

LuM/035/0015/02 New file ~~Mr T~~ Mange T.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (SOUTH AFRICA)
PO Box 1791 Lusaka Zambia - Phone 72319

1979 - The Year of the
Spear

3/10/79.

Re: Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial

Dear Friends,

We draw your attention to the arrest of twelve alleged members of the African National Congress (S.A.) who are currently appearing in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court accused of High Treason as the main charge. They are also facing 43 alternative counts of Terrorism as well as two of attempted murder. Other charges include recruiting people, training them in the art of warfare arming and deploying them in South Africa for the purpose of overthrowing the fascist regime. In pursuance of this objective the regime claims the men infiltrated arms and ammunition into the Msinga area, established arms caches in the Natal districts of Ndumo and Nongoma and reconnoitred pipelines at Merebank near Durban with a view to sabotaging them.

It is alleged that the accused committed high treason by force of arms by engaging in armed combat against the South African Police and the Bophuthatswana Guard.

It should be noted that this is the first case in which the accused are charged with High Treason in South Africa since the 1956-61 Treason Trial. We understand that the regime intends to bring into court all the arms infiltrated into the country by the ANC since the early '60's. These would be brought in three truckloads and exhibited to show that the conspiracy of the ANC to overthrow the regime has been going on for sometime and is now reaching dangerous proportions. All these measures are no doubt designed to generate hysteria among the white section of the population and thus create the atmosphere that would be conducive for the imposition of the maximum penalty, the death sentence.

The racist regime in our country is faced with sustained and deepening crisis situation manifested in strikes, bus boycotts, resistance to removals etc. The spirit of revolt since the Soweto uprisings continue unabated. Our people have not allowed themselves to be deceived by the reforms which the enemy has been introducing in an attempt to dampen their revolutionary zeal. Nor has the enemy succeeded to contain the steadily growing political and military actions undertaken by the ANC inside the country.

This failure to demonstrate its capacity to crush the ANC and thereby consolidate the confidence of proponents and all the supporters of white domination that the situation is under control, despite repeated assurances including the savage hanging of Solomon Mahlangu, has made the enemy desperate.

The regime is now determined more than ever before to crush our people striving for liberation using all the inhuman and criminal means typical of fascism.

We therefore appeal to all solidarity and international organisations to initiate campaigns on a wide scale calling on the release of all political prisoners focussing especially on the Pietermaritzburg 12 Trial which may result in death sentences being passed calling on countries, which have not yet done so, to ratify the UN Convention to those who have ratified to take appropriate action against the Apartheid Criminals when they enter the given countries.

Campaign for prisoner of War Status for the Combatants of the ANC in terms of "Protocol in addition to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims in armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist regimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and co-operation among states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

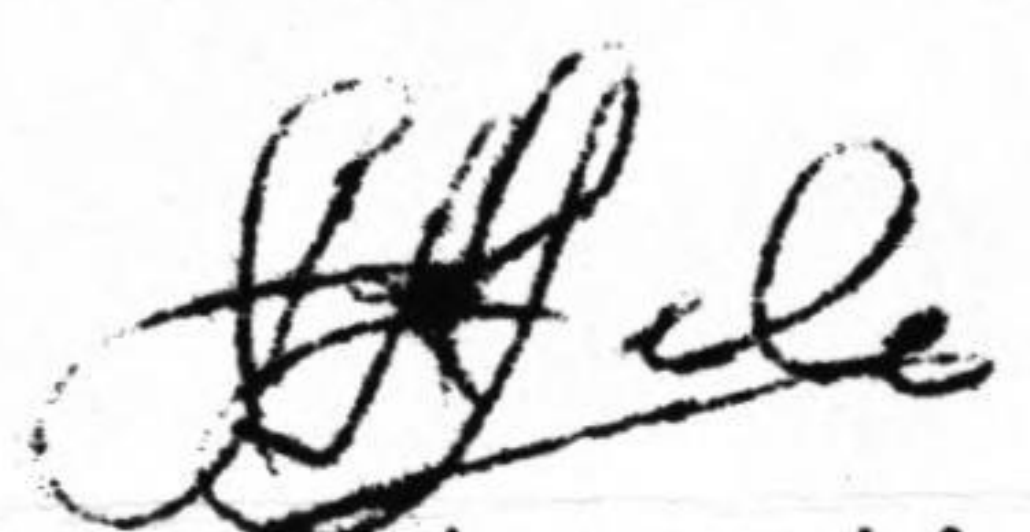
It is heartening to note that the accused are displaying utter contempt of the Judge and the accusers.

We shall keep you informed of developments in this important trial, and shall be obliged to receive reports of the campaigns being undertaken in your area.

Following is the list of the names of the accused:

1. Mandlenkosi Christopher Hadebe (27)
2. Mandla Jack Mthethwa (22)
3. Bennet Pantese Komane (46)
4. John Mofokeng Sekete (24)
5. Tladitsagae Moses Molefe (24)
6. Jeffrey Ramasaka Legoabe (30)
7. Thibe Jimmy Ngobeni (27)
8. Andrew Mapheto (25)
9. Titus Maleka (25)
10. Sydney Sekati Choma (23)
11. Vusumuzi Nicholas Zulu (28)
12. James Daniel Mange (24)

Yours in the Struggle

J.J. 
Director International Dept.