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STATU. IITT m TUB PR3JSIDEM1 OF THE ANC AT THE 25th AMITER  
SARY OF  
OAU SUMMIT M'ETING 0? HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT: A  
DDIS ABABA.  
ETHIOPIA - MAY 2-5, 1988\_\_\_\_\_

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished African Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellencies Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Permit-me at the vary outset, on behalf of the national-liher.q.ti on mmra  
mftrht- -%o  
convoy, on this historic ese\*asion our greeting-to--arl3r-tho diatiagt^shed  
pagt4eiT>ants in JUiis solemn On this occasion we should also like to pl  
ace

on record our deep-felt gratitude to the party, government and people of  
Ethiopia  
for enabling us to come to this ancient capital in order to mark an importa  
nt land-  
mark in the life of our continental organisation, the OAU.

Indeed the almost legendary hospitality of the Ethiopoafa people can truljr  
be testified  
to by all of Africa's sons and daughters who over the years have had to c  
ome to the  
birthplace of the OAU.

-ii., i-oc/-~Â£-

Allow-ac to pay special tribute Jio the great son of Africa under whose w  
ise guidance  
and leadership Ethiopia and Africa have been and continue to be indebted  
beneficiaries

- Comrade Mengi tu Haile Mariam, General Secretary of the 0- -t, â€¢. 1 C  
oir i-Vfee of tfce  
Workers Part-' of Ethiopia, President of %e People's Democratic Republic  
of Ethiopia  
and Commander-In-Chief of the Revolutiobary Armed Forces.

Tt-In rrit.'.:-a-Â£a^1 ivig nf-J-gr-o hnruanT\* t.hnt. na hÂ°hn.l Â£\_-oÂ£-  
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libes^a^xmr-masreia^iftfe, we stand ve\$ tfcr address this august and histo  
ric Silver Jubilee  
pf our er,yjt'ioQ)1;iony the~e^ft< Ad wr -tanfl h-rr tnrlnjy-j we can sens

the presence among  
us of many outstanding sons and daughters of our continent who were, some in person  
and others in spirit, with us 25 years ago in this historic city.

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ldiv-  
raaJLj sati o~n afL tha-ohfootiw&s that ttee^SiFS? set itself and OUT  
peoples giL-its. foundationÂ» We speak of both the famous and the unacclaimed who,  
tkrrjtie^bQÂ£^iÂ£i-&^s, enabled us to look at the destiny of our continent  
and our  
own respective countries with confidence, hope, and the certainty of a bright and  
glorious future\*

ly is beyond our power to make up Africa's roll-call of the heroes and heroines who  
were the architects of our victories, who laid the foundations for other successes  
that we have yet to achieve. On this historic day on the African calendar, we  
do recall with pride and passion and pay our humble tribute to the great galaxy of

Our air

leaders of the African Revolution in which are to be found such a  
no-audience Ev-'diim Nketa^omah

Bkrumah, Abdel Gamal Nasser, Jomo Kenyatta, Modibo Keita, Sekou Toure, Amílcar Cabral, Murtala Mohammed, Agostinho Neto, Eduardo Mondlane, Houria Boudiaoui, and

Sanara Ombaka, Seretse Khama, Kenneth Kaunda, Leabua Jonathan, Chief Albert Luthe, Heriberto Cuatrecasas and many others\*

To them all, we owe an undying debt which we can only discharge by persisting in the struggle for the realisation of the vision they shared - the vision of a united, free, prosperous, progressive and peaceful Africa. In a sense, we have a right to stand here and address this Silver Jubilee only to the extent that by our deeds we defend, uphold and promote that vision.

The goal of a united Africa is one that has been handed to us by all the African patriots who have gone before. It is the good fortune of the peoples of our continent that it has been pursued with determination and exemplary vigour by many with whom we have the honour to share this hall today.

This singular dedication and unswerving commitment to Africa's cause embodied in no other than the current chairman of our organisation, His Excellency Comrade Kenneth Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia and Chairman of the Frontline States#

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if jiA Â£hroolloiicy-'Oomradg ICswnAa, for us in the liberation struggle, it is Mrghrly

ui, k l\*

i i-Âiirfios. nt that when the OAU was formed, before the independence of Zambia, you

wei^e the President of PAFHECSA, a unique political organisation in which independent

African states shared a common and equal membership with non-independent territories

represented by their respective liberation movements\* Today, as current

chairman of  
ILV

the OAU, yew-aare presiding over the celebrations marking its 25th anniversary. This speaks eloquently of ^seur tremendous staying power as a leader of the African people.

Tour Excellencies, to us who are ogpraem^a- Ty on;e of the world's most brutal regimes, the decisive issue of the unity of our continent assumes a special meaning and sense of urgency\*

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'â€¢jfltrtib haV'-.i fuu. 1 I L fur tli riir liberation-: -arms in hj.nd, ni rlp.tÂ» t h ^ r>q-Li ra^i.-h that

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no African country can be free until all Afrsca is free, not only ms eminent ly

profound, "but also a vital guide to action which has made victory over th e foraes  
r

of colonialism possible\* In our region of Southern Africa, daily events emphasise the point that to guarantee the freedom of the member states of this Organisation, t the people pf Sputh Africa and those of Namibia must be free, C\

He are therefore convinced that as we mark the 25th Anniversary of the OAU, Africa will renew its commitment to unite in action for the total liberation of our continent and adopt as well as ensure implementation of tije necessary decisions for the realisation of this noble objective which we set ourselves collectively and i individually a quarter of a centyry ago\*

it  
Your Excellencies, twenty five years ago, the Pretoria regime felt confident that it would remain in power for all time. It was steadily building the apartheid structures, certain that it would produce a social system that would guarantee the permanent subjugation of the black majority and the perpetual domination of the Namibian people

through the system of violent repression\* â– \*

Thus if the struggle against the apartheid regime 25 years ago was a formidable one,

it has become an increasingly enormous one today, In pursuance of its sinister

(objective, the apartheid regime has over the years built up 2 colossal military /Ktoo^ might, perfected its repressive machinery in both Namibia and South Africa and has viciously a matter of state policy, continued to wreck havoc in the neighbouring territories to the west with contemptuous disregard for life and property.

It would, however, be incorrect to view the events of our region purely through the prism of the apartheid regime's mounting repression. Indeed the forces of liberation in our region have not only grown in strength but have also registered important victories

Today, the apartheid regime is steeped in a general permanent crisis from which it cannot extricate itself. Its arrogant confidence is a thing of the past. The whole population which the racist regime had hoped to keep united behind the ruling fascist party is a diminishing minority; and is divided as never before. The belief of colonised territories that it had hoped would ring its borders as a protective perimeter surrounding apartheid South Africa from the impact of the African revolution has vanished for ever. ~ rrf-w. H-v.,

As the struggle in both Namibia and South Africa continues to rage with increasing

JaaA\*

For the apartheid regime is terrified by the existence of that unique

ue

political grouping, the Frontline States^ which is ii^eif a product of the1 ant  
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fa ftt\*- CXi- ^ '\*\*\*-L \*. ^ \* t- r,. l. ft-

h^rr- jry^glQ p^rl -&ft-i^pos4reayfc dofenoe-lin j ag-rinst l rot o^?: \*rr~lt44  
ampt-t/ij -k~14  
aa4- rev?rr?j&iy the onward mageh of the-Afrioan revolution^

These are sore of the m6st import mt achievements of the pnrersistent

struggle of the peoples of our continent to destroy tfee apartheid system#

Their

true import lies in the challenge they pose to us. For they point to the tas  
k we

face collectively as we celebrate this Silver Jubilee of the CAUJ Tint nn'1;  
- n?o th/~j

w- â€L^:-v-> pnnniv: i -hi en to .^lvan-e r., bra-- v.--, Trey emphasise t  
he necessity

for us to act decisively and consistently in pursuit of victory,

r Your Excellencies, our commemoration is taring plaoe^rhen Africa, and  
our region are

waging an all-out offensive to rid our continent of the last bastion of colon  
ialism,

The Pretoria regime, in an effort to make the last-ditch stand has itself  
embarked

upon a massive counter-offensive characterised by a new wave of terror  
unleashed

against its opponents in Namibia and South Afrioa,

e

, Having failed to quell the popular political upsurge in South Africa through the zealous application of 1Bte State of Emergency, the regime has now clamped-down on 18 non-violent democratic organisations, imposed severe restrictions on the media

and threatened to take serious action against even religious leaders,

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Haunted by the spectre of the ANC, the apartheid regime has now set up in Africa,

Europe and North America', assassination units, the so-called Z-squads to physically

eliminate ANC leading officials# The recent cold-blooded murder in Paris of Comrade

( Dulele September, ANC Chief Representative, is evidence of Pretoria's sinister designs\*

the Namibia people it has now entered a new phase, wherein it is reportedly murdering systematically, newborn male children. This comes at a time when Adria and the OAU are deeply concerned and pre-occupied with the survival of children\*

This new wave of terror is not in the least fortuitous\* It is the unfolding of a declared programme whose basic tenets were announced by P.W. Botha himself who recently made clear that the regime was determined to eliminate the ANC and all

participate in his bogus reform schemes.

At the regional level the regime has been pursuing the same twin-track policy I..

sation of the neighbouring states as in the case of Angola and Mozambique whilst simultaneously seeking to project itself as being in search of peace through negotiations.

For all those who are closely following the political events in Southern Africa it is abundantly clear that contrary to all appearances the regime has entered into negotiations with Angola from a position of weakness rather than strength. A major contributing factor that has pushed Pretoria to the negotiating table is un

doubtedly,  
the humiliating defeat it suffered at the hands of Angolan forces in the great  
battle of Cuito-Cuanavale\* At Cuito-Cuanavale, the Popular Armed Forces  
of Angola  
j (FAPLA) successfully defended not only the territory of Angola against  
a, marauding  
; invader but have also defended the dignity and honour of Africa\*

â– Thus whilst Angola has entered the talks from a position of Military strength she  
still need all the support that we can muster\* There can therefore be no better  
platform than the 25th Anniversary commemoration for Africa to commit itself to  
the defence of Angola and all the other Frontline States which are carrying the  
brunt of the struggle in South Africa and Namibia\*

The Pretoria regime has transplanted all the evils of its apartheid policy with  
all its viciousness on to the Namibia, which it illegally occupies in  
j defiance of international law\* In the brutal war that this regime is waging  
against

extra-parliamentary opposition in order



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national liberation movements of Southern Africa to pay tribute to Africo.  
and to S  
people of conscience .;orld-wide, who have exerted their energies towards  
the total  
isolation of the apartheid regime and who have actively participated in t  
he campaign  
for the imposition cf comprehensive mandatory sanctions against this reg  
ime\*

Their commitment to this noble cause is vindicated by their conviction tha  
t apartheidd  
is not only the root-cause of conflict in our region but that it is also a crim  
e  
against the entire humanity and a grave threat to world peace and securit  
y\*

We in Southern Africa, are therefore greatly inspired by and indebted to t  
he

- ir world-wide anti-apartheid movement particularly in those countries  
whose governments,

such as those of the United States, United Kingdom and tÂ£e Federatal R  
epublic of  
Germany which collaborate with the racist regimeo From this rostrum we  
urge them to  
intensify their noble efforts\* It, is ohrough onat effort that the debate on  
sanctions  
has now been transformed from "whether to apply sanctions against Pretor  
ia," to  
"what type of sanctions to apply"\*

/it Is for this reason that in the coming month our attention and the attenti  
on of  
Afrioa will be directed towards the US Congress in Washington where th  
e Sanction  
Bill in being debated. We call upon the OAU to urge the US Law-makers t  
o take a  
positive position on this bill, that must surely lead to the end of the conflict  
ir our- region\*

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In the same vein, Africa must call upon the US Presidential candidates, to  
commit  
themselves in favour of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against apar  
theid regime;  
economic assistance for the member states of the SADCC: the establishm

ent of diplomatic  
relations between the U3A and the People's Republic of Angola; the cessation of US  
aid to UNITA... The candidates should also be urged to provide material  
assistance to  
the frontline states to enhance their defence capabilities against South Africa's  
state terrorism, if elected.

13.8 valuable support of the international community, combined with the  
determined  
Beikolve of the peoples of Southern Africa, guarantee our victory against  
the white  
minority Mde\*<sup>±</sup>\* Regardless of the resistance that this common enemy  
may offer,  
the victorious outcome of our struggle can neither be stopped nor denied\* The march  
of history cannot be reversed\* The historic destinies of the peoples cannot be  
negated\* The oppressed people will attain their emancipation, however strong the  
oppressors might appear to be.

Your Excellencies, on this occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the OAU we  
make bold  
to say that the Organisation of African Unity has established itself as a  
force in world politics. Its voice carries such weight as none of our peoples can

attain individually\* Our struggling people expect that on this historic occasion

for ...

all who are gathered here will renew the timeless vows to which this organisation

is bound, to liberate the oppressed, feed the hungry, assert the dignity of those

who are despised, and position our mother continent in its rightful place among the community of nations,.

Above all, we have to repeat that Africa must be freeo Africa must be pr  
osperous0  
Africa must be at peace with itself and thrive in a universe that is free of  
nuclear weapons, zÅ± and governed by civilised norms of friendship and  
cooperation  
a.ong the peoples.

Addis Ababa

- May 25, 1988,