

Pretoria is frantic because we remain intact in our organisational formation and MK continues to hit and harass literally in every province of South

Africa.

The task before us now is to move to our new centres with all the determination, advancing as if to war, and build those into politico-military institutes of the highest possible quality to enable us to build upon previous successes, correct past shortcomings and make a general improvement on our record.

History has appointed us and our people the enviable mission to deliver Southern Africa and the rest of the continent from the throes of apartheid arrogance, and brinkmanship. We are confident that this order is never too

tall for us.

We have produced revolutionaries of stature; politicians of bottomless insight; orators of admirable sagacity and combatants of rare calibre to the envy of all who ever doubted our potential. All these comrades are members of our People's Army, who stood in the proud ranks of all our detachments from Camp Engineering to Caculama: Men and women who held the ANC banner high in the battlefields of South Africa. Men and women who remain frontrankers even in captivity and the farce of South African courts. We are talking here of the 'Jaguarâ\200\230 Molokoanes, the Mzwandile 'Bonono' Vena, Attwell 'Mpilo' Magekeza, Jabu Masina, Damien 'Donovah' de Lange and many more. These are the MK soldiers whose legacy we are to uphold, and to honour them, we are committed to a victory for which no

sacrifice will be too great.

We commend all those comrades present and departed who took part in the gallant defence of our centres in the North, and who rushed into forays to Clear the roads of enemy mines and ambushes. They have lived up to the true tradition of our army; they are worthy emulators of our warrior forebears, and by so doing have brought the reality of liberation so much closer. In many ways than one they have further demonstrated that people_

of conscience in Africa were always ready even at great sacrifice to defend the independence of Angola and its development along the path of her people's choice. We draw great satisfaction from the fact that we have made a humble contribution to such a lofty process.

07.

The chain of developments which produced the New York Accords on Angola angj independence for Namibia confronted us with a new dynamic in that we were implicated in the process. lmplicated not only because of our warm and fraternal relations with both the MPLA and SWAPO, but precisely because of what we are and what we stand for inside our own country. But our genuine commitment to peace and stability in Angola and independence for Namibia and our clear sense of direction enablesus to make tactical Shugqu. 50

adjustments which in the long run are to the advantage of thekrout e? the satanic system of apartheid.

'The Pretoria regime remains restive for it has not felt any lessening of pressure nor a reduction on the percentage of armed actions since our public announcement of intention to shift from our training facilities here.

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NOTES FOR THE WEST

01.

The year 1976, which has gone down in the annals as the Year of the Soweto Uprising, confronted us with an influx of young militants seeking to reinforce the ranks of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe with the express purpose of making a contribution to the armed effort to deliver our country and people from the bonds of apartheid oppression. In those difficult days, the morale and spirit of sacrifice of the young generation was a commendable boost to everyone of us and a harbinger of the glorious path we were to beat thenceforth. Significantly enough, it was the very year that we were welcoming the birth of the People's Republic of Angola and its rightful introduction into the ranks of our continental body, the OAU.

02.

Despite the difficulties which beset the young republic, and in spite of a fully fledged military incursion by divisions of the SADF, that veritable titan and impeccable revolutionary statesman, the immortal hero of Angola; the late Comrade President António de Oliveira Neto, decided that we needed to seize the time and move into the People's Republic of Angola where we would be granted facilities to prepare our young comrades for the bitter battles ahead. True to his word, some time in September of the year, following a meeting he had attended in Dar Es Salaam, President Neto took a group of 20 comrades with him in his presidential plane to Angola where they immediately transferred to Cabella in the south, to commence with the rigorous training programme. Earlier on over a company in strength of other comrades had flown direct from Maputo to Luanda to base at Engineering where they were put into the paces of basic politico-military preparations. This was the beginning of what turned out to be an uphill struggle to produce and shape a formidable core of the modern MK; steeped in the true traditions of our People's Army. Under the command of our veteran Comrade Frazer, and with the assistance of Angolan colleagues, our comrades sustained a soldierly life albeit sometimes under conditions of extreme privation since the country, particularly Luanda, was besieged

by problems of counterâ\200\224revolution and outright aggression. Later Comrade Frazer was replaced by the likes of Comrade Castro, Jaquzline and other established soldiers of MK.

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When the combined Angolan and Cuban forces decisively routed the boer aggressors at Kifongondo outside Luanda, and successfully repulsed both UNITA and FNLA, our comrades were there to observe this momentous event.

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And later, to the chagrin of all of us, when the renegade Nito Alves attempted to realise his coup plot against the government of the People's Republic of Angola, but was deservedly crushed, MK was there in the thick of the fateful events which left many Angolan patriots dead as a result of the petty greed and reckless ambition of some turn-coats, to learn in the melting pot of a real revolution.

04.

Engineering was situated right inside the city and perhaps did not provide the best conditions for the training of a large contingent, which continued growing with more plane loads arriving from Tanzania and August groups from Maputo and Lusaka. The improved security situation following the defeat of the UNITA/FNLA made it possible to move into the interior to set up training centres. The Angolan government offered us sites in Benguela, Katengue and later in Quibaxe (camp 13). Early in 1977 a convoy was put together en route to Benguela. Logistical supplies were low and only through sheer determination, superior motivation and a desire to prevail saw the comrades through. In Benguela, under the command of Comrade Julius Mokoena, assisted by a staff trained in the Soviet Union and the GDR respectively, we were able to initiate and organised training course. In charge of political programmes was Comrade Francis Meli who is now a member of the National Executive Committee. The enormous work of maintaining contact with the government, the important task of providing guidance and giving wise counsel fell upon the shoulders of the late Comrade Cassius Make, then Chief Representative, and Comrade Mzwai Piliso, then Head of the Department of Training and Personnel under the old Revolutionary Council. Between them they did tremendous work which yielded inspiring dividends during those difficult pioneering days. Harassed by mosquitoes and sapped by malaria, our comrades refused to give in driven by a lofty spirit to go on no matter the thin rations nor the scorching sun of the semi-desert conditions. Several weeks later the time had come to proceed to the ultimate

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objective in Nova Katengue, where we were to establish our main training centre in cooperation with qualified and experienced military personnel from Cuba. This was around the 2nd quarter of 1977.

We recall with great sadness the amount of human suffering and material loss the people of Malanje incurred at the hands of Savimbi's satanic hordes. These were days of great restiveness as we beheld Bulgarian and Soviet internationalists involved in revamping and improving agricultural production in that very fertile province being forced to withdraw from the projects by the ever lurking UNITA cutthroats in 1983. The ire of everyone of our comrades was roused. We knew that this insolent enemy that was harassing the populace and ggi-\201gi-\201roads impassable was the spawn of the very beast we were tackling inside our own motherland. Our anger drove us to rageiparticularly because Angola had become almost like a second home to us. We then took issue with the implications of this dangerous development. Obviously, our comrades felt that to remain idle and wade in remorse would be very low indeed. Our commanders and commissars assessed the military situation and decided that if we did not act we would all be suffocated by the marauding bandits together with our Angolan brothers and sisters. We elected to rise to the occasionato the defence of Malanje and in our own defence. In effect this amounted to a contribution to the future and progress of the People's Republic of Angola,

the firm trench of revolution in Africa.

In Cacuso, the Rio Kwanza, Pedra Jinga, Kangandala and elsewheregMK added stirring Chapters to the history of Malanje. We seize this opportunity to honour all those gallant fighters who took part and even laid down lives in

the epic battles;

South Africans9 Angolans and Cubans.

The dark aftermath, which was manipulated by the enemy to mar our performance and noble intentions is a sad page of that record. We remember with thanks the sacrifices of the Presidential Regiment, and especially the openâ\200\224mindedness of Comrade Ndalo, thei-\202 Chiefâ\200\224ofâ\200\224Staff of FAPLA, and indeed the under standing of FAPLA HQ, for their co-operation which helped to hoist us out of that

problem. That was one episode we intend never to see repeated.

Our stay in the People's Republic of Angola has been of phenomenal assistance to the general effort to liberate our country and people. Here, as we all know, we have successfully prepared everyone of us to a variety of

Vresponsibilities essential to victory.

Camp Nova Katengue became synonymous with internationalism, and a lodestar to victory over all reaction in the subâ\200\224region, located as it were in the very â\200\235firm trench of revolution in Africa."

Apartheid was under certain threat of direct assault by the graduates of Katengue and Pretoria was ill at ease. Plans were set afoot by the belligerent generals in Pretoria and Camp Katengue was razed in a callous air strike in 1979. The boers were so blindly confident that the bombs, especially the heavyâ\200\224pounders)were painted in the colours of the ANC. The heroic defence of our great Katengue is something we remember with great pride. (And the botching of Pretoria's mission took our morale a jolt higherâ\200\230since, previously in 1977 an attempt was made to poison the entire camp by adding toxic substances to the food. Thanks to the presence of Cuban doctors the entire detachment was savedJ(In later years the culprit was caught and just punishment was exacted . During the actual raid, our anti-aircraftiggzged by amongst others Petrus 'Shoes' Mashigo downed an enemy fighter and forced the rest of the squadron to retreat in disarray. Though Katengue was reduced to ruins its heroic defence was yet another illustration of the high combativeness and overall calibre of MK. We had lost our good comrades, Chairman and Guerilla and a number suffered injuries from which they recovered successfully, but in the main the objective ef the enemy was frustrated.

In the same year of 1979, together with our Cuban eompanienheres we â\200\23050 m pamhefm;

reluctantly sailed and conveyed north to set up base in Pango which we stubbornly renamed Nova Katengue. The spirit and heartbeat of Katengue in us was indestructible. Of course over the years we came to rename it Camp David Rabkin in memory of one of South Africa's most illustrious fighters. 06.

From Quibaxe and Katengue, and from Fundi-\202 and CaXito (the two were special centres for final preparation as a last phase en route to the front) with the full support and disinterested co-operation of our erstwhile Angolan' allies we extended training facilities to Malanje, in Kamalundu at Camp Hoji ya Henda in 1980 and later Caculama at what we came to call Camp Barney Molokoane. In Caculama we benefited from the best possible assistance from Soviet specialists and together we were able to improve immensely on our training methods and programmes.

05.

On arrival in Camp Nova Katengue (The group from Cabela joined the rest and were part of the pioneers in Katengue), which was long abandoned and derelict, comrades attacked their duties with high morale and in no

time the centre took a bright shape with a barrack type organisation. A lot of sweat and sacrifice had gone into the effort thanks to the leadership and guidance of Commander Julius Mokoena with his colleagues Elias Banda, Alfred Wana and others. The positive attitude to labour dedicatedly demonstrated by our Cuban counterparts was an inspiration which was emulated admirably. But what sustained the June 16 Detachment (as the group was later to be named on graduation later in the year) even more was the political lessons and force of example of the indefatigable veterans in charge of political training comrades Jack Simons and Mark Shope who had responded to the call of the ANC to take up this very important assignment at a very crucial moment. Their work continues to shine through as we can count without finishing the many sound MK theoreticians, propagandists, orators and outright leaders of the ANC they have helped to mould.

Under very trying conditions Katengue developed and was deservedly dubbed the the

'University of MK'. It assumed a new significance and dimension as a politico-military institute coloured by a cultural life that was both reassuring, instructive, inspirational and reflective of the deep-seated identification with the heritage of our people. Here the core of the new MK was moulded with emphasis on political conviction, discipline, sound morals, high combativeness and a sense of national service. Nova Katengue gave us two crack detachments: The June 16 detachment in 1977 and the Moncada in 1978. Members of these detachments have over the years done our movement and people very proud indeed. It is these detachments which produced the Mahlangus, Tsotsobes, Mananas, Mashigos, Barneys, Sebebis. The Magoeranes, and many others who rank amongst greats in the annals of liberation struggles. (N.B. Towards the year of 1977 Quibaxe Camp 13 was already teeming with comrades waiting to go down to Katengue as trainees. It is this group which was to form the core of the Moncada detachment. At that time Camp 13 was under the command of the late Comrade Parker. Even here, the early conditions were harsh and could have broken

the weak of heart and spirit). The giant task of making Katengue an
momentous milepost in the history of the struggle was possible thanks to
the sacrifices of the land of Neto, the selfless support and dedication
of the Cuban internationalists and the unfailing logistical support of
the Soviets mept .WkÃ©w

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