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New York tribute to South African free

The Militant 22-9-89

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — Three generations of fighters for the liberation of South Africa paid tribute here to Prof. Fred Dube at a going-away party on September 1.

Dube, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa for over three decades, was fired from his teaching position in 1987 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook because of his political views. He, together with his supporters, have fought to win his job back. A lawsuit has been filed against the university.

To support himself and his family, Dube has accepted a teaching position at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. The college, aware of his political situation and his value as a teacher, has given him full tenure and guaranteed that he will be able to return to New York for any court appearances related to the lawsuit.

Support for Dube and appreciation of his capacities as a fighter were registered by the presence of over 200 people at the going-away party and in the talks presented.

Charlene Mitchell, a leader of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, chaired the program.

"We in the ANC are proud of Fred Dube and how he has represented us for many years in this country," explained Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative of the ANC in the United States.

Tabogo Mafole, chief representative to the United Nations of the ANC observer mission, remarked, "You do not have to spend five minutes with Comrade Dube to get an impression of what kind of person he is — a South African, a revolutionary, and that kind of revolutionary who is prepared at all times to stand courageously for what he believes in."

In a class on racism that he taught at Stony Brook, Dube raised whether certain forms of Zionism are racist. Dube's posing of this question infuriated a visiting Israeli professor, who initiated a slander campaign against Dube in 1983 charging him with anti-Semitism. The campaign, spearheaded by Zionist groups in the Stony Brook area of Long Island, grew to include the chancellor of the state university system, Mayor Edward Koch, and Gov. Mario Cuomo.

Dube and his family were forced to leave their home in Long Island after it was ran-

sacked by Zionist thugs and leaflets were put out by the Jewish Defense League threatening further violence. It was in this atmosphere that Dube was denied tenure on Jan. 30, 1987, "for insufficient academic publishing."

However, Dube has never backed down on the question of academic freedom. He has spoken before many audiences and has always affirmed the right of students and teachers to question the nature of Zionism.

Two other speakers at the going-away event offered a glimpse into the rich history of the struggle against racism in South Africa, of which Dube is a part.

Madoda Hlatshwayo told of growing up in Dube's neighborhood in Durban, South Africa, and of how Dube, who headed up the underground struggle in the area, recruited him to Umkhonto we Sizwe — the armed wing of the ANC.

"When I lived in the countryside, hunting wild boar for food, I used to reflect that it was not an easy life that Fred had gotten me into. Fred himself was imprisoned on Robben Island."

Yeyedwa Zungu described watching Dube grow up and become a leader of the ANC.

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S. Africa elections are protested at embassy picket

22-9-89

Militant

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Seventy-five anti-apartheid activists picketed the South African embassy here September 6 in solidarity with the Defiance Campaign against apartheid in South Africa.

The midday action was planned to coincide with and protest the whites-only elections carried out by the apartheid regime of F.W. de Klerk.

The demonstration was sponsored by religious, Black, and anti-apartheid organizations.

The African National Congress of South Africa's representative in the United States, Lindiwe Mabuza, addressed the group. "As all previous elections in South Africa, today's is relentlessly racist," she said. "All talk of moderation, about these elections ushering in a new era, about de Klerk's new and different face is mere and hollow rhetoric. The reality faced by people determined to take our freedom and self-determination is brutal repression."

"The answer to this brutality," Mabuza concluded, "should be unambiguous to the American government as it is to the American people — the imposition of comprehensive sanctions."