of the regime to those released in other instances?

COMRADE PRESIDENT TAMBO: It is often difficult to know the losses suffered by the enemy. It is particularly difficult in the case of the South African regime, and we do not in fact know the precise extent of these losses in the present instance. But four 122mm rockets, each capable of destroying anything within a radius of 50 metres, at least, exploded in a crowded complex of military houses, buildings and structures which included a military airport. There can be no suggestion that the SADF military Headquarters had been vacated before the attack. Everybody was surely there. And yet, according to the 'official communique', the rockets all finished up in a small room which they put in some disorder, causing slight injury to its occupant - an African woman. This communique conceals the fact that a large area of houses, buildings and structures was destroyed, including as we were told before the news blackout, some war planes.



Comrade President Oliver Tambo - "... our people must seek to get their facts from the ANC and its allies..."

The newspaper pictures of an African woman pressed into a reluctant hospital bed with uniformed nurses dutifully tending a barely visible cut on her black skin are a remarkably desperate attempt by the racist regime to conceal grim and starkling reality. The veil is incredibly transparent. In fact, the newsmedia sound sillier and sillier as they progressively lose their freedom, and fall under the tightening grip of fascism. The only truth they are allowed to tell is the lies thought up by the police to deceive and mislead the public, in the interests of racist minority rule. The public, certainly the white public in South Africa, is going about its national affairs blindfolded. That is dangerous!

The press is now being used to project lies, lies and nothing but lies. We know how many children were slaughtered in 1976 in Soweto and round the country. But we also know that through the press the regime grossly understated the figures. We have been told of the numbers who died or committed suicide while in detention. These numbers are a gross understatement of the number of our people assassinated during detention. The SASOL explosions cost the regime something upward of R66-million. The figure was given as R6,5-million.

The enemy, and quite understandably, grossly understates its losses, but to suit its purposes, it exaggerates if it wants to prove its power, strength and superiority. And so, according to its figures, countless thousands of SWAPO guerrillas have been killed and wiped out; numberless tons of equipment captured. Only a few weeks ago the army commanders of the regime were singing praises to their troops who invaded Angola, and, according to them, completely wiped out and crippled SWAPO, demoralising the guerrillas of PLAN, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. But the racist troops are back in Angola, according to them, to fight SWAPO and eliminate it there. But which SWAPO? Was it a lie that they had wiped out SWAPO, or are they back there in the course of an invasion against Angola? The people of South Africa will never know the truth from the fascist rulers. In 1975 they claimed for months that they were fighting on the borders of Namibia and Angola. In fact, they were near Luanda. Now they claim to have withdrawn from Angola but in fact a fierce war is raging in Angola.

The South African white population perhaps believes these stories. The oppressed don't. Ian Smith played the same game on the whites in Rhodesia, until, to the surprise of the Rhodesian whites and the South African whites, Prime Minister Mugabe was in power. They did not know what had happened. What

had happened was that they had been kept blindfolded at the reality of their situation.

So, our people must seek to get their facts from the ANC and its allies, from the countries of Africa and its friends beyond the oceans. The South African regime seeks to feed them with nothing but lies. That is why we do not really know the extent of the damage and the casualties resulting from the Umkhonto we Sizwe attack on Voortrekkerhoogte on the night of the 12th to the 13th of August this year.

ENEMY SLANDER

QUESTION: As is characteristic with all criminals, the enemy sought to draw a red herring across the track after murdering Comrade Joe Gqabi, by invoking the slander that there are internal conflicts within the movement - a campaign in which Botha and company seem to revel of late. What does the regime intend to achieve out of this campaign?

COMRADE PRESIDENT TANDU: The regime has been gravely concerned about the degree of unity within the ANC leadership, within the ANC itself as a body, within the liberation forces comprising the ANC and its allies. And the enemy has been perturbed about the unity that is getting stronger and stronger among the liberation forces headed by the ANC in South Africa; the unity of the people against the regime as was so dramatically demonstrated during May this year when the regime was trying to celebrate 20 years of rule as a republic.

Therefore Botha, his followers, his colleagues, his collaborators & his agents are desperate to find some way of planting divisions within the ANC leadership, within our liberation forces and among the masses of our people. A convenient way to this end is to imply or even allege that Joe Gqabi was assassinated in the context of an internal conflict, some struggle for power within the leadership of the African National Congress. Stories are being thrown around already to this effect; wild stories which have nothing in common with reality. But the enemy is behaving characteristically. We have known this to be done in other cases. The enemy is just unfortunate in that our people understand the tactics of "divide and rule" which take such forms as the establishment of bantustans, and, at moments of explosive unity among the people, the creation of opposition groups and splinter movements. Our people have been long enough in the struggle to understand these enemy tactics.

Although the ANC, in particular, has been subjected to a continuous and close scrutiny designed to detect signs of a

power struggle among the ANC leadership, it has not been possible to uncover any facts indicating an internal struggle because, and simply because, there is none. Instead there is firm unity. Our people understand this, and therefore, no amount of dreaming up internal conflicts within the movement is going to take away from the fact that it is the brutal South African regime which ordered the assassination of a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC. No amount of cheap lies about the ANC can ever divide our people. What is more, this campaign will not save the racist criminals and their hirelings from the revolutionary wrath of the people and from punishment.

NO EASY WALK

QUESTION: Finally, Comrade President, in your address at the funeral of Comrade Gqabi you indicated that the immediate future is not bright. Yet you also said that the struggling people of South Africa are near the end. Could you elaborate?

COMRADE PRESIDENT TIMBO: It is inevitable that our just cause will triumph and our objective of liberation and power for the people will be achieved. It is indisputable that today our people's march towards this goal is firm, resolute and irreversible. But it is no easy walk. Inevitably, a grim and increasingly bitter and brutal struggle is unfolding as we advance towards victory. This fact is itself a reliable indicator of the growing proximity of victory. The nearer we approach our goal, the stiffer is the resistance offered by the enemy.

We say victory is certain. In that statement we are acknowledging that the enemy will defend his criminal system with all his might and we are also asserting that the people's just cause is mightier and the enemy will be crushed. The point to bear in mind is that victory will be preceded - must be preceded - by a gruelling conflict which will be costly in every sense of that term for all sides, and certainly for us. In the period immediately ahead of us, therefore, it is inevitable that Africa's war of liberation will reach beyond Namibia into South Africa, the territory which is still under apartheid colonial domination. Nothing can stop this African liberation process. But the intensity of the war is bound to be enormous and Southern Africa cannot possibly escape its harsh political, military and economic consequences.

Our task, the task of the ANC and its allies, of the

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South Africa can be denied the personnel and know-how necessary for it to develop further its weapons capability. This is bound up with the need to give all-out support to our peoples' struggle for national liberation in South Africa and Namibia under the leadership of the ANC and SWAPO respectively to ensure the uprooting of the apartheid regime, the source of the war danger on our continent. The world forces of peace and progress are daily gaining more strength. Let us mobilise all the forces that stand for genuine peace and freedom on our heroic continent to make our contribution to world peace more meaningful for a common victory. For this noble ideal our people who, under the leadership of the African National Congress, are waging a determined struggle for national independence, freedom and peace right in the citadel of racist colonial domination are prepared for any sacrifice.

LONG LIVE AFRICAN UNITY FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM!

RACIST LIES

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cadres of Umkhonto we Sizwe and of the popular masses in our country is to take to the battlefield with all its bitterness and fight through to victory in the shortest possible time; to fight through to the brightness of a new day, a new South Africa; to a totally liberated Africa with Southern Africa totally and at last relieved of the terrorism of the racist white minority regime that rules over us today.

The task of the countries and peoples of Africa and the progressive international community is, first, to support our liberation struggle in every conceivable way, and secondly, recognising its implications for the countries of Southern Africa, to support, strengthen and reinforce these countries; join them politically, militarily, economically in the defence of their independence and territorial integrity. Given this support, our people cannot take long before they liquidate every vestige of colonialism in South Africa, and in the result, in this southern part of the African continent.
