

TMO/29/092/1

NEWS AND VIEWS
(Mazimbu-Dakawa)

Friday: December 19, 1986

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From The Editorial Collective's Swift Pen:

In spite of and, in fact, precisely because of the outrageously repressive measures introduced by fascist Pretoria under the State of Emergency which has resulted in unwarranted mass detentions of innocent people, including children barely eleven years old, the "Christmas Against The Emergency" campaign took off with a bang on Heroes Day (Dec. 16) as millions of our compatriots throughout SA heeded the call to observe a "Black Christmas" for a 10-day period. The sound of tolling bells reverberated mournfully to mark the beginning of the period. The end will be signalled in similar fashion.

A full-page fire-spitting statement by the UDF in the "Sowetan" implored compatriots to switch off electric lights and, instead, light candles. It further appealed for all sports fixtures and music festivals falling within this period to be suspended. Beer hall patrons were called upon to refrain from patronising their drinking haunts. The campaign has the backing of the SACC, trade unions and sporting organisations representing millions of our people.

Seen in its proper perspective, the campaign is a serious mobilisation exercise which deserves the support of all, including ourselves within the constraints of objective reality. The organisers have put forth an earnest appeal to our people to re-dedicate themselves to the struggle for national liberation, especially now that the fascist regime is tottering under the impact of solid politico-economic blows delivered with immaculate precision by our movement, our people and the world at large.

Christians the world over may have good reason to celebrate Christmas with merrymaking. The same cannot be said of our emattled people. Who of us can nonchalantly appreciate the beauty of a Christmas tree when young children, in solitary confinement, without access to legal representation or parents, and at the complete mercy of ferocious racists, are staring blankly and in great fear at the blood-stained walls of fascist dungeons? Who can enjoy a special sumptuous Christmas meal with relish and a clear conscience when compatriots are fed half-boiled maize grains, if at all, behind bars? Who can drink and indifferently shout "Merry Christmas!" when the beautiful flowers of our land, young women in the prime of life, are being sadistically assaulted by the opium-crazed drug addicts who have infested the fascist "security" forces? Who can sing Christmas carols to his heart's satisfaction when the blood-thirsty troops, with fingers on triggers, are roaming our townships sowing terror and mowing down our people at every opportunity? Who can lie peacefully in bed and enjoy his sleep when our loved ones are waking up with heart-rending wails in the middle of the night, their innocent souls tortured by the very thought of Botha's torture chambers, and not certain whether they will come out of detention feet first, ... or head first? Who dares ...?

Being somewhat removed, physically though not spiritually, from the actual theatre of war, some of us tend to be lulled into a false sense of security and consequently less vigilance and lesser commitment to the liberation struggle. This we can entertain only at our peril. However, if during this "Black Christmas" we can dissect our commitment to the struggle and examine it scrupulously under the political microscope, we may enter the New Year in the right frame of mind and with greater revolutionary dedication to the liberation of SA.

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Notorious Vigilantes On The Loose shed in several townships in Natal. Church
Pietermaritzburg: The whopping success of the "Christmas Against The Emergency" campaign has so stung Pretoria that it has resorted to sinister attempts to break it by letting loose hordes of heavily-armed vigilantes, who are on its payroll, to intimidate supporters of the campaign. Houses whose occupants were observing the candle-light vigil had their windows smashed in several townships in Natal. Church services at which prayers were said for detainees, were violently broken up by vigilantes.

Political observers note that vigilantes in Natal are drawn mainly, if not exclusively from the tribal Inkatha movement led by fascist Pretoria's blue-eyed Bantustan chief, Gatsha Buthelezi, who hypocritically favours non-violence against his masters and brutal violence against his Black opponents.

Black Christmas . . . And The World

Johannesburg: The campaign launched by progressive forces in SA against the State of Emergency has attracted world-wide attention and support.

The UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuelhar has called on Pretoria to lift the emergency and release detainees.

In Dakar, the Second World Conference on Human Rights has reacted strongly to the wave of arbitrary arrests. A "Dakar Declaration" calling for increased support for the liberation struggles in Namibia and SA was adopted.

Meanwhile a joint statement issued by the Roman Catholic Church, Anglican and Lutheran Bishops as well as other denominations in SA said that "the parties, presents, decorations, carols, bells, and even the Christmas service will be disturbing when we recall that hundreds of children will probably spend their Christmas in detention."

In Brussels, the European Trade Union Confederation, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the World Confederation of Labour, representing millions of workers world-wide, have denounced Pretoria's uncalled for detentions.

Amnesty International has expressed serious concern for the safety of SA detainees "in view of previous deaths in detention and evidence of torture and ill-treatment of detainees held under the Internal Security Act."

Pretoria's staunchest supporters Premier Thatcher and President Reagan have half-heartedly jolted their ally with verbal disapproval of the mass detentions of our people.

In SA itself, the "Sowetan" and the Weekly Mail have been proscribed from publishing statements relating to the Black X-mas campaign. Both are seeking legal advice on the matter.

A PFP Newsletter making reference to the campaign has been banned.

Black Christmas, But A Happy New Year!

Mazinbu: Cde Mompoti, the Chairman of the Works Committee, writes that preparations are going ahead smoothly for the workers' party to be held at the Youth Centre on New Year's eve. If all goes well, the party will swing into action at 8.00 p.m. with the Youth Band dishing out your favourite hits. More details next time, so do keep in touch.

Obituary

The Administration regrets to announce the untimely death of Cde Vuyisile "Savage" Myila (alias Ter-

ror Pova) which occurred last week on Friday. He will be laid to rest in Daka-wa on Saturday (20/12/86) at 3.00 p.m.

Asante Sana Ndugu Hamad Rashidi Mohammed

By the Agricultural Project, Mazinbu: We would like to convey our thanks to Ndugu Hamad Rashidi Mohammed, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, for his visit to our complex and particularly to the farm on a mission of handing over 100 bags of maize donated to the ANC by the refugees of Katumba, Mpande district. A dignified ceremony was held in our crop stores and Malume received the maize on behalf of the ANC. In return, Ndugu Hamad Rashidi was given a goat by our authorities.

Happy Landings!

By the Agricultural Project, Mazimbu

The staff of the Agricultural Project extends a warm welcome to Comrades Anderson and Britt, who have come to rejoin us, and we wish them success in their work. The two comrades did a tour of duty at the farm in 1981/82. Both of them are specialists in animal husbandry. We hope they will enjoy working with us once again and stay longer this time. To them we say, "Karibu Tena."

Well Done!

Mazinbu: SOMAFCO students Mandisa and Peter are back with us after a successful month-long speaking tour of the US. The tour was sponsored by "Children Against War", a religious task-force based in the US but which is dynamically linked to, among others, the SACC, prominent US church organisations and individuals. Their tour took them through Atlanta, where they were received by Black Mayor Andrew Young, Birmingham, and Montgomery, where they met rightwing Mayor George Wallace. Before flying back, Cde Peter also spoke at a conference held in New York. Well done!

Vini, Vidi, Vici!

Mazinbu: Events marking the 25th anniversary of MK were observed enthusiastically according to plan at the complex. After a rather lukewarm Toi Toi procession, there was a solemn flag-raising ceremony and the laying of wreaths at the cemetery in the morning.

The highlight of the political programme was an NEC statement, read by NEC Representative Cde Malume, which gave an in-depth analytic account of the formation and subsequent growth from strength to strength of MK in spite of massive setbacks.

In the afternoon the Young Lions from Zambia, much against the run of play, snatched the Heroes' Cup with an excit-

ing 3-1 win over the Mazimbu Squad in a hard-fought tussle.

In the first half the Squad, playing like a well-oiled machine, outclassed the Lions and engineered brilliant moves in the mid-field, but these fizzled out up front. The Squad led 1 nil at half time.

In the second half the Young Lions gave a better account of themselves and surged ahead with 3 goals.

O.K., You May Proceed!

Lusaka: Because of the relative calm in Zambia, HQ has now given the green light for trips to and from Zambia by our comrades.

Meanwhile Zambia has arrested four SA agents who were "touring" Zambia on Australian, New Zealand and British passports. There is strong evidence that they were responsible for the wave of bomb blasts in Zambia during the recent IMF-instigated food riots. One of them was caught red-handed whilst assembling a bomb.

Our Diplomatic Desk observes that a number of White SA agents have been captured in the Frontline States in the past using, inter alia, British passports. The British Government is believed to have intervened on their behalf while fascist Pretoria has, in public at least, kept a low profile. This is proof, if any is still needed, of the ominous links between Britain's MI5 and the SA intelligence services in their sinister plots against the Southern African states.

How Dare We Shun The Young 'Uns?

By Cde Sherry from the Dept of Social Welfare

Mazimbu: Many young children whose parents are working, training or studying abroad, are staying in the Day Care and Nursery Boarding Sections, and they badly need a regular weekend break once a fortnight with comrades who can give them the individual love, time and attention they so richly deserve.

We therefore need responsible, caring and interested adults who are prepared to put time and energy into an individual child. If you feel that you can do this (and why not?), please contact Ma-Mercy, Cde Farida, Cde Jane or Cde Sherry. Remember that our children should come first, and they are our future leaders!

Holland Committee Committed To Greater Efficiency

Mazimbu: Cde Frank from HQ and Harry Derksen from the Holland Committee on Southern Africa in Amsterdam, are currently working fever-

ishly at the complex, laying the groundwork for courses on Store Management, which will be conducted shortly.

The 3-week Supervisors' course takes off next Monday (Dec 22) and runs through Jan. 10, 1987, while the Storekeepers' course extends from Jan. 12 to Feb. 21, 1987.

We wish Harry and Frank, together with the prospective candidates, great success in the timely effort to upgrade comrades' qualifications and improve efficiency.

Clip Off SAA Wings!

Brazzaville: A 15-nation OAU Steering Committee has called on all Africa to ban SAA flights from their airspace and to forbid SA vessels from calling at their ports. Foreign aircraft flying to and from SA should also be denied overflying rights, the committee recommended.

Aviation experts predict that if the recommendations were accepted and strictly applied, SAA and SA as a whole would suffer a serious reversal which would tighten the stranglehold around the apartheid monster's neck further.

Snares Spread Wider

Pretoria: SA Defence Minister Magnus Malan visited the Comoro Islands recently in a bid to consolidate its interference in the military and politico-economic life of the Indian Ocean islands. In talks with the Comoros President Ahmed Abdallah and his protector, French-born mercenary Bob Denard, Malan dictated Pretoria's terms for the Comoros to be put under Pretoria's "protective" military wings.

Military analysts note with concern that this signals greater military involvement by Pretoria in the Indian Ocean islands and that the Seychelles may be a target again of Pretoria's military destabilisation. A few years ago Pretoria unleashed a horde of mercenaries under the command of the demented Mike Hoare in an attempt to topple President Albert Rene's government.

Grain Galore

Moscow: A bumper grain harvest of over 210 million tonnes, the highest in 8 years, is expected in the USSR in the 1986/87 crop year. Our Agricultural Correspondent reports that improved farming techniques, which resulted in higher productivity, have contributed significantly to the record harvest expected.

The Economic Strategy of the CPSU, which was approved by the 27th Congress of the CPSU on March 1, 1986 the introduction of up-to-date "scientific systems of farming and intensive technologies, improve the utilisation of soil and raise its fertility, achieve a signifi-

cant increase in the yield of agricultural crops and in livestock productivity, ... and rule out losses in harvested farm crops and livestock produce."

An Eye For An Eye

Moscow: Obviously disappointed and perhaps even annoyed by US intransigence on the question of nuclear arms tests, the Soviet Union has announced that it will not jeopardize its defence responsibilities and the strategic balance between the US and the USSR by observing its moratorium on nuclear arms tests indefinitely. The moratorium was introduced in August last year. Since then, however, the US has carried out no less than 22 nuclear blasts in a dubious attempt to perfect a new generation of mass destruction weapons.

The Soviet Union has warned that, while it is strongly against the nuclear arms race, it may be forced to resume tests after the first US nuclear blast next year.

No Way To Thank Norway?

Mazimbu: Last Saturday, the Norwegian State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Ms Kari Gjesteby, paid a working visit to our complex.

Over the years Mazimbu has received much assistance from Norway. This is greatly appreciated.

Veterans Bow Out

Hanoi: Three veterans of the bitter wars against French colonialism and US aggression, General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Trong Chin, Politburo member Le Duc Tho and Premier Pham Van Dong were given a rousing standing ovation at the recent Congress of the VCP when they announced their retirement from active politics because of old age and poor health. However, they will maintain links with the Politburo in an advisory capacity. The Congress elected Luyen Van Lin as the new Party leader.

Meanwhile in Luanda, the Ho Chi Minh Award was conferred upon Cde Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO, and ANC President O.R. Tambo by the World Peace Council President Romesh Chandra, as a tribute to the heroism of martyrs who have fallen in the struggle for liberation, and also to pay homage to those incarcerated by the fascists, in Namibia and SA.

Running With The Hares And Hunting With The Hounds

The White House: Whilst the Reagan

Administration's image continues to be tarnished by stinking "Iran-Contragate" scandal, another revelation threatens to annul whatever still remains of Reagan's credibility.

For over two years the CIA has been supplying Iraq with secret satellite photographs of Iran's strategic installations to improve the accuracy of Iraqi bombing raids on Iran. On the other hand the US was secretly selling military hardware to Iran for use against Iraq. From its double-dealing the US made astronomical profits, part of which was diverted to Nicaraguan contras and to finance election campaigns for Republican candidates during the last Senate elections, which the Republicans lost in any case. Some of the profits are believed to have ended up in the pockets of top Reagan aides, not excluding Reagan himself. Congressional committees are investigating the irregularities.

Meanwhile Peter Wright, a former deputy director of Britain's espionage agency, MI5, has revealed the names of top MI5 officers who were allegedly spying for foreign powers against Britain. He also reveals details of how MI5 bugged foreign (including Western) embassies in London and how it plotted against Harold Wilson when he was premier.

In Israel, a Moroccan-born Israeli, Mordecai Vanunu, who worked in Israel's nuclear research centre, is to be tried secretly for revealing details of Israel's production of nuclear weapons and for his alleged pro-Palestinian sympathies.

Two former security branch policemen were remanded in custody in Pretoria after being charged with "terrorism, furthering the aims of the ANC and espionage." In another development, an unnamed member of the SADF has been arrested and is expected to be court-martialled on a charge of treason.

You Do Us Pride!

Mazimbu: Hearty congratulations to the eight comrades attached to SOMAFCO, who have returned to Mazimbu after successfully completing specialised courses in Sweden. We have no doubt that you are raring to impart the knowledge you imbibed overseas.

Also, Cde B from Malume's office and the Site Office's Jabu are back in our midst after an intensive ILO-sponsored Office Management course in Harare. The course seems to have trimmed, not only their perception but their physical appearance as well! Maybe, it's a question of a healthy mind in a healthy body. Bravo! Nice to see you again!

Request!

Pass News & Views to another comrade. Paper not recommended for use in the loo.