

Citizen Force was mobilised. In the Emergency hundreds of innocuous people were arbitrarily detained. In view of my past I could have easily been one of the many. The Government, supported by the majority of the whites had turned a granite face to the Africans and their fellow sufferers and had flouted the mainstream of development along which the world is going. This still is the case.

10 I could run or stand. So I stood. It was natural, in view of my past, to find a home in the S.A.C.P. At least my participation would show that I stood alongside the Africans and their fellows. It showed the world that another white had chosen the side of humanity. In view of the Nationalist opposition to Communism nothing could underline my detestation of apartheid more than being a Communist.

20 With the passage of time the inevitable reaction to the Government's stand took place. Poqo arose. There were spontaneous acts of appalling hate, such as the Paarl Riots. I and my family could just as easily have been the victims of such violence as any other family. I felt that I should join at least in the attempt to direct opposition in a constructive and disciplined manner, so as to try to avert danger to life or outbursts of racialistic terrorism. I joined M.K. for the same reasons that have been set forth at length by Nelson Mandela in another Court, namely that there was no lawful method of effective opposition which remained open.

30 This is not the first time that political frustration has driven South Africans to break the

/law in order ...

law, in order to achieve the ideals in which they believed.

I would remind the Court that a few weeks ago the State President of the Republic of South Africa unveiled a plaque in a prison cell where he had been kept for participating in armed rebellion in time of war. Even more recently the Minister of Justice has been digging up petrol tins at Kiffiefontein where he was once confined. I do not suppose he was personally involved, but at the time, many acts of sabotage were committed by opponents of the Government. In one night alone 22 pylons from the Vereeniging Power Station were blown up. M.K. has never committed acts of sabotage on that scale.

These men, and many like them, were prepared to take the course they did, regardless of personal consequences, and at times when the country was at war, for the sake of their ideals.

Although their actions were against the law, their ideals were and are still rejected.

After all, our ideal of equal rights for everybody is equally noble - so far, however, the only response has been increased repression. This does not mean that the grievances of the overwhelming masses of South African's, black and White alike, have been met. It only means that my participating in voicing them has ended. I do not see how I could have done otherwise.

STATEMENT by : L. CHIBA. (Acc. 3.)

My Lord, I admit that I was a member of the highest committee of Umkonto We Sizwe since December, 1963. I do not now seek to avoid responsibility for my actions.

The witness "D" has however given incorrect evidence on certain matters, more particularly in regard to the alleged decision to liquidate State witnesses and informers and the arming of our units. I have heard what accused No. 1 and No. 2 have said about these matters and I confirm that their statements set out what actually happened.

I deny completely that I ever suggested that an Indian informer should be killed. I also deny that in fact a certain Indian had been killed and made to appear that it was a gang-war. I have carefully thought about why witness "D" gave this evidence and all I can think of is that at the time of the killing, the Gangat killing, which was extensively talked about, I mentioned it in general conversation. It is possible that as a result of his five months detention witness "D" has become confused and places a different interpretation on this casual remark.

It states in the charge sheet, My Lord, that I had gone to Russia to train as a communist, this is not true. I do not deny that I had gone to Russia but I do deny that I went there to train as a communist. I went to Russia for a holiday and was there only a month.

I am 34 years of age and have only little education. I am a married man and have three children whom I dearly love.

Although aware of the injustices that the non-white people are subjected to I never really took an active interest/...

interest in their political and social affairs; however a turning point came in my life with Sharpville. The grim photographs of death and agony set me thinking of the plight of the non-white people in the land of their birth. It was then that I joined the Congress Movement. I joined in the campaign calling for a National Convention. I joined the protests which called for the release of our leaders. Every attempt to negotiate with the Government for a peaceful solution to the problems facing the country was frustrated. Instead all legal channels of protest were shut. The major political organisations were outlawed. Our leaders were banned, restricted or imprisoned. Violence is not of our choosing but the natural consequence of our being denied lawful means of protest. I therefore gave my wholehearted support to the policy of controlled sabotage. We hoped that it would induce the Government to hold consultations with the non-white people as regards their grievances. We hope too that the Government will realise that as human beings we are entitled to have an equal say in the government of our country.

My Lord, if it is wrong to fight for freedom and a stake in society then I have done wrong, but I cannot see it.

I am an Indian but above all I am a South African. I could not and still do not see any alternative action that I could have taken to achieve the freedom of my people.

STATEMENT by : JOHN MATTHEWS. (ACC.4).

MY Lord throughout this trial I never denied that I served on the technical committee of Umkonto We Sizwe from early in 1962 until March or April, 1963. It is also true that from time to time I helped members of various organisations in the Congress Alliance by doing certain work, not related to sabotage, by storing various articles and keeping money in my employers safe. I also assisted in the construction and testing of radio apparatus. My Lord one can say that I was
10 a handyman who was willing to do work for this cause. I certainly did not have anything to do with the policy of any of the organisations that I worked for nor did I hold a senior position.

I would like to explain my possession of the .303 cartridges. A long time ago, about 1936 I purchased a .303 rifle and 28 cartridges, rounds of ammunition, from a cousin of mine who was hard-up. I did not need it and I did not fire a shot from it. Subsequently I handed this rifle in when required to do
20 so by the Government but I forgot to include the cartridges. When I subsequently came across the cartridges I decided that I might as well keep them and I sealed them in a tin which I intended to bury. The Court has seen from the newspaper wrapping that this happened as long ago as 1940. I had in fact thought that I had buried this tin and was most surprised when the police showed it to me at the Grays shortly after my arrest.

I would also like to point out that although
30 I did type Exhibit "K" I certainly did not draft it, it is beyond my capacity. I was given a draft letter

to/...

to copy from.

I am 51 years of age. I was born and bred in Johannesburg the eldest of five children. I left school for bread and butter reasons, shortly after I turned 15. My father died a year later and I had to help my mother for many years in the struggle to bring up the family. As a result I did not marry until I was 28 years of age. I have seven children aged from 11 to 22.

My being in Court can be attributed to my devotion to my large and lovely family and my concern for their future. I believe that their fate is tied up with that of the white population of South Africa and that the economic stability of the whites will be guaranteed and even improved if a substantial improvement in the earning capacity of the non-whites were brought about. But people can only improve their lot if they can have a direct say in the selection of their Government - and this I believe is the crux of the problem in South Africa. I believe that withholding democratic rights from the masses is equivalent to withholding food and I would say that the vote is the staff of life. I believe that the achievement of universal suffrage will not only result in economic progress and racial harmony in this country but it is the only way in which the survival of the whites may be ensured. I have tried to play my part in the struggle for racial harmony in this country.

Shortly after my arrest and detention the police tried to persuade me to become a State witness, they said I was but a small cog in the whole machine. Although the temptation to be free once more with my devoted family was great I decided that I could not betray my friends nor the principles which I believe in.

STATEMENT by : S.R. MAHARAJ (Acc. No. 5).

My Lord although I have been found guilty I actually had very little to do with sabotage. I acted as a messenger, made my house available for the activities of the members of the Umkonto and bought various items at the behest of other persons. It is true that I did other political work in opposition to the Government but this had nothing to do with sabotage.

When I was arrested a pistol was found in my home. This pistol had nothing to do with Umkonto activities. I live in a rough area, Doornfontein, and I have a pistol for personal protection. Many other people, black and white in Doornfontein also have pistols.

I am 30 years of age and studied at the University of Natal and the London School of Economics. I grew up in a little town in northern Natal where I matriculated at the age of 17. My father is a cripple and even while at school I had to work in a quarry in order to earn money for school fees and books. I entered the University in order to study law. In order to do this I worked during the day earning £10 per month and had to live and study on this minute amount. I first obtained a B.A. degree at the University of Natal and thereafter I began my LL.B degree but after I had completed the first year LL.B the law faculty was closed to non-whites and I was refused a permit to study either at the University of Cape Town or Witwater'srand I therefore was compelled to go to Britain in 1957 to continue my studies and subsequently I read for an LL.B degree at the London School of Economics as a part time student.

After Sharpville I felt that I had to return ultimately to South Africa to play my role in the liberation of my people. Even while I contemplated my return

to/...

to South Africa, I witnessed from afar the banning of the organisations of the non-white people. I watched the Government steadily and ceaselessly close the doors to a peaceful transition in my country. I was dismayed by the unyielding attitude of the Government, I was angered by injustice, by the banning of the organisations, the arrests, the banishment of our leaders and the granite wall attitude of the Government.

10 Eventually I returned to South Africa dedicated and determined to assist in the struggle for the liberation of my people. I returned to South Africa where the struggle for our liberation had to be conducted illegally because there were no lawful avenues open in the struggle for our liberation, in this struggle I felt that at last I was doing something.

We in South Africa are fighting for an end to apartheid, for the liberation of the non-white people, and we seek a South Africa where black and white can live in freedom and equality.

20 I, My Lord, am a reasonably well educated person, I am eager to work to earn a living to study in my spare time and be a law abiding citizen, yet in the country of my birth the universities are closed to me, I have no vote, I cannot go where I like or buy property where I like. There is no way of protest open to me other than sabotage. Whatever punishment your Lordship metes out to me cannot convince me that I have acted wrongly. I cannot see how morally it can be wrong to fight for ones freedom and the freedom of ones people.

30 Mr. Kentridge : M'Lord I have no evidence to lead, and, unless my learned friend wishes to say something first, I would like to address your Lord hip on the question of sentence.

Mr. Masters : I have nothing to say.

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