

23rd May, 1972.

Mr. George Magombe,  
Executive Secretary,  
O. A. U. Liberation Committee,  
DAR ES SALAAM,  
TANZANIA.

Dear Brother,

I wish to confirm the urgent telegram I sent you yesterday, which read as follows:

"YOUR PRESS STATEMENT THAT QUOTE BOTH ANC AND PAC HAVE SAID THEY ARE IN FAVOUR OF UNITING UNQUOTE IS MOST MISLEADING STOP PLEASE PUBLISH AN IMMEDIATE CORRECTION STOP REFER VERBATIM RECORD OF ANC DELEGATION STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE"

When it appeared before the meeting of the Liberation Committee, the ANC delegation bitterly criticised the practice of making the issue of unity the subject of mudslinging through the medium of the Press and Radio. We stated that we had hitherto refused to respond to invitations and provocations to indulge in this wasteful exercise, which not only ruins any prospect of unity but also, in the long run, serves the interests of the enemy. For that reason, we have refrained from telling the Press and Radio what the ANC did say to the Liberation Committee on the question of "uniting" with the PAC, and are asking you, instead of our doing it, to correct the wrong impression given to the world public by your statement if you were correctly reported.

I do not know how, at its closed session the Liberation Committee disposed of the question of unity between the ANC and the PAC, but I should be most surprised if the Committee, on discussing the ANC presentation, came to the conclusion that that presentation amounted to saying that the ANC was "in favour of uniting with the PAC".

You will recall, and my recorded statement to the Committee will confirm, that we were explicit on the question of uniting with the PAC. We explained -

1. That the PAC was not genuine in its call for unity, but was using this most popular theme as publicity for the PAC and for Mr. P.K. Leballe personally.
2. That not only had the PAC defeated every attempt at unity in the past, but was even now combining its verbiage on unity with vicious and malicious provocations and attacks on the very ANC with which it professedly sought unity.
3. That, in any event, the PAC has to all intents and purposes been reduced to one man, Mr. Leballe himself. At best he represents a very small and ever-diminishing group, which is all that remains of what was once believed to be the PAC.

4. That even if the ANC could conceivably unite with Mr. Leballo as comprising, in his person, what is known as the PAC, his personal political record, as known by South Africans, including the vast majority of "former" PAC members, who will have nothing to do with him, was such as to remove any possibility of the ANC uniting with him. We briefly outlined part of his record and undertook to furnish the member countries of the Liberation Committee with fuller details later.

It is in the light of the above explanation, given to the Liberation Committee and duly recorded, that we consider your statement to the press most misleading and, indeed, wholly unhelpful.

As stated earlier, we do not want to publish this explanation, hence our cabled request that you make an appropriate correction through the Press. It is precisely in the interests of genuine unity that we make this request, as developments will soon show.

Copies of this letter are being sent to all members of the OAU Liberation Committee.

Yours fraternally,

O. R. TAMBO.

ACTING PRESIDENT, ANC (S.A.).