

What Price Unity?

SWAPO

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Unity is the great slogan in Africa today. It has given birth to the epoch Addis Ababa Conference which resulted in the Organisation of African Unity. Greater things are still to come. The remaining walls of white supremacy in Southern Africa will soon be smashed. And colonialism will be a thing of the ugly past.

It is small wonder, then, that there are strong urgings from many quarters that African freedom fighters, particularly those still in the thick of the struggle, must come together. This, without question, is essential. There is precious little time to lose. And to face formidable foes in the form of Verwoerd, Salazar and Smith, victory would be elusive if there are dissensions and eternal squabbling within the African front.

But one must draw a line. Unity must never be for the sake of the word. There must never be false fronts, shrouded in deceit and opportunism. Just imagine the course of Ghana, and Africa for that matter, if Kwame Nkrumah had made 'fronts' with those pseudo-intellectuals during Ghana's most trying days. But Dr Nkrumah was wise. He forged ahead against violent odds, and Ghana's victory became Africa's.

Zambia would still be in the revolting grip of Welensky's Federation if Kaunda and his men did not take their people out of the African National Congress morass. It would have been lunacy to form a united front with Nkumbula's despotism.

Roberto Holden has firmly resisted diluting the struggle of the Angolan people with dissenting rabble, consequently the revolutionary forces are moving from strength to strength,

Examples of this type are unending in the recent history of the African struggle, and we have drawn fruitful lessons from them.

We in SWAPO, after a long and careful assessment of the situation in our country, have come to the definite conclusion that all alternatives to an early liberation from the wretched South African administration are closed. We are now irrevocably committed to a course of armed revolution. And to a movement firmly dedicated to this path, a united front with tribal groupings, non-existent parties and collaborators could be nothing but sacrilege. We are

determined to resist any blackmail or aid conditions which would make us succumb to a unity in pawn for what we hold dear.