

n oi-u-a i

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
COMRADE OLIVER TAMBO
LUSAKA AIRPORT - 7TH DECEMBER 1990
Mr Chairman

Comrade Kenneth Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia

The leadership of the United Independence Party

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The heroic Zambian people

Comrades and Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

0.0.

It is with boundless joy that I return to this my second home. I have waited for too long to be reunited with you the people of Zambia. During the many months of my illness, not a single day passed, without a thought about Zambia crossing my mind. I am, therefore, happy to witness the fulfilment of a long cherished dream.

0.1.

My health has improved tremendously. I want to thank all those who, each in their own way, contributed towards saving my life. The crew which flew me out of Zambia, the excellent medical team which accompanied me to England and all those who attended to me in this country merit special praise. The messages which came from individuals, organisations and governments, I shall never forget.

0.2.

To our comrades in the ANC, I want to say, your steady words of encouragement helped me enormously, on a very difficult road to recovery. Together we have fought against this disease, and

together we have overcome it. I have missed you, as you have missed me.

0.3.

Comrades and Friends,

In a few days I shall return to South Africa after an absence of thirty years. This could not have been possible without the all round assistance our people and, I personally, received from comrade Kaunda, and all Zambian people. Not only did comrade Kaunda

stand by us through thick and thin, but he also saved my life by taking personal charge of my treatment after I was struck down by a stroke.

As a result, the ANC, our people at home and my family, have all advised, to my delight, that I could not return to South Africa without first coming to express their heartfelt words of thanks to President Kaunda. I am here, partly in fulfilment of that instruction. Never before has one person done so much for so many. We are proud to say that our people will never forget you comrade President. When the history of our region is rewritten, the name, Kenneth, David Kaunda, will feature prominently in the roll of honour.

0.4.

Mr Chairman,

We are returning home to continue with the struggle. We hope that soon, we shall be inviting the people of Zambia to come and join us in celebrating our freedom. For we have it within our power, to liberate ourselves now.

Victory is in sight.