COMRADE TAMBO HAS BEEN A LEADER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS AND SUCCEEDED THE LA

TE CHIEF

LUTHULI AS PRESIDENT OF THE ANC.

COMRADE TAMBO WAS FOUNDER-MEMBER OF THE ANC YOUTH LE AGUE IN 1944,

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANC FROM 1954 TO 1958 AND ACT ING PRESIDENT FROM 1967 TO 1978.

C BOR.'4 IN BIZANA DISTRICT OF EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE IN 1917.

HE STUD ItD AT THE ANGLICAN BOARDING SCHOOL AT THE HOLY CROSS

MISSIONARY SCHOOL NEAR FLAGSTAFF. FROM THERE, WITH MIS SIONARY

SPONSORSHIP, HE WENT TO ST PETERS SECONDARY SCHOOL I N JOHANNESBURG

WHERE HE SET ACADEMIC RECORD COMPLETING HIS MATRICULA TION WITH A

FIRST CLASS PASS IN 1933. AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HE STUDI ED AT

\FORT HARE COLLEGE, GRADUATING WITH A B.SC. DEGREE IN 194 1.

)HE THEN REMAINED IN FORT HARE TO QUALIFY FOR A DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION /BUT

('WAS DUELLED DURING A STUDENTS' STRIKE IN 1942. "ST. PETERS, HOWEVER, DISREGARD ED HIS EXPULSION AND EMPLOYED HIM AS A SCIENCE AMD MATHEMATI CS /TEACHER. HE RETURNED TO JOHANNESBURG AMD TAUGHT AT T HIS SCHOOL \UNTIL 1947.

ON HIS RETURN TO JOHANNESBURG, TAMBO QUICKLY BECAME D RAWN INTO A GROUP OF YOUNG MILITANTS PRESSING FOR MORE MILITANT DIR ECTION IN THE ANC. THESE INCLUDED NELSON MANDELA, WALTER SISULU, ANT ON LEMBEDE.

A.P. MDA AND C MBATHA. TOGETHER WITH THEM, THREE OF WH

OM (LEMBEDE,

MBATHA AND MDA) WERE ALSO TEACHERS AT ST PETERS, HE PAR TICIPATED IN

THE FOUNDING OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE, SERVING FOR A WHILE AS ITS

NATIONAL SECRETARY.

DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF 1943-1949, HE BECAME TRANSV AAL PRESI-

DENT AND NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE. P
OLITICALLY

ASTUTE AND WIDELY RESPECTED FOR HIS PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO ALL

PROBLEMS, COMRADE TAMBO MOVED EASILY FROM A LEADING ROLE IN THE

YOUTH LEAGUE TO A POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN THE ANC ITSELF

IN 1946, HE WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE TRANSVAAL EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE ANC AND AT THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER

1^49, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTE EIN EVERY

SUBSEQUENT ELECTION.

ABANDONING AN EARLIER AMBITION TO STUDY MEDICINE, COM RADE TAMBO DECIDED TO TAKE UP LAW AMD IN THE LATE 194QS, WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WALTER SISULU, HE WAS ARTICLED IN A JOHANNESBURG LAW FIRM.

IN 1952, HE QUALIFIED AS AN ATTORNEY AND IN DECEMBER THAT YEAR, IN

THE MIDST OF THE CAMPAIGN OF DEFIANCE AGAINST UNJUST LA WS, HE AND

NELSON MANDELA ESTABLISHED A JOINT PRACTICE. AFTER THE DEFIANCE

CAMPAIGN, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF PREPARATION OF A NEW AN C CONSTITUTION