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**Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
The Dear friends from the AAB  
Dear friends and comrades,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to you for sharing this moment with us here. We are commemorating the death of Chris Hani, who laid down his life for the struggle. Hani fought and preoccupied his whole being in attempting to achieve Peace, Reconciliation and National Unity amongst the South African people. The principles of peace and reconciliation were so very dear and primary in Hani's life that he went out and preached these at all times. He strongly believed that for building a nation that has been at war with itself someone had to stick his neck out for the sake of progress and attainment of social change.

Chris Hani's death came at a time when for a whole week he was widely praised for his efforts towards peace and reconciliation. He publically condemned those who fanned racial attacks and killings. As positive as this may have been, the forces of reaction decided to assassinate him on the 10th of April.

Comrade Martin Thembisile (Chris) Hani was General Secretary of the South African Communist Party since December 1991, member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC since 1974 and former Chief of Staff of Umkhonto weSizwe and a PATRIOT.

He was born in 1942 on the 28th of June at a place called Comfimvaba in the Transkei. He matriculated at Lovedale in 1958, and was at the University of Rhodes and Fort Hare between 1959 and 1961 where he studied Latin and English. He joined the ANC Youth League in 1957. He was active in Eastern and Western Cape structures of the ANC (SA) before leaving the country in 1962. He was Commissar in the ANC/ZAPU military campaign in 1967 where he showed extreme bravery and courage in the battlefield. He earned respect from those who saw him fight against the enemy. He then escaped to Botswana and found his way back to Zambia in 1968. Chris infiltrated South Africa in 1973 and then later was based in Lesotho. He left Maseru (Lesotho) for Lusaka in 1982 after several unsuccessful assassination attempts on his life. He became Commissar in the army and then Deputy Commander of MK in 1984. He was also Chief of Staff of MK in 1987.

Hani was a political strategist of great talent. He contributed a lot to the development of ANC and SACP political programmes, and this aspect was widely recognized in both organisations.



Hani grew up as a youth observing the injustice imposed upon the majority of the people by the Apartheid system and he decided then to fight against any form of injustice.

He joined those organisations that offered substantial programmes which sought to pave the way forward. Hani wanted change and genuine transformation and his activities as youth, as a soldier, as a leader provided him the opportunity to grow and mature in the struggle. His life can be observed as that of a person who tested his theories on the ground. Because of that he became a realistic man who was able to feel the pulse of his followers. When the de Klerk government was forced to the negotiation table by the democratic forces, Hani was there and he threw his weight behind the process. When asked why he was involved in negotiations he responded by saying that the battle between the two antagonistic forces was incomplete, none had been defeated and it was time to undertake every effort to save the country from ruin.

How right he was.

Chris Hani was murdered by a rightwing fanatic, Janusz Walusz, a polish immigrant. The assassin is linked to the rightwing movement AWB which is patronised by those who want to set the clock back, those who want to continue to live within an exclusively white privileged society. In the midst of all the pain and suffering they have caused the Nation we continue to hear their rejectionist logic threatening that if the negotiation process proceeds "more of such deaths will recur". Here is no sense of remorse, or guilt at all, we won't expect it anyway.

But for South Africa to survive it is important that those who seek to thrive in blood should rearrange their morals, and perspectives. They have to discard their destructive notions and get rid of political and racial prejudice before its too late. They ought to replace their hatred with accommodation. The hatred that they harbour against Freedom Fighters is based completely on wrong judgement and colour bias.

Chris Hani spent his life fighting for freedom. To achieve this there has to be a unity of forces, there has to be reconciliation amongst all South Africans. He preached equality, non-racialism, non-sexism and strove to attain these in his lifetime, or at least see a basis of these introduced in society.

His death has angered the nation and the rage felt by our people will last for a very very long time. We have lost a Patriot and a true stalwart and soldier of the people. We have lost a man who was very warm, humane and enjoyed a great sense of humor.



The South African people have reacted in an honourable way against his death. They went out in great numbers to protest marches, they conducted commemoration services throughout the country; they toy-toyed in defiance against injustice.

In Venda there was a crowd of 20.000; in Johannesburg alone on the 14th of April there was a crowd of 1.5 Mio. people. This is evidence of how people felt about Hani. They loved him and respected his commitment to change. Today at the Jabulani Amphitheatre 100.000 people turned out.

Chris Hani was buried this morning in Boksburg. But dear friends, throughout the long week of mourning we have seen death continue and to linger all over the place. More death have been reported. What a waste!

What remains to be seen now is where South Africa goes from here. A prominent black leader was murdered by a white man, and the police were alerted by a white woman. This is to say that not everyone in South Africa supports racism and violence. The future of South Africa then rests on the relations between black and white. The well being or not of the children, the character of the society, and the character of the entire culture depends upon what happens after this.

We hope that all South Africans will continue to search for peace and democracy - a goal to which Hani had dedicated his life.

To pave the way forward, the African National Congress and all pro-democracy forces call upon the Pretoria minority government to ensure that

- an independent investigation is carried out to enable the law to bring the culprits to book.
- That the government takes more responsibility in protecting all its citizens.
- To ensure that a firm date for elections is announced soon so that a democratically elected government of national unity and reconciliation is established.
- That the proposal for the establishment of the Transitional Executive Authority be implemented immediately.
- That a joint control of all security forces be instituted.



- That the Pretoria Government takes all steps to end the violence most of which emanates from some of its quarters.

If the above is implemented then Chris Hani's desire will have been fulfilled for all. When he returned to South Africa after 30 years in exile he said:

"I have lived with death most of my life. I want to live in a free South Africa even if I have to lay down my life for it".