

# MILLS COLLEGE

RECEIVED 1 NOV 1989

5000  
MacArthur  
Boulevard  
Oakland  
California  
94613-1399

2432 Grant Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
UNITED STATES  
October 9, 1989

President Oliver Tambo  
African National Congress  
P.O. Box 31791  
Lusaka, ZAMBIA

Dear President Oliver Tambo:

I was very sorry indeed to hear that you have not been well. I hope the fact that there has been no recent news about your health means that you are now entirely recovered.

I don't know how to express how much your eloquent enthusiasm for Lives of Courage: Women for a New South Africa mean to me. When my publisher read what you had written it made me feel very elated and amply rewarded for the many months of hard work and anxiety I had been through about whether I could do justice to the South African women I interviewed for the book.

In the United States and Britain the common position of radicals is that a white person has no business trying to convey how much black people have suffered because of racism, and interviewing black women is likewise seen as out of bounds and insensitive for a white woman to undertake. This attitude discouraged me from doing this kind of work for many years (I had wanted to do such a project in 1978).

But after years of being discouraged, I decided to try to do a book like this (of course, I had no idea if I would succeed in so doing, with the security police breathing down my neck--in my imagination more than in actuality) because I couldn't think of a more significant way of trying to contribute to the struggle. Hearing your words about Lives of Courage--and those of others which you will see on the back cover when the copy my publisher sent you finally arrives--made me feel so happy and so vindicated for finally being able to ignore the opinion of my fellow radicals in this country. I am deeply grateful to you for this.

You may be interested to know that Cape Town publisher, David Philip, will be publishing Lives of Courage in February 1989 (to my atonishment! Ravan Press turned it down for legal reasons), and Virago Press will be publishing it in Britain in the Spring of 1989. Instead of returning to South Africa as I had planned to do before this book was published, because of the beautiful statements by you and others about "my" book, I will be staying here to try to do the best publicity job I can on it. After this, I plan to try to return there.

You may also be interested to know that I took the photograph on this card when my twin brother Bishop David Russell drove me around the township in Grahamstown in 1988. We were



10 November, 1989

Diana E. H. Russell  
Professor of Sociology  
2432 Grant Street  
BERKELEY CA 94703  
U S A

Dear Ms. Russell,

We have received, with deep appreciation and sincere thanks, your letter dated October, 9, 1989 and addressed to our President, Oliver Tambo who unfortunately is still out of the country.

I am happy to inform you that his health has greatly improved but he still needs some rest.

We shall certainly be looking forward to receiving a copy of your book - **LIVES OF COURAGE** - as soon as it will be available. Your best wishes will be conveyed to the President.

Yours sincerely,

ANTHONY MONGALO  
SECRETARY FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS



stopped by a very large soldier-filled military vehicle. The soldiers wanted to know why I was taking photos (but asked David not me!), and told David that in future he had to speak to the chief of police if he wanted to enter the area! Needless to say, he refused to do so.

Once again, many, many thanks to you. And I wish you the best of health and all the strength you need to continue with your invaluable and courageous work.

With much admiration and appreciation,

Sincerely,

*Diana E. H. Russell*

Diana E. H. Russell  
Professor of Sociology