

Special Issue

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PRESS FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION-GUARANTEED BY THE RELEVANT CLAUSES OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

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Comment

Democratic forces inside and outside South Africa are rejoicing at the release of Cde Govan Mbeki a member of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party as well as founder member of Umkhonto Wesizwe, after spending 23 years in one of the most notorious prisons of our day.

He came out of prison unbowed and unbroken in his resolve to fight for a new South Africa and as strong as ever. We can only be proud of this calibre of leadership.

A simplistic view of his release is that he has been released out of humanitarian considerations, implying that the enemy of our people has had a change of heart. Nothing could be farther from the truth. A cursory study of the history of this manhating regime reveals the fallacy of this notion.

Was it not this same regime which failed to show compassion even when Cde Bram Fisher was lying on his death bed? Was it not this same regime that tortures, maim and kill infants, children, men and women? Is not this same regime that incarcerates pregnant women, mothers together with their babies, boys and girls as young as 8 years of age? Old men and women for no other crime than to demand their birth right, freedom in their land of birth.

The fact of the matter is that the situation prevailing in our country is that of the government being no longer able to rule in the same old way and the people being no longer prepared to be ruled in the same old way. In short the enemy has lost the initiative.

The release of Cde Mbeki has been brought about by the pressure which has been brought to bear on the regime and this same pressure if sustained and intensified will facilitate the release of the remaining political prisoners.

"...it is becoming impossible to avoid confronting the question of the legitimacy of the powers which are contending with each other within our country..."

Cde President O.R. Tambo.

oners and the consummation of our struggle for liberation.

Therefore, the meaning of this victory is that we should not rest on our laurels but step up our struggle to consolidate our gains and proceed to deliver the final blow on the citadel of racism and apartheid.

We must deny the enemy the opportunity to turn this victory to his own advantage.

The enemy is characterised by, among other qualities brutality and treachery. We are therefore called upon to heighten our revolutionary vigilance in order to detect and see through their public relations exercise, to hoodwink the world and some of us.

Let us discuss and conduct a thorough analyses of each development the better to correctly identify and formulate our tasks.

HUNDREDS WELCOME MBEKI

Hundreds of cheering blacks gathered at Jan Smuts air port to greet African National Congress leader Cde Govan Mbeki on Friday, one day after his 23 years in prison ended.

The crowd was jubilant and defiant, and tension mounted before Cde Winnie Mandela persuaded more than 100 white policemen to move back.

Cde Mbeki who is now 77 years old and other prominent Anti-apartheid leaders including Mrs Mandela left the airport in an automobile followed by baton-wielding police. As the crowd pressed around the car, other police arrived in trucks and some of the crowd fled.

But Cde Winnie Mandela chastised the officer in charge. "Why should your men be running all over there chasing these people because they have come to meet Mr. Mbeki?" she said. "You are provoking people who have done absolutely nothing, in front of a man who has been in prison for over 23 years."

The officer told his men to move back and the car moved on, followed by much of the crowd.

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Cde Meki and his wife, Epainette, 77, earlier in the day embraced for the first time in six years at Appolonia hotel where he had been released on Thursday.

After the couple's reunion, there was a 10-minute prayer service for Cde Mbeki in a hotel attended by almost 100 people.

"We look forward to the day when they (political prisoners) will all come out," said the rev. Devilliers Sogot. "We thank you (God) for your safe keeping of him... so he can continue to struggle for the liberation of our country."

The service ended with the singing of "Nkosi Sikelel' I Africa" (God Bless Africa), the anthem of the democratic forces, and a series of clenched-fist salutes as the participants shouted "viva Mandela" and "viva Mbeki."

Cde Mbeki said he canceled plans to visit the nearby black township of New Brighton, where he intends to settle in an apartment, because local activists said they thought the dust must settle in. There was too much excitement in the townships they said.

#### Cde Mbeki Spends Freedom Under Guard

Cde Mbeki spent his first hours of freedom under guard at a luxury hotel on Friday.

Prison officials and police kept watch on the beach front building in the eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth amid fears of an attack by white racists on Cde Mbeki.

White racist diehards have urged the regime not to release our leaders like Cde Mandela, still imprisoned and Cde Mbeki.

Cde Mbeki's counsel Priscila Jana, evicted most of the reporters and photographers who besieged his room allowing in only a few friends and a delegation of local clergymen.

Jana later gave some reporters a brief interview and said that Cde Mbeki had been in telephone contact with his exiled son Cde Thabo. Speaking slowly and choosing his words carefully Cde Mbeki told reporters "I'm going to be staying in this country. The rest depends on government permission."

He explained that he wanted a passport so that he could visit Cde Thabo in Lusaka. Cde Mbeki said his main hope was to unify black opposition to the racist regime.

"I must first establish contact with the people and unify the people. An effort has got to be made to bring them together."

#### Cde Mbeki: Is Test case For Mandela

The government views the release Cde Mbeki as a test case that could determine the fate of Nelson Mandela and other imprisoned black leaders, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

Cde Mbeki, 77, Cde Mandela's colleague and former chairman of the ANC, was freed from prison on Thursday after serving 23 years for a 1964 conviction of sabotage.

"The future of Mandela and others is to some extent in Mr. Mbeki's hands," Stoffel Vander Merva, racist deputy minister of constitutional planning, was quoted as saying in the Sunday Star of Johannesburg.

"There are people in jail who have served a long time. The need for retribution has been fulfilled."

However, Vander Merwe was quoted as saying the prospect for further releases would be damaged "if Mr. Mbeki becomes involved in political unrest, trouble or incitement, or breaks any laws."

Cde Mbeki told a news conference on Saturday that he would continue opposing government apartheid policies, but would not hold an office with a political organisation.

The racist regime said little earlier about its decision to release Cde Mbeki or possible plans to free more of the imprisoned leaders. The statement ascribed to Vander Merwe also suggest that the government is closer to freeing Cde Mandela and others than it has stated previously.

In August, P.W. Botha indicated a shift in government policy by announcing that decisions to release ANC leaders would no longer depend solely on their renouncing violence.

Mbeki says he still considers himself a member of the ANC and the South African Communist Party.

Cde Mbeki said he wants to travel to Lusaka to meet with ANC leaders.

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"To address you, compatriots, on January the 8th 1985 is a privilege. For we, addressing a fighting people, who, during a particularly ferocious offensive by the enemy, have accumulated a record of resistance and struggle worthy of our great heroes and martyrs, a people who not only have the resilience that defies defeat, but also the capacity to rise to the challenge of the hour and move on to the offensive, a people with a glorious future to fight for, a tough and brutal enemy to face, an assured and



## WORLD IN BRIEF

NEW YORK-The stock market fell in late trading on Friday, yielding to sellers after an early advance faded. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials closed down 26.36 points to 1:959.05.

LONDON-The U.S. dollar's record shattering plunge continued in Europe on Friday though reports that US officials were considering a plan that would cut 75 billion dollars from the US budget deficit awlted the slide in late trading.

Gold prices rose.

LONDON-Stock prices dipped on Friday but were above the days worst level as the market received a late boost from news of a plan to cut the US budget deficit. The financial times' stock exchange 100-share index was off 18.0 points, or 1.1 %, at 1.620.8 at the close, above the days worst point of 31.2 points down about 1.1am (GMT).

Volume was a modest 574.0 m shares.

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA'- Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo agreed on Friday to a request by president Daniel Ortega that he serve as a go between in the effort to arrange a truce between the Sandinista government and the Contras.

SANSALVADOR, EL SALVADOR-The Farabundo Marti guerrillas say they are willing to discuss a truce with the government, but reserve the right to attack soldiers who enter areas they are in control of.

SPAIN, MADRID -The US and Spain failed to agree on Friday on a reduction in the US military presence in Spain. A condition set by Spain for a renewal of the treaty allowing that at presence.

ENNISKILLEN, N. IRELAND-A bombing that killed 11 civilians at a memorial ceremony has raised fears of retaliatory violence in Northern Ireland. 61 people, including women and children, were injured on Sunday in N. Ireland's most violent attack in 5 years.

"We must accept the fact that in our country we cannot win one single victory of political freedom without overcoming a desperate resistance on the part of the government, and that victory will not come of

itself but only as a result of a bitter struggle by the oppressed people for the overthrow of racial discrimination....."

Cde Nelson Mandela (1953)

FLASHES

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Addressing a press conference in Dar ES Salaam, Cde Joe Ntshala said the move by the racist regime to release Cde Mbeki was a challenge to ANC members and the progressive international community to press for the release of all prisoners.

He further said "We need the unconditional release of those awaiting trial, political prisoners and people condemned to death for political reasons."

He also said that the ANC was happy with the growing awareness among the international community on the atrocities of the racist regime.

Meanwhile a statement by Juwata expressed joy at Cde Mbeki's release and said this was a sign of the intensity and impact of the mounting liberation struggle waged to eradicate apartheid.

In Johannesburg Cde Winnie Mandela apologised to comrade Mbeki that South African blacks had not got rid of apartheid during his 23 years in jail.

She said "We are almost ashamed to introduce you back to the same conditions you fought against over 23 years ago. We are ashamed to be in your presence without presenting a liberated country to you."

She was speaking at a news conference which was Cde Mbeki's first public appearance in JHB since his release.

Also present was a host of journalists and some leading anti-apartheid activists of the UDF and National Union Of Mineworkers' leader Cyril Ramaphosa.

Scores of youths danced and sang freedom songs in the lobby of Khotso house in central Johannesburg.

From Harare comes reports that the racist regime is using submarines and military planes to deliver supplies to its MNR surrogates in Mozambique. This was disclosed by Zimbabwean Minister of state for foreign affairs Emmerson Mnangwangwa.

He said S.African submarines were off-loading supplies for the rebels in the mouth of the Zambezi river.



FLASHES Continued

An african diplomat in Lusaka told Reuter news agency that "the release of Cde Mbeki should be seen as a political gimmick aimed at reducing the pressures of the international community for change inside S.A. One must not expect much of it."

Diplomats they doubted the release would help persuade the rest of the world to change its attitude towards South Africa.

"They know its just one of Pretoria's political gimmicks....neither should the ANC be expected to take a soft stand because of it," the African diplomat added.

In Lusaka hundreds of ANC members clapped and cheered and danced to celebrate Cde Mbeki's release.

"This is a very important day in the life of our people's struggle," said Cde Maharaj when the news reached the Zambian capital. Cde Maharaj said racist South Africa had been defeated because Cde Mbeki, jailed for plotting to topple white rule Pretoria, had been freed unconditionally.

"Today, for whatever excuse Piet Botha has seen it fit to release Cde Mbeki, Botha has used the back door...."

"But we know that Cde Mbeki has left prison unbeaten, undefeated and ready to fight with his people against apartheid.

Racist Pretoria said although Cde Mbeki had been freed, he would remain banned from being quoted by the media in South Africa.

"The rullers of our country know that the attempts to mislead and deceive the international community will not save the regime from the continuing and heightening offensive by all of us, the oppressed people of South Africa. They therefore continue to rely on their tried and tested ways and means for the defence of the apartheid system -open terror."

Cde Pres. O.R. Tambo.

NEWS & VIEWS ARROUND YOU & ME

THE BOLHSEVIKS HONOURED

Saturday night saw the climax of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution.

The event held at unit 4 hall was was graced with the presence of our

Treasurer General Cde T. Nkobi. Also present was our mother Ma-Nzo member of the Health Secretariat and of the Womens Secrtariat.

The Pioneers, Women Section, Youth and Works Committee representatives read inspiring and instructive messages on behalf of their respective organs.

The headmaster of Somafo as the main speaker gave avivid and forceful account of this event and its significance in relation to our own struggle in particular and also called upon the entire membership of the community to draw lessons from this epoch-making event.

The second part of this event was was a cultural performance which had the effect of serving as a relish to the political speeches.

This performance consisted of renditions by the Somafo choir, Adults, Abafana abamhlophe, a Garment factory duet, poetry and Gumboot-dance.

The Chief Administrator concluded the ceremony by thanking all the participants and announcing a meeting to be held the following day which was to be addressed by the Treassurer General Cde T. Nkobi.

FAREWELL FAREWELL FAREWELL

News and views on behalf of the community wishes to bid farewell to our Treasurer General Cde T. Nkobi who was here on a working visit we we wish him a good journey to his next asignment.

SPORTING NEWS SPORTING NEWS SPORT

News reaching our desk is that Chiawelo Lions have just formed a Softball team and are raring to take on any Softball team in the complex or abroad.

SOCCKER-LAWS OF THE GAME

Law 11-Off Side

1. A player is in an off-side position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal-line than the ball, unless:
  - (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, or
  - (b) there are at least two of his oppponents nearer their own goal-line than he is.

To be continued next week.