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AFRICAN HISTORY

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1 Ji "v ed peacefully, 'tilled
their land, looked after their cattle and involved themselves in other social
activities.

1487 Bartholomew JQias (Portuguese) arrives at Mossel Bay, which
he calls The Bay of Cowherds

1497 (Nov.5) Vasco de Gama (Portuguese) arrives at St Helena en route
to
India, lands on another coast on Christmas Day, calling it
Natal, sailed to the mouth of a small stream he called
Copper River, calling it the Land of the Good People as the
local black inhabitants were hospitable.

1647 Haarlem trading ship of the Dutch East India Company wrecked
at Table Bay; crew who survive suggest the establishment of
refreshment centre at the Cape of Good Hope. Recognition of
the KhoiKhoi as established and substantial cattle breeders
makes this idea attractive to them.

1652 Jan van Riebeeck (Dutch) arrives to set up the refreshment
station.

1657 First recording of slaves at the Cape.

1657 Settlement of so-called Free Burghers (independent colonial
farmers) on Khoi land in the Liesbeek Valley. Each are given
a farm of 28 acres free of tax for 12 years by the settlers.

1659 Chief Autshumayo, leader of the KhoiKhoi, leads the first
battles against the seizure by van Riebeeck of the best
pasture lands in the Cape Peninsula.

1662 Warjof Resistance fought by the Khoi in defence of their land.

1673/77 War of Resistance fought by the Khoi led by Chief Gonnama
over the attempt to dispossess them of their land.

1687 Fever epidemic spreads through the Khoi people, killing many.

1702 First major military clash between trekboers and the Xhosa

people near the banks of the Fish River.

1713 Smallpox - the white man's disease - wipes out thousands of Khoi people.

1770 The Gamtoos River unilaterally declared the Eastern Boundary of the Cape by the Dutch Governors.

1774 From the time of the trekboers arrival wars take place, and this period sees the San fighting wars of resistance against the policy of extermination. The San regarded as outlaws.

The Cape government offers rewards of £3 per head for San of any age and either sex captured alive and handed to serve life imprisonment on Robben Island, then, as now, an island prison.

1779-1792 First War of Resistance fought by the Xhosa against advancing Boers. They succeed in remaining in the area called Zuurveld.

1783 Birth of Shaka, pioneer nation-builder who united different ethnic groups who were later called the Zulus. Shaka's military expertise is legendary, and he is reported to have had up to 80,000 men in a standing army.

1793 Second War of Resistance in which the people manage to regain some land as far into the Cape Colony as the Swartkops River.

1803 In the Third War of Resistance the people manage to maintain their position in the Zuurveld.

1806 British takes over the Cape from the Dutch with a policy to provide military aid to the Boer commandos.

1808 Slave revolt attacks 5,000 Cape Town soldiers. One of many such revolts which results in the hanging of 5 leaders with 50 participants flogged and sentenced to life imprisonment in chains.

1811 Fourth War of Resistance and the Xhosa people are again driven back across the Fish River.

1818/1819 5th War of Resistance led by Makanda. 10,000 warriors attack Grahamstown, but fail due to superior weaponry used by the colonisers. Makanda sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island. After being in prison for one year, on Christmas Day, the prisoners rise up, overpower the guards and take away their guns. They seize a boat and head for Blaauwberg Beach. However the boat capsizes, all manage to swim to shore, but Makanda swept off the rocks and drowned.

1824 Moshoeshe, pioneer nation builder, united the Sotho-speaking people, fortifies Thaba Bosigo, his mountain stronghold, against constant aggression by the Boers.

1825 Slave uprising in Worcester which lasts until the slaves are defeated militarily.

1834 Sixth War of Resistance - the colonisers succeed in pushing the Xhosa back across the Kei River and enter the country of the people led by Hintsa.

1836 Resistance by the Tsonga people of the north-eastern Transvaal defeats the early expeditions led by Van Rensburg.

1836 Mzilikazi leads his people into battle against the advancing Boers, defeating them at the Battle of Vegkop.

1837 Mzilikazi and his followers retreat across the Limpopo River after the Boers are reinforced from the Cape.

February 1838 Dingane defends his land and his people against the invading Boers, striking back at Retief and his troops when they come to his headquarters at Mgungundlovu to demand his surrender.

Dec.16 1838 Battle of Blood River (Zulu name is income) also known as Dingaan's Day on which a fierce battle is fought against invading Boers. Today we call it Heroes Day.

1845/75 Sir Theophilus Shepstone, on behalf of Britain, introduces the system of segregation throughout Natal.

1845 Afrikaners settle on the independent land of the Griquas, resulting in open warfare. Again Britain intervenes on the side of the Boers.

1846-48 7th War of Resistance, also known as the War of the Axe.

1849 Britain lays down the 'Warden Line' in which a large area of the Orange Free State is 'presented' to the Boers.

1850-52 8th War of Resistance - War of Umlanjeni - resulting in more conquest of land by the colonisers.

1851 A British attack is led by Warden, on Moletsane's villages on Viervoet Mountain. With the help of Moshoeshe the British are crushingly defeated.

1852 The Pedi people of the Eastern Transvaal, under the leadership of Sekwati, fight off sustained Boer attacks.

1852 Boer Commandos attack the villages of Kwenga and Ngwaketse and ravage crops. Chief Sechele at Dimawe becomes the central figure of resistance to this aggression. The Ngwaketse under Chief Gaseitsiwe, the Ngwato led by Chief Sikgoma and Macheng in the Shoshong region also resist fiercely.

1856 Call for people's rising by Nonqause and the subsequent killing of the cattle, which creates famine over large areas of the Eastern Cape.

1858 Moshoeshoe's forces resist, with the use of firearms. Boers attack Thaba Bosigo but are driven off.

1860 Importation of indentured labour to work in the Natal sugar fields from India starts.

1865

Boers aggressively occupy part of Basutoland (now Lesotho) and launch further attacks on Thaba Bosigo, but are again driven off.

1867

1868

1873

1878

1879

1879

1880

1880

1882

1882

1884.

1884.

1886

1887

The people of Venda defeat the Boers, forcing them to retreat from the Soutpansberg.

Moshoeshe agrees to annexation of Basutoland rather than suffer defeat by the Boers. Although Basutoland becomes part of the British Empire, the people determinedly fight to retain their arms.

Britain wages a savage war against the Hlubi people under the leadership of Langalibalele in Natal.

British and Boer once more combine to defeat the resistance of the people, this time in a war against Sekhukhuni in the Transvaal.

Battle of Isandhlwana - the severest defeat of British imperial might recorded at the time when the British forces are routed by warriors of King Cetshwayo.

Cape Government again robs the people of their land by annexing parts of the Eastern Cape, Idutywa, Griqualand East, and African areas including Pondoland.

Military defeat of the Zulu people by the British who move into Zululand in force and rob the people of their

independence.

The British attempt to disarm the Basuto people. Led by Moshupa and Lerodi, the people resist strongly and are more than a match for the British soldiers. They are allowed to keep their arms.

African workers enter the field of class organisation and struggle coming out on strike for higher wages.

Imbumba Yama Afrika is established in the Eastern Cape. It is the first record of political organisation set up by teachers, clergymen and others.

Annexure of South West Africa by Germany.

Launching of the first African political newspaper - Imvo Zabantsundu, edited by John Tengo Jabavu. Before that there were numerous religious papers owned by missionaries produced for their African converts.

Intensification of the massive search for cheap labour, following the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand.

Annexation of Zululand to the British Empire.

1889 Dinizulu arrested for organising continued resistance and banished to St Helena Island.

1890 Invasion of Mashonaland by settlers of Rhodes's British South Africa Company.

1893 Arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa.

1895 Britain annexes Southern Botswana as 'British Bechuanaland'.

1896-97 Fierce wars of resistance fought by the people of present-day Zimbabwe.

1897 Enoch Sontonga, gifted songwriter and teacher at a Methodist Mission School, writes the first stanza of our national anthem, Nkosi Sikelel'Afrika. Two years later at an induction ceremony in Nancefiek the anthem is sung in public for the first time. A few years later the famous Xhosa poet, S.E.K. Mqhayi, adds 7 stanzas. The full text is published in 1927 in Umthetheli waBantu. During the same year it is also published in the book Imihobe neNtongo.

1897 Britain hands over Zululand to Natal.

1898 African wars of resistance culminate in the defeat of Venda people by the then South African Republic.

Oct 1899 Outbreak of Anglo-Boer War.

1902 African People's Organisation founded, the pioneer political movement among the coloured people.

Dr Abdul Abdurahman for many years its chief spokesman.

May 31 1902 Treaty of Vereeniging signed between the British Imperialists and the defeated Boers.

1904 Chinese labourers imported to the Rand mines.

1906 Pass laws for Indians introduced in the Transvaal - Gandhi leads the passive resistance campaign.

1906 The Bambata Rebellion in protest against the imposition

of a hut and dog tax and against the furnishing of information for the census. Over 4,000 people die in the uprising which is ruthlessly suppressed.

1909 Delegation of African leaders goes to Britain in a vain attempt to prevent the British Parliament approving the South Africa Act.

1910 The conceding of 'independence' to South Africa in 1910 is designed in the interests of imperialism and power is transferred into the hands of the white minority to the exclusion of the black majority.

January 8, 1912
1913

1913

1915

21 Dec 1915

1917

1918

May 1918

January 1919

1919

1919

Founding of the African National Congress.

African women resist the imposition of residential passes by the OFS municipality, organising heroic passive resistance and thereby forcing the municipality to rescind its measures. Many women jailed.

African miners strike at Jagersfontein Diamond Mine after one of their fellow workers is kicked to death by a white overseer. White employees suppress the strike called to protest at the brutality meted out to mineworkers.

11 African mineworkers killed and 37 injured.

The foundation of the International Socialist League by the 'anti war' internationalist section who broke away from the white Labour Party. It stood for full rights for all and socialism, embracing all South Africans without distinction of colour or class.

2,800 African miners strike at the Van Rhyn Deep Mines in a bid to redress some of their grievances.

The 'Industrial Workers of Africa' founded by the ISL in Johannesburg, the first industrial African trade union to be formed.

Anti-pass campaign by women ends in triumph led by the then Bantu Women's League of South Africa - the Women's Branch of the ANC, formed by Charlotte Maxeke.

Bucket strike in which African sanitary workers in

Johannesburg down buckets demanding a 6d rise. 152 strikers sentenced to two months hard labour for breach of contract under the Masters and Servants Act. The ANC launches a campaign for the release of the prisoners which soon turns into a campaign for a general wage increase of 1s a day and the threat of a general strike.

The strikers are released.

The Industrial Commercial Union of South Africa (ICU) founded in Cape Town, embracing workers nationwide at its height.

ANC organises a campaign on the Rand against the pass laws.

70,000 African miners strike against their whole status and pig-level existence. It is highly disciplined and organised and an alarmed government throws police cordons around each of the compounds preventing co-ordination of demands and actions. Troops break through the workers' barricades, with bayonets fixed, killing 3 and wounding 40. Police and armed white civilians attack a meeting of solidarity with the striking miners, killing 8 and wounding 80.

May 24, 1921

30 July 1921

June 1930

Dec.16 1930

Dec.16 1935

1935

Dec.15-16 1939

August 1941

Bulhoek Massacre takes place near Queenstown when Colonel Theodore Truter, a police commissioner, leads 6 squadrons a machine gun and an artillery detachment against the Israelite religious sect collected at their annual gathering on the ^and of their leader and prophet, Enoch Mgijima at Ntabalanga. The slaughter takes 10 minutes and costs 190 lives. Mgijima and his two brothers are sentenced to 6years - their crime? The refusal to demolish huts built on crown land and defiance of white authority.

Formation of the Communist Party of South Africa.

Non-European Convention held in Kimberley as a climax to a campaign of protest meetings and resolutions against the pass laws and the Hertzog Bills. It is attended by more than 100 delegates representing the ANC, the APO, the Indian Congress, the Native Voters Association, the Bantu Union and religious and welfare societies from all over Southern Africa. Dr Abdurahman elected to the chair.

The CPSA calls for a united front campaign against the pass laws culminating in the burning of passes throughout the country on Dec. 16, Dingaans Day. Johannes Nkosi and 3 other African workers attending a demonstration in Durban are shot, stabbed and beaten to death by police.

At the All-African National Convention 400 delegates gather in Bloemfontein to oppose the Hertzog Bills, first formulated in 1925, which propose to remove the limited franchise the Cape Africans enjoyed and define once and for all the area to be allocated to the Africans in the Native Land and Trust Bill.

The National Liberation League for Equality, Land and Freedom launched with Mrs Zaibuniasa (Cissy) Gool as president and James la Guma as general secretary. Its foundation conference adopts a programme and constitution pledged to 'unite all individuals organisations and

other bodies in agreement with the programme of the League to struggle for complete social, political and economic equality of Non-Europeans with Europeans in South Africa', reflecting the need for unity against the white minority.

Statement by ANC Conference in Bloemfontein: 'Unless and until the government grants the Africans full democratic and citizenship rights, the ANC is not prepared to advise the Africans to participate in the present war (World War Two) in any capacity.

Policy and platform statement of the ANC issued by Dr Xuma in Inkululeko calling for racial unity, the ANC being the mouthpiece of the African people throughout South Africa.

1941

1943

/Dec. 18 1945

I 1943/4

\ 1944/45

June 13 1946

Aug.12-19 1946

August 1946

March 1947

1948

1949

May 1 1950

May 1950

June 26 1950

Council for Non-European Trade Unions founded with Gana Makabeni as President and D.Gosani as secretary.

Foundation of ANC Women's League.

ANC annual conference presents the African Claims in South Africa.

Formation of the ANC Youth League, headed by Anton Lambede, Nelson Mandela, O.R. Tambo, Walter Sisulu,

A.P.Mda and others.

Anti-pass campaigns carry the struggle for national liberation forward.

Indian Passive REsistance campaign led by Y.M. Dadoo and Dr G.M. Naicker against the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Acts (Ghetto Act) enacted by the Smuts Government commences.

100,000 African miners strike from the East to the West Rand. Police, with bayonets drawn, charge and open fire, forcing the workers back underground. Hudnreds of workers killed and injured. No official figures of dead released and the strike is broken by the lawlessness and ruthless of the State.

52 people, including Kotane, Dadoo, Bunting, Fischer,

J.B. Marks and Harmel are accused of 'conspiracy' to bring about the strike.

Xuma-Naicker-Dadoo Pact is signed on behalf of the ANC, the NIC and the TIC, and lays a firm foundation for the fighting Congress Alliance, the national liberation front of our country.

Nationalist Party comes to power, entrenching white minority fascist domination of our country.

ANC conference adopts the Programme of Action - strikes, boycotts and resistance. Dr Morolco (president) and Walter Sisulu (secretary) elected to implement this plan which outlines the methods to be used to achieve the right to self-determination of the African people.

General strike against all discriminatory laws and for full franchise rights for all takes place. Trigger-happy police open fire in Alexandra Township and other areas on the Reef killing 18 and wounding 30.

Introduction of the Unlawful Organisations Bill banning the Communist Party of South Africa.

A massive campaign is called by the ANC as an act of national mourning and protest at the police killing of May 1. Since then June 26 - a day of nationwide protests and strikes - has been observed annually as South Africa Freedom Day.

1950

1951

1952

June 26 1952

December 1952

July 1953

Sept.1953

Oct.1953

Dec.1953

17 April 1954

February 1955

Feby. 1955

5 March 1955

April 1955

June 26 1955

June 26 1955

At Witziesshoek in the Orange Free State peasants come out in rebellion against the state policy of cattle culling, shortage of land and starvation. Many are killed by the racist police.

Regime introduces legislation to remove the Coloured people of the Cape Province from the voters roll.

Suppression of Communism Act promulgated followed by a whole series of other repressive measures.

The African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress launch the nationwide Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws.

Chief A.J. Luthuli elected as President-General

Sisulu, Nokwe and others leave South Africa without passports to visit various overseas countries, including Romania, USSR and China.

Coloured Peoples Organisation, later the Coloured Peoples' Congress, under the presidency of James la Guma, is

formed in Cape Town as successor to the APO

Congress of Democrats of white supporters established
committed to upholding Congress policies.

Annual Conference of ANC adopts a proposal for summoning
a congress of the people of South Africa.

Birth of the Federation of South African Women.

60,000 people living in Johannesburg's Western Areas
removed at gunpoint in a massive military-style operation
as part of the regime's policy of Group Areas. The
area is declared "white" and given the name "Triomf".

Moses Kotane and Maulvi Cachalia leave the country without
passports to attend the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung,
Indonesia, as representatives of the South African
Liberation movement.

Formation of SACTU the first non-racial trade union.

It adopts the Freedom Charter and becomes a member of
the Congress Alliance.

ANC launches massive boycott of Bantu Education and
schools by both teachers and pupils, together with an
attempt to organise an alternative system of education.

Congress of the People takes place at Kliptown after
months of organising.

At the Congress of the People, Chief A.J.Lutuli, Dr
Y.M.Dadoo and Father Trevor Huddleston are each awarded
Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe, the nation's highest honour,
given by the African National Congress.

10

August 9 1956

Dec. 1956

March 1961)

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1957)

1958

May 1958

May 31 1959

October 1959

January 1960

February 1960

March 21, 1960

March 28, 1960

March 28, 1960

March 30 1960

July 14 1960

March 1961

May 31 1961

Over 20,000 women march on Pretoria in militant struggle against the extension of passes to African women.

The arrest of 156 leaders of the Congress movement throughout the country on a charge of High Treason

After a trial lasting over 4 years they are found not guilty and discharged.

A Pound-a-Day national minimum wage campaign launched following the Alexandra Bus Boycott of 1957.

Massive unrest erupts in Zeerust following the women's destruction of their pass books.

The people of Sekhukhuniland revolt against the imposition of 'Bantu' authorities as part of the first step towards the creation of a Bantustan and the balkanisation of

our country. 16 peasants, including one woman, executed by the regime in the course of brutal state repression. Similar battles fought in Zululand, Pondoland and Terabuland.

Beginning of the Potato Boycott directed against the savage exploitation of African farm labour.

The first issue of the African Communist, journal of the South African Communist Party produced.

440 miners entombed at Clydesdale Colliery, Coalbrook, in one of the worst disasters in mining history, a reminder of the hardship and suffering endured by the black worker.

Protests and open rebellion break out in Pondoland.

Sharpeville Massacre in which 69 people are killed and many more injured.

O.R. Tambo leaves South Africa illegally on the instruction of the ANC to carry on work outside the country.

ANC calls a nationwide stay-at-home in protest at the Sharpeville massacre. Pass books are burned in countless bonfires.

Regime declares a State of Emergency and arrests over 2,000 people. Unlawful Organisations Act used to ban the ANC and PAC.

CPSA, following its dissolution in 1950, announces its functioning as the SACP, operating underground.

All-in African Conference with 1,400 delegates held in Pietermaritzburg under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. Conference calls for a national convention to decide on a new constitution.

Country placed on a war footing to smash the nationwide strike called to protest against the establishment of the so-called Republic of South Africa.

June 26, 1961

Dec.11, 1961

Dec.16, 1961

January 1962

1962

Sept. 1962

Oct. 1962

January 1963

Oct.63 - June.

Nov.6 1964

July 21, 1967

July 30/31 1967

May 1969

July 1969

1973

Mandela declares the next stage of the struggle to be one of non-collaboration and states that he would remain underground to lead it. He would continue to act as the spokesman for the National Action Council.

Chief A.J. Lutuli, President of the ANC, receives the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo and declares: "There can be no peace until the forces of oppression are overthrown."

Formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the People's Army.

Mandela secretly leaves South Africa to participate in the conference of the Pan African Freedom Movement of East, Central and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa.

He also visits several other countries, receives military training and return to South Africa to continue the struggle underground.

The Road to South African Freedom the programme of the SACP, adopted at its 5th national conference held illegally in Johannesburg.

Congress of Democrats banned under the Suppression of Communism Act.

ANC Conference held in Botswana. Delegates come from

all over South Africa and from abroad.

Regime places blanket ban on all named and banned people. ANC decides to send some leading cadres abroad to set up external missions of the ANC and reinforce the work being done by the liberation movement from abroad.

>4 The Rivonia Trial, which results in Mandela, Mbeki, Sisulu, Goldberg, Kathrada, MhLaba, Mlangeni and Motsoaledi being sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mini, Mkaba and Khayingo, 3 prominent trade union leaders from the Eastern Cape, are executed.

Chief A.J.Lutuli, President-General of the ANC, feared and hated by the apartheid regime, is killed in highly suspicious circumstances.

The 'Lutuli Detachment', comprising ZAPU and ANC guerrillas crosses the Zambesi into Rhodesia at the start of the Wankie and Sipolilo battles lasting until late 1968.

Seven-day ANC consultative conference held in Morogoro, Tanzania. The main aim is to bring about a qualitative change in the organisational content of our movement in keeping with the new situation - namely: a Revolutionary People's War.

Inaugural conference held of the South African Students Organisation (SASO) at Turfloop University.

Waves of massive strikes in Natal shake the apartheid regime.

12

May 8, 1975

June 25, 1975

August 9, 1975

Nov. 11, 1975

March 27, 1976

June 16 1976

Sept.12, 1977

Oct. 1977

1979

April 6, 1979

1980

January 1980

Brarn Fischer dies in prison while serving a life sentence for his consistent and fierce opposition to the racist regime in the struggle for the national liberation and social emancipation of all South Africans.

Independence of Mozambique proclaimed under the leadership of Frelirno after a long and bitter war culminating in the collapse of Portuguese Colonialism in Africa.

On the occasion of the 70th birthday Moses Kotane awarded Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe, the nation's highest honour.

The People's Republic of Angola is born during a massive multi-pronged invasion of the country by the South African racist army and other neo-colonial forces.

The South African invading army defeated and humiliated by the Angolan People's armed forces, retreats into neighbouring Namibia.

The Soweto Massacre and Uprising. About 1,000 children killed in Soweto and hundreds in other parts of the country during the ensuing months of nationwide resistance.

Death in detention of Steve Biko. The murder of Biko drew attention to not only the bestiality of the S.A.Police but also the corruption of the medical profession, whose members had evidently been issuing false death certificates to cover assassinations.

Banning of 17 organisations, including the World and Weekend World newspapers, in massive state repression of people's resistance.

Declared the Year of the Spear in tribute to our history of unbroken resistance as symbolised by the Battle of Isandiwana on January 22, 1879.

Solomon Mahlangu, people's hero, is hanged in Pretoria.

Declared the Year of the Charter, to mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Freedom Charter at the Congress of the People on June 26, 1956. SACTU, on its 25th anniversary, declares 1980 The Year of the Worker.

The Silverton Siege, ANC guerrillas intercepted en route to fulfil a mission, take refuge in a Bank in Silverton, Pretoria. Explaining the policies of the ANC to the hostages, they pledge not to hurt them but demand the release of Nelson Mandela. In a bungled operation the police storm the Bank, in the ensuing shoot-out the police kill some hostages as well as the 3 guerrillas.

But some police are also killed, a fact held as a tightly guarded secret by the regime.

March 1980

March 13, 1980

April 18, 1980

June 1, 1980

June 26 1980

Nov.14, 1980

Nov.28, 1980

1981

Jan.30, 1981

Feb.14, 1981

The Sunday Post launches nationwide campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela, correctly interpreting the demands of the vast majority of the people in our country and re-inforcing prior calls by the international community for the release of the people's leaders and all political prisoners held in South African jails. Hie campaign received tremendous support both nationally and internationally, with at least 15 million people signing the petition forms demanding Mandela's release.

Death of Lilian Masediba Ngoyi at the age of 68. Ma-Ngoyi as she was affectionately known by all her comrades in the struggle and millions of the followers of the African National Congress, has always been in the front ranks of our revolutionary struggle, occupying leading positions as the first President of the ANC Women's League and as second President of the Federation of South African Women. She was also a leading member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC.

Zimbabwe becoems independent, marking the end of a long and bloody struggle.

Flames of Freedom, the biggest ever seen in South Africa, leap into the skies as Umkhonto we Sizwe strikes at the Sasol complex, causing damage estimated at R66,000,000 - originally announced as R6% million.

ANC awards Isitwalandwe/Seaparankoe to Govan Mbeki and to Bishop Ambrose Reeves.

Nelson Mandela awarded the JawaharlaL. Nehru Award for International Understanding, received on his behalf by President O.R. Tambo.

At a ceremony at the headquarters of the International

Committee of the Red Cross, the ANC declares its adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocol 1 of 1977 on the humanitarian conduct of the war.

Declared the Year of the Youth in tribute to the heroism of our youth.

A Commando of the South African fascist army raids Mocambique, brutally assassinates 12 ANC members in Maputo, and kidnaps 3 others.

Reacting to the raid, President Samora Machel addresses a huge public rally in Maputo in the course of his historic speech he declares: "Apartheid is a form of colonialism.

For this reason we (as former victims of the colonialism) understand profoundly the just cause of the South African people; we stand in firm solidarity with the South African people, in firm solidarity with the ANC. The ANC is one of the beacons in Africa that has inspired the national liberation struggle against racism and colonial domination, true fertile ground in which our own liberation struggle took root. It is the patrimony and pride of our continent, the embodiment of the indestructible will of the people for their liberation."

March 11, 1981
May 1981

June 1981

July 30, 1981
August 6, 1981

Dec.16, 1981

Govan Mbeki honoured by the International Organisation of Journalists, is presented with the Julius Fucik Award.

Nationwide protest and boycotts of the regime's celebrations of 20 years of the white republic. The people declare:

There is nothing to celebrate!

Racist Republic - NO!

People's Republic - YES!

Building on the total nationwide rejection of the regime's so-called 'republic celebrations', the people mark the fifth anniversary of the 1976 uprisings, calling for a people's government based on the Freedom Charter.

The demand is echoed the length and breadth of our country, the flag of the regime being burnt and the black, green and gold of the ANC unfurls in many areas. Mass detentions and bannings of leaders and militants take place, road-blocks set up, heavily armed police and soldiers patrol the streets and seal off the townships. A garrison state exists. Umkhonto we Sizwe strikes at strategic targets, blowing up railway lines and engaging the enemy.

Marks the 69th anniversary of the founding of the South African Communist Party

Marks the 25th anniversary of the historic march on Pretoria by more than 20,000 women of all races in protest against the pass laws for women.

Umkhonto we Sizwe, the People's Army, celebrates its 20th anniversary.

January 8, 1982 70th Anniversary of the formation of the ANC