

MsM/010/0058/5

# namibia

# THREAT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

## SWAPO PRESIDENT GUEST AT IDAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO, was a special guest at the IDAF Annual Conference which took place in Weybridge, Britain, on 26-28 September, 1980. In his address to delegates, Mr. Nujoma paid special tribute to the work of the IDAF and particularly to its President, Canon L.J. Collins. He praised Canon and Mrs. Collins 'for their dynamism, clear vision and sense of sympathy and understanding of the problems of fascism, repression and brutalisation of the people of Southern Africa by the white minority racist regime of South Africa'.

'During the 17 years of his leadership of the IDAF, Canon Collins has consistently dedicated a relentless commitment to the fight against the abhorrent policies of racial enslavement, exploitation and dehumanisation of the majority of the Southern African people', Mr. Nujoma said. He thanked the Fund for providing

'documentation, publications and comprehensive information on the practices of the racist South African regime in South Africa and Namibia', thus helping to 'raise the consciousness of the world community on all aspects of the deplorable situation in Southern Africa'.

Mr. Nujoma spoke of the serious threat of war facing the entire international community, and arising from South Africa's military build-up. He pointed to the attacks on Zambia and Angola, the deployment of mercenaries and the increasing militarisation of Namibia. South Africa had deployed its divisions, armed with Mirages, Buccaneer bombers, Impalas, helicopters and tanks, against the People's Republic of Angola under the pretext of bombing SWAPO bases. Hundreds of civilians, particularly women and children in villages in the bush, had been killed and maimed. Mr. Nujoma criticised the Western powers for failing to act on appeals from Zambia and Angola, and noted that very little publicity had been given in the Western press to South African aggression against neighbouring independent African countries.

The President of SWAPO warned that the political situation in Namibia was critical. South Africa was deploying all methods to destroy SWAPO, without actually banning the organisation. He described the methods used by the security police of arrest, detention and torture of opponents of the regime, and gave details of a number of recent cases (previously reported in *FOCUS*) resulting in deaths and disappearances of prominent businessmen and other individuals. He warned that 'South Africa wants to make Namibia a permanent base and a battleground'.

Questioned about the Kassinga detainees, Mr. Nujoma confirmed previous reports from other sources that they are being held in a detention camp at Hardap Dam. He said that a local farmer, who had inadvertently come across the camp, saw the detainees and confirmed the mutilations they are reported to have suffered. Mr. Nujoma pointed out that SWAPO was treating South African prisoners of war according to the Geneva Conventions, while South Africa treated SWAPO freedom fighters as criminals. He expressed grave concern about the conditions of detention of SWAPO guerillas, and about the disappearance of people.

## PRESIDENT NUJOMA SPEAKS TO FOCUS

### REPRESSION

*What are the distinctive features of political repression in Namibia?*

It started with the Terrorism Act in 1967, which was passed after the launching of the armed struggle in 1966. SWAPO leaders who were arrested, including Herman Toivo ja Toivo, remained in prison for one year without trial while the Act was being formulated. Many of our colleagues were arrested under the Terrorism Act, which was applied in South Africa itself later.

During the country-wide strike in 1971/2, the administration proclaimed a state of emergency. This was in fact similar to the Terrorism Act and strengthened the position of the police and army to act without recourse to the Courts.

Early last year, the South African Administrator General Steyn proclaimed martial law to protect the soldiers and empower them to carry out all kinds of torture and even kill people. The families of these victims, lawyers or doctors have often been unable to trace them.

Recently, the South African government have trained a special Murder Squad similar to the Nazi Hitler SS. In Namibia it comprises about 40 whites and 50 blacks. Sometimes the whites paint themselves black and put on uniforms and carry weapons similar to those of SWAPO freedom fighters. They attack people, they shoot people, they rape women. The South African radio will then broadcast immediately that SWAPO guerilla fighters have done

this. Landmines are planted on roads, killing people.

South African soldiers and tribal armies are encircling the workers' compound at Katutura on the outskirts of Windhoek. They have so far killed two workers and injured more than four. They are there to threaten the people because they consider this to be a hotbed of SWAPO.

*Do you think that South Africa's claims that apartheid is being abolished in Namibia have any truth?*

The regime was compelled by our military and political actions to create the cosmetic sort of changes they have made, to allow some Africans who are well-dressed to enter certain hotels and restaurants. SWAPO does not fight for reforms in the colonial system, we are fighting to completely overthrow and uproot all the colonial institutions that have been imposed on our people. The kind of independence South Africa envisages for Namibia is nothing but the bantustans.

### ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEMS

*With the growing repression, what difficulties is SWAPO facing in mobilising people inside the country?*

The difficulties are certainly there. Our comrades the party functionaries in Windhoek and the entire leadership have been arrested, they are in detention right now. Some of them are restricted to their residences and not allowed to move without police permits.

The main aim is to silence SWAPO. There is a policeman, who is armed, to see who is opening the office. As soon as somebody enters the office he is seized, taken to the police and thrown into prison under the notorious Proclamation AG26. Our office is still there, but it is not opened because of this constant harassment, arrest and torture of SWAPO leaders and members.

We are able to mobilise the masses of the people politically because the majority of Africans in Namibia today are politically mature. We organise all kinds of meetings, we also broadcast from Zambia, from Tanzania and Angola, telling the people to be on the alert. Of course our army is already striking up to Windhoek and the south of Windhoek. Hundreds and hundreds of people from all walks of life in Namibia, students, youth, women, workers, intellectuals, are daily joining the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. We rely on our people and with their support there is no doubt we will win the final victory.

### POLITICAL PRISONERS

*Do you have any up-to-date information on conditions for Namibian prisoners on Robben Island?*

The scant information we have received about the health conditions of our colleagues is that they are terribly bad. They are given

*Continued on p.7*



Approx. Date	Place	Name (Age)	Details (where known)
July 1980	Umtata	Walter Moreng THEBE Mathew T.K. THULO Isaac Diphoko TSHITHLO Mpumelelo Michael YANTOLO	Sec. 10 ISA Sec. 10 ISA Sec. 10 ISA Sec. 10 ISA
15.7.80	Grahamstown	Chris WATTERS	NUSAS Chairman at Rhodes University. Sec. 6 TA
21.7.80	Mdantsane	Melvin Mlandeli Dlaki VANI	Sec. 22 GLA
28.7.80	Durban	Nicholas 'Fink' HAYSOM	Former NUSAS leader. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 4.8.80
29.7.80	Mdantsane	Alfred METELE	Field worker Dependents Conference. Ciskei Emergency Laws
29.7.80	Mdantsane	Nkrumah METELE	Student at Mzomhle High. Ciskei Emergency Laws
29.7.80	Durban	Mike PAGE	Students Natal University. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 3.8.80
29.7.80	Durban	Garth SENEQUE	
30.7.80	East London	Phillip GROOM	Student John Bisseker. Re. 31.7.80
August 1980	Umtata	Elliot CWELE	Former Transkei Police Commissioner
August 1980	Johannesburg	Phillip DLAMINI	Secretary BMWU. Sec. 21 (d) GLA
2.8.80	Cape Town	Dawood KHAN	Chairman W. Cape Traders Assoc. Rearrested on release
6.8.80	Kimberley	Mlulami Ben FANI	Student. Sec. 50 CPA
6.8.80	Kimberley	Rodney MOKUBUNG	Student. Sec. 50 CPA
6.8.80	Kimberley	Connie MOLUSI	Student. Sec. 50 CPA
6.8.80	Mdantsane	Pumeza NGXALE	Ciskei Emergency Reg. R252
6.8.80	Kimberley	Paulos TATI	Student. Sec. 50 CPA
7.8.80	Soweto	Thami GQWETA	Founder member COSAS. Rel. 11.8.80
7.8.80	Soweto	Jabu NGWENYA	Founder member COSAS. Rel. 11.8.80
10.8.80		Matthews THULO	Rearrested on release. Sec. 6 TA
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Guy BERGER	Journalism Lecturer Rhodes University. Sec. 6 TA
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Ashwin DESAI	Journalism Student Rhodes University. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 22.8.80
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Mike KENYON	Science Student Rhodes University. Sec. 6 TA
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Ian MGIJIMA	Journalism Student Rhodes University. Sec. 6 TA
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Vuyani MQINGWANA	Doctoral Student Rhodes University. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 17.9.80
11.8.80	Grahamstown	Ihron RENSBURG	Pharmacy Student Rhodes University. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 22.8.80
12.8.80	Grahamstown	Alan ZINN	Phys. Ed. Student Rhodes University. Sec. 6 TA
13.8.80	Cape Town	Three Juveniles two 17 yr. olds, one 15 yr. old	Sec. 22 GLA
13.8.80	Johannesburg	Hope MAMABALO	Executive Member BMWU. Sec. 22(1) GLA
13.8.80	Nyanga	Oscar MPETHA (71)	Chairman Nyanga Residents' Assoc. Nat. organiser Af. Food & Canning Workers Union. Organiser of 'red meat' boycott. Sec. 6 TA
13.8.80	Nyanga	Leon MQHAKAWI	Assistant Sec. Nyanga Residents' Assoc. Organising Sec. Commercial, Catering & Allied Workers' Union. Organiser of 'red meat' boycott. Rel. 22.8.80
13.8.80	Cape Town	Carol PLAATJIES (15)	Student — Sizamile High. Sec. 6 TA
13.8.80	Cape Town	Nancy QIKA (15)	Student — Sizamile High. Sec. 6 TA
15.8.80	Cape Town	Johnson NGXOBONGWANA	Chairman Crossroads Residents' Assoc. Rel. 15.8.80
16.8.80	Cape Town	Goodwill BOTHA	Chairman Guguletu Residents' Assoc.
16.8.80	Nyanga	Edward KHWEZA	Secretary Nyanga Residents' Assoc. Sec. 22 GLA
16.8.80	Nyanga	Melford STUURMAN	Vice-Chairman Nyanga Residents' Assoc. Sec. 22 GLA
20.8.80	Johannesburg	Gatsby MAZWI	Acting Secretary BMWU. Sec. 22 GLA
22.8.80	Nyanga	Temba MPETHA	Son of Oscar Mpetha. Rel. 5.9.80
26.8.80	Cape Town	Zubeida JAFFER	Reporter on Cape Times. Sec. 6 TA
28.8.80	Guguletu	Phindile VUMAZONKE	SRC Member I.D. Mkize High. Sec. 22 GLA. Rel. 10.9.80
1.9.80	Idutywa	Saul K. NDZUMO	Former Transkei Minister of Interior. Died in detention 10.9.80
1.9.80	Soweto	Sipho NHLAPO	Student — Morris Issacson High. Sec. 22 GLA
2.9.80	Middelburg	Welcome KUBHEKA	Principal Sozama Senior Secondary School. Sec. 22 GLA
2.9.80	Middelburg	Jabu SEDANE	Sec. 22 GLA
9.9.80	Port Elizabeth	Duma LAMANI	Leader P.E. Students Committee
9.9.80	Port Elizabeth	9 Students	Detained with above. Members of executive of PESCO.
11.9.80	Guguletu	Bafo BAM	Members Parents' Action Committee of Guguletu.
11.9.80	Guguletu	Joe NDIKI	Sec. 22 GLA. Released 23.9.80
11.9.80	Guguletu	Nozipho NGELE	
September 1980	Cape Town	Sweetness NDUNA	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
September 1980	Cape Town	Michael NTOYANTO	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
September 1980	Cape Town	Vuyisile MZAZA	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
September 1980	Cape Town	Vusumzi MBETHA	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
September 1980	Cape Town	Kent MKALIPI	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
September 1980	Cape Town	Peter HENDRICKS	Student. Sec. 22 GLA
21.9.80	Cape Town	'Oupa' Pule LEHULERE	President Fezeka High SRC. Sec. 22 GLA

## Abbreviations:

BMWU — Black Municipal Workers' Union  
BPC — Black Peoples' Convention  
COSAS — Congress of South African Students

CPA — Criminal Procedure Act  
GLA — General Laws Amendment Act  
ISA — Internal Security Act

NUSAS — National Union of S.A. Students  
SRC — Students' Representative Council  
TA — Terrorism Act



Approx. Date	Place	Name (Age)	Details (where known)
25.4.80	East London	Vuyisile MDLELENI	Former Executive member BPC
15.6.80		Cynthia BISHOT	Exec. Member African Food & Canning Workers' Union. Rel. 17.6.80
15.6.80	East London	Welile MZOZOYANA	Chairman E.L. Branch African Food & Canning Workers' Union. Rel. 17.6.80
28.6.80	Soweto	Arabang MAHAMOLANE	Released 30.6.80
28.6.80	Soweto	Dira MAHAMOLANE	Released 30.6.80
July 1980	Cape Town	Gerald ANDREWS	Member of Committee of 81 Sec 22 GLA
		Rashi Balpersad BUJRAM	Sec. 10 ISA
		Johannes Matthew CLOETE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Cameron Galeboe KOPANE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Nhlanhla Rigney KUNENE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Bernard Tebogo LESHABANE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Mzolisi MABUDE	Lecturer Transkei University
		Ellington Jacob MADONSELIA	Sec. 10 ISA
		Ivan Molefe MASIKE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Sogomoco Moses MOGAMISI	Sec. 10 ISA
		Lesley Matshidiso MOKUNYANE	Sec. 10 ISA
	Umtata	Manelisi NDIBONGO	Former Transkei Dept. of Foreign Affaires.
		Zandile NJOLE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Edith Sindiswa PAKARE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Dawn PHILANDER	Member of Committee of 81.
			Sec. 22 GLA
		Harrison Boitumelo RABORIFE	Sec. 10 ISA
		Raymond SEITSHIRO	Sec. 10 ISA



offenders, despite their age.

The Appeal Court reversed both conviction and sentence in the case of the appellants on the grounds that their lawyer had been irregularly prevented from entering not guilty pleas on their behalf, and irregular questioning had followed leading to prejudicial admissions by the accused. Earlier, the Eastern Cape Supreme Court had upheld the convictions on the grounds that the evidence of a co-accused implicated them (*RDM 12.9.80*). The other two accused (Nos. 1 and 3 in the indictment) were not legally represented at the original trial and there is no report of their appeal.

This case is one of those described by lawyer John Jackson in his book *Justice in South Africa* (1980), in which he demonstrates that all four accused were younger and smaller than the youths seen setting fire to the New Brighton house; that all four were beaten by Sgt. Nel and Maj. de Jongh of the Port Elizabeth police; that their thumbprints were affixed to confessions written by the police; that they pleaded guilty on Sgt. Nel's instructions; and that they understood little of the legal proceedings which took place in court. Under questioning by the magistrate the ac-

the Terrorism Act in June 1978 (*see Focus 17 p.2*.) was dismissed by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein on 18 September.

A teacher in Natal before his arrest, Mbatha was convicted of encouraging others to go for military training. The Appeal Court rejected the submission that evidence against him contained marked discrepancies (*RDM 19.9.80*).

### **ZWELAKHE SISULU**

In May the Pretoria Supreme Court set aside a nine-month sentence on journalist Zwelakhe SISULU imposed for refusing to answer questions in the trial of Mkhwanazi and others under the Terrorism Act (*DD 6.5.80*).

The sentence was imposed in August 1979 (*see Focus 24 p.5*). Mr. Sisulu is the son of ANC leader Walter Sisulu, serving a life sentence on Robben Island.

### **MKHWANAZI AND OTHERS**

The appeal of nine men convicted under the Terrorism Act in March 1980 (*see Focus 27 p.12*) was heard in Pretoria Supreme Court in September. Jeremiah MAJATLADI (23) sentenced to 7 years; Thamsanga MKHWANAZI (38) 7 years; Ronald MAMO EPA (19) 5 years;

(*see Focus 28 p.5*).

The appeal was then forwarded to the Appellate Division which granted leave to appeal. But by that time Dalindyebo had apparently left the Transkei after having been deposed as leader of the Tembus, removed from the Transkei Legislative Assembly and deprived of his official allowance as Paramount Chief, following his conviction (*SP 10/17.8.80, 7.9.80*).

This took place in August, when the Transkei government rejected a recommendation from the Dalindyebo regional authority that Chief Sabata be suspended for two years; the Prime Minister George Matanzima said that Chief Sabata's attitude amounted to a treasonable act and he was therefore being deposed. With an appeal pending, Sabata is technically innocent of the charge, however, and his demotion is regarded by legal experts as improper (*S. Ex. 24.8.80*).

Chief Sabata is reported to have left the country, probably for Swaziland. At the same time as he was deposed, Transkei police raided his home, arresting a Swazi guest there, and those of two of his supporters including Ms. F. Mancotywa, herself on trial (*SP 10.8.80*).