

MOM/013/0004/7

Martin Mdiniso, Esq.,
Private Secretary to
His Majesty - King Sobhuza II,
MANZINI - KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND.

Dear Sir,

re: A note of protest against the police raid
carried out on our premises on Friday 7th
January, 1977.

May I premise this note by thanking His Majesty, King Sobhuza II and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, for according our organisation - the African National Congress - the honour of representing the interests of our people in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

As I remember correctly, the arrangements of our relationship were first mooted during a visit paid to the Kingdom of Swaziland by the President of the African National Congress, Mr. Oliver R. Tambo, in July 1975. In a subsequent meeting held at the desire of His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, on the 14th May 1976, the matter of our relationship was finalised. My presence in the Kingdom of Swaziland was a direct result of arrangements arrived at ⁱⁿ the latter meeting - His Majesty himself sanctioning my presence in Swaziland. Thus I consider and regard myself a guest of both the King and the Government of Swaziland.

It has been my desire to meet you for some time in order that through you His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, may know of my stay in his Kingdom. Briefly, my stay has ~~been~~ characterised by hospitality, kindness and courtsey on the part of His Majesty's Government. For all this I am sincerely thankful. However, in the period of my stay here, i.e. after the arrangements between the King and the A.N.C. President I have experianced disturbing treatment from certain quarters in government, the latest of which prompted the writing of this note. The manner of the treatment does not befit the representative of an organisation recognised by the State; equally it is contrary to the spirit of the "arrangements". An example of this treatment is experianced each time I return from abroad - I am subjected to a thorough search at the border

posts of the Kingdom/.....

posts of the Kingdom of Swaziland. This is done in spite of even the Diplomatic Passport I use for travelling. To my thinking, and I say this with all humility, this treatment does not befit the representative of a respectable ~~and respected African~~ organisation. I would have thought that if I have violated any of the ^{terms} ~~ters~~ of the arrangements arrived at between Mr. Oliver R. Tambo, the A.N.C. President and His Majesty, King Sobhuza II the government has the right to call me and draw my attention to such transgressions on my part. I may mention at this stage that I have drawn the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Mr. Zonke Khumalo, as well as the Foreign Ministry, to this matter - so far to no avail.

The latest incident which, as I mentioned earlier, prompted the writing of this note concerns a raid on our premises on Friday the 7th January 1977 at six o'clock (6 a.m.) The raid was directed by a Mr. Mthimkhulu, Station Commander, Royal Swazi Police, Manzini. A search warrant for arms, ammunition and political material was given to me. I am prepared to concede that I may not quarrel or question the right of the State to search for arms and ammunition; that is a matter of State security. But I wish to say that I regard the confiscation of A.N.C. documents and reports as ^{unfortunate} ~~absolutely wrong~~ and contrary to our arrangements; I ~~would~~ understood the arrangements arrived at between His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, and the President of the African National Congress prescribed a working relationship based on a complete understanding of the nature of our organisation, the A.N.C. And thus I must regard the ^{conduct} ~~behaviour~~ of the police in confiscating A.N.C. documents as a breach of the "arrangements" and an indignity to the A.N.C.

I cannot recall violating the terms of the "arrangements" since coming to the Kingdom of Swaziland. And concerning political literature I am certain it is known that I ^{have been representing a pol. organisation} ~~am a politician~~; ~~all~~ and as ^{such} ~~my life has been involvement in political activity~~. My very appointment to represent my organisation in Swaziland was a political appointment. Thus, ^{I am disturbed to see myself treated in} ~~if certain quarters in the Swaziland Government, are going to treat me in a non-political light, then it was a~~ waste of time on the part of all those who were involved in the "arrangements" that culminated in my presence in Swaziland.

In the course of the raid, the police took from my possession a confidential report intended for the A.N.C. President, Mr. Oliver R. Tambo. I am accordingly requesting, through your good offices,

the immediate return/....

the immediate return of that document. Were that report/document to fall into the hands of the enemy I am certain many of our people in South Africa will suffer untold torture. ~~As~~ I would not like the future generations to have even the slightest thought that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland had a hand in the suffering of our people as a result of that document. I say this with the greatest concern and fear for our people.

~~I must also express the hope that the treatment meted out is not intended to make us feel that we are not yet a free people in our own country - Africa~~ I must further state that ~~it~~ as one who is in this part of Southern Africa I have a duty to report to my President all information - public and confidential - on observations I make as part of my mission here, and ^{I will kindly request} that such reports ~~must~~ be rendered immune from the police by the Government of Swaziland. ~~In, fact, I must intimate to you that in future, I might be compelled to refuse surrendering documents to the police should I fail to obtain any relief in these matters.~~

In conclusion I am requesting you to kindly raise these ~~two~~ two matters ~~with~~ officially with His Majesty, King Sobhuza II and his govt. I also enclose for your perusal a document already submitted to the Foreign Affairs department.

I thank you

I am, Sir,

Moses MaBhida

A.N.C. Rep.
Swaziland.

attention Mr. Martin MDiuiso

copy sent to permanent Secy. Foreign Affairs.