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MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMITTEE OF
2 ' SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN
AMERICA

In this year in which Nelson Mandela, the most publicated victim of apartheid, celebrated his 70th Birthday the citizens of Czechoslovakia are even more committed in their solidarity with the black people of South Africa, currently suffering under this the most repressive of regimes. The fact that thousands upon thousands of Africans in Pretoria are suffering under this system is never forgotten, but when reviewing their situation one always associates with Nelson Mandela who despite years of imprisonment remains a martyr to and burning symbol of both their oppression and resistance. We, in Czechoslovakia, are convinced that all positive features in Mandela's character are embodied in the black majority of South Africa - a sense for justice, human dignity, freedom and the willingness to self-sacrifice. Nelson Mandela's fate is really a symbol of his people who are in reality all imprisoned by the inhuman and cruel chains of apartheid and despite which still present to the whole world the best qualities of humankind. Nelson Mandela became dangerous to the apartheid system not only because he was one of the founders of Umkhonto we Sizwe in the time when the ANC was deprived of its legal platform from which to pursue its just political struggle, but also because he integrated in himself the best attributes of his people and therefore appeared to the world as both an eloquent and resourceful leader of the exploited and oppressed masses. For more than one third of his life Nelson Mandela has been confined to a prison cell, he is old and sick but still the regime is afraid of him. Are they so short-sighted in Pretoria that they do not realize that due to the braveness and integrity of Nelson Mandela the African masses will be even more decisive, more powerfull than ever before?

We, representatives of the Czechoslovak public,
are convinced that the just struggle for the release
of Nelson Mandela from the prison of Polsmoor as well
as unshackling the majority of the South African population
from the constraints of apartheid will succeed. I would
like to convey our decision to the further support that
struggle, solidarity that will continue until apartheid
has finally been defeated.

Prague, July 18, 1988

For the Czechoslovak Committee of Solidarity

Alexander LESENKO,

Secretary