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TO : CHIEF REP./DIP
FR : SGO

BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE CDE MOSES MABHIDA

TODAY WE ARE MEETING HERE WHEN A DARK CLOUD IS CAST OVER THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES OF OUR LAND.

WE ARE MEETING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR LATE COMRADE, MOSES MABHIDA, A member of the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE A.N.C., GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, COMMITTED LEADER OF OUR REVOLUTION, AN UNCOMPROMISING CHAMPION OF THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CDE MOSES MABHIDA DIED ON MARCH 8, 1986, IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE. HE WAS 62 YEARS OLD. THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAS LOST ONE OF ITS MOST OUTSTANDING POLITICAL LEADERS. IN ADDITION TO BEING GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SACP, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS - POSITIONS WHICH HE HAD OCCUPIED FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE KEY ORGANS DIRECTING THE ~~REVOLUTIONARY~~ REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE TO OVERTHROW THE APARTHEID REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BUILD A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM.

MOSES MNCANE MBHEKI MABHIDA WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 14, 1923 AT THORNVILLE IN THE DISTRICT OF PIETERMARITZBURG, NATAL. OF PEASANT STOCK, HIS POLITICS REFLECTED THE DEEP RESENTMENT OF HIS FAMILY AND PEOPLE AT THE THEFT OF THEIR LAND BY THE WHITE COLONISTS. MOSES MABHIDA STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL IN 1932 AND BENEFITED FROM SEVERAL YEARS OF STUDY INTERRUPTED BY PERIODS DURING WHICH HE HAD TO WORK AS A HERD-BOY FOR ONE SHILLING A WEEK. ONE OF HIS TEACHERS, THE OUTSTANDING LEADER, HARRY GWALA, INFLUENCED HIM INTO JOINING THE ANC AND THE INDEPENDANT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND ALSO EXPLAINED TO HIM THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IN DECEMBER 1942 MOSES MABHIDA JOINED THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

AFTER THE DEFIANCE CAMPAIGNE OF 1952, DURING WHICH 8,000 WENT TO JAIL IN PROTEST AGAINST THE APARTHEID LAWS, THE

THE PIETERMARITZBURG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY SUGGESTED THAT MOSES MABHIDA SHOULD GIVE UP HIS JOB AND START WORKING FULL-TIME FOR ^{THE} TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE STARTED WITH THE HORWICK RUBBER WORKERS'S UNION AND THE CHEMICAL WORKERS IN PIETERMARITZBURG. HIS POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION WORK SPREAD FROM PIETERMARITZBURG TO DURBAN AND OTHER PARTS OF NATAL.

MOSES PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HISTORIC CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE IN 1955 WHERE THE FREEDOM CHARTER WAS ADOPTED. 1955 was also the year of the foundation of the SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (SACTU). AS AN ACTIVE TRADE UNIONIST MOSES MABHIDA WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SACTU'S FIRST CONGRESS IN MARCH AND WAS ELECTED ONE OF THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENTS>. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF SACTU, HE BUILT UP THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN NATAL TO A HIGH PITCH OF ORGANISATION. DURING THIS SAME PERIOD HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE ANC IN NATAL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DURBAN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IN A PERIOD OF INTENSE MASS ACTIVITY, MOSES MABHIDA WAS AT THE HEART OF EVERY CAMPAIGN.

FOLLOWING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE RACIST REGIME AFTER THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE IN 1960, MOSES MABHIDA WAS ORDERED BY HIS COMRADES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND ORGANISE SOLIDARITY ACTIONS ABROAD. FOR THE FIRST TIME HE WORKED AS SACTU REPRESENTATIVE AT THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. IN 1963 WHILE STILL ATTACHED TO ~~WFTU~~ WFTU HEADQUARTERS, MOSES MABHIDA WAS INSTRUCTED BY ANC PRESIDENT O.R. TAMBO TO LEAVE THE SOLIDARITY FIELD AND DEVOTE HIMSELF FULL-TIME TO THE WORK OF UMKHONTO WE SIZWE, THE MILITARY WING OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. HE WAS ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF MOSES ~~MA~~ KOTANE IN 1978.

MOSES MABHIDA WAS A MAN ~~TRY~~ TRIED AND TESTED IN A THOUSAND BATTLES DURING THE COURSE OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE. HE WAS KNOWN, LOVED AND RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE MOVEMENT FOR HIS STEADFASTNESS AND DETERMINATION, FOR HIS FAR-SIGHTEDNESS AND WISDOM FOR HIS STEADINESS UNDER FIRE, FOR HIS LOYALTY AND CONSISTENCY. PLACING THE INTERESTS OF HIS PEOPLE AND HIS CLASS ABOVE SELF, HE DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO THE CAUSE OF EMANCIPATION.

NEVER SPRANG HIMSELF READY TO ANSWER ANY CALL MADE ON HIM BY HIS COMRADES HE WAS A GENTLE MAN, BUT POSSESSED OF AN IRON WILL.

HE WAS NOT ONLY AN AFRICAN NATIONALIST AND PATRIOT, BUT ALSO A PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALIST, CONVINCED BY HIS READINESS OF MARXISM LENINISM AS WELL AS BY HIS OWN EXPERIENCE OF THE INDESTRUCTIBLE LINK BETWEEN THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. HE STUDIED AND TRAVELLED WIDELY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND MET MANY OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST LEADERS AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES. ON HIS SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY HE WAS AWARDED THE SOVIET ORDER OF THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLES AND THE ORDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FIRST CLASS.

IN A SPEECH COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACP IN 1981, MOSES MABHIDA SAID:

OUR PARTY'S STAND AS FAR AS NATIONAL LIBERATION GOES IN SOUTH AFRICA IS ~~QUITE~~ QUITE CLEAR. IT FULLY SUPPORTS THE SAME PROGRAMME OF LIBERATION AS THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, FOR THE SEIZURE OF POWER BY AND MAJORITY RULE. THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO QUOTE LENIN, "IS A NECESSARY ALLY OF PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION".

"WE CONDEMN IN ABSOLUTE TERMS THE CONSPIRACY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION AND RACIST, FASCIST SOUTH AFRICA. THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, THE FRONTLINE STATES AND INDEED THE WHOLE INDEPENDANT AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA IS AIMED AT SECURING AND PROTECTING IMPERIALISM, CAPITALIST INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND FURTHER EXPLOITING AND PLUNDERING THE HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES OF THIS REGION.

"THE STRUGGLE OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR PARTY IS THUS A STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM, COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION, FOR LIBERATION, HUMAN DIGNITY AND PEACE."

THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, THE PEOPLE'S ARMY - UMKHONTO WE SIZWE AND THE ENTIRE OPPRESSED STRUGGLING MASSES DIP THEIR REVOLUTIONARY BANNER IN SOLEMN TRIBUTE TO A GREAT FREEDOM FIGHTER WHOSE LIFE AND WORK ARE AN EXAMPLE