

ANC Leader's Press Conference

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Text of report:

Today [8th January] sees the 75th anniversary of the South African patriot's organisation - the African National Congress. A press conference has been held by a delegation of the ANC in the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa. The participants spoke about the galvanisation of the struggle against the inhuman apartheid system and answered journalists' questions. Johnny Makatini, leader of the delegation and member of the ANC Executive Committee, said in particular:

[Makatini, in English to translation] First of all I would like to thank the Soviet leadership and all Soviet people for the warm and friendly reception given to us here in the Soviet Union, Johnny Makatini says. In particular, I would like to note the prominent role played by the Soviet Union in the struggle against the apartheid system and for the

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freedom of the peoples of Africa. Despite the support it is receiving from imperialism and its cruel police measures, the Pretoria regime is currently experiencing a deepening crisis, Johnny Makatini continued. The black population is expanding its campaign under the ANC slogan, "Make the country ungovernable and the apartheid system ineffective". The ANC's political and military struggle is developing, and there is growing dismay and realisation of the hopelessness of the policy of apartheid amongst the white population. There is an increasing number of contacts and talks between representatives of this group and the ANC, and many of them are simply abandoning South Africa.

Of course, our struggle is extremely difficult, for we do not have a strong base in the rear. The front-line states with their attitude of understanding and sympathy towards us are themselves highly vulnerable to military actions by Pretoria. With increasing frequency they are falling victim both to blackmail and direct aggression. However, with the support of the very broadest strata of society, we are constantly stepping up the struggle. According to a statement from Pretoria itself, the number of armed actions has grown threefold recently. The regime is forced to keep 45,000 soldiers in the African suburbs and settlements.

We value highly the movement of solidarity with our struggle and for the isolation of the apartheid state which is now under way throughout the world. All this confirms once again that the whole of progressive mankind is opposed to the inhuman regime in southern Africa, Johnny Makatini stressed.