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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO OAU SUHHIT

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Honourable fellow participants at this august Summit of the Organisation of African Unity,

I

Allow me to convey our deep gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this historic Summit of Africa's nmtherâ\200\224body. We bring you greetings from the cross-section of the oppressed and democratic forces of our country, including especially our leaders and patriots within Pretoria's gaolsr In their millions,

our people are keenly interested in this Summit and the festivities to mark the jubilee of their organisation.

In their own way,

under the jaekboot of a regime that despises everything African, the people of our country are marking the 25th Anniversery of the founding of the OAU ~ fired by the determination to realise the lofty objectives it set itself from its inceptionâ\200\230

Allow me also to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the OAU..

Over

the

past

year,

the Organisation has made tremendous strides

in

ensuring joint action around many an ieseue facing our continent.

In the

continuing efforts to rid Africa of the last vestiges of colonial and racist rule; in the endeavours to find a just settlement to the conflicts , in the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and between Chad and Libya; in the joint search for a way out of Africa's crippling debt problem _ and in many other

endeavours

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the

statesmanship

and

skilful

leadership

of

His

Excellency President Kenneth David Kaunda, the outgoing Chairman of the OAU

and Chairman of

the Frontline States of (southern Africa,

was clearly

manifest. We take this opportunity to congratulate him, and to express our

confidence that his invaluable talent shall always stand Africa in good

stead.

Mr Chairman,

To reach this historic moment, the people of South Africa relied to a great measure on the support of the Organisation of African Unity and its member states.

To

advance

and advance

decisively will

require

more

decisive

support to the struggling masses of our country and those among the member states of the OAU who are in the 'frontline of Africa's last liberation fight. we are certain that you will not fail us.

Finally, we would like to express Our solidarity with the struggling people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO,

the SADR,

and the people of

Palestine under the leadership of the PLO.

LONG LIVE THE OAU!

LONG LIVE AFRICA!

In the 25 years of its existence, the Organisation has had to contend with countless machinations aimed at undermining the aims it set itself. Racism and reaction shall always seek to divide, to block and reverse development efforts, to violate the sovereignty and independence of African states and to prevent meaningful international co-operation.

In each country and region, the strategy of the coloniser consisted, and consists

in, dislocating the efforts of the forces of freedom and independence ~ among the struggling peoples and their supporters.

Inversely, it was, and will always remain, the joint endeavours of Africa and humanity, that would see to the demise of colonial rule.

The stronger and more desperate the adversary, the more decisive should be the input of anti-colonial forces. It is in recognition of this fact that, in his keynote address to the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in 1975 - after the collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire - Mwalimu Julius Nyerere stated: 'We therefore, are talking about Rhodesia, Zambia, South Africa itself, the effective Authority is South Africa, finally far: must be taken into a serious' when

Africa tansidbrs its future strategyâ\200\235.

And that strategy entailed, and has to entail, the intensification of all~round support to the liberation movements and the isolation of the forces of racism and oppression. It is thanks to such support that we have reached the threshold of Africa's dream of total liberation. Yet precisely because of this favourable situation both within andâ\200\234 without South Africa, the

Pretoria regime ~ supported by its imperialist allies -.acts with extyemeâ\200\234 . desperation to salvage itself from a.steteâ\200\224eizzhmineniâ\200\224eellae. am luuv d M [94555441 W-unomoc W,Â»

The Botha regime has intensified repression against all democratic and anti~apartheid forces. Having subjected the country to martial law for over 2 years, the regime cuntinuee to perfect its fascist regulations aimed at quelling the unending revolt of the people. Banning of organisations and activists, detention and torturev\assassinations at home and abroad, and humzro Â«.9 RWCMi~\201, suppression of the media are the stock in trade.

In occupied Namibia, the trail

of murder and repression grows bigger by the day.

Through these

measures, the racists hope to paciyy_ihe_people and regain control of the Crust. i~\202u papalâ\200\235 Mole

situation.

In:: bid to legitimise itself,

the racist regime couples its

murderous campaign with glib noises about reform and the creation of dummy bodies. So surrounded with a coterie of black traitors, it would then proclaim itself the liberator.

We, who have experienced bantustanisation,

dummy parliaments and councils, know what an insult all this amounts to.

In

southern

Africa,

the

past

year

has

witnessed

aggression

and a 200/230

degradation on a scale seldom experienced before.

Pretoria's neeive

invasion of the People's Republic of Angola and intensified support to the

counter-revolutionary bandits by the racists and their allies form part of

the regime's Strategy to roll back the gains of the African revolution. In

Mozambique, so heinous are the crimes committed by Pretoria's surrogates

that even Botha's allies can no longer publicly countenance them. Actions by

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fascist murder squads in the whole of South Africa have been intensified) am} 455d WM 200/234
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the regime flies,

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negotiation and accords. We in southern Africa, Africa and the world, who have lived through such experiences before, know that if and when Botha and his cohorts ever consider negotiating genuinely on any issue, it can only

be as a result of the actual defeats they suffer in the theatre of action.

And for them to so genuinely negotiate, they must not be left with any other choice.

The masses in South Africa know that it is only in struggle that a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa can be realised. Their resolve to attain this goal cannot be suppressed.

Indeed, the acts of open terror by

the Botha regime reflect to a great measure its frustration at having

failed to quell the popular revolt. The African National Congress wishes to report to this august assembly that,

in spite of all the difficulties

placed in the path of democratic forces within South Africa, there is a

significant upswing in the all-round upsurge of the people.

A few days ago, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (and other democratic forces) met at a historic emergency Congress and took far-reaching decisions on the course of action to defeat the apartheid government.

In doing

so,

they were defying measures of the regime aimed at silencing popular

resistance. Among all sectors of the oppressed and democratic forces, there is a staunch determination to act decisively in what the regime does or omits to do.

Progressively
The army militia and the people's defence forces by the

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forces. In 1987 all the oppressed and democratic forces - both black and
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white - are uniting into a mammoth coalition
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While martial law has had some effect on the popular revolt actions on various fronts have increased in number and quality. During the course of last year, strikes by black workers more than trebled; and 1987 witnessed the largest and longest strike in such strategic sectors as mining, post and telecommunications and transport.

In a number of these actions, mass and armed forms of struggle dovetailed splendidly.

The regime has been forced to admit that armed operations of the people's

army, Umkhonto we SizweJare on the increase: It has been forced to concede that it isÂ» suffering :more and. more casualties among its. soldiers: and police. And it can nu longer hide the fact that a greater number of the combatants are actually trained within South Africa. The revolt of the people and the armed actions of their army have yet to decisively weaken the fascist monster. But, the depth of crisis within apartheid ruling circles indicate that that day is not far off; Bothaâ\200\231e crieie ef policy has had a devastating effect on the confidence of the white community including Afrikanerdom. itself. In contradistinction to these who seek solace in extreme chauvinism, more and more individuals even from the doyen of Afrikanerdomâ\200\231e Vintelligenteia are seeking out the democratic movement to contribute their share to the realisation of a just peace in what they have come to accept is our common home. On the other hand, some black soldiers and municipal police have dared to rise ~ driven by patriotic sentiments - against the tyrants. In the same measure as the regime plunges deeper into crisis, the authority and. prestige of the African National Congress continues to gnaw.

Mr Chairman,

The grove of coniferous trees outside Africa House continues to grow and flourish. When the founding fathers - among them giants of all time such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere and Gamel Abdel Nasser - planted them on the 25th of May

1968,

they knew that

the symbolic trees would see their

haile torme,

droughts and mild weather.

They knew too that,

in spite of

whatever turn of events, Africa would not let the grove succumb.

Such has been the fate of this noble creation of the African people. 25 years on,

the Organisation of African Unity flourishes.

It has grown in

size as a consequence of its efforts in fulfilment of the pledge to see Mother Africa liberated.

It has grown in stature and influence on the

continent and abroad for its adherence to the fight to secure for Africa and humanity a prosperous and peaceable environment.

On the occasion of

this, the Jubilee Summit of the OAU, we pay tribute and pledge our loyalty to the lofty and enduring vision of the founding fathers.

We in South Africa hold dear the timeless conviction enshrined in the OAU Charter from its inception, "that it is the inalienable right of all people to control their destiny";

and "...that freedom,

equality,

Justice and

dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African people. For, these principles go to the very root of our denial in our land, and inversely, to the foundation of Our determination to eradicate the scourge of apartheid.

The aims that the founding fathers set themselves and us:

unity' and
solidarity;
co-ordination and
co-operation' in
development;
defence
sovereignty,
territorial
integrity
and
independence;
eradication
of
of

colonialism; and promotion of international co-operation â\200\224 are a profound
source of inspiration to the peoples of our country and our subcontinent.

In southern Africa, these tasks are even more intimately intertwined. As
Africa takes the last lap out of centuries of oppression and colonial
domination, the need teâ\200\230pureue these aims decisively - and ae an integrated
whole ~ cannot be overemphasieed.