

By Clive Govender

JOHANNESBURG Mar 1 Sapa

Hundreds of chanting African National Congress supporters braved pelting rain in downtown Johannesburg on Monday to voice support for Angola's ruling MPLA Government and to hand over an open letter to American President Bill Clinton.

The letter was handed over by ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu to the Acting United States Consul-General in Johannesburg, Karl Danga.

Addressing the toyi-toying crowd outside the consulate before handing over the letter, Mr Sisulu said the demonstration was to show solidarity with the people of Angola.

"On this day we call on all democrats to show solidarity with the people of Angola.

"(Unita leader Jonas) Savimbi is not for peace. We think the time has come for the world to recognise the MPLA government elected by the people of Angola," said Mr Sisulu, who called for the peace in war-torn Angola.

The letter said the United States could make an important contribution to the peace process in Angola in its capacity as a United Nations Security Council member and one of three observer countries of the Bicesse Accords.

"(We are) strongly of the opinion that if peace and democracy are to be restored in Angola then the time is ripe for a major initiative by your administration," an excerpt from the letter said.

The letter expressed approval that US aid for Unita had been terminated.

South African Communist Party member Ronnie Kasrils told the crowd similar lunch-time demonstrations were proceeding throughout the country on Monday.

"This is only the beginning of solidarity action," he said.

He said demonstrations would also target South African Defence Force offices in Cape Town.

A statement from the US consulate said the United States was working to bring both the MPLA and Unita to the negotiating table in Addis Ababa.

"The US believes the role of the United Nations in Angola must be reinforced," the statement said.

Supporters carrying placards which read "De Klerk is sheltering a war criminal (Dr Savimbi)" and "Hands off Angola", toyi-toyed, and chanted freedom songs.

The supporters distributed pamphlets to passers-by and appealed to them to "join the breadline".

National Peace Secretariat spokesman Piroshaw Camay described the demonstration as peaceful.

Media Release

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(Open letter to the Bill Clinton Administration handed over to the American Consulate in Jhb on 1/3/93 - during a picket demo led by Walter Sisulu in Solidarity with the people of Angola.)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - GENERAL

President Bill Clinton

YENGENI STATEMENT — INDICTMENT AGAINST STATE AND COURTS

Tony Yengeni and his fellow trialists in a terrorism trial refused to plead in the Supreme Court. In an eight-page statement, Yengeni outlined their reasons. The following is an edited version of his statement:

We stand here charged with 'terrorism'. The original main charge against us was treason. After the state had been questioned on our behalf, it withdrew this charge. The allegation then was that we sought to overthrow the state. The present indictment still attributes such an intent to us. What was, and still is, omitted is that the state referred to is the apartheid state.

Our understanding of treason is that it is a crime against the people. It would, for instance, be treason to betray the people of this country and to take up arms against them. But our people have been treasonably betrayed. The racist minority regime rules by force, through the barrel of the gun and without a mandate from the people. It has created an apartheid state and, in order to maintain and defend it, employs awesome weapons of war which it has unleashed against the citizens of this country. One of the results is an ongoing international armed conflict in which the racist minority regime is ranged against the people of the country.

We believe that South Africa belongs to all who live

in it and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people. We accordingly abhor the apartheid state and, in so far as we have any choice in the matter, we owe it no allegiance whatsoever. We make no apologies for seeking its downfall. Nor do we believe that those who seek its demise, whether by international armed conflict or otherwise, should on that account be considered guilty of criminal conduct. The regime therefore stands accused of treason and the people do not and will not withdraw that charge.

As for the charge we now face, we again say that it is the state that stands accused. In defence of its apartheid practices, this regime has brooked no opposition. Mass democratic organisations, the organisations of the people, have been silenced and their leaders gaoled or restricted. Tens of thousands of the regime's political opponents have languished in gaol, having been detained without trial. Scores of others are forced to stand trial for so-called crimes against the state.

This is called maintenance of law and order. We call it terrorism. It is terrorism too when innocent men, women and children are attacked by the regime's police and SADF, and killed while they sleep, in foreign countries. We think of Maseru, Matola, Gaborone and others. It is terrorism when this country's neighbours are destabilised, all in the name of apartheid. It is terrorism when assassination squads, operating inside and outside this country, hunt for and eliminate opponents of apartheid. We think of Ruth First, Jeanette Schoon, Pat Ndzima, Cassius Make, Abram Tiro and many others.

We recall with horror the cruel, violent and untimely deaths of many heroes of the struggle inside this country, all at the hands of the agents of this regime. It includes Joseph Mdluli, Steve Biko, Neil Aggett, Goniwe, Calata, Mhlawuli, Saul Mkhize, Hector Petersen, Timol and many others. The roll-call is endless. It includes the hordes of our fallen comrades who have dared to march in protest against their oppression, together with the countless numbers who did not even march but were mowed down by the police and SADF in the townships of our land: Sharpeville, Langa, Nyanga, Soweto and elsewhere. We call this brutal, naked terrorism. This is terrorism in any language. It is terrorism when, in the pursuit of apartheid, whole communities are uprooted, when extreme misery and poverty are the lot of certain sections of the population while others enjoy a standard of living which rates with the highest in the world.

We say that it is the regime that is guilty of terrorism. It would therefore be terrorism for us to identify with apartheid or to condone a system that forces its youth to take up arms against fellow citizens, to defend the indefensible. Apartheid stands condemned as a crime by the international community and has been rejected as a heresy and a sin by the religious community. Yet it has been allowed to devastate millions of lives in this country. Most regrettably, apartheid has not left the legal system and the judicial process of this country untainted. With due respect to your Lordship and learned Assessors, we have to point out that an official Court in this country cannot ignore the laws to which it owes its existence, nor the body of laws which constitute the apartheid legal system: in other words it is enjoined to apply an unjust legal system.

One facet of the workings of this system has already been manifested in this case, in the course of events whereby we were arrested, detained, interrogated and brought to trial. After our arrest, we were detained under section 29 of the Internal Security Act, a provision which is, in practice, used only against the political opponents of the regime. It is a horrific legal provision and is in blatant disregard of the rule of law. The security police have not failed to take full advantage of its provisions; it enables them to operate in the dark and to extract maximum advantage to the maximum detriment of their victim. It enables them to exert all manner of pressures on the detained: psychological and physical torture, intimidation, coercion and

assaults. It exposes the detainee to dehumanising and degrading treatment, lengthy interrogation and months of solitary confinement without even the basic mental comforts such as reading material, access to family, friends and legal representation and advice. It is as though the system is designed to destroy the detainee's mental faculties; it is in fact designed to break him, to force him to produce information which will be used against him at his trial.

Having undergone the rigours of section 29 ourselves, we are not surprised that political trials are characterised by a high number of 'confessions' allegedly made by the accused. The courts have admitted numerous of these so-called confessions. The Act stipulates that the detainee should be visited periodically by a magistrate as well as by other employees of the state. We were so visited. Some of us were also visited by the Judge President of this division. Our experience shows that these visits do not succeed to ameliorate in any substantial way the conditions under which we are kept. It would rather seem that they were designed to put a more humane veneer to barbaric treatment which is in effect sanctioned and countenanced by the law. Some of our comrades still bear painful reminders of their ordeal; they are still receiving medical and psychological treatment.

There is no doubt that the state is using the section as a terrorist weapon: to exact a terrible revenge on opponents of the regime's sterile and outdated policies. Eventually, when the victim has been thoroughly broken, he is brought before these courts to put a final stamp of credibility on the actions of the police. The court then in effect becomes a mere tool of the oppressor. The courts have, furthermore, failed to fight the erosion of civil liberties. The judiciary have, by their silence, allowed this erosion to gain momentum and the courts now find themselves bereft of their traditional role of an independent arbiter and protector of individual rights. The total picture is therefore that of a regime which has treated the courts of this land with disdain. We cannot therefore have confidence in those courts; they are not the courts of the people of South Africa; they cannot dispense 'injustice' except in accordance with the guidelines and rules devised by the oppressor.

Our ideal is that all shall be equal before the law; that the courts shall be representative of all the people. While, therefore, we find ourselves compelled by circumstances to participate in the proceedings in this case, as we intend to do, we have no desire, nor do we find it at all necessary, to plead to the charges brought against us in this court. Finally, we cannot fail to observe that there are numerous political trials before the courts in this country. Hundreds of our comrades, decent, sensitive and intelligent men and women, are daily arraigned; they have but one thing in common: they pursue the same ideal of freedom which the fathers and grandfathers of today's rulers sought and fought for against the British. But they seek something more; they struggle for a new society where discrimination based on the colour of one's skin shall be a thing of the past. Hundreds of those noble souls already populate the gaols of this country. Thousands more have suffered severe deprivation while being held in detention for indefinite periods without trial, the anguish and desperation of it all sometimes driving some of them to adopt extreme measures, such as hunger strikes, in order to draw attention to their plight.

We in this court are but a humble few. We tread a thorny path which is rapidly becoming a highway. We do expect pain, prison and death if need be. But our cause is just. Therefore, and in accordance with the ideals enshrined in the Freedom Charter, we here, together with the rest of the people of South Africa, black and white, equals, countrymen, brothers and sisters, will strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until a just and democratic society is achieved. Victory is certain. South Africa shall be free.

South 22.3.89

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The White House

c/o The United States Consulate in SA

Dear President Clinton

We are addressing you on behalf of the African National Congress PWV region, COSATU, SACP and other democratic organisations in the PWV Region of our Country.

We are of the opinion that the United States Administration can make a very important contribution to the peace process in Angola both in its capacity as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and as one of the three Observer countries under the Bicesse Accords.

The policy of previous USA administrations in giving support to UNITA and in refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Angola means that your administration is in a position to send a very clear signal of its commitment to peace and democracy.

As you are aware the UN Security Council has acknowledged (Resolution 804 of 29 January, 1993), that the crisis in Angola has arisen primarily due to UNITA's intransigence. This is illustrated by its initial rejection of the election results, its withdrawal from the new Angolan armed forces, its seizure by force of provincial capitals and municipalities and its failure to take part in the political institutions established as a result of the legislative elections including the Government of National Unity.

These activities amount to a clear attempt by Unita to achieve by force what it was denied by the ballot box.

In view of the UN's role in monitoring and verifying the peace process in Angola, the international community has a duty to ensure that the results of the electoral process are respected both for the sake of the Angolan people and to uphold the authority and influence of the UN.

We are encouraged by the clear warning to UNITA made by your State Representative as well as support of the US delegation for Resolution 804. We are encouraged by statements that US aid for UNITA has been terminated. We are strongly of the opinion that if peace and democracy are to be restored in Angola then the time is ripe for a major initiative by your administration.

We urge you to establish formal diplomatic relations with the elected Government of Angola. We further urge you to ensure that all foreign support for UNITA is immediately brought to an end especially from South Africa and Zaire. The continuing reports of support for UNITA by the Pretoria regime are especially disturbing to us.

We wish to take this occasion to congratulate you on your election as President of the USA and urge you to give this issue your urgent attention.

Thank you very much.

1. Paul Mashatile
ANC PWV Secretary
2. Amos Masondo
COSATU Wits Secretary
3. Jabu Moleketi
SACP PWV Secretary

US Could Make Important Contribution To Angola - ANC

CAPE TOWN Mar 1 Sapa

The US administration could make an important contribution to the peace process in Angola, both in its capacity as a permanent member of the United

even when a climate for negotiation is created, the struggle for a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa must and will continue. In this regard, it is important to note that the struggle for a non-racial South Africa is a long and arduous one, and it is essential that all forces committed to this perspective further to consolidate their unity and continue to act together to advance towards the common goal.

The Struggle Continues!

The People's Victory over the Apartheid System is Assured!

ISSUED BY ANC, PO BOX 31791, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Nations Security Council and as one of the three observer countries under the Bicesse Accords.

This appears in a letter from African National Congress Western Cape chairman Dr Allan Boesak to President Bill Clinton.

It was handed to officials at the American Embassy by ANC regional assistant secretary Willie Hofmeyr and South African Communist Party regional secretary Lizo Nkonki in Cape Town at lunchtime on Monday.

A copy of the letter says the policy of previous US administrations in giving support to Unita and in refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Angola meant that "your administration is in a position to send a clear signal of its commitment to peace and democracy".

The letter continued: "As you are aware the UN Security Council has acknowledged (Resolution 804 of January 29, 1993) that the crisis in Angola has arisen primarily due to Unita's intransigence.

"This is illustrated by its initial rejection of the election results, its withdrawal from the new Angolan armed forces, its seizure by force of provincial capitals and municipalities and its failure to take part in the political institutions established as a result of the legislative elections including the government of national unity.

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-- ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu handed a similar letter to the American Consul in Johannesburg on Monday.

even when a climate for negotiations is created, this will not mean that this system will have been abolished. Therefore the struggle for a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa must and will continue.

In this regard, it considered with all due seriousness, suggestions that it should unilaterally suspend the armed struggle. While appreciating the sincerity of purpose underlying these suggestions, it however confirmed that the only just and correct way to approach this question is to adhere to the positions contained in the Harare and UN Declarations. It therefore reiterates that upon the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations, the ANC will seek to negotiate with the Pretoria regime a suspension of hostilities by both sides.

The NEC views with grave concern and strongly condemns the continuing campaign of repression carried out by the South African and bantustan police and armies. The State of Emergency and repressive legislation, such as the Internal Security Act, which have been maintained, legalise and encourage this campaign of terror against the people.

The ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe have a responsibility to defend the people against this terror. There can therefore be no question of a unilateral moratorium or a suspension of the armed struggle in a situation in which the violence of the apartheid system continues unabated. The Pretoria regime has an urgent responsibility to take all the necessary measures to end this violence and thus create the situation when the present obligation on our part to act in defence of the people, arms in hand, will fall away.

The NEC reaffirms the need for the continuation of mass political action to achieve the objectives contained in the resolutions of the Conference for a Democratic Future and the January 8th statement of the NEC, to realise the intention of this Year of People's Action for a Democratic South Africa.

The international community imposed sanctions against South Africa with the express purpose of ending the apartheid system. There can therefore be no justification for lifting these sanctions at this stage. The NEC strongly condemns the position taken by the British government on this issue.

These positions not only hinder the process leading to the speedy liquidation of the apartheid system, but are a betrayal of decisions of the European Community and the UN General Assembly, to which the British government is party, that sanctions would not be lifted until profound and irreversible changes had taken place in keeping with the objectives contained in the UN Declaration on South Africa, adopted unanimously last December.

The National Executive Committee therefore calls on the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the European Community to reject the call of the Thatcher government to lift sanctions and thus repulse its efforts to weaken the international struggle to end the apartheid system.