

Book about 'PQ' tells of hazards, fears

Don Mattera

THE life and times of the late Mr Phillip Q Vundla, who was known as "P Q" throughout the country, have been recalled in a book by his wife Mrs Kathleen Vundla.

Mrs Vundla, a former nurse born in the Northern Transvaal 62 years ago, said the purpose of the book was to draw humanity closer to the Cross. She added that it was proof that God could lift an ordinary man like her husband through inspiration and use him for the benefit of his people.

The biography, published by Moral Re-Armament, recounts the hazards, fears and concerns of a family headed by a revolutionary, whose youth was characterised by an unyielding and uncompromising attitude. A man who fought against the State and even his own people for what he believed.

Mrs Vundla who shared many of the trials and tribulation, and much of the success and failure of her husband's fiery career, has recalled his early days with prosaic eloquence and simple language.

"PQ, as my husband was called, led a colourful life and began his political career at an

early age. His unyielding temperament led him to several nasty experiences with the police. He organised trade unions for teachers, miners and labourers without regard to personal safety."

Controversial issues, such as his unpopularity with the Afri-

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can National Congress over the boycott of Putco buses and the Bantu Education Act, in which he called for an end to the boycotts, are fairly depicted in the book. These issues resulted in "PQ" being assaulted and stabbed by a group of ANC left-wingers who smashed the windows of his Western Native Township home.

"It was difficult for us, living in constant fear that one day we would find Phillip dead. But the people realised that he was right and spoke out for their survival and goodwill. He was chosen by God to change his life and

spread the message of peace among Black and White."

The Vundlas travelled extensively abroad as members of MRA and met Frank Buchman, founder of the movement, who spoke highly of "PQ's" work in South Africa. The late African leader addressed several MRA conferences in Geneva and was hailed for his efforts towards peace.

The book, which sells for 50c, will reach book centres throughout the country. A portion of the proceeds will be used to train young men and women for Moral Re-Armament. This was the wish of her late husband, said Mrs Vundla.

And how has life been without "PQ"? "Tough, but we are managing. Most of my 11 children are grown and married. Three sons are studying abroad on scholarships but others are clamouring for a higher education. It was different when our friend, Dr William Nkomo was alive. He stood by me and helped whenever he could."

Mr David Gosani, former Alexandra Township trade unionist, who read the book, said it was a fitting tribute to one of Africa's greatest sons. A man who fought for the underprivileged and gained the respect of his enemies.



MRS KATHLEEN VUNDLA