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Sayco Address to June 16 1990 rally in Kroonstad, OFS

Comrades, countrymen, parents, workers, brothers and sisters and the youth, members of Sayco.

I bring you warm and revolutionary greetings from the National Executive Committee of Sayco. I also bring you greetings from the fighting regional formations of Sayco from all over the country. Their message to you is **Organisation, Discipline and Action for Power and Peace.**

Today marks the 14th anniversary of that eventful, tragic and historic Wednesday, the 16th 1976 - when the blood of our children raced down the streets of Soweto and other townships of South Africa, ^{caused} ~~caused~~ by the merciless gunfire of the agents of oppression. Too many lost their lives. Many lost their sons, daughters, brothers, parents, friends, relatives, neighbours, comrades, classmates - **We have cried!**

Comrades we have gathered here today in your region to observe this historic day under different conditions. It is under conditions when we have made tremendous strides in our struggle, when the enemy realises that they can not contain our desire for a free society. The hard demanding years ^{of struggle} are beginning to bear fruits. For the

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first time in many years of struggle the enemy has swallowed its pride and talked to our liberation movement, the same people they have condemned as terrorists or surrogates of the Soviet Union. It is against this background we are commemorating the death of our beloved ones and celebrating the telling blows we have delivered ^{to} the enemy.

History at this juncture places a great responsibility on our shoulders. It is characteristic of most revolutions, that when the struggling people reach this stage, the enemy will more and more seek to sow division in our communities, to put one organisation of the oppressed against the other. Unfortunately for us and fortunately for them in our country a basis already exists for the enemy to pursue their evil intention of setting one group against the other. That basis is the existence of different organisations fighting apartheid, but with different approaches. ~~to do so.~~

We in Sayco believe that there is nothing wrong if people differ. It is natural that people will see things differently, because we are all thinking beings. But it is absurd when those who are working towards the destruction of apartheid differ to the extent that they ignore the Enemy and fight among themselves. None

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of our organisations gain from such acts.

We are also aware that from both sides we have made repeated calls that our members must exercise restraint and stop such activities. We also know that after the peace agreements have ^{been} reached our members from both sides go out of their way to act against those agreements. We also know of incidents when ^{out} ~~our~~ members from both sides have deliberately without any provocation started unnecessary fights that resulted in loss of ^{life} ~~lives~~. In all these incidents, from both sides we only went as far as to denounce or condemn the action but not the individuals.

We in Sayco believe that now is the time when we ^{must} question and closely check those individuals. We should do so ^{precisely} ~~precisely~~ because part of the enemy's ^{strategy} ~~lies~~ in such activities. So nothing stops the enemy from putting its own agents in our midst to consistently provoke such activities and undermine our desire to stop violence among the people and direct out joint efforts towards the present government. We must seek to uproot those elements in our individual organisations and expose them to the people for what they are. We are certain that there is no serious minded revolutionary organisation

which allows its members to act against its agreements and proclamations. Our call from Sayco is tolerance among different organisations and different ideological persuasions. Organisations should stop public vilifications and condemning of one another. We are saying let there be peace among the people and war ^{to} ~~against~~ the enemy.

Natal remains a sore point in our struggle for power and peace. It is true that the situation there can no longer be regarded as a regional problem, to be solved by the people of Natal only. It is a national problem that needs the attention of all peace loving South Africans. We in Sayco are aware that the violence is interlinked with the broad strategy of state violence meted out against our efforts ^{to} ~~to~~ eradicate apartheid. It is in the enemy's interest to keep that violence going so that our organisational work is sabotaged. It is within this strategy of state violence that the government has located Gatsha and the warlords to terrorise our people. So our

duty in Natal is to dislodge Gatsha and the warlords from the common ~~of~~ ^{members of} Inkatha. Our call from Sayco is that all South Africans guided by the desire of freedom and peace to rally around any meaningful peace initiative in that region. To that effect Sayco call upon all the youth of our country to actively support the peace conference to be launched in Natal on July. Let us disarm the warlords and call for national action to disband the kwaZulu police.

As the youth since the outbreak of nationwide student protest 14 years ago on this day June 16 1976 we have never studied under conditions conducive ~~to~~ ^{for} education. After the outbreak, our classmates, our friends, our beloved were mowed down, imprisoned and exiled. Even under this harsh realities we heeded the call to go back to school. Ironically when reached our schools we found soldiers with guns at the doorsteps of our classrooms. From then on into the 1980's undemocratic prefect systems, corporal punishment, sexual abuse to students.

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were enforced on us. In the early 1980's under the banner of Cosas we rose to protest against those unhealthful conditions of learning. ~~Our~~^{our} protest was met with the same harsh measures. Troops occupied our schools, Cosas members were detained and exiled. A great blow was delivered to the student movement when **Cosas was banned 1985.**

Throughout that period up till the beginning of 1990 students in the high school level continued to resist the education system even under the harsh conditions of the state of emergency. The resistance of students finally bore fruit; Cosas was unbanned, our leaders released, our national liberation movement the ANC, unbanned to openly give overall direction. Among the very early statements from our leadership upon their release, they called for students to go back to school. Sayco and other organisation of the **Mass Democratic Movement** endorsed the call. But after all that it is obvious today that effective schooling under the present educa-



tion^{is} collapsing.

We ask ourselves why? We can only trace the problem back to the government and its apartheid education wing DET in particular. When the students heeded the call, the inadequacies of Bantu education ~~was~~^{were} exposed. There ~~was not~~^{were no} enough schools to take the students who were eager to learn. There were very few teachers who could not cope with the volume of students. Poor facilities, extreme shortage of stationery and textbooks was what the students found. Every level minded person in government would agree that these conditions are hostile toward learning. Before we shift any kind of blame for any particular conduct of students in a particular area, we must first move from the point that the DET is the source of the crisis in education. All our efforts must be directed to DET. In the same tone we also say that students ~~can~~^{should} not engage in any undisciplined action. Your actions must be planned, discussed by students and agreed upon.



Your actions must also be guided by the present political mood and thinking.

The student struggle is but one site of struggle in which we must strengthen ourselves. Industry is in crisis, unemployment is high and international pressure is biting into the regime's economy. De Klerk has his back against the wall. It is against this background, that we must with no uncertain terms and with more vigour put the issue of transfer of power on the immediate agenda. Let us here and now today declare, together with all the oppressed all over the country in their many rallies that anything short of this is not acceptable to us.

The time has come that we have to channel our energies and power towards demands that goes to the very root of our liberation objectives. we must uncompromisingly demand:

- Equal rights for all
- A full democratic constituent assembly
- Redistribution of land

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Redistribution of wealth and income
One united, democratic non-racial South
Africa

To this government let us say we have
come a long way, but that we are still de-
termined to press ahead until you surren-
der total power to the people.

Amandla

