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SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,  
NELSON MANDELA, AT THE FUNERAL OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE ANC, OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO. JOHANNESBURG, MAY 2,  
1993.

Master of Ceremonies,

Our dear Adelaide, Thembi, Dali, Tselane and the rest of  
the Tambo family,

Your Majesties,

Esteemed international dignitaries,

Fellow mourners,

Comrades:

A great giant who strode the globe like a colossus has  
fallen.

A mind whose thoughts have opened the doors to our liberty  
has ceased to function.

A heart whose dreams gave hope to the despised has for  
ever lost its heat.

The gentle voice whose measured words of reason shook the  
thrones of tyrants has been silenced.

We could sense it, but never crystallise the thought that with us was one of the few people who inhabited our own human environment, who could be described as the jewel in our crown .

I say that Oliver Tambo has not died, because the ideals for which he sacrificed his life can never die.

I say that Oliver Tambo has not died because the ideals of freedom, human dignity and a colour-blind respect for every individual cannot perish.

I say he has not died because there are many of us who became part of his soul and therefore willingly entered into a conspiracy with him, for the victory of his cause.

While the ANC lives, Oliver Tambo cannot die!

While Umkhonto we Sizwe exists, Oliver Tambo cannot die!

Oliver Tambo cannot die while his allies in the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions remain loyal to the common purpose.

O.R. cannot cease to be, while the millions of our people gather themselves into the democratic organisations that

The people, the victims of their tyranny, live on.  
All tyrannical systems, whatever the name they give  
themselves - nazism, colonialism, apartheid, racism are  
some of their names - all, without exception, come today  
and tomorrow are no more than a bad memory.  
The opponents of tyranny -  
the South African, Oliver Tambo,  
the South African, Chris Hani,  
the South African, Albert Luthuli,  
the Indian, Indira Gandhi,  
the Indian, Rajiv Gandhi,  
the Grenadian, Maurice Bishop,  
the Zimbabweans, Herbert Chitepo, Jason Mayo and Josiah  
Tongogara,  
the Mozambican, Samora Machel,

Dear brother:

You set yourself a task which only the brave would dare. Somewhere in the mystery of your essence, you heard the call that you must devote your life to the creation of a new South African nation.

And having heard that call, you did not hesitate to act.

It may be that all of us - your dear wife, Adelaide, your children, those of us who are proud to count ourselves among your friends, your closest comrades - it may be that all of us will never be able to discover what it was in your essence which convinced you that you, and us, could, by our conscious and deliberate actions, so heal our fractured society that out of the terrible heritage, there could be born a nation.

All humanity knows what you had to do to create the conditions for all of us to reach this glorious end.

There are many who did not understand that to heal we had to lance the boil.

There are many who still do not understand that the obedient silence of the enslaved is not the reward of

We want to know - when powerful, arrogant and brutal men deliberately close their ears to reason, and reply to the petitions of the dispossessed with the thunder of the guns, the crack of the whip and the rattle of the jail keys, is it not right to bring down the walls of Jericho! Dear brother, dear friend, dear comrade:  
You did all this and continued to maintain tolerance for your detractors and a healthy scorn for your enemies.  
Today we stand watching the dawn of a new day.  
We can see that we have it in our power to remake South Africa into what you wanted it to be - free, just, prosperous, at peace with itself and with the world.  
Let all who value peace say together - long live Oliver Tambo!  
Let all who love freedom say together - long live Oliver Tambo!  
Let all who uphold the dignity of all human beings say together - long live Oliver Tambo!  
Let all who stand for friendship among the peoples say  
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As you loved them, we will, always, stretch out a hand of  
ondearment to those who are your flesh and blood.  
In all this, we will not fail you.