**A message to the ANC: The world is watching and history will judge**

In 1939 Winston Churchill said

“This is no war of domination or imperial aggrandizement or material gain; no war to shut any country out of its sunlight and means of progress. It is a war, viewed in its inherent quality, to establish, on impregnable rocks, the rights of the individual, and it is a war to establish and revive the stature of man.”

83 years later, after valiant attempts – some in vain – by multilateral organisations and beleaguered peoples to uphold international law, this is where Ukraine finds itself vis á vis Russia’s invasion, without any plausible casus belli, employing a massive use of military force against civilians and the attempted hunting down of a legitimately elected government.

Lamentably, the stance by our government – tardy, contradictory, placatory and wet – now makes us party to a 19th century playbook of imperialism – a push to establish empire by any means, however brutal and destructive, augmented by the methods and tactics of the KGB.

As in all wars, lies abound, and the grand lie that liberal values create the basis for the conflict of civilizations chimes well with this government and its ally, the Communist party. It’s a view that resonates with our government, defined by a venality in its cosy relationship with Putin’s perversity.

And so, to those who have spoken before to appease and apologise, to those who have attempted – via much whatabouterry – to absolve themselves of a clear moral obligation, we say: there comes a time when we must confront the current evil with a view to establishing an international order that says … never again … and that uses this moment as a benchmark to address all transgressions – many of which in the past were unfairly predicated by might and the protection of spheres of influence.

To the ANC – tardy as they now are … and tardy as their masters in the SACP were in support of the war against Nazi Germany, until mother Russia entered the fray...and who are now complicit, by virtue of an absence of a clear denunciation of Putin’s imperialism: best you listen because there comes a precipitous moment in life of every nation that calls for courage and honour – do the right thing: the world is watching and history will judge.