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The modern era of the the collapse of old social formations and the birth of new ones, characterised by the victorious revolutions of the peoples against all exploiters, national oppressions and inequality, has emphasised more than ever before the community of interests of the ordinary working people of the world.

Para 1
That is why we stand here today. We feel neither visitors to this fair land ~~nor~~ nor strangers amongst its heroic people. When the name of Cuba rings out, the toiling masses of the world raise their clenched fists in demonstration of their oneness with revolutionary Cuba, correctly asserting that socialist Cuba embodies a brilliant prize in the hands of revolutionary mankind. ^{Insert}

Para 2
It is in this same spirit that ^{This Festival becomes part & parcel of the} ~~we must assess the historic attack on~~ ^{clearly had most epic event of} the Moncada Barracks, ~~an event of~~ earth-shaking dimensions whose 25th anniversary we are gathered here today to celebrate. ^{last Tuesday}

Para 3
When some of the best sons and daughters of the Cuban people dared to launch this attack a quarter of a century ago, among them in the front ranks our brother and comrade-in-arms, Fidel Castro, the world could hardly have guessed that here in the Oriente province a new civilisation was being born out of the inhumanity, the filth and barbarity of Yankee imperialism.

Para 4
As Fidel Castro has said: "Without Moncada there would have been no Granma, no struggle in the Sierra Maestra and no extra-ordinary victory of January 1st, 1959. Likewise without the epic of 1868 and 1895, Cuba would not be independent and ^{an} the first socialist country in ^{the western Hemisphere} America..."

5 ^{Insert}
This fundamental truth lays bare the awesome significance of the Moncada. Our delegation would therefore like to express ~~its~~ ^{the} profound gratitude of the African National Congress, its allies, our people's army Umkhonto weSizwe, as well as that of the South African people as a whole for the invitation extended to us to be present at this historic occasion to observe an historic event.

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We say thank you to the Communist Party of Cuba, to the government of the Republic of Cuba; thank you to ~~the~~ the revolutionary people of Cuba for receiving us in your midst as friends, allies and fellow combatants. It is a singular honour to us and a mark of the unrelenting internationalism of the Cuban revolution that we who are still striving towards our January 1st should thus be received as equals and comrades in struggle.

Para 5
For us who are confronted with the task of overthrowing the South

African fascist regime of John Vorster; a regime whose policies have been condemned by the world as a crime against humanity and a threat to international peace and security, the attack on Moncada stands out as a beacon and a lodestar.

At Moncada, Fidel Castro and his peerless comrades were asserting the inalienable right of all peoples to liberty, the right of all oppressed and exploited people to rise arms in hand, against those who have arrogated to themselves the exalted positions of masters of our destinies. The Moncada Barracks of the venal Batista regime have therefore come to represent the inhumanity of the moribund system of imperialism. The assault on Moncada therefore has a significance that extends beyond the shores of Cuba. It was a blow struck in the name and in the interests of all the anti-imperialist forces the world over!

Our own historical experience as well as the example of Moncada, the Granma and the victory of January 1st, led us to take up arms and strike our first blows against fascist tyranny on December 16th 1961.

Let us once more borrow the words of Comrade Fidel Castro to describe our own situation:

"The true people - the workers, peasants, students and middle strata - lacked the weapons and resources to confront tyranny; it was necessary to find a way out. How could an unarmed people break up this (imperialist backed) complex of forces and once and for all, establish its social and national rights, which had been frustrated so many times throughout history?"

That is the question that faced us when racist intransigence presented us with but two alternatives- submit or fight. But already the victory of January 1st had become a material factor in our own revolutionary process. One of the most popular liberation songs among our people, especially the youth, was called "Take the country the Castro Way!"

For us to take our country the Castro way meant that we had to restate our strategic objective and find ways and means of translating that objective into reality.

The central task of our revolutionary struggle is the seizure of power by the people. Only the realization of this objective can thoroughly ~~destroy~~ destroy the criminal apartheid system and ensure the national and social emancipation of our people. It will cleanse our country of fascism and guarantee to the peoples of Africa a stable, just and secure peace. It will place our country amongst those, like heroic Cuba, which are contributing

selflessly to the liberation of the working people throughout the world.
~~The example of Cuba~~ ^{us}
~~We are~~ strengthened in our resolve to bring about such an outcome, whatever the sacrifice, by ~~the example of Cuba~~. The certainty of our victory is affirmed ^{by} the fact that here, the July 26th Movement, the Communists of Cuba and other patriotic and revolutionary forces and the Cuban people as a whole, have scored their successes in such close proximity to the United States and in spite of the most fierce opposition ^{by} to this leading and powerful imperialist state.

This is not in any way to underestimate the difficulties faced by the revolutionary movement in our country. Yet it is equally true to say that the victory of the Cuban revolution and its successful defence ^{on the one hand} were both a test, of the ability of world imperialism to impose its will on the peoples of the world and ^{on the other hand,} of the peoples' determination to destroy the capacity of the imperialists to dictate policy for the rest of humanity.

For us not to have seized the opportunities created by these facts, to intensify the offensive against imperialism would have been a betrayal of our people and a criminal squandering of the strategic advantage that had accrued to the world anti-imperialist movement as a result of this victorious revolution.

Already in 1961, when US imperialism launched the infamous Bay of Pigs invasion, it was clear that the Cuban revolution had played a powerful role in expediting the decolonisation process in Africa.

Anxious to ensure that the Cuban example did not take root in African soil, and driven by the mass pressure of the African peoples, the colonialists acceded to the African peoples' demand for independence. At the same time they worked assiduously to maintain their hold over our continent and its peoples by neo-colonialism.

Yet it cannot be denied that the collapse of colonialism was a decisive step forward in the historic advance of mankind towards social emancipation. The contribution of the Cuban people to these victories cannot be ~~gainsaid~~ overstated.

The fascist and racist regime in our country, following in the footsteps of its big brother, US imperialism, reacted to all this in a manner appropriate to its nature. With the banning of the ANC and the adoption of naked mass terror against the people as state policy, the racists staged their own version of the Bay of Pigs. Notably through the Bantustan programme it tried to accommodate in a perverted and counter-revolutionary