

Options in Brief

Option 1: Continue Nonviolent Struggle With Multiracial Support

Nonviolence has been the core principle of our beliefs in the struggle against apartheid. To abandon that principle at this crucial point would be to show the world and our people that we have given up, that we no longer have the courage to stand up for our beliefs. We have seen the positive effects of passive resistance in India, and we can have the same effect here in South Africa. The eventual reconciliation with whites and the establishment of democracy requires that we use only passive means to resist. We must stay the course and remember that it is the stronger man who makes his beliefs known through nonviolent means.

Option 2: Use Limited, Structured Violence With Communist Party Support

Despite repeated attempts to engage the government in talks, we have been turned down. The government will not allow us to fight peacefully any more, and has blocked all our legal acts by making them illegal. It is time to join with the South African Communist Party, which can provide financial backing and which believes that a small group should be the vanguard of the struggle. Structured, organized, limited sabotage of the white government will demonstrate our power, reduce the regime's effectiveness, and show the international community that we are dedicated to preventing deaths. Our people cannot have died in vain while we continue to wait for an opportunity to put more of them in harm's way.

Option 3: Advocate Guerrilla War Tactics For Africans Alone

This is a violent regime that only understands violence. We must speak its language. In our nonviolent struggle we have posed no threat. We have simply offered ourselves up to be shot. But we can instill fear in the whites, and then they will give up their power. We—Africans alone—must eliminate the forces that are standing in the way of our own power. The only way to do that is to take power away from the whites. Let the people speak: give them the weapons to do so. We must show the masses that they can take control. We are ready for a revolution.