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**WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**PROGRAMME UNIT ON JUSTICE AND SERVICE**

**COMMISSION ON THE PROGRAMME TO COMBAT RACISM**

Geneva, 27 March 1987

DIRECT DIAL: (022) 91 62 05

Ms Dulcie September  
Representative of the ANC in France  
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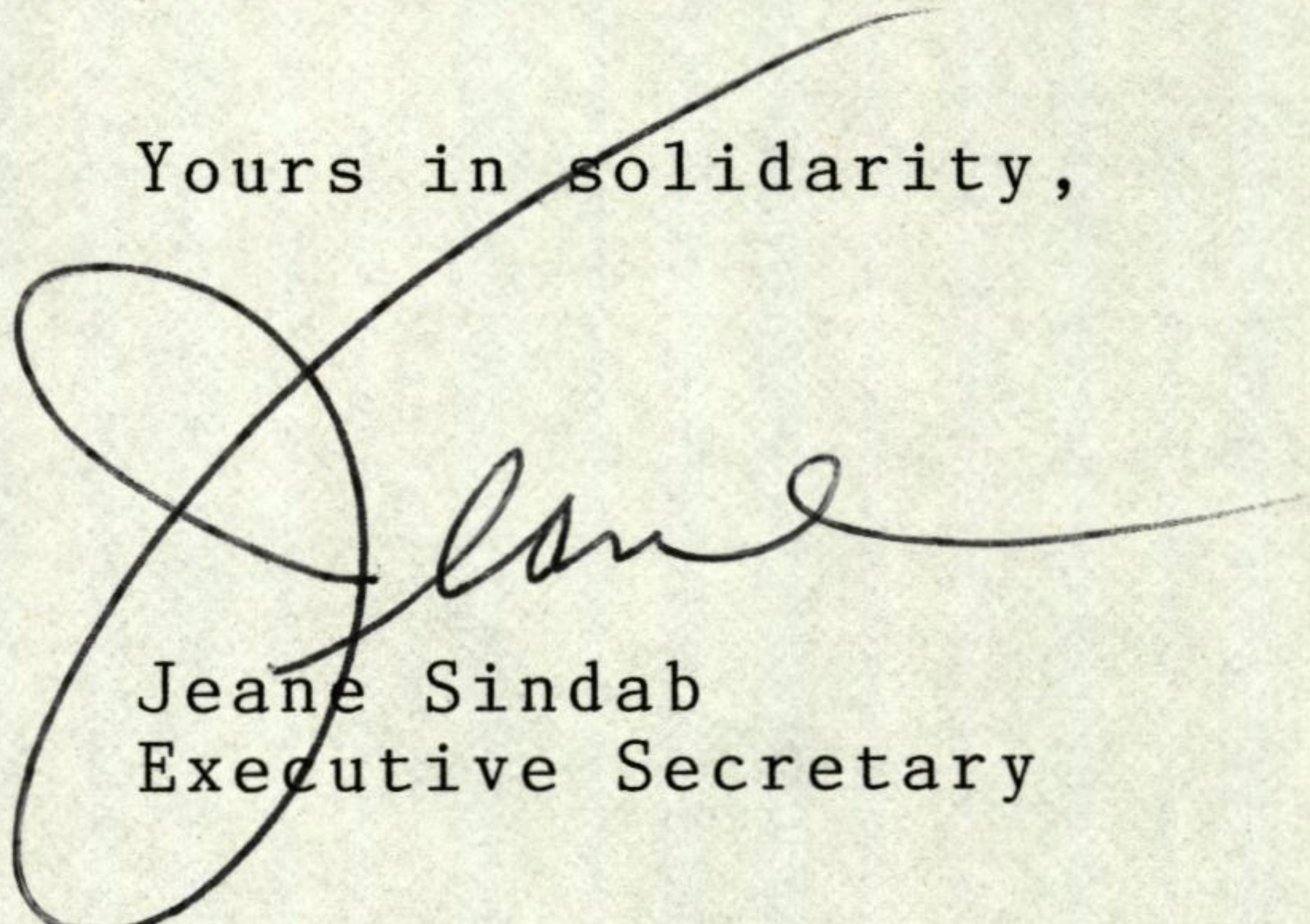
Dear Dulcie,

Thank you very much for your letter including the names of groups that PCR can contact. I know how busy you are and I appreciate you taking time to respond to our request.

Our planning meeting for Lusaka is going well and we hope that it will be very good for ANC and their struggle. The meeting is from May 4th to May 8th and I am enclosing a brief description of it for your information.

I really enjoy getting to know you better and hope that we will be able to make contact on your next visit to Geneva. Until then stay strong, struggle on.

Yours in solidarity,

  
Jeane Sindab  
Executive Secretary

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Dialogue between the Southern African Liberation  
Movements (ANC, PAC and SWAPO) and the Churches

Lusaka, Zambia, May 4 - 8, 1987

The situation in South Africa continues to deteriorate. It seems that the state of emergency will not be lifted anytime soon. Over 22,000 people, 40% of them under 18 are in detention. Churchmen like Father Mkhathshwa and Dean Farisani are among the thousands that have been detained and tortured. The South African government is not about to relax its iron grip on the country. It has now imposed a total censorship of media coverage of the unrest in the country. All news whether on television or published in the newspapers must be first cleared with the government censors.

In Namibia, South Africa continues its illegal occupation and refuses to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 which would achieve the independence of Namibia. Police and army brutality continue unabated so does the pain and suffering. Several thousand Namibians and South Africans have died in the last two years. And there seems to be no end in sight.

The Programme to Combat Racism (PCR) is the sub-unit of the WCC with the primary responsibility to monitor the situation in Southern Africa. Since its inception in 1969, PCR has been involved in the struggle against apartheid. In December 1985, PCR organised a meeting between international church leaders and South African and Namibian church leaders in Harare. That historic meeting adopted the now famous Harare Declaration which called for an end to apartheid and for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, and the implementation of UN Resolution 435 for the achievement of Namibian independence.

In July last year, PCR also organised a meeting between South African, Namibian and international youth from Europe, North and South America, Asia, the Frontline States, West and North Africa, in Harare. The meeting expressed its total understanding of the armed struggle against the illegitimate apartheid regime by the liberation movements. These meetings are part of our on-going programmes and activities in support of the struggle to dismantle apartheid and for an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by South African troops and for the independence of Namibia.

In May 4-8, 1987, PCR will organise a meeting between the liberation movements in Southern Africa, ANC, PAC and SWAPO and the churches. Our work in North America and Europe has shown that at this critical stage in the struggle in South Africa and Namibia, many churches are worried about violence and communism. There are some who believe that the ANC, PAC and SWAPO are violent and communist organisations.

It is time that the churches in the West come to grips with the whole issue of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. What is involved in the struggle and what the position of the churches is or should be in that struggle. The churches must also come to grips with the effects of South African destabilisation in the Frontline States. What can the churches do to alleviate or help end the suffering caused by the apartheid system in the whole region?



PCR believes that the May meeting in Lusaka presents the churches with an opportunity to meet face to face with the liberation movements and to ask and discuss with them difficult questions on the issues of violence and communism about which they are concerned.

The meeting will also hear first hand accounts of events in Namibia, South Africa and the Frontline States.

PCR has already discussed with Dr Beyers Naudé, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), Archbishop Hurley of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) and several South African churchmen and women about the Lusaka conference in May. PCR will invite 30 delegates from within South Africa representing SACC, youth, civic organisations, women's groups and trade unions, UDF and AZAPO.

We have also discussed with Dr Abisai Shejavali, General Secretary of the Christian Council of Namibia (CCN) and several Namibian churchmen and women. PCR will invite 20 delegates from within Namibia representing the NCC, youth, women's groups and trade unions.

We are inviting representatives of Christian Councils and anti-apartheid movements from Europe, North America, Australia and Japan. We have also invited the general secretaries of the Christian Councils in the Frontline States as well as heads of the WCC member churches in the Frontline States. Dr. Castro, WCC General Secretary, has, in addition, informed the international church leaders who attended the December 1985 Harare meeting about the Lusaka Conference and invited them to attend if they wish to.

The first day of the meeting, May 4, will be devoted entirely to Namibia. (9th Anniversary of the Kassinga massacre - when South African troops attacked a SWAPO camp in Angola and killed about 1.000 people).