



Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
to the United Nations

July 7, 1990

Ms. Eve Stern
Philip M. Stern Family Fund
28 Donnell Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Ms. Stern:

At very short notice, the African National Congress (ANC) through the National Youth Committee requests a grant from you in support of our first ever North American conference of South African university students (undergraduate and graduate) and youth, August 10-13, 1990 in cooperation with Michigan State University (MSU). We apologize for the need for your immediate decision on this request; however, we have been overwhelmed in planning the visit of our Deputy President, Mr. Mandela, to this country.

We shall be telephoning you within a few days to inquire if you can support even a small portion of the proposed budget, which is needed to make the conference possible.

We are pressing ahead with this August conference for 250-300 students because of the rapid changes occurring in our country and the urgency of assisting South African students to better utilize their short years here in preparing to help build a democratic and non-racial South Africa. Because the ANC places great emphasis on education for our people, as indicated by Deputy President Mandela during his recent visit, it is urgent to assist the students in using their U.S. educational experience to prepare for work, life, and participation in government at home.

There has been no previous such conference of South African students of all races and political persuasions; therefore, this will be a hallmark meeting for as many as can be funded. These students have no direct experience of the South African job market; limited exposure to the social, economic, and political realities of South Africa; and little access to courses and information on their country. We believe such a conference is urgent in preparing for this new era of potential democracy and non-racial cooperation in South Africa.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely yours,

Lyndall Shope-Mafole
National Youth Committee Representative