

LuM/018/0006/02

WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE

TREASURER-GENERAL COMRADE NKOBI

TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE

SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE

APRIL 1983

Hounarable Prime Minister

Your Excellencies,

Dear Comrades and Friends,

It is a signal honour for me to welcome you, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the African National Congress of South Africa and our President, Comrade O R Tambo, to this historic centre of learning, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College.

This is indeed a momentous occassion for the great people and outstanding leadership of President Julius Nyerere, and the oppressed but struggling people of South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress.

At this important gathering, we wish to pay tribute to President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the C C M, the Government and people of Tanzania for the magnificent all-round support being rendered to our struggle for emancipation colonial system.

The visit by your Excellency, Ndugu Prime Minister, is a clear testimony of the firm commitment to and solidarity with the African National Congress and the noble and lofty course we serve. We can speak with pride, admiration and justification of the friendly and cordial relationship that exist between the people of Tanzania and our organisation.

We once again wish to place on record our deep apprciation and sincere thanks to the Party and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their magnanimous donation of large tracts of land for the construction of this College and Dakawa to establish the A N C Development Centre.

At this Centre we are not only creating an institute of learning but a number of other self-help and a self-reliance projects such as agriculture, small industires and vocational training. All this, we feel, would not only ...2/

only benefit our revolution, but also the people of Tanzania.

It is with great pride and admiration that we wish to pay tribute to one of our outstanding heroes and revolutionaries, Comrade Solomon Mahlangu, who laid down his life for the high ideals enshrined in the Freedom Charter. There could be no better tribute to this gallant patriot than to name this Institute after him.

It should be pointed out that the establishment of this College was born of the heroic, gallant and stubborn resistance to the Pretoria regime's evil Bantu Education system by the students and youth of our country, in particular, and the oppressed people generally.

This Institute is to give our children education which will be free from any form of discrimination so that they can make a meaningful contribution during and after the triumph of the revolution. We want to develop a new person who shall be able to play a meaningful role in a liberated South Africa.

Our College is not only to train everyone in the academic field, but also in the labour field. As you will observe we have various activities which involve labour. We feel that only such an approach to education, combining academic training and practical labour will have any meaning for the new society that we are going to build.

We are confident that the Government of Tanzania and the International Community will continue to give us their moral and material support so that

we ...3/

we could complete this magnificent monument in honour of Comrade Solomom Mahlangu.

We would like to take this opportunity, once more, to thank all those who have, and, are assisting on this project. We would also like to make mention of the pioneering efforts made by Comrade Dennis, who is the Construction Manager, Lars Norbo, a Danish Architect, and others. We wish them every success in their great efforts to complete this memorable Institution of learning and labour. We wish it to be placed on record our deep appreciation to the Tanzanian Authorities who were at the inception of our Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO). They made it possible for the ANC to establish a school which is a direct contrast to Bantu Education. Special thanks go to Mama Anna, who is a great inspiration to our people.

Finally, we would like to call upon all our members and solidarity groups who are actively engaged on this project, to leave no stone unturned in completing this SOMAFCO complex by 1985.

Thank You

April 1983