

NYM/013/2003/31

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ACOA

The American Committee on Africa

198 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10038 • (212) 962-1210

M William Howard, *President*
Elizabeth Landis, *Vice President*
Jennifer Davis, *Executive Director*

For more information contact:
Richard Knight (212) 962-1210

For Release April 29, 1991

**MAYORS, ENTERTAINERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS PROTEST FAILURE
TO RELEASE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS**

The mayors of some of the largest cities in the U.S. have sent letters to the South African Ambassador to the U.S. Harry Schwarz strongly protesting his government's failure to live up to its agreement to release all political prisoners by April 30th. New York Mayor David Dinkins, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn are among the mayors who wrote to Ambassador Schwarz demanding that the apartheid government immediately release the thousands of political prisoners still being held in violation of the agreement between South African President F.W. de Klerk and ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley wrote that "Only when all political prisoners have been released and the apartheid system has been replaced with a democratic form of government can South Africa rejoin the family of nations."

Mayor Raymond Flynn wrote "Boston welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela last year and his visit to our city will long be remembered. We continue to support him in his efforts to end apartheid and to establish a democratic nonracial state."

The mayors cited their cities' strong anti-apartheid policies, including divestment of city pension funds from companies which do business in South Africa and restricting city purchases from these

(more)

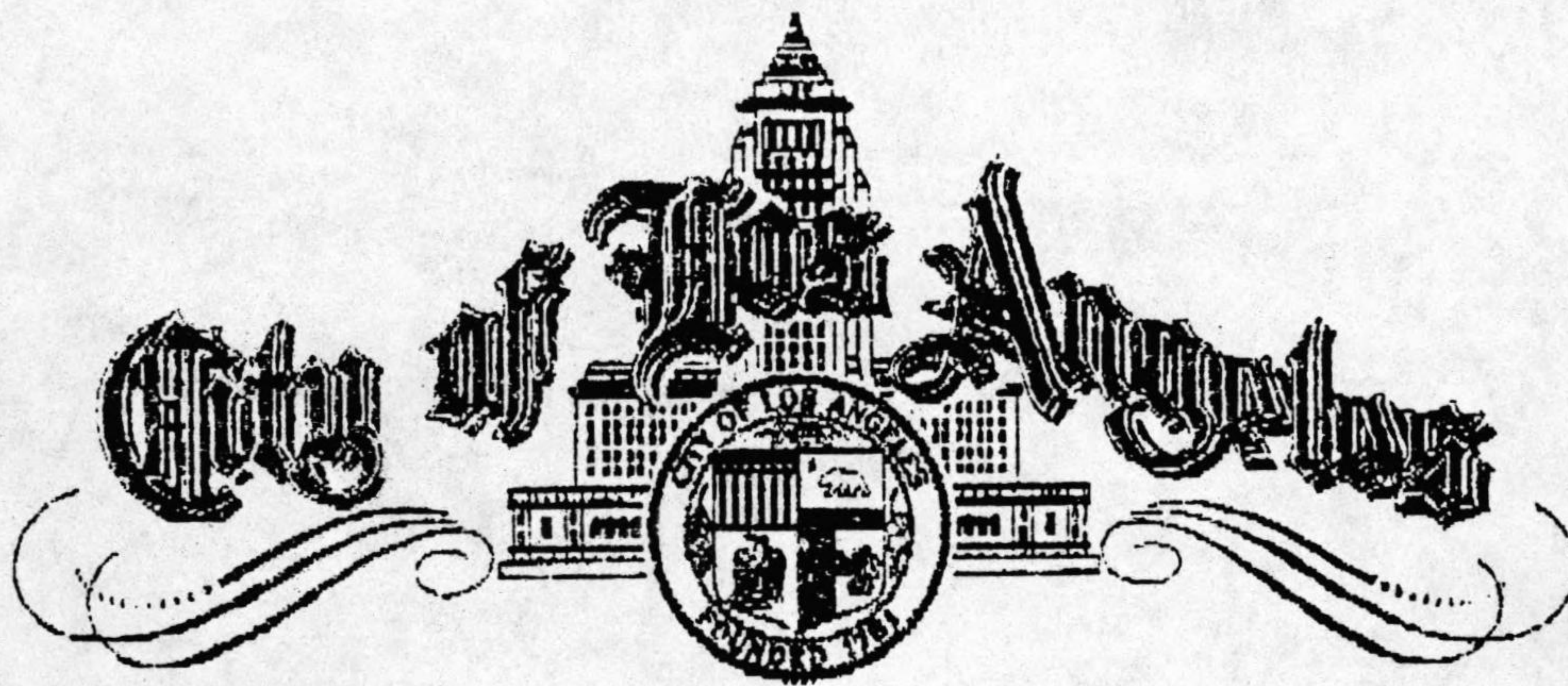
companies. "You are no doubt aware that I personally hosted Nelson Mandela last year during his visit to the City," wrote Mayor Dinkins. "I believe that Nelson Mandela is free today, in some small part, because of the actions taken by this jurisdiction over the years."

Members of Artists for a Free South Africa, which includes such prominent entertainers as Denzel Washington and Danny Glover, also sent letters to Ambassador Schwarz. "The fact that the South African government is so reluctant to free all political prisoners demonstrates the government is not committed to a truly free and democratic form of government," said actress Alfre Woodard. "As Nelson Mandela told me in a recent letter, it is important to keep the pressure on apartheid and maintain sanctions."

Dr. Charles Adams, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, chair of the national Religious Action Network for Peace With Justice in Southern Africa were among the religious leaders to send letters.

"The South African Government is not living up to its commitment to release all political prisoners," said Jennifer Davis, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, the nation's oldest anti-apartheid organization, who coordinated the protest. "On April 23rd, the Human Rights Commission, which monitors political prisoners in South Africa, reported that more than 2,000 political prisoners remain in jail. That same day, South African President F.W. de Klerk claimed that all but 200 prisoners had been released."

She noted that three of the cities, New York, Los Angeles and Boston hosted Nelson Mandela on his visit to the U.S., saying "Just as international pressure helped bring about the release of Nelson Mandela, it can help win freedom for all apartheid's political prisoners and contribute to the victory of democracy in South Africa."



CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 405-3311

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

April 23, 1991

His Excellency Harry Heinz Schwarz
The Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Schwarz:

As you assume your responsibilities as Ambassador for South Africa to the United States, I wanted to raise with you my concern that your government has not yet released all political prisoners.

First, it is important to let you know that both I personally and the City of Los Angeles have long opposed apartheid. Our city pension funds have adopted a policy of not investing in any company doing business in South Africa. Los Angeles also has a policy of giving preference in city contracts to companies that do not do business in South Africa; last November the voters passed a referendum to expand this policy.

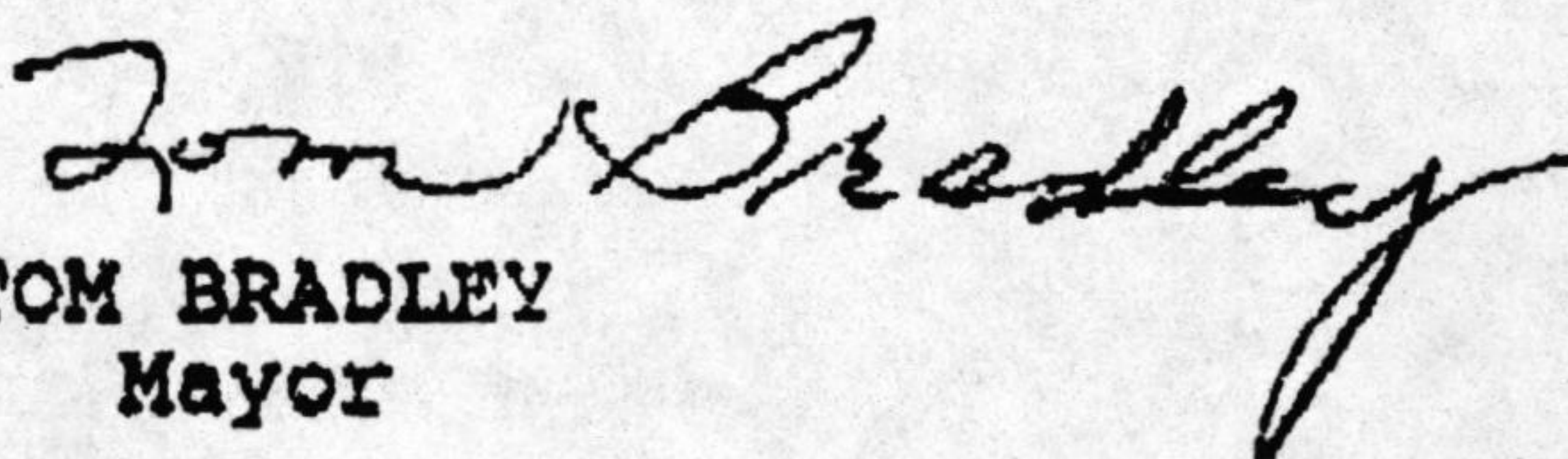
I write you now because I am concerned that human rights organizations in South Africa report that up to 3,000 political prisoners remain in jail. It is my understanding that, in terms of agreements between the government you represent and the democratic movement represented by the African National Congress, all political prisoners, including those on death row, will be released by April 30, 1991.

Los Angeles welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela last year, and his visit to our city will long be remembered. We continue to support him in his efforts to end apartheid and to establish a democratic, non-racial South Africa. However, apartheid cannot be ended while other political prisoners remain in jail. Only when all political prisoners have been released and the apartheid system has been replaced with a democratic form of government can South Africa rejoin the family of nations. The people of Los Angeles look forward to the South African government fulfilling its commitment and releasing all political prisoners by April 30th.



I urge you to convey to your government our concern that all political prisoners be released by April 30th, as an essential step in the process of establishing a democratic South Africa.

Sincerely,


TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

TB:mp



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RAYMOND L. FLYNN

April 29, 1991

His Excellency Harry Heinz Schwarz
The Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Schwarz:

As you assume your responsibilities as ambassador of South Africa to the United States, I wanted to raise with you my concern that the agreement between Nelson Mandela and the government of South Africa that all political prisoners be freed by April 30 is a commitment that will be fulfilled.

It is important to let you know that the people of Boston and their elected leaders have been active opponents of apartheid for many years. Boston has a long standing policy which bars the purchase of goods from South Africa and mandates divestment from companies that do business in South Africa. Last year, I went to Washington to urge Congress to keep sanctions against South Africa until democracy has been established.

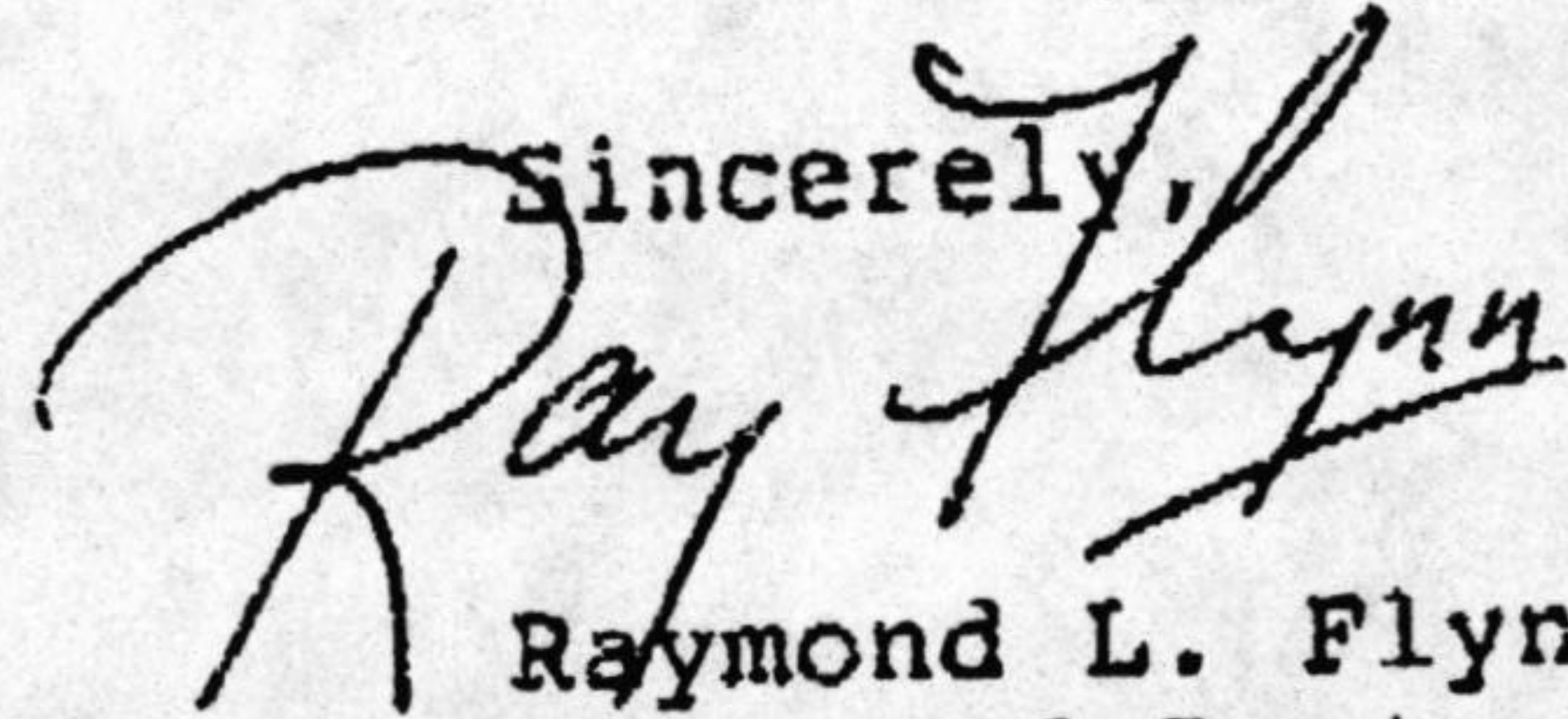
I am writing now because of my concern that, according to human rights organizations in South Africa, up to 3,000 political prisoners remain in jail. It was my understanding that, as a result of agreements between the government you represent and the democratic movement represented by the African National Congress, all political prisoners, including those on death row, were to be released by April 30th.

Boston welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela last year and his visit to our city will long be remembered. We continue to support him in his efforts to end apartheid and to establish a democratic non-racial state. However, apartheid cannot be ended while other political prisoners remain in jail. Only when all political prisoners have been released and the apartheid system has been replaced with a democratic form of government can South Africa rejoin the family of nations.

His Excellency Harry Heinz Schwarz
April 29, 1991
Page 2

I urge you to convey to your government our concern that all political prisoners be released immediately, as an important first step in the process of establishing a democratic South Africa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Flynn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

April 25, 1991

His Excellency Heinz Schwarz
The Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Schwarz:

As you assume responsibility as South African Ambassador to the United States, permit me to raise with you my grave concern regarding the fate of thousands of political prisoners remaining in South African jails.

As you may know, the City of New York has been an active opponent of apartheid for many years. You are no doubt aware that I personally hosted Nelson Mandela last year during his visit to the City. And I believe that Mr. Mandela is free today, in some small part, because of the actions taken by this jurisdiction over the years.

For these reasons, I am concerned that human rights organizations in South Africa report that nearly 3,000 political prisoners continue to languish in South African jails. It is my understanding that during negotiations between your government and the African National Congress, it was agreed that all political prisoners would be released by April 30, 1991. You must know that as that date fast approaches, the world is watching to see if the Pratoria government will make good on its promise.

I urge you to convey to your government the critical importance of releasing all political prisoners immediately in order that good faith negotiations towards democratic rule can proceed.

Sincerely,

David N. Dinkins
M A Y O R



CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION
550 West One Hundred Fifty-fifth Street
New York, NY 10032
Tel. (212) 283-6200

April 1, 1991

Ambassador Harry Schwarz
SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY
3051 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

More than a year ago, your government promised to release all political prisoners from Apartheid's jails by April 30, 1991. This was one of the minimum conditions for negotiations accepted by your government and Nelson Mandela and endorsed by among others, the United Nations, the European Economic Community, and the Organization of African Unity.

Despite the failure of your government to meet these conditions, the ANC suspended all facets of its armed struggle as a show of good faith in the negotiating process.

Over 2,500 people who should be free remain locked in your Apartheid jails. Worst still, you continue with political trials, creating even more prisoners of Apartheid!

WE, THE CONGREGATION
OF THE

CHURCH OF INTERCESSION--

DEMAND THAT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS OF
APARTHEID BE RELEASED BY APRIL 30!

Sincerely,

William H. Rea
Madeline M. Reynolds
Rose Jackson
Janthe C. Harris

Charlotte Martin Brooks
Doris Brandon
Simon E. Knight
Broth Ross



CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION
550 West One Hundred Fifty-fifth Street
New York, NY 10032
Tel. (212) 283-6200

Jessie Green
Paul Gennard.

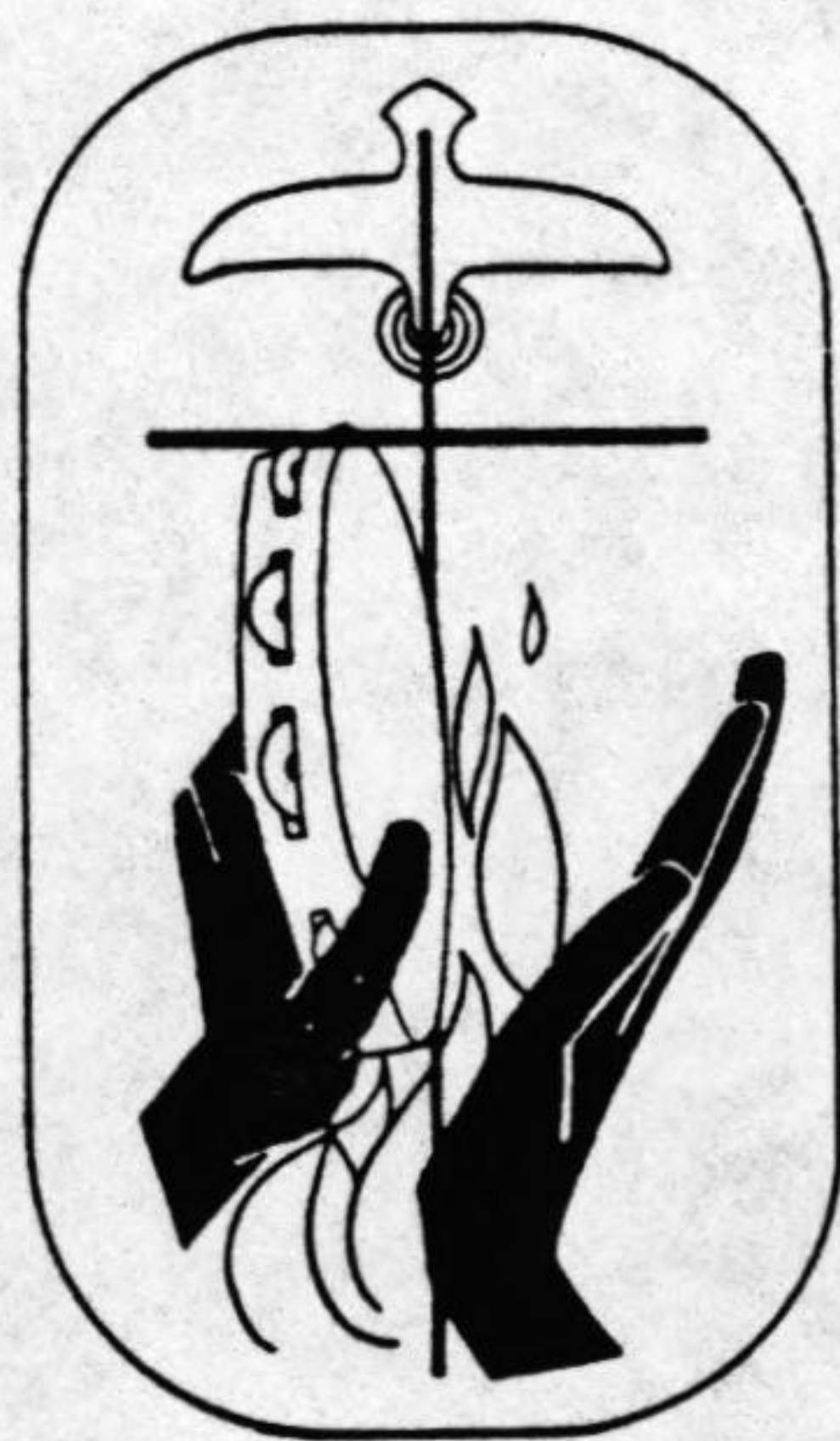
Bette Kay
Audrey Glover
Janice Hutter

JUSTIN HESTER

Theresa Agnew
Cheryl Allen

Beryl Carroll
Fennis Carroll

Mabel Witherspoon
Robert Witherspoon
Gene Henderson
Marion Patrick



CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION
550 West One Hundred Fifty-fifth Street
New York, NY 10032
Tel. (212) 283-6200

Lucy M. Allen
Virginia D. Johnson

Elizabeth Bowkly
Belle Heye

G. Adams

Sue M. Cunningham
Mayme Sanderason

Mattie Gray

Louise Jeffries
Dorothy Strickland

Mary Rorex

Freddie E. Gantt

Benjamin Baldwin

Ed M. Foster

Dale H. Clark

Elizabeth Shields

Anita Hutchinson

Ellie Lapscomb

Lee Ann Yufan

Thomas Barrett

Gerrit Baum

Frankie Johnson



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550 West One Hundred Fifty-fifth Street
New York, NY 10032
Tel. (212) 283-6200

Nodda Griffith
Gaven Cargill
Erin M. Cameron
Vera H. Gordon

Ruth Barnett
June Seckitt
Jacob Wuloh
Grace Latters
Arlene Medford
James Schuch
Leon E. Cole

Winsome Gravett
Dore Wethers Booker

Linda Paul Cae
~~John & Noelle~~

Wesley A. Jones
Luth Japp
Helen M. Thompson
Mark Nelson Jr.

Marion Thomas
Quelley

THE HOLLYWOOD POLICY CENTER FOUNDATION

10536 Culver Boulevard, Suite 1, Culver City, California 90232

213 559-9334
Fax 213 838-2307

April 25, 1991

Ambassador Harry Schwarz
South African Embassy
3051 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Schwarz:

Last year, the South African government agreed to the speedy release of all political prisoners as a step toward ending apartheid. With only days remaining until the April 30, 1991 deadline, nearly three thousand such prisoners remain behind bars.

Merely releasing a small fraction of these prisoners is not enough. Concerned citizens of the United States, such as ourselves, will not allow our government to lift sanctions against South Africa unless the remaining prisoners are freed as promised.

The economic and political pressure on South Africa will continue until all necessary steps are taken to dismantle apartheid and establish a one-person, one-vote democratic system of rule.

Sincerely,

—Kate Capshaw
Pat Finnegan
Roderick Spencer
Jennifer Buchanan
Victoria B. Pipkin
Jordan J. Stone
Grant Graybeal
June Baldwin
Darrell Larson
Maynell Thomas
—Blair Underwood
Karen Russell

Jill Higson
Bill Finnegan
—Alfre Woodard Spencer
David Lyon
Dana Gluckstein
Angel Harper
Greg Shrader
—Max Gail
Cynthia Robbins
Roni Walters
Marlene Saritzky

Bogaletch Gebre
Sandra Stevens
Sharon Schaffer
Alexandra Stone
Barrie L. Chrich
Candace Allen
Vince Cannon
Melissa Goddard
Pam Segall
— Mary Steenburgen
Joseph A. Viola

Members, *Artists for a Free South Africa*

~~THE~~ **THOMAS CARTER** COMPANY

VIA TELECOPIER

April 16, 1991

Ambassador Harry Schwarz
South African Embassy
3051 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Schwarz:

Last year, the South African government agreed to the speedy release of all political prisoners as a step toward ending apartheid. With only weeks remaining until the April 30, 1991 deadline, nearly three thousand such prisoners remain behind bars.

Merely releasing a small fraction of these prisoners is not enough. Concerned citizens of the United States, like myself, will not allow our government to lift sanctions against South Africa unless the remaining prisoners are freed as promised.

The economic and political pressure on South Africa will continue until all necessary steps are taken to dismantle apartheid and establish a one-person, one-vote democratic system of rule.

Sincerely,



— Thomas Carter

TC/hhp

— leading TV Director/
Producer