

RELEASE MANDELA AND ALL SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

The most concerted effort in recent years by British politicians to exert pressure on South Africa for the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners has started in the House of Commons. Within 12 hours yesterday, 190 members of all parties in the Commons signed a motion presented by Labour Party spokesman for Foreign Affairs, Mr Stanley Claiton-Davis. The motion calls on the Government of South Africa 'to provide immediate remission of sentence to Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, David Kitson and other political prisoners who in most instances have been imprisoned for many years.' Mandela, Kathrada, and Sisulu were all convicted in the Rivonia trial and are serving life sentences. Another 100 signatures are needed before the motion can be considered for full debate. Black consciousness organisations are to celebrate Mandela's 64th birthday on Sunday. The Vaal Youth Detainees' Support Committee and the Congress of South African Students will celebrate at the Roman Catholic Church, Small Farms near Evaton.

Rand Daily Mail 15.7.81

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

Women's liberation in South Africa was a struggle that should be waged within the national struggle for freedom, Mrs Amina Cachalia, a once-banned former executive member of the Federation of SA Women, said yesterday. She was addressing about 200 people at the first Nusas Women's Conference at the University of the Witwatersrand. The four day conference was opened on Saturday night with an address by Mrs Helen Joseph 'the old woman of South African politics,' whose banning order was lifted about two weeks ago. Mrs Cachalia, whose last banning order was lifted in 1978, said: 'The struggle for national liberation and women's rights is by no means over. Women must ensure that when liberation is achieved their role in a non-racial, democratic South Africa is assured.'

Rand Daily Mail 14.7.82

PRISONER OF WAR STATUS DEMANDED

United Nations human rights experts were this week urged to press for full prisoner-of-war status for captured Swapo insurgents. The appeal by a representative of the International Defence and Aid Fund followed a similar call to the UN council of Namibia at its seminar in Vienna last month. Miss Margaret Ling told the ad hoc working group of experts on Southern Africa that there had been a shift in South African Government policy

towards better treatment of prisoners. The six man UN group, chaired by Ghana's ambassador, Mr Annan Cato, is hearing evidence in London until tomorrow. Their annual tour will take them to New Delhi, Bombay, Dar es Salaam, Lusaka and Luanda before they return to their base at Geneva in mid August. The group is looking particularly for information on the treatment of political detainees and 'captured freedom fighters' in South Africa and Namibia; the effects of the policies of apartheid and the homelands on black women and children and impediments to student movements and trade unions.

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CULTURE-Integral part of the
STRUGGLE

Twenty-two writers and academics have protested to the Israeli Ambassador to South Africa against Israeli military action in Lebanon. The group said in a letter it considered Israel's invasion as 'an act of genocide.' The signatories included Professor Esekial Mphahlele and Professor Chabani Manganyi from the University of the Witwatersrand, Mthobi Mutlootse, Stephen Gray, Mike Kirkwood and Jonathan Paton. Others who signed were Peter Wilhelm, Ahmed Essop, Jaki Seroke, Chris van Wyk, Farouk Asvat, Essop Patel, Shona'ah-Ahmed Kahn, Don Mattera, Cherry Clayton, Nape Motan, Jean Marquard, Achmat Dangor, Sipho Sepamla, Geina Mhlophe, Makhulu Ladwaba and Mat-samela Manaka.

Rand Daily Mail 10.7.82

About 400 artists vowed this week to pick up their pens and brushes and march for a cultural revolution and the destruction of apartheid thought. For this past week with almost no disagreement, the South African artist was cast in the mould of cultural revolutionary at a symposium here on Culture and Resistance in Africa. 'We are here to wage a cultural offensive for progress in South Africa,' the speaker said. 'Any person who stands behind a pen must be just as good as any person who stands behind a gun in the service of progress,' he proclaimed. The cultural revolutionaries who attended the symposium included black and white, young and old, famous and unknown, rich and poor, the intellectually arrogant and those prepared to listen. Some travelled from exile in London, Nairobi and Lusaka to be here. Another group travelled for two days in a bus from Cape Town. A major feature of the week was a frenetic exchange of ideas and news between those still based 'at home' and the exiles-invariably with an eye on the lookout for a 'Blue Meanie' (conference slang for

a security policeman) who may be lurking in some camouflage. The presence of the outlawed African National Congress expressed itself in an abundance of ANC stickers, films and the views which by and large prevailed. Again and again the obsessive question of militant South African opposition emerged: Can black and white work together for apartheid's destruction? Is the problem in South Africa racial, one of economic class, or a combination of the two? These debates were never fully resolved. But it was clear from some performances by drama groups and in the organisation of the symposium that black and white artists were, indeed, working together—and with results. Behind the conference were two dominant lines of thought. First that art must reflect no idealistic abstractions but the conflicts, joys and suffering in South Africa. The second was that art must be developed as a powerful weapon to destroy apartheid thought patterns.

Sunday Tribune 11.7.82

About 800 South Africans—some from within the country, others exiles from many parts of the world—decided this week that art should be placed in a political perspective which was relevant to the 'liberation struggle.' This message emerged clearly in papers delivered at a symposium by speakers as diverse as novelist Nadine Gordimer and the African National Congress representative in Stockholm, Lindiwe Mabuza. The symposium—the subject: 'Culture and Resistance'—was organised by a group of South Africans living in Botswana in collaboration with established art workshops in South Africa such as the community arts project, FUBA, the Open School and Raven Press. It was possibly one of the most representative gatherings of South African artists yet staged, with participants including established figures such as Miss Gordimer, photographer David Goldblatt, writer Richard Rive, poets James Mathews and Mongane Wally Serote, to young revolutionaries openly espousing ANC causes through their work. Three well-known figures in the South African black music scene, pianists Dollar Brand, jazz trumpeter Hugh Masakela and one of the fathers of South African township jazz, Wilson 'King Force' Silgee, appeared together at two concerts. The dominant theme to emerge from the week-long symposium was that art could not be divorced from politics. One speaker dramatist Zakes Mofikeng said: 'Trying to avoid politics in art is like trying to dodge raindrops on a rainy day.' It was also emphasised repeatedly that the goal of a 'non-racial and democratic' South Africa could be achieved only if all the people of the country, including 'cultural workers,' used all their talents

and resources in a meaningful manner. Several speakers came out in open support of the banned African National Congress, but said they were at a symposium as 'cultural workers' and not as representatives of the movement. Most prominent among them were Miss Mabuza and Professor Keorapetse Kgositsile of the University of Nairobi, who went into exile 21 years ago and delivered the opening address at the symposium. Exiled folk singer Barry Gilder told delegates that musicians could 'play a crucial role in ensuring a successful boycott of international performers and artists who come to South Africa in breach of the international boycott.' Delegates from within South Africa said the symposium had been useful in providing a meeting ground for artists from a wide spectrum of communities and cultural backgrounds.

Sunday Times 11.7.82

POLITICAL TRIALS AND DETENTIONS

Trial of Police Station Three

Two policemen were killed in the armed attack on Orlando Police Station in Soweto on November 1, 1979, the Supreme Court, Pretoria heard yesterday. This evidence was led by the State in the trial of Mr Thelle Simon Mogoerane, 23, Mr Jerry Semano Mosoloi, 25, and Mr Marcus Thabo Motaung, 27. Appearing before Mr Justice DJ Curlewis and two assessors, the three men face a charge of high treason and alternative charges of murder, attempted murder, armed robbery & contravention of the Terrorism Act. The men smiled and waved to family members and friends in the courtroom when the State 'ran out' of witnesses yesterday. The hearing was remanded to Monday.

The alleged members of the banned African National Congress sat impassively in the dock and listened attentively to witnesses testifying on the attack on the Orlando Police Station on the night of November 1, 1979 and the sabotage of railway lines between Soweto and Johannesburg on the night of May 24, 1979. Sergeant Willoughby Kazina told the court Student Constable Ntsieni Jerry Musidane and Constable Christopher Zibi were killed in the attack. Constables Thami Goodenough Dyantjie and Sipho Moses Zungu were wounded. An explosives expert with the South African Railways Police, Capt. P Fourie, testified how he found explosive timing devices along the railway lines between New Canada and Soweto. Earlier in evidence the court was told how three armed men attacked Moroka police station where Const. Eongani Brian Tembe was shot dead. Mr P B Jacobs and Mr Bistor are appear-