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SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

\* Central Committee

27th October, 1987.

Dear Comrade O.R.,  
On behalf of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party and in my personal capacity we convey to you our warmest brotherly and comradely greetings on the occasion of your 70th birthday.

It is no exaggeration to

Your "three score years and ten" began in October 1917 at the very dawn of the Great October Socialist Revolution which undoubtedly left its imprint on the whole future of humanity, assert, comrade President, that your life and leadership have also left their indelible stamp on the very future of our own people and, indeed, the whole of our sub-continent. YOU have matured as a giant of our struggle and, in turn, you have played a singular role in helping to mature its components and its whole course.

ESPGCially from the time you were ordered by the ANC to 80 abroad as its chief spokesman and organiser you have made the prime contribution in putting the ANC firmly on the map of struggle, respected by the whole international community. this by virtue of your brilliant grasp of liberation politics, your astuteness and your meticulous approach to organisational questions.

YOU have achieved

YOU have unsparingly used your considerable talents with an energy which disregards personal cost and with a devotion which is a shining example to every militant. Both in your life-style and in your work-style you have shown us what a professional revolutionary is all about.

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But it is not only these qualities which have earned you the affection, trust and leadership loyalty of both our militants and our people; it is also your warm and humane personality, your approachability, your sense of fairness, your unswerving democratic

instincts and your devotion to collectivism.

As far as our Party is concerned we have always

valued your commitment to the alliance between our organisations which you have described as the two pillars of the liberation struggle.

like a rock against those who are so desperately trying to break our united resolve to move shoulder to shoulder towards real liberation.

YOU have stood

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Comrade President, we think of you not only as a

leader but also as, a comrade, a brother and a friend. We wish YOU long life and look forward to many more

years of serving with you and under you in pursuit

of our struggle and its inevitable Victory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

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JOE SLOVO  
GENERAL SECRETARY