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CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SACP

Esteemed Comrade :

The Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP-1930, the Philippine Communist Party) congratulates the South African Communist Party (SACP) on your celebration of the centenary of the July 30 to August 1, 1921, founding in Cape Town of your Party. We wish every success to your Inaugural Lecture on July 30, 2021, and your Founding Conference Rally to be held in Johannesburg on August 1, 2021.

It has been a century of great forward movement since the SACP was organized as a multi-racial Marxist-Leninist party for leading the struggle against the British imperialists and the white bourgeoisie of South Africa who were equally interested in the merciless exploitation of the oppressed majority, against minority white supremacy rule, and for people's democracy and socialism.

The PKP-1930 salutes the SACP's leading role in the sharp struggles to end the abominable system of apartheid in your country --- in the organization of the Congress Alliance with the African National Congress (ANC), the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and other formations ; in the drafting of the Freedom Charter as a minimum programme ; in the formation of the uMkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation, or MK) as the military arm of the liberation struggle ; in withstanding the most brutal attacks by the racist and anti-communist ruling groups ; in leading the Alliance forces for the culminating victory over the apartheid regime in the radical democratic breakthrough of 1994 ; and in contributing many office-bearers of the democratically-elected new government which adopted social programmes and the 1996 constitution that brought progress for the first time to millions of South Africans.

Your victory over apartheid was also a product of international solidarity extended by the Front-Line States which provided bases and supplies for your liberation forces, by the former USSR other socialist countries which provided vital wherewithal, by the selfless Cuban forces which helped the Angolan forces in smashing the myth of white supremacist invincibility in the long-drawn battle of Cuito-Cuanavale, and by the working class and peace

movements in capitalist and developing countries where supporters of apartheid have been isolated.

A small Philippine link or contribution to your anti-apartheid struggle was the book, "Born of the People", written by our Comrade William Pomeroy and printed by International Publishers of the CPUSA, which dealt lengthily about the HUKBALAHAP (Anti-Japanese People's Army) guerrilla struggle in the Philippines during World War-II. It was among the books on guerrilla warfare used by MK leaders and trainees in the 1960s, and a copy seized from Comrade Nelson Mandela upon his capture by apartheid forces in 1962 was used in evidence against him and other ANC/MK leaders in the Rivonia Trial.

Our Party consistently supported the anti-apartheid struggle until victory, and had mobilized mass organizations in successful campaigns to inform our people about the abominable practices of apartheid in South Africa and the so-called "bantustans". National and provincial anti-apartheid conferences were held in the 1980s, and our Party leaders participated in anti-apartheid activities of the United Nations in Manila.

Through our London-based Comrades Celia and William Pomeroy, our Party regularly received copies of the SACP journal, "The African Communist", and the ANC's "Sechaba", and was kept well-informed of the fighting role of the SACP and its much-admired activities in building a united front of all anti-apartheid forces among the black, white and colored/Indian peoples of South Africa. We also value every opportunity of meeting and hearing from SACP leaders who were office-bearers of the ANC – Herbie Phillay who came for the UN Asian Regional Conference for Action Against Apartheid, held in Manila in May 1982, and Alfred Nzo and Alex La Guma who attended several meetings of the World Peace Council (WPC) and the original Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO).

We used to say that mankind cannot be free until the peoples of southern Africa are free of the abominable system of apartheid. Now, mankind cannot yet be free until the Palestinian people are free of the zionist system of apartheid. Your victory over apartheid is a lesson and inspiration that apartheid in Palestine will soon be vanquished, and that the Palestinian people's state will soon be free and independent.

Despite the pandemic and economic crisis facing South African society, we wish the SACP every success in the achievement of the goals of the Freedom Charter in order to alleviate unemployment, poverty and inequality, and reinforce the basis for an advance to socialism, in accordance with the SACP Programme, "*The South African Road to Socialism*". As your strategic slogan states it, "*Socialism is the Future—Build it Now!*"

In closing, we hope for closer comradely relations between the PKP-1930 and the SACP in our common struggle against imperialism, for peace, freedom and socialism.

Long live proletarian internationalism !

With communist greetings,

ANTONIO E. PARIS
General Secretary