

Mandela goes UNDERGROUND

The machinery of the democratic movement, including our own organisation, had once again proved itself too cumbersome and slow-moving to cope with a situation requiring a sense of urgency and drive, of taking full local initiative.

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ገርገር : ምልክት : DESCRIPTIONS	የግለሰብ : Wife
ሥራ : J.H.M.S. :- Profession	የግለሰብ : ጽሑፍ : PHOTOGRAPH OF WIFE
የተወለደበት : 18/7/1918 ቤቻፍላንድ ቀን : ቦታ : Place and date of birth : 18/7/1918 BECHUANALAND	
የግሪፍብት : ለገር : ቤቻፍላንድ Domicile : BECHUANALAND	የግለሰብ : ጽሑፍ : PHOTOGRAPH OF WIFE
ቁመት : 1.78 ሜትር Height : 1.78 m.	
የግሪፍብት : ቀለም : ቦርም Colour of Eyes : BROWN	የግለሰብ : ጽሑፍ : PHOTOGRAPH OF WIFE
የግለሰብ : ቀለም : ስፔር Colour of Hair : BLACK	
ለየ ምልክት : Identifying details	የግለሰብ : ጽሑፍ : PHOTOGRAPH OF WIFE
የልጆች ስም : Names of children	

Signature of David Motsamayi

Signature of Wife

At the conclusion of the four-and-a-half-year Treason Trial in 1961, the ANC decided that Nelson Mandela should go underground. He spent many months hiding out in different locations including a farm in Rivonia called Lilliesleaf where he pretended to be the caretaker. He took on the name of David Motsamayi – one of his former clients

In early 1962 he left the country, without South African travel documents, via Botswana. He was going to attend a meeting of the Pan-African Freedom Movement for East, Central and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

But he also had another task – to travel to as many African countries as he could to raise political and economic support for the ANC and the newly-formed armed wing – Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

His travels included Ethiopia, Tanganyika (Tanzania), Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Ghana and Senegal.

Ethiopia made a great impression on Madiba. He wrote in his autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, that “the prospect of visiting . . . attracted me more strongly than a trip to France, England and America combined. I felt I would be visiting my own genesis, unearthing the roots of what made me an African.”

To facilitate his travels, he was issued with an Ethiopian passport – in the name of David Motsamayi.

Having met Oliver Tambo (“OR”) – whom he had not seen for two years – and attending the Pan-African Freedom Movement meeting, Mandela proceeded to London on June 7 1962.

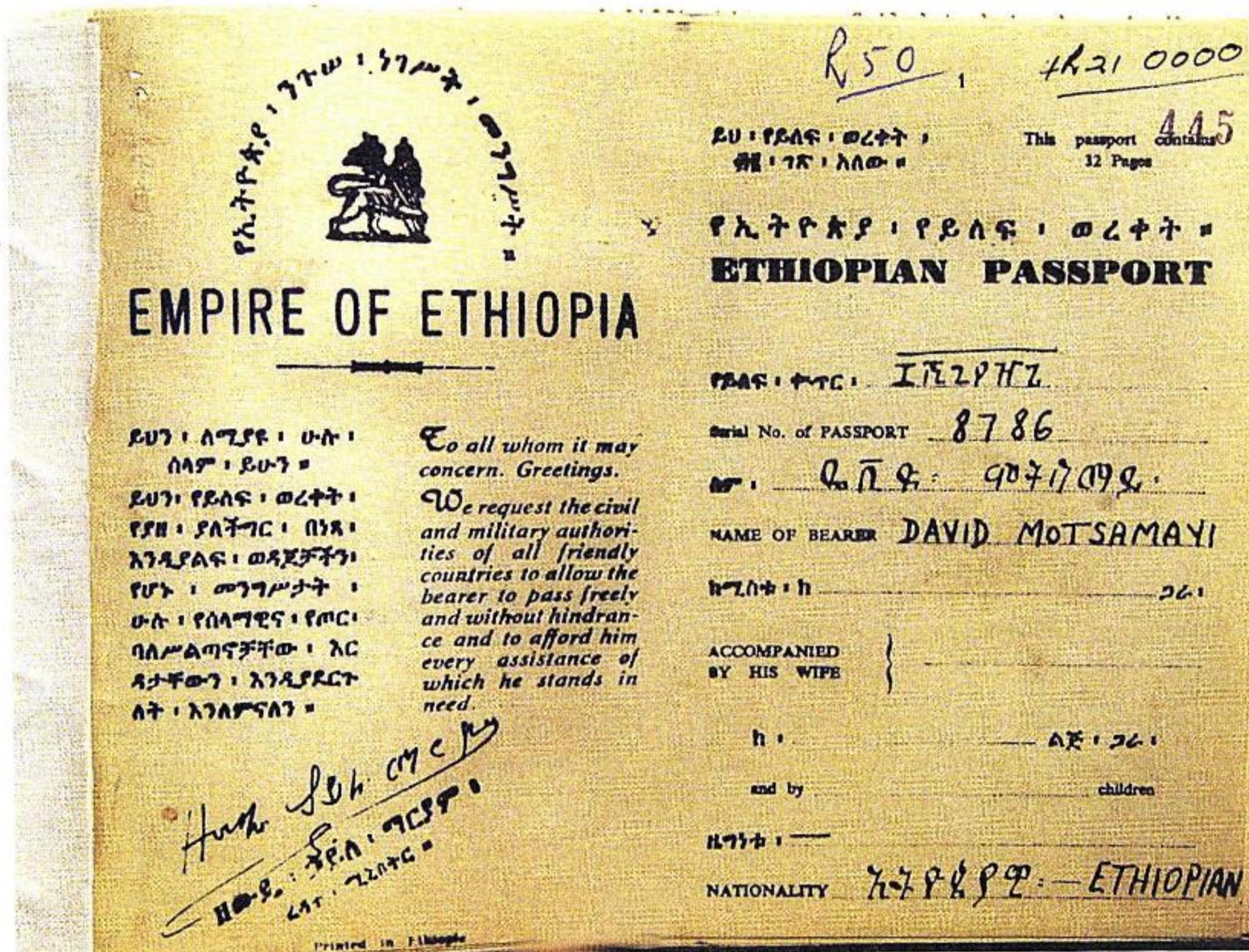
The next day he met senior ANC members in exile like Yusuf Dadoo, Ugandan Prime Minister Milton Obote and British Labour Party leader Hugh Gaitskell among others.

He wrote: “In London I resumed my old underground ways, not wanting word to leak back to South Africa that I was there. But I was not a recluse: my 10 days were divided between ANC business, seeing old friends and occasional jaunts as a conventional tourist.

“With Mary Benson – a Pretoria-born friend who had written about our struggle – Oliver and I saw the sights of the city that had once commanded nearly two-thirds of the globe.”

At times, he combined business with pleasure – as can be seen from these photographs that were taken in the Tambo family home. The pictures show OR and Mandela in OR’s study – with Adelaide Tambo and a

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very young Dali Tambo.

After returning to Africa and eight weeks of military training, the ANC summoned Mandela back to South Africa. He was arrested not long after on August 5 1962 in Howick, Natal, with Cecil Williams, a white theatre director and an MK member.

On August 7, he was formally charged with leaving the country without valid travel documents and with inciting African workers to strike.

Mandela’s “plea” in mitigation of his sentence was a rousing and meticulously crafted speech which explained how he had come to realise that, as a black South African, he had no choice but to resist oppression.

As he said, “It was not a judicial appeal at all but a political testament.”

Ten minutes after completing his

statement, he was sentenced to five years in jail and towards the end of May 1963, was transferred to Robben Island.

After he was jailed, the ANC published the full text of his mitigation statement and his earlier call in November 1962 to the magistrate to recuse himself from trying the case because Mandela considered himself “A black man in a white man’s court . . .”

In July 1963, a few weeks after being transferred from Pretoria to Robben Island, he was brought back to be tried for sabotage in what became known as the Rivonia Trial after security police raided Lilliesleaf.

On June 12 1964, Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Dennis Goldberg, Raymond Mhlaba, Govan Mbeki, Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni were sentenced to life imprisonment.