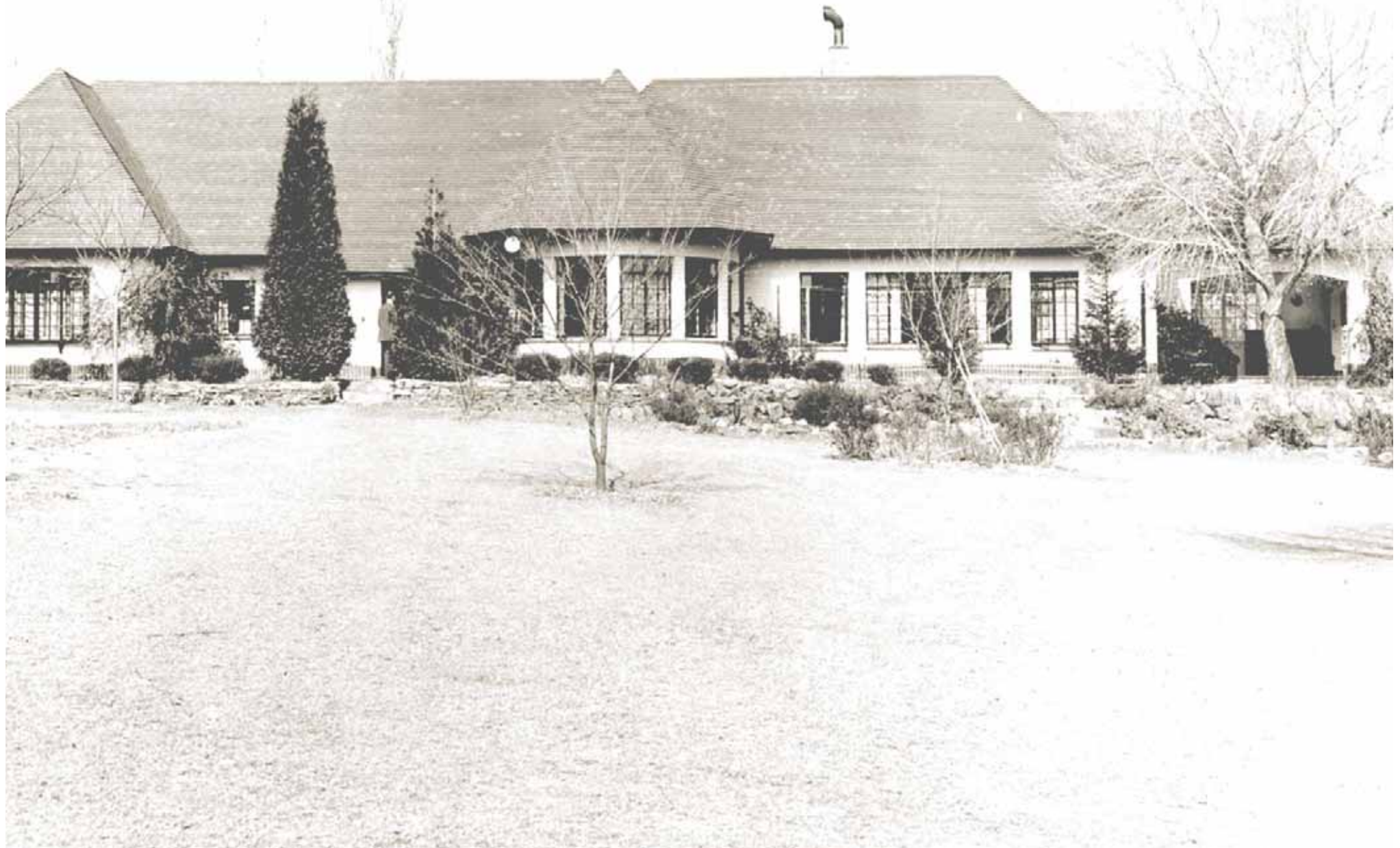
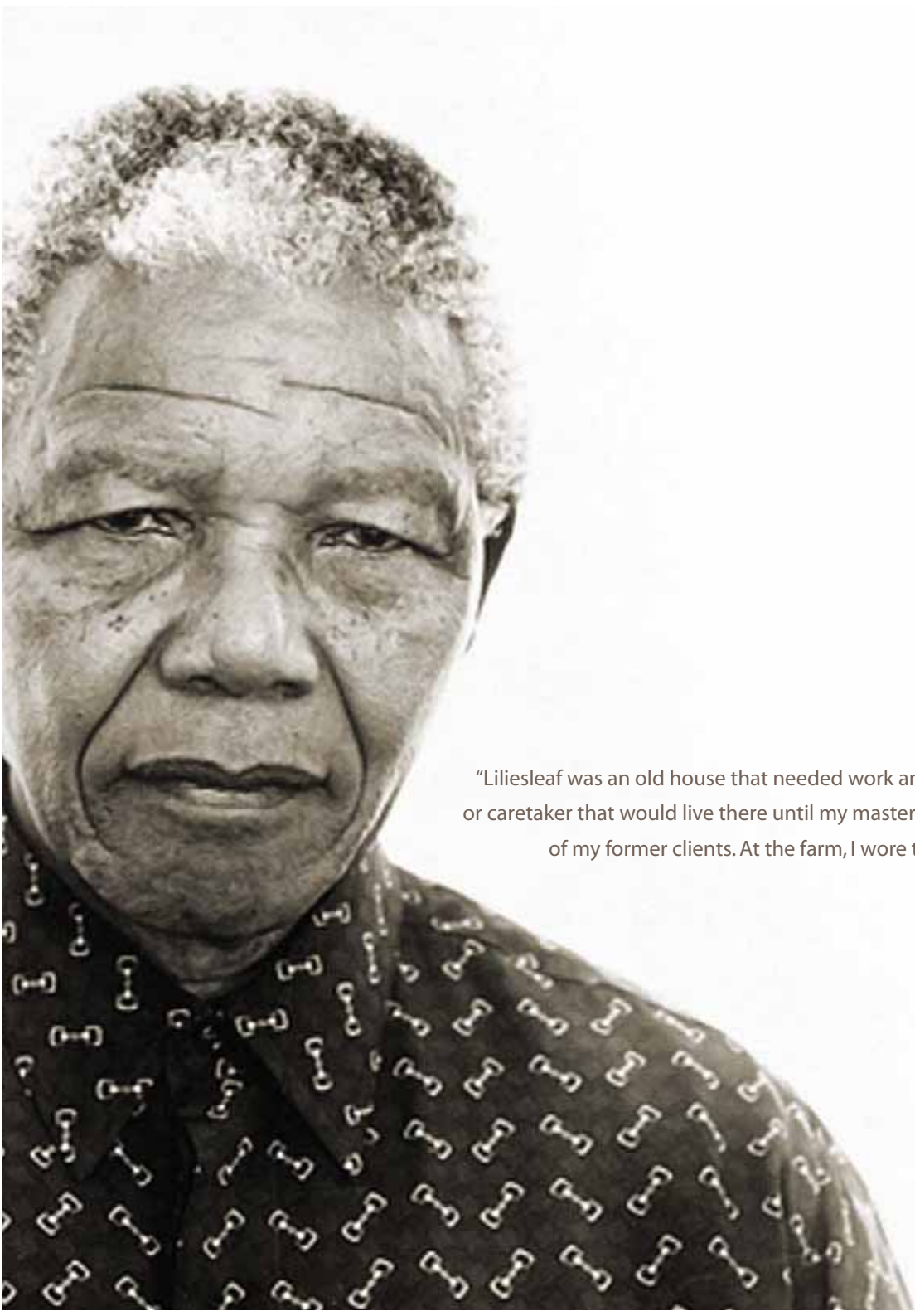




Liliesleaf Trust
PRESERVING OUR HISTORY & HERITAGE







“Liliesleaf was an old house that needed work and no one lived there. I moved in under the pretext that I was a houseboy or caretaker that would live there until my master took possession. I had taken the alias David Motsamayi, the name of one of my former clients. At the farm, I wore the simple blue overalls that were the uniform of the black male servant.”

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom

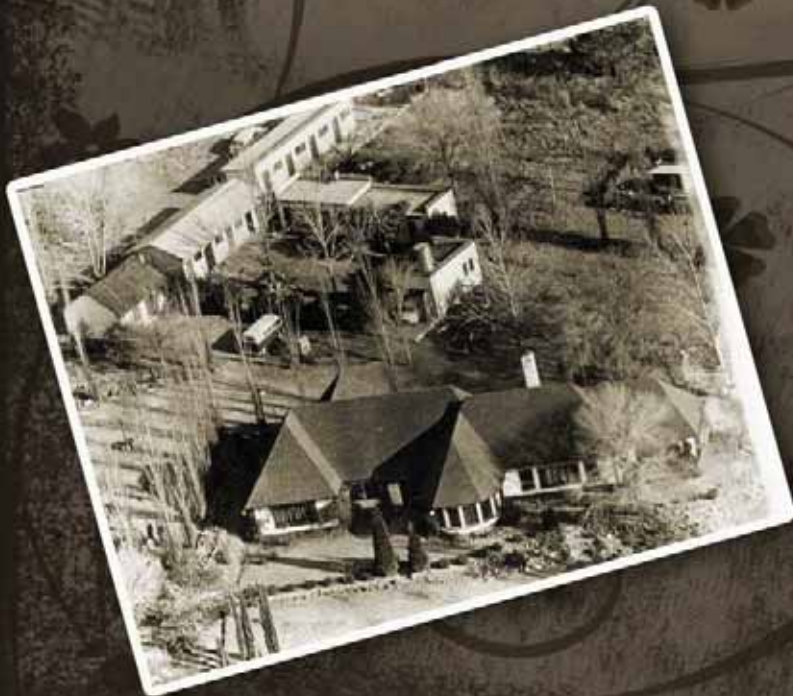


Liliesleaf Farm

Liliesleaf Farm personifies the beliefs, inspiration and aspirations of a unique group of leaders who were committed to bringing about socio-political transformation predicated on democratic principles.

Liliesleaf Farm was purchased by the South African Communist Party (SACP) in 1961 and evolved into the headquarters of Umkhonto-we-Sizwe (MK), the African National Conference (ANC) military wing, translated as "The Spear of the Nation". The farm, situated just outside Johannesburg, was used not only as the high command, of MK, but also as a hideaway and meeting place for ANC and Congress Alliance senior leaders.

The raid by security police on Liliesleaf in 1963 led to the arrest and capture of members of the high command of MK, and the subsequent Rivonia Trial, which resulted in the life long imprisonment of key ANC, South African Communist Party and Congress Alliance leaders. This trial was a key turning point in the struggle against Apartheid, catapulting South Africa's situation into the international spotlight. In addition, the trial catalysed a series of events in South Africa's history which would eventually result in the formation of South Africa's first democratically elected government, some 31 years later.







WHITES
ONLY
BEYOND THIS
POINT

HISTORICAL POLITICAL CONTEXT

With the enactment of Apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination became institutionalised. Race laws touched every aspect of social life, including a prohibition of marriage between non-whites and whites, the sanctioning of “white-only” jobs, and the effective erosion of black democratic rights in the bulk of South Africa. This system of legislated racial discrimination continued to intensify, and in 1960, South Africa was in the grip of an overwhelmingly oppressive Apartheid regime.

The penalties imposed on political protest, even non-violent protest, were severe. During the states of emergency, which continued intermittently until 1989, anyone could be detained for up to six months without trial. Many individuals died in custody, frequently after gruesome acts of torture. Those who were tried were often sentenced to death, banished, or imprisoned for life.

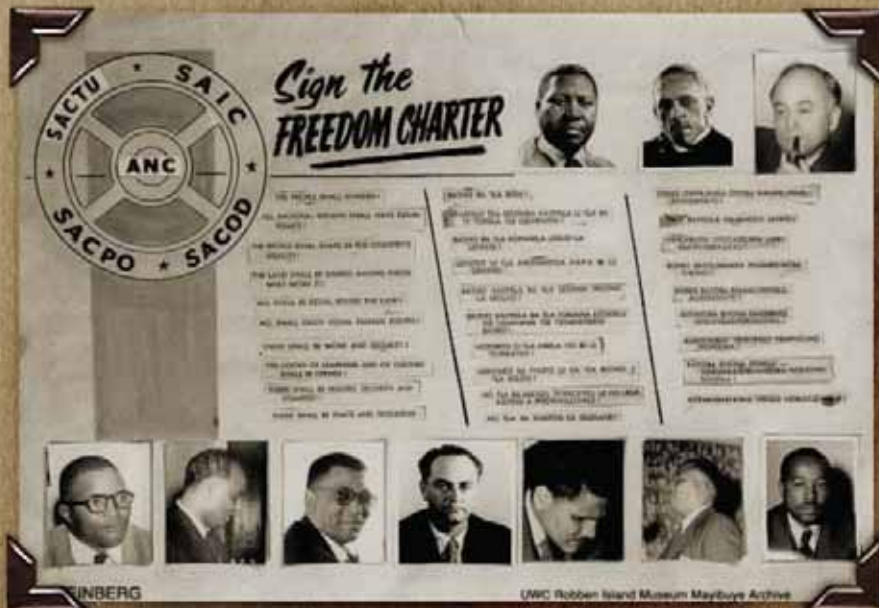


THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

On 21 March 1960, a peaceful protest against apartheid laws resulted in police killing sixty-nine demonstrators and injuring over 180. This became known as the Sharpeville Massacre. Most of those killed and injured were women and children. The uproar among the oppressed was immediate, and the following week saw demonstrations, protest marches, strikes, and riots around the country. On March 30, 1960, the government declared a state of emergency, detaining more than 18,000 people.

On 8 April the Unlawful Organisations Act (1960) declared that groups, including the ANC, campaigning for the end of Apartheid, to be illegal.

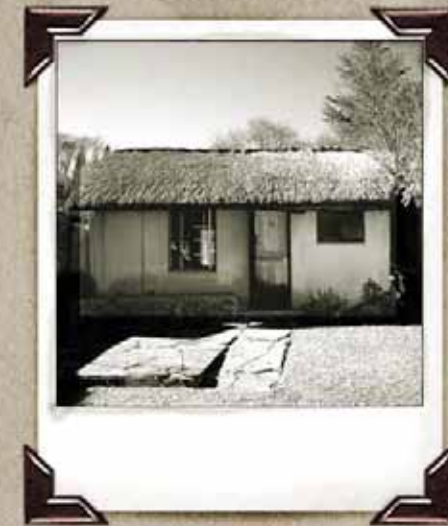
The Sharpeville Massacre became the catalyst of change from the ANC's philosophy of passive resistance to one of armed struggle. In an interview given to the BBC shortly after the massacre, Nelson Mandela said, "We cannot allow the killing of unarmed and defenseless people."



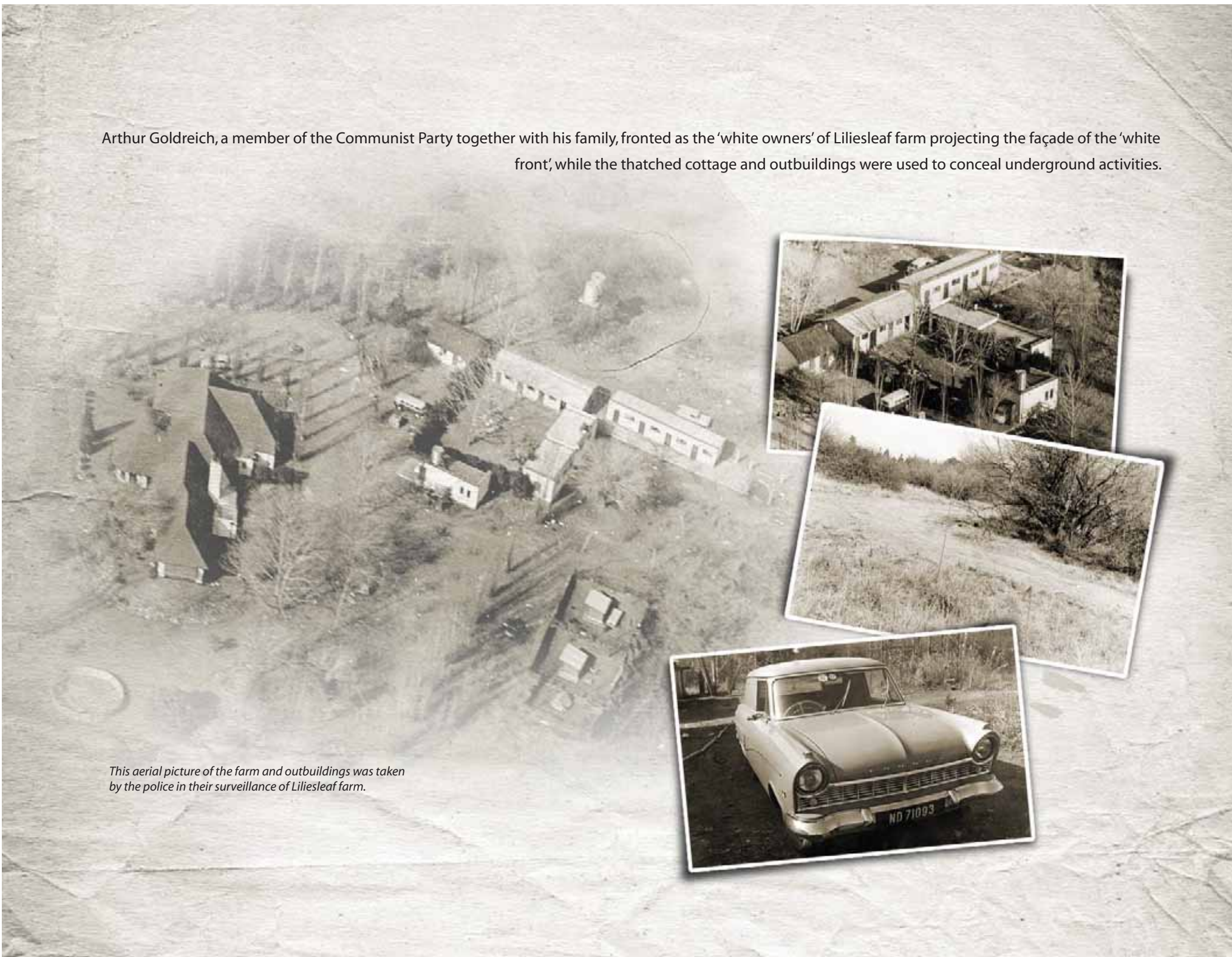
THE ROLE OF LILIESLEAF

Liliesleaf Farm was primarily purchased as a meeting place for senior South African Communist Party leaders and members of the Politburo. It was a 28 acre farm situated some 12 miles from the centre of Johannesburg and was ideal due to its seclusion. The purchase of the farm coincided with the decision by the ANC to take up armed struggle, and subsequently, evolved into the headquarters of MK.

At the farm, they held key debates on political and military policy and strategy and was generally a place of much liberation activity. It was at Liliesleaf farm that senior leaders of South Africa's struggle against Apartheid attended meetings and sought shelter. Some of these included Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki (Father of South Africa's current president Thabo Mbeki), Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Bram Fischer, Joe Slovo, Ruth First, Raymond Mhlaba, Rusty Bernstein, Bob Hepple, Harold Wolpe, and Dennis Goldberg. Many of these individuals were arrested in the police's raid on Liliesleaf farm, and tried in the subsequent Rivonia Trial. They were to later spend 27 years in prison.



Arthur Goldreich, a member of the Communist Party together with his family, fronted as the 'white owners' of Liliesleaf farm projecting the façade of the 'white front', while the thatched cottage and outbuildings were used to conceal underground activities.



This aerial picture of the farm and outbuildings was taken by the police in their surveillance of Liliesleaf farm.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LILIESLEAF TO THE STRUGGLE

Liliesleaf Farm personifies the beliefs, inspirations and aspirations of a unique group of leaders.

It was a place of intellectual discourse, focused around political, ideological and military strategy, policy, planning and operations, and formed the crucible of the liberation movement.

It was at Liliesleaf Farm that the high command met to plan Operation Mayibuye – the plan to overthrow the apartheid regime.

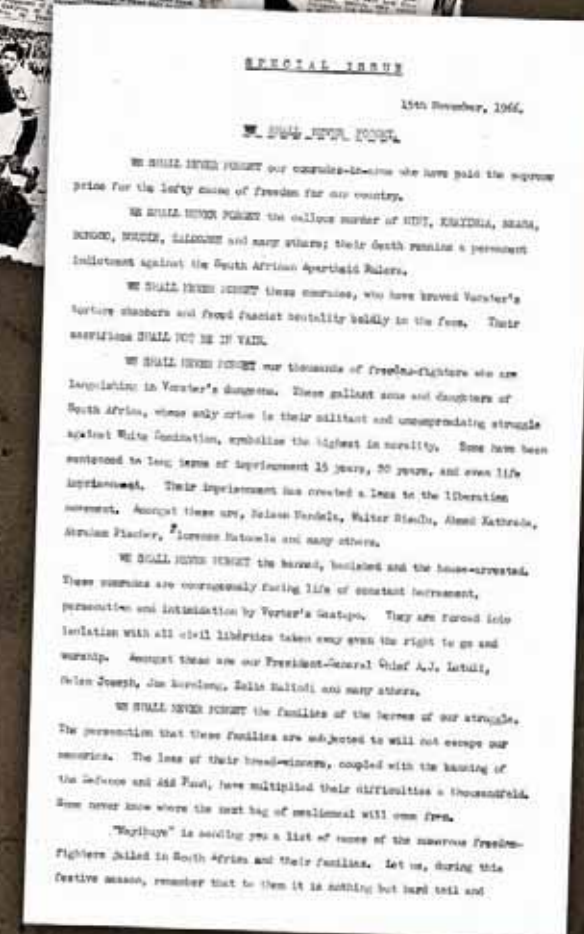
Liliesleaf is uniquely connected with the Rivonia trial - which came to represent the essence of the liberation struggle and focused world attention on South Africa. The media surrounding the trial and the harsh sentencing of the accused catapulted the atrocities of South Africa onto the international stage. The trialists became international icons of a struggle against an oppressive regime.



Found in outbuilding 3, the radio transmitter to be used for the first broadcast of radio freedom. Photographed by the Police during the raid.



Sunday Times, September 8, 1963



Extract from Mayibuye, a small underground newsletter - 15 November 1966



A.N.C., Poqo, Spear, Col. v. d. Bergh

SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER
Poqo, the banned A.N.C., the Spear of the Nation and the underground organisation of the Communist Party have all been smashed.

That is the Security Branch's assessment of the results of this week's dramatic raid on Rivonia at Johannesburg, near Johannesburg, where six Whites and 12 non-Whites, including Walter Sisulu, former secretary of the banned A.N.C., were arrested.

Colonel H. J. van den Bergh, a senior member of the Security Branch, told me in Pretoria yesterday.

"We believe that the Rivonia raid has been the decisive blow to all these organisations, all parties operating under the banner of the Communist Party."

Colonel van den Bergh said that the raid was a triumph for the South African Government.

"We have all the information we need and we are in complete control."

Colonel van den Bergh said that the house in Rivonia was the operative headquarters of the A.N.C.

Spear, smashed says



This mansion in Rivonia, Johannesburg, photographed from the air by the SUNDAY TIMES, was the operative headquarters of the A.N.C., says Colonel H. J. van den Bergh, of the Security Branch.

"When this group started in that we have made a major breakthrough. But there is still a lot of work to be done."

"It will be some time before these arrested will face their trial and it is not possible to say at this stage what the charges will be."

Colonel van den Bergh could not say whether the raid had any other objectives in the past or whether the information was working under Communist Party control.

"But these may be an indication of the extent of the Communist Party's activities."

Army explosives experts comb Rivonia garden

SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER
Army explosives experts have been rushed to Johannesburg from the Free State to search the 22-acre house in Rivonia where Walter Sisulu and 17 others were arrested on Thursday night in a raid by the Security Branch.

They are looking for traces of explosives and other materials which might be used in the making of bombs. The police say that the search is being carried out by the Army's Explosives Section, which is based in Johannesburg and has a reputation for its expertise in this field.

A spokesman at the Central Bureau of Information said that the Army's Explosives Section had been sent to Rivonia to search for traces of explosives and other materials which might be used in the making of bombs.

"Bomb drawings" - It is stated in Rivonia that the police found drawings of bombs made during the 1950s. The drawings were made by a group of people who were active in the Rivonia area.

"S.A. girl falls to death in London" - A 19-year-old South African girl, Miss GALE JENKINS, has been found dead in London. She was last seen in Johannesburg on Friday.

"The police stated that they were searching for traces of explosives and other materials which might be used in the making of bombs. The search is being carried out by the Army's Explosives Section, which is based in Johannesburg and has a reputation for its expertise in this field."

Sunday Times, July 14 1963

The security police raid on Liliesleaf Farm on July 11, 1963 was critical. The arrest of so many senior ANC leaders was a major blow to the movement and the struggle for liberation. However, the subsequent trial, which became known to the world as the Rivonia Trial, finally focused world scrutiny on South Africa and its oppressive regime.



THE RAID ON LILIESLEAF FARM

11 July 1963 was to be the last meeting at Liliesleaf, the secret headquarters of MK. The leadership had been worried for some time that Liliesleaf Farm had been exposed. During the course of a meeting held the previous week, the concern was mentioned. It was decided that the 11th of July would be last meeting to be held at Liliesleaf and all activities would be shut down and relocated to Travellyn, a farm recently purchased.

The meeting was to conclude discussions around operation Mayibuye, the plan for the overthrow of the South African government.

The South African Security Police had already received a tip-off that Walter Sisulu would be at Liliesleaf that day.

In the afternoon of 11 July, 1963, a dry-cleaning van and a florist van drove down the pathway of the farm. Bob Hepple heard a knock at the door and, upon opening it, a farm labourer was standing there. When Hepple noticed the two vehicles, he asked the labourer who had requested laundry and flowers, but the labourer did not know. Right then, armed policemen burst out of the van, and from that moment, the word 'Rivonia' became synonymous around the world with the silencing of black resistance in South Africa.

In the thatched cottage, the security police swooped in to find senior leaders meeting. One of the documents found was Operation Mayibuye, the resistance movement's plan for guerrilla warfare in South Africa. All the men were arrested.

After the raid had taken place, a security police lieutenant confronted Arthur and Hazel Goldreich in their main bedroom. It is thought that while "interrogating" the couple, the lieutenant, noticing the Goldreich's son peering through the window into his parents' bedroom, turned to the Goldreichs and threatened: "You will never see your children again". This image of the little boy looking through his parents' window was captured by other police officers on the outskirts of the farm, and can be seen through the magnifying glass below.



THE RAID

THURSDAY NIGHT, July 11, 1963. A bakery van and a dry cleaner's van trundle down the long driveway of an elegant house in Rivonia, a smart northern suburb of Johannesburg. From the vans come police. They fan out and surround the house and out buildings. With them are two highly-trained police dogs. A police officer enters a biggish room in an outbuilding, and 16 people tense in surprise.

One — Mr. Walter Sisulu, former A.N.C. secretary-general, whom the police have been hunting for several months — leaps to a window. But on

TURN OVER





Excerpt from Drum Magazine - August 1963

MANDELA'S JOURNALS AND PAPERS

In 1963, Nelson Mandela had been in prison for a few months serving a five year sentence. He had left a diary and journals and writings that he had penned while at Liliesleaf discussing the armed struggle and the role of the Communist Party. It was crucial that this incriminating evidence be destroyed, so that it did not fall into the wrong hands. Mandela relayed two messages to this effect through Joe Slovo and Bob Hepple, who were providing him with legal advice, saying "Please tell them to get rid of the documents." The advocates made enquiries and reported back that his instruction had been carried out.

Arthur Goldreich considered smuggling the documents out of the country, but soon decided that this was too dangerous. They instead decided to conceal the cache of documents beneath a coal dump. He put Mandela's papers inside a plywood box and then secreted the cache inside a coal bunker near the manor house kitchen door, amongst the coal.

At the time of the raid, Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island. There was, therefore, no evidence to link him to the activities of Liliesleaf Farm. However, the day after the raid the police uncovered the cache of documents in the coal bunker. Goldreich stood and watched, filled with dread, while the cache was dragged into the open. The police allegedly clapped their hands with joy as they recognised the handwriting as belonging to Mandela.

Here was evidence of Mandela's relationship to Liliesleaf, and all the intimate details of his travels abroad to build up support for the ANC and the formation of MK. The police had their case. Mandela would stand trial as Accused Number 1.



Nelson Mandela, 1963



*The Coal Bunker where Mandela's writings were uncovered.
Photographed by the police during their raid on the farm.*



Arthur Goldreich and Harold Wolpe (a leading member of the ANC and SACP) escaped from Marshall Square in Johannesburg after bribing a prison guard. After hiding in various safe houses for two months they escaped through Swaziland dressed as priests with the aid of Manni Brown, who posed as a tour operator as a cover to deliver weapons to the ANC.

Wolpe's escape saw his brother-in-law, James Kantor arrested and being charged with the same crimes as Mandela and his co-accused.

THE RIVONIA TRIAL

At the Rivonia trial, Mandela and his fellow defendants were charged with 221 acts of sabotage designed to “ferment violent revolution”.

The Rivonia trial was hardly representative of the course of justice. In the research to date, it has come to light that some of the evidence presented at the trial was tampered with.



The picture above, for example, was put forward by the State as proof that Radio Freedom was being broadcast from Liliesleaf. The crouching man, the police “claimed”, had pointed to the wires in the picture, identifying them as cables used to broadcast Radio Freedom. However, examining the picture closely, it is clear that the crouching man has been super-imposed onto the picture. His pointing finger, and his shoulder, are completely out of proportion with the rest of his body. His shiny shoes are incongruous with the context, and his shadow, which should be darker than those of the other two in the picture, is in fact lighter.

However, Mandela had a growing international reputation and the ANC sought to use the trial to win worldwide support and attention. Here at last was the opportunity to break out of the blackout of state censorship, and replace unreliable rumour with an authentic policy guide for the whole people. The Rivonia trial became the platform from which to tell the whole story of the struggle against the Apartheid regime, Umkhonto, and the turn to armed struggle.

The main burden of articulating the story of the struggle for freedom fell on accused No.1 - Nelson Mandela. His statement included the now famous phrase **“I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”**

That statement was reported and rebroadcast through the country and the world. It sealed the certainty of a verdict of guilt against Mandela, yet it also broke, at last, the stifling blanket of censorship and silence which had surrounded the ANC and its allies since the state of emergency of 1960.

All but two of the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment. The United Nations Security Council condemned the trial and began moves towards international sanctions against the apartheid regime. But it was 27 years before Mandela was released from prison, becoming President of South Africa following the first democratic multi-racial elections in 1994.

The Trialists



Nelson Mandela



Walter Sisulu



Dennis Goldberg



Govan Mbeki



Arthur Goldreich*



James "Jimmy" Kantor



Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein



Harold Wolpe*



Andrew Mlangeni



Elias Motsoaledi



Ahmed Kathrada



Raymond Mhlaba

**escaped before going to trial*

Rebuilding Liliesleaf



GROUND FLOOR
LILIESLEAF LIBRARY



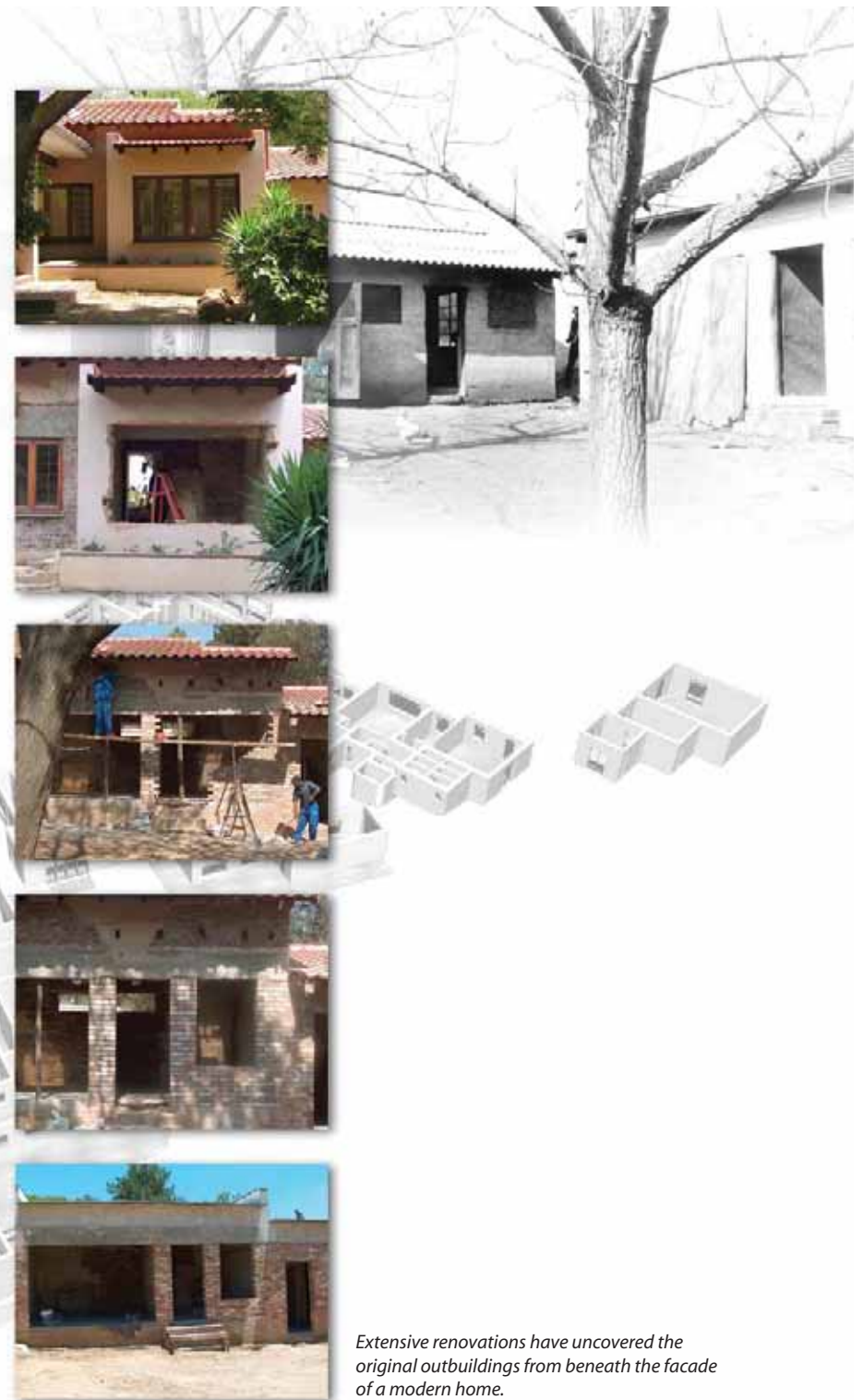
LILIESLEAF LEGACY PROJECT

At the Liliesleaf Reunion held in December on 2001, President Thabo Mbeki announced the launch of the Liliesleaf Trust. The Trust was established to restore, preserve and maintain the historical structure, buildings and legacy of the site. In preserving these structures, the aim is to ensure that the essence, spirit and soul of Liliesleaf are maintained for current and future generations.

The original historical structures and buildings of Liliesleaf Farm that were the centre for numerous political activities have been uncovered, preserved and restored. The Liliesleaf Project consists of a learning centre comprising:

- a struggle library, research and archive centre
- the historical buildings, structures and vegetation that make up the museum
- the liberation centre

The learning centre offers a snapshot of South Africa's recent history, disseminated in an effective, interactive and experiential manner. The struggle library will offer academics, scholars, the public, and local and international tourists access to historical material, records and critical theoretical writings on the struggle, thus enabling them to gain insight into the events and ideology that defined the liberation struggle against the apartheid regime.



Extensive renovations have uncovered the original outbuildings from beneath the facade of a modern home.



“The Rivonia Trial contains lessons for South Africa and for the rest of the world: it exposed the hypocrisy of apartheid; it showed how repression could be exerted over the majority in order to protect the privileges of a minority; it ultimately portrayed courage born out of ideals and deep-rooted beliefs. For all of these reasons, among others, the Liliesleaf Trust warrants respect and admiration. Historical legacies, or the memory thereof, are important frameworks for nation and identity-building, two important processes in any post-conflict period.”

Ana Leao – ISS Today





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