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PRESS RELEASE

The African National Congress of South Africa is reliably informed of the Vorster regime's plans to conduct a massive military operation aimed at the "cleaning up" of the areas regarded as the focal points from which the current popular uprising sweeping South Africa is organised. During the operation the African areas will be sealed off whilst searches are conducted. The objective of the operation which is planned for the 3rd February and is to be carried out by the mobilised fascist army and other para-military forces is primarily and exclusively aimed against the rapidly expanding onslaught by the revolutionary underground movement spearheaded by the African National Congress, especially in the urban areas of South Africa. It is urgent that this new fascist plot against the oppressed people of South Africa should be exposed and condemned.

It will be recalled that during the past few months similar operations although on a smaller scale than now envisaged, have been carried out in the African townships of SOWETO, GUGULETHU, ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP, LANGA and other areas. These have resulted in massive arrests of hundreds of African people, mainly the revolutionary youth who invariably have then been subjected to indescribable torture in the various police stations and prisons to which they have been finally herded. Consequently, the death toll amongst the detainees has risen and the numbers of those permanently maimed in the prime of their youth have increased.

The regime has however learnt with alarm that these drastic measures have not succeeded to break the fighting will and determination of the oppressed people. In the past few months sabotage actions, whose planning and prosecution have constantly baffled the enemy, have increased; daring grenade attacks by units of Umkonto We Sizwe have taken place; the stockpiling of military equipment in secret hideouts has proceeded under the noses of the "all-powerful Gestapo-secret police, and despite whatever measures the regime will adopt in future, the stock-piling of various forms of military equipment for the prosecution of our armed struggle will continue; the African National Congress has continued to distribute underground leaflets calling on the oppressed population to intensify their resistance against fascist tyranny; etc.

The current wave of intensified fascist repression demonstrates the deepening crisis confronting the Apartheid regime which can now only resort to naked force and terror to maintain itself in power. The general panic which is gripping the regime and its supporters is further underlined by the DEFENCE AMENDMENT BILL now before the South African racist parliament which seeks to subject the population of South Africa to a permanent state of emergency under a military dictatorship. These are undoubtedly the final acts of desperately holding on to power against the declared will of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa.

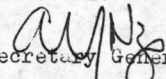
The African National Congress calls upon the entire people of South Africa, and in particular the underground revolutionary movement to defeat any attempts planned for 3rd February and any time in future aimed at the eventual "destruction" of the determined resistance of the oppressed majority Black population. All attempts to destroy the vanguard liberation movement, the African National Congress, have failed, in the past, so must it be in the future as well.

We call upon the revolutionary working class to hit back at the sealing of our townships on the 3rd February or at any other time by massive industrial actions all over the country. This will serve as the people's reply to the intensification of fascist repression.

We call upon the current session of the O.A.U. Liberation Committee to unreservedly condemn the oppressive Apartheid regime. The revolutionary movement must be given more material aid to increase its capacity for the confrontation of the terrorist regime in South Africa.

The oppressed people of South Africa are determined never to turn back. Victory is certain!

Alfred Nzo

  
Secretary General.

**AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**  
**(SOUTH AFRICA)**

A.N.C. (SA)  
Lusaka  
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