

ON COMRADE BOY MVEMVE ( J.D.)

At about a quarter before one on Tuesday afternoon on the 12th February 1974 a bomb planted in a parcel and addressed to the offices of the African National Congress of South Africa at the Liberation Centre in Lusaka abruptly ended the life of BOY MVEMVE commonly known as J.D., deputy chief representative of the African National Congress in Zambia and a leading member of UMKONTO WE SIZWE the revolutionary army wing of the African National Congress and the entire revolutionary liberation movement of South Africa.

The explosion which occurred as Comrade J.D. was paging through a book received not long before from the post office completely destroyed the African National Congress office and also damaged the neighbouring offices. Two members of the ANC who were with Comrade J.D. at the time of the explosion, Comrades Max Sisulu and Roy Campbells, sustained injuries.

Thus the terrorist agencies of the fascist regime in South Africa have struck once again barely two weeks after the murder, in similar fashion, of Abraham Tiro, leader of the militant SASO. The guilt for these dastardly crimes must be shared equally by the other members of the unholy alliance in Southern Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal and also by international imperialism which is doing everything to perpetuate the existence of these criminal regimes.

The untimely death of Comrade J.D. has robbed the entire revolutionary movement in South Africa of a dedicated, disciplined and courageous fighter whose whole life was fully dedicated to the cause of his people, and whose many-sided qualities as a revolutionary patriot were a source of militant inspiration to his numerous colleagues, inside and



outside South Africa and in the fascist dungeons.

It is also significant that one of his last public functions was in his role as a representative of the African National Congress at a commemoration meeting held to mark the 13th Anniversary of the Commencement of the armed revolutionary struggle of the people of Angola under the leadership of the Peoples' Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

In his address at this gathering Comrade J.D. reminded his audience of the counter-revolutionary activities of the Unholy Alliance of the fascist regimes of South Africa, Portugal and Rhodesia whose designs are to ensure the perpetual political domination and exploitation of millions of people in this region whilst at the same time seeking to consolidate this region as a springboard of neo-colonial penetration of the independent African countries by aggressive imperialism. Comrade J.D. then issued a clarion call for the unity of all the revolutionary forces in all the countries of this region as a necessary pre-condition for speedy victory and destruction of the common enemy.

J.D. was thus not just a dedicated patriot, a true son of his people - he was also a convinced internationalist, a revolutionary combatant against imperialist reaction - the common enemy of all oppressed peoples. In both these roles J.D. was a true mirror and embodiment of the revolutionary liberation movement of South Africa, headed by the African National Congress.

Comrade Boy Mvemve, like many dedicated revolutionaries in our country, believed that it was not enough merely to identify and understand the root causes of the present plight of our people (although like many of his colleagues he recognised the importance of such theoretical knowledge), he participated in practical decisions working for the revolutionary change of the situation in our country. He was not

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only convinced that armed seizure of political power was the only practical solution of the plight confronting the oppressed people in South Africa. Thus he was one of the founder members of Umkhonto We Sizwe and during the brief history of the military wing of our movement, he had risen to positions of leadership which he richly deserved.

Many of Comrade J.D.'s compatriots will recall his inexhaustible energy during political campaigns behind which he threw the full weight of his resourcesfulness as a leading member of the ANC branch in Alexandra Township; as a leading functionary of the underground units of the banned African National Congress in which capacity he constantly travelled on dangerous assignments of the movement to other areas within the Johannesburg complex.

Above all he will be remembered as a member of the leading organ of UMKHONTO WE SIZWE which jointly participated with corresponding organs of ZAPU in planning and executing the military campaigns of the ZAPU/ANC alliance against the combined forces of Rhodesia and South Africa in Rhodesia in 1967-1968.

The main feature of political developments in South Africa in the post 1960 period has been characterised by mounting violence and savagery of the reactionary white minority state on the revolutionary movement. The main design of this racist onslaught was to completely muzzle and intimidate the revolutionary movement into submission so as to enable domestic reaction and imperialism to relentlessly pursue the programme of ruthless domination and exploitation of the Black people unchallenged.

The arrest and incarceration of the leaders of the peoples captured at the underground headquarters at Rivonia in 1963 and the continued arrest and imprisonment of other militants,



including leading members of Umkonto We Sizwe over this period; the physical liquidation of others under camouflage of legal processes; the banning and proscription of numerous democrats and the consistent policy of massacre of defenceless Black people as the only answer to their justifiable resistance to continue oppression and ruthless exploitation - all these are weapons which the racist enemy has used in this period.

True to its long-standing revolutionary traditions acquired over decades of unrelenting struggle and because it had swelled its ranks with dedicated and fearless revolutionaries of the calibre of Comrade J.D. and numerous other comrades, the African National Congress not only successfully weathered the blows of the enemy, but, as recent developments have clearly demonstrated, it increased its capacity to mobilise and inspire the Black people to greater victories in their revolutionary struggle.

The mounting struggles of the super-exploited Black workers whose fury has defied the intransigent savagery of the racist state; the growing militancy of the revolutionary youth who are convinced of the urgency of seizure of political power by the viciously oppressed section of the oppressed population, the Black people and the growing resistance of large sections of the population in the Bantustans have panicked the ranks of the racist white minority and have likewise thrown the friends and supporters of the regime into confusion.

The present situation in our country and the mounting violence of the racist state as evidenced by their murderous acts on the leaders of the revolutionary movement have thrown an urgent challenge on the African National Congress. The urgent task facing our entire movement is to raise as soon as possible the present offensive of the people to a much higher revolutionary level.

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The ANC has already given a clear directive and answer to the plight of the people - armed seizure of political power is on the order of the day as the main task of the movement and entire oppressed people. All the energies, all the resourcefulness, all the creative activity of our movement and entire oppressed population must be mobilised for the successful accomplishment of this central task.

We must not just mourn over the death of Comrade J.D. We must rededicate ourselves as never before never to rest until the final liquidation of the reactionary white state. Unity of all the democratic forces is the key.

The African National Congress conveys heartfelt condolences to the family and all the comrades-at-arms of Comrade BOY MVEMVE.

HAMBA KAHLE J.D.

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