

There will be those who perhaps will have said to themselves that the pace at which we are travelling is slightly slower than they would have liked it to be, basing themselves on the fact that the enemy is becoming ever more ruthless and therefore we must match the ruthlessness of the enemy by blindly marching forward.

All these views are going to be assessed at the conference as indeed they are being assessed even now during the course of preparation. And out of all this the ANC will emerge with a strategy and, more than that, with a strategy that will ensure the solid unity of the ranks of the movement.

This is so because everybody will have been convinced that not until this vanguard is united will it be able to pilot the ship along the rough seas that are brought about by the resistance of the fascist regime to the path of democracy that the people are looking forward to it.

Those who think that the ANC conference will decide on a path other than escalating the strategic line of intensifying the armed struggle in our country will be sadly mistaken because every member of the ANC as indeed all revolutionary forces in our country have come to recognise the fact that apartheid cannot be reformed. It must be destroyed.

CONFRONTATION

Of course the ANC has said that to destroy that apartheid regime it is necessary for the people not only to escalate their mass political activity. It is absolutely essential that they pay attention to the question of raising ever to higher levels the armed confrontation with that regime. We are convinced that nothing short of meeting the reactionary violence of that regime with the revolutionary force of the people which must embrace not just a few heroic units of Umkhonto

We Sizwe but a revolutionary force which must become a property of the people as a whole.

That is what the conference will of

The People Wan

Excerpts from an address by Thabo Mbeki, Director of the Department of Information and Publicity of the ANC

Once more the enemy has exacted its blood price as it did 25 years ago. Once more its army and police are on the prowl as they were a quarter of a century back. The apartheid regime acted then the way it did to save itself from destruction, and yet there the similarity ends.

There will not be another 25 years of repression, oppression and exploitation. For we have ourselves defined this as the decade of liberation. Our enemy is on the defensive. It is in a state of confusion. Its policy is in tatters. It does not know which way to turn except towards its arsenal of weapons. Botha thinks of nothing else but how to survive.

After 25 years of trying to destroy the ANC, Botha himself speaks of negotiating with the same ANC. That is an admission of defeat. A realisation forced on the regime by the situation, a realisation that the ANC lives, that the ANC fights on, that the ANC is with us as we march closer to victory.

Two and a half decades of trying to silence the masses of the people have done nothing but bring millions more people into struggle. The leaders of the racist white minority have been forced to admit that even the smallest towns of our country are up in arms. The people want freedom now.

necessity pay attention to and resolve to be the only path that will let our people march with confidence to the apex of their endeavour, the seizure of power from the racist regime.

regime has failed to crush it. Scared out of its wits by the growth of the armed struggle, the enemy is offering us a sugar coated pill. It says it is prepared to release our leaders if they renounce violence.

Botha says he is prepared to talk to the ANC if it gives up armed struggle. These offers reflect the enemy's desperation, born out of the fact that it no longer has a monopoly of arms. Born of the knowledge that it faces a future of a spreading and victorious people's war. Therefore the enemy wants to disarm us, to leave us defenceless and at its mercy, and deprive us of the cutting edge of our offensive in the struggle for the seizure of power. The enemy will fail.

Freedom Now

25 years ago the people did not have their own army. Today they have. Umkhonto We Sizwe lives. It fights on. It is with us as we march closer to victory. All the armed might of the apartheid



Umkhonto We Sizwe is with us as we march closer to victory