

nationalist ~~isot~~ ~~in the~~
~~country~~ ~~is~~ ~~ruling~~
 this country under fear all
 the time and therefore must
 keep the pistol in their pocket
 to "protect" themselves.

* "Once the ideas of freedom
 have been planted in the
 human mind nothing short
 of death can ever remove
~~or~~ or eradicate those ideas
 such human beings will
 continue to strive for freedom
 until they secure it, irrespec-
 tive of the period of time,
 involved in ~~the~~ such struggle for
 freedom. This is an enunciation
 of a universal fact affecting
 all men. And because this

is true of all men, then it true
 of African people ~~are~~ ^{who} human
 beings reacting humanly
 to ~~some~~ oppression by the
 white man. And because the
 ideas of freedom have been
 preached and ^{to them} planted in
 their minds, no material
 force will ever eradicate
 these ideas, until they
 achieve their freedom"

A. D. Umhla, address opening a
 mass meeting in Sophiatown

Yes, about 3000 men with
 death in their hands ~~gathered~~
 on that strip of land ~~at~~ at
 dawn dawn ~~at~~ on that rainy
 morning of 9th February 1955.
 What should interest the reader
 is to know what instructions

were given by Minister Swart to the officers commanding these forces. Without going far, let us quote the Minister addressing a meeting in Durban on 2/7/54 headed in the Rand Daily Mail as follows:
 "Resistors Swart says resistors will be crushed"

The last Resistance Movement had been crushed. If there was any repetition the law would be used to the fullest extent," said Mr Swart Minister of Justice, when he addressed a Nationalist Party Rally in Durban last night.

"Speaking as the Minister of Justice, I warn them to be careful what they do.

"I hope this warning will not fall on deaf ears. They will be taught a lesson.

There must be an end to people taking the law into their own hands.

"I told the police not to be afraid - if you must hit then you must hit, and if you must shoot, then you must shoot" (applause)

Now then here you have read the utterances and public pronouncements of a man in the position of a Minister of Justice for the whole of the Union of South Africa. Observe his instruction - ".... And if you must shoot, then you must

shoot. Now you are left
ⁱⁿ with no difficulty to imagine
 what instructions were given
 to the officers in command
 of these 3000 men with
 death in their hand, what
 other situation in the history
 of this country could have
 been ~~for~~ more dangerously
 pregnant with explosion
 than the morning hours of
 that day - 9th February 1955?
 The atmosphere was very
 tense indeed. Death in her
 cruel claws was looming
 in the air that covered the
 eastern end of Sphiatown
 The conduct of the 3000 men
 with death in their hands

spelt Murder in red letter.
Bloodshed was smelling in
these parts of the Seowship.
Yes indeed the Almighty
God who counselled the Great
National Congress opened the
Heavens and His peaceful
rain descended its hosts of
drops upon these parts in
their unnumerable multitudes.
Oh! what a day my reader,
what a day it was!

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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