

Lum 081 0006 110

SECRETARY'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
DATE: 29 / 9 / 88
BY: S.C.D.
ANC (SA) BOX 31791

E.E.D.D.A.
Solomou 4
10683 Athens
Greece
12th September, 1988

Anthony Mongalo
Admin.-Sec. of the
President's-Office
African National Congress
P.O. Box 31791
Lusaka
Zambia

Re: "Medal of Peace" awarded to Nelson Mandela

Dear Cde Mongalo,

I wish to present to you the "Medal of Peace" awarded to Nelson Mandela by the Mayor of Lefkada in Greece, on August 21st. See report attached to this letter.

The medal will be handed over to you by Cde Ben Mokoena, member of the National Youth Secretariat, who came to Greece with the ANC cultural group from Lusaka to participate in the Communist Youth festival.

My best regards,

In the Year of United Action for People's Power!

K. M. Mbatha
Khulu Mbatha
ANC Representative
in Greece

c.c. A. Nzo, Secretary-General
J. Makatini, Director of Dept. of Intern. Affairs

REPORT ON THE MEDAL OF PEACE-AWARD TO NELSON MANDELA ON THE
21ST AUGUST, 1988

On Sunday, 21st August, I was invited by the Mayor of Lefkada to attend the opening of the 33rd "Speech and Art" and the 26th "International Folklore" Festivals and to receive the medal being given to Nelson Mandela. Both festivals which take place simultaneously last for a week. By tradition the opening of the festival-activities is marked by awarding the "Medal of Peace" to a personality or group of people who has/have won international respect for fighting for peace.

Last year the medal was given to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Michael Gorbachev. Other recipients were the "Group of Six" (Presidents/Prime Ministers of Greece, Argentina, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania) and the International Organisation of Doctors Against Nuclear War.

This year the Town Council of Lefkada, the Mayor of Lefkada, Mr. Spiros Margelis, who is also President of the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Lefkada, decided to honour Nelson Mandela with the "Medal of Peace".

In his laudatory speech the Mayor, Mr. Spiros Margelis, said:

"In our times, it has become an urgent necessity for wars to stop, for violence to be eliminated and for World-Peace, Independence and Human Dignity to be established.

"In this way, the African National Congress has led a very hard and long struggle against the racist regime of South Africa, and has demanded the release of its leader and symbol of the anti-racist struggle, NELSON MANDELA.

"Thus Nelson Mandela, the unchallengeable black leader, has for 70 years as an uncompromising fighter for freedom and human rights, and through this hard and continuous struggle he became an international symbol for Freedom, Perseverance and Dignity.

"The black leader, who has been imprisoned for 25 years now, still stands upright inspired by his belief in the ideals for which he fights for and by the dream of Freedom, Independence and International Brotherhood.

"It is natural that this reality and the indisputable facts which are contained in it, influenced the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Lefkada. The Centre then decided to honour NELSON MANDELA for his contribution to the noble ideals of FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, PEACE and HUMAN DIGNITY by awarding him with the Medal of Peace for the year 1988."

I then thanked the Town Council of Lefkada and the Mayor, Mr. Spiros Margelis for the honour bestowed on the leader of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela. (Word of thanks - speech attached to this report)

Besides the festival participants (greek and international guests), members of the Town Council of Lefkada and the hundreds of lefkada citizens, other personalities present were Mr. Lazaris Apostolos (Member of Parliament and former Minister for Co-ordination and Presidency of the Government), Mr. Monos Kokinos (Governor of the Ionian Islands), Mr. Koliopanos Theodoros (Prefect of Lefkada) and representatives of the political and military bodies of the provinces of Ipiros, Etoloakarnania and Lefkada.

Other congratulations for the award given to Nelson Mandela came from Mr. Apostolos Kaklamanis, Minister to the Premier's Office. The occasion was fully covered by the greek television and journalists from different newspapers were **also** present.

↑ called Pegasus

THE MEDAL = On one side of the medal there is a winged horse from a greek legend which is the symbol of Lefkada. On the other side a pigeon which is the symbol of peace.

Khulu Mbatha
R. Mbatha

The Honourable
Mayor of Lefkada,
Mr. Spiros Margelis,
Members of the
Town Council of Lefkada,
Dear Friends,

For 21st. Aug. 88

It is a great honour for me to be with you on such an important occasion of today. We are very much pleased that the mayor of this town has decided to give "The M E D A L OF PEACE" to an outstanding and esteemed leader of the liberation struggle of the South African people and the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela.

How marvellous this occasion would have been if Nelson Mandela was here himself to receive this great honour, to see your beautiful town and lovely people. As you know, he has been kept in isolation for twenty six years now, far-away from his family, his wife and children, far-away from his roots, his people, the society that gave birth to him and his ideals, far-away from the international community and you the people of Lefkada.

But with all the sufferings that Nelson Mandela went through, he has continued uninterruptedly with his life's work of organising and leading his people. Mandela's stature and authority have grown with the years, and there is no doubt that his influence has spread world-wide despite all the efforts of the South African racists to contain it. The courage he has displayed, and the statements of policy he has issued from time to time, have won the admiration of the world. Many honours have been bestowed on him as the representative of a people fighting for justice, peace and freedom.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank you and greek people for having joined the millions and millions of people all over the world to celebrate, together with the South African people, the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela. Mandela is indeed a true and genuine product of the struggle in our country, and he has become the symbol of resistance to White tyranny and domination. He is an unchallengeable leader of the South African people - BLACK AND WHITE together. And this is a piece of truth the regime cannot live with, because it tastes like a bitter pill that is not easy to swallow.

In 1962 Nelson Mandela told the racist court the following: "Men are not capable of doing nothing, of saying nothing, of not reacting to

injustice, of not protesting against oppression, of not striving for the good society and the good life in the ways they see it."

Indeed, for these believes Nelson Mandela has spent twenty six years in prison. He has ^{gone} through untold sufferings. Even at the age of 70, ill as he is, the regime is threatened by his influence. They are afraid to release him.

Like Nelson Mandela, the struggle has become our life. We shall not rest till Mandela is free. We shall not rest till we have a just, democratic and united South Africa based on the principle of equality amongst all her people, be they Black, White, Yellow or Red. We shall not rest till Apartheid is dead and we see it buried.

Once again, on behalf of the African National Congress, on behalf of the entire democratic movement and the struggling people of South Africa, on behalf of Nelson Mandela, I wish to extend our profound gratitude to the Town Council of Lerkada and the Mayor, Mr. Spiros Margelis, for the Medal of Peace given to Nelson Mandela.

Thank you.

The following municipalities have given Nelson Mandela honorary citizenship status

In ATTICA

1. Glyfada
2. Nikea
3. New Filadelfia
4. Egaleo
5. Ellinikon
6. Ilioupolis
7. Kaissariani

8. Zografu

Other Provinces

1. The town of Preveza