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Received 23/8-88

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TO: THE EDITOR

FR: THE ANC DEPT. OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN  
NATIONAL CONGRESS. 19TH AUGUST, 1988.

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS EXTENDS ITS REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS  
TO THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION. WE SALUTE THE LEADERSHIP, ACTIVISTS  
AND MILLIONS OF PATRIOTS UNITED UNDER THE BANNER OF THIS GIA  
GIANT AND NOBLE CREATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE.  
OVER THE YEARS, THE UDF HAS GROWN TO BECOME THE LARGEST EVER  
COALITION OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STRUGGLE.  
BECAUSE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO ACTIVE STRUGGLE FOR THE ATTAINMENT  
OF A FREE, NON-RACIAL AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA, THE FRONT HAS  
CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF MILLIONS OF SOUTH AFRICANS AS A  
DECISIVE COMPONENT OF THE LIBERATION FORCES IN OUR COUNTRY.

IN STRUGGLE, THE UDF HAS INSPIRED THE EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRATIC  
FORMATIONS BOTH AT GRASSROOTS AND NATIONAL LEVELS AMONG VARIOUS  
SECTORS OF THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE. THE FRONT ITSELF HAS GAINED IN  
WIDTH AND IN DEPTH FROM THESE ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE  
DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. IT IS THESE ORGANISATION WHICH  
HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PRECIPITATING CONSISTENT MASS  
RESISTANCE AGAINST APARTHEID AND THE ATTENDANT ALL-ROUND CRISIS  
AFFLICTING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME.

THE ADOPTION OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER BY THE UDF, COSATU AND OTHER  
DEMOCRATIC FORCES CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LANDMARKS  
IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STRUGGLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE THEME OF  
UNITED ACTION EMBLAZONED ON THE BATTLE-STANDARDS OF THE UDF AND  
ITS ALLIES HAS LAID THE APARTHEID FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE SOCIAL  
AND POLITICAL BASE OF THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT WITHIN OUR  
COUNTRY, AND FOR THE BROADEST POSSIBLE UNITY IN ACTION AGAINST  
THE RACIST RULING CLIQUE.

THE PRETORIA REGIME'S CONCERTED CAMPAIGN OF TERROR TO BEHEAD THE  
MASS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AND DISLOCATE THE ORGANISATIONS AND  
STRUGGLES OF THE MASSES, THE KANGAROO TRIALS, BANNINGS, HANGINGS,  
MILITARY OCCUPATION OF BLACK RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND SUPPRESSION  
OF THE MEDIA - ALL THESE HAVE FAILED TO BLOT OUT THE NAME OF THE



UDF AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES. NEITHER HAS THE REGIME SUCCEEDED IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO COW THE PEOPLE INTO SUBMISSION AND RECAPTURE THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE.

INSTEAD, THE STRUGGLING PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SPURRED ON TO ADOPT FORMS OF ORGANISATION AND ACTION SUITABLE FOR THESE CONDITIONS. IN SPITE OF MASSIVE REPRESSION UNDER THE STATES OF EMERGENCY, THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE CONTINUES TO INTENSIFY AND THE CRISIS OF BOTHA'S CLIQUE CONTINUES TO DEEPEN. APARTHEID POLICIES UNDER WHATEVER GUISE ARE REJECTED BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICANS, INCLUDING FORCES FROM THE RANKS OF THE RULING BLOC AND THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. BOTHA AND HIS MURDEROUS CLIQUE STAND ISOLATED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE AS THE ENEMY OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

INTERNATIONALLY, ANTI-APARTHEID FORCES CONTINUE TO EXPEND THEIR RANKS AND TO ACT IN UNITY AGAINST THE CRIME OF APARTHEID. IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE FORCES OF PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS HAVE MADE GIANT STRIDES TOWARDS SECURING PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTION 435 OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UDF BRINGS INTO SHARPER FOCUS THE GREAT CHALLENGES WE FACE ON ALL FRONTS OF STRUGGLE. IN PARTICULAR, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CALLS ON ALL ANTI-APARTHEID AND PEACE-LOVING FORCES:

TO DEFEND THE UDF, THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATIONS, AND TO INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST REPRESSION,

TO UNITE IN ACTION ON THE BASIS OF OUR COMMON DESIRE TO CREATE A FUTURE FREE OF RACISM, OPPRESSION AND WAR,

TO INTENSIFY THE CAMPAIGN FOR A MASSIVE BOYCOTT OF THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS AND TO STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST THESE AND OTHER APARTHEID STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS,

TO HEIGHTEN OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES, AND TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE ON THE DEATH ROW,

TO WORK EVEN HARDER FOR THE ALL-ROUND ISOLATION OF APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA, AND FOR INCREASED SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND THE REST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

ON OUR PART, THE LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE ANC AND THE PEOPLE'S ARMY, UMKHONTO WE SIZWE PLEDGE TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE IDEALS ENSHRINED IN THE FREEDOM CHARTER ARE REALISED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

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